

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 12, 1990

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m.

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

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

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

Mr. E. BOURNE

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

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

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

Mr. 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 Fr. Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is in session. MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 6th March, 1990.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the meeting that took place on 6th March, 1990 be taken as read and be confirmed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations, let these Minutes stand confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, as we are about to embark on the orders of the day, I want at this point to move, and I do so, the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of this sitting.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the order of the day. Order No. 1.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1990

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, once again the annual cycle of parliamentary business brings us to that time of the year when we make provision for the coming financial year. Under our Constitution I am required, as Minister of Finance, to prepare annual estimates of revenue and expenditure for public services, before the end of the current financial year, in respect of the succeeding financial year and to lay those estimates of revenue and expenditure before this Honourable House of Assembly, and that has been done.

I am also required to introduce into this Honourable Chamber an Appropriation Bill which would set out the total sums other than by way of statutory expenditure that would be required under the appropriate Heads, which would be spent during the coming financial year, and it is this Appropriation Bill which is before the Honourable Chamber now, and which will be debated and voted upon.

Under the Constitution, Sir, the people of Barbados have resolved, and I quote, "that the operation of the economic system shall promote the general welfare by the equitable distribution of the material resources of the community, by the human conditions under which all men shall labour and by the undeviating recognition of ability, integrity and merit." That is part of the Preamble to the Constitution of Barbados.

This Democratic Labour Party Government which I have the honour to lead is fully committed to that resolve, and the Appropriation Bill which we are now considering is part of that process, part of the contribution towards the framing of an economic system which would promote the general welfare and which will seek to fulfill the deeply held political, social, economic, cultural, philosophical or ideological commitments which this Government has as a main thrust of its policies.

I am prepared, therefore, to move that this Appropriation Bill be read a second time. I am also giving an indication, Sir, that there is a small number of items which I will seek to move in at the appropriate time during the discussion of the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates, which is a Schedule to the Appropriation Bill.

Before we vote, however, I wish to give an overview of the 1990-91 Estimates, that is for the coming financial year, to review the performance of the current financial year, both in respect of Government revenue from existing sources and expenditures. I wish to look at the components of both the revenues and the expenditures and I will wish, finally, to exhort all of our citizens to recommit themselves to Barbados, to forget the prophets of gloom and doom and resolve to create more growth, to create development and wealth, for no one in the world owes us a living, we have to earn it by our own efforts.

As far as the overview of the Estimates for the financial year 1990-91 is concerned, they show an increase in both public spending as well as in Government receipts. The Current Account is projected to show a small surplus which will make a contribution towards the Capital Programme. 10.25 a.m.

Debt service payments will be lower in 1990-91 than in the current financial year, but there will be an increase in other Government spending. The focus of our capital works programme and capital spending will be on the executing of the major projects outlined in the Capital Estimates and which have been projected ever since the Development Plan was laid in this Chamber, and the over-all economic setting, that is, the Development Plan for the period 1988-93, under which those matters which I have raised are expected to operate, suggests that at the start of the financial year there may be a slow real output performance, but we expect that during the year there will be an improvement, an increase in the rate of growth and by the end of the year I would expect that there would have been growth in the economy of our country.

Sir, at a later date I will speak about the money environment, not necessarily this morning.

Inflation is expected to remain moderate, and we expect that there will be continuing demands for employment opportunities as we seek to generate growth in the country, and thereby hopefully provide additional employment opportunities for our people.

As far as the review of the fiscal performance for the year 1989-90, the current financial year, is concerned, the Estimates for the year provided that current revenue would have been \$905.2 million, that current expenditure would have been \$985.1 million, and that capital expenditure would have been \$220.7 million. The current account

deficit was projected at \$79.9 million, and the overall fiscal deficit at \$300.6 million. The revised Estimates for the current financial year show that current expenditure should be \$999.9 million, and that is I believe about a 1.5 per cent variation from the original estimate of \$985.1 million, so I do not think that in this very difficult area of forecasting, contrary to the kinds of concerns I seem to recall were raised last year about the quality of the forecasting as far as current revenue is concerned, we were out of striking distance. Expenditure is what I was talking about. The current revenue of \$988.2 million represents about a 9.1 per cent variation from the original estimate of \$905.2 million, and it must be recalled, Sir, that when the original Estimates were proposed that the budgetary measures had not yet been introduced, and there would have been an inflow not known to the forecasters at that particular time; so there again there was a 9.1 per cent increase, and with new measures having been introduced subsequent to the preparation of the Estimates, I think, Sir, that the forecasters in my Ministry have done a reasonable job.

Capital expenditure of \$170 million is about a 22.7 per cent reduction in the original estimate, and, Sir, that is due to the strong restraint in the area of expenditure controls which became desirable at that particular time. These figures, Sir, give a reduced current account deficit of some \$11.7 million and a sharply reduced overall fiscal deficit of \$181.7 million, and Sir, these are the steps which we take when the circumstances so indicate. While others talk, and that is all they can do - they talk and create all kinds of scenarios - in the final resort it is the Government, the Cabinet and the Minister of Finance who have to take the measures without any kind of fanfare or grandstanding to ensure that we would have had a successful year as far as the management of the finances of this country were concerned, and indeed, Sir, as far as the management of the total economy was concerned.

Sir, revenue is expected to perform much better than estimated, that is during the year, because of a very favourable out-turn in real economic activity, which grew by at least 3.5 per cent in 1989, - I am still awaiting the final figures - in spite again of the projections and forecasts of the prophets of gloom and doom who have been predicting all kinds of disasters in the economy as a result of the measures introduced. They have not materialised. The only disaster that we have had is due to the misunderstanding of the tempo of moderating fiscal policy as displayed by the former Minister of Finance who completely misunderstood what introduction of fiscal measures meant and thought that he could do everything at one time, and threw the entire economy into a tail spin.

Sir, ours has been the task of trying to correct that particular problem as well as nursing our economy out of the slow period of growth during the 1980s. All of that is a matter of record. If there is one thing that this side agrees with the Minority Opposition on, it is the damaging effects

that were inflicted upon this economy through the strong-headed policies of the former Minister of Finance, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, but we have borne all of that and we have had to try to correct it, and we have done it patiently and quietly and systematically, and it could not be done overnight. It took time and it will still take time because when once you do those things, you have to allow time in order that they may be worked out. 10.35 a.m.

They believe that they can get on the political platforms in St. Michael, by roundabouts, or in Christ Church, or wherever and say all manner of things about this Government and about our Ministers and not expect that they will be replied to but our replies will not be at the same level that they choose to speak. Our replies will be replies based on integrity and we will deal with it on the question of the record that is there. I am not particularly interested in getting down into any personal attacks on persons but we are, certainly, concerned with setting the public record straight.

The 1989/90 year, Sir, that is the current financial year, in this year debt servicing is projected to absorb some \$249.3 million or 24.9% of the revised estimate of current expenditure.

The servicing of the debt is projected to absorb \$249.3 million or 24.9% of the revised estimated current expenditure. Sir, that is a substantial amount to have to allocate simply for meeting past commitments and those who talk about run away expenditure and those who talk about squandermania will do well to recognize that before we make any outlays for education, for health, for social services, for transfer payments, we have to meet our former commitments and these are commitments in respect of the repayment of principal and interest on loans borrowed in times past and that accounts for 24.9% of the revised estimated current expenditure.

Sir, there has been no run away expenditure and no squandermania in this country and that is really a defamation on the Government and people of Barbados because it seeks...

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: We will deal with the other defamations arising out of statements a little later. Those will come later.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. I want to remind Honourable Members that the Standing Orders that have been suspended do not include the one in which a member must be heard in silence. I want to remind Members about that.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, that has been our first commitment because we wish to maintain the good name of this country. We wish to maintain the integrity of our financial services and when we borrow we wish to repay and to repay on time.

Imagine that in Barbados, which has been noted for its financial integrity, we can import words like squandermania which is, certainly, not calculated to provide any confidence in the management in the economy. The use of such highly emotive terms can only be directed towards lowering the sound and solid reputation of Barbados for sound financial and economic management in the eyes of interested persons both in Barbados and abroad.

I believe an entire Commission of Enquiry was set up in a neighbouring Caribbean state on the charge of squandermania and to link Barbados with such words can only import a similar kind of situation and it is a complete and total disgrace and disservice to this country and its reputation when we speak about integrity then to go to make the kinds of statements that have no basis in integrity whatsoever. We say one thing at one time and then we go and say and do something entirely different as a complete contradiction of the kinds of bases that we are trying to lay but that is part of the impressions, Sir, and we know how they will have to live by those impressions.

I said, Sir, that the expenditures were some 24.9% of the revised estimated current expenditure and a major part of that payment, Sir, related to the completion of the balance of \$13.3 million on a loan to the settlement of the payments to the Orion Bank. There was an Orion Bank Loan -1 believe the Members of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition would know a lot about that - for the Cement Plant.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not concerned with the savings. I am concerned with what we have to pay and setting the basis for that particular argument that there has been over expenditure which, of course, it is known that there is no basis at all in the statistics but in the politics of it...

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the Honourable Member to contain himself at this time of the debate.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: There may be reasons why these things are advanced, Sir.

Then, Sir, we repaid only last month in February a Japanese \$5 billion yen Bond Issue which, again, the Barbados Labour Party Government would know something about, one of those bullets. The Government of Barbados repaid the loan and the Barbados Labour Party

Government knows a lot about that particular one. It cost \$71.6 million to the Treasury.

These repayments substantially are meeting our commitments entered into, let me say, in all good faith, by a previous Government but we still have to meet them and they know that we have to meet them. 10.45 a.m.

And when we have to start by paying out 24.9% of our revenues before we make any outlay to provide desks or to pay teachers that we have to make this in settlement of our loan commitments, I think it is empty political demagoguery, Sir, to come and say that there is squandermania or that there is runaway expenditure. Absolutely no basis for such a charge. I feel very strongly about it because it is taking the fair name of Barbados, and putting that name into disrepute. For what purposes? I cannot impute any improper motives into this Chamber and I certainly will not.

During 1989-90, capital expenditure was held in check and as a revised figure of \$170 million this is about \$50.7 million less than the estimated figure at the beginning of the year. As I have said before while others were talking, we were seeking to control expenditures and the fact that we have been able to do so is an indication that the hand on the tiller is a sound and experienced hand which watches the wind when it comes across and knows how not only to sail smoothly on but when to make the tacks and when to trim the sails, if you are accustomed to that kind of navigation. That is the position.

Spending concentrated on continuing the projects and on urgent remedial works. A number of new projects came on stream. You remember all of the alarms even before we could get the ink dry on the Development Plan, they were saying we had no plans, we had no projects, only I do not even remember what was said, Sir.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Only an arch. That was the only Development Plan that we had. No capital projects. Then when as a Government we brought these projects on stream they then talked about runaway expenditure.

It is very difficult to deal with these comedian like arguments. I am relating it to the arguments, Sir. They shift here and they shift there. But if they shift here we will pursue them, if they shift there, we will pursue them and when we get on the political platforms we will pursue you there as well. That is the nature of the game. This is a Government that has a very sound record in terms of the management of the public finances and the management of the general economy. We will be speaking in defence of our record as well as in promotion of that record because we are

concerned that the people of Barbados understand the kind of situation that we are in.

Do not get too comfortable. You were very comfortable in 1986. You felt that everything would have happened and you would have been back in office. That was 1986, Sir. There were some hopefuls around who did not realize that the party that they attached the character was not a party of victory. But that will be dealt with in due course. If they continue in that vein they will suffer the same fate. They will suffer the same fate if they continue along that road. But it is interesting, very good, Mr. Speaker, that we can speak in this way.

Sir, for the fiscal year 1990-91 the Government expects to spend some \$987.2 million on its current account and to collect about - you wanted to hear the billion - \$1 billion in revenue, \$1.003 billion in revenue as contrasted with \$987.2 million on its current account. The current account is estimated to yield a small surplus in the region of \$15.5 million. But it will be less than that with the move-ins that I have spoken about. That small surplus will make some contribution to the capital programme. The overall fiscal deficit is projected at \$212.3 million. I once again wish to indicate that these figures will be modified somewhat since I will be seeking approval to moving certain sums under the appropriate Heads.

As far as the current revenue is concerned, receipts on the current account totalling \$1.003 billion are expected to come largely from the traditional areas such as goods and services, incomes and profits, international trade and other taxes. These current revenue estimates reflect what is projected, that the economy may generate from existing sources during the coming Financial Year. They are not meant in any way to pre-judge what the Minister of Finance will do during the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals which will be introduced into this Honourable Chamber some time during the Financial Year and does not seek to predict what will happen on that particular occasion. So that revenue is expected to increase by some \$15.8 million over last year or 1.6% approximately over the revised estimated revenue of \$988.2 million for the 1989-90 year.

During the fiscal year 1990-91, Sir, Gross Domestic Product at factor cost as a current revenue as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product at factor cost is expected to be around 32%. In the current year the figure, revised estimate showed a ratio of some 33.4%, During the coming year we expect that it will be around 32%, that Gross Domestic Product at factor cost in relation to Current revenue would be some 32%. 10.55 a.m.

I will come back to this question a little later because I will have something to say both about Revenue and Expenditure. The time has come, Sir, because we have been

very patient, when we will lay the foundations, the theoretically and practical foundations, to rebut all of the throttle. Not in here, Sir. There is no throttling in here but in other places, Sir, that has been said from time to time about Government's Revenues and Expenditures.

Taxes on Incomes and Profits are expected to yield \$226.4 million compared to the revised figure of \$223.8 million for the financial year 1989/90. Of this amount for 1990/91 fiscal year, the Corporation Tax is expected to supply \$97 million and Income Tax \$120 million. The taxes on Incomes and Profits will yield some \$226.4 million.

Property Taxes are estimated to provide some \$52.1 million compared to \$49.9 million for the current financial year. Sir, I expect the Minister of Housing to make his contribution to these taxes when he gets his pay-out, Sir, out of any statements which may be highly defamatory. They are defaming all of the Members over here. They have all of the integrity and they are defaming all of us over here.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: They speak about integrity and every time they open their mouths the integrity leads to some assault on the good name, character, and reputation of the Members of my Government, Sir.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: NDP, part of the coalition, Sir, is talking all kinds of things and again bringing the good name of Barbados into disrepute in London in the high offices to which certain people use their influence to get them appointed. They come down here and the first thing they do is to defame the Prime Minister of Barbados or try to. You will have to pay for all of these things. This is the integrity that we talk about. Not you, Sir. That is what is happening, Sir. Let them have their meetings, Sir.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not hearing any Asides, Sir. I am just trying to collect my thoughts here, Sir. Let them continue. It is integrity that we are talking about.

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Laughter.

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Laughter.

The demagogues can speak in those terms and I expect that over the next year or 15 months or so we will hear more of these kinds of arguments without any foundation as they search around for issues. What we are concerned about is national growth and development. That is what we have to plan and work for.

As far as the Government's current expenditure is concerned, the Government expects to spend some \$987.2 million on current expenditure for the financial year 1990-91, an increase of some 0.2% or just over \$2 million over the expenditure for the current financial year. The emphasis of this spending will be to provide greater services for the country. The public sector in Barbados has to provide a wide range of services for the country, materials and supplies have to be met, labour and other operating costs must also be met.

Additionally, Sir, the concern of the Government for stable employment requires that there must be outlays for the public sector employees. The Government therefore sets the legal limit within which people may own private property and in which markets may operate. The Government regulates business, it purchases and sells goods and services, it makes transfer payments, it raises taxes and it seeks to stabilise the economy. In order to perform these and other functions, the Government must spend money if it is to carry out its responsibilities, including the constitutional responsibilities of providing the economic framework within which the people of this country may seek to improve their standard of living. 11.15a.m.

Of the \$987.2 million which the Government proposes to spend in the coming financial year, \$416.9 million or 42.2 per cent will go towards personal emoluments. So in our expenditures some 42.2 per cent goes towards personal emoluments, so that is a substantial part of Government's outlays to pay for the wages and salaries of its employees. This will be \$8.4 million higher than that approved for the year 1989-90 and, Sir, that is because there is built into the wages settlement as agreed between the workers and employers or as may be determined, some increase annually into those wages. This year it will be some \$8.4 million higher than in the Approved Estimates for 1989-90.

Other purchases of goods and services are set at \$119.1 million or 25.2 per cent higher than the approved amount for the current financial year.

Sir, I think at this stage I would wish to point out that the year 1989-90 has been the most difficult ever in the history or in the evolution of this country in terms of the requirement to repay debt and to meet debt service obligations. It has been the most difficult ever, Sir, but we - have never panicked in the unprecedented challenge, but displayed that thoughtful, steady and positive approach which is the hallmark of sound leadership. We have not run

away from the task as others have done. We have all but come through that year successfully, though we lost some of our international reserves. The intemperate words of certain Opposition spokespersons did nothing to help promote the confidence that they are talking about, and those who speak about confidence should really examine the words, statements and stances of those Opposition spokesmen during the period. Nothing that they have said has been calculated either to sustain or to maintain confidence in this country, and instead of speaking about confidence and always looking at the Government, I presume, they should examine the words and statements of those Opposition persons.

Sir, on this occasion I like to speak to the record. I remember when the Honourable Member for St. Thomas first raised the issue in here, he spoke with guarded tones about the reserves on that first occasion; so I am not including him or the Opposition Barbados Labour Party at this time. Sir, I think these things have to be said, that we all live in this country and we all wish to see this country prosper. We all wish to see that, particularly so those of us who are charged with the responsibility of being the legislators for that growth and development. But, Sir, sometimes it stretches the imagination when one hears the kinds of comments that are made which are calculated or can only by inference be interpreted not to sustain the good name and reputation of Barbados, but to have some other impact.

Sir, there is one advantage that we will have in the year 1990-91 in respect of current expenditure, and that is that the claims on the Treasury for servicing debt will be somewhat reduced during this coming year. In the outgoing 1989-90 fiscal year funds directed for the servicing of the national debt are estimated at \$248.9 million, and of this amount substantial payments were made on the settling of maturing obligations. My Government repaid the five billion Japanese Yen bond loan costing some \$71.6 million which was borrowed by the Barbados Labour Party administration. I do not think they would deny that. We have repaid it. That was in February of this year. Sir, the Government also completed payment for some \$13.3 million on the balance outstanding on the Orion Bank loan, also borrowed by the Barbados Labour Party Government; but they seem to forget, Sir, that when they make allegations and charges about over-expenditure that the first commitment on our expenditure is to repay those loans which were borrowed before.

In 1990-91 financing of the debt is expected to cost about \$191 million, and I am not predicting here how the rates of exchange may affect that. Sir, this will be \$57.9 million less than that for the current financial year and the new major payment during this year 1990-91 will be in respect of a Trinidad and Tobago debenture which should cost about \$23 million to repay. The Minority Opposition in here has been very helpful on these matters, and so they

would know that this has to be repaid. That is the major repayment that we will have to make.

Sir, there is also the Nat West Investment Bank payment of \$11.4 million which we will have to repay. Sir, I said quite early that they have been entered into in good faith. I have not said otherwise. 11.25a.m.

I am only making the point that when there is a charge or an allegation about overspending, that we must remember that there are commitments that we have to meet to maintain the integrity of our country for honouring its obligations. That is the only point I am making. It is not time to make any other point yet.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am counting and I said May 28.

Aside.

RL Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: May 28, 1986 and that is an important date and some time before that time the people of this country will decide who their legislators will be in this House of Assembly.

Aside.

RL Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You want 1991? You want the year? You want me to be precise about the year? You want to know if it is 1990 or 1991?

Sir, the foreign component of the debt service for 1990-91 should be \$130.6 million compared to \$192.5 million in the current financial year. Subsidies and transfers to enterprises will be about \$260.1 million and if we look at these Estimates on a functional basis, which would set out the expenditure according to some purpose, at least this is the idea, and, perhaps, programme, education will absorb the largest single share of current spending. That has been a trend in this country because that sector continues to be the pillar on which a literate, easily trainable work force can be moulded.

The \$201.6 million allocated to education represents some 20.4% of current outlays. Spending on the general Public Service will account for \$153.8 million or 15.6% of current expenditure and the economic services such as agriculture, trade, tourism and roads will be given \$153.9 million in the new financial year as compared with \$136 million in the current financial year. This is an injection of \$17.9 million of new funds into the productive sectors of the economy on the current account.

It is proposed that \$31.8 million or \$8.2 million more than in the current financial year will be spent on developing housing and community amenities.

Sir, the Estimates can also be looked at from the point of view of economic categories and that is also set out but I think these are readily available in the memorandum to the Estimates so I would not delay the House on the allocations on an economic basis.

Sir, these represent the major areas of activities that the Government proposes to spend in respect of the current financial year and in respect of the use of our current resources and I wish to stress again, Sir, that the reduction in the debt service charges in 1990-91 will permit the government to allocate higher sums to the tune of some \$60 million on the services it provided after debt payments are made.

As far as capital expenditure is concerned, Sir, for the coming financial year, that is estimated at \$227.8 million. That is an increase of \$7.1 million over the approved Estimates for the current financial year and \$57.8 million more than the revised estimate for 1989-90.

The primary emphasis of that capital works programme will be to continue the major works that are ongoing or to complete them and, also, to execute remedial work on public projects which are in need of such work.

The largest allocations are being made, this is on the capital side, again, to Education, Transport and Works, and Health. On a functional basis, the economic services will be allocated the largest share of \$96.6 million, Education will be given \$49.5 million and Health \$26.3 million while Housing and Community Amenities will receive \$20.6 million.

I turn now, Sir, to some of the individual Ministries. As far as the Prime Minister's Office is concerned, the capital expenditure for the year is estimated at \$5.6 million. This is an increase of just about \$1.5 million and the sums go largely for the enhancement of the central main frame facilities at the Data Processing Department as well as for upgrading of the equipment at the Government Information Service.

International Transport has been allocated some \$3 million and that will be spent on Airport Development. The capital expenditure for the Ministry of Finance for the financial year coming is estimated at \$25.8 million as compared with \$23.4 million and of this amount a projected expenditure of \$24.5 million relates mainly to Government's contribution to international and domestic financial institutions, equity contributions in commercial ventures, feasibility studies of projects identified for possible financing by multilateral lending institutions and

for on-lending of money to assist with major capital programmes.

Sir, some work is expected on the headquarters, the Energy Conservation Project, the Customs Department and the Central Purchasing Department. 1135a.m.

Sir, during the year the Government proposes to spend \$15.1 million, these are the Capital expenditures, I stress once again from the agricultural development programmes. Programmes such as crop research and development, livestock research and development, fisheries development and land and soil conservations will attract major sums during the year. The promotion of these projects is vital for the diversification effort which the Government is pursuing in agriculture.

Under the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the sum of \$8.7 million has been estimated for spending in the coming Financial Year as a Capital sum. That is \$2.4 million more than estimated for the current Financial Year. Work will continue on the Police Band Headquarters and there will be work on the Bridge and Harbour, District D and District A Police Stations. At least \$3 million is estimated to be spent in this particular area. Additionally provision is made for the construction of a new fire station at Six Roads, St. Philip, construction of a judicial centre and the Hometown Judicial Complex.

In the Capital provision, the Ministry of Education has been allocated \$50.5 million which is an increase of \$8.8 million over the Estimates as approved for the current Financial Year. Nine point one million dollars should go to primary, pre-primary and special education and sums are provided for the renovations works on certain primary schools under the Second Education and Training Project of the Inter-American Development Bank. Provisions are also made for construction or renovation works under the IDB project in respect of Queen's College, the St. Thomas Secondary School, the Wotton/Kingsland, and the Springer Memorial Schools. Technical, Vocational and Adult Education will be allocated some \$6 million.

In the health sector \$30.5 million is projected to be spent with the objective of providing better health care for the citizens of Barbados. The upgrading and refurbishing efforts at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Psychiatric Hospital will account for \$4.1 million and \$681 000. Polyclinic Development Programme will receive some \$13.6 million and the purchase of ambulances and upgrading of the Emergency Ambulance Service will receive \$504 000 approximately.

As far as the Capital works programme for Housing is concerned, a sum of 416.4 million will be allocated. Of this total, \$2.3 million will be spent on the settlement, compensation and other associated costs for lands and

properties acquired by the Government in the public interest. The National Housing Corporation will be granted \$6.3 million to continue its Sites and Services Programme, relocation, development of lots and refurbishing of existing rental units. Funds for \$5.6 million are also provided for the continued construction of houses in the joint housing project between Barbados and Venezuela.

Thirteen point one million dollars by way of Capital expenditure will go to the area of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development, projects under the Coastal Conservation Programme, the remedial work on the beaches of Barbados, the financing of the operations of the National Conservation Commission in its efforts at beautifying the country and enhancing its attractions as a beautiful place for Barbadians as well as those visitors who come among us from time to time.

For Trade, Industry and Commerce, some \$7.2 million will go towards factory construction and other projects relating to the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation, the latter of which should absorb some \$7.1 million of that amount.

The capital outlay on Transport and Works is estimated at \$42 million in the coming Financial Year. Major projects will be tenantry and subsidiary roads, road construction, highway rehabilitation and highway improvement projects. The Transport Board will receive \$6.7 million. Provision is also made for \$4 million for expenses on repairs and improvement to roads, bridges and other areas of the Scotland District.

For Tourism, the sum allocated is \$9.1 million which will be in respect of the Tourism and Sports Capital programme. The gymnasium project is expected to utilize some \$7.2 million and the grant to the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation is expected to be about \$1.1 million. There will be a sum of some \$0.7 million that should go towards the construction and equipping of sports facilities.

Sir, just as I have spoken about revenues, I think I wish to say a few words about Government expenditures. There has been some misunderstanding about the nature of Government's spending and about growth in Government spending. Let us seek to clarify the issues, much as I have done along the lines for Government revenue. Total Government expenditure rose from a figure of approximately \$31.5 million in 1960-61 to some \$103 million in 1970-71 to about \$565.1 million in 1980-81 and to \$1.2 billion estimated for 1990-91. Sir, that is quite an impressive expansion in absolute terms. But it should be clear that inflation has caused the value of the dollar to drop. 11.45a.m.

Therefore, Government Expenditures would be less in real terms than simple dollar values would indicate. Similarly, Sir, if population growth is taken into account, real Government Expenditure per capita would also be less than the absolute numbers would suggest

The best approach, Sir, is really to look at Government Expenditures as a percentage of the GDP and which one you take may be a matter of preference for exactly what you are dealing with. I am dealing with the factor cost - GDP at factor cost. Total Government Expenditure as a percentage of GDP in 1980/81 was some 36%. It was 36%, Sir. The figure for 1990/91 is projected at 34%. That is the projection, Sir.

Sir, the corresponding figure for the United States in 1985 was 39.5%. You are saying 40%.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am being accused. Sorry, you did not hear that, Sir, and I should not have heard it. But I want to make it clear, Sir, that I do not curse and least of all would I curse the Member. Sorry, I would not do it to any Honourable Member but least of all, Sir, the Member for St. Peter. I think again he should look elsewhere. Sir, he has a directional problem.

Sir, for the U.S. it was 39.5%. For Canada in 1981 it was 38.4%, Germany 44.3%, and United Kingdom 44.6%.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I do not have the figures to hand for Sweden or Norway. So I really wish to find what is the statistical or scientific or other basis of argument for the people of integrity who get up and say that there is run-away expenditure and expenditure out of control and so on. It is remarkable if we look historically at our own country and look at the improvements and development - it is one thing to talk about global figures, but you have to tie it down to an economy and you have to tie it down to what our output is - that the statistics do not support any claim about run-away expenditure. It does not support any claim about the favourite word "squandermania". These charges must be nailed down once and for all. If they are talking about integrity, let them produce the facts to support the allegations of squandermania. Sir, all such expressions do is to create doubt about integrity in the country. It is running down the country in the eyes of our countrymen and in the eyes of visitors as well.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have set out in some detail the nature of this year's Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. I have pointed out that Expenditures result from the obligations of and the demands upon the Government for the provision of goods and services. I have

demonstrated that there has been no exorbitant imposition of taxation and I have demonstrated that there has been no squandermania or run-away expenditure. Sir, I am not talking about any word whether it is squandermania or not, which let us say in the heat of a debate or something like that you may use. I am not talking about that, but a persistent and consistent ever theme throughout all speeches everywhere in the country and out of the country that is being used. Rather, the Public Finances have been efficiently managed especially in the light that during the current financial year my Government has had to make the biggest effort to repay the debt including principal and interest that has ever been called upon to meet. That is the circumstance in which we speak. But we must all take stock of ourselves, Sir. Particularly, we must realize that managing our economy is not about talking only. It is about Governmental political experience and a lot of those who are talking, Sir, have only very limited experience in managing any Government. They have very limited experience, Sir, as far as management at Governmental level is concerned.

I think, Sir, that we have to rededicate ourselves to our country. We have to work for growth and development. Let us sail on to the port of greater prosperity for our people. For just as we have successfully managed the ship of state over the past few years so we will successfully manage the ship of state over the coming years and the people will understand. Let us move on resolutely doing what we have to do in the name of God our guardian and our guide.

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

Applause.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, it has been many years now I believe on the first occasion in 1979 that I participated in debate on the Appropriation Bill that comes before this House annually. After 1979, I was sought out and charged with the responsibility of presenting the case to this Parliament for a political party which clearly has lost all its moral moorings. 11.55a.m.

Indeed, Sir, I have been able to participate in debates at a level in this House where the Appropriation Bill captured the imagination of the public of Barbados, where the level of contribution on both sides of the House was such that it was regarded as a major intellectual exercise and one which certainly laid the background for the further debate on the budgetary proposals in any given year.

There has been a marked departure from that practice in the past two years. I think on one occasion the

Honourable Member for St. Peter did the Appropriation Bill presentation on behalf of his party, spoke for several hours and absolutely no contact was made with anything of economic, financial or other relevance which he said. I myself have had the same experience. Indeed, Sir, that has been the pattern of debates on financial matters in this Honourable House.

It therefore grieves me, Sir, that we have sunk to the kind of anti-intellectual levels in debate, in the presentation of the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill, where from a conceptualisation and other points of view one could have some view of what the Estimates meant to the country and the direction in which the country was being taken by a given Government.

Therefore, Sir, I spent a lot of time in the early hours of this morning going through the debates over the past two to three years, as is my custom, to try to pick up trends. You cannot pick up any trends, because there are no trends, and I do not propose in my presentation today to continue to throw pearls where they should not be thrown.

I have noticed a very peculiar phenomenon in the Government of Barbados. This is a document of this Honourable House and when we speak to matters of confidence it is important to recognise what were the elements that have destroyed confidence in the financial management of this country. I think it is of overwhelming importance and one that must be addressed.

In the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto, General Elections 1986, on page 28, there is a solemn pledge which reads as follows:

"The Democratic Labour Party has presented a Policy Agenda which will:

Revitalize the Barbadian economy;

Improve the standard of living of all Barbadians;

Provide a better future for all;

Protect and uplift the moral values of our society.

The Democratic Labour Party has also presented a mix of candidates, representative of all cross-sections of our society and equipped, by qualifications and experience, to manage the affairs of Government with efficiency and humanity.

The Democratic Labour Party possesses the courage and commitment to deal with all the difficult issues facing the country, including the drug problem.

Sensitive to the needs of our countrymen and ready to provide the sound financial management required, the Democratic Labour Party pledges itself to implement its Policy Agenda, and to adhere to the proposals set out as the FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We further pledge to conduct the people's business with humility and a sense of decency, to avoid political arrogance at all costs, and to remember always that we are first and foremost Servants of the People.

We solemnly pledge that a Democratic Labour Party Government will, without deviation, protect the fundamental rights of our people and uphold the Rule of Law.

(SGD.) ERROL W. BARROW
Political Leader and President

For and on behalf of all the candidates of the Democratic Labour Party and with their full knowledge, agreement, consent and COMMAND."

What was the first order of business, Sir? The first order of business is clearly set out here. "Details of the immediate measures which will be taken by a DLP Government to strengthen the economy, create employment and improve the living standards of all Barbadians, were announced during the recent Budget Debate. A DLP Government, within three weeks of a General Election will implement A NEW FISCAL ARRANGEMENT designed..." and then the fiscal proposals were set out.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure this Honourable House as a matter of integrity that the only deviation from these proposals, for which I was castigated by the Honourable Member for St. Peter in his capacity as shadow Minister of Finance, is that instead of bringing them all at once they were phased in over a two year period. As a matter of integrity, let the record of the debate in 1986 show that

I further say this, Sir. It is sometimes very difficult when you are dealing with persons who surprise you, I must say this, not by personal attacks and so on, because I deem those things to be part of the political process, but things that go to the root of what can be remotely considered as the truth. I do not wish to be involved in anything that could even be considered a breach of accepted Cabinet secrecy understandings in Barbados, but I can say this, Sir, for that breach I was castigated.

The fact that I did not get it here in three weeks in its present form was a problem. There were threats to bring it here as it was in the Manifesto if I would not bring it down earlier, and yet today people who sat and knew exactly what transpired could come in here after this pledge, and after this Manifesto was released in the constituency of St. Michael South, not only to dissociate themselves from it but

also to suggest that this was brought in rashly, to try to put the blame on a former Minister of Finance implementing what were his party's proposals, and over and above that, fully seized with the knowledge that if that Minister deviated from it in any way it was not to implement them all at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, that is what has destroyed confidence in Barbados in the present administration. You cannot invite people to enter into a social contract of this nature with you, your signature on the one side, on the other side the signature of their votes and then get all sorts of yardfowls to go on the media to suggest that there is no such thing as a social contract. 12.05 p.m.

I say that there is no contract more sacred, apart from the contract that you may make with your God, than the contract made with the people of Barbados. There can be none more sacred than that, and from the day that that was done, confidence in the Government was wrecked and it will get worse and worse. This brings me to the second question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, if at any time either I or any member of this party makes a false statement which is damaging to the image of the Government, damaging to the image of another Opposition Party, or damaging to the image of any individual, I say, Sir, that we have a duty to withdraw it, apologise and make it absolutely clear that it was an error. I go further and I say that so long as I am in the Opposition, as it has always been my practice as a member of that party and in my practice as a leader of this party, it will be my duty to tell Barbadians the truth, and if anyone can challenge me on any false statement that I made on the Barbados economy or in any other area, I would be the first one to correct it, but I am not going to be party to any cover up in relation to the management of the affairs of this country. It is the truth that people want to hear; they do not want to hear lies, and once the Nation tells the truth, is persistent and is known for the truthfulness of its presentations, that is what generates confidence.

Sir, there is no international loss of confidence because the Central Bank may have difficulty with foreign exchange, or because a Government may have problems with foreign reserves. There is a loss of confidence, Sir, if there is clear evidence of lying and evidence of a cover up. That is what becomes a problem, when the institutions of this country are involved in making statements that turn out to be totally false and when other persons endorse that kind of behaviour. That is what creates lack of confidence. What further creates lack of confidence, Mr. Speaker, is when a Minister of Finance comes to the country on more than one occasion and announces that all is well, and the following day or within a matter of days the central banking institution in this country, the Central Bank of Barbados, comes out with a different statement, and in addition to that

introduces measures that contradict fundamentally whatever the Minister of Finance was saying. That is what undermines confidence, and that is what has happened in Barbados. More than that, Sir, what has further damaged confidence in this country is the effete leadership which the country is being offered. That is what is damaging confidence, not what the Barbados Labour Party might say or the National Democratic Party may say. We have a duty, Sir, and we will not neglect it

I have been around this Honourable House long enough to know that when you are in opposition, the Government will say you are undermining confidence every time you criticise them. You are over this side now so you hear the same thing all over again; but let it be clear that we are not going in any way to be compromised in doing our duty to this country by being charged with undermining confidence by telling the truth and exposing the incompetence of the administration. Never let it be. You know sometimes, Sir, it makes you wonder. I have just given you two examples of a clear departure. It is such a challenge in one's mind to consider that you could have departures of this nature from what is fundamentally true, moral and of good repute. It bothers me, and everyone of them over there knows that I am telling the truth when I tell them what transpired about this. I say no more.

I plead guilty to all Barbadians today that I was in fact guilty of the charge of not sticking absolutely to this manifesto by varying the implementations over an 18 month to two year period. That is the charge I plead guilty to. I am charged today with a completely different charge. Look and see what the elements of lack of confidence produce when you find the good name of Barbados - and I am dealing with agriculture expenditure now - being challenged probably in the courts of Canada because of a falsely labelled shipment of 1 600 bales of cotton, not 400 bales, to Japan. The bales are now stored in Japan. It was Pima cotton, not Sea Island cotton; it did not come from Belize because the seeds that were sent from Barbados to - Belize did not germinate, and no cotton was grown in Belize. We have all the information now.

There is a law suit that is being threatened now unless the Japanese are given back their money. That is one law suit.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I don't care who the client is; I know that public money is being drawn down and I have about fifty cancelled cheques.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not encourage Honourable Members to interrupt another Honourable Member.

;

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is the kind of thing, Sir, that

is destroying confidence in this country. On top of that, Sir,

there is clear evidence that a para-statal organisation has been involved in sending not one set but three sets of dollars out of Barbados in breach of the Exchange Control Act and no steps have been taken. A para-statal organisation in the Ministry of Agriculture.

If I may continue, Sir, when a foreign government and its agencies have to call in the representative of Barbados to communicate to the Government its deep concern over certain practices in relation to CARSICOT and related ventures and the protection of their interests and the interests of their citizens under an agreement, that is what is damaging the image of Barbados, not anything that we have said. These are the daily acts going on that are destroying confidence in Barbados. When people cannot sleep in their homes because of inadequate allocations to improve the Police Force of Barbados, when people feel threatened in their homes, when there is a deterioration of law and order, that is what is undermining confidence in Barbados. When a Government or put it more correctly, because I don't want to be challenged on this one, when a political party provides a platform for some of the most vicious racism in this country, that is what is undermining confidence in Barbados. You are an Opposition and you have a duty to perform. You must try to be as accurate as you can be; you must try to be at all times certainly when making a speech to make that speech based on reasonable information. 12.15p.m.

It is hard sometimes in Opposition to get total information but you can have enough information. So people who have failed the country miserably by their poor performance are now coming in here talking about other people being responsible for loss of confidence. Let us go down the road on this confidence issue because there is a lot more to be said about it and let me tell you something. There will be more and more public meetings too.

We have gone through, we have lived through the daily charges and threats of law suits. There are people who are so hungry for money, Sir, that they spend their days with lawyers if you say they are black or something so on a platform. If you say that they are black on a platform they go and get a legal opinion the next day. They are so hungry to get money out of people. We expect that. This the same kind of behaviour that I have seen again and again. There is nothing new but we will not be silenced.

I will tell you this too, that it is amazing when you see the pattern of behaviour emerging. It is almost incredible. I will say this. I have never yet, despite many, many slander, never ever sued anybody except in a matter of a professional slander and would never do it either. You can say what you like about me. I can defend myself. I am not in the business and as I say, I will never do it.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Of a professional slander, yes, but in the terms of politics and this kind of thing like this it is almost disgraceful to be walking around trying to pick a few cents off people here and there. I find it totally disgusting, to tell you the honest truth.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am serious about that

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It was a professional slander, something completely different and I believe that if anyone...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, you keep out of this. I am not talking to you. Nothing that I have said so far applies to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I need to be heard. There is no Member who could ask another Member to be silent but me myself. I am here to control the debate and keep it on an even keel. So far we have been going reasonably well with few interruptions. I will ask Honourable Members to contain themselves within the debate and fewer interruptions will let it go on.

Continue your speech, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I just wanted to assure the Honourable Member....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would also say that if that aside has been placed in the record it should be withdrawn as well.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I just wish, Sir, to give an assurance that my remarks would, of course, apply only to those who either by some form of sliminess or some form of subterfuge would seek to disassociate themselves from what they presented to the electorate of Barbados. I believe it is fundamentally wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not so clear as to that statement.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Outside of here, Sir. Nothing to do with in here, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, we had better deal with what is in here. Rather let that stay outside and I may very well ask to have that taken from the records.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is not in here, Sir. Did you ask to have it taken from the records? Okay.

If I may continue, Sir, on this question of confidence because I believe if out of this debate one thing can emerge that the people of Barbados can have some confidence in what is going on or that they would not be faced with the same kind of twists and turns in the management of the country's financial affairs as they were subjected to over the past two years by sheer incompetence and at some times I believe not only incompetence but an inability even to digest basic information in front of one.

You know, Sir, it also galls me. Here am I, the youngest member of an Opposition in the 1970's, people came to my home on a Saturday afternoon and told me that I was the only person whom they thought competent to take on the job as spokesman on finance. You hear what I tell you? In 1978.

All the years, apart from the Honourable Member for St. Michael West not one would open their mouths on anything relating to a financial or economic matter in this House, not one and all of a sudden, a burst of expertise and a burst of ignorance, on my part. It is amazing, Sir. It is those postures, Mr. Speaker, those very posturings that the people of Barbados find very difficult to accept but we know.

As a new political party, one of the commitments that we have made is not to allow ourselves to be drawn into that type of dialogue for any length of time, other than seeking to set the record straight because I believe there comes a time when the record of this House must be set straight on matters of this nature.

Now, Sir, to tell you the honest truth, Sir, what we have heard here is a repetition each year of a Cabinet Paper prepared by public servants, a whole lot of scattered ideas, nothing cohesive about it, no kind of orderly presentation, and what I would do is to try to structure my reply in some way that makes some kind of financial or economic sense.

What is the first and most outstanding feature of these Estimates? The Estimates, Sir, indicate that in 1989/90 as happened in the year 1988/89, that there was gross, I repeat gross underestimation of revenue and as a result of that, there has been substantial and unnecessary imposition of taxation in Barbados.

Indeed, Sir, if you were to take the original Estimates for 1989/90 of some \$905 million and now we are being told that your revenue projections are somewhere in the region of \$988 million. We have had an intervening budget that raised \$40 million which was supposed, as was said at the time, to balance out the revenue versus expenditure so, quite clearly, there is a huge \$40 million gap of unnecessary taxation to start off with.

It does not take any genius to work that out and I say this that it is quite clear to me that the revenue will be even

higher than what is in these Estimates at the moment because, Sir, if you look at the projected revenue for February and March in order to arrive at \$988 million, current revenue for February is estimated at \$61 million in these Estimates and \$129 million in March.

Sir, there were the kind of figures that used to obtain, [^] probably, minus about \$15 million about five years ago. 12.25 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, it stands to reason that under the present regime of over taxation that revenue levels would be much higher than that. It is quite clear. But we have a problem. In fact we get the Accountant-General's Report some time in about July of the year to cover the month of March. The Auditor-General's Report I think has only recently been made available. And we have had the alarming situation for the first time in the history of ^r Barbados, where there was no financial statement presented to this House last year. None! Absolutely none! I double checked it early this morning looking for it in the Budget in case I had made a mistake. This is the kind of competence that you are talking about, the level of competence. No financial statement in the Budget using figures produced by the Central Bank. The accounting system used by the Central Bank has no relevance whatsoever, none whatsoever to the legal requirements of Barbados under the Constitution or law that stems from the Constitution, the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the various Laws governing the recording of Government accounts by the Accountant-General and also the auditing of those accounts by the Auditor-General. It is mandatory that some kind of financial statement should be presented to this House because I do not see how you can construct a Budget without a financial statement. That is the kind of level of incompetence that you have. No financial statement.

But nevertheless, Sir, going back from the final outturn in the Estimates, you could see that the same kind of error of the same order was made the year before. These are things that impinge on people's confidence. The financial community all read the Budgets. They are sent to them. They buy them and they look and see what is said and what the outturn figure is. When they see marked variations of this kind, these are not variations in Estimates or anything like this. This is where a Minister has available outturn figures of reasonably accurate outturn figures. [^]

The past Minister of Finance, the late Errol Barrow for example always insisted on not bringing a Budget until July because he wanted to know what the final outturn figures were in order that he could present to the House an accurate financial statement. That practice was changed and Budgets were brought I think as early as the last week in March and [,] in April and May. But, Sir, in the case of each other ^{-^} succeeding Minister of Finance there was a financial ^{•**} statement based on the most accurate information. Indeed, Sir, by the time you get past the first week in April and

apart from a few things coming in here and there the statement is pretty accurate. That is the kind of thing that fractures confidence in Barbados.

So we reject totally the notion that if we commit ourselves to telling the truth and telling the people of Barbados the truth that we could be undermining confidence in Barbados. Unheard of. But we will deal with that later on. We will have the details of that later on. We have had not only over taxation but we have had unnecessary taxation for 2 years based on straightforward incompetence.

Let us look at the question of over taxation, a denial of the charge of over taxation. I decided that I was not going to deal with anything of any conceptual importance because very often this is so mixed up, you did not bother with it. However this must be dealt with. Government expenditure in this country over the past 10 to 15 years prior to 1986 rose at a rate of about \$30 million a year on average and Government revenue rose at roughly the same \$30 million a year. This is despite years of high inflation between 1981 and 1985 and despite a situation where there could have been a legitimate, if mistaken, policy decision to increase public expenditure to maintain certain levels of economic output. That is the kind of range.

Mr. Speaker, I will demonstrate to this House that we have not only had over taxation, we have not only had excessive spending but what we have had can only be properly described as squandermania. You know, Sir, it is a funny thing, people who are guilty of certain offences can become very upset when they are accused of it. There is absolutely nothing outrageous, there is nothing wrong, there is nothing derogatory about the word squandermania. It is another word. People who cannot control spending. That is what it means. There is nothing wrong with that. For someone the inability to control spending is what squandermania means. Dipsomania means the inability to control drinking. Squandermania means the inability to control spending. That is what it is. You can put whatever mania you like on it. That is what it means. A dipsomaniac, if you accuse him of being a dipsomaniac he gets very offended and he attributes all kinds of meanings to dipsomania. Similarly, Sir, a squandemaniac, when so accused, reacts in the same way. It is part of the psyche of such persons to react in that kind of way. So we understand that. But let it be clearly understood that there is absolutely nothing wrong with the word squandermania and it has none of the connotations being suggested by the Honourable Prime Minister. On top of that, Sir, even if it had those connotations, there is still nothing wrong with using it. Not surprising, Sir, that he was one of the first people to use it in this Honourable House.

If I may continue. Let us see what has been the record of spending. You know, Sir, one of the tremendous advantages that you have in having spent a long time in

Opposition and being responsible for this year after year either in Opposition or in Government, is that it is so easy to pick up trends and see what is going on.

Take the year 1981-82 Current expenditure \$473 million.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This is the Estimates. When you get to the year 1985-86 you get \$663 million Current expenditure. You hear the figures, Sir, \$473 million, \$663 million. Go to the next year 1986-87 \$685 million. I am saying that what has happened in Barbados debt payments or no debt payments, because if you have those debt payments you know the size of the expenditure bill that you should be able to accommodate comfortably in the economy and make adjustments to suit. What I am saying is that what has taken place between 1986-87 and today is nothing other than squandermania of the grossest kind. Let there be no mistake about it. Six hundred and eighty-five million dollars in Current expenditure in 1986-87. In 1990-91 you are projecting expenditure of over \$1 billion. 12.35 p.m.

You expect us to back away from the charge of squandermania. Sir, nor has it been in the area of Statutory Expenditure on wages to public servants. It has not been there. If you look and see the percentage changes over the past two years minimum, it is in the area of the transfers where you have had this gross mismanagement in Barbados. That is where it has taken place.

I never really intended to participate in this debate but you are challenging me. I look at these things everyday for years. Just get the figures from year to year and go through the Personal Emoluments and look at the percentage changes. They were consistent with the growth and expenditure in Barbados over the past 15 or 20 years. What is inconsistent, Sir, has been in those areas under the discretion of Ministers. That is where you have run into problems, not in the Fixed Expenditure of Government. Is that not squandermania of the worst kind, Mr. Speaker, and to try to lay it at the door of debt payments?

I believe, Sir, in such a thing as personal integrity and I will go back again and again to this document, Sir. This document here released in St. Michael South in order to secure the re-election of the Honourable Member to the House of Assembly, the Honourable Prime Minister, also imposed another dimension. It not only spoke of tax reductions but it spoke to the question, Sir, of expenditure control, the two going together. Indeed, Sir, over and over again on the floor of this House and also the platforms of Barbados there was no duplicity as far as those charged with the responsibility of explaining that programme to the people of this country. They were clearly told that the money will be left in their pockets and Government will

exercise a new level of discretion in Public Expenditure. That is where the charge against the previous Administration in relation to squandermania came in because at that time the Government committed itself to reducing the rate of increase in expenditure in Barbados as the other side of the policy position. There are two sides To it. You reduce revenue and you control expenditure. They are the two things.

As a matter of fact, Sir, in the very Manifesto if you look through it, Sir, you will hardly see any significant commitment in here to Public Expenditure. All the policies were geared in a completely different way. Go through it. You hardly see any commitment in there to Public Expenditure. Indeed, the one commitment that you will see was to reduce Current Expenditure by 2% in the particular year 1986/87 and that was achieved.

I go on, Sir. So from the expenditure restraint commitment in this document, that was thrown overboard they went on spending as they liked. As the Estimates progressed, the people of Barbados are more aware than we are where the money is being thrown away day after day. I do not have to tell them. They are fully aware of the level of indiscriminate spending on the part of Government that has taken place in this country over the past two and a half years. So I do not have to recite those areas now. The opportunities will come up.

Now this brings me to the question - what has happened to the other side of the coin now of the over-taxation? Let us look at these figures again, Sir. If you were to look, Sir, see what has happened to Government Revenue between 1982/83 and go to 1986/87, \$452 million to \$648 million - 1986/87. In just two short years now, they are talking about Revenue of over a billion dollars. Is that not over-taxation, Sir? This is the same country we live in. It is the same Barbados. According to their figures, the rate of inflation over the past four years is probably between 3% and 5%. You have Expenditure that bears no relation whatsoever to growth and output, no relation whatsoever to the levels of inflation prevailing in the society, and yet you talk about management of an economy.

On the other hand, you have Revenue through straightforward over-taxation which has resulted in this country being significantly and severely over-taxed. Let me make it clear to one and all. In 1986 and today, I am committed and I believe to correct the fiscal position in that Manifesto here before me, Sir. No change on my part. If anything, Sir, I would wish to see Barbados as the years go on move in the direction of ever decreasing burden of taxation on our people. That is what I am committed to. But Sir, the public and this Honourable House have been subjected to the exposition of one reason and one reason only for increasing taxes in Barbados. The reason, Sir, stated on the floor of this House is to secure a surplus on Current Account to contribute to Capital Expenditure. The

sequential reason from this was that it would enhance your credit worthiness, it would enhance your balance of payments position, and it would protect your foreign reserves. All these things were supposed to be the effects of the taxation regime unleashed on this country by the Minister of Finance.

Today, what do we have? Your foreign reserves are worse than when you went to the International Monetary Fund. In fact, for the first time the Net Foreign Exchange position of the Central Bank was zero last year. It went into severe negativity and despite \$90 million it is still hovering around zero today. That is one of the objectives of the over-taxation. This is what the people of Barbados were told that it was essential to protect the balance of payments of this country and to protect your foreign reserves. Yet 18 months after since that was put in place look at what has happened to the foreign reserves of this country. Coincident with that, Sir, has been the destruction of the savings of the country. Coincident with it is the loss of confidence. People no longer have any confidence in you. They stop saving for investments and they start spending. That is all that has happened. We were realizing savings of over \$100 million a year in 1986/87 and 1987/88, and all of a sudden peoples' confidence is destroyed. That is what has happened, Sir. We underestimate the ordinary man out there. The Government will never ever understand the level of anger that people are feeling out there. They never will appreciate it. Every skin teeth is no laugh. The others who are a bit more perceptive will begin to realize what is going on out there.

I believe, Sir, that fidelity to the electorate of Barbados in terms of what you told them that you would do is something that is so fundamental and so critical that anytime a Government deviates from that with the kind of arrogance and the kind of contempt, which was articulated not only on the floor of this House but elsewhere, I will say ^ that that confidence is gone for good. 12.45 p.m.

People will understand if you tell them you are going to build something and then you come back and say you cannot build it, but when you have taken people into a fiscal situation, when you have asked people to save or make commitments and do all kinds of things, when you have created new visions, new economic horizons for people, and all of a sudden you slam the door in their faces and you ^ expect their support and come in here and accuse those who ". warned you of the political dangers and otherwise of doing it, to be undermining confidence in Barbados, that kind of perverse reasoning will not take root in this country. We will go into the highways and byways throughout this country and make sure it does not take root either. Make no mistake about it. ^

Now, Sir, I believed then, I believe now, I have *** demonstrated, we have had two years of unnecessary and excessive taxation, and on -the floor of this House I am

calling on the Government to review its taxation policy and reduce the level of taxation in Barbados. It is fundamentally idiotic - and I use the word "idiotic" not in the Greek sense but in the English sense - to seek to compare revenue levels in relation to GDP with industrialised countries whose revenue base may have nothing or very little to do with taxation.

You take Trinidad and Tobago for example. Trinidad and Tobago has an oil sector and therefore its revenue base is not only from taxation but due from the receipts from oil as well as other areas of revenue. In the United States, which is so capital intensive, a whole range of production is capital related, machinery related, so when you look and you talk about tax levels, every single person with any common sense looks at the same time to see what is the source of the revenue in Barbados. What is our source of revenue, Sir? Our source of revenue is corporation tax. Corporation tax is purely a tax on individuals in this country. The corporations just simply act as a collecting agency. The people who buy things from the corporations, the people who buy things from Cave Shepherd or Harrisons, for the prices that they pay they are paying the taxes.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They pay the taxes in the long run. It is through the profits from your sales. That is about 80% of the corporation tax of Barbados out of the distributive sector, so in the long run when an Accountant sits down and puts down a corporate name and pays 30% or whatever he pays, that is a distribution of the profit between the shareholders and the Government, and the profit comes from the sales.

Income tax in a similar way comes from individuals. Indirect taxes. Who do you think ultimately pays indirect taxes in Barbados? The consumer. The cheque may be written to Government by somebody, but it is the consumer. The point I am making is that you have to look at the elements of production and the elements of revenue generation to determine the percentile relationship between taxation from persons and taxation from other sources.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is so fundamental a notion that in any national statistics of taxation or the impact of taxation there has to be a disaggregation. It might be elementary, as some would say, but quite clearly it has to be stated. The point I am trying to make, that if you say that your lax level is 34% so your expenditure or your taxes is 34% of GDP in the Barbadian economy, and you seek to compare that with other economies and you do not look at the factors of production and sources of revenue in those

things, then the impact on the economies would be completely different and you are just dealing with a number that does not make any sense. That is all you are doing.

If I may continue, Sir. Let me tell you what has happened. I will ask the question whether the levels of taxation in those countries have succeeded in wiping out liquidity in those economies. Has the level of taxation in those countries quoted as being the same as Barbados succeeded in wiping out liquidity in the banking system? Has it destroyed the capacity of the banking system to make credit available to the citizens of those countries? Has it so warped and so depleted businesses and other areas of activity by competition with the private sector that it has compromised production at all levels? The point I am making is that you have to look at the economy and the sources of the revenue.

Let me go back, Sir. I will be talking for a long time today. I want to deal with another area of this taxation in Barbados.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Before 1 o'clock, Sir, I want to say this, that the Government's overtaxation policy has undermined the entire economy and has undermined the financial system of Barbados, has ruined the balance of payments of this country and destroyed our foreign reserves. When I return I will be dealing under separate Heads with the impact on individuals in terms of the prices they have to pay in the supermarkets, the outrageous levels of consumption taxes levied on this country by the Honourable Minister of Finance and the simultaneous increase in stamp duties. No Minister of Finance has ever used such a clumsy and heavy hand in increasing indirect taxation in Barbados, or increased the stamp duties and the consumption duties at the same time and to that extent.

I am saying that it is the poor people of Barbados, through the prices they pay in the supermarket, who have to pay for the incompetence of the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister of this country. The old people in St. Michael South Central, when they send to the shop to buy an article, are paying the price of their squandermania and overtaxation.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now suspended until 2.00 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 12.55 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

When the sitting was suspended, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was addressing the Chair. He may continue.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, while I was addressing certain matters relating to this Appropriation Bill, I was dealing with the issue of confidence and how it is affecting the Barbados economy and the causes of the lack of confidence. Those who, as I said, Sir, chose to repudiate what they solemnly pledged to the electorate of Barbados will have to bear their responsibilities for any fracture of confidence. Indeed, Sir, when one sees that as late as 1988 not only the Prime Minister of this country but his Deputy in debate were seeking to establish that the positions they have taken had nothing to do with any changes or any repudiation of the Manifesto, I believe, Sir, that one would be able to refer to Hansard in considerable detail where for example the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, at page 2259 of the House of Assembly Debates spent a whole lot of time establishing that there was no change whatsoever in the Manifesto, but these things will be read to the public of Barbados. There is a whole long debate, section by section, with no changes in that, and then our good friend, his Deputy followed in the same suit in his presentation in this Honourable House. So that when we are dealing with matters of this nature, I have always sought and I have tried very hard for a very long time not to get into certain areas, knowing myself the kinds of commitments and the kinds of positions that people took in matters when I was associated with them, and I try as hard as possible to stay away from that. However, when it comes to trying to attach blame in matters where persons know precisely what transpired, the truth will have to be told. I am not going to get involved with any scurrilous activities in relation to persons with whom I have had long and productive association, but at the same time I am going to defend with all the might, with all the rhetoric at my disposal any attempts to challenge my integrity in these matters, and that is my position, so let that be clear. If I have to defend myself, my integrity will have to be defended.

If I may continue, Sir, on the question of the levels of expenditure, I believe that there can be no doubt that the Honourable Prime Minister by now must have been told by his advisers that the level of public expenditure in the Barbados economy is far too high and attempts to match that expenditure with the revenue has had a debilitating effect on the economy. Let us deal with this question of rescuing the economy from the rocks in 1987.

Sir, if Barbados is going to get into any serious financial trouble, it does not relate to expenditure-revenue patterns. I will go into a thesis on that shortly. What it does

relate to is what happens with your foreign reserves, what happens with your balance of payments, and what happens in the current account of the balance of payments, and the facts are that when the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, the present Minister of Finance, the RL Honourable Prime Minister, took over as Minister of Finance of this country and told this nation that the economy was heading for the rocks a few months later, the foreign reserves of this country in July of 1987 stood at \$351 million, and this can be clearly seen in the Economic and Financial Statistics, page 64, February 1990. If you were to look and see what was happening at the Central Bank during the same period, you will see that the gross position of the Central Bank was in the region of \$316 million, the foreign adjusted liabilities \$27 million with a net position exclusive of the CMCF debt of a substantial amount of money. \$307 million minus \$27 million leaves a net position of \$280 million. If you take out the \$140 million for the CMCF debt, you have \$140 million in net foreign exchange available to the Central Bank when the Honourable Member took over the reins of management of the Ministry of Finance in Barbados.

That situation, Sir, not only existed in 1987 but it remained the same up to June 1989, two years later, and without any significant foreign borrowings in between. Two years later the foreign reserves of this country were still \$317 million. It is after July last year, after the Budget, that this tremendous slide took place. This was two years after he took over and he was talking about rescuing the economy from the rocks. You know these things emerge; the records are there. You can't hide from that fact. I repeat, after printing money, after inadequate foreign borrowing to finance the large deficit that he was generating on his capital budget, nevertheless the reserves of this country for two years held up.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You said that about five times.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It has to be reinforced again and again. Yet he was talking about a rescue operation. What happened in 1989 and 1990 was the consequences of your own action, and it is about time you begin to take some kind of responsibility for the things that you do and not try to blame other people for them. Your fiscal policy was to be the cure all for the balance of payments, but we will see what the official figures are. They are bound to be negative. We know exactly what the foreign reserve position is, no matter what kind of misleading statements the Honourable Minister of Finance has made to this country, and I will deal with that shortly. In addition, Sir, he has now closed the doors of the banks to all the poor people in Barbados. The poor people in Barbados cannot any longer go into the banks and get money. I can't get any either. As a matter of fact, if you are poor or not so poor, the doors of the banks are closed to you, and the people who need credit are poor people who need credit for survival and those are the ones • debarred from credit. People who have money often seek credit to make money, but people who need credit for

survival are the poor people in this country, and the Minister of Finance of this country has actually put the locks on the doors of the banks as far as they are concerned. He has done worse, Sir. Consequential on his taxation policy, he has found himself now again, and this is serious, where not only has he put the interest rates up, but he has gone back on the interest rates policy enunciated in the very Manifesto by his own party for many years, and has adopted the interest rate policy enunciated by the Barbados Labour Party between 1981 and 1985. 2.10p.m.

The Barbados Labour Party abandoned that policy in their Budget of 1986 and since then the Honourable Member for St. Peter has openly said on the floor of this House that if there is one aspect of their monetary policy that he has had second thoughts about was their interest rate policy. That is the same policy now being enunciated by the Finance Minister in this country when he speaks to the question of stopping outflows of foreign currency through differential interest rates and all that kind of -1 would like to say rubbish, Sir - is the kind of things that has done a considerable amount of harm to the Barbados economy.

But word for word, you can find inserted in his Budgets the same statements that were inserted in the Budgets of the Barbados Labour Party between 1981 and 1985 or enunciated on the floor of this House. It is very interesting.

Aside.

It was the Budget of 1986 that the Barbados Labour Party changed its interest rates policy and the present Government has gone back and is now enunciating with greater vigour and enthusiasm the policy which they have been talking against for so many years on the floor of the House. That is what is happening, Sir.

Now, Sir, let me move on. The Honourable Member talks about confidence. I am out there on the street, Sir. I listen to the people. One of the things about being in Opposition is that you listen to the people a lot more. I will tell you this. Let me tell you a few things that have really harmed irrevocably a matter of confidence in the present administration.

When the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West got up on the floor of this House and said that there was dope found in the diplomatic bag, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South in a *sotto voce* remark shouted across that he was not telling the truth in the only kind of language that he knows.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister waved his hand across and told him to keep quiet. The Honourable Prime Minister got up and talked about a foreign substance, or a strange substance, or something like this. Now, that

performance, Sir, where you have a serious matter, you have a Cabinet, a matter is raised on the floor of the House and that is the kind of response you got there. Item 1.

Secondly, a Government that had committed itself prior to being elected to office to making resources available in the Estimates to fight the drug issue and drug problems in Barbados, and felt so strongly about it in Opposition, when they were called upon, what did they do, Sir? They refused to take definitive action in order to satisfy the people of Barbados and the international community.

The Minister should have been fired immediately or asked to resign if he would not resign and a Commission of Enquiry under the Commission of Enquiries Act set up. No-one was particularly interested in blaming any individual member of Cabinet. What they wanted to see was the kind of leadership and action taken in that situation.

I want to be fair, Sir. I am going to compare and contrast the action taken by my good friend, the Honourable Minister of Education. These things do not escape me, Sir. When the issue of pornography came up, what did he do, Sir? He said I want to know. I want steps to be taken to make sure that the guilty are punished if this is the case. I want to know the facts.

The people of Barbados are not going to accuse any Minister of being involved in pornographic activity but what they want to see is a kind of responsible response by a Minister and by the Cabinet. Give Jack his jacket. I am going to do that. I am going to show you what has been destroying confidence in the country and confidence in the Government. That has been a major blow to confidence in this country, how the matter was handled and make no mistake about it.

There are many other things that we can deal with. However, let us go on to another area. Here is a Prime Minister and Minister of Finance announcing to the world that the foreign reserves at the end of January stood at \$256 million and they were higher than at any end of January period prior to that.

Mr. Speaker, I took up this document and I looked at it. January 1987, \$314 million, January 1988 \$315 million, January 1989 \$356 million. These were the levels of the reserves. This year \$256 million, \$100 million dollars lower than last year and it was claimed that that was higher than a year ago. Now these are the things.

I will tell you why. There are not many people in Barbados, including myself, who have knowledge of the Honourable Prime Minister as a purveyor of untruths but if they accept that, you are not a purveyor of untruths, which I am willing to accept, and I think rightly they accept that you are not a purveyor of untruths.

Mr. SPEAKER: So why make the statement?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Then, Sir, there is only one conclusion that they come to. They are concerned whether you know what you are saying. That is the only other conclusion they come to. Now, it is that kind of thing that is destroying confidence in Barbados and these are issues that have to be addressed and I am very glad that you raised this confidence issue in Barbados today. I am very glad about it.

You take the problems that you have with investment. The issues relating to investment in Barbados, the heavy level of taxation, the uncertainty about taxation as a result of your attitude to fiscal policy and your attitude to commitments which have been entered into by your party, that has, certainly, disturbed a lot of people and now on top of that, the kind of social instability being injected into the system of Barbados by many persons, aided and abetted by many members of your party who do not know better and I notice that those who know better do not get involved in that exercise, these are the issues, Sir.

Back to the question of dope, Sir. Again, when on the floor of this House a few weeks ago I said and expressed my concerns about dope in Glendairy Prison what was the response, Sir? Now, these are the problems of confidence. Now that is well known to everybody. Thanks to the efficiency of the Royal Barbados Police Force, again another blow to confidence so that....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point I am saying is the way in which the Government is responding to issues when they arise. If something happens come out and deal with it frontally. Assure the people that you recognize that there is a problem or that you do not know that there is a problem but you will be taking immediate steps to deal with it. That is all the people want. They do not want to see you ducking around the place. 2.20 p.m.

They do not want to see a situation developed in Barbados where the Leader of the Opposition makes a statement about the foreign exchange position at the Central Bank. Then you get the Acting Governor of the Central Bank who comes out and makes a ridiculous statement. Then the Prime Minister goes down to Party Headquarters and launches an attack on the Leader of the Opposition. Then within a matter of a few weeks it all comes out that all this time the foreign exchange position at the bank was in fact in the red. These things are not good. They are wrong. That is the point. Because people are asking themselves, do they know what they are doing? That is the issue now. Nothing to do with what we say.

What I am saying is, Sir, that even when a statement was made that the foreign exchange situation at the Central

Bank was in the red, the Minister of Finance comes out and says, yes this is so, these are my views of the reasons that this has happened and these are the steps that I am putting in place. That is what people wanted to hear, not running around the place trying to make all kinds of statements to obfuscate the issue and so on. It is those things that are destroying confidence. It is entirely up to you all. I am quite sure that those Members on the other side who are capable of the continuing benefit from sanity and therefore recognizing the elements of objectivity that have gone into my presentation will certainly agree with me.

If I may continue. The Honourable Member has also announced that expenditure would be down by \$55 million this year. To start off it is clearly a loose statement. I have not responded to it because I do not know if he was talking about Capital, Current, a combination or what. I do not know. But certainly there is no evidence of the Current expenditure projections for fiscal year 1990 that there is any \$55 million reduction in expenditure, not according to the figures presented in the House today. And certainly even the Capital reductions which the Honourable Member spoke about do not amount to \$55 million. Again when the final outturn figures are presented and the expenditure is not down in some region near \$55 million, as I suspect it would not be done because I am sure that the expenditure for February 1990 and March 1990 has been substantially underestimated, it will be another major issue of confidence. He can go on. He can recite these things. It is a serious indictment of the Minister of Finance. There is no question about it either in his capacity as Minister of Finance or in his capacity as Prime Minister of Barbados.

I never intended to deal with these matters at all today. But it has become necessary. In fact all I came in here with this morning is one sheet of paper. I came through the door with this in my hand and a few notes just here, Sir. The Honourable Member has challenged me, Sir. It is a fact that I came in here with this one page written. All these things have been written on since then.

If I may continue. I have already dealt with the impact of taxation on the foreign reserves. There is another very important philosophical and economic concept that I want to deal with and this relates to the question of deficits, expenditure levels and revenue levels. There seems to be no recognition by the Minister of Finance that at a given level of taxation in a community, an economy can have one effect and a higher level can have a wider effect and a different effect. So when you are talking about closing a deficit, you have to decide at what level of taxation you are prepared to close that deficit. You cannot allow expenditure to run away and then continue to tax people in order to close the gap.

To set the record straight, Sir, if in Barbados today a Government had expenditure on the Current side of \$1 million and raised \$1 million plus \$15 million in taxation I

would say they are in the wrong direction. If they had an expenditure of \$850 million or \$820 million and revenue of \$800 million with a gap of \$20 million you would be doing much more for the Barbados economy and for Barbadian society. The point is, it is not a matter of closing the gap. It is a matter of at what level of expenditure do you seek to close a gap. That is the important thing. The issue is not purely and simply that you must close a gap between Current expenditure and Current revenue, what is critical is the amount that the Government is going to appropriate from its citizens in order to achieve that objective. That finally relates to the level of expenditure. That basic fact has escaped the Minister of Finance. That is why he finds himself in a situation today where you get a drying up of the domestic economy in order to correct serious problems in the external economy. That is why you see his advisers have not come up with a strange statement that in order for Barbados to survive we have to illiminate the profitability in the entire sector of the economy that is not foreign exchange generating. A perfect recipe for throwing another 40 000 to 50 000 people out of work, if anyone were to take that seriously. Because in the final analysis whether it is Shipping and Trading or whatever you like, or whether it is a small business, they can only sustain employment if they are making a profit somewhere down the road. Enough at least to keep the business going and to plough back into the business somewhat.

If I may continue. I am soon going to wind up and the only reason why I am going to wind up very shortly is because I have to attend a funeral. There are one or two final points I want to make, Sir, in winding up. The Honourable Member has paid absolutely no attention to the way in which he has financed the deficits, and it is a deficit of \$100 million financed by special deposits in the Central Bank or by the printing of money and can have a devastating effect on the foreign reserves of Barbados. A deficit of \$200 million appropriately financed would not have that effect. So it is not only the size of the deficit. It is the method chosen to finance the deficit and the impact that that would have on major sectors of the economy.

There are two other points I want to make, Sir, just for the record and this is most important. If the Honourable Member had only stuck to the document which he had which helped to elect him to office, and had done like the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, make a serious effort to control expenditures in his Ministry, and in all fairness, Sir, I must say that as Minister of Finance I got nothing but co-operation from the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I have said so before, Sir. It is a fact. When I have to say things about you in the public interest, I will. If I have to say things that are favourable to you, I have no hesitation in doing so. 2.30 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Since he has brought me in, please invite him not to do either of the

two. Just leave me in peace. When he says good things about me, Sir, it is worse than when he says bad things. I do not want him to say anything about me at all, Sir.

Laughter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow, Sir, if I know the Honourable Member, Sir, he will enjoy nice things being said about him. He thrives on that, Sir. But what is interesting is this. I have heard Members of Government and Members of that party going up and down the length of Barbados talking about the money that we gave away to white people and to the big firms in Barbados by the reduction in Corporation Tax. Let it be recorded in this House now that we have the outturn results over the past three years and that at no time in the history of Barbados prior to 1985-86 did revenue from Corporation Tax exceed \$56 million. Today at the lower tax rate it is being projected at \$97 million almost twice the amount. Each year even excluding the proceeds from the surcharge year which fortunately have been recorded separately there has been a persistent growth in revenue from Corporation Tax. Of course, it is nonsense to walk around saying that this is due to offshore companies. Most revenue from offshore companies comes from licenses and all that kind of thing like that. The same 20 firms in Bridgetown are the people yielding this revenue in the Treasury. In other words, you can reduce a tax rate and achieve enhanced revenue I think largely due to increased activity at the corporate level and at the same time probably increased compliance. Make no mistake about that. The increased compliance as well has resulted in that.

Then at the level of Personal Income Tax we find ourselves in a situation today where by 1988/89 that your Revenue from taxation on Incomes and Profits was exactly the same as it was before the reduction in Income Tax. I am taking the two together because they are obviously related. The point is this. The taxes on Incomes and Profits were \$200 million in 1985/86 and 1988/89 \$222 million. If you take out the amount for the surcharge, it is back to the same. Now you are talking about \$226 million under that Head. That shows the futility and the stupidity not only of the repudiation but also of the changes made in the interim.

If a few of them, Sir, had followed the example of the Honourable Member for St. Michael and really made an effort in handling their budgets for 18 months and hold strain for another six months, they would never have been faced with a situation in accepting faulty advice and behaving as though they were the creation of economic theory having paid little or no interest over 20 years, and they would not have inflicted what they have inflicted on the people of Barbados.

It is all out now. It is no mystery now. The records are there. The records will also show, Sir, that it was in those Ministries in 1986/87 period who set about managing their

affairs better that they have been able to create the stimulus needed to sustain growth in the activities of their Ministries for three or four years even after they were fired or removed from the Ministry. I refer, Sir, to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West again.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Removed from his Ministry. I refer to him again. The fact is that what he did

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Can a Member rise on a point of order when we are not in Committee?

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Yes, he can, Sir. Every time the Honourable Member compliments me, Sir, he is damning me with praise. Mr. Speaker, Sir, ask him to desist. I was not fired from any Ministry. Of course, you are misleading the House.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Member has said that by complimenting him that I am misleading the House. I apologize, Sir, if by complimenting him that I mislead the House.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I believe that I will have to stop at this point. But there are many other interesting areas which I would like to explore and I guess that I will be able to do those at the Budget time when we deal with these matters in more detail.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I speak on behalf of a political institution which has had 51 years experience in the Public Service and which is fundamentally and unshakeably interested in the development of Barbados, Sir. I speak also on behalf of an institution which believes that in the context of development that there is an activist role to be played by a progressive public sector in advancing the welfare of the people of the society. In many respects, the relationship between the private sector and the public sector of our society, Sir, is still very much a complimentary one and not dissimilar from developed societies where the public sector even today still underwrites a large percentage of the research work of the society and to that extent contributes to its technological development. The Barbados Labour Party believes that fiscal policy can be a positive and serious instrument for change and that indeed, Sir, those virtues and principles have served us well over 50 years and we think should continue to serve us well in the future.

Therefore, Sir, in this short intervention, I particularly want to discuss these Estimates from the point of view or the extent to which as a set of Estimates and as an expression of Government's financial policy whether they can conceivably contribute to progressive change and to the

development of the Barbadian society. In many respects, Sir, the spirit of these Estimates are captured very adequately on Page 141, Head 40, Subhead 11 where for the first time we find a provision being made called "Assistance to Small Businesses". Under this Head, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party purports to provide funds for the development and coordination of activities relating to the small business sector of Barbados. It purports, Sir, under this Head to provide for the creation of a continuous data base and institutional support in the form of a grant, training and promotion. So that the Estimates ostensibly through this Head would appear as if Government is interested in advancing the work and the worth of small businesses in Barbados, Sir, with a continuous institutional support, grants, training and promotion and the amount being asked of this House, Sir, is \$100.00. So that with \$100.00 which professes its complete commitment to the development of small businesses in this society, Sir, it is going to provide a continuous data base institutional support, training and promotion, Sir, all in the interest of the development of the small man in the society. Perhaps Mr. Speaker, Sir, this captures the essence of what I want to say.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Just on a point of elucidation if the Honourable Member will give way.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: On a point of order, Sir. When the Honourable Member raised that point, I intended to respond at a later stage. But I think it would be important for me to do so now and to indicate that it is a new item which is provided for and the vote is a token vote. 2.40 p.m.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I agree that the Democratic Labour Party is "tokenising" the small business, class of Barbados, because the fundamental point I want to make about these debates from a development point of view is that these Estimates do not attempt anything new, that there is also a very substantial and negative departure not so much from Government's own Manifesto but Government's own Development Plan. If one were to analyse these Estimates, as one properly should, in conjunction with what Government itself set as the objectives and programmes they wanted to execute, one would come face to face with certain very startling contrasts.

For example, this was the year under the Development Plan when we ought to have been supporting in this House in agriculture very exciting new prospects, exciting new programmes such as the creation of a new R and D facility in agriculture. That is included in the Development Plan, at I think some \$3 million, but in the context of a reduced

Capital budget as compared to this year's - because the Plan states that in 1990 we should be spending \$194 million - these Estimates require us to spend \$227 million - but in the context of a smaller Capital programme it was envisioned that this year, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture would be undertaking and constructing a new R and D complex for people to do serious technological work to expand agricultural production in Barbados. You cannot find it in the Estimates.

There would be a new Export Marketing Facility of \$3 million. You cannot find that in the Estimates. That there would be a line of credit through the Budget for agricultural diversification of \$1 million. You cannot find that in the Estimates. That you would have agricultural incentives of \$1 million. You cannot find that in the Estimates. That in relation to tourism you would be widening the base of sports tourism this year, that was the plan, by spending \$1.5 million on a golf course, Sir, you cannot find that in the Estimates. We are even spending money this year on a marina so that those persons crossing the Atlantic would stop in Barbados, and you cannot find that in these Estimates.

The real point I want to make to the Government, Sir, is that when one analyses these Estimates, from the perspective of what they say about Government's developmental priorities, the spirit of these Estimates is captured adequately by Government's \$100 vote for the small business class in Barbados, and I am not surprised that a Government that could so substantially depart from its own Development Plan would also depart from its rhetoric that it is committed to the development of the small business class in this society. Therefore, Sir, these Estimates represent a substantial departure by the Democratic Labour Party Government from its own Development Plan. They will not contribute substantially to the progress of Barbados either in an economic sense or in a social sense.

I will stress, Sir, that we have heard a lot of talk in recent times about how Government would have brought about a revolution in the tenancies by spending over \$50 million to put the problem of bad tenantry roads behind us once and for all, and I would urge you, Sir, to check these Estimates to see whether Government is putting its money where its mouth is. There is no provision in these Estimates for the Government of Barbados to abolish bad tenantry roads, and I am telling this DLP Government that it should either put up or shut up on matters such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I would also want to say that these Estimates as well would suggest that the Government of Barbados is expecting a very, very....

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I want to suggest to the Minister of Transport and Works that his relative influence in the Cabinet is dropping, because his Capital vote has been substantially cut. He may not be having as much political weight as he imagines, so if he wants to penalise the Member for St. Peter for giving him good advice it is not for him to do so, Sir.

I want to say also to the Minister of Finance, Sir, that these Estimates seem to be predicated on an assumption that a serious recession has already taken root in Barbados, and that a serious recession is to be expected in the months to come. I am saying that, not because I believe in wild propaganda, I am asking the Government to recognise what it is telling us this year. It is telling us that for March of this year the Government expects to get at least \$13 million less in revenue than it got in March of 1989. That is what these Estimates are telling us, Sir. It is also telling us that for the year to come Government's revenues are to grow by no more than 1.4%, lower than the inflation rate, lower than the rate of growth that the Prime Minister has banded about, and I would want to submit to the Minister of Finance that the only way this economy of Barbados will give rise to a revenue growth of only 1.4% per year, in the context of a situation where prices are growing by 6%, and the context in which he is telling us that the economy in real terms is to grow by 2 to 3%, the only way in which revenues can stagnate to that extent is if there is a serious recession in the Barbados economy.

The Government has to accept it one way or the next. It has either to agree that its estimates of revenues are either seriously underestimated, if the economy is growing as he says it is growing, or if they are not seriously underestimated, Sir, the Government should at long last level with the people of Barbados and tell them that we are already in a recession and that we expect the recession to continue, so let us all as a nation in the interest of the continuous development of our society understand the sacrifice we have to make in order to ride out the recession. You cannot any longer have it both ways.

Sir, if I were to accept the Minister of Finance at his word and to believe what he said in relation to the continued growth of the economy, and if I were also to factor in the impact of prices on Government's revenues, then I would be led to believe that the people of Barbados this year should reasonably expect tax cuts of between \$25 to \$30 million that the Barbadian public on the basis of these Estimates should reasonably expect at best tax cuts of at least \$25 to \$30 million, and at worst expect that on the basis of these Estimates and on the basis of what the Prime Minister is saying about growth, the Prime Minister should be in a position to come to the House this year and at worst say no new taxes in Barbados. I am asking him, therefore, Sir, to look at the historical pattern. Even in the throes of the worst recession in Barbados there has never been a case

where our revenues have grown only by 1.4% in any given year.

As regards the expenditure, Sir, it is quite obvious that the Opposition's criticism in relation to over expenditure by Government is beginning to bite. It really is beginning to bite. Year by year I keep making a point when supplementaries are brought that I am not going to be supporting situations where Government comes in March and April and under-budgets to put the best possible profile and piece of varnish on the financial situation, and comes back later in the year to ask us in this House to vote additional funds, sometimes amounting to as much as the amounts we are being called upon to vote in this exercise. I am saying that in a lot of instances in these Estimates what the House is being called upon to approve as expenditure this year are amounts which bear no relationship to the total spending of Government under those Heads last year, including the amounts we were asked to vote by way of supplementary. 2.50 p.m.

What we are going to have again this year is a situation in which Government in reaction to the proper criticism of over-expenditure comes in with artificially low statements of expenditure that do not take account of what we have supplemented during the course of the last financial year on the understanding that at some time in the course of the financial year they will come back to the House and ask us to do what we should be doing now, and nowhere is it more evident than in the area of Government's estimate of what it will spend on the service of the foreign debt.

The Prime Minister, Sir, has access to the same information that I have access to. To put it otherwise, I have access to some of the information based on what is contained in the Estimates at the appendix covering Government's loans, and Government should know that in the second quarter of this calendar year which is the first quarter of the fiscal year that it has to spend \$6.4 million in amortisation of repayment of debt; in the second quarter of the financial year it will spend \$22.7 million in repayment of amortisation of debt, in the third quarter of the financial year \$46.3 million including the repayment of the Trinidadian T.T. Bond that the Democratic Labour Party Government raised in 1970 as well as the repayment of the Nat West loan that the Democratic Labour Party Government raised after it came into office, and that in the first quarter of 1991 the Government has to pay back \$22.9 million in principal giving a total foreign debt repayment of \$98.3 million. These Estimates are telling me, Sir, by contrast that the Government is budgeting only for \$72 million in the repayment of principal, and I am saying that indeed if the Government were to utilise the information to which it has access regarding each foreign loan that has to be repaid, it would recognise even now that its statutory expenditure, which we will not have the opportunity to

debate because it is a statutory expenditure in relation to debt repayment, and principal is under-estimated by as much as \$26 million. This expenditure therefore should go up. These are commitments that the Government know of. Government's estimate of the interest payments on the foreign debt is approximately accurate, but it has under-estimated the repayment of the foreign debt by as much as \$26 million.

I also want to make the point, Sir, that in every circumstance where the Government of Barbados has made a commitment and that commitment can be expressed in financial terms in advance of the presentation of the Estimates, the Government of Barbados has an obligation to include those provisions in the Estimates themselves. It is the point I made in regard to the Estimates of 1987 when the extent of the wage increase was known as early as January 30 of the year, but the Government then did not want to show an increase in expenditure and it refused to reflect what it knew was a financial commitment in the Estimates.

The Minister of Agriculture recently came to this House and told us that the Government of Barbados has committed itself to a three year price support programme and he was in a position before this House to tell us what was the dollar figure to which the Government is committed. If the Government of Barbados knows therefore that during the course of this financial year it has already agreed with the sugar industry to put at least \$8.7 million on budget as on-budget financing, then it has a responsibility to put its money where its mouth is and reflect that commitment in these Estimates. I am asking the Government, Sir, if it is the Government's intention, after it has regaled us with stories about how it has now managed to cut expenditure, at some later date to come back to this House to ask us to vote by way of supplementary \$8.7 million for the sugar industry, when we know even today that the Government is under commitment to make those funds available to the sugar industry. Let all of Government's commitments, Sir, be reflected in these Estimates so that this House acting collectively as managers of the public purse can have a more reasonable indication of what are the true commitments that face Government during the course of this year.

The truth is, Sir, as I said, that this Government is under pressure to prove a point. The point that they are trying to prove is that the charge of squandermania is a charge that is misapplied, and what they are trying to do is to put out the propaganda that whereas last year the Government had to spend \$999.9 million on current account, this year as a result of good management it is now in a position to tell the country that it is going to reduce Government's current expenditure down to \$987 million. That is only true, I am saying, by a Government not bringing to account the commitments to which it has already agreed in the form of the sugar industry, price

support by Government not including in its statutory expenses of public debt the additional amount that it knows in the third quarter of the year it has to pay in public debt. It is also true, Sir, that these Estimates appear low only by reason of the fact that in every instance where you all have asked us to supplement during the course of this year, you have not taken your supplementaries into account and scaled up on the basis of your supplementaries. How often have we heard from the other side, Sir, that they have found that the amount that was initially voted was too low, and the reason was utilities and so on, and that they have had to come back to the House in order to supplement? Let that financial planning and budgeting be based upon the actual expenditure in the year before, not what was approved by the House because we have been burdened too often by the Democratic Labour Party putting too false an impression on the trends and the Minister of Housing is laughing knowingly.

I am saying that the control of expenditure, Sir, is a very difficult thing. The only Government since independence that has ever managed to reduce current expenditure was the Barbados Labour Party in the year between 1982 and 1983. Government expenditure in 1983-84 was \$518 million as compared to Government's expenditure in 1982 of \$528 million, but if you were to take the whole range from independence on, you will hardly find a situation where what Government is telling us this year is realised. We are involved here in some element of false budgeting.

I also want to say to the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, that the Barbados Labour Party is going to keep its word when it gives commitments in budgets. In 1987 the Minister of Finance came to this House and he introduced an employment levy, and at that time a lot of members of the Democratic Labour Party voted for that employment levy on the grounds that they were philosophically opposed to levies, but they had been given assurances by their party that the levies were only going to be temporary. That levy, Sir, was intended in that financial year to raise \$9.6 million. In this financial year, Sir, that levy that was intended by the Democratic Labour Party, philosophically opposed to levies to be a temporary measure, is designed to inflict \$13 million in taxation on the people of Barbados, and I have to ask this Government how long is temporary. I am calling, Sir, for the Government of Barbados to honour the commitment that it gave the people of Barbados in 1987 when it came to this country and said "we are opposed to levies, but we have as a temporary measure to impose this little employment levy". I am calling on the Government to remove it forthwith as a matter of keeping faith and honouring that social contract of which the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central spoke, because you cannot take the people of Barbados for a ride in this way. When the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central spoke about the sense in which the people of Barbados are no longer believing in the political process, it

is precisely because of developments such as these that a Government can tell a people we don't believe in levies, then impose the levy saying the levy would have been temporary, and temporary turns out to be forever, and the Barbados Labour Party, Sir, has an obligation to bring these things to Government's attention, and on behalf of the people of Barbados to insist that that levy has been on too long and that it is time that it should go. 3.00p.m.

My other colleagues, Mr. Speaker, will address certain aspects of the way in which former earmarked funds are now being utilised. We are bitterly unhappy, for example, Sir, with the way in which Government is approaching the whole question of the Training Fund and Government's relationship to the young people of this country through the Training Levy.

That Training Levy, Sir, was developed by the Barbados Labour Party as a way of providing hope to the young people of this society through making it possible for them to be trained and retrained and when we look at these Estimates from a developmental point of view in terms of what they say about the provision that Government is making to deal with the problems of young people through financial mechanisms created in the interest of young people, we are staggered by the lack of reconciliation between what the Government of the country would want the young people to believe and what these Estimates are reflecting for them.

I want to put it simply that \$11 million is being raised through the auspices of a Training Levy of which only \$5.5 million is going into the training of young people of this society at a time when unemployment among young people in this society is rampant, when crime, violence and indiscipline among young people is rampant and I think it is almost criminal negligence that a Government can be raising \$11 million in the name of the training of the young people of this society and do not even want to top it up in the context of a situation such as face us from a social point of view in this society.

We find those things to be undevelopmental and suggest that the Government does not have a concept as to how it wants to proceed with the development of this society.

There are other areas in which the Barbados Labour Party has fundamental misgivings. For example, under the Ministry of Agriculture rather than there being expenditure on research and development as planned, or on export marketing as planned, we have now funds being voted for a new study - let me find it for you, Sir - page 56 of the Estimates:

"Provision under this Subhead includes provision for the continuation of the World Bank project which

seeks to assist the Government in defining and implementing a sound agricultural development strategy."

Clearly, Sir, the Government must believe that the existing agricultural strategy is unsound, a point of view with which we can all compare but it is true that you have had in the last four years at least four different studies defining some aspect of the agricultural development policy and agricultural development strategy.

How much more money are we going to spend on studies in agriculture, Sir? We have again in these Estimates, the Minister of Agriculture who from as far back as 1966 had funds in these Estimates for a feasibility study on a major irrigation project in his constituency, coming back to the House again to us for more funds to do a feasibility study. How long will we study these things?

There was a feasibility study for a new abattoir in the context of a situation where the DLP was supposed to be spending \$5 million in constructing the abattoir. They are still studying the situation. Those things, Sir, we find ridiculous. Obviously, Sir, we will not get the opportunity, perhaps, to go through all aspects of the capital expenditure but they do not suggest that Government is either interested in expanding the production basis of the society, nor is the Government, through these Estimates, in our view, interested in addressing the real concerns of young people, neither is the Government in our honest submission interested in addressing the needs of tenantries as identified by the Minister of Transport and Works because we cannot find the reconciliation between policy statement and money.

In the area of export promotion, a pet peeve of mine in this House in the context of a situation where Barbados' export of goods have fallen by more than half since 1985. We find it again distressing that the Democratic Labour Party Government refuses or is unable to address its mind to that level of expenditure on export promotion that can give this country a chance to recover from the situation in which it finds itself.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to advert to a number of issues that were raised by the two speakers who preceded me. I want to make it clear since that idea might have been inadvertently or wrongly put abroad by the Minister of Finance that the repayment of loans incurred by the Barbados Labour Party is not responsible for the problems facing this country. I want to make that point clear.

I want to say that the problem of debt service has to be viewed from a two-eyed stance, that debt service represents a relationship between debt payments and the earning of foreign exchange and we live in a society whose foreign exchange earnings from the sale of goods have fallen by

more than \$240 million since 1985 and that if the Democratic Labour Party Administration had in place an export programme to even maintain, I am not saying to increase but to maintain the export of goods at the level at which they were in 1985, there would be no problem today faced by the Government in the debt

If the Minister of Finance wants to talk about the debt, he must tell us about the arrangement that he is making as well for the repayment of the debt that he himself signed on April 30, 1976 of which \$15 million remains to be paid. The sewerage debt, Sir - we are spending \$720 000 a year on the repayment of a debt that he himself incurred and signed on the dotted line in 1976 and we in the Barbados Labour Party will find ourselves in a position where....

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: But he gave the people in the country the impression that he is paying our debt out of his pocket. This year the Government of Barbados will not only be repaying DLP debt before 1976, and BLP debt between 1976 and 1986, but it will also be repaying DLP debt incurred after May 28, 1986.

The Government this year will be repaying Natwest Loan incurred after May 28, 1986 and I am asking the Minister of Finance, therefore, to give the country a balanced view of this situation. We all understand the need to borrow funds for development of this country.

It was wonderfully put to the country in 1967 by the former Prime Minister Enrol Barrow but it is wrong, in my submission, Sir, for the Minister of Finance to be in possession of facts stating that he is repaying loans incurred by a previous DLP Administration by the present DLP Administration as well as by a present DLP Administration and want the country to believe that the only loans that are _3 being repaid are those by the BLP.

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But I want to conclude. I am saying, Sir, that these Estimates from a developmental point of view, do not provide the framework in our humble-submission, within which Government can address any of the serious economic or social problems in this society. There is nothing new in them really. They are a substantial departure from the better aspects of the DLP Development Plan, in our view. Some of Government's subventions to serious problems amount -^, to mere tokenism.

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3.10p.m.

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There are some instances in our view, Sir - I am summing up - in which the Government has given commitments which it is not honouring in these Estimates but which are worth honouring. It is our submission too as ^-well, Mr. Speaker, that the important areas of the society v"t under

stress are not being properly dealt with through these ,

Estimates although the Government is raising the funds that will enable it properly to do so.

We are also making the charge, Mr. Speaker,....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member's time has long expired.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am in the midst of a sentence, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have given you extra time. But you can finish off your statement

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: We are also making the statement that, to the extent that a lot of Government's taxation policies are based and have been based, over the course of the last two years, on the way in which it sets out these Estimates and particularly the Estimates of Revenue, we on this side are pleading with the Government to look again at its Estimates of Revenue to see in the context of all we know about the Barbados economy in the past and what we know about it at the present, Sir, whether that Estimate of Revenue is not too low and hence, that the Government should this year, for the first time in 3 years, free the people of this country from the punishment of taxation that has become now the hallmark of the Democratic Labour Party, Sir.

I am obliged to you.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Bill. I sat and listened to the continuation of a tirade of attacks that has been made on the financial management of this country from the Opposition parties. It was very interesting and I expected that kind of response. But, Mr. Speaker, very often when we are the actors and players in the game sometimes we tend to lose our objectivity.

I want to start by referring to an article which appeared in the daily NATION and I want to set that against a background that the western world, the economies of the western world are in deep trouble. The two major strong economies in the world are Japan and Western Germany. Only one in the western world really. I think we need to be analytical about what is happening in the world. I want to read a report appearing in the NATION newspaper of February 15, the daily NATION which I will make a document of the House. It is a report by ECLA.

The substance of the article, Mr. Speaker, is that while all the political discussion is going on in Barbados and people are talking about the performance of the economy, the Economic Commission of Latin America has listed Barbados among a handful of countries in the region, in Latin America and the Caribbean. They have listed Barbados - this is ECLA who have no political axe to grind - as one of the handful of countries in this region who

experienced appreciable economic growth last year. These are people who are looking at an overview of the situation. The Executive Secretary of ECLA has cited Barbados as the only CARICOM country whose economy had significant growth in the last year. Barbados does not exist in a world by itself. It exists in a situation where we have dependency in what is happening around, Sir.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. Lest the Honourable Member misleads the House, he has not yet referred to which year. But the Democratic Labour Party has put and made a document of the House the Economic Report for 1988 that reports on the performance of the Caribbean economy for 1988 and which says that Antigua and Barbuda grew by 6.6%, Barbados by 3%, Belize by 5%, Dominica by 6%, Grenada by 5%, Jamaica by 3.5%, St. Lucia by 5% and St. Vincent by 3%.

It is inaccurate for the Member to read from any report that can say that Barbados is the only country that has experienced any growth in the Caribbean.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the article put out by ECLA. If the Honourable Member wants to refer to an article that he wants to refer to, he has the right to do that. I am not discussing what he finds in his article.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I intervene at this point? I have allowed the Honourable Member for St. Peter to make his contribution. I hope the Honourable Member for St. Peter would allow the other Members to make their contribution in the same way you have made yours.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point I am making is that when the Opposition is spending all the time ridiculing what is going on in Barbados, independent observers, economists, well-known economists are singling out Barbados as the country which has been doing very, very well economically. That, you cannot deny.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I am being mislead because the Honourable Member has not told the House about which year he is speaking. The 1989 figures have not to the best of our knowledge been published. The latest thing is this document, the Economic Report of 1988 laid by the Prime Minister in here. We were quoting from page 5 for the benefit of the Reporters. He is quoting from something that does not have outturn figures.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: The year is 1989 and the report comes out of the United Nations. This is the report of ECLA. I know that you do not want to agree with it. But

this is what the economic authorities in the world have concluded.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: What are you making the objections for? They are facts that are stated. I am setting that against the background that the economies in the world are reeling all over. Right now, as I am speaking to you, the British people are demonstrating, are rioting against a poll tax in England. That is what is going on in the economies of the world.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to refer to some other articles.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: The trade....

Mr. SPEAKER: Until we have some order....
Continue.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, if we are to examine not only what is going on at the governmental level but what is going on at the private level, let us look at the United States and Canada. Within the last four months the CAMPO group of companies, the group that owns places like Bloomingdales, Abraham and Strauss, and Jordan Marsh have all gone into bankruptcy. If you walk through the malls that is a reflection of what is happening in the western world.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. I will not have Honourable Members shouting across the Chamber.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that Members on the other side are talking about propping up of private industry. That is very good. But what we have to understand is that private industry as well in the western world is on the collapse when you have the major companies in the United States, people like Jordan Marsh and those closing. If you go through the malls in the United States you know that these are well established stores, exclusive stores who have been doing business in the United States for years. These businesses are holding up. This is a fact of the economic situation in the western world.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the Japanese Government banking system set up a fund for developing Third World countries with financial problems. State Governors from the United States, Governors from

Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas went to the Japanese and put forward proposals that those states of the United States were doing so badly that they wanted to get loans from the Japanese banking system. 3.20 p.m.

Indeed those countries have drawn out billions of dollars from a fund that was set up by the Japanese Government Banking System to buffer what was going on in the Third World Countries with financial problems. So we are faced with a world where not only the western economies are doing badly but where countries like the United States, the strongest economy in the western world, are going to Japan and drying up some of the financial possibilities that existed for the Third World including places like Barbados.

Honourable Members on the Other Side come in here Tuesday after Tuesday asking for more roads and more infrastructure, and still they are critical of the kind of expenditure that the Honourable Minister of Finance is imposing on this country. We have to be realistic. You cannot have it both ways. The truth is that in the western world we have to be very, very careful of how we spend the money. It is not only Barbados that has a problem with foreign reserves and foreign inflows of money. The United States right after the election in Japan had the Prime Minister of Japan over to discuss the flow of money from Japan because of the trade imbalance. Barbados is not the only country that is witnessing serious trade imbalances.' This is a fact of life that we have to live with. We have to work hard at trying to correct it. But to get up day after day trying to give people the impression that the economy of Barbados is going to collapse tomorrow is completely wrong and it is not borne out by the international organizations. That is the point that I want to make.

"S.

From 1986 the spokesman for the Barbados Labour Party year after year has told the people of this country that the economy of Barbados is going to collapse. Every year he has said that. The reason why this report from ECLAC is so important is that after three years of those predictions, which are now coming from the National Democratic Party, no international organization has been able to substantiate those predictions.

Asides.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Well, the prediction of devaluation is something that comes every other week, although we know that it has no basis. It is significant that he did not say it this year. But I will have to wait until the Budget comes to see if that will be injected into his speech.

So Mr. Speaker, we are operating in a situation where I give the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance my full-hearted support because one has to be cautious in the kinds of steps and the kinds of procedures

that are put in place. What these reports are basically saying is that the economy of Barbados is under excellent management in a sea of turbulence and I think the Minister of Finance ought to be congratulated for that. He must be congratulated for that. When everything is collapsing around you and you can still keep your bow towards the land and sail reasonably comfortably then there is a reason for congratulations. But I understand the ploy of the Opposition. What they want to do really is to force the Democratic Labour Party into taking rash and irrational actions so they can really have something to complain about. But we know that the Honourable Minister of Finance is a very level headed man. I know they get very annoyed when I say that. That upsets some of the observers. He is a very level headed man and nothing that they say is going to move him off the course on which he is sailing. I just wanted to interject this point and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for the level headedness and the way in which he is dealing with the economy. I am quite sure that all of us in Barbados will reap the benefits in the appropriate time.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Applause.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, I have to respond to one or two things said by the Member who just sat down, Sir, because really and truly I want to get into the Committee stage of this debate and not so much the second reading stage. He had to perform his constitutional responsibility. You see, Sir, the Opposition has a role to perform in Parliament and apparently the Prime Minister, who I believe should be foremost in appreciating that role because of his background in these matters, seemed to have lost sight of that this morning when he made his presentation. He seemed to have been denying the Opposition the role it is constitutionally left to perform and he knows what that role is. When he was in the Opposition on these kinds of debates, he made similar remarks about the Barbados Labour Party when they formed the Government of how they managed things at the time.

You see, Sir, there was a time when people thought that the only role the Opposition was to perform was to propose nothing, oppose everything, and to bring down the Government. But over the years, Sir, that role has changed and we now have a constitutional role that is performed by the Opposition. Now there are one or two things, Sir, in 1986 for example I found to be a source of mirth when I was reading the debates this morning of things that the Prime Minister said about the economy at the time of the Barbados Labour Party in almost similar circumstances. In 1986 at Page 3783 of Hansard, Sir, this is what the then Member for St. Michael South who was a Member of the Opposition at the time and who is now Prime Minister said, Sir:

"They are actually playing upsy bamsy with the economy. That is what is happening. That is what the Government out there is doing. Instead of giving the benefit to the people of this country, to the consumers, to the taxmen, to the persons who own the commercial vehicles, to the person who has a private vehicle instead of allowing them to get the full benefits of the fall in oil prices, they are withholding from the people what should be given fully to the people and that is wrong."

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Then Sir, he is quarrelling with the Leader of the Opposition in almost similar language or a little more eloquent of what is happening in today's economy. He spoke, Sir, about squandermania back in his time in relation to the Barbados Labour Party. Sometimes, Sir, when I read these debates of the Prime Minister, I cannot believe how he can be so lofty, Sir, when he is making presentation these days. I cannot believe it, Sir. I do not know if he was just the same way in those days as he is now. But the language comes out so flowing, Sir, in the debates that I wonder if it is the same person, Sir. Now he wants to criticize people. This is what we have to do and we will do it as best as we can. Whenever we see evidence of squandermania, we will say it. That is what we have to do. There is nothing that we have done irresponsibly, Sir, as an Opposition. That is my view about it and I will try as best as I can to be fair in my comments. I believe, Sir, that so far in my parliamentary life I have been fair. So if things have to be criticized, Sir, they have to be criticized. If the Prime Minister does not like that and he finds that uncomfortable, well too bad. But this is what the role of the Opposition is, Sir.

You see, Sir, you could read his speech and you would see how he went on. There is another portion, Sir, at Page 3783 when he talked about the massive deficit and the now Prime Minister said:

"But how is this problem dealt with - that massive deficit to which I have made reference? It could only be dealt with by an increase in taxation and we know the Barbados Labour Party did that in 1981. It could only be dealt with by a cut in services. It could only be dealt with by massive borrowings or some kind of mix of these particular policies." 3.30p.m.

These words will come back to haunt him, Sir. Throughout the entire speech, back from 1984, 1985, 1986 when the Barbados Labour Party formed the Government of this country, the Prime Minister's approach was the same, because he understood what his role as a member of the Opposition was, to highlight the other side of the economic picture.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Undermine confidence in the Government, as I was saying. To paint the worst picture possible. This is the whole language of democracy, Sir, this is the whole approach to democracy, the other side of the picture, to put argument and counter argument, the cut and thrust of debate. That is what it is all about.

There are other indications of matters that could cause the country to lose confidence in the Government. The Leader of the Opposition pointed this out. If we say that expenditure increased from \$600 million to \$1 billion in three years, the interpretation we put on that is that it is squandermania. I do not care what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East says, that we want the Government to do this and we want the Government to do that but yet we come in here and talk about squandermania. He says that over and over again. Whenever he says it I will sit down and listen to him. I will give him the courtesy of listening to him, so when he goes on and he talks about CAMCO companies falling, that is foolishness, Sir. The CAMCO group of companies are having problems because of bad management, it has nothing to do with the economic climate in America, because the CAMCO companies are scattered throughout the world in France, Germany, the United States of America and in England as well, so they are not concentrated in any one place. I read too, you know, so do not think you can come in here and say these things and they will go unchallenged. It had to do with a lot of the high lifestyles engaged in by the principal shareholders in the CAMCO group of companies. That is what it has to do with.

When he goes on to talk about the Economic Commission of Latin America, the same thing they reported in 1988 or 1989 is what he was saying today. When the Prime Minister was in the Opposition, he was making the same comments in the light of those reports as well, Sir. They stay out in Latin America or wherever they are based and they see things one way. We see things another way as an Opposition party, so because they say that Barbados has recorded growth, other people in Barbados are saying that the growth recorded this year is undesirable growth, lopsided growth. That is what was said.

There is always some other argument, Sir, that is about the cut and thrust of politics. He has a right to get up and say what he said today and I will defend him for saying it, but we also have a right to show the opposite side of the coin. There are things we can speak to, there are things we can point to that are not of a manner that would cause confidence to reside in the Barbados economy.

Frankly speaking, Sir, I am disappointed to a large measure in the performance of the Prime Minister up to this day. That is my greatest quarrel, if I have one with the Prime Minister, that I am disappointed with the manner in

which he has gone about his task, but all these things will be examined when we come to Committee, and I will try to make my points as clear and as good as I can make them before this House.

That is the only thing I wanted to say, because I really want to get to Committee.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Bill. I would like to suggest that I am quite satisfied with the way how the economy has performed over the last year, although we recognise that there was a difficulty relating to the foreign exchange and balance of payments position in the country.

I do not want to repeat the position I have taken before on that matter, but it is my view that that problem did not originate with the Democratic Labour Party in office, but that in fact the genesis of that situation goes back to about 1981, and in particular reached a peak with the movement out of Intel and other electronics firms from Barbados in the period after 1986, the softening of the market for electronics coming out of Barbados and additionally the fact that Intel found that with new technology developing we could not find the expertise locally to create the new technology that it wanted to use and therefore had to relocate in the United States of America dealt a serious injury to our country.

Sir, it is a situation that would have been known by the Barbados Labour Party, they would have been wrestling with Intel before that giant company moved out of this country. It is one that would have been known by the former Minister of Finance, who now is the Leader of the Opposition. He would have been totally apprised, in control of the information, about the way how the economy would have been faced by debt repayments and declining earnings of foreign exchange. He was in a position as Minister of Finance to know all of this. When he left this administration he would have known the difficulties that would have been, facing Barbados. He would have known that it would have been an extremely difficult task for any Minister of Finance to grapple with that particular problem, because you cannot turn around the deficit in your trading situation overnight. There is no waving of a wand that could have been done by this particular administration to satisfy the blow that was occasioned to this economy by what happened with the withdrawal of Intel.

I think what this tells us, Sir, is that there are certain things we have to look at in our economy. Even now as the economies of the world are going through a state of flux, as it were, I think that what a small developing economy like Barbados needs to do is to get a national forecast institution to look down the road and to try to see what are the difficulties that are likely to arise, what are the changes that are likely to come about in the markets and to try to plan for these changes. It will mean sometimes changes that will

move from education right through our marketing and other institutions, but I think it is very important that we set up a national forecasting institution. I believe this national forecasting institution should not be a party political type institution, it will call for the expertise that can be drawn from the universities, from the labour institutions and from Government institutions. I believe a great opportunity would be lost if we do not think in terms of such an institution at this time.

"We have to be very, very cognisant that what is happening in Europe - and I am talking about the coming into being of the free trade arrangements in 1993 - all of these things are going to have a tremendous impact on this Barbadian economy. I do not think it is going to be business as usual, and therefore for us to look ahead it is going to take the combined vision of all Barbadians to think in terms of what jobs will be created in the future in this country in order to be able to meet any demands that will be created, and I believe that great demands will be opened up for us in this country and in this area, and we have to look and see whether the way how we are educating our people now will be satisfactory in the light of these developments that are coming forward. We have to look at our patterns of tourism, our patterns of manufacturing. These areas have to be put under scrutiny.

There is a debate in Barbados right now about where we should go in terms of our economy. I remember hearing, and reading also, one of the senior members of the Central Bank of Barbados - a respected economist, he is now a Deputy Governor - insisting that in fact the way forward is by looking at the traditional areas and improving on those traditional areas. In other words, he is saying there is no real magic in moving forward. If you have been in agriculture, you have been in manufacturing and so on, just look at those, the traditional areas, and see how you can improve them. That is his path forward. Other people believe that in fact we have sometimes to make dramatic changes from the past and look and see what is happening in the area of new technology and go forward there. Perhaps there really is no exclusion of the two. Maybe we need to look at what is established, but see how we can apply any new technology to the old. 3.40 p.m.

When I talk about new technology, I am talking about consciously as a nation setting up a policy and addressing things like micro electronics, bio-technology, new energy and looking at these from a conscious position of adopting a policy. Photovoltaic energy; my friend the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East is always telling us that we have to be looking at photovoltaic energy. He says, what's the use of discussing oil which is a source of energy that is depleting all the time, and which we have little control over, when in fact we have the sun, and as he says any day that the sun goes out, there is no use bothering anyhow because all of us would have gone. That is a source

that we can be tapping into and there is a lot of research going on into the use of photovoltaic energy as one of the newer energy sources. There is that, mere is of course, as you know, in Brazil the use of cane to get sources of energy, and of course, there is wind energy and other types of energy that have to be looked at, but what you are going to be doing is applying this energy to whatever local base you have, whatever the traditional materials that you need to use. How do you use this energy in order to get greater productivity? Just as in micro electronics. If we study micro electronics, we can see how this can be applied anywhere in Barbados. I believe sometimes that when we are talking about the development of our country we tend to think in terms of making quantum leaps rather than making gradual leaps forward.

I do not believe that anybody can make any statement with any seriousness that the economy has not been doing well. I don't care what the Opposition will want to get up and rant and rave about, about how Barbados can be transformed overnight, we have not been performing. This economy has been performing soundly. The ones who are talking about how they will transform everything in five years are really telling tales for children. The fact is that an economy moves on gradually; the British economy, the American economy, the West German economy, all of them move on gradually. They build from a base. Sometimes they are able to develop new techniques which can be applied to that old base so that they will move forward, and even when you do that you will still stagnate. America moved into manufacturing on a large scale in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, they had reached a stage when that old type of technology had to go by, they were not able to re-tool quickly enough, and in the meantime the Japanese had moved on to new technology and they moved ahead. Each country has, when it reaches a certain peak in its development, to be going back to basics again and planning in order to get a resurgence and to move ahead.

Barbados has been moving gradually and purposefully forward, delivering a good standard of living for its citizens. There has not been that fall back in this country although as you say from time to time a certain sector of the economy may not perform the way that we would want, and that is what happened in terms of our earnings of foreign exchange. We were heavily dependent in terms of our export trade on the micro electronics sector that was established not by Barbadians, but as happens in the world, in this transfer of technology, America investing in that area found that it was not useful and they moved out. It had nothing at all to do with our management. It is true we have now to be planning in order to take back over that area of manufacturing and to build on what we have. So let us understand very clearly that we have to look at what position we find ourselves in a small country, let us understand that Barbados is a very small economy, it is very easily planned for, and because of this sometimes small things will cause the economy to rock a little bit, just

as small increases can put us back on a level too. It just takes a small problem in the manufacturing sector or in sugar, for sugar to decline slightly and we find that we will be in a bit of difficulty. Let sugar come and perform one or two years later and do relatively well, and our manufacturing, and we will be back on the level of stability again.

Nothing catastrophic is happening in this country. In fact, if as you look at the economy, the only thing that has caused us to be in this problem right now is the fact that sugar as traditional has behaved the way it always does. We took a decline in the production and the sale of sugar, and manufacturing too. We have never had a completely strong base in export manufacturing, that is why I want to support very strongly the Governor of the Central Bank who has recently been making it very clear to all Barbadians that we have to get into export manufactures.

Now this should not be a new message. Barbados started out exporting sugar. From the time we started we were always an exporting country. Our problem has been that we used to export only one area and we have been trying to diversify those exports, so anybody that comes and tells you today that we have to get back into export manufacturing and export in order to get foreign exchange is only talking commonsense. It does not mean you have to be any expert in finance to know that the man is talking commonsense and is giving very sensible advice to Barbadians. Now this is where I want to get very clearly in our minds what we are talking about.

We have something called the private sector in this mixed economy. Private sector, public sector and trade unions and so on, cooperatives in the social sector. The social sector is relatively undeveloped except that the workers are part of both the private sector and the public sector and the workers' contribution therefore is vitally important. Now we have a very curious private sector. We have a private sector that apparently held a symposium looking at where they were going in terms of the country, and I can only go quite frankly, because I was not there, on the out-turn information. But unless they were keeping certain things secret, I have not got any particularly strong information coming from the reports in the newspaper that any progressive, any creative plans came out of that exercise, because from what I was reading in the newspaper and getting from the media, it seemed as though they took the opportunity to want to find out what Government's position is on the private sector. This is a very strange query to be making, because quite frankly since the Democratic Labour Party administration has been in office, the private sector has been making more money than at any time before in their history, and this is public information. B.S. & T and all of them have to make their records public to the country and to the world, so any private sector at this time that wants to know what Government's position is towards them would have to be joking in local parlance. It is very clear

that this is a Government that is committed to all of the sectors working together and they are always asking for further public sector assistance. What we need more than anything else at this time is a creative forward looking private sector.

Now there is a chap at the University of the West Indies, whose name I cannot call because I did not give any notice, who has been talking about the private sector. I consider him to be a breath of fresh air, quite frankly. I don't agree with what he is saying, I don't share his position, but the way how he talks to the private sector I think he should continue talking to them in that way. He is telling the private sector to perform, and they seem to think he is saying something complimentary to them. I don't. I am not against the private sector in any country performing, but we don't really have a private sector in Barbados that is willing to perform. There are no risk takers.

When INTEL was about to go out, which private sector would move in and take over INTEL and say look, what we have in place here is a building, we have structures, we have Barbadians who have been trained, what we need to do now is to get into a market and organise that aspect, put in some money and move into something for export? Which private sector did that? Tell me what the private sector response has been to the fiscal measures of this administration. They have established malls and more malls. Nobody is going to fault the private sector for making investments; I am saying that a serious private sector has to analyse, project, forecast, look and see where investment should really go and see how it is really going to move the nation forward, and I am saying that that at this particular time is absent. We want the private sector to perform, and I say the best example of the private sector in Barbados is the sugar industry. That is quintessential private sector, and nobody has to talk about how successful they have been. It seems to me that the private sector wants to take the people of this country for a ride. When it comes to privatisation they will want to take over anything that is profitable. Anything that involves them in risk, they want to stand away from. I think that is serious because, as I said, we all believe in the private sector, and we know that we can't go any further, we cannot create more wealth for sharing unless the private sector is a leading agent for that. But we are not getting the signals from the private sector that they are looking seriously at where this economy has to go in the future, and I believe that the spokesmen on the Opposition have to address that question. I believe they are afraid of talking to the private sector in these terms, because for some reason or another they believe that they have to court the so-called private sector. 3.50 p.m.

Of course, they always define the private sector as any cook and bottle-washer right up to Shipping and Trading, Plantations Ltd, CIEL and all of the big conglomerates. They call all of them private although they recognize that

most of that so-called private sector are clients of Government. They cannot operate unless they get contracts with the same Government. They want to separate the two. When it is convenient to them they talk about the private sector and when it is convenient the same private sector know that they have to live off the public sector and that cannot work. They cannot have it both ways.

The truth is that we have to get together as a nation in terms of (1) forecasting where we have to go in the future; and (2) planning. How do we create wealth? Can we look at the old staples, the old sectors of the economy that is agriculture in the old way that it was? I say "No". There is no way you can look at sugar as sugar was and expect that will be the vehicle for tomorrow. There has to be further diversification.

Cotton is an excellent project. It is creative. It is going to be a significant plus in the future for the Democratic Labour Party, for the Minister of Agriculture and for the support that he has got from the Minister of Finance. All the talk that they all had, none of them introduced that project. It is now a fact. It is a reality. It is at the beginning stage but we are talking now from foresight, not hindsight as some people like to talk from. They ran away from situations and then they criticize from hindsight, but when they are in a position and in the driver's seat to look down the road and change, they cannot take that on. But the Minister of Agriculture had to plan and introduce the cotton industry project.

As far as agro-industry is concern we are going out there to the people of Barbados and saying, "buy shares in Agro Industry, come in farmers." Has that happened with any administration that anybody knows about in Barbados? I have been around for some time. I am not old but I read. Tell me which other administration started a cotton project? Tell me which other administration started agro procession plants and invited the people of Barbados to come in and put something in it and share in the future? That is the Democratic Labour Party, a forward-looking party, one that is not afraid to make breaks with the past if it has to. One that is not afraid to look to the future in terms of where we have to go.

Those are the kinds of innovations that we have in agriculture and we are looking at other innovations also but again, we move very carefully. We carry out studies. We do not rush into situations. We do not fire people and that sort of thing just to satisfy persons like the Leader of the Opposition, fire this person and fire the other. You carry out studies and on the basis of your information and your facts then you act.

So we look at tourism. Tourism is an unmitigated success story under the Democratic Labour Party. In our early period from 1961-1976 we gave thrust to it. It picked back up again after it was destroyed like a hurricane in one

person's word and what has happened since 1986 in terms of tourism? A success story.

There is no objective commentator who can say that we could have done better with all the existing circumstances as they are or that any other administration could have done any better. Tourism is a success story.

We have tried, as I said to stabilize manufacturing which was in a deep trough, no fault of our own but we had to stabilize that and move ahead. It is going to take more time. It takes more time to build up a manufacturing base than it does, for instance, to bring in tourists. Let us understand that very clearly.

Manufacturing is something that calls for a lot more planning and a lot more development than bringing in people. Just like agriculture making a transformation or changing around agriculture is not something that you do overnight but you can plan, you can market and you can invite people to come to your country and you can do that with relatively more ease but we have been moving all the time in these areas.

Offshore banking and exempt insurance - now, these are new growth areas. That is true. The Barbados Labour Party takes the credit for having moved into that area and we have met some initial difficulties there, difficulties that can only be ironed out through negotiation.

When one sovereign country takes a decision that is within their power to take and it affects another sovereign country, and when it so happens that by coincidence the one that takes the decision is a large and powerful one affecting a smaller sovereign country, you have to be able to negotiate. You are not even negotiating from a position of strength but you have to be able to negotiate. Therefore, if we have not been able to make the forward leaps in that area as we would like to at this time, I am sure that we will continue to make developments in that area as we are able to iron out problems through negotiations because I believe that that is an area of growth for the future, no doubt about that. That is one of the new service areas that can be meaningful in terms of the Barbadian economy.

We have been looking at the old sectors and we have been trying to innovate in those old sectors. All that is left for us is that as a group, a country, a nation, as I said, to plan, to think further of tomorrow, to have a national forecasting institution that has the job of saying to us as Barbadians - I know these things sound like theory sometimes - but we have to put the University of the West Indies, if they have any talents there to satisfy us and I am not talking only about the Cave Hill Campus. I am thinking about drawing the brains from the Caribbean as we can and let them forecast what do we need to do in these countries in the next 25 years? What jobs do you see as the jobs

coming up? What export areas do you see as the export areas? I think this sort of thing has to be done.

The Commission as we know has forecasting methodologies. You use your Budget, your Development Plan and so on but in addition to that I think there needs to be another type of forecasting mechanism and I think, for instance, the Compton-Bourne Report is part of that kind of exercise but we need to do it through institutions and not by setting up ad hoc groups from time to time to report this.

I think we need to set up institutions that will have to forecast, look down the road because the times change so quickly and you need to be always able to respond to these situations and, as I said before, I believe that this should be done on a fairly wide basis and that the tripartite system, as far as possible, has to be maintained to assist us also from our intellectual centres and so on.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am satisfied that the way how expenditures have been managed in this country I think is a good signal. I think our Barbadian people have benefitted from Government expenditures.

I see, for instance, a great deal of money going in the area of the Ministry of Employment and I believe that that is good, that is positive. It is responding to real needs in this country when other institutions including the hallowed private sector rise to the situation to create jobs in this country, that Ministry has been creating jobs and these are jobs.

I note the Opposition has spoken more than once on the jobs in places like the National Conservation Commission. I know that there is a feeling that that money is badly spent. I know there is a feeling that that place should probably be closed down and that money should be spent otherwise. I do not support that. I believe that those workers are worthy of their hire. I think that they are making a tremendous contribution in making Barbados a place that we all enjoy to live in and when we are happy with the place where we live we can then welcome people who will enjoy it even more.

The money that you spend there will come back to you in terms of tourism at some later date. It is not going to manifest itself immediately over any one year of income but gradually it would be an advertisement to this country and we will be getting the benefit from it even at the same time while by creating jobs for persons we are able to allow them to share in any greater demand, or any swell of goods and services that might be available in this country.

I believe that the money that goes into that particular area as well as the money that goes into Transport and Works and let us talk about what is happening in areas like Transport and Works. Do not let us be ashamed to talk about what is happening in Transport and Works. Roads

that are being built in Barbados, let the Opposition talk about it. Let them deny that it is good policy to build tenantry roads, repair main roads, wherever possible put roads where roads never existed before in St. Thomas. Let there be roads in St. Peter. In the City repair roads and let there be other roads. In Christ Church East fix King's Comer and Wilcox. You cannot do that without money. You cannot talk about cutting expenditures and at the same time want services to be done in a country.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do not quarrel about the "when". These things are things that will be done. Do not get anxious about whether they were done yesterday or will be done tomorrow. That is not about economics or politics. That is about haste and fear for our own security but once these things are being done we are talking about the policy and the principle. What would get us scared is if we do not see it done by a certain time but once you know it is on the drawing board you know that it can only be done by spending money.

I, therefore, Sir, take great pleasure in supporting this Bill and I am sure that the people of Barbados will be well served when we have completed these Estimates and we vote in its support.

I thank you very much, Sir.
4.00 p.m.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I just rise to make a short intervention on the Second Reading and in doing so, Sir, I want to refer to some statements made by the Members of the other side particularly as regards the economy and the performance of the economy under the Democratic Labour Party and more particularly on the leadership of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.

It is significant that today and I believe for some time now we have not heard the kind of wild statements being made about the economy on the verge of collapse and impending devaluation. There is a very subtle admission on the part of the Opposition that the steady and firm hand of the Prime Minister is steering this ship into calm waters and into a safe haven. I think it is very....

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: And off the rocks... important, Sir,....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. It was not any Member of the Opposition who said that the economy was headed for the rocks. It was the Prime Minister in his very first Budget, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, you would recall that the Leader of the opposition in his intervention made all sorts of references. He talked about the anti intellectual level to which, according to him, the debate on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure have sunk. He made reference to effete leadership which this country is being offered. In truth and in fact, Sir, he talked all over his face and achieved as far as I am concerned and certainly as far as we are concerned from this side, very little.

One of the problems though which concerns us in the Government is this whole question of confidence in the economy and the attempts which have been made and are still being made to erode the confidence in the economy of this country. I made reference to it a few weeks ago in a debate when I charged that the Opposition by the constant references which they were making to drugs, to foreign exchange shortages, to all sorts of problems in this country that they knew exactly what they were doing. They knew very well that these kinds of statements would have been taken up by the international press and certainly would go into international circulation.

But I think that the way in which the economy has performed would give the lie to the position which they have taken. As a Government we must be concerned when certain messages are being sent out and particularly by people who hold themselves forth as even handed and level handed persons. That is why, quite recently, Sir, when a gentleman who wears the cloth posed questions in a sermon and then used the questions which he posed as facts to advance the arguments of a sermon then, we must get concerned. You would recall, Sir, that in a sermon which was delivered on Sunday the 25th February in Hometown at St. James Parish Church I believe this particular gentleman raised the following questions. I am speaking from memory, Sir

"I wish to raise concern, is it true that there are people in high places with a sinister plan to allow agriculture to collapse in order to deprive the white minority of their lands? Is it true that a similar plan is proposed for the business sector?

He went on to make the point:

"If there is an iota of truth in the whispered plans to destroy agriculture and business it would not only be wicked, it would be stupid, a programme for disaster. Ask Guyana, ask Jamaica, ask Trinidad."

I am reading from my notes. That is why I have my note pad here, Sir.

I think that this is the height of irresponsibility and wickedness when a person could pose questions of this nature and then in turn turn around to answer these questions and to use these questions as if these are facts,

then, Sir, I must ask the question, what is the church coming to? If that person gets his collar or his cassock torn off on a political platform, he would have asked for it.

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: It is the type of irresponsibility and wickedness for anybody in a responsible position to misuse the public in this way. I feel very strongly about this, Sir. The gentleman went on to say if Jesus is not concerned about the environmentally destructive plans proposed - do you hear this? - and in the rumoured scheme to destroy agriculture and business so that new owners may emerge then he has nothing to say to the world or any of its problems. If Jesus is not concerned about the environmentally destructive plans currently proposed and in the rumoured schemes to destroy agriculture and business so that new owners may emerge then he has nothing to say to the world or any of its problems.

Do you see the kind of problems that this Democratic Labour Party is up against? The person concerned takes a rumour, a figment of his imagination and then turns around and uses it as a fact to slander the Democratic Labour Party and the Government of Barbados.

It was done in the presence of visiting Parliamentarians from Canada who, as I understand it, raised a number of objections when they came out of the church and wondered what manner of man could this be to be holding the Government up to ridicule in this kind of way and on the basis of rumour and figments of his imagination.

Sir, if I speak with feeling on this matter it is because I am concerned. It is not to be taken as any attack on the church. I am as faithful a church member and as Christian as everybody else.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Precisely. I could almost have been in their position also. I just want to make that point, Sir.

I am concerned when we reach this level. It shows that persons who are opposed to the Democratic Labour Party's Administration would stoop to any level in their attempts to bring it down and to destroy it. 4.10p.m.

Sir, let me just refer to a statement made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter who in his second reading speech made reference to an inclusion in the Estimates under the Ministry of Trade where provision is made for assistance to the small business sector. First, I think it has to be admitted that this is the first time in any Estimates in Barbados that specific provision has been made for

assistance to small businesses in this country for the development of small business.

Now it is a fact that the allocation here is \$100. As I indicated when I rose on a Point of Order, this is a token provision and we are hoping that in the not too distant future to finalize the plans for the development of the small business sector which will provide during this financial year for institutional support for a small business organization. Support will also be provided for this organization to host seminars and work-shops to sensitize small businesses to the opportunities and options in producing for the export market, and to host promotional activities aimed at encouraging consumers to purchase the products and services of small businesses, and to provide an information data base in the small business sector which will be developed and from which effective planning and guidance can be undertaken. Rental space will be provided at a central site for small businesses to offer their services, for example, in repairs to machinery, equipment, television sets, and those kinds of things. Pelican Village will be rehabilitated to make it an attractive business centre from which small business persons can sell their products and it will also include technical assistance. I would want to say that in addition to all of this that under the vote for the Industrial Development Corporation there is provision included for further development of the small business.

Indeed, we certainly have been trying to encourage the Small Business Association to become functional once more. Over a year ago the Ministry of Trade hosted a seminar at the Caribbean Development Bank where we pulled together a number of small businesses ranging over a wide range of operations. It was a well attended seminar where we tried to encourage and stimulate interest in getting a small business organization going. I should point out that there is money in the Estimates and there has been for sometime for the operation of a Secretariat for the Small Business Association but because they have not been organized that money has not been used. We just could not take up the money as one president of the Small Business Association wanted us to do a couple of years ago and just hand it over to him. We had to say that it must be an organization which is functioning. So that this has to be very clearly understood and the Ministry is prepared and working to develop the organization and also to give whatever assistance that we can. The mere fact that we have made provision and reference to it in the Estimates this year is an indication of the firm commitment of this Administration to the development of the small business sector in Barbados, but that is not all. We provide the environment for the small business sector.

You will recall, Sir, that on a previous occasion I made reference to the fact that in the Wildey area that we are constructing a building which will provide space for small businesses particularly in the food area. This building is almost completed. It is completed at a cost of about \$1.5

million. Already the requests for the space in there are in excess of what we have provided. So that we will have to look at getting another one.

We have also, as indicated in these Estimates for this year, made provision for about \$1.2 million for the establishment of a building which will house persons mainly doing repairs to equipment which is a very serious problem in this country. But all of this is provided for the small businesses. I would want to say that we have taken a decision that in the Belleplaine area that the Industrial Development Corporation will be establishing a facility which will provide not only for a sales outlet but will also provide for handicraft people from that area to develop their handicraft and to be able to offer their handicraft to persons who would want to go there for those kinds of wares. I should say also that we will be accelerating our Handicraft Training Programme and a lot more emphasis is going to be placed on the development of handicraft during the coming year. Let me further say, Sir, that with all of that under the Export Promotion Corporation we have just signed an agreement with the EEC for the establishment for the Design Centre for Barbados which is also provided for here in these Estimates and which will offer these kinds of services to the small business sector and indeed to any other sector in Barbados which will require their services.

So that I think the point has to be made that the Democratic Labour Party is conscious of its responsibility and conscious of its commitment towards the small-business people of this country and we will ensure that they get an opportunity to have a fair stake in the growth, development and the benefits which will accrue from that growth and development in this country.

I thank you, Sir.

Applause.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I suppose the House was very grateful to hear the Honourable ' Member for St. Lucy and his promises for St. Andrew. If you had read the Advocate Newspaper last week Sunday, he could have even added in some promises for St. Thomas. We will deal with him in due course.

Asides

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member who just sat down made a number of promises in respect to development in St. Andrew, Sir, telling us where small business was destined to go on the \$100.00 that he is voting for this year and, of course, we have come to expect of the Honourable Member, Sir, promises, promises, and 52 promises. His circular last time promised 52 things by way of development in St. Lucy including a bridge from Archer's Bay to Cove Bay. It is still to come. It was 54 and not 52.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: If the Honourable Member had any idea of St Lucy, he would know that it would be impossible to run a bridge from Archer's Bay to Cove Bay.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is why I made the point, Sir. He should have known that when he had it printed in the circular and if he disputes it I will bring the circular in here for him to read, Sir.

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Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I challenge the Honourable Member to bring the document I hope when you bring the document and you are wrong that you will admit that you are wrong.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these Estimates that have been presented to us within the last week reflect the kind of sloppiness that we have come to expect from the present Government. Indeed, within the last hour and a half we have been circulated with additional Amendments to the Estimates which on their face do not make any sense. They will have to re-amend these and re-submit them. 4.20 p.m.

For example, in the Ministry of Finance we find that whereas Government spent or budgeted for \$500 for Contingencies in the past, they are now moving in \$3.5 million for Contingencies for the Ministry of Finance. When you do the consequential amendments and additions and the Subheads and the Heads on these summary sheets, you are still out \$7 million, on their own figures. What is clear to this side is that the figure for Estimated Expenditure under Current has to be further amended by the \$7 million that is clearly discernible, and then you have to add on top of that \$23 million for debt servicing that is payable in the period January to March 1991, a further \$30 million on the barest figures for Current, which will now change Estimated Excess of Revenue over Expenditure to read Estimated Deficit of Revenue and Expenditure. The Estimated Expenditure will go up to something like \$1 000 017 000 instead of \$987 188 256.

I do not think I have ever used the word "squandermania", or if I have I may have used it sparingly, but I have to join with those who accuse the Government of wastage and unnecessary expenditure in relation to the provision of goods and services for this Island.

In these Estimates, for what they are worth, and I cannot place total reliance on them, the amendments that have been circulated with a view to moving in, there is provision made in three parts of the Estimates for money for CBC. Three different allocations, a subsidy for about \$2 million on page 8, at page 40 part of \$8 million by way of equity and Loans and Advances now to be moved in, part of \$10 million. We are at a loss to be able to tell you, Sir, (a) why they deserve three subventions, and (b) what is the quantum of each particular one. When we come to the

individual Heads I presume that the Prime Minister will give us, as he must, a proper breakdown of these three different contributions. I do not know how he can justify it, but that is a matter which we will deal with in detail later on. I will reserve whatever I have to say about CBC and the way it is being used, misused and abused until we come to the appropriate Head.

I say I join with Honourable Members who speak of squandermania, Sir, because the Sherbourne complex, according to the Development Plan, was to cost \$20.6 million and it was to be finished by now, indeed to be finished last financial year. We have to vote this year \$12 million for something that is very aesthetically displeasing.

We see a figure, it is a small figure in the total context, \$60 000 in the Ministry of Agriculture for advertising costs in respect of minor fish landing sites, but you are going to spend \$60 000 in advertising what, Sir? What are you going to advertise that it is going to cost \$60 000 for a minor fish landing site?

The Honourable Member mentioned that this Government all of a sudden is voting money for professional fees to assist in implementing a sound agricultural development strategy, the implication clearly being that hitherto there either was no agricultural development strategy or otherwise it was unsound. Four years, virtually, in the existence of this Government they are now coming to do that. Do you know what is included in that? \$570 000 for professional fees.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is misleading the House. On page 63 the amount under Advertising Costs is \$3 000 not \$60 000. If you look under Subhead 27 Object Number 12, you will see it is \$3 000.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, he is right. Operating Expenses \$3 000, Professional Services \$60 000. I apologise to the Honourable Minister and to the House. In due course I will deal with that otherwise.

Sir, we have a situation where one Government Department, indeed one Officer of Government has cost this country \$1 125 000 and untold other damage, particularly in relation to deterioration in human relationships and so on. Let me just explain how I reached there.

Some time ago in the Government Electrical Engineer's Department there was a refusal to allow the workers in that Department overtime. The National Insurance building required four A/C units, because the ones they had had become unserviceable. The Head of Department refused to allow the overtime. As a result the units have had to be replaced at a cost of \$850 000. One man, one foolish decision, \$850 000.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. I do not know if the Honourable Member is remembering that, desirable or otherwise, that is a matter which is sub judice, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The whole question concerning the Chief Electrical Engineer. An injunction has been filed which seems to have encompassed everything related to the Government Engineer, and I am sure if the Honourable Member is aware of that he might not wish to put on the record anything that might subsequently be used. I just draw it to his attention, Sir, I have no position on it. 4.30 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would be the last to try and be in contempt either of this Parliament or of court, but an injunction requires very specific terms. You can't go for an injunction just so in the blank; you have to specifically say what remedy you wish, otherwise the court would be acting in a nugatory way, and a court does not waste time or make orders which are incapable of supervision. Injunction to prevent what? I want to know an injunction to prevent what? Because he might have a case in court, do you mean you can't talk about him at all? That is foolishness of the highest class.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, for what it is worth, I am not casting any aspersions on the foolishness or otherwise of the matter. I am merely pointing out, as I think it is my duty to do if I am aware of it, that there has been an injunction of some kind which purports to deal with the whole question of the man's position within the Department, and that position relates to the issue which you are discussing when you mention foolish decision. I am merely saying therefore that out of an abundance of caution you would not wish to put on the record any comments about decisions made by the gentleman in his capacity. That is all I was doing, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: And I think the submission may have reason to take that line, because you are also dealing with a public officer as well, where if you wanted to deal with that public officer, obviously there is always some notification before me; so I think taking the two things into consideration, one would take the cautious note of not dealing with the matter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will be cautious, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The other thing is that I think we need to remember Standing Order No. 64(2), that this debate really should confine itself to the general principle and policy and administration rather than go into details which could be dealt with at the Committee stage.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am obliged to you, Sir. You know that I would not come in here and make wild

statements, that is, when I make a statement of a general character, so that the House knows that the statement is backed by a substratum of fact, I then condescend upon the type of particulars that I gave. So I would not worry to talk about the malfunctioning of the two compressors in Parliament that only have one side of the air-conditioning working in here. I would not worry to talk about Government House, Sir. I would not worry to talk about the \$250 000 up at Government House. When we come to Head Governor-General I will deal with that. But the truth is, Sir, that we have a Government that has been supervising inefficiency, condoning wastage, and that is expert in incompetence.

Now, Sir, we have a serious problem in Barbados with young people. I think that if we reflect we would all agree that the youth of Barbados ought to be gainfully employed as far as is possible within the resources of this country, and ought to be trained as far as is possible for the world of work. I want to emphasise a point made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, that it is nothing short of scandalous that this Government increased the training levy, is now collecting \$11 million by way of contributions for the training levy and is only putting back in training under the Ministry of Education and Culture \$5 million of that \$11 million by way of occupational training. It is here. I suppose the rest is going to Sherbourne and \$400 000 for the National Orchestra that has not bought an instrument yet. They have money in here for that though. We will deal with that.

-V,

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: As a trumpeter I would know. They don't have a trumpet as good as the one I have. They don't have a trumpet for the National Orchestra as good as the one I have and play at home.

Sir, we in the Barbados Labour Party are calling for a properly planned programme aimed at the harnessing of the talent of the youth and the use of funds from the Training Levy for that purpose. I won't go into what used to happen when the Barbados Labour Party administered the training levy; I won't deal with the skills training, the work experience for the apprenticeship programme. I won't even say that it was the Barbados Workers' Union that was against the apprenticeship programme on the ground, as they said, that we were indulging in cheap labour. When we come to the Head I will deal with that, Sir. We have spoken of the employment levy now yielding \$13.3 million, but the rate of unemployment has not come down significantly. The last time we had official figures was October 1988 out of the Department of Statistics. We have had none since; we have had guesstimates.

We are disappointed, Sir, that all of us understand the difficulties with the foreign reserves, and yet we can find nothing meaningful implemented in these Estimates with a

view to developing the agricultural sector so that our export earnings from agriculture may be boosted and enhanced. Part of the rationale for the Rural Development Programme was not only the supply of potable water to people in far-flung districts in the agricultural belt, not only the supply of irrigation, not only the supply of credit but also the development of a small farming class.

The Rural Development Programme has got allocated to it \$1.4 million this year. Of that \$1.4 million, \$890 000 is being paid by way of salaries and emoluments. You are over-paying the bureaucracy and short-changing the farmers for whom the programme is destined and who will work the programme. There is \$600 000 for the farmers and \$890 000 for the bureaucrats who will administer it. That can't be right That is top heavy. Don't say send home the officers. I say take some of the foolish money from Sherbourne and give it to the farmers. That is what I am saying. Don't say send home the officers. We are not saying that. Obviously you have a need for the officers, and indeed, Sir, the percentage increase in personal emoluments in these Estimates is only 2.1 per cent, so it is no big thing. We are not saying that the civil service is top heavy and therefore you have to send home people. That is not the case at all. What we are saying is that the structure of the programme is lopsided because the greater emphasis is being placed on the persons who administer the programme rather than the persons involved in making the programme productive and viable. That is fiscal nonsense. No doubt we will have some exciting debates if Agriculture's Head is called this time, but I want it to be clearly understood that the Barbados Labour Party gives a commitment to the sugar industry that we will be rescuing the industry from the depth of degradation to which it has fallen under the Democratic Labour Party.

One former Prime Minister used a phrase in here once, the late Mr. Barrow, about an abomination of desolation. The parish of St. Lucy in terms of the neglect of agriculture in that parish is really an abomination of desolation. There are about three plantations in St. Lucy which are in good husbandry as my friend from St. Peter so eloquently puts it. On the other hand, most of the plantations in St. Peter are in good husbandry and functioning well and are productive and are making a profit. 4.40 p.m.

I am going to blame the ADC which takes its policy direction from the Minister of Agriculture. How do you mean who I am going to blame for it? But we will come to that in the future. I am only at this time painting a little landscape, Sir.

I want it clearly understood that the Labour Party is committed to the rescuing of the sugar industry and we will attend to the four principle needs of the sugar industry, that is debt scheduling, modernisation of capital and an on-budget subsidy and sustained support.

There was a situation in this country where the small man, that is, a person who produce less than 100 tons of sugar was making a contribution of 15% to the national effort You know what that percentage is now, Sir, under this Government? It is 5%. These people had to be rescued and encouraged to go back into agriculture and help themselves financially.

Now, it is clear from the Estimates that there has been a reduction in the provision of tenantry roads. There will be a reduction this year.

One of the Honourable Members who proceeded me on that side spoke but the money is not here to support it. If they show me where the money is - we checked the account and the specific provision under the subhead for tenancies and we still cannot find anything for \$6 million. There are still several tenantry roads in this country which are in need of development especially in the rural areas if we intend to give the tenants in the country districts a better deal.

Twice during the last four years I have asked a question in this House about Lion Castle Road in St Thomas and "The Advocate" newspaper last week published a photograph of the state of Lion Castle Road. They were not sufficiently careful or interested to check with the representative or come in here and check the Question Book to see that for four years I have been asking for something to be done at Lion Castle. They have not recently gone on the site - I want to be fair - because if they recently went to Lion Castle, indeed, when they took the photograph, if it is a new photograph, they should have seen that pegs were down to mark out the boundaries in the road so that the equipment could work because I was there two Saturdays ago and the pegs were down but it was a very unfair report and photographs. It was unfair to me and it was unfair to the Minister. It is not balanced reporting.

We do not think, Sir, that as reflected in these Estimates the Government's great promise last year of a revolution in the Tenantry Road programme will come to fruition because as we say, Sir, unless they are going to move in some heavy dollars later on in the week and burst the Current Expenditure even more....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That would cover the Capital. It is at 227 and we have another \$5 million that we found in today's amendment so that is now at 232 and unless they are going to move in some heavy dollars later on to then affect the overall deficit.

We have to speak on the basis of what we have and what was submitted and our state of knowledge as of now is that the money does not show in here, Sir. In fact, the Ministry of Transport and Works this year on capital is

getting \$42 million as compared to \$50 million last year so that it would not be difficult to see where the acceleration in the programme will come from with less funds available to the Minister.

Now, that is the total budget for the Ministry and when you look at the specific item of Tenantry Roads for MTW that is cut from \$8 million to \$6 million so I reasonably anticipate that I might get Lion Castle finished but I certainly would not get anymore done this year.

We will deal with drainage later on. I do not know if we will be able to get to the Head but it is remarkable when we are cleaning up the gullies generally in the interest of health, but also with a view to assisting in making the Island safer in the event of torrential rain so that it can perform its proper function, when the Minister of Transport has said in here that one of the problems that leads to flooding in Barbados is drainage and we agree with him, we have a cut in the funds for drainage again this year.

We will warn him, Sir, with all this cutting, it is clear that they are cutting him down. He was a late recruit, his bona fides have not been well tested and they are putting him under what we call in racing terms "double racks". They have him made up so that he cannot get away. Try and understand that

That was the Minister who said in here soon after he was made Minister that what he asked for he had to get and when he said that he turned and faced the Minister of Finance in his seat. The Minister of Finance did not face him. The Minister of Finance kept looking at that blank wall but the Minister of Transport and Works let it be known that what he wanted to spend in that Ministry he had to get.

He got drainage licked up, tenantry roads licked up, but Sir, do not let us go into that You have warned me already. Do not get into specifics. We will come to the Heads. 4.50 p.m.

Sir, sometime in November or December the Prime Minister delivered himself of a statement that he was managing things so well that there was a reduction in expenditure of let us say \$50 million, I cannot remember if he said \$53 million or \$55 million. He has not sought to correct it as a misprint of any of the newspapers which carried it, Sir, but I am at a loss in these figures to find a reduction of \$55 million or \$50 million.

When one looks at the figures for last year both Current and Capital or individually Current or Capital, I think that the House deserves to have that matter clarified when the Prime Minister responds. The figures that he presented even on their bare face not allowing for the Amendments which we say amount to \$30 million, because

they have not even taken into account that they have \$23 million in addition to these to pay for debt in the quarter beginning January, 1991, but even on these figures, they do not reflect any drop in expenditure by \$50 million. I would be grateful if it could be explained, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, what strikes us is that in the preparation of these Estimates the Government wanted to give the impression - because that is the side that used the hallowed language that supported the author of the famous expression that impressions count more than facts - they wanted to give the public the impression....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Leader of the Opposition made that famous statement in about 1979 in here and certainly, the 3 senior Members of the present Government, Sir, endorsed him handsomely.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Endorsed him and the statement handsomely when it was said.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member must know that he is misleading the House. These 3 Members or any other Member on this side has never endorsed any statement about impressions. As a matter of fact, even the Leader of the Opposition himself has never endorsed that statement.

It is the Barbados Labour Party who used to state categorically every week by way of the former Member for St. James North, Mr. L. S. Craig that the then Leader of the Opposition used to say that impressions are important and not facts. We never endorsed it. Do not say that. Do not put us in that Craig said that he said so. I do not know if he said it but we never endorsed it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was going to take a new guard. You say I only have a minute, Sir.

We have 5 days in here. Let me wind up on a note which I wish to put out as one of substance and that is that as it appears and as there has been circulated to the press the impression that has been given to the public is that Government has done something to cut expenditure and to exercise restraint incurring very little expenditure. I do not say in recognition of the strictures of the Opposition but they want for whatever reason to do it. So you see Current expenditure \$987 million, estimated revenue \$1.2 billion. Last year they spent \$990 million. This \$987 million does not include the supplementaries with which we will be bombarded after September this year and does not include the debt....

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Hon. B. M. TAUT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. To the uninitiated he is implying that something unusual has happened. No Estimates anywhere ever since we started Estimates in the history of this country ever take account of any supplementaries to come. Do not put that in.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I want to be very careful. What I am saying about supplementaries - he would not let me finish - is that we have chastised them in the last 2 years in particular for coming here after September with a whole set of supplementaries that are sometimes as high as a 460% increase over what we voted in March. What we say to them is that that is bad financial planning. You must know now a certain level of expenditure that you expect to incur, reflected here. I am not saying that you are not going to be out \$10 million or \$15 million. Fine. Yes. No government can do otherwise. But they will come with a set of supplementaries in this year very near \$40 million or \$50 million, Sir, on top of this. It is a sham. This whole thing is a charade.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not Charade car. This is the original use of the word charade, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Fictitious, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to intervene for a very brief moment and in order to follow on from the points made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. But I want to say that the Estimates have been prepared with an election in mind this year and that if one looks at some of the main Heads of expenditure and analyse the increase in addition to the overall view that has been given, and the picture that has been painted by other Members of the Opposition, you would see quite clearly that the Government is trying to create the type of atmosphere that would lead them into an immediate election.

I want to deal, Sir, with the Prime Minister's own Ministry and under Electoral Department because it is important to look at this, Sir. The highest increase that is coming percentage wise is under the Electoral Department. Some \$689 000 is being provided under this department for operating expenses.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Electoral Department. Obviously, it is quite clear to me studying the Estimates that the Government has determined and I think we have to put the Estimates in this context, that there would be an election this year. The expenditure for it is being provided for it in several ways and this is one of the ways.

If you look under Information Services, you will again see that the buying of the apparatus to make the Prime Minister look good is being provided for. As far as I know there are already 2 teleprompters available to the Government, the teleprompter at CBC, the teleprompter as well that is available at the Government Information Service but we are going to purchase obviously the type of teleprompter equipment that Mr. Reagan was famous for using so we are expending funds under this Head.

The third reason why I say - and I think we must read these estimates with some care, Sir, to realize what is the game plan - that the Government is providing along these areas is that perhaps the most substantial increase percentage wise in any Ministry goes into the Ministry of Employment and Community Services where some additional \$8 million is being given to create what I would describe as a slush fund in order to get ready for the election which is planned. You will see those particulars carefully set out in the Estimates. So in addition to the general framework and mind set that the country is being prepared for, that there is no crisis, everything is alright in the economy, you must look and see that the Government is building up a position that it wishes to call the election.

I was not surprised that in his presentation the Prime Minister almost slipped up by talking about a particular date when people would be prepared to make their submissions on who should govern the country during the period of time, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during my address I indicated that the last election was May 28, 1986 and that it will be before that date, that it will come before May 28, 1991. You do not have to do any detective work on these Estimates. It will be coming and you better be prepared for it. You do not have to build up any argument that is directly contrary to what your 2 Members out there have been advocating. They have gone out of the Chamber because they have been saying these Estimates

Mr. SPEAKER: The Rt. Hon. Member is not going into....

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:.....do not deal with such matters and you are saying that they deal with these kinds of matters.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, every time I speak the Prime Minister needs to get up and speak because his argument is totally fallacious.

What the Honourable Members are saying and what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said quite carefully is that rather than put the economic development of the country foremost the Government is using funds in such a way that it is not concentrating on the essentials but on the peripheries. That was absolutely clearly said by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation, Sir. The Honourable Member has given way. We know how to conduct a debate in here. So now that we have put in or moved in or whatever you call it, funds for the development of a youth programme for the training of youth and the development of youth, you are complaining about that and still want the things up front.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Right Honourable Member again is being fallacious on this point. Again his argument is fallacious because the indictment which the Opposition has made carefully and both Members who have spoken before me who have just gone to take tea, Sir, contrary to what the Honourable Member is going to say.....

Laughter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: What they have clearly said is that the Government has collected \$11 million for training and is spending \$5 million on training. So that the idea of a youth service.... Look at the slush fund that is being created. We are going to get down to it through the debate when we come to deal with the position, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is saying contrary to what I said. He is misleading the House. Why should his 2 Members, he has only 2 Members and the only time they can take tea is when you get up to speak?

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The only point of order that is that it has as much sense as the Honourable Member's defence of himself on the chicken debate, Sir. No point whatsoever, Sir. 5.00 p.m.

But Sir, it is in that context therefore that the Opposition on both sides have had to attack the Government. I wish, Sir, to deal first and foremost, Sir, with some of the charges which have been levied in this House and to see how serious they are, Sir. I believe that the Labour Party has been fully justified in the measures which it has taken in ruling this country prior to 1986. The

justification for that has come clearly out of the words of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance himself when he spoke in this House. I recognize his very sagacious technique of trying to make it appear that the Barbados Labour Party was not getting a taste of his tongue this afternoon and that his words, therefore, were directed to the Leader of the Opposition. But as a responsible person who has served in the Government of this country, I must take a point and it must be emphasized in this country that if what the Prime Minister has said is correct and he believes in it, his responsibility in constitutional law and on the basis of the system which we practice here was to tender his resignation. I say this for this simple reason, Sir. The Minister began by saying that the only disaster and crisis that we have had in this country is the crisis that we were brought to a standstill by the haste with which and the manner in which the former Minister of Finance introduced the taxation measures in 1986. Sir, that is his statement. Let me explain it.

He is saying that the economic crisis that he had to confront and that he is still dealing with, if there was a crisis in the country which is the only one that exists, was caused because in 1986 the then Minister of Finance now the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Member for St. Michael South Central, introduced Budgetary measures in this House in such a way that it put the country's economic position at risk and worsened the standard of living of people. That is what he said, Sir. Now Sir, the then Minister, Member for St. Michael South Central, was a member of the Democratic Labour Party Government. He remained a Member of the Democratic Labour Party Government until 1989. He could not have come to this House, Sir, with any measure....

Asides.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Members can talk as much as they like because it is an important constitutional point which will be an issue in the coming elections. It must be -an issue. It must be an issue about....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: equality in this country and why people have no faith in the leadership of the country. That is the issue. That is why I intervened in the debate at this time because we must not go through these Estimates without dealing with it, Sir.

When he was sitting and bringing measures to this House, Mr. Speaker, Sir, he would have brought the measures to the House as the Member of a Cabinet in which the Right Honourable Prime Minister was a Member. That measure had the full support of every front bench person at the time except the only two persons at present on the from

bench who are the Honourable Members for St. George North and St. Michael East. Under the system of Government which we practice in this country each one of them would have approved of the steps which were brought to this House - each one of them, Sir, 100%.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have a little difficulty with hearing the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Now on the other hand I am not going to tolerate Members who know very well that the Rules do not permit the kind of interruption that we are having particularly coming from both sides of the House including both Oppositions. 5.10p.m.

I think the Leaders or the Whips of both sections should try to control those Members before I take drastic action.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You see, Sir, that measure received the full support of the then Cabinet of Barbados. If I am mistaken in my views I would challenge the Government to bring the Cabinet Paper here in which approval was given for the then Minister of Finance to bring those measures on the floor of this House. Once it is shown that they all approved, if tonight the Prime Minister has got up and admitted that their reckless approval of measures which he says brought the country to disaster,...

Certain remarks made by Hon. B. M. TAITT were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: He can get up as many times as he likes. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, who knows something about constitutional law, who ought to know, should be the first - he is always saying that he does not do anything unprincipled -

Certain remarks made by the Hon. H. deB. FORDE were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, if he understood the principles of collective responsibility, and I assume he is not ignorant of them, because if he is ignorant of them that makes it worse, Sir, so if he understood the principles of collective responsibility he would come in here this afternoon and said that the Government was party to, an accomplice, to the measures which they are accusing the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central of having brought and having ruined the economy of the country.

Sir, the 1986 proposals brought down by the then Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, Mr. St. John, and spoken about by the Honourable Member for St. Peter were subjected to the worse criticism and scrutiny. The Labour Party was held up to ridicule. The wheel has

come full circle when I can hear the Prime Minister himself now get up and admit that those measures have brought the country within disaster, and the only problem that has caused economic disaster in this country. Whatever assumption one makes, it is a serious deterioration in the quality of Government as practised right under the Prime Minister when we are going to get that type of admission and that type of Government.

I go a bit further, Sir. The Prime Minister talked a lot about the lack of confidence created by the Opposition people. The lack of confidence springs from that type of governmental action. That is where the lack of confidence in the country comes, Sir. Therefore when I hear these matters I sit quietly here in the Opposition and recognise how right we were when we took the stand we did on principle, because in less than five years the country has now seen the very Government which criticised us coming and making admissions in the division that has occurred between them about how wrong and how bad they were.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke about a crisis of confidence. Of course there is a crisis of confidence. It is not the Opposition who, contrary to what the Honourable Member said, was creating the crisis of confidence. The Government itself has created it. It is not the Opposition alone who speaks about it. Are all the other independent persons in Barbados incorrect? The private sector only last week had a consultation and the general view expressed there objectively was that Barbados was in crisis. That is only one of the private sector bodies.

The former Governor of the Central Bank himself has spoken about the matter. An independent economist - I speak of Dr. Michael Howard - has spoken about it. The Government itself has to some extent admitted that there has been a crisis in the economic affairs of this country. Therefore, when the Prime Minister makes the charges against the Opposition I am not going to accept his trying to merely exonerate the Honourable Member for St. Peter or the Barbados Labour Party Opposition in general. I am not going to go down that road or fall for that ploy at all. In my submission I said, Sir, that they all have to be guilty if his statement is correct, that the causes of what is happening today were sown by the policies which he would have sat in Cabinet and approved.

Likewise, Sir, I want to talk too about his stricture, because I must answer some of these matters as Leader of this Opposition, about the national debt, giving the impression in preparation for the coming election for which provision has been made in these Estimates, that outside of the measures which they are now going to disown the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for, outside of those measures the only other problem that has occurred in the economy of Barbados is the problem of national debt and having to pay a substantial sum for debt repayment in this year.

Now let us take back the Minister himself to his own words. The first occasion of which the Minister spoke in his capacity of Minister of Finance, he made it quite clear in the speech that Barbados' national debt was not unmanageable and was not extraordinary on the basis of the standards accepted by economists and in all financial institutions for a debt burden of that order. Those were his words. I know the Minister. He will read his brief. He must have known then what was the debt profile of Barbados down to the year 2001. 5.20 p.m.

That information was left in the Ministry of Finance by the Barbados Labour Party Government. We had set out very clearly every year the debt repayment schedule including the repayment of the bullet loan which he talks about, Sir, the bullet loan which we had drawn and left available and was used by the Democratic Labour Party Government.

That was known. He speaks as well about the Orion Bank repayment of \$13.3 million in respect of the Arawak cement plant. Sure it came up for repayment, but he must of course take into account that one of the reasons for the construction of the Arawak cement plant was to save \$50 million a year in foreign exchange. So it was beneficial and it is still beneficial in this respect to the country itself, and therefore when the Honourable Member tries to give the impression that the reason for the foreign exchange crisis in Barbados is because of the Barbados Labour Party, he could not be more mistaken when you analyse the details of his submissions to support such a statement.

The position is, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. Peter before he left the country in August last year, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas on the 4th August and myself spoke in here and drew to the Prime Minister's attention as any responsible Opposition would, - and the Prime Minister talks about giving encomiums; they don't give us any - but we quietly on the floor of the House, we did not use outside, Sir, drew to their attention information that was available in Central Bank documents that are published and information that was available in banking sectors in the commercial sector in town, and using our intelligence and research and projecting where we were going, we warned the Prime Minister then that there were serious problems confronting us for foreign reserves which could have serious implications for the balance of payments.

A lot of fudging went on, Sir, to try to say that there was not a crisis. We went further and pointed out to the Government why the problems were being caused, including the importation of consumer goods, and the Central Bank financing that occurred between March and September of some \$106.5 million. We drew that to their attention. We also drew to the Government's attention then that there were two main sectors of the economy that were

not producing enough and were not properly bearing the fair share of economic development. One was agriculture and particularly sugar. We forecast then that the Government was going to lose in foreign exchange in the region of \$30 million, which it did, and we also said that unless measures were put in place and put in place rapidly for increasing manufacturing and export, particularly to earn foreign exchange, it would take us a long time to get back to a reasonable standard of management of the economy. That year all Honourable Members on this side had drawn to the Government's attention, I can't use the word "criticise" because apparently it is not right for an Opposition to criticise, the fact that the Government was not spending enough in the manufacturing sector and in export, particularly to boost the marketing of Barbados' goods overseas and look for markets. We drew to their attention that the subvention to the Export Promotion Corporation was inadequate and we also drew to their attention the necessity to take various other measures to boost exports. We were decried. These same Estimates come back this year with a lack of imagination in order to deal with the real problems of growth in Barbados, and we are not talking about the skewed growth that the Government is so fond of, Sir, because the Government is boasting of its growth in situations where it lacks foreign exchange to sustain proper growth in the economy of Barbados. And what else is it boasting of today?

The Prime Minister is boasting that he is collecting \$1 billion in revenue. Now, Sir, what has happened, really it is pitiful to see the tremendous squirt in taxation on the people of Barbados between 1986 and today. If I take the levies, Sir, in 1985-86 the Government was taxing the people, we were then in power, by way of levies \$29.5 million. Some of the levies the then Rt. Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Barrow was to abolish. They are still in place. They were to abolish the transport levy, that is still in place. They brought the unemployment levy which was temporary, that is still in place, but those levies have grown from the last full year we >were in power from \$29.5 million to \$85.3 million projected by the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. That is almost a 300 per cent increase, and you can't get it back. Consumption tax, Sir, is a scandal. In 1985-86 when we went out, consumption tax was at \$99.9 million. That is the revenue they got from consumption tax. The Government is projecting now that it is going to get \$209.5 million in this year from the same consumption tax. If we take stamp duty or import duty, \$96.8 million in import duties when we went out, \$144 million in taxation being taken from the people by way of import duties, and it is not all due to inflation or any growth in the economy. The truth is, Sir, that this Government has shifted the burden of taxation so rapidly on to the backs of the poor people that it has now found itself in crisis where the economy, if his forecast is correct too, is liable unless there is very substantial structural change to go into structural decline for a long time. I have to say that because

it is going to be difficult to deal with this problem at some stage.

Sir, the Prime Minister is boasting and I think that one of his boasts in the debate today is that he is getting so much money, but you do not get money, he says, unless you are earning money or something of the sort. Now, Sir, the consumption tax is borne by everybody; it is borne by the lame because they have to eat and they have to wear clothes, it is borne by the old age pensioner who is not earning, it is borne by the unemployed. What is the Prime Minister going to tell us, Sir? The increase therefore in that yield in the years since we have gone out of power, we always contended has been extremely severe and has been caused by the doubling of the rate of the consumption tax under this present Government.

The Prime Minister says I had better prepare for the election. I want to tell him to be prepared; he had better be prepared, because one of the issues we are going to be very clear on in this election and one of the policies that we are going to state very clearly is that the Barbados Labour Party will ensure and ease the taxation on the old age pensioners and the others, the unemployed in these areas of consumption tax. We must look at indirect taxation again, Sir, and in the limited time available, I am going to illustrate what I mean in another area too, Sir.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that I spoke in this House about the development duty that we have where the Government goes in and borrows money to develop an area and improve the infrastructure, and I spoke of it in the context of what I referred to the Tom Adams Highway and what has been named the ABC Highway, and I said then that people whose land border on that highway and who gained substantial capital growth and benefit from the public expenditure should be made to pay tax on it. I cited a particular land owner, for instance, and I haven't got your permission and I have not given notice and so I am not going to refer to his name now. Look at the forecast in these Estimates for how much the Government is going to get from land development duty, despite the fact that along that highway particularly big commercial concerns and others have gained substantially from the benefit of that highway, \$175000. Contrast that with land tax. 5.30 p.m.

The land tax that they are putting on everybody, some \$3.6 million they are collecting on land tax. Now, I say, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party is already on record and we go back on record. We will be abolishing land tax on a phased basis whenever we come back to power.

You cannot be serious by telling me that you want to develop the tenancies and improve the plantation tenants and otherwise and put in the roads and tell them to buy a house and then turn around and tax them on their improvement then.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I say that we are going to do it over a phased period, Sir, so that when we look at this and we criticize it the Honourable Members can talk as much as they like. There is a vast difference between how they approach development and how we approach development.

We approach development of the productive sectors to ensure real growth. Under the Barbados Labour Party in 10 years we doubled the per capita income of this country and improved the quality of life for people. We probably went too quickly in some ways to the extent that when we left...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If I have said it already I will repeat. One thing we did not do was to sing our praises as much as the Prime Minister sings his from the Floor of this House and elsewhere. Perhaps, had we sung our praises more the people of Barbados today would have been better off under a Government that understands collective responsibility and takes its stand on principle and not merely when it suits one to chop and change.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Appropriation Bill which is proposed to this Honourable House, my perspective is that of a socialist. In these days when the right wing seems to be on the rampage there are a few persons prepared to stand up and make this declaration of faith but I state that as a person committed to the tenets of democratic socialism, I find myself in support of this Appropriation Bill for this reason.

Whenever one examines the resources of Government or the resources of their country, at any time whatsoever an essential question must be, who gets what? Money is never collected for its own sake. Profits are not collected for their own sake and the issue of distribution is always a factor.

One could have in macro-economic terms the most dynamic economy in the world. If the vast majority of people living in that polity do not share equitably in what is produced, then that society, in my view, is a failure. The issue of distribution is always a critical one.

The Estimates, therefore, address this question of distribution, a balance it strikes, in my view, an appropriate balance between global considerations for the economy of Barbados and the distribution of services in Barbados of which the Government is and must always be the engine.

There is no doubt that Government must keep to itself a significant portion of revenue to ensure that those vulnerable groups within the society are able to maintain minimum standards that are consistent with a civilized

existence and that is why I cannot join the hue and cry for a reduction of expenditure. A reduction of expenditure is the other side of privatisation, a hoary old view that has been dressed up in modern regalia put forward as some new creative form of thought.

Indeed, Sir, the social welfare state came into existence because of the failure of privatisation, the most extreme form of privatisation which is laissez faire capitalism, precipitating the worse depression and caused more suffering than the two World Wars themselves and people believe that private ownership is something new, at least, as the gurus from Cave Hill and elsewhere are presenting it.

Not so long ago a former guru who described himself as the creature of another mortal, was heard to utter the word "privatise". This gentleman, Sir, is fond of these fad words. About 10 years ago he walked around this country uttering the fad word "management". Every problem that existed within Government would be solved as long as there was proper management and, indeed, he beguiled certain persons to put him on the Transport Board and his record there revealed an utter bankruptcy of what is entailed in management to the point where this Honourable Member had to recommend to the Cabinet of the Barbados Labour Party Government the revocation of his appointment as a Member of that Board and the Government of the day accepted...

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: I am talking about the creature, the creature from the Black Lagoon or wherever he comes from.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: It was necessary in order to get the Transport Board moving to remove this person and it revealed in the starkest manner possible that it is all right to talk about macro theories, efficiency, productivity and what not, but when you get to work in the sectors, the sectors where the real problems exist, like the Ministry of Transport and Works, that is the acid test of productivity and here, Mr. Speaker, I must illustrate what I mean by improvement of productivity which gives the lie to the thesis expounded here today that this Government is characterised by universal squandermania.

In the month of January, and these are just some of the major projects that the Ministry in reaching an unprecedented level of productivity is working on, Ashton Hall - the construction of a box drain, asphalt surfacing...

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

The Honourable Member has slipped in a word "universal" before squandermania. If he wishes to make the point that the squandermania exists elsewhere, then what he is describing I will take his point.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The asphalt surfacing of roads, reconstruction of the Bank Hall Cross Road, reconstruction of Bennetts Tenantry Road, Coconut Grove reconstruction, the construction of a roadway at Friendship, Garden Land pulverisation along Skeetes Road, Mangrove Pond, St. Thomas, Parish Land Christ Church completion of road, Pilgrim Place which leads to the Airport, Reece Road, Flagstaff, Six Roads to Ruby Junction, Spring Hall, Half Acre Junction, St. Lucy, Turners Hall, St. Andrew, Upper Parks, reconstruction of Walkers Beach etc. 5.40 p.m.

I can name 25 more projects in addition to this. I do not want to name Neils and all of those other places.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I am asking my friend if those roads that he read out were finished. Neils Road that he is going to talk about has been going on - next month would be a year. Bank Hall has been going on 3 years. They are not finished yet.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Transport and Works is building about 1 mile of road at Neils. When you talk about roads, there are short roads and long roads. In fact it is a network of roads that is being built in Neils at the present time.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter indicated that the > Estimates did not disclose an adequate sum for the tenantry road programme. The tenantry road programme has already started. There are 14 roads including one in Indian Ground, St. Peter on which construction has commenced. The fact of the matter is that the Ministry of Transport and Works paid Inversiones SI.5 million in mobilization expense. Under the Finance agreement FIF and FINEXPO in Venezuela we paid them another \$3.5 million and so the building contractors, by the end this month when the finance agreement is signed, would have had \$5 million.

It is envisaged that the 84 roads that will be constructed in the first phase of the programme will take 18 months to construct at a minimum and, as has been indicated there is another \$5 million under Capital for the tenantry programme. There is \$6 million voted but \$5 million of that belongs to the programme for Inversiones. Therefore at the present pace, of work, it is considered that

for the roads identified in the first part of Phase 1 the amount of money available for such a programme would be adequate. 5.50 p.m.

I must also point out this, Mr. Speaker, again in dealing with the question of squandermania and the uninformed comments being made about privatisation with specific reference to the Transport Board. Buses used to be privately owned in Barbados. That is nothing new. But when buses were privately operated they did not perform the same services as the publicly owned buses. To privatise buses in Barbados today would be to deprive the public of Barbados of significant services and return to the bad old days when buses travelled only when they were full. At the present time the Transport Board provides a 22 hour a day service and this will be lost forever if those buses were taken over privately. To compare the private operation of public transport with the public operation of private transport is to talk about two completely different services. One operated on the basis of making a profit and the other regards as primary the performance of a public service. The proponents of the privatisation believe that the two things are mutually exclusive. I do not subscribe to this nonsensical proposition at all because the facts of the matter are these that in 1986 the expenditure on deficits for the Transport Board constituted approximately 4.4% of Current Expenditure. Today, expenditure on the deficit of the Transport Board is less than 2% and I would want to ask this question. Is less than 2% of Current Expenditure so monumental a sum of money that the people of Barbados cannot pay for a 22 hour a day bus service? The majority of right thinking Barbadians would give a clear answer that "no, it is not too much".

The Honourable Member for St. Peter also declared that nothing in these Estimates disclosed any new developments. In addition to the rural plantation development, the Honourable Member is bound to have seen for the first time in the preparation of these Estimates a subhead that addresses exclusively the problems of the Scotland District. That is something that I would like to discuss at another time. But for the first time there is a specialized unit within the Ministry of Transport and Works addressing itself to the issue of the development of the road infrastructure in the Scotland District. I would not go into any more of that at this particular time.

But there are other areas in these Estimates which reveal also some thinking which gives more to the hard core poor and the aging. There had been a substantial increase in the vote under the Housing Welfare Programme. No doubt the Honourable Member for Christ Church West will perceive that as evidence of an impending election based upon his experiences with the Barbados Labour Party Government....

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Pardon. I am proud of the fact that I modernized the programme.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Oliver Jackman did not write the report. Norma Roach wrote it.

Mr. Speaker, this substantial increase in the allocation to the Housing Welfare Programme is a restatement of the commitment of the Democratic Labour Party to make more and more resources whenever it is possible available to the hard core poor.

The Head under which a National Youth Service which was a subject for many years of political rhetoric is included in these Estimates and I want to congratulate all of the Ministers involved for providing the wherewithal to make the National Youth Service a reality.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I fully support the Appropriation measures. The projected Revenue of \$1 billion is indicative of a strong economy at work because we can have a poor Government and a strong economy, but we can never have a Government with the kind of financial resources that this Government has or expects to raise without a strong economy. Nihil ex nihil fit - "Out of nothing, nothing comes". Therefore, the vibrance of the revenue position of this Government indicates more clearly than anything else the strength of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more for me to respond to at this time. I shall wait until Heads 42, 50, and 84 come on stream. Once more I support strongly the Estimates as presented here today and congratulate the Prime Minister for a job well done.

Applause.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, as others on this side have spoken before me have indicated and as the days go on and we go into Committee, there will be a greater opportunity afforded to deal more specifically with matters pertaining to this Bill.

What has transpired so far today, Sir, has indicated clearly that Honourable Members on the Opposition side have demonstrated in clear terms Government's inability generally to manage the economy and the clear inability to come up with any enlightened programmes to move the country forward.

I heard someone say earlier that you only need to examine these Estimates carefully and you will see where the lack of these programmes are spelled out. There are cuts in areas where you would have thought there would have been increases and there are increases in areas where there should have been cuts. To get into it in any specific way is

something that you will not allow, Sir, and it is at this point not necessary. It will only encourage some Members on that who would want to make a lot of sotto voce remarks who never get up and make any speeches to make those kinds of comments. He knows who *I* am talking about.

There is one thing that is troubling and has been troubling me for a long time and last year the same thing, happened. You get the Honourable Prime Minister continuing to say that all of the problems with the economy in Barbados now, and as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West said, were caused by the 1986 and 1987 Budgets. What is confusing, and I hope that the Honourable Prime Minister will enlighten me and others who are probably as confused as I am, is that he is the person who said in his 1988 Budget that he did not make any changes. I want you to understand that, Sir. He said that the 1986 and 1987 Budgets are causing all of these problems now, but in the 1988 Budget he said that he did not make any changes. If you will recall, Sir, the Deputy Prime Minister read off a long list of all the things that have remained the same. As I said, you can read a list of nine things that are not very important and the most critical one which is more important than the other nine that were changed would be the one that is causing all of the problems. Nevertheless, you will recall that he went on to read this long list and he kept saying "no change, no change". Now if this is so, Sir, then I do not see how you can blame the 1986 and 1987 Budgets for all of the trouble that we have now today that there is crisis in the economy. So we have to get that one sorted out. We have to be made to understand and the public wants to understand it too what you really mean. So I am hopeful that the Prime Minister will be able to enlighten us if he himself understands what he means.

You come in here, Sir, and you expect that Honourable Members who happen to be Cabinet Ministers at times like this, very important critical times in Barbados, that they would use this opportunity to enlighten us about what they are doing in their Ministries about how that relates to the overall programme. Today, I do not know why I continue to expect more but I do. I listened to the Honourable Minister of Trade, who is not in his seat now and I am sorry, who got up and what's more spent a half an hour in telling us about all kinds of things that he himself does not understand and not one single word about Trade and Industry, not one word. If any Member over there knows of any time he said anything about Trade and Industry, they can correct me. Not a word.

The Honourable Prime Minister continues to say the only way we are going to save ourselves is if we can get some earnings. We have got to get export manufacturing going. We have got to get the Honourable Minister of Tourism to get tourism moving and maybe with the help of God the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will get agriculture going. The productive sector is moving. So the Honourable Minister of Trade came in here today and did

not tell us what part he or his Ministry is going to play in this. He is the only Minister so far who has spoken that is responsible for one of those sectors. Here he has the opportunity to tell us what role he is going to play in assisting these manufacturers, who the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central say must be more creative - this little neck or this little section of the private sector. I know that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central likes to remind me that I must not lot the whole private sector together. I find it difficult but I will try. 6.00 p.m.

This little neck of the private sector, for us to get our creative juices flowing and to bring about all these export earnings they keep talking about, you have to create the right atmosphere. I am yet to hear the Honourable Minister of Trade tell us how this is going to come about.

I look in the Estimates and I see Grants to Public Institution, the institution being the Export Promotion Corporation, \$2.092 million this year, up from \$1.8 million. The Honourable Member for St. James South may have difficulty in understanding what I am talking about, but that does not phase me, I understand why. The point I am making is, Sir, is the \$2.092 million enough? Is it too little? We do not know. The Honourable Minister has not enlightened us. What is the programme? What is that \$2.092 million going to be spent on? How much of it will be spent on administration? How much on promotion? How do you intend to take this money and transform it into creating an atmosphere where these creative juices of the export manufacturer will flow? Is it not bothering anybody on the other side that most of these manufacturers are closing down? Is it not bothering the Minister? He did not address it, Sir. It cannot be bothering him. Is the Minister in any position to enlighten us as to what the programme is from his Ministry for export manufacturing?

It is all well and good, Sir, for Honourable Members to come in here and get up with a lot of theory on what they , think can happen, what should happen and who should be doing something about it and never stop, to tell us what the Government is going to do to encourage it. I did not hear either the Honourable Minister of Trade, who obviously said nothing about it at all, or the Member for Christ Church East Central tell us in a speech that I thought had some very good points, but a major part that was missing that he did not tell us at all, was how he sees any of this coming about.

He told us about expanding the export market base. First of all, Sir, you cannot even start to think about that until you get your domestic base right. I think he will agree with me on that one. I think that is a commonsense thing, because as one other Member said, we do not operate in a vacuum, and the only way we are going to talk even about marginal costs when we talk about export pricing is if you have your domestic base solid. You are not going to get it

solid if you are encouraging everybody else to bring goods in here to be sold cheaper than you can even produce them by the type of taxation mechanisms that were put in place to allow CARICOM goods to be landed here and sold cheaper than we can produce them for. These are the kinds of things you have to address if we are going to solve those kinds of problems.

Let me turn just quickly to a point that was made. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East - again I will not be harsh in here or otherwise on that Honourable Member, because sometimes I myself do not understand what he is saying and I wonder if he is clear himself on what he is trying to say - he talked about the fact that the Jordan Marsh stores and other stores in the United States were closed down pointed to the fact that something is wrong with the American economy. As soon as you see these large stores start to close down, he did not say that Macy's did not close down, none of the other large ones closed down, this particular chain which is owned by the CAMCO Corporation as soon as they close down that is a signal that something has gone wrong with the American economy. It is not a sound argument. You cannot make those kinds of statements and arguments as the Honourable Member is wont to do, because we all watch the same CNN that he watches and we all understand that he did not address the fact that it was a problem with management in the organisation. That would not have suited his argument, he wanted to use some little puerile argument to try to give us the impression that there is something so wrong with the American economy because the Jordan Marsh stores were closed down, that we should be happy in Barbados that maybe Cave Shepherd is still open so there is nothing wrong with the Barbados economy.

I do not know if that is the kind of argument he was trying to put, because I really did not understand it, but I just think that in the position like we are in we must not give off those kinds of messages. I think people understand and do not go for that kind of nonsense any more.

Now, Sir, we have gone on and on over the past year in particular with this whole question of why the four of us over here are in the NDP, whether the Honourable Leader of the Opposition knew what he was doing, who was to be blamed for the malaise that this country finds itself in today. Again today I am baffled by the kinds of statements that people could have made then and what they can say now and give none of us any real explanation as to how they changed their position like this.

Sir, today I listened to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East praising and supporting the Honourable Prime Minister for the way he is handling the affairs of the economy. He praised and supported him for his Budget, he praised and supported him for saving us from this disaster that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition might have carried us into. I recall not so long ago, back in 1987 - and I

know I cannot quote him, Sir, but if I trust my memory - the same Honourable Member was high in praise for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition when he was then Minister of Finance. I remember him saying words like "the Honourable Member brought a scholarly budget". Do you remember those words, Sir? That he was very happy, he had no hesitation in supporting the Budget, that it was the greatest thing that happened to Barbados since sliced bread. Those are my words, "sliced bread".

If he will say to us that he believes that in hindsight he was wrong, one might buy that, but he is not saying that, Sir. He has got himself now, as he usually does, caught up in this confusion that there is no change, but yet there is a change, I liked his budget but now I do not like it, and that Honourable Member will now have to explain to all of us how he is now joining in repudiating the said Manifesto that he himself with me on platforms went waving all over Barbados. There are other matters I joined with him in doing to win an election in 1986 that at another time, and if not in here in another place, because we have to understand that it is not good enough for the Honourable Prime Minister to continue to talk about being honest, giving off the right signals to people, and being the right kind of leaders. I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central expounding those same things, then to have any of us coming in here to mislead not only this Honourable House but the general public. 6.10p.m.

I believe, Sir, that as we continue throughout this week, once again we will clearly establish why we believe this economy is being terribly mismanaged. I believe we will clearly establish why we believe that yes there is squandermania. We will clearly establish why we believe that yes there is tremendous wastage, and we will clearly establish what most of the people in Barbados know, that there is a need for change in Government. Thank you.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, just a very short intervention. I want to point out to this Honourable Chamber that cotton growing and cotton production in this country is nothing new. A cotton factory at Spencers is only another cotton factory. We had a cotton factory in White Park Road which ginned cotton, produced edible oil from cotton seed and produced animal feed from the cotton seed; so this new cotton factory at Spencers is nothing new. I will not say that it is a bad project because anything in agriculture as long as it is handled correctly will be worth while for this country. Let us not forget that Barbados has always been an agricultural country; our base has always been agriculture and it will always be agriculture. Whether we look to the north or whether we look to the south or whether we look to the east or west we will still have to come back to agriculture, and that is why today every right thinking person in this country is upset at the way agriculture has gone.

Now we see here in the Estimates some squandermania with irrigation equipment, Head 74, subhead 22 - Spring Hall Land Lease, and subhead 23 - Rural Development, both Item No. 25. I am submitting to you, Sir, that if we are not going to invest our money in wind-powered equipment, that is squandermania. Electrical equipment, I have said before, is not going to alleviate the burden on the farmers. It costs money to produce, electricity, and as you know, everyday the electric rates go up. Wind power is free. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central pointed out the importance of sun energy and even touched on wind power, and I would be happy to know that this money is spent in wind generators to pump water to irrigate the fields in Barbados. I would not want when I am Minister of Agriculture to have to take these electrical bits and pieces and dump them in the sea.

Here again, Sir, in Agronomic Research, Head 25, subhead 6, Item 25,1 see a price tag here of \$98 500 for a boom sprayer and a spark plug tester. Now I like to be fair, Sir. I would not lay the charge of spark plug tester entirely on the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, because I feel sorry for him. He is ignorant of what a spark plug tester is. When I say ignorant, I mean not having any knowledge of a spark plug tester, not that he is a stupid man. He does not have any knowledge of what a spark plug tester is and what it entails. Now we have some people in this country, Sir, working for the Government and in private enterprise who believe that they can pick up your money and spend it at will on all kinds of stupid, fancy, useless equipment. A spark plug tester is just something pretty. The life of the average spark plug is about 20 000 miles and if you get 10 000 or 15 000 miles, that is good enough, and the time you are going to waste cleaning a half dead plug just does not pay. It makes sense to just dump these things as you are accustomed doing and put a new set in. When you clean these things you are not going to get the power from them as if they were new, and we have been quarrelling about pollution in this country.

It is common knowledge now, Sir, that the internal combustion engine is one of our main polluters today. Whenever the fuel is not properly burned, that is pollution, and in order for us to get a little cleaner air, I would recommend, and it is not too late because I don't think he has purchased it yet, that you forget buying this spark plug tester, just dump the plugs whenever they malfunction and instal new ones. It would be cheaper. I hope that the Minister would accept these kind remarks.

Now I was told by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, my good friend, that these roads that I have been complaining so bitterly about will soon be fixed because they are on the drawing board. I want to know which drawing board. The Minister talked about other roads, but he did not tell me about these two most important roads, because this evening when I am going home, I am afraid that I will come face to face with a Leyland bus at

Kings Corner. I have been promised that this road would have been done at least a year ago. The present Minister was not responsible at that time. I am appealing to you to have it fixed. I feel that many of the Honourable Members on the other side who don't know would feel that I am nit picking about these two roads, but that is not the case. It is very serious and why it is so serious is that I might be the next casualty with a Leyland bus, and I know that Honourable Members over there would not like to be going to a funeral, especially, my funeral, too soon. 6.20 p.m.

As regards the Wilcox Road, it is really a disgrace. This road is used now by everybody. It is an international road, I must say. I have looked at it with the Chief Technical Officer. I made a suggestion to him, he gave me an alternative suggestion and I thought that this is something I would have seen in the Development Plan and I would hope that we would have a look at it and have something done about it because visitors to the Island complain about it. We want to have these people here. The locals complain about it. People who come from the other side of the Island complain about it and I am complaining again about it.

Now, I have noticed, Sir, some more squandermania dealing with the fishing industry but I do not think that at this time I would go into that at length. I would hope as I was promised that we will be debating agriculture tomorrow when I will give that a proper dressing down.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill before this Honourable House. I have sat for a good part of the day and listened to some criticisms from the other side of this House. One heard such criticisms as the inadequacy of these measures.

We also heard of us not addressing the real issues, facing the economy. We heard about run away spending and lack of control in expenditure. What I did not hear addressed clearly is the fact that Government is in a situation where it is providing goods and services. It is involved in the redistribution of wealth and the role that this Appropriation Bill is playing in achieving these objectives for the next financial year.

The question of the raising of revenue and also relating to the planned expenditure, is very important taking into consideration what all in the community are anticipating.

You have a situation where business of all sorts, whether there be in the distributive trade, whether they be in tourism, or even in manufacturing, are expecting concessions of some sort from Government. What they are actually doing is asking Government to guarantee them a

living and, at the same time, they are not prepared to take the traditional business role, at best, in hand by taking certain risks based on a careful study as to how the economy is functioning.

I have heard also criticisms concerning a lack of confidence in how the Government is managing the economy but some of the very people who are making these allegations are some of the very ones who are actually undermining the whole process.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Just as Members from the Other Side generalise, so will I, Mr. Speaker.

I have heard instances of businessmen using over-invoicing as a tactic of transferring large sums of money from Barbados. It is simply done by making orders for goods overseas...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Is the Honourable Member accusing the business community of fraud and illegal activity ?

Aside.

(Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered, by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record).

Mr. SPEAKER: My reason for the little delay is that I have been ruling many Members out of order on points of order. My clear understanding is that when a point of order is made it is usually made in reference to part of the speech made by that Member in which he wants to draw to the Chair that some material part is in breach of the rules of the House.

Clearly, if the Honourable Member is saying that he had made such a comment or similar comment, or something similar of that nature, and he was correcting on a point of order, then I would deem it truly to be a point of order. The comment seems to be a generalised statement made somewhere in which the House does not seem to have record of that particular point. In other words, a Member may interrupt another Member by rising on a point of order when the Member speaking shall resume and simply direct attention to the point of order which he desires to bring to the notice and submit it to the Speaker for his decision.

What is the point of order that you are making and what breach are you referring to?

(Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered expunged from the record by Mr. SPEAKER). 6.30 p.m.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: To continue, Mr. Speaker, sometimes one is a little surprised when some of us spring to the defence of certain activities that we at some stage or the other during our debate might have alluded to. I have heard many statements made while we were discussing tourism. Questions were raised as to why Government could not collect any more Hotel and Restaurant Sales Taxes in spite of the fact that figures showed clearly that we had an increase in visitors and such arguments. There are many, many ways in which we know that some of us would resort to achieve certain objectives.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, there are many ways. I hear about integrity so often and yet when I listen to the other end of the said integrity that is being referred to, I am scared, because it seems as though we blow hot and cold but we relate to the warm when it suits us and the cold likewise.

The basic point I am making here is that we have argued in this House that there has been slippage in foreign exchange. We have been trying to ascertain where it is going. I am explaining to the Honourable Members on the other side what I perceive to be a method in which we are robbed of scarce foreign exchange from time to time. Mr. Speaker, the word robbed might be a bit harsh, but I am referring to our leakage. I am also referring to the fact that there are quite a few businesses that expect assistance one way or the other. How are we going to get assistance to them? How are we going to get something to the manufacturers, the food processors? How are we going to do it?

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Assistance. How are we going to offer you concessions to manufacture your product and get it overseas? It means that we have to take from Peter to help Paul. But now we are taking from Paul to help Peter. I am not referring to the Honourable Member.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we must see these proposals of these Estimates in real terms. We sit and we plan.....

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. I just want to get something cleared up. I have heard through the grape vine....

Mr. SPEAKER: On a point of order, you cannot get anything cleared up.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Is the Honourable Member saying, Sir,....

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am making a point of order. The Honourable Member is saying he is going to take from someone and give to someone else. He is talking about concessions, Sir. I happen to work for a business that has concessions from Government. I just want to know if he is alluding to the fact that they are taking some of the concessions from me. That is all. If I am the Peter that he is talking about.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, I am just explaining that we collect taxes from some and we pass concessions to others. The objective is to keep the wheels of the economy moving. I found it strange that the Honourable Member for the City who is a businessman does not recognize this principle.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Applied to you, Sir. These proposals are based on some serious planning. It is not often that you can achieve all your objectives. Things creep in. You have to make alternative plans. There are variances that take up most of your time in correcting. There are various problems. There could be problems with the weather. There could be problems of markets. There could be problems of many things.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: And even slippage of soils. Therefore one could understand sometimes the reaction from the other side when they observe that the plans that have been made and the changes that have got to be applied. They criticize Government for changing plans. But you are living in a vibrant society with changes and you have got to respond to needs and hence, there will be changes. These proposals were not cast in concrete.

During the next Financial year we will have to respond to the changes that are evident in the environment. Hence because we say that we are going to do X or Y and we do not do it because of a change in circumstances does not necessarily mean that the Government has changed directions. It means that we are coming to terms with the situation and we are serving every citizen of this country as we pledge to do, Mr. Speaker.

When we observe that about 42% of the expenditure will go towards the paying of wages and salaries in the Public Service, one begins to question how much is left for real programmes? We attempt to question this.

Our source of funding is coming from taxation as I have mentioned and there are so many demands on this source, how does one balance it? Are we to give up or are we to refuse the type of special programmes such as welfare housing, the provision of infrastructure, are we supposed to look away from the health services that we are offering or

even are we to ignore our housing problems? All of these impact on the road our economy is taking and hence we have got to address ourselves in these areas.

I would be most happy, Mr. Speaker, if all the needs of the total community could be met without the serious problems that we must encounter. Take for instance, Mr. Speaker, we talk very much about sugar. I heard today about the situation in the north. What bothers me is that years ago, Mr. Speaker, when you had a few sugar factories around the country there was a lot of activity in these areas. At one stage St. Lucy boasted of 2 sugar factories, St. Andrew had 3 and nearly every square foot of land in these areas was cultivated. But of course because of cost constraints and other problems one had to disband these factories with a result that it has become rather costly for small farmers to operate and get a reasonable return and they have abandoned the land. 6.40 p.m.

You counted Government in that at one stage and the Barbados Labour Party Government has boasted that they were very interested in diversification. They made one or two attempts and we are trying to get such a programme going even today. But we want to make sure that the land use policy is such that it brings further return to the country either by way of earning foreign exchange or at least saving foreign exchange. These are the kinds of situations that this Appropriation Bill is addressing.

Mr. Speaker, I have just referred to the sugar situation, the cultivation of canes, how it affected especially the rural areas of Barbados, and the change in technology, etcetera that was forced on us. While I am on sugar, I have been noticing one area that I believe needs some attention. In some of our high rainfall areas, Mr. Speaker, I notice farmers are abandoning sugar and resorting to certain other agricultural activities. We are not aware of the kind of returns that that activity might be bringing, but what we are sure about is that we are losing acres and acres to the cultivation of sugar cane and explaining why we cannot achieve the objectives that the Ministry of Agriculture have been setting.

When one looks at certain plantations that have resorted to the growing of vegetables and some have resorted to the growing of pawpaws, that acreage has been lost to the production of sugar. But yet at the same time I have also been observing that in spite the increase in the growing of vegetables and such fruit our import bill is still very high. It means that although we are growing these things locally it is not getting down to the pockets of the people of this country. We need an explanation for that. So these are areas that we attempt to address in these Estimates making sure that we pursue policies in agriculture and manufacturing to ensure that the earnings coming in for savings will also impact on our social programmes.

There are many other areas I am sure we will address as we proceed with the debating of the various Heads, Mr. Speaker. But what I must say without any reservation is that I was a little saddened today at the way in which we discussed the whole question of the Appropriation Bill and how it is likely to impact on the economy. I would hope as we proceed for the remainder of the week that we tidy our ship. I am sure whereas the Opposition parties would like to make a serious point that they would respect the position that we have addressed many of those problems and they would not be looking for pseudo areas in which to criticize the Bill. With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Applause

SUSPENSION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am at this point moving that this sitting be suspended until 10 o'clock tomorrow, March 13, 1990.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I was going to make a speech but I second that.

The question that the sitting be now suspended until Tuesday, March 13, 1990 at 10.00 a.m. was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting according. 6.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my support to the Appropriation Bill which we are presently discussing in the Second Reading.

Over the years since 1976 I have listened to and read the very many comments of the various people said to be trained in the discipline of Economics. Whenever the Appropriation Bill, or indeed the budgetary proposals are discussed, the various angles from which they come tend to confuse the rank and file of our community to the extent that they do not understand which way to go or how to accept what is said and what is done.

As the representative of a constituency, Sir, that still has much to be done, my position is with the rank and file and with the considerations that are necessary to bring some improvement to the lot of people in that constituency.

The needs and aspirations of the poor and the underprivileged in this country are very pronounced to those of us who keep our ears to the ground and who try in whatever way we can to understand what the problems are that face the poor people. If the amelioration of these conditions, if the improvement to the problems which people face in these constituencies is important to us, then we would wish to recognise that the only way provision can

be made to improve the lot of these people is if Government on the one hand can find the money to provide these services, and the people in general accept the responsibility to share the task which we all have to maintain stability in our community.

The mouthings of the Members of the Opposition have caused me some concern over the period I have had the honour to serve in this Honourable House of Assembly, if only because I could not understand, at some, time the cases they made out for the needs of their constituents, then to choose at specific times to determine that Government is either overspending money or Government is overtaxing the people. All this seemed to be generated towards just making use of time as it is given for whatever reasons they want to portray a position to the general public.

I have to say, Sir, that after listening to the Honourable Member for St. George South I seem to have lost that concern for what they say, because if what he has said is the sum total of the position of the Opposition, it is that their role and their duty is to oppose. If you are sitting opposite to them, then you have to understand that you can listen for their opposition at all costs. I am saying, Sir, that I am grateful to the Honourable Member for St. George South for clearing my view on what the role of the Opposition is, but that also convinces me that my position is really with the poor and the disadvantaged in this country and that my responsibility as it had been given to me when they elected me to Parliament is to fight their cause.

Their cause relates to the very many inadequacies in terms of what is provided for them, and I speak in terms of those senior citizens who find it difficult on their pensions, however we try to improve them, not only to provide for themselves a daily meal but to cope with the arduous task of keeping their residences in a fit state for their own comfort. Government has to find the means of keeping them somewhat more comfortable by way of the repair of their houses and the provision in some cases of total houses for them to live in.

Sir, when I took up the challenge to offer my services to the people of St. Michael North East, the one cry that they had was that the roads in that constituency were in a deplorable state. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas, who is not now in his place, will have it a little bit easier in the Exchange area which is now assigned to his constituency, because since 1971 when I was out there campaigning for a former member of this Parliament I took a responsibility as Campaign Manager to say to those people that the Democratic Labour Party, who was in office then, would make sure that they had a better road than what was obtaining up to late last year in Exchange.

I want to say, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party lost government in 1976. The Barbados Labour Party continued to control the reins of government for a period of

ten years, and in spite of having a Barbados Labour Party representative it was found that when I came to office the people in that constituency still did not have any improvement in the road conditions in Exchange. I am happy and very grateful to the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works that that particular position has been addressed and the people there are now a little more comfortable.

I am sure that while the Honourable Member for the City is making his remarks as he sits - I am sure you will not hear them, Sir, but sometimes you cannot avoid the whispers coming through more loudly than they should - he has a lot to be thankful for to this Government for bringing some relief to the problems that have been existent in the constituency of Bridgetown.

I am saying, Sir, that whatever happens we have to recognise that if improvement must come to the people of our country, then money is the only criterion by which provision can be made. If the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Prime Minister, finds it within his breast to keep faithful to the promises that the party has made to the people of this country, it is only common knowledge that we should expect him to find the wherewithal to do it. Every time you come to Parliament for the provision either by way of loan or by way of taking money from the Consolidated Fund to produce for the people of this country, you hear all shades of opposition as to why you should not be doing what you are doing.

As I said, Sir, my place is with the poor people of this country, and if I am going to be with the poor people of this country I am bound to support the measures which are brought in the interest of the poor people.

A lot is said about the problems that this country faces related to the drug situation in this country. I believe that much of what is said is a matter of lip service. 10.10a.m.

I believe, Sir, that much of what is said is a matter of lip service because, as individuals, it seems to me that we tend to do not as much as we can to help to alleviate the problems that we face as a result of drugs.

I say so, Sir, because I believe that part and parcel of the demand for drugs in this country is that too many of our young people have been having to make do with little or nothing and that parents in this country have been unable for some reason or the other to maintain that stability of family life to give their children better sense of direction.

I am not saying that that is the only aspect of it, but I am saying that it could help. It could go a long way if parents were more freely able to give their children the kind of moral upbringing that would tend to direct them into

safer paths of life, so it is my belief that to start with that a comfortable shelter is required.

We must also be able to lead by example as parents. We must also be able that when we speak to our children they understand what we are saying to them because we ourselves have not been misleading in our examples to them.

I am saying, therefore, Sir, that the fight that we have against drugs not only is a major concern for the Government but that it ought to be a major concern for all of us as individuals and rather than tossing blame from left to right we have to accept our personal responsibilities in making sure that from our end the young people of this country are so guided and so led that they can aspire to the better things of life.

What else can you expect, Sir, when from the very so-called leaders of this country you have a falling standard of morals in so far as the kind of guidance you give to the young people? You cannot expect anything different, Sir.

The news media of this country seem to have taken a distinct responsibility to be the elected opposition to the Democratic Labour Party Government. That is the position I seem to have assessed because at every turn nothing that the Democratic Labour Party does is seen as improvement to the status of our country and much is embraced by the communication media in this country, however foreign it is, to try to destroy in the minds and in the eyes of the people of this country the image of the Democratic Labour Party and what it is doing for the people of this country.

It is clearly obvious, therefore, that the task of the Democratic Labour Party with all its opposition against it is a formidable one and I take my hat off to the Honourable Prime Minister and his Cabinet for sticking to the task as strongly as they do. It is not easy to fight the cause of people with the kind of opposition that this Government , faces.

But let me say, Sir, that as part of that team which went to the people in 1986, I accept it as my responsibility to do whatever I can to help improve the situation that we found in 1986 and that is the position from which I will not be turned.

It is only for me to say, Sir, that if, in the fullness of time, the Democratic Labour Party with its programmes finds itself that it cannot produce all the goods, it is only because the financial constraints will, to some extent, inhibit them and that is why when the Minister of Finance comes to this Parliament for money to do the will of the people, as long as it satisfies me that he is taking care of the needs of the people, I will find myself in support of those calls so that we can at the end of the given period which the

people have given us be able to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

It is, Sir, with these few remarks, that I would like to associate myself with the support of this Bill. As I said the people in my constituency still need improved housing facilities and amenities. We still see a need for further improvement in the environmental atmosphere in this country and I must take my hat off and congratulate the Honourable Minister for the Environment on the very great job he is doing in improving the environmental surroundings of our country. It is a joy to behold as you travel from point to point in this country to see the kind of improvement that there is.

The little travel that I have done, there are a few countries which I hear people speak well of and complimentary remarks of the cleanliness of the places. Today, Sir, I feel that Barbados can find itself in the very happy position to begin to compare itself with many of the countries that we always say that it is a joy to behold the cleanliness of the streets in which we go.

Aside.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition has travelled more than I have and he will know those countries so I do not have to remind him of that, Sir.

I still believe, Sir, that the communication network of roads as they relate to the tenantry roads is something that needs to be further addressed.

When we talk about energy, Sir, the job that is being done by the National Petroleum Corporation in relation to the installation of natural gas is one that, while we still have a need for the continuing programme, tremendous progress has been made in that regard and I have to say that it is the Democratic Labour Party Government over the last 3 1/2 to 4 years that have provided these services for the people of this country. 10:20 a.m.

Educational facilities. Each year we find it necessary and, I would hope, profitable to continue either to maintain the level of funds that we make available to our educational thrust and in some cases to increase it. All this goes to say, Sir, that this Government is not only taking care of today but it is taking care of tomorrow and of the years to come by way of the investment that it is making in the young people of this country.

There has been a lot of talk about the youth service for long years in this country, but it is this administration which seeks to bring the youth service on stream. Can you ask for these improvements, Sir, without making the financial provision for them? We cannot talk about run away

expenditure, we cannot talk, Sir about squandermania in terms of what this Government is doing for the people of this country; you cannot refrain from giving to the people those things which you have promised them and expect them to be satisfied about it. I believe that is the basis on which the Opposition would wish to take issue with us, because if we do not do the things, then they have all grounds and all right to go and say to the people, they promised you this but they did not do it. I must say, Sir, that I still accept that my position is with the promises we made to the people of this country and support for the Minister of Finance in his implementation of these promises.

There has also been a lot of talk about agriculture and its failures. Nobody talks about its successes, but certainly I do not believe that anyone who is thinking seriously will lay a charge that the Democratic Labour Party is not making an effort to improve the status of agriculture. In this context, Sir, I see the provision of the agro-processing project as complementary to the improvement of agriculture in this country....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, does the Honourable Member consider the reduction in sugar output to just over 60 000 tonnes a year an improvement?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member knows that could not be a point of order.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that I see the agro-processing project as being so complementary to our agricultural thrust and being capable not only of improving our export potential, but certainly being able to reduce our dependency on imports. I think, Sir, that all these are areas in which the Democratic Labour Party has demonstrated its ability to grapple with the problems which we have in our country.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West in his contribution to the debate found it worthwhile to note that funds were made available for the Electoral and Boundaries Commission which he felt indicated that elections were this year. Now it is all right to make those kinds of statements, but when you make an assessment and you analyse what he has said and you take the position that elections are constitutionally due in this country in 1991, and funds are needed to put the election machinery in gear....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, I believe there is a Standing Order which indicates that an Honourable Member should not mislead this Honourable House. Elections are not constitutionally due in this financial year under discussion.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, if I may continue, my point is that general elections are constitutionally due in 1991, and therefore any provision to

put the electoral machinery in place must be provided before 1991 unless you want to accept the charge, Sir, of being callous in relation to the electoral process in this country. So when you make the charge that this money is part of, as I understood it, the electioneering stunts, then I want to say that I would not have expected that to have come from the Honourable Member.

The same Honourable Member, Sir, took the Government to task in relation to some point he made previous about attacks on the development of the land that is adjacent to the ABC Highway. In the same breath he said that improvement to roads in the tenancies should not permit the Government to tax the people and that the Barbados Labour Party would phase out the land tax requirement

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation, the Honourable Member is obviously completely misunderstanding my speech or the purport of my speech, and perhaps I should very briefly say what I said. I said firstly that if you looked at the system of taxation, you had to use the Land Development Duty Act in order to take back from those persons who were making tremendous capital gains on land which abut and abounded the ABC highway, and those gains were directly attributed in part to construction of that highway. That is the first point I made. And therefore rather than merely extracting \$170 000, the Government should, go for a greater amount. In relation to the tenancies, I said that it was difficult for any Government to continue to tax persons on land in so far as they have done an improvement on the land. In the case of the former there is no improvement done by the person. In the case of the latter there is, and there is a clear distinction.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I don't think that I have misunderstood the Honourable Member, Sir, because I have no problem with accepting the concept of the development tax on the land adjacent to the highway. But what I do not understand, Sir, is how you could in the same breath give people the idea that you are calling on all taxpayers to provide money to improve the circumstances in which they live and then say you don't want them to make a contribution to it. That is the only point I am making, and I do not think that people should be misled by the statements that we make in regard to what their future should be. That is my only position on that, Sir.

The Honourable Member for Bridgetown made mention of a situation where Government is allowing produce from CARICOM countries to come into this country and be sold cheaper than goods that are produced in this country. I do not know by what criteria he can expect Government to make good that situation. If people can produce goods in a country and get them transported to Barbados and they can still reach the consumer in Barbados cheaper than the local product is reaching, then I believe that something is wrong in the structure of the local

manufacturing sector. I am all for the improvement of the business people and the young manufacturing community in this country, but I have one or two misgivings also, Sir, as far as the manufacturing sector in Barbados is concerned, in terms of their commitment to producing a product of quality for the people of this country, if they want the kind of protection that they ask for. 10.30 a.m.

I am sure, Sir,, it may suit some of the Honourable Members to misunderstand what I say or misinterpret what I say. But what I am saying is that there is a call for improvement in the quality that Barbados' producers are making and I believe it is in good stead for us to encourage our manufacturers to improve the quality of the product that they are producing for consumption in this country. There is nothing wrong with that. If you call that licking the manufacturers then I stand on that side, Sir.

I feel therefore, Sir, that we have a particular responsibility as leaders in this country, be it political, religious or what have you, Sir, to give to our people the kind of perspective that they can be part and parcel of the developmental thrust in this country. If we can go along that road, Sir, I believe that we would have made our valuable contributions to the people of this country.

Thank you, Sir. .

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I want to make this contribution. It seems as though the Opposition parties are not intent on debating the details of the Estimates and therefore I would have to take this opportunity to respond or to indicate where the monies in my Ministry have been spent, how they have been spent and where we intend to spend them because it might be the only opportunity during this week for me to do that.

However, more particularly, I want to enter this debate to look at the accusation levelled against this Government on the question of squandermania. I believe that it is still a good debate tactic to define or describe words in a topic. If I were to ask the question, what is squandermania, the first thing I would like to do is to indicate what I understand by squandermania because we might be speaking about different things. As I understand it, squandermania obviously comes from the verb "to squander" which means to waste or to spend extravagantly and when we are talking about money then it would mean that we are talking about wasting profusely.

This House controls expenditure and if the supervision of expenditure is to be effective this House must ensure:

1. that the expenditure is desirable,
2. that it is economic in the sense that it is not wasteful, and

3. that it is in accordance with the authority given. So the House has that type of control.

As far as desirability is concerned, my understanding is that the House has some control only after the electorate has decided on the party that they want to run the affairs of this country. As far as desirability is concerned, there has to be a precondition that first of all, the parties wanting to run the affairs of this country would have to go to the people, the electorate, put out their Manifesto and their promises and come back here.

As far as the economics of the situation is concerned, my understanding again is that the original intention of the Estimates was to enable Parliament to see that Government expenditure was not wasteful. So that the Estimates are given in detail. They give detailed information. As a matter of fact they are broken down into heads, votes, items. But it goes further. The Estimates as we see in these books indicate also what monies were spent in the previous year so that we can make a comparison between, let us say, 1989-90 and 1990-91.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member must not mislead the House. The Estimates do not show what monies were spent in the previous Financial Year. It shows what monies were voted. And therefore, Sir, the point that the Honourable Member is making is wrong. He is going to mislead the House, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the Estimates even show what monies were voted for this year 1989-90 so that you can make a comparison with what is intended to be spent for the next Financial Year. So that in looking at them one could make a comparison.

But it goes further than that. I say this because yesterday I heard an Honourable Member try to indicate to the Minister of Trade that he did not say anything about trade. He did not seem to understand that the Appropriation Bill is looked at in a macrosense and that the Estimates are designed for detail, and if Members want the detail, they have to wait until the Heads come to get the detail. Some people do not understand these things. Some people do not understand anything. So it is no problem.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: The Estimates are then subject to the scrutiny after they leave the Ministries Do not stop them, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have a duty to perform. Honourable Members know very well how to conduct themselves.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Some people make a greater contribution that way, in a sense, than when they stand so let them make the asides. I do not call any names.

I was saying that after the Estimates leave the Ministries, they then go to the Ministry of Finance for greater scrutiny and you have to answer or explain to the Ministry of Finance or justify your reason for spending.

I do not understand the accusation of squandermania. If Members want to suggest that the monies are not spent in the best way considering the resources of the country, then one can discuss that. That is open to debate.

We in this party criticized the spending of \$100 million or thereabouts for the building of the Central Bank. We did not say it was squandermania. We felt that the money was badly spent. We said that because we knew that grass was imported from Venezuela to be planted around the bank. We know that if you go and walk on the pavement that all the chips were imported from overseas.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not permit Honourable Members to interrupt like that.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: We criticized it on that basis. We felt that the bank could have been built or a good enough bank could have been built for Barbados for \$20 million. In 1974 when this Government was in office, approaches were made to have the bank built for \$20 million. We said no, you could build it for \$5 million, a good enough bank. If one were to compare that building with the ICB building, one would have some indication of what we are talking about. 10.40 a.m.

So we are saying that it was not the best use of the limited financial resources of this country. We did not call that squandermania, but what I am saying is this. If persons who formerly worked at the Central Bank want to enter the political domain, let them come. I think we had better warn them that if they attack us then sometime down the road they must expect to be answered. I heard the Minister of Transport and Works indicate that yesterday. I am of the same view. So when we are talking we have to be very careful. Former members of the Central Bank spoke about run-away expenditure. It was not run-away expenditure when they spent \$100 million on the Central Bank. It was proper expenditure as far as they were concerned. So we have to be very careful. Possibly the Honourable Member for St. Peter will be able to tell us if the money spent at the Ministry of Agriculture at Graeme Hall was squandermania or not. We are saying that it was not the best use of the financial resources of this country. About \$2 million or \$3 million was spent on a solar air-conditioning unit that never worked.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: You know we have got to be careful and we can justify on this side the monies that we have spent. The Barbados Labour Party Administration when we built the Community College criticized us - squandermania. Today, the college is the salvation of many a youngster in this country. You cannot get a place in the Community College. If you look at the records, you will see the increasing number of scholarships which are coming from the Community College and I would hate to think of what would have happened if the Community College had not been built there. Of course, this criticism is at the present moment of the examination centre and next thing Ilaro Court. Only time will tell. If you have not got foresight, we do not expect you to see and understand these things.

So that I am yet to understand the discussion on squandermania. I would like them to bring examples. Because out of all of the talk about squandermania and run-away expenditure I have not heard them say yet what they mean or in which areas. I believe if you bring accusations then you must bring examples to prove the point. I have not heard one yet and I am listening carefully. I sit quietly and listen. I want to indicate to this House, Mr. Speaker, what we found when we came into office and I would like to ask the Barbados Labour Party another question. They queried the salaries paid to the people at CARSICOT. We are only the shareholders in CARSICOT. We do not control CARSICOT. But in the Ministry for which I have the responsibility a Head of Department was getting \$375.00 per day. We stopped it. I have not heard the Leader of the Minority Opposition discuss that and \$375.00 per day is \$11,000 per month plus entertainment, travelling, and the ability to do your own work on the side if you want to.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Not by the House - by your Minister of Finance who approved the \$375.00 per day.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: It came out of the Government. These are the things that we have to talk about when we are talking. I am bringing examples. I want the other side to bring the examples so we can see.

I will turn specifically to Departments under the Ministry. I can talk about Community Development in which when we came in there were centres not completed and all the money was paid for the centres.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems to me that some Members are tired sitting in the Chamber and would like to be relieved. I will certainly do it before the end of session. I

will no longer repeat my request. So if you are tired do it before I do.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I do not hear the *Asides*.

As I was saying, I can turn more specifically to Departments within the Ministry and look at Community Centres for example - Bush Hall, Yard Gap - all the money paid. Station Hill up by District "A" Police Station - all the money paid. We had to turn around and then complete them possibly costing another \$100,000 to complete the two.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: The money was paid to the contractor before the job was completed. That is what I am saying. By the Barbados Labour Party Administration. It might be bad, yes, but I am not saying squandermania. It could have been bad judgment. What I am saying is that we have had to pay for those two Community Centres. I am talking about run-away expenditure you know, because if you have to pay for something twice...

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I could bring the documents. Mr. Speaker, I can share the documents and evidence with my friend from St. Peter if he wants to see them. We even wrote the contractors to complete. We had meetings with them and begged them and they refused. We realized that they were men of straw. It was pointless to put them in court because we would waste money on legal fees. So that has gone through the eddoes. It is pointless running after them. They have no money. So we have put them in place.

While I am on Community Development, let me say this as well. We have found that all the Community Development Centres were not maintained and I feel that that is bad spending of money because you must have some , programme of preventative maintenance in a system. What we are finding now and the Member for St. Thomas asked a question about building new buildings - it is pointless building new buildings if the ones in existence are falling down. You have to repair them. We have found that no Community Centre will cost less than \$50,000. As a matter of fact, I will have to revise that Estimate now. No Community Centre is going to cost less than \$75,000 to repair, because once you go in and you start to repair you find that you are in trouble. Gall Hill, for example, and the Member for St. John can tell you, we voted I think \$80,000. It is going to cost \$120,000 to repair now because it has now been discovered that the floor is no good. Belleplaine - the Member for St. Andrew.....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Rules of the House, Sir, says that.....

Mr. SPEAKER: What has the Honourable Member risen on?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. This Member, Sir, is speaking in very broad terms. I am a member of the Barbados Labour Party. I worked in the Ministry of Finance, Sir, before 1986. He is making charges about financial irregularities on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party of which I was a member, Sir, and served in the Ministry of Finance before 1986. As regards, Sir, the awards of contracts at the Ministry of public funds, I am asking the Honourable Member, Sir, if there is anything specific to say, please kindly give the House the facts rather than deal in these generalities, Mr. Speaker. Let everything, Sir, hang out. He is imputing improper motives.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is beyond the point of order now. You cannot dictate to a Member how he must speak and deliver his speech. The Rules of the House are very specific of how that Member must speak. If the Honourable Member is offended in any way by any of the speech and it contravenes any of the Standing Orders, then I will hear the point of order the Honourable Member has risen on.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir....
10.50 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of order you have risen on?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Rule 28 subsection 7. The Honourable Member is imputing that the Barbados Labour Party of whom I am a member...

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: that the Barbados Labour Party when we were in Government before 1986, Sir, allowed people to misuse funds in an irregular way.

Mr. SPEAKER: For the Honourable Member's benefit, there is no Barbados Labour Party in this House. All Honourable Members in here are members of constituencies, and therefore you are the Honourable Member for the constituency of St. Peter, and the rule will have to apply to you and not the Barbados Labour Party or any party. That is no point of order.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member made a charge against the previous administration of which I was a part.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I will continue. I have the documents here, Mr. Speaker, and at the appropriate time I will do what I have to do.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, we were talking about runaway expenditure and I was explaining what had to happen when we came into office and the situation with one department where the buildings were so dilapidated that we could not erect more buildings, but had to take the money and spend, and once you are repairing buildings you cannot really give an accurate estimate of the cost of repairs. In the case of Gall Hill it is \$20 000 more, in the case of Belleplaine it is about \$30 000 more. We are now negotiating for the repair of Grazettes. It is costing \$164 000 to repair it because of the fact that it was left unrepaired for so many years. Incidentally, for the information of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the community centre at Speightstown is so bad that it has to be demolished altogether. If he was taking care of his constituency, he would not have allowed the community centre in his constituency to have reached such a stage that now it is of no use. Pay attention to your constituency and you will see what is happening.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: At one time there was a Member who started with 500 votes and still could not win, so it is no problem. As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, we are very cautious with spending because we have taken a decision in the Ministry that until we get all of these buildings in the Community Development and all departments of the Ministry back in shape, we will not build any new ones, because it is foolishness to build new buildings and then the others are falling down. So we are putting them back in shape. There have been ten years of total neglect. What we have done is to put in place a Buildings Officer and that person is going from building to building and testing them and coming back, and on a basis of priority we are repairing.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading this House by claiming that there were ten years of neglect of maintenance of buildings within the Ministry that he now occupies. The Honourable Member should read the Minutes plus the Auditor General's reports and he would see that expenditure took place on maintenance of Government buildings. I have already in this House pointed out in various Ministries where the appropriation voted by this Government has not exceeded the appropriation voted under the Barbados Labour Party. He must not mislead.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, that makes it worse, because if the money was spent on the buildings, how is it that all of them are bad? I indicated in here that money was paid to people to build buildings and they were not built, so paying money does not in itself prove anything.

Mr. SPEAKER ordered that certain words spoken by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West be struck from the record.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am very grateful to the civil servants, because had not for them I would not be in the position to give all this information today; so I am grateful to them, a hard-working, dedicated and committed set of people. I do not know if the other side has a quarrel with the civil servants. I have never had one with them, and you will know, Mr. Speaker, every time I have spoken in a debate in here ...

Mr. SPEAKER ordered that certain words spoken by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West be struck from the record.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have not even scratched the surface yet.

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

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to put all jokes aside, I think we should be very serious.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am going to read the Standing Order that when a Member is speaking the House shall be silent. Also I have recognised as a growing disrespect that when the Chair is speaking Members still continue to speak. I am tempted to ask any Honourable Member who speaks while I interrupt to leave the Chamber. I think I shall start my procession in another few moments.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I know that for all the interruptions you will give me back the time, so I am very patient with the interruptions. But I was indicating to this Honourable House the measures that we have taken in my Ministry and indeed in other Ministries to make sure that the money is well spent, and rather than having squandermania, there is no run away expenditure.

Incidentally we spent in all the constituencies, St. Peter, Christ Church West. We do not discriminate. St. Michael West is well taken care of now. I would like to say as well that under the Child Care Board, for example, and I am giving examples of where we have had to look at our expenditure, we have not been able to build one more Child Care Board Day Nursery because we have found that we have spent so far SI 3/4 million in trying to put right the dilapidation in the properties of the Child Care Board. Now let me give some indication of what I am talking about. 11.00a.m.

When we came into office we found that at Bagatelle, for example, the Child Care Board Day Care Centre there was extended under the last administration and in the

middle of the building was the well and that the roof was no more than 5 1/2 to 6 ft. high, most uncomfortable.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: No. Six Roads is the same way. My good friend here, the Minister for Tourism would tell you that we had to take off that roof, dig a new well so you are spending money twice. Sayers Court is the same thing.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: At Bagatelle two houses were joined under the Barbados Labour Party but we have had to do these repairs.

The St. George Day Care Centre - they just had to lift the roof. We have had to spend \$1.34 million in bringing these properties back into good condition.

Again, I would like the Oppositions to indicate to the good people of this country what they mean by run away expenditure.

We are now in the process of renovating an office next to the Welfare Department so that we can house administration staff from the Child Care Board so that they would be more comfortable.

In the Welfare Department we have had to renovate Horse Hill. We have had to abandon the one at Gall Hill, St. John and renovate a bath, \$45 000 to put the Welfare Officer in.

We have to abandon the one at Belleplaine and build a new one. We are now renovating the one at Christ Church so that we can see where the money is being spent and it is my view that unless employees are comfortable in their work place they cannot produce and my first commitment is . to the people who work with me to make them comfortable and happy and that is what we are doing..

I want to look at some of the programmes we are putting in place and I would like to say that we are doing this after careful consideration.

There is a lot of talk in this country about our young people. Personally, I do not see anything wrong with the young people. Probably, I am too close to them but they are no different to any young people of any other age. They just need guidance, a little patience and tolerance.

You will notice that we have started our summer camp programme and we have about 600 young people who work in those programmes to give them a sense of responsibility, a sense of self confidence and high self-esteem. They run

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the camps, they plan the camps and they do exceptionally well.

Next month at Easter, in a few weeks time, we will be holding two one week programmes for over 400 young people who will be selected by the guidance counsellors at schools, youngsters who have not had a job since leaving school over the last three years and who they believe, in dealing with them, that they have low self-esteem.

The idea of the programme which is tripartite, incidentally, the unions are playing their part. I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central will be one of the lecturers/tutors in that programme. The Employers Confederation and the Government are working with it and we hope that at the end of the programme those youngsters who do not think too highly of themselves will be able to apply for the jobs, etc.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that I was able to explain some of what we are doing to indicate to this House and to the country that this Government is most careful with the money which has been allocated and which has been collected from the people of this country to spend on their behalf.

I thank you.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, during the course of the presentation by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, he made some accusations against the government which were clearly not founded in fact. The Honourable Member for St. James South dealt with the issue of squandermania in relation to certain aspects of his portfolio.

The significant thing about this statement of the Leader of the Opposition was that he talked about squandermania in vague terms without identifying in any particular area what aspect of the Estimates which we have before us demonstrate and support this charge of squandermania. It was a typical wide statement by the Leader of the Opposition as is so characteristic in so many of his statements without particularising.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not believe, Sir, that the Attorney General of Barbados who is ultimately the legal officer to this Honourable House and legal officer to advise all of us in our capacities as Members of Parliament should rise in this Honourable House and seek to castigate a Member for adhering scrupulously to the rules of the House in respect of a second reading speech addressing matters of principles rather than details.

I would like to suggest that the Honourable Member is completely out of order, that he is misleading the House and is failing in his duty as Attorney General in offering proper example and advice to Members of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: A very long point of order which seems not to be a point of order at all. Nonetheless, I want to be a little bit more specific. I believe that points of order have been made here from time to time without close adherence to Standing Order No. 32.

It talks about no preamble or anything of the sort. It simply says "by rising to a point of order, when the Member speaking shall resume his seat and the Member interrupting shall simply" - I think we all understand the word "simply" - "direct attention to the point of order and then submit it for my decision."

The problem we are having here is that many Members are not simply directing the point of order neither are they waiting for a decision. My view is that I will not permit Second Reading speeches again to be used as a point of order so I am going to warn Members very early. If you make a point of order, state it clearly and up front.

Continue.
11.10a.m.

Hon. M. A. KING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it would be a very unusual debating technique if one could allege squandermania, no confidence; if one could allege a whole mass of things against another person and not give particulars and then say, well to give particulars would be to breach the Rules. It would be rather unusual. But the Honourable Member for Christ Church East showed up his Leader because he attempted to give an illustration of squandermania when he said that we were wasting money buying spark plug testers for instance for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: He was giving a particular. The Honourable Member, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has any special privilege either.

Hon. M. A. KING: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition did not interrupt the Honourable Member for Christ Church East when he sought to give this Honourable House particulars of how this Government was indulging in squandermania in buying a sparkplug tester for the Ministry of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East made the point that it would be better after the spark plugs have been used for some time to throw them away rather than to waste money buying a tester. Whether you like it or not is a point that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East made.

So that since the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central just made a wild statement about squandermania without giving any particulars in relation to that statement, I think this Honourable House can dismiss that charge of squandermania without even paying much more attention. Until the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is prepared to give details in relation to these Estimates as to how the Government is guilty of squandermania, I think we should dismiss his allegations in this regard out of hand.

He made the usual statements about integrity of the National Democratic Party. We have no quarrel about making statements about integrity. But the whole point about that is that the Honourable Member is making a statement which embraces the whole of his party. But yet there are areas clearly where he has no control over his party members on the issue of integrity because some of them walk about making the wildest possible statements in relation to all kinds of issues. On platforms the Honourable Member talked about the Democratic Labour Party providing a platform for racism. Absolute nonsense.

But the Honourable Member has no difficulty when the National Democratic Party provides a platform for all sorts of defamatory statements being made by some of its members. At one instance for instance, you had one member of the National Democratic Party in dealing with the issue of drugs (and that is one of the issues which I will be dealing with this morning), saying that this Government was incapable of dealing with the issue of drugs because the families of all the members of the Democratic Labour Party are involved in drugs. That is a wild statement, Mr. Speaker. It is a wild statement, it is a reckless statement

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I state categorically that one of the members of the National Democratic Party made that statement. I have heard the tape. I have heard his voice. It was reported in the newspaper and there has been no retraction or denial of it, so far.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, in a ruling earlier this morning you told me that there are no parties in here, Sir. If the Member is referring to a Member of this House, let him call that Member by name. Let us be fair in the applications of the Rules of this House, Sir.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the Honourable Member for St. Peter has risen to interrupt about.

Mr. SPEAKER: You do not have to know because it is not so relevant to the Rules of this House.

Hon. M. A. KING: But it is interrupting me, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not refer to any Member of this House which he knows. The Honourable Member is inviting me, Mr. Speaker, and inviting you to break the Rules of this House because I have not given you notice of anybody's name and he wants me to call somebody's name in breach of the Rules of this House. That is what the Honourable Member for St. Peter wants me to do. Have you no regard for the Rules of this House?

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas were ordered, by Mr. SPEAKER, to be expunged from the Record.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central may continue.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point or order, Sir. I wish to put it as simply as I possibly can, the Honourable Member is quoting out of context a statement allegedly made on the platforms of the National Democratic Party.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Now.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: and I would certainly.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The point I want to make is this. You are saying that the Honpurable Member had said something about the National Democratic Party. As far as the Rules of this House are concerned, we are particularly concerned with the Members. The Rules are here to control, protect and help the Members. If the Honourable Member is saying that he is being accused, then I will hear him. If the Honourable Member is saying that he is being accused by the Honourable Member, I would listen to what he is saying. 11.20a.m.

As far as the Rules of this House are concerned, we are particularly concerned with the Members. The Rules are here to control, protect, and help the Members. If the Honorable Member is saying that he is being accused, then I will hear him.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Honourable Member is saying that he is being accused by the Honourable Member, I will listen to what he is saying.

At this point certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were asked to be expunged from the record by Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am going to say it again. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I have always recognized your appreciation for the Chair. I hope that you

will maintain that throughout this debate. I am very anxious to help if people want to go out before the time.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would not put you out. It is the Rules of the House that will do that. Again, I am appealing to Honourable Members to control your excitement in the debate and let us get on. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I really do not understand what all the problem is. I made a statement that on the National Democratic Party that one of their speakers, not a member of this House, made a statement saying that the Democratic Labour Party cannot deal with the drug problem in this country because the families of all members of the Democratic Labour Party are involved in drugs.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Out of what context? The man made the statement and I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that it is a wild, reckless, irresponsible, untrue and wicked statement in which he has sought to slander the families of all the members of the Democratic Labour Party which includes the Members of this Honourable House. I resent a statement of that kind made by anybody in relation to my family and in relation to the families of my colleagues. Do you expect me to sit down here and sit silent while you curse my wife and children?

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: I did not say you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would just ask the Honourable Member to come back on course.

Hon. M. A. KING: All I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that when we are making charges about lack of integrity and when we are talking about integrity we cover a wide span and we have to look at it all.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Now the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has made the point in talking about the lack of confidence in the Government where he talks about drugs. He talks about the problems of drug abuse in this country. Let me be the first to admit, Mr. Speaker, there is a problem of drug abuse in this country. There is a problem of drug abuse in practically every country of the world and anyone of us who denies that would be denying reality.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, on a point of elucidation. I gave an example, Sir, when I spoke yesterday of one of the

causes of the lack of confidence is the way in which the matter relating to the diplomatic pouch was handled. I was particular to say that if it was handled in a particular way by the Government then I think people would have confidence in the Government. In contrast, I gave an example of how the matter of pornography in the House was handled. That is what I said. Okay.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member did speak about the diplomatic bag. He spoke also about the prison. Some weeks ago in his presentation in this Honourable House - I think it was the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Member for the City as well - he made some allegations about drug trafficking in the prison. Was it you who made it? The Leader of the Opposition. The Honourable Member for the City may have asked a question which he accused me subsequently of not answering.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Honourable Member for the City for not answering his question, but I did not deliberately refuse to answer. It was just in the heat of debate that sometimes you do not remember to deal with all the issues which have been raised. So that I did not respond directly to the Honourable Member for the City nor did I comment on the allegation of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central about drug trafficking in the prison. But I will respond to that statement today.

I have got into the habit of not responding to anything impulsively because you never know what is happening around you from day to day. A lot of things happen sometimes which you get to know of subsequently. So one does not need to be impulsive in making responses but to check the facts out to see what is the position and then give a considered response. So I did check with the Superintendent of Prison on the allegation about wild drug trafficking in the prison and the Superintendent of Prison assures me the statement is grossly excessive and that there is no drug trafficking in the prison. I heard the Superintendent of Prison on the radio this morning making a statement in regard to that matter and underscored the point that there was no drug trafficking in the prison. Drugs at times do get into the prison. That is so.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Because drugs may get into prison, that does not mean there is drug trafficking as such. Look, from time to time people visit the prison. Persons visit their relatives in prison. From time to time the Superintendent does carry out searches. In fact, he assures me that he carries out daily searches in the prison and from time to time he turns up one or two bits of marijuana here and there in lockers. For instance, recently there was a report of a

prisoner who had been taken out in the prison van to buy a piece of equipment by a Prison Officer.
11.30a.m.

I do not want to say too much about the matter, but this was published in the Press. They went to pick up a part and on the way back to the prison the van passed through Chapman Lane, the prisoner had a bit of marijuana which was discovered in the prison after he got back there. The Prison Officer stopped on the way - the Prison Officer's case is still being dealt with, that is not completed, the Prison Officer is still charged, he was driving the prison van in which the prisoner was - he passed through Chapman Lane, the van stopped, somebody passed some marijuana into the prison van.....

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: Chapman Lane.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I apologise. In repeating Chapman Lane I really had no ulterior motive. The point was that it was the search in the prison which eventually turned that up after the Police had been in touch with the Prison Officers.

Mr. Speaker, when I spoke at the Prison some time in 1986 to a Prison Officers' Association meeting, some comments which I made there in respect of which some Members are gloating now, I made the point to the Prison Officers that I hoped that I did not see Prison Officers, like people in other areas, involved in drug trafficking, or in peddling drugs, or being responsible for bringing drugs into the Prison. I went on to make the point that if Prison Officers, Police Officers, Customs Officers and other public servants become ensnared in the drug traffickers' net, there was no way that we were going to be able successfully to deal with the problem of interdicting, of wiping out illegal narcotic drug use from our society. I still feel that way, because if the agencies which have responsibility for dealing with the problem, including the Prisons, the Police and Customs and all others, become corrupted by drug trafficking, then the country is really at a loss.

There have been other instances where Prison Officers have been involved in indiscretions.

Certain remarks made by the Hon. M. A. KING were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Hon. M. A. KING: The point I am making is that we have to be careful with the institutions we have. Politicians do not supervise these institutions day by day, the Heads of the institutions do not supervise them day by day. In many cases you do not know what is going on, the Heads of Departments in a lot of cases do not know what is going on

by the people at the lower rungs of the ladder. I do not know where the Leader of the Opposition gets his information from.

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

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the intervention by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central underscores a point which I wish to highlight, that you have to be careful about information which you get. He said he gets information from former inmates and Prison Officers. You may get information from all sorts of persons, but one of the things which you have to understand is that sometimes and on a lot of occasions your information can be coloured by virtue of a particular angle that someone wants to push. I am not going to go much further than that.

I get all sorts of reports too. I talk to Prison Officers, I talk to prisoners as well, and I get a lot of information which I cannot recklessly go and talk about, because I have to be sure that the information.....

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: You are sure because it may be convenient for you to be sure about it. You may know of a Prison Officer who does some extra work for a very strong NDP supporter, who may have an axe to grind. I say you may know. You may not know.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I know of no such Prison Officer. 11.40a.m.

Hon. M. A. KING: I have a lot of information which I say I am very guarded in the way in which I use it. I don't walk about calling people's names and spreading all sorts of things. You want me to call names now, but I am not going to call them. I will tell you quietly when the meeting is over, and I will tell the Honourable Leader of the Opposition why the information should be coloured. The point I am making is that in a whole lot of institutions you have problem areas. You have problems with prison officers; they are not all bad. You have one or two bad police officers, but the point is that when you hear bad things about one or two persons in disciplined organisations, they tend to mess up the name of the whole institution, and that happens. It happens with the prison officers, it happens to the police force, it happens wherever your turn. When you get one or two bad eggs, they mess up the reputation. The vast majority of them are good solid citizens, but the one or two bad eggs which you get tend to mess everything up, and you get so much talk about the prison these days, even in this morning's paper, Mr. Speaker, where you have a magistrate pronouncing on the Superintendent based on the word of a prisoner. A prisoner is a person, yes, but put it this way, I would be loathe - I am

talking about me, I can't talk about anybody else - I would be loathe to act on the word of a prisoner who is a self-confessed cocaine addict, who has cocaine outside and who says that he doesn't want to go into prison because he can get cocaine free in there. If he is a cocaine addict and he is getting so much cocaine outside, he should be glad to get in prison to get cocaine freely. That is the point I am making.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: I don't have to go over it. I have said it already. I have said that I would be loathe to make a judgment about the administration of the Prison being slack based on the evidence of a person like that. You might form a judgment based on that; that is your business.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, is the Honourable Member saying that he can form a judgment based on what the Superintendent said, that there is no drug trafficking in the Prisons?

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I base my judgments on what I choose to base them on. If anybody wants to base their judgment on other facts and factors, that is their business. I am going to base mine on what I choose to. I am making the point, Mr. Speaker, that in dealing with the drug problem in Barbados, because we do have a drug problem, we have to approach this problem on the basis of a national consensus.

I know the Barbados Labour Party spokesman has already said that there is no cooperation or collaboration from them, but I am saying that if the problem is to be addressed successfully, it has to be approached from the point of view of a national consensus from all persons of goodwill in the society including not only politicians, but including people outside of politics including all people in this country who want to see the drug problem dealt with and beaten. We have clearly spent a lot of time putting systems into place. Why I make the point, Mr. Speaker, that it has to be dealt with as a national issue is this; we may play politics with it from time to time, but you sow the wind as they say and you reap the whirlwind. You will find that the problems of drug abuse which existed years back will manifest themselves later and later. A lot of the drug abuse, and this I am given on good scientific evidence, which manifests itself today in people being addicts and so forth are of people who may have started on marijuana several years ago, who may have graduated to cocaine, and who ended up eventually being addicts, and I think the evidence has tended to disclose that nearly 100 per cent of the cocaine addicts who are probably now in hospitals are persons who would have once started on marijuana several years ago but would have graduated into cocaine as time went by. They don't become addicts overnight and get into the hospital overnight. So the point I am making is that this issue has to be addressed as a continuing issue, as a long term issue. I don't care which political party gets into

office, it is an issue which has to be dealt with on a consensus basis.

Let us be frank. When we were in Opposition there was a perception, and this is the point which I made in that debate which took place in this House, there was a perception in the public mind that Government was not doing all that it should be doing to deal with the problem.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, the perception was created and fed and fuelled by the Democratic Labour Party. When I ordered the ship Mary Gloria to be arrested by the Americans, on the following Sunday Errol Barrow wrote a letter abusing me for ceding jurisdiction to the Americans. I have it. There was a letter from Errol Walton Barrow. What are you talking about?

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I was making the point that our method of approach in dealing with the problem has been to set up what we called an Anti-narcotics Committee which is working closely with the private sector organisations in developing and supporting programmes which are designed to encourage persons of high risk to avoid becoming entrapped in drugs, and you know, we adopt a number of methods of dealing with the problem. We had a national forum the other day which was one of the activities which we used to sensitise the public on the issue, and what we are in essence doing is providing a balanced comprehensive three-pronged attack to the problem of drugs through law enforcement. Some strong legislation will be coming to the House shortly which will deal with the problem of chasing, freezing and seizing the assets of convicted drug offenders after the appropriate procedures have been gone through. We originally had circulated some interim amendment to the Narcotic Drugs Act, but what we have done is to do away with the concept of doing an interim amendment and to go ahead with a full scale revision of the Narcotic Drugs Act; we are going to call it a Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Act, and those two Bills should be coming to the House shortly so that we can have a full scale debate on that issue when it comes.

What we clearly also need to do is to be able to provide the Police and Customs with all the improved facilities for detection, because these are the areas where the strongest support has to come, the Customs particularly because we are not producers as far as I know of cocaine in Barbados. Of course you can't say anything with any absoluteness now. We don't produce cocaine in Barbados, not a hell of a lot of marijuana.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, the Honourable Member has information as to where the cocaine factory is.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, when I was in the Opposition with the Honourable Member, I said

on the floor of the House, it is in the records, that there was a cocaine factory in the west coast I was told so by three persons from the hotel where it occurred, and the man went out of this country, and it was a fact It is not speculation. 11.50a.m.

There was a man who was staying at a hotel on the West Coast. I said it so there is no secret.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made the point you raised on it

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member made that allegation and if he is correct, to get the record correct, he was challenged by the then Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. St. John to make that evidence available to the Commissioner of Police. Now, the difference is that when I make allegations about dope in the diplomatic bag it can be documented. That is the difference.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I think you will agree I need to put the record straight because I did not know of my own knowledge of the cocaine factory. I was told so and, therefore, I could not make evidence available. If I could make the evidence available I would be part of the factory. The dope in the diplomatic bag is something he knew about of his own knowledge, apparently.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order.

In fact, it shows how incompetent the Cabinet was that only the Prime Minister and the Deputy knew about it the day and I was contradicted by the Honourable Member for St. Philip. It shows how incompetent that Cabinet is.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. It

cannot be incompetent If they are...

Mr. SPEAKER: I will allow the Honourable Member to conclude on this matter because I am not permitting it to be extended anymore.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I conclude on that matter, Sir.

If, in fact, there was dope in the diplomatic bag, it would be the quintessential of competence not to allow more people to know than was necessary to know. It is because the Cabinet to which the Honourable Member belonged used to take people's business in all kinds of manner that we got into all kinds of problems so the Prime Minister is perfectly right. I would not want to know about it

Mr. SPEAKER: End of that matter.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I have difficulty....

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute more.

Hon. M. A. KING: One who, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will give you two minutes more.

Hon. M. A. KING: Just let me quickly say what I have to say.

Mr. Speaker, I was making the point that we did not produce, as far as I know, cocaine in Barbados. We grew a little marijuana in people's backyards, one or two people, so that the emphasis has clearly been to interdict the entry at the airport and seaport and at other places along the coast where they may come so that strengthening Customs, the Police and the Defence Force has a role to play in this as well. Clearly these are the directions in which we will go.

In the area of education, the Minister of Education is dealing with the problem of a sustained public information programme and we will be providing improved facilities for rehabilitation of drug abusers who may wish to reform. The Minister of Health may be able to say something about that in the fullness of time.

Now, we are obtaining assistance from friendly countries at the regional and the international level and from regional and international institutions in implementing the Anti Narcotics Programmes, the projects and activities which we have been organising.

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, that there is a tremendous improvement in the level of co-operation which we are getting from regional Governments and from international organisations in dealing with the problem. The information is flowing good and that has led to a lot of the seizures which have taken place in recent times.

Among the projects and activities which clearly we have to do some more work on is in respect of surveys to determine the full incidence of drug abuse in the country and, perhaps, some of the international organisations like PAHO who could help with that.

We clearly need to reinforce to some extent the programmes in the schools and we need, of course, to pursue further with our training of persons to develop and lead the preventive education programmes in the schools which are geared to particular target groups.

We will in the process of time continue to heighten public awareness to the dangers of drug abuse and develop the better facilities, as I have indicated, for rehabilitation of drug abusers.

Drug abuse and dealing with the problems of drug trafficking is a problem which will not disappear from the face of Barbados or from the face of the world overnight but our Government, Mr. Speaker, is fully committed to leading the national effort against this great problem in our midst and to developing from time to time more creative and imaginative programmes which will control and reduce the problems of drug abuse and I appeal once more to all in the country to cooperate fully in dealing with this problem.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give support to the Appropriation Bill which is before the House for this financial year.

Sir, I have listened to the debate and taken note of some of the criticisms that have been made of the Government's performance. The majority of the criticism are old hat. The 2% Opposition has been able over a period of time to change the language by which they criticize and, therefore, they are able to attract some interest from the Press whereas the 40% Opposition, the real 40% Opposition in Barbados has made some criticism. I only heard those of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the majority of which do not stand on any of the facts which are before the House for this debate.

For example, the 2% Opposition we have had comments, from way back, unfinished abortions. This year, Sir, the criticism is squandermania and criminal negligence. Those are two words that were used with some kind of theme throughout the course of this debate.

The new political order that the 2% Opposition has said will form part of its policies into the future, had been heralded yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition once again telling us that there are two basic prescriptions for the future prosperity of the Barbadian economy.

He suggested that a lot of the taxation that is currently imposed is unnecessary and he challenged the Government, as far as I recall, to take steps to relieve the taxpayers of this burden and call for immediate tax cut.

He also called for an expenditure cut and it is those two points that I want to deal with first.

Sir, on the question of the tax cut I thought we had passed the stage since 1988 that we understood the undesirable effects of the policies that are being touted by the Members of the Official Opposition.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas very graciously in 1987 pointed out to me and to Members of the Government that there was a book that they should read by David Stockman. It was very generous advice which I took heed of and I think, Sir, that they themselves should now -

at that time the four members of the Official Opposition were over here - look very carefully at one of the major problems that occurred in the American economy because of the consistent touting of these proposals relating to tax cuts. 12.00 noon.

In fact the thing that crowned off the massive problems that occurred in the American deficit was the eventual decision by the Reagan Administration to go ahead with its tax cut even though it was both undesirable and unnecessary in the circumstances, but simply because it was an election promise. That was the ultimate position that the politicians took as distinct from Stockman and Woniski and the other American economists.

Sir, on the question of the expenditure cut we have said constantly in here that a cut in Government expenditure would affect those who are most vulnerable in this society. I never heard any particular proposals from members of the Official Opposition in the House. But if I had to draw an analogy from statements made by the Leader of the Opposition who, when a person spoke at two branch meetings of the Democratic Labour Party who is not a member of our political party, he then used that analogy and said, if you allow this person to speak at your branch meetings or at your party, one could assume that what they are saying constitutes the philosophy of your party. A prominent member of the National Democratic Party gave his prescription for the salvation of the Barbadian economy on Voice of Barbados some nights ago. He is a person who has spoken at meetings of the National Democratic Party. He attends meetings of the National Democratic Party. I very carefully researched that. His prescription is as follows:

A 30% to 35% cut in public sector wages immediately. Every public sector servant in this country.

He said that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I just want to make it clear that what the Honourable Member is talking about has nothing to do with NDP policy.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, I was careful to draw the analogy that he put in my mind when a gentleman by the name of Dr. Hilary Beckles, not a member of the Democratic Labour Party yet, as far as I know, made some statements at a branch meeting. And he said yesterday, in here, that this political party provides a platform, for the most vicious racism ever in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Do not put words in my mouth. I am drawing an analogy.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: If you do not understand the meaning of the word analogy, that is your business.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The facts do not apply in an analogy. It is the scenario that applies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Contain yourself please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The scenario is that we were told that if a man is offered the opportunity to speak at meetings of a political party and so on that means that that is the philosophy of the party, if not you would not give him the opportunity to speak. That is my understanding of the analogy. I am merely applying that analogy. He said - and he is the only one of them who has said anything or has spoken to this issue specifically - that immediately this would solve all the problems in Barbados, including the foreign exchange problems. A 30% to 35% cut in all public sector wages. The first point

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not have to ask them. I know they agree. I do not have to ask them if they agree. All the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said in relation to this is what he just said in getting up responding to my allegation. I know where he stands on the issue. The second thing that he said which is even more important, and is fundamental, because here are 4 persons who subscribed to the very basic tenets of the Democratic Labour Party at one time - and this is the political party that introduced comprehensive National Insurance in this country for the benefit of all workers and all citizens and made it compulsory that workers were required to make remittances and employers were required to make remittances for the eventual benefit of the society as a whole, the compulsory nature of it is critical - and he said on radio that the second thing that must be done immediately is the abolition of the compulsory payments by employers to the National Insurance Scheme.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The National Democratic Party has issued no statement on any matter relating to National Insurance.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am a member of a political party, I am a Member of this House and at times even as a backbencher I have said things which are not necessarily in consonance with the view of all of the Members in this House. None of them has ever come and told me, do not say them. Sometimes they might feel

uncomfortable, it is true. But the point is that I have always been told by Members over there that when I express those views that I am expressing the Party's views. So whenever one tries to establish the distance, one is immediately told, you cannot distance yourself. You are a member of the Party. So what you say is the Party's position. This analogy has been pumped into my ears from the day I entered this Chamber and first criticized the Task Force Report on employment in this country.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not follow this analogy. If a person speaks.....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Why do you not shut up and listen sometimes? at the National Democratic Party and says what he feels like saying, does that mean that that is the policy of the National Democratic Party? Does it mean that because of things that his brother may do that he is responsible for them? Is he the same thing as his brother?

Mr. SPEAKER: We are going off target.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for the City is probably more fortunate than me. His mind is not cluttered by anything. The last thing he read was the St. John Development Plan and he does not intend to read anything new in politics or learn anything from anybody. So I do not have difficulty with any point of order that he brings in relation to this.

If he did not hear the broadcast, say so. If he does not agree, he can get up and say so. The Honourable Member can get up and deny it. I have no problem with it. But I understood that at an Annual Conference of the National Democratic Party when their plans and proposals were ^ announced, a particular person, who as the former Leader ^ of this Party would say rejoices under the same name as the person who was on the radio the other night, flew up in the air and said, oh if that is what you all stand for, I am joining now. And he joined the National Democratic Party. As I say, he is the first member who has honestly told us what the new political order means in this country. I now wish therefore to help the public to understand, while they might have just let that matter pass away and give you the impression that it is some personal interview with him, that those views.....
O

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. There are certain fundamental assumptions which normally guide Members in their presentations in this House.
12.10p.m.

I wish to state categorically that nothing that the Honourable Member has said so far has been said by any ».
Member of this House who enjoys membership of the National Democratic Party or constitute in any way the

policy position of the National Democratic Party. Let us get that straight. It is the kind of foolish argument that I have never heard in this House before. I have never heard such nonsense. Somebody makes some statement and he comes in here and alleges he is a member of the party and then proceeds to suggest.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no need to extend that.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I began by drawing the analogy between the speech made by a historian at a Public Education Constituency Branch Meeting of the Democratic Labour Party and I drew the precise analogy that was drawn at that time by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. Now he tells me that analogy is a bad analogy.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member hold a while? I have sat here carefully and I have listened to Members trying to suggest that the country itself lacks discipline. If those Members would just only think a while that they are in the highest forum of the land where the best examples can be set, where the best rules are placed for the benefit of those Members and cannot contain themselves in a way in which can be exemplary or role models if you want to put it to others, then I as the Presiding Officer in the Chamber will now have to take a schoolmaster's approach. I will ask Honourable Members again to behave as Honourable Members would.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Now Sir, I would encourage any member of the university community or any citizen of Barbados who has benefited from education in any part of the world to come back here and be involved in any debate. I have nothing against the gentleman. I have nothing against the statements made by anybody at any branch meeting of any political party or on the radio. I believe those are his honestly held views and I think that the fact that he has been able in that short period of time to identify those views with the Opposition is symptomatic of the analogy that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition drew to my attention and the public's attention when he indicated that Dr. Hilary Beckles was part of the platform of the Democratic Labour Party.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I never at anytime called Dr. Hilary Beckles' name on the floor of this House and I do not need to go to anyone outside certain persons sitting on the other side to establish the point that I made yesterday. I never called the man's name in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: That name shall not appear on this record anymore. I just want to remind Honourable Members that names to be called must comply with the Standing Orders of this House and I am not going to permit

any person's name to be called in the record unless the correct procedure has been adopted.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, in due course I will get a copy of the Press Release that was issued to the newspaper by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member and Leader of the Opposition a moment ago, Sir, while purporting to, or standing on a point of order, said that he does not need to go further than on this side to identify a racist. That is my understanding.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I did not say so.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is my understanding and I wish you to say it is not so. That is my understanding.

Dr. R.C. HAYNES: I did not say so.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two Honourable Members are on their feet. I will not pursue that line now. But if this matter is raised again, I will probably call for the verbatim report so that I can form my own judgment on the matter.

I am saying that the matter if it needs to be adjudged by me, that I will need the verbatim report to form my own judgment on the matter. In that case, if Honourable Members will let the matter rest where it is, then we can proceed. If you are pressing me for a decision on the matter, I shall suspend the sitting and ask that the verbatim report be brought to me and then a decision will be made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I so ask for the verbatim report. I wish the verbatim report.

Mr. SPEAKER: That I shall ask for.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We can continue until the verbatim report comes.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, you do not.

SUSPENSION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting shall be suspended for about 10 minutes.

At this point the sitting was so suspended by Mr. SPEAKER. 12.20p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed.

During the suspension taken to determine a matter, the procedure to have accurate records made available so as to make sure that the accounts recorded can be properly determined requires some more time. I therefore will postpone that decision and reserve my decision on that matter until the records have been presented to me. Until such time that matter will not be discussed in any detail at all.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be probably better and I am therefore going to move that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 12.46 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, before we broke transmission I think I was making the point that it had been suggested by a leading proponent of the policies of what I then called the 2% Opposition that compulsory payments to the National Insurance Department should be abolished.

Now, Sir, this Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party in 1986, which was earlier pointed out in a speech yesterday as being the basis of the position of the Opposition, as incongruous as that may sound, states on page 24: "An actuarial review of the National Insurance Scheme will be commissioned, with a view to improving benefits." The reason why I point out that to you, Sir, is because that Manifesto, like all of the Democratic Labour Party's Manifestoes, and like all of the principles that have guided this political party consistently in its various efforts to improve the conditions of workers and others in this country, has always set out clearly that we will brook no attempt to interfere with the concept of compulsory payments to the National Insurance Scheme and the provision of National Insurance as one of the very basic privileges and rights to which all citizens of Barbados are entitled.

I also recall that in this Chamber we constantly said that the only way you could cut expenditure was by cutting wages in the public sector. I said on the last occasion I spoke in this House during the Estimates that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition himself was the person who put that idea into my mind. On previous occasions prior to 1986 when he spoke in this House he

denied it and that is up for debate, but that is my recollection. There was no other shadow Minister then. We were always told that it would not be necessary for you to cut wages if you are going to cut public expenditure, and yet as I have said, Sir, on the first occasion that anybody has sought to set out the policies of the new political order we have been told clearly that with immediate effect the salaries of all public workers, sanitation workers, people at CBC and Statutory Corporations, every Civil Servant, Maid, Doctor, Nurse, Policeman, people working at the Mental Hospital, everybody; the Clerk of Parliament and all of the officers in Parliament, all of them should have an immediate cut of their wages and salaries by between 30 to 35%, not a 5% cut you know.

People talk about wage restraint and you hear 5% and people kick up. As I say, the greatest proponent of the new political order unmask the deception and comes clearly to the public and says in a public broadcast that public sector salaries should be cut by between 30 and 35%, and we said that that was what was being promoted by the Opposition. I maintain that that is the very basis.....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member just said that the Opposition is promoting a cut in the wages of public servants and a reduction in National Insurance benefits, or the removal of compulsory payments. I have stated in this House before that there is no such policy by the National Democratic Party and I think that it is against the rules of this Chamber or any Chamber for any Member to persistently impute false statements or false positions to any Member of this Honourable House.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to make the point too about criticism of this Government in relation to confidence by the people of Barbados and what was suggested as its record on the issue of racism. I am saying to you, Sir, if it is good for Peter it must be good for Paul too. Therefore, if the Opposition is going to take the position that anybody who speaks at a Democratic Labour Party public function is speaking the views of the Democratic Labour Party, and then charges that we are guilty of racism, even though the Honourable Prime Minister has gone as far as to state our position, even though every citizen of this country is entitled to his or her rights under the Constitution, and yet people can come in here and misrepresent the record, and nobody gets up and challenges them, and accuse this political party of preaching the most vicious racism ever in Barbados, and nobody got up and said we never preached it and so on, we gave them full vent. They try to tell people over here do not deal with that issue, you are too personal, stay away from that, etc. and when they are ready they unleash anything on anybody and expect us to remain in silence. I sat through this debate and I did not say a word.

Certain remarks made by Mr. R. P. BYER were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be struck from the record.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, all I am saying is, the truth is the truth, and the public will in due course come to recognise the truth, they will recognise where integrity resides, they will recognise where all the cover ups reside, etc. That will be the public's choice in due course.

My real contention, or area of interest, Sir, relates to development of the rural areas. I have said on several occasions that I feel that this Government should commit itself to improving the social services in rural areas, the infrastructure in rural areas and to increase the level of participation in decision making by populations living in rural areas in Barbados.

Now we have been accused of squandermania, but I am saying to you that this Government has made a more significant contribution to the development of the infrastructure in rural areas in this country than any other Government, and I will start with the tenantry road programme. The Honourable Member for St. Peter tried to make it appear as though it was not provided for in the Estimates and it was pointed out to him that he was incorrect. 2.10p.m.

It was pointed out to him that he was incorrect because probably at the same time when he was being corrected

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I will not allow this Honourable Member to mislead the House. He speaks without having been here which is the important thing. I said in this debate that the Government has been boasting about its desire to put \$64 million into a tenantry road programme, but what the Estimates provide for is \$7 million which is less than what was provided for last year, and is less, Mr. Speaker, than the \$64 million which they have been telling the people of Barbados it is going to vote. The Honourable Member, if he has not been here, will not be allowed to misrepresent me.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, the point is that the Honourable Member said that provision was not made for

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I am asking you to rule on this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the Honourable Member is imputing to me things that I did

not say during the course of this debate and using that as the basis of an argument. Sir, that is misleading, and he is lying.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot make that statement. What Honourable Members must understand is that in a debate both sides have a point of view, and therefore their points of view are balanced when each Member is allowed an opportunity to make a point of order. Now I cannot rule on whether a person is misleading the House on the basis that a Member says so. It must be factually stated and documented. How are you going to say to me as the Presiding Officer that a Member is imputing something to you when the facts before me do not say so? You say so. Substantiate the fact.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, if you want me to substantiate the fact, you are asking me to rule on your behalf. You sat through the debate, Mr. Speaker. I am saying to this House that at no stage in that debate did I ever say that there are no funds in these Estimates for tenantry roads. I made the point that can be borne out by the facts, Sir, that the funds being provided here are less than what was voted last year, and are less than what the Government has been telling the people of Barbados that it intends to put into tenantry roads. That is the only case I have put. You sat in that Chair, Mr. Speaker, and I am asking you to rule on the basis of what you heard.

Mr. SPEAKER: I need to substantiate this point; I need to make sure that the Honourable Member understands clearly the rules of the House. You have been given the opportunity to refute a statement You have been given interruptions to do so. The Chair does not in any way rule you out of order, but you have been provided the opportunity to put in the records of the House your comments. They can only be substantiated when they have been analysed in the true sense. I would like to say that there is no point getting up and saying that someone is misleading the House when I am not privy to everything that is being said outside the House.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase it for the Honourable Member's comfort. He said that there was inadequate provision for the tenantry roads programme. The point is that the tenantry road programme has commenced, and that I was able to drive in my constituency yesterday and see one road near completion, and that there are other Members of the House who represent rural areas who have been able to see the success of the tenantry road programme, not only in rural areas, but in some suburban and urban areas.

I have always pointed out the tenantry roads programme as a significant departure from the philosophical posturing of the Barbados Labour Party by the route of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, which all it basically did was provide the legislation for people to

purchase land that you could not get them off of anyway, but we have decided to improve the actual quality of life of people in those areas by providing under the tenantry roads programme for roads, for water and for light. It is a programme that is to be phased over time, and as I understand it the capital vote contains funds for the ongoing programme that is in progress already. I am talking about a comprehensive programme.

Every school except one in my constituency has been refurbished - Society School, St. John's Primary School. There is going to be a new school at Mount Tabor. Ebenezer is now in need of some refurbishment; St. Margaret was refurbished; St. Marks is now being refurbished, all of this under the Democratic Labour Party and going on now if not already completed.

They talk about squandermania. How can you squander money on improving the educational institutions in this country, and at the same time they will get up later and talk about human resource development, but this Government has put its money where its mouth is and has committed the resources to those physical improvements in this country. Schools that had run down to rock bottom, this Government has taken the lead in improving all of them.

At the police stations there have been improvement and refurbishment. Polyclinics are going to be constructed in the rural area of St. John and in Belleplaine, St. Andrew, Horse Hill, St. Joseph, all the rural areas. We have to improve the quality of life of people in those areas so that they see themselves, particularly if they are involved in the agricultural related activity, as being able to contribute to their maximum potential.

Agriculture cannot take off in this country if the conditions under which people work in the agricultural sector do not improve, and therefore I am saying that even if the Government has erred on the side of spending more in the rural sector and more on working class people in this country, it has done so because it knows that in the end for this economy to be transformed those people have to have a higher standard of living and a better quality of life, not a cut in expenditure, not a reduction in wages by 30 per cent or 35 per cent, not sending home people from the National Conservation Commission. We have all of those important achievements as part of our record.

Colleton in St. John has now benefited from a new play park, one of the first in the rural areas. The facilities at Gall Hill have practically been completely refurbished, the hard court, the new community centre, a welfare centre. There has been refurbishment of the community centre, but it is practically new because they are putting a brand new concrete floor etcetera, all of those in an attempt to improve the quality of life of people living in rural areas, and all were part of the Development Plan which the people got

and said we never had and we never implemented anything. All of them are there.

Sir, \$50 000 was spent last year on a playing field in Cliff and yesterday I saw the brand new road being put in. In the agricultural sector contrary to the impression that the Opposition would give you, the people of Newcastle, St. John have been carrying out spectacular efforts by way of banana production, and to complement that this Government put in the feeder roads recently, cleared sites for further banana production and this Government is going to be providing irrigation for those banana farmers. That has nothing to do with Bernard St. John; it has something to do with the Democratic Labour Party and is part of its agricultural development programme.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You are not going to sidetrack me from making my point. The point is that banana production has increased considerably, and as part of this year's Estimates, part of the sum that has been granted for capital expenditure will include irrigation facilities for farmers in Newcastle, St John where bananas is the dominant crop, and this initiative will enable these farmers to apply modern production techniques to increase their productivity. It is true some of them are the same farmers, but they are- putting more acreage under production. They are getting better results. Only yesterday I picked up the newspaper and saw an advertisement where Lears Plantation is producing some special kind of banana. I can't remember what they called it, but a high quality banana in Barbados, but people laugh at that. 2.20 p.m.

They seem to believe that agriculture is making sport and the people they put to talk about agriculture get up and make a lot of sport and talk a lot of foolishness every time there is any debate in here on agriculture, people who have never driven through St. John, never driven through St. x Andrew or any part of Barbados where people are carrying out market gardening or anything else and they get on as though they are the only experts on agriculture because they can pronounce the word "agriculture", foolishness.

This Government, contrary to the criticisms that have been levelled at it by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, will be putting in place the research and development capability at the Ministry of Agriculture as part of this year's activity.

They will be establishing an Agricultural Statistical System, a census in agriculture, the establishment of a Land Information System. There is an agriculture development project that includes professional services for flower production, cotton production, irrigation and technology, farm management...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That project includes the establishment of an Agro-Industrial Credit Fund so credit for farmers is being seen as a very important aspect of the development of agriculture.

On Sunday one of Barbados' prominent farmers pointed out that the banking sector had been very dilatory and indifferent to providing credit in the agricultural sector so this Government is now taking the lead to provide credit in the agricultural sector and the credit fund will 'be administered by the Central Bank.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You will get the information when the Minister speaks. I have nothing to do with the Estimates. I am telling you what is part of the Democratic Labour Party's programme.

A Revolving Fund will be provided for the Fruit Orchard Project for the production of orchard crops, production and marketing of cut flowers and foliage, a Livestock Development Fund with a grant of \$2.6 million being sought from the European Development Fund.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order.

Is he claiming that this is a new programme, Sir? The Livestock Development Fund was started and in the Budget Debate, I believe it was 1985, you will have the then Prime Minister, Mr. St. John speaking about the Fund. I am surprised that it has not been used yet

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I entered the House in 1987 and I am interested in what is happening now and I am saying to you that we have been criticized for not providing the facilities, the credit, the manpower etc. in the area of agriculture.

We were criticized even during the Budget debate when it was said that the Prime Minister provided a paltry \$3 million for the agricultural sector and now I am pointing out what is being done. Honourable Members are suggesting that the Government is wrong for doing it.

There will be a new Centre Research Complex which will include the Animal Nutrition Lab, the Veterinary/Diagnostic Lab, a Plant Pathology Lab, Entomology Lab, Soil Lab, Land and Water Use Lab and an Agronomy Lab, the improvement of public markets which is critical because we do not pay enough attention to how people function in the informal sector of our economy and, therefore, Government is now taking the lead by paying careful attention to this.

There will be a new Abattoir, Meat Packing House and Rendering Plant, the Three Houses Spring Project which the Honourable Member for St. Peter said is still in the stage of study. All of these projects are part of the Democratic Labour Party's programme for the improvement of agriculture.

This year 300 acres in the Belle have been put under sugar production. I am doing it now. The Minister will augment all that I have said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Who are you addressing?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You are asking the cost? I will now produce it - \$423 519.05. You ask for the cost and now you are not listening. That is the nature of the criticism.

I have pointed out, Mr. Speaker, that the Democratic Labour Party has a commitment to improving the quality of life of people in this country and that there can be no charges of squandermania that will stick to this administration because if any of the persons who wish to charge this administration of squandermania took a drive into parts of the rural sector where the tenantry road programme is in progress, where community centres are being refurbished, where the National Conservation Commission is doing work etc., they could not validly come in here with the kind of bogus and vapid criticism of this administration in the new sweep of what I suppose we will have to call verbocrats - technicians of language - in this day and age.

I believe, Sir, that my support for this particular Appropriation Bill is based on a sound analysis of the performance of this administration and I believe that the criticisms which are being levelled are not criticisms that are grounded in any evidence whatsoever. There are a lot of wild and loose allegations of things like mismanagement, criminal negligence, squandermania, etc. and that if given the opportunity the same persons who find themselves criticising in here today would not be able to do a better job.

We know about the three over here because they were able to demonstrate to the public that they could not do it for 10 years. Only yesterday somebody was saying when he is Minister of Agriculture he will do this and do that

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: All the interruptions. Because you all could not speak again you have decided to interrupt me and three sentences within my speech the Honourable Member for St. George South was off and running with the interruptions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will give you five more minutes as my disgust against the ill-mannered behaviour at points in this Chamber.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Sir, the real issue, therefore, in public life for people in this House of Assembly cannot be the kind of trivia that is being thrown around - cut taxes, foreign exchange this and all kinds of thing. It has to be a question of whether the lifestyle or the quality of life of Barbadians has improved or whether it has not improved and the issue is how you are going to measure that improvement as well because if you measure it by the attainment only of material trappings whether it is a house and a car, or living room suite or whatever, if you measure it only by that, you are going to be falling short.

What you have to measure it by is the ability of Barbadians from all walks of life to challenge this Government on any issue at any time. The unfettered right of any person in this country to pick up the telephone between 6:00 and 7:30 any evening and call anybody's name and criticize them, say anything you want about any Minister or back bencher, that people can go, as I said, on platforms any part of this country without fear or any problem and say anything they want about anybody; you have to measure the quality of life of Barbadians by that, the level of freedom that they also enjoy. 2.30 p.m.

You have to understand that that freedom can only be maintained if you resist the attempt to cut back on the incomes of people in this country. If you resist the attempt to cut out the National Insurance Scheme which guarantees a future of prosperity for old age pensioners and other persons in this country. Therefore we have a big battle. People do not realize how big the battle is. I want to say to you that my point of departure was that comment on the radio on VOB that, for the first time in the history of the new political order, we heard in very precise terms what that new political order contains. And while it might not be written in the Manifesto in words that are easily understandable to the public - because we know they are people who are specially employed to obfuscate issues - if you read the Sunday Sun every week, the economist, you would learn the extent to which issues are obfuscated. The point being that people will be paid to write these things in language that is not easily understood by the public.

But at the end of the day I want the public servants to understand that the Democratic Labour Party has no interest in pursuing the policies of a wage cut period, whether it is a 30%, 2% or 1%, that the Democratic Labour Party will not remove or obliterate the National Insurance Scheme from this country and that we will ensure that our policies are geared towards improving the quality of life of Barbadians from cradle to grave.

With that, Sir, I give my support fully to the Appropriation Bill and to the policies of this government.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is true to say that the Estimates at any time are very important to the Members of this Honourable Chamber and to the country as a whole. It would appear to me that the Estimates 1990 assume a particular significance since it may very well be felt, in some quarters, that it allows the opportunity for positions to be taken by some parties with a common "p", Sir, to indicate where they stand regarding upcoming events in future.

I would wish, Sir, to say at the very outset that any time someone is dealing with the matter of taxation that one is dealing in a matter which is going to be very emotional since it is very dear and very close to all of us at the personal level and also at the corporate level. I do not imagine that anybody looks forward to having to be called upon to pay taxes. Indeed it is true to say, from experience, that persons endeavour to avoid the payment of taxes, within the law of course, whenever that is possible.

Consequently if one finds that there is the possibility of a demand for higher taxation being placed on that person, that individual, always acting within the law, will endeavour to reduce the level of tax which will be put on him or on her. But even though that is not cherished - the payment of taxes, Mr. Speaker - I think it is fair and reasonable for us to accept that the payment of taxes is a situation which is tempered and softened by the recognition of the taxpayer regarding what is the use to which the tax is being put. When tax is seen as making the life of the individual or making the life of a community more liveable, I believe that that permits the individual who pays the tax to derive a certain level of satisfaction from so doing.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to suggest, for a minute, that the Barbadian is not paying more tax today than he was paying last year, the year before, nor am I going to get into an argument about the comparable level of tax between one point in our history and another point in our history, although indeed we might be able to come up with some very interesting findings, if we were to do that.

On another occasion in this place, Sir, I was able to point to the incidence of personal taxation and I was able to make the point that, even though we were saddled with the personal additional costs, that came from the surcharge, that when we looked at the residual monies left to the individuals at certain points within the earning scale that the worker was still better off than he was at some previous point. But that is not my point of departure today.

The point I want to make, Sir, is that if life is being seen as becoming increasingly more liveable and more acceptable, in short, the people are recognizing that the tax dollar is being put to adequate and to satisfactory use then,

Sir, it is my contention that the public at large will recognize what is being done and will be able to empathize with the decision-makers and to support those decision-makers. There has been a lot of hullabaloo across the Caribbean in recent times about positions taken by various leaders and various administrations and really when it comes down to the crunch, what one recognizes is that if things are being done which things are recognizably done for the support of the people, that people will rally around that leadership.

The recent vote in a neighbouring West Indian Island in Local Government, notwithstanding the significant amount of public debate that there was, is the kind of vote that one has to stop to give very serious thought to. Because that vote in the Local Government was coming after two devaluations of the currency of that country, it was coming when there was serious criticism about the measures that were taken to bite the bullet that the country was faced with, but it was coming at a time when the country visibly had demonstrated to the people that what was being done was being done in the overall interest of the peoples at large. The resounding result was a 60% vote for the administration which was taking those very harsh measures. I think it is something that we need to think very seriously about and something that we have, as people, to keep focussing on and keep ever before us.

I personally am not one for the stances that would seem to decry, belittle or reduce contributions that are made by various parties again, Sir, with a common "p". Because in the long run the people themselves understand what we are doing. They understand the comments we make. They understand the positions we are taking and in the fullness of time, they will give their verdict. I believe that when that fullness of time would have come that the verdict, insofar as the Democratic Labour Party is concerned, will be a verdict that says, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." That is the verdict, Sir, when the time would have come when the people will decide; whenever we believe that the time for decision should be taken.

I have said, Sir, that people will pay taxes and will be prepared to pay taxes if they see the effects of the tax dollar. If they see that in the roads that are being built or resurfaced, in the transport that is being provided, in the hospital services that are being provided, in the schools that are being run, built, refurbished, the educational system that is being improved, in Government run public offices, if they perceive that there is improvement in the conditions and the physical facilities and amenities that are provided then I am of the view, Sir, that they will be satisfied that the money that is being spent is being satisfactorily spent.

It is my considered opinion, Mr. Speaker, that when we examine those conditions, roads, transport, hospitals and the others that I have referred to that we have to come to the conclusion that the Democratic Labour Party in its spending

has been spending money geared to improve the conditions of the Barbadian in those very said conditions. And yes, Mr. Speaker, we would have been paying less tax in 1980 to use that point of departure, as a point of reference. That may be very true. But I wonder if by the same token, we are prepared to say when I say that we have been paying less taxes in 1980, less taxes between 1980 and perhaps 1984. Would we then say that life was less liveable or that it was more liveable. The central question in short is when the taxes have been paid, have these taxes worked towards the general welfare of the people who have paid the taxes? We paid less taxes in 1940, Sir. I am satisfied that many of us would have paid very little tax in 1940. But can anyone seriously say that we are worse off today than we were 50 years ago? And anybody who may be reported as making a statement like that, would such a person want us to seriously believe what he is saying and accept that that statement is intended to be taken seriously as a point for debate and a point for discussion?

With very few exceptions, Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago we were living in tenancies - I mean those of us in this Honourable Chamber, with a few exceptions - without social amenities. Now we have moved forward and we are living in the gardens, some of us on the terraces and some of us even in the heights. 2.40 p.m.

Those of us who are not living there are living within reach of these things and, indeed, most of the people within our country are within reach of living within these areas. Now I do not want it to be misunderstood that I am saying that to live in these places and to have a house in these areas is indicative of being better off by itself. But I am saying that that is part of what we are examining and part of what we are recognizing. That position that we have arrived at to be within reach of these things must be a tribute to both of those political parties which formed the Government of Barbados in the period that I am referring to.

One of the parties here represented, Sir, and this time with a capital "P" has not had the opportunity to show its mark and by present performance unless I join them will not do so for quite a long time.

Asides.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: No, no, I cannot get ostracized from anything. Unless I join them together, I do not mean go with them but bring them together. Unless I join them, it will take a long time but they have not had the chance to demonstrate what they might have done. But in those two other parties where the Government has been formed, there is no doubt that they have been significant contributions made towards the development of the people of Barbados. But even while that is so, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to guard against two very important things. One of those

things we have to guard against is the abuse of statistics and the second one is defaming those with whom we may disagree. Whereas I do not plan to cite several examples of this, I do this merely to refer to examples of statistical abuse which I have heard in this Chamber and to suggest that it might mislead and will be a discredit to those persons who may not have intended the abuse.

I heard for example, Sir, that the per capita income of Barbados has doubled in the early 1980's. Whereas I have no quarrel with hearing that statement because I accept the inherent honesty of the person who made it, the Leader of the Minority Opposition, yet I would want to suggest that merely for us to receive a statement like that and for the public at large to hear that statement, without any qualification, might lead us to find ourselves in a difficulty of a tailspin that we may not understand.

The per capita income of a country by itself does not speak to what the living standards of any individual of that country might happen to be. The per capita income might be arrived at because those that have, following what the Bible itself has promised us in the good old days, that those that have shall have more and those that have not shall be taken from them even the little that they have. In those circumstances, Sir, the per capita income might remain the same or the per capita income might become more. But that is not to say that the living standards of the individuals that we in this Parliament seek to look after, particularly, that those persons have been catered for. All of us in this Honourable Chamber when we stand to address you, Sir, we say that we are concerned with the masses, especially the underprivileged and those who cannot properly defend themselves and as a direct consequence we would be concerned not merely with looking at the per capita income, but trying to ensure that the quality of life for every man and woman, especially those who are underprivileged, is made better by those decisions that we take.

Therefore, Sir, I am suggesting that merely for us to address per capita income is not for us to come to grips with the problem that is Barbados. Secondly, Sir, I wish to be concerned with the matter of what I perceive to be defamation of persons with whom we disagree. Many of us in our lives and work meet employers or meet persons and institutions with whom we are in disagreement almost on a day by day basis. I would like to believe that those young members of our community who are joining the world of work everyday and every week that they can take example from the way in which we are able to disagree in matters of principle and yet be able to show that we are honourable, gentlemanly, and persons of integrity by the way in which we represent that disagreement.

I am concerned by the suggestion that there has been squandermania and I am not one merely to suggest that we could put that aside purely by saying that it means wastage. Within the Caribbean and recent experience, a Premier who

was not quite a Prime Minister at the time was removed from office because there were allegations of his being involved in squandermania. I do not wish to go into name calling because that person might very well become the Prime Minister of the same country in the not too distant future.

Asides.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN: Well, anytime that there is a race there is a chance. The NDP says that it has a chance. So what do you want me to say now, that the party does not have a chance? I am of the view, Sir, that other persons accused of squandermania in other countries have also been subject to political censure and public censure and the word has a special connotation. One in this Chamber has to be careful about language. Even though in the hustings and in the preparation for greater events we may use language that has a certain pejorative sentiment without intending to cause the feelings to come through, it is still in the final analysis what the public perceives by what we are saying that matters.

My point, Sir, is that anytime outside of this Place because it would not happen within this Place, Sir, that wild statements or irresponsible statements are made from any side - Government side, non-Government side, non-Government Agencies or otherwise - that such statements are not the kinds of statements that we should look forward to receiving or hearing about. Anytime that there is an abuse of Members of this Honourable Chamber or where the families of Members of this Honourable Chamber are held up to public ridicule then that is something for us to be very concerned about and which we must endeavour to eradicate. Whether, Sir, it happens to be leading up to a debate on the Estimates, leading up to a general election or otherwise, it is still very important that we recognize that we in many instances are the role models of those young people in our society who will endeavour to copy what they see us doing. %250p.m.

The 1990-91 Estimates, Mr.- Speaker, treats expenditure in the area of \$987 188 526 and of that it apportions to wages and salaries \$390 358 840. No doubt that is going to become a subject for some discussion and debate, especially since this happens to be a year for negotiations.

When examining these Estimates, Mr. Speaker, I note with satisfaction the deliberate efforts made by the Government to keep employment levels where they were before, and where it has been possible to increase those employment levels. I make the comment against a level of expenditure, almost \$400 million, in wages and salaries. You, Sir, have heard the Honourable Member for St. John expressing concerns at any attempts which might be made - I say which might be made or might be considered - to look

at the present level of expenditures that we have from the point of view of cutting within the Public Service.

What I understand him to be addressing is a point that would concern us all, that whereas all of us would be very concerned with seeing efficiencies, all of us would be very concerned with seeing the matter of taxation levels not as high as they were, because naturally that would be to everybody's advantage, we would be very concerned in any situation where the numbers of workers employed in the public sector, or indeed in the private sector, if that number were reduced as any deliberate policy by any administration.

I am aware, Sir, that there have been public policies before now, in Barbados and out of Barbados, where as a deliberate public policy Government expenditures were being reduced and that one measure by which these expenditures were reduced was by reducing the number of people employed. It is a position which an administration might adopt considering that that for the time being would be the best approach to adopt. But whereas that might be an approach which might satisfy the immediate goal of a set of people, I would hope that this administration and that this Honourable Chamber would recognise that Barbados has nothing whatsoever to benefit from any programme which endeavours to reduce employment levels, whether those employment levels are in the private sector or within the public sector. We have to concern ourselves with embarking on programmes which endeavour to provide for a greater number of job opportunities for all of our peoples.

I recognise within the present arrangement within the technological revolution that is taking place that in the individual areas of employment, where, because of machinery there may be a need for the reduction of numbers of workers in the short term, especially computer technology, but I am of the view that even though that in the short term might appear to be causing a reduction in the numbers of workers, that given the current information available to us, in the long term sense even in that area it should serve to provide more jobs for the people of Barbados if we go the route of technology.

Therefore we should be embarking on definite and deliberate policies which are geared to recognising that the level of unemployment we have in Barbados is unacceptably high, and if we move to an arrangement which makes that level higher, then we are going to cause more people to become dispossessed. If people become dispossessed because they have no work, and because we are moving to become more and more nuclear in our approach to our families, we have nowhere to turn from which to get sustenance, then those of us who have jobs will not be secure in those jobs and the end result would be an increase in crime and general chaos and mayhem in our country.

I would think, Sir, that the Government by its position in endeavouring to make very clear what the employment levels are, and what they hope the employment levels will be, has taken a position that is clear, recognised and accepted in my view by all sides. What might be necessary is that the Opposition parties may need to state very clearly what their 1990 position is regarding this matter of economic development and job levels. I say the 1990 position, Mr. Speaker, because I am very conscious that they may have, and in fact do have, positions which were before 1990.

But as you would appreciate, Sir, in the dynamics of political change and political development parties may change their positions from time to time to accommodate the demands of their constituents, or those persons they perceive to be their constituents. It may be necessary that at the same time the Democratic Labour Party, by its position in these Estimates, is stating very clearly that it is again committed, whatever the problems are, to a situation of increasing job levels within the Public Service, that those Opposition parties, some of whom may have had difficulty with the levels of expenditure, state very clearly their position regarding the levels of jobs within the public sector.

I think, Sir, that the people of Barbados have a very clear position of our historical positions as political parties. Those people who live here, especially those people who have no independent means of support, they do not want to know what the historical positions have been, they want evidence that whoever is the Government of Barbados, whatever political party forms the Government of Barbados, that that Government will work within their interests to provide jobs, to provide improved roads, to provide improved transport, to provide improved social amenities. They want to be able to recognise that when those things are provided they are provided for the greater good of the greatest number of persons.

It is my view, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party has demonstrated that interest in the masses, and I therefore have great pleasure in supporting this Bill.

Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Speaker, I am in support of the measures proposed for the spending of public money 1990-1991. Every year at this time the public of Barbados is given an opportunity to see in great detail how the Government's money is spent. At this time also the Honourable Members of the Opposition are given a chance to comment, to criticise, to score what they imagine to be political points and in general to put forward their ideas about how this money is spent. At the same time the opportunity is given for Members to explain to the public of Barbados what they understand by good economic management of the affairs of this country.

Between yesterday and today, Mr. Speaker, we have heard several accusations being levelled at the management of the money of this country. We have heard very emotive words - "run away expenditure," "squandermania," "criminal negligence," all expecting of course to score political points, but what is happening, in main is that the people of Barbados are being confused by the arguments advanced to support the accusation of squandermania. 3.00 p.m.

What the people of Barbados want to know is if the money that has been spent by this Government is of benefit to them, if it is helping them in their daily affairs, if it is easing their unemployment, if it is making more services available to them. That is what the people of Barbados want to know.

I heard an Honourable Member state that the matter they were speaking about was more of a concern to the people of Barbados than to the international community, and it is the people of Barbados he has to satisfy. At the same time we must remember that Barbados is now part of a global village, and everything that is done out there in the other parts of the world affects us, and what we do here is reverberated over there, and Barbados has its good name to maintain.

Those who criticise Barbados must remember that all the reports that are going out can of course do damage to our credibility and to the position that over the years successive Governments have striven to maintain; that Barbados is a country where the infrastructure works, where we look after all of our classes and our masses, and where money is spent to the best possible advantage.

Now squandermania is a very emotive word. It suggests wild spending. Mr. Speaker, what I have not heard is exactly where this wild spending is. I have not heard it identified. If squandermania, Mr. Speaker, is providing beautiful parks for the children of Barbados to play in, for the senior citizens to rest their weary feet in, if that is squandermania, then squandermania must be a good thing, because all of those measures are uplifting the people and making sure that the progress which was started several years ago by this Democratic Labour Party is being continued.

Mr. Speaker, we have a record. Our record is there for all the Barbadian public to see, and we are now continuing. We were out of this arena for ten years, but we are now continuing on the programme of progress that was started before 1976. We were out of Government for ten years and now we are carrying on with the programmes which no one can deny brought more progress to Barbados than any other Government has done in the history of Barbados.

When I hear responsible Members saying strange things in here and outside that we are no better off now than

we were 50 years ago, I am wondering where that Honourable Member was living, because there is no one who can deny that Barbados has made very great strides.

Mr. Speaker, the remarks are without back up, and I am sure that the people of Barbados - we don't have to bother about those Members - are far more intelligent than some people give them credit for, and that was proven on ^ May 28, 1986. The people of Barbados did what they wanted to do, they did what they had thoughtfully considered; they came to an understanding, they knew what they were going to do and they placed the Democratic Labour Party in power, and they placed us here because they knew that we would make good use of the money in the same way that a skillful housewife orders her affairs in the home.

Mr. Speaker, we are accused of having people with certain ideas coming into our party and we are being .. ^ accused of siding with those ideas. If that is so, as my colleague from St. John has said, then it stands to reason that any idea which says that 30 per cent of people would have to go without a job would be disastrous especially to the women of Barbados. Can you imagine what would happen if 30 per cent of the people were to lose their jobs, Mr. Speaker? Now I call irresponsible, that sort of comment.

When we compare Barbados with other countries, we read in the newspapers, there are books written, economic surveys show that over the years Barbados has managed to keep its head above water, and this is not just by guess or by hit and miss. It is by skillful management of the affairs of this country. Is it squandermania, Mr. Speaker, to cause Horse Hill in St. Joseph to be made into a beautiful new highway where people will not have to fear skidding down the corner, where when it rains just a few drops cars and trucks and these new beautiful vans and tour buses have to ^ stop at the bottom of the hill because they cannot get up? This Government has seen fit to embark upon a programme, of renewal of that Horse Hill road which in about a year's time will be one of the major highways in Barbados relieving some of the strain and stress 'on the St. Andrew roads.

Mr. Speaker, you know that in the Scotland district one has to be very careful how roads are made because we have a peculiar problem in the St. Joseph and St. Andrew areas. — ^

Mr. Speaker, is it squandermania to keep on over a thousand people working at the National Conservation Commission, most of them women, a lot of them heads of families, who look forward every week to the sure wage or salary that they will be taking home? Those people will not say squandermania; those people when the time comes will ^ "- be able to vote for the people they know who have caused •"? them to have a good living in this country.

Mr. Speaker, is it squandermania to see all around us evidence that the very people in the National Conservation Commission are doing such a wonder job for Barbados, not just for the tourists who come here, but for Barbadians themselves to enjoy? We can say with pride that the image of Barbados, the landscaping of Barbados has gone very far ahead of anything that we have ever seen in this country.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency there is a community centre. Because of the foresight of the Ministry of Employment and Community Development, they have helped these young people who are helping themselves to construct a community centre out of a bath that became disused. It is a wonderful community centre which the young people have themselves made possible. A sum of \$17 000 was handed over and these young people did the electricity work, and it is a wonderful place to be, and they have been encouraged by the Ministry. This is because the Ministry of Employment had the foresight to see that if we help the young people in the communities to help themselves, the communities will be all the better. All of this, Mr. Speaker, goes into the Estimates because the Estimates provide for sums of money to run the country. 3.10p.m.

Now, the tenantry roads. Mr. Speaker, I think that the Tenantry Roads Programme is a master stroke for the people of Barbados. The tenantry roads for long have been neglected. Many of them are not very long but they are very important. They are the little roads that people have to go through to get to church on Sunday mornings. Many of these roads are impassable when it rains and I am sure the people throughout the rural constituencies will not cry squandermania. They will say "thank you, Government, for work that is being done in the tenantry roads".

We, Mr. Speaker, in Barbados have to be careful that in trying to make our own political points we are not doing damage to the image of Barbados. We have to be careful that we show a good example.

My colleague from St. Michael Central spoke about the role model. I had intended speaking about that but since he has spoken about it I will just mention it in passing that I think we owe it to the people of Barbados, to the young people especially, to so behave in our deliberations in the House and outside of the House that young people can look up to us as role models because they are the ones who, in future, will have to take over the reins of Government in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that this Government, under the able leadership of our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Erskine Sandiford, is doing all that can possibly be done to make sure that the progress which we have experienced in Barbados is not wiped out by irresponsible thinking or irresponsible spending and I am in support of the measures that are being brought.

I will have more to say during the Estimates under the specific Heads that are called but I would like to thank you now for your tolerance.

Thank you.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my support to this Appropriation Bill and in so doing to make a few comments about some of the accusations and the words submitted by those who are not now in their place.

They obviously thought that they were going to get in here yesterday and shout and make their points and that they would be able to get some message across to the public of Barbados that they were in some manner attacking the Government and using terms such as squandermania, mismanagement and lack of planning.

Now, they went through their time. I guess they have all spoken and now they have to listen to us. They may not be present in their seats but I am sure they will have to hear what we have to say in response to them.

I hope when they mention squandermania, mismanagement and lack of planning that they were not really saying those things in relation to the Ministry for which I have responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1989/90 debate and the way things are going, I recall we spent two days discussing education and, maybe, this year we might not reach there but however, Sir, I would like to reply to them and ask them to answer my charge that there is no squandermania, no mismanagement and no lack of planning in terms of education in this country of Barbados.

It is generally known that the educational system is divided into areas. We have primary education yes where we have pre-primary education. Yes, we have only three nursery schools and we are planning to have some more but that is there. We will deal with that when we get there.

In the area of Primary Schools we all know where money is being spent and the 95 Primary Schools that we have to deal with and with others coming if money is spent in this area is squandermania, then something has to be wrong.

In the Secondary School areas, another section of education, Mr. Speaker, where there are currently some 21 secondary schools with the new Queen's College, the Wotton School and the St. Thomas School coming, we have in those schools, Mr. Speaker, an enrolment of over 21 000 children, Barbadian children with a staff of over 1 193 teachers in those secondary schools. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that they are not referring to the payment for those schools and for those teachers as squandermania.

Mr. Speaker, we hear all the time of the comments about what is required in terms of education, the changes that are necessary, all the things that we should do. We hear that we need these things. We need trained teachers. We need to spend money on training teachers because we need to look at the development of education. We need to change the course of education. If we are spending money in that area that cannot be squandermania.

We have, Mr. Speaker, out of the 1 193 teachers - and we are constantly spending money and training on these teachers - five hundred and sixty are fully trained; another 265 are trained non-graduates. The only thing is that they do not have a degree but they are trained. Only 245 of them are untrained graduates.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: When we talk about the training I want to embody the whole question of training of the secondary with Erdiston with all of the other training lacking thereof in the last 10 years and they call it squandermania?

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: You do not have to listen to me.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I passed Farmers already.

They literally had Erdiston to the point where you can say it was closed. There was nothing going on. Right now in these planned Estimates, last year and again this year we now have to spend money to refurbish the buildings at Erdiston. Is that squandermania? That cannot be called squandermania. That is money that is being spent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make just a few comments about the things that we are doing at Erdiston nowadays. The same place that was there unoccupied, unused, nothing going on, no training, no leave for these teachers. 3.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, there are areas at Erdiston where we have regular programmes going, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Business Education, Primary Programme Education, Early Childhood Education, Physical Education, Remedial Education, Computer Education, all these things are going on at Erdiston. Right now, Mr. Speaker, we have a training centre at Erdiston for all teachers within the Ministry's staff and we will be involving other Ministry staff training them in the use of computers for the business world. We cannot get enough hours in the day to train all of these people. Even in the vacation period, Mr. Speaker,

when teachers normally would want to go at the beach or somewhere else, we find that people are volunteering to come to those courses because they see the opportunity.

We now have a request from the same Erdiston College to double the equipment so that we could further enhance the training of the teachers. The same teachers that we are hearing every day and every night we need to train these teachers, we need to get the teachers trained in additional areas so they can pass on this knowledge to the children of our country.

Mr. Speaker, then we have the Barbados Community College. We all know the history of that but we are not dealing with the history of that. What I am dealing with here when we talk about the appropriation of dollars, is what we are doing now and what we intend to do to enhance the future of the community of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, it is not well-known that at the Barbados Community College, over and above all the other programmes that were going on before, we now have, within the Associate Degree Programme - and I am sure many Honourable Members, if they have the opportunity might have seen a programme - where we were trying to give the community the idea as to what is going on there so that their sons and daughters, through some inspiration, may want then to go on and register in one of these programmes.

Mr. Speaker, in the Associate Degree programme, we are now offering Associate Degrees at the Barbados Community College in Commerce, in Fine Arts, in Health Sciences, Hospitality Studies, Liberal Arts, Physical Education, Technology, Mass Communications and Computer Studies. We are spending dollars in that. That cannot be squandermania. That cannot be in any way any mismanagement. And above all, it cannot be any lack of planning.

Mr. Speaker, we move then to the next level, the , tertiary level. Last year when we spent the 2 days discussing the particular Head, I made the point that we were making provision then for some ID Scholarships and some Exhibitions. We all know, Mr. Speaker, that the end result of the last few years of study and training within the system produced some 16 Scholarships, and 21 Exhibitions. Again within this Appropriation Bill in the Estimates this year, Mr. Speaker, we have to provide. I do not mind if I underestimate this time because it is to the glory of Barbados, to the teachers and to the system, if we underestimate for the next year. I do not care if they double what my estimate is because that in itself will be an indication of the movement of the society.

Over and above those, we also provide Exhibitions at the UWI. Of course this is all over and above the additional assistance that is given in general to education at the University of the West Indies.

The other area which has been a very sore area and continues to be a sore area now because of the drought of the 10 years when there was no study leave granted, is that we find that all of these teachers have now come out of the woods, so to speak. They are all interested in study leave. Maybe it would be squandermania if I would say to every teacher who applies, yes you may go. Because we find that all the teachers now are interested in enhancing their education and their capabilities within the educational system.

Thus we find what, Mr. Speaker? That we had some 35 teachers who were away on full pay study leave, something that the Barbados Labour Party had stopped completely. Teachers now are just grabbing at the opportunity. Sixteen are on half pay and we have an additional 8 who are on other special studies. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the term squandermania then could be applied to education. I do not think they were speaking of education.

We move on Mr. Speaker. Traditionally in this country, those who were unfortunate, who for one reason or another had missed the boat and had not had the opportunity to continue their education, even in the days when we had only X number of secondary schools and indeed, Sir, to this present day, through circumstances over which they may not have had control - we heard the outcry, the people of Barbados asking that we give these people a second chance - I am happy to report to this Honourable House, since I came to this House and asked for the funds to start the continuing education programme, that we have now started four centres, Foundation, Springer, Granlley Adams and St. James. Mr. Speaker, those four centres are now over subscribed. We do not have enough places. And bear in mind, this is not squandermania. This is at a cost to the students. All they needed was the opportunity. Make it available. Give them the opportunity. Show them that someone cares. I am proud to say that they are taking advantage of that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, squandermania. Maintenance. As I said earlier we have all these schools to deal with, the primary schools, the secondary schools, the pre-primary schools and we are looking at dollars which we must spend and which we have been spending over the last three years to bring these buildings up to some maintenance, some level of respectable occupancy. I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who was asking on some occasions, who was pleading with me to do something about Welches School in his constituency will have to be happy now with the way Welches school looks now.

Aside.

3.30p.m.

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Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we understand where this money is going. We have spent on minor and

structural works some half a million dollars in 64 schools. We have had to redo the plumbing at some 47 schools. We have had to do electrical repairs in some 63 schools. We have had even termite control and we know why we had to do that in some 15 schools. We even had to deal with the grounds because you cannot have the little children running outside on rocks and glass bottle, as we call it. They have to have proper surroundings in which to operate.

General Repairs and Maintenance - Approximately \$2 million was spent in those areas on toilet blocks, contracts to secondary schools, and in other areas.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make those few points about the dollars that are being spent in education and again to ask the question - can anyone say that is squandermania? Can anyone say that is mismanagement? Can anyone say that is bad planning?

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I will deal with you under the Head. Then I will go with you on that. Mr. Speaker, I want now before I close to make a comment. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition made a comment I must say it was complimentary. However, if one looks in the newspaper today and you read what you said, I think the newspaper did both of us an injustice. But that is another story if you read what was in the paper today, totally misquoted. It had to do with the question of the alleged story of the porno at the secondary school. I am not going to go into any detail but I am going to say to this Honourable House, because Mr. Speaker I was away for a couple of days and I think that it is important that I again make my position very clear.

As was reported when I first heard of this and I was contacted, I made the point then that I considered it to be a matter for the Police to investigate and I asked then whoever had information to come forward and volunteer that information. The person who allegedly prepared the story - I do not know if she wrote the story or not, but I said prepared the story because her name is there - came and I was informed that there was no more information to be given to me. All the information was provided to the Police.

Mr. Speaker, I was further informed that all of the information would be given and that this information would be factual. I must report to this Honourable House today, Sir, that I have not as yet received any report from the Police but I will say this, Sir. If I receive a report from the Police and I am then told that there is no factual information, somewhere somehow I will have to find out where are these facts. I am as anxious as any citizen and anyone in Barbados to get to the bottom of that story if it has any truth in it and I am not passing judgment on it at this stage.

Mr. Speaker, I will end on that point. Thank you very much.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, Sir. When the Honourable Member during his address referred to a statement which I made yesterday which lie acknowledged was complimentary and at the same time he referred to the manner that my contribution was reported today, I sincerely hope there was no misunderstanding of what I said. What I said yesterday, Sir, and what I wish to elucidate is that I felt that the Honourable Minister of Education acted appropriately and with propriety and with firmness when he was faced with the situation at the St. George Secondary School in that he made it quite clear that he would be taking the firmest possible action to deal with the matter whilst at the same time allowing those organs of the state that are responsible for investigating it to have a free hand in dealing with the matter. I pointed out that that is the kind of reaction one would expect from a Minister of Government as distinct and in contradistinction to the kinds of reactions which other Ministers have had in relations to matters arising in their Ministries.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, we have gone full circle. Last year in these Estimates the Leader of the Opposition said that the Honourable Minister of Education did not know what he was doing. He only read as though he thought that other persons in here could not read and that he had never heard any. Minister who understood so little about his Ministry. He went right down the line, Mr. Speaker, and today the Honourable Minister of Education is the greatest Minister who ever sat in this House of Assembly. Could you imagine?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I criticized the Honourable Minister of Education for the manner in which he presented the Estimates last year and I have complimented him today for the manner in which he handled the matter of pornography at a school in his Ministry. I will be fair at all times, honest, and objective.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I will not be diverted, Mr. Speaker. Having looked at these Estimates, Mr. Speaker, let me say off the hand that I am supporting the Appropriation Bill here. I see a total Expenditure of \$987 million approximately and Expenditure on Wages and Salaries, National Insurance, Transport Levy and Debt Repayments which comes to \$607 million, 61% of the Expenditure. The reason why I have stated those figures, Mr. Speaker, is that some persons will be tempted to make light of what the Honourable Member for St. John was speaking of. We had been hearing for the past two years about squandermania and Government Expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, when we look and see what this Government Expenditure is on and persons can still speak about Government Expenditure is too high, we have to wonder and we were wondering where it was that they were

going to cut this Government Expenditure. As I said, Mr. Speaker, Expenditure on Wages, Salaries, and so forth like that is \$607 million out of the \$987 million. What the Honourable Member for St. John was trying to point out was the analogy used by the Leader of the Opposition. When a gentleman spoke on two occasions at the auditorium of the Democratic Labour Party, the Leader of the Opposition said that the Democratic Labour Party would have to share the same views of the person who was speaking at the auditorium. That is what he said. If you use that same analogy, Mr. Speaker, someone who is walking all over Barbados saying how he is supporting the "New Order" could be trying to portray that he is the spokesman. 3.40 p.m.

He stated, as the Honourable Member for St. John said, that one of the first orders of the day would be to cut Civil Servants' salaries by 30 to 35%, so those of us who were looking for some way how the new order was going to cut this expenditure now understand where it is likely to be. I am saying that what the Honourable Member for St. John said cannot be lightly dismissed.

Mr. Speaker, let us deal with this idea of squandermania, because the word sounds good, but if you look at how this administration has been spending the people's money you would see that probably for the first time the people who really wanted the help are now getting the help. Let me explain. I have said in here before that a police station, a school, National Housing Corporation units do not go faulty overnight, they go faulty over a period of time. Since this administration took office in 1986 you have been hearing people in the National Insurance building complaining, you have heard that all the schools were leaking.

When the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party starts to say the money they spent on refurbishment and repairing of schools and things like that, I have already pointed out to him during last year's Estimates that if you divided the amount of money he said they spent on the schools and the stations by the number of schools they said they repaired, it came to about \$3 000 per building, which is not even a window. We are not surprised that all of these buildings were in a state. That is why we had to spend so much money. Schools are being repaired now, police stations are being repaired. A lot of people seem to think that police stations go faulty or decide to leak in one morning. They go faulty over a period of time, and that is what was happening previous to 1986. We are spending the money now making the people comfortable, repairing the schools, repairing the police stations.

Let me say something, Mr. Speaker, whilst I am on this. Let me touch on the National Housing Corporation. There have been units needing refurbishing for years. Haynesville is being refurbished, Eden Lodge is being refurbished. In 1981 I came into this House of Assembly

and complained to the then administration in 1981, 1983 and again in 1985 that there were people living in Six Cross Roads Housing Area who were still using outdoor toilet facilities since 1955.¹ complained about it. In Bayville the same thing was happening. We are now putting in indoor toilet facilities in all the houses in Bayville and in Six Roads Housing Areas.

You see, Mr. Speaker, it is okay to speak about squandermania, but the point I started by saying is that the people who wanted the help are getting the help now, and all the ranting and raving coming from the other side, those two things are not going to stop the people from understanding what is happening. Barbadian people are not people who are ungrateful at all, and have never been. I have always said when the noise and the shouting is over, when they go around doing their campaigning, when they walk on the barber green roads, Mr. Speaker, what are they going to tell the people? That those roads were not done by this Government? The lights you can see for the first time in 300 years, Mr. Speaker. There were people living in St. Philip who never had roads nor lights for 300 years. What are you going to tell the people when you are canvassing? That they were not done by this administration?

Mr. Speaker, I have no worry. I let them rant and rave and let the newspapers help them. That is why whenever a poll is taken the people say they are sticking with this party. Those people are the people who are now understanding that something should have been done for them for the longest time.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get much further before I speak a little bit about this morality and this integrity. It is amazing that any party who continuously shouts about morality and integrity can every time it gets a chance to show this integrity and morality never comes out of the gutter. Let me say something to the Leader of the Opposition. If at any time in the careers of the late Tom Adams or the late Errol Barrow they ever got nasty, it was after they became Prime Minister, not before. The people in Barbados are watching you. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition wants to lead this country badly.

Certain remarks made by the Hon. It. A. BLACKMAN were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: The Leader of the Opposition in his endeavour, over anxiety and quest to be leader does not believe that there are certain basic tenets that one should live by. 3.50p.m.

Let me just say something, Mr. Speaker. It is amazing that someone who has always boasted, and I am not speaking about the Leader of the Opposition now, I will get back to him shortly, of being apolitical, and by that I mean

non-political, from the moment they joined the so-called new order seemed to have lost all sense of direction, reason and everything else you could mention. I am going to tell you something, Mr. Speaker. In Friday's Nation, in the article "Lady Adams Pass Way" written by Lick Mout Lou, and everybody knows who is Lick Mout Lou....No! I had better not say anything about it. I had better move ahead because that matter will be discussed in the law courts.

Mr. Speaker, let me say something.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not listen to asides; carry on your debate.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Let me say this, Mr. Speaker. One has to understand that if one aspires to be a leader of a country, one has to bat with his bat very close to his pads. One has to allow the people in Barbados to look at him and see that this man is a leader. There are people who are asking and who are saying, now if he is not Prime Minister yet and he is exposing people's business and private business on political platforms, what will ever happen if he became Prime Minister? I have heard hundreds of people in Barbados asking this question, and the Honourable Member does not understand, and this is advice I am giving.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Is this the same Honourable Member that come in here and talked about private conversations that we had over the telephone at midnight when I was not even in the country?

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the first thing is that I do not aspire to be any Prime Minister, so the point is that we start off from different positions altogether, and I never called anybody at midnight. But getting back to these Estimates and this argument about squandermania - and I am sorry I could not touch that other thing that needed to be touched, though - this Government has been doing things for the poor people in this community, things that have never been done before. I find it amazing, Mr. Speaker, with all the good that this Government is doing, the media, the newspapers, do not believe that they should highlight anything being done by this administration. Let me tell you something. In the National Housing Corporation, we had a situation where some old age pensioners were in arrears to the National Housing Corporation of large sums of money. This administration, Mr. Speaker, decided to just wipe off the slate and we have stopped those old age pensioners from paying the National Housing Corporation. How much did you see in the media? But, Mr. Speaker, let me say something. You know that at one of the new order's meeting some time last month, they announced that they were going to endeavour to buy over the tenancies, and apparently it did not get the sort of publicity that they thought it should have had, and there was a lot of noise kept. In fact, the gentleman who writes in the newspaper for them, a Mr. Greene, I don't know who is Mr. Greene, was

bemoaning the fact that no publicity was given to that, that they were going to buy over the tenancies and let the tenants get good conveyances and so on.

Mr. Speaker, would you believe that what they are saying they are going to do as something revolutionary was started under the Barbados Labour Party, and they did not understand that is why the newspapers did not have to publish it at all. It was something that was started under the Barbados Labour Party. It is something that we are continuing at this very moment, buying the tenancies, getting good conveyances for the tenants and letting the tenants have the spots. We will be doing it for Cluffs in St. Lucy very, shortly. So we are already doing it. The point I am getting at is that they ranted and raved about not getting the publicity; we are not making any noise. We understand the nature of the game; we understand the nature of the exercise. If they want to publish they will publish.

Mr. Speaker, I can't end unless I speak about the question of sub-division and permission. Mr. Speaker, let's deal with sub-division and the question of permission. You have been hearing recently, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party speaking about this Honourable Minister not taking the advice of the Town Planning Department and all sorts of things. Mr. Speaker, you would believe from the speeches of the Leader of the Opposition that the Barbados Labour Party when they were in office never went against anything that the Chief Town Planner said. I have seventeen examples. I have brought three today and I will read two of them. There are 17 so far that I have collected, and I mean blatant ones.

Let me just read one here. This is an application when they wanted to sub-divide Regency Park. I have the fine hand writing here of Tom Adams. This is what was written by the Department that sent the file. Remember I am making the point that you keep hearing the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition. Now over there is all right because they do not have a problem because they never had any chance to govern and would not have any in your life time or mine, but at least the others had a chance to govern. The impression he is giving Barbados, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, is that the Barbados Labour Party always went along with what the Town Planner said, and that their hands are clean. This is what was sent to the Minister for Town Planning.

"The site under consideration is part of a natural water course."

This is the officer from the Town Planning Department sending it to the Minister. Before I go any further, do you remember the late Errol Barrow would sit when he was in Opposition with us and keep complaining to them that they were blocking up water courses and causing most of the flooding in Barbados?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: This minute was on the 22nd November, 1983. Who was the Government? It continues:

"2. The area is subject to flooding.

"3. There will be a serious drainage problem.
4.00p.m.

"(4) The area should not be permitted for residential development."

Mr. Speaker, the late Prime Minister Tom Adams was the Minister for Town Planning at the time and this is what he wrote:

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Let me read. This is Mr. Tom Adams writing to the Chief Town Planner:

"I understand that an engineer at MTW is objecting. I happen to know, as you probably do, that potential developers are already in the island and ready to start work."

So what he was telling the Town Planner was that he could talk what he likes. Developers are here ready to start the work, you are going to give permission. I am going to continue reading.

"Potential developers are in the island and ready to start work. A number of the lots may well have been pre-sold. I would be most anxious to see this development proceed."

Now, he continues:

"Is the fault which the MTW engineer sees going to be one that affects the houses themselves or is it going to discharge water elsewhere?"

So what he is saying is do not mind the drainage. You can flood over yonder so long as you do not flood here.

I will continue:

"I would be glad if you could give your immediate attention to this problem."

You know what took place? Immediate permission was given.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Let me read the next Minute. In the next Minute the fellows are so frightened now. It says:

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Of course it is proper. If you say it is proper, it is proper. The point I am trying to make and I am going to make it is that the impression that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has been giving the whole of Barbados, is that this Honourable Member..

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

The Minister has an obligation to make that a document...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Why I say that, Sir, is that in light of something that happened in here with this Minister a week ago, unless I can see it, I have great difficulty in believing. His repetition of words written in any document, he tends not to be accurate, Sir.

He had to apologise to this House for attributing words to the Leader of the Opposition which were really said by the Honourable Member for St. Peter and read it and he could not understand that there was a difference between O. S. Arthur and R. C. Haynes.

I have to see that document. I am not satisfied. He may be imputing things against the former Prime Minister. I have to be careful with him.

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

The Honourable Member has just done a very serious thing. The Honourable Member has been an Attorney General of this country. He has been in this House of Assembly and he is aware that a Minister of the Crown can read from the files in the Parliament to make clear any point concerning his Ministry and he also knows that that Minister having read from the files, the file cannot be made a document of the House and he further must know, having been an Attorney General and now a Member of this House that no other person is authorised to read those files and, therefore, his calling for the file is a deliberate attempt to mislead this House.

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

He made some very strong allegations. First of all he said that no one else but the Minister should read from a file. Is that not correct? Is not that the import of what you said?

Mr. Speaker, you allowed the Honourable Member for St. John today to read a brief from the Minister of Agriculture today. Let us get that clear. He took the document out of a file. It was on a file. He took it out and passed it back. I am not quarrelling about that, Sir.

I am not asking the Minister to breach any rules. All I am saying to the Minister, just as he would let his colleagues on the back bench see the file, let me see everything that he is reading because as a result of his prior conduct, I do not trust anything he reads.

Mr. SPEAKER: Am I supposed to make a ruling on that?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir. I just want to rule it into the records.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I just want to give the Honourable Member the assurance that if he wants to see it...

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not give an Honourable Member an assurance, and I am speaking primarily to Honourable Members of this House. Whatever Honourable Members make and speak in this House is supposed to be honest and true. Until so proven, then the House would have to take action. I think the reference to the previous problem you had clearly demonstrated how honest the member was as a Member of the House that he apologised for the error so I do not think you could hold the Member in any way. All comments here are deemed to be honest and true.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, just one more example. The same Leader of the Barbados Labour Party in trying to get at me about giving permissions to subdivide because he mentioned that the Honourable Member knows - meaning me - a lot about going against Town Planning permission because I gave permission for subdivision, and he had the application number in the newspaper, 1674/6/88, I have it here. Yes, I did give permission, but I am trying to explain.

Mr. Speaker, would you believe that this same application that he accused me of giving permission to subdivide, the gentleman who applied, the applicant, used a former application as justification why you should give him permission for that and let me tell you what happened to that former one.

The former one came up from Town Planning Department to the Minister telling the Minister he has to refuse it I am not going to read all of it. "The panel said you have to refuse it." You heard that. The Town Planning Department refused it. This is what the Permanent Secretary at the time wrote to the then Minister for Town Planning.

"Please see the Panel's Report at 16/1. The recommendation is that you uphold the decision of the Chief Town Planner."

Listen to what the Minister wrote:

"I am not in favour of the Panel or the Town Planning decision.

I am in favour of the approval.

Lionel S. Craig."

4.10 p.m. .

The point I am trying to make is that you cannot go around giving people in Barbados the impression that never in the history of Barbados has anyone gone against the Town Planner. That is what the Honourable Member was doing.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member must not put foolishness into the record of the House and talk about impressions, because if there is anybody who knows has some knowledge of the Town Planning Act, it happens to be me, the Honourable Member knows that Why does he not read the law? I have never said that it is not right for a Minister, in limited areas, to overrule decisions. He knows that. What nonsense is he talking about? So, where is he saying I have said otherwise? The Honourable Member is arguing nonsense, Sir. I really cannot argue with that.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West has accused the Honourable Member of reading foolishness into the record of this Chamber. I think it should be noted that it is unparliamentary to accuse an Honourable Member of speaking foolishness. We do not speak foolishness in here, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, one of the Honourable Members on the other side is asking me if this has anything to do with Zone 1.1 will deal with the Zone 1 application at another time, at a more appropriate and effective time.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: With wider coverage so that the whole of Barbados could know. You understand. I keep telling you that that side is all right. They never wrote anything on any file or will never write anything on any file. But you all wrote something on the files and you must know that once you have written, it is there for everybody to see.

All I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that for the last six or eight months the impression was given, throughout Barbados, that I have been going against the Town Planning recommendations and I got the impression that no Minister before me had done that. I got that impression.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. We on this side have never said that the Minister should be a rubber stamp. The Minister, when we were sitting in the Senate Chamber as the House, one day said that he follows slavishly everything that he is advised by the officers, Mr. Barrow looked at him and said, "Are you a madman or what?" I remember that.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious you cannot ask Mr. Barrow anything now. Mr. Speaker, I have never followed any person or anything slavishly.

Aside.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Except when Dr. Haynes was my doctor. That is the only thing I followed slavishly. I never followed anything slavishly. No way. And you know that I cannot follow anybody slavishly.

Asides.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Let me state here, Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I believe that in 97% or 98% of the cases that come to me I tend to go along with the Town Planning Department because they are professional people. But I have said it for the past 5, 6, 8 months that there are times that you cannot go along with the recommendation of the Town Planning Department or any official, otherwise there would be no need for a Minister. I have said it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. What is the point of quarrelling with Craig's minute? What is the point of citing it in here?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I never quarrelled with the minute. I was trying to demonstrate that what this Minister was doing was nothing revolutionary and that there were inconsistencies in what was being said and what was being done before we came to office. That is all I was trying to demonstrate. Do you expect that I could think that any Minister could follow slavishly what any adviser did? That is the impression he was giving.

Mr. Speaker, I think that I have made my point in this debate. I will have more to say, much, much more to say at the appropriate time.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, Sir,....

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL:.....and to say to you that I should like to thank you very much for your wise guidance this evening, and perhaps throughout the whole day, because I sometimes wonder why is it that the authorities at CBC and VOB banned John King's "Behave Rude". I think, Sir, that there are times when, in the cut and thrust of parliamentary debate, you would find that some very serious things will be said. But, Sir, I feel that you have had cause today to really put the whip hand on and I must congratulate you. It is a pity that you cannot legislate morality and good behaviour sometimes. It is a pity that the Opposition Members are not in their seats because....

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I do not care if they are hearing or not. I would like to see them eyeball to eyeball because I do not like talking behind people's backs. It has never been one of my things.

I would just like to say this evening that I am very pleased with the tactics of the other Members on this side. I believe that the most important thing today that has upset the Opposition is the fact that they have to sit down from 10.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m. and listen to the records of this side. That is a matter of tactics. They talked yesterday and we are going to talk today. That is why it is tactics. It is customary that they would think that we would not speak now. Sir, it is all right to speak. I feel that is very important.

I wish also to say, Sir, that I have listened for the last 3 to 4 years to the comments from the Opposition Benches and from the 1st of June, even when we were out in the Other Place, Sir, I recall that nearly every week you heard the prophets of doom say that the economy would collapse. That is one of the things that they said. At one point in time the followers of the Opposition were told that they should infiltrate all groups, get involved and make sure that the

political Opposition is not only in Parliament but in all groups.
4.20p.m.

Another time, Sir, it was said that we would devalue the dollar. Well, my view of that is that it is purely meant to throw panic in the banking system. That is what I think. But day after day and year after year we were hearing that the Barbados dollar would be devalued. But all around us in Trinidad, Jamaica, and Guyana particularly, Sir, we have seen devaluation after devaluation and yet the people of this wonderful country have been told that this Government would devalue the dollar. Then as many Members today have alluded to the fact that there was talk about squandermania, run-away spending. That is what they said. Only last Sunday I read in the papers that there is a great amount of incompetence.

Now I happened to have defended a fellow Minister when the charge was brought against him early in the year and I feel that if I can defend him that I can defend myself. Last Sunday I found that a congenital buffoon said that the Minister of Tourism was incompetent. Now Sir, I do not mind people putting an umbrella in my mouth, but I do not like it if they try to open it

Therefore, I want them to know, Sir, as far as I am concerned that I want to set the record straight. It is true that for five long days of some total of about 50 hours each that if you listen to a debate after debate people might feel that it is not amusing. But I wish to say, Sir, that we on this side have made the type of contributions in the last two days, Sir, that the people of Barbados would be very proud of. We have been very clear and concise and we have looked after the peoples' business. We have not tried to be insulting in any way or to try to make hay while the sun shone. What we are doing, Sir, is doing the peoples' business.

It is true too, Sir, that while all of this is going on the talk of infiltration, devaluation, squandermania, and incompetence is going on that sometimes society goes mad. We have a situation in Barbados, Sir, where people feel that the Government should guarantee them a profit in the sugar industry - the oldest industry in this country, Sir, and this Government must guarantee them a profit.

We had a situation in 1988 where we had direct taxation. By 1989, everyone was saying - oh, do not worry with direct taxation; try indirect taxation. By 1990, they are now saying well let us reduce that. We want concessions for this, concessions for that, and concessions for everything. My position is quite clear on this, Sir. The money has to come from somewhere because all of our constituents need schools. They need roads. They need proper utilities. They need community centres. They need playing fields. They need jobs and they need houses to live in, Sir. These things do not drop down from heaven like

man and, Sir, therefore all of these things must be got through prudent management. That is what the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has done since he assumed office. It is as clear as that, Sir. I think that the people of Barbados recognize that for what it is worth and, therefore, all we need to do is to put the truth to the people.

I have a little thing here, Sir, and it says: "What happens to you when you tell the truth?"¹* Quite cleverly it says that people believe in you. That is exactly what happened to the Prime Minister, Sir. People believe in him. He comes and tells them what the position is. If he has to take a position that looks hard to people, we will still have to take it if it is for their best. That is the position, Sir. In other words, we will tell the truth.

I thought too, Sir, that I would say a few words about tourism since tourism impacts very positively on the economy. Sir, I think that it is common knowledge now in Barbados, despite what others may say that tourism has been a success story for a few years. I wish to say that in 1988 it contributed some \$918.4 million to the economy. In 1989, Sir, it will contribute some \$1 billion to this economy. We have seen an increase in the visitors to Barbados, so much so that when the record of 451,000 visitors came in 1988 we thought perhaps that we have got to our pinnacle. But in 1989, Sir, I am proud to report that we would see some 470,000 visitors visiting Barbados.

Sir, as far as I am aware, by 1984 the occupancy rate of the hotels in Barbados was a mere 39%. By the end of last year, Sir, it had reached 70%. That is the measure of the work done by the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, under successive Ministers. Therefore, when people talk about tourism and they speak in sort of neophyte terms, then I think that we have to ignore them, Sir, and let the people know exactly what is the truth.

My Ministry, Mr. Speaker, recognizes the importance of tourism for sustained economic growth of this country and in the decades of the 1990's and further beyond, Sir. That is into the 21st century. As the backbone of the economy, Sir, it means that we recognize fully that it is very important as far as our foreign exchange, balance of payments consideration and, indeed, our employment generation are concerned. It is as simple as that, Sir. It is not only important to Barbados, but it is important to every Caribbean island. Therefore, Sir, as we go into the 21st century, we are very aware of the role that it has to play because tourism is a dynamic force. It is a high profile Ministry and I say, Sir, tourism is the most important industry in the world. It has just surpassed the oil and motorcar industries, Sir. These are things that are well known. We in Barbados must look very carefully, Sir, if we are going to maintain our position in the tourism field, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, because of those factors, the Ministry recognizes the need for ongoing structural reform of its

tourism policy and, indeed, its product offering. What I am actually trying to say, Sir, in a few words is that it demands changing with change. I think, Sir, that so much has been said in the last year or so not before October, because we came in here in October and we alerted the world that there would be a softening of the market out of North America. No one said anything about it. But by the end of December when people saw that at least we were right and that there was a softening rather than asking what measures had we taken to alleviate the problems that we saw, everybody ran all over the place, Sir, like three blind mice talking about tourism is in a decline;

I say, Sir, if you will just notice from the figures that tourism in 1989 was a record and a record. I dare say, Sir, that in 1990 we will see this 470,000 arrivals and those figures will be surpassed.

Let us look then at the policy and what we have to do. Because if they are saying that we have no policy, I think that I have about 25 issues of bold policy initiatives by this Government that will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are on top of the job and we know exactly what the position is.

Sir, we are looking at the growing importance of the European market in global tourism development strategy. We had to do that, Sir. When one considers that in 1992 what ramifications the Common Market will have not only to Barbados but to all Caribbean countries, Sir, in the field of tourism. We have looked at that very seriously and we have made decisions what we will do. We have to look at the point in 1997 where Hong Kong will be going back to the Chinese. We have to look at that very seriously. Having looked at the evolution of the single European Market in 1992, we have then too to look, see, and recognize that the European tourists that come to Barbados are first and foremost, Sir, long stay visitors and secondly, Sir, they are repeat visitors.

What I am trying to say, Sir, is this. We will never have enough money to woo and lure 470,000 visitors every year. What we need to do is to give them a product that is so good that we will ensure value for money and as a consequence, Sir, they will return again and again. That is the policy, Sir. It irks me when people say that we have no policy. What must we then do, Sir? We must open up the frontiers. That is what we have to do, Sir, in Continental Europe.

I have just returned from Italy, France, Switzerland, and Germany. What happened out there?
4.30p.m.

We recognised very easily that the most important drawback was our inability in the Caribbean to have adequate airlift out of Europe. We had discussions in Italy and now Italians will be flown to Zurich and will make a

connection with the BWIA flight coming out of Frankfurt and will fly direct to Barbados. That is what they want to do, Sir. We have had discussions with Air France in Paris and last year during our discussions they were putting to us that we must have a quid pro quo. They were very anxious to find out what was happening with the Air Martinique flights out of Martinique into St. Lucia and Barbados. This year they were not telling us it is a quid pro quo, they were telling us that they will fly to Barbados, full stop, but they hoped we would look at their situation also.

Sir, as we went to Germany, we talked last year with Condor, a subsidiary of Lufthansa. When Condor saw that BWIA was flying out of Germany, they felt they could not match the price and dropped out of the race. I am just saying these things, Sir, so that Honourable Members of this House would understand that when we say that we are looking very seriously at our European market, it is important

When the refugees came into West Germany, some 110 000 East Germans went into West Germany since January 1 of this year. What does that mean, Sir? It means that they will be looking for jobs. It means that for the first time in their lives, having got the jobs, they will be able to travel. When one looks at the parity of the mark, because one West German mark is equal to four East German marks, and so we have to look very carefully at the unification - not like President Bush talking about the reunification, the Germans do not like that at all - of the Germanics, we have to look and see how that impacts on our tourism.

Sir, I do not want to go any further, but we have also talked to people in Switzerland. Many companies are interested in coming to Barbados, and what is more important, there are indeed non-scheduled carriers these visitors will be coming by, but I wish to make the point here that they are all up market. The Italians that come to Barbados stay at Sandy Lane, and what is important is that instead of staying at Sandy Lane in the winter only, they are now coming in the summer.

I really do not wish to talk about Sweden, because the figures from Sweden have improved fourfold in the last year. What is more, the softness of the market in January and February will be made good by way of the fact that for the first time in our history we are now having people coming out of Finland. Four thousand Finnish people will come to Barbados between November and December this year, and these are new arrivals. They have never been here before, Sir.

While we are at it, there are lots of people in Germany and throughout the whole of continental Europe who will come here. It is interesting to note that last year alone 430 000 Germans went to Finland on vacation, so when we have 11 000 coming to Barbados it is just on the periphery,

scratching on the surface - like a bee, scratching - and therefore I wish to say that we will be looking very seriously at that.

Sir, the United Kingdom operation. I wish I had two hours so that I could pontificate on these matters. I have never really been a short burst man, Sir, I have always wanted a little time. We have charters not only out of Manchester, not only out of Luton, not only out of Standstead, but certainly out of Birmingham, and now as far north as Newcastle. What we are doing now to the north, Sir, we are catching those new visitors who would come out of Scotland and we are even now penetrating the Welsh market. The Minister of International Transport will tell you that all of these things I am talking about have passed his desk.

I just wish to say also that in confronting these stark realities of the world scene we are really seeking to respond to the dynamics of the tourism development. My Ministry's policies and programmes have been geared along the following 17 lines. I will now give 17, not seven, and I hope I have the time.

1. We are going to continue to arrest - Minister Taitt knows about this - the seasonably problem and sustain the year round tourism.

In other words, Sir, the policy of this Government is that we will have year round tourism. Gone are the days when you find that the workers of the tourism industry will seek to go overseas in the summer because they had no jobs. We are saying that we have arrested the seasonally problem, we have alleviated that problem and now we are sustaining a year round tourism. That is one.

2. We have to strengthen our competitive edge in the non-traditional markets in Europe, United Kingdom, USA and Canada, particularly in the United States of America, because we have increased our arrivals from almost all other segments except the American sector.

It behoves us, therefore, having recognised what is the position, to look very seriously at the non-traditional areas. In other words, we do not only look at the tri-state, we do not only look at Washington, New York and Boston. That is old hat. We have gone for the non-traditional areas like Atlanta, Cincinnati, Orlando, Chicago, the south eastern tip, and we even attempted to have a hub out of Miami and that was aborted.

Sir, I wish to say that we are attracting new scheduled airlines. This is important, Sir. We need to attract new scheduled airlines. I notice that there was a report in the paper the other day about Delta. It is true that we saw Delta last year. It is true that Delta was very impressed with our presentation. It is equally true that Delta believed at that time that they could not fly from Atlanta to Barbados non-

stop, simply because they did not have aircraft, but when I pointed out to them that that was not particularly true, that the 727 stretch aircraft would do it quite easily, because they do it from the United States of America to Barbados with ease and therefore they can do it from Atlanta, the man said "yes, I agree with you." 4.40 p.m.

The man said he agreed with me and I have no doubt, I don't know if they have applied, but Delia's problem is one of success. Delta is so successful in their domestic market that sometimes they do not see the need to come so far afield.

Sir, I wish to now go on to thinking No. 4, maximising our returns through a diversified product offer and making Barbados an affordable destination.

It is common knowledge, Sir, that since the Barbados dollar is tied to the US dollar, when the US dollar dipped, Barbados became more affordable to the Europeans. That is what I am alluding to, Sir.

No. 5. We wish to enhance our sports tourism fusion, itself a fundamental policy for sustained tourism development. Sir, I need say no more about that.

No. 6. Meeting the challenges and prospects for sports-tourism through the development of golfing facilities to attract upscale visitors.

Sir, we are going to have better golfing facilities in Barbados, because we recognise that the sun, the sand and the sea are not the type of attributes that any longer attract thousands and millions of people. Not just that You have to have more than that Three thousand hours of sunshine can be got elsewhere. Indeed in the peso based countries, you will find that they can go there cheaper, and in the case of Canada we have suffered, but I know for sure that when I first went to Mexico, one US dollar was worth 12 pesos; now it is 2 700 pesos to an American dollar. That is the measure of the devastating effect that devaluation has had on their economy. Fortunately that is not the case in Barbados. We ride high as far as our economy is concerned, thanks to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Barbados. We can say that without fear of contradiction. I need not talk about the development of the sporting complex, because everybody knows that the stadium will be started in a few months and we know for sure that we have to upgrade our infrastructure in the entire tourism plant.

Sir, No. 7. We wish to create a good mix and balance between the different types of visitors, the upmarket discriminating tastes and the more general budget-type visitors.

In other words, we wish to make sure that in Barbados we have a good mix. Why do we need a good mix? We

must have a good mix in Barbados because in this country we have 135 properties, some are luxurious, others are middle of range and some are guesthouses, therefore, Sir, we need to get the Concorde. It is a matter of envy that not only Caribbean countries but many destinations in the western hemisphere are a little jealous of the fact that sometimes on Saturday afternoons two Concorde will come sleekly into the Adams airport That is important, so we must of necessity have a good mix. Eighty per cent of our smaller hotels are owned by Barbadians, and that is why this Government is so special in thinking of asking them to upgrade their facilities, so that we can give people the value for money concept that we so eagerly look for.

We also want to help them with their marketing procedures, their marketing thrusts, their accounting procedures in order to help them with their infrastructure development That is what this Government has been doing for the small hoteliers, Sir, and when we say so we say so truthfully. Sir, we wish to strengthen the financial management and marketing capabilities of the physical plant of the small hotels through technical assistance. That is what I have just described. We are going to make them solvent and we are going to make them proud of their existence.

We have to have the on-going development of Convention facilities. We feel that in today's world it is very important to have business people coming to Barbados and in so doing they can have a mixture of business and entertainment, a mixture of business and fun, and by having proper Convention facilities, Sir, this is what we will have to do.

No. 12, Sir. We are going to support the grant of fiscal incentives aimed at upgrading existing hotel plant and promoting ancillary services.

In other words, when the Prime Minister in his Budget speech gave concessions last year and again this year to the tune of \$3 million, that is what we are talking about, that hoteliers will be in a position when the Hotel Aids Act which is now in its drafting stages comes into being, hoteliers will be in a better position to know what concessions they are going to get. All of this is a policy enunciated by this Government and which I am sure our detractors know about, but they do not wish to acknowledge.

No. 13, Sir. Enhancing varying modes of tourism development

In other words, Sir, we are looking very seriously at cultural tourism. Sir, cultural tourism is a marvellous thing. You have the Oistin Festival, Hometown Festival, Balhsheba Festival. We are also trying to get our entrepreneurs, our young people, our craftsmen to show what they can do and ask the tourists to come in, ask for some cooperation from

the ground tour operators, and ask them to go into the areas where they are congregating and let the tourists come and support them. These are things that we are going to do.

Health tourism is another important concept, including maturing guests. Maturing guests are not just maturing guests, it is a beautiful term for old people, and since the demographic profile of the elderly suggests that they are getting older, I say, Sir, that we have to make very special efforts to look after the elderly people when they come here on vacation. It is as simple as that, Sir.

No. 14. We have to meet the challenges of the environmentally sensitive tourism. The Minister responsible for the environment daily tells us exactly how sensitive an area this is, and we in tourism know that to be true.

No. 15. Attacking the nuisances to effective tourism development through legislation. Sir, I am talking about molestation on the beaches. I am talking about drugs and animals on the beaches; I am talking about the indiscriminate use of water crafts and although we have been besieged by queries in the last year, I am saying to you, Sir, that we are making great strides. The strike force that has been put in place has brought great success, and this Government will now bring legislation very shortly which will put an end to all of these bad practices.

No. 16. We are going to have a conscious policy of tourism education and training and improved public awareness programmes.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to tell you that throughout the length and breadth of this entire country, there are youngsters at the primary level, youngsters at the secondary level who are taught tourism by tourism officials every term. That is a fact. Further, we have also through CTO, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, made arrangements for teachers to come into this programme and in a very short time our teachers will be getting all this material ready and we will soon have it on the curriculum in every school in Barbados I hope. We need therefore to talk to the Minister of Education who himself is *ad idem* as far as this policy is concerned.

Sir, lastly, but certainly not least, we have to maintain the sectoral linkages with agriculture, health, the environment, trade, international transport, ground transportation and law and order. In other words, Sir, in terms of agriculture we must produce more food, we must catch more fish and things like that, so that we cannot only feed our inhabitants, but certainly we do not have to import to feed the 407 000 visitors that we get. We need all of these sectoral linkages, and it pains me sometimes when I hear people say that we have no policy.

In conclusion, Sir, one last thing, on the ARC race that apparently has left us, people are saying that we did not do

our best, but, Sir, I don't even know if I have to make it a document of the House. 4.50 p.m.

I would just say that on January 10 Mr. Cornell wrote me and Sir, I would just crave your indulgence. You would not believe these words.

"We understand that various plans are under consideration to have a marina built in Barbados but these are long-term plans and anyway, we are not convinced that a marina will be the ideal solution for the ARC.

No marina operator would agree to vacate all available berths for three to four weeks just to accommodate the ARC so even if the marina is built in Barbados, the ARC fleet might have to be accommodated elsewhere."

This was written by Jimmy Cornell, Sir. He is the organizer of the Atlantic Race for Cruisers, the man that said only three months ago in Barbados that it does not matter what happens that Barbados will be the finishing point of the ARC Race for 1990, 1991 and 1992.

If St. Lucia has back-raised us because he asked that one of the conditions be an annual contribution to the ARC Budget of Bds. \$90 000 payable in three equal instalments. There was nothing else except two rented cars which we have always done. Accommodation of world cruises staff December 5 to January 1 and then having a village type recreation area with all necessary facilities, bar and restaurant. We have done this.

We moved Baxter's Road to the Shallow Draught. We had Enid's fish and chicken, cou-cou and flying fish and everything for them. We had banking facilities. We had everything done possible to make it necessary for them to enjoy themselves. But a marina is not the only thing in the world that will make people happy.

That is all I have to say and I am only reading from these records to prove that we were given the idea that a marina was not all. What is more, Sir, when the race starts in Grand Canaria it does not start from a marina. Believe me, Sir. The marina is 10 miles away in a town called Mogart. I am telling you, Sir. I have been there and I am saying that what they needed were floating docks.

When I asked the Barbados Yachting Association to give me some quotes on the floating docks so that we can try to meet the man halfway they are still getting the quotes. That is why they were so upset and went to the Press.

I say all of that, Sir, just to tell you that I am very pleased with the performance of tourism. Tourism officials and this Minister and this Government rejoice in the fact that our work has been simply magnificent. The Opposition doubts have been magnificently simple.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 5.15 p.m. this evening.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 5.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.55p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING Mr.

SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me start by stating that I am supportive of the measure here before this House today to pass sums of money for the work of the people in Barbados over the year 1990/91.

One of the first things that struck a chord in my memory about these figures before us is the sum of money that the Government of Barbados has to find over the next year for the repayment of loans which come to some \$192 000.

Going on from this, when the Honourable Prime Minister was introducing this measure, he made the very relevant remark that any Government cannot continue to borrow its way out but there must come a time when you have to be able to pay your way in this world otherwise you would have difficulties.

Those remarks immediately turned my attention to the portfolio I have the responsibility for since it happens to be one of the areas that is considered an economic Ministry and the other not a social service Ministry which means that the Ministry of Agriculture together with Tourism, together with manufacturing, together with services and the others are responsible or charged with the job of bringing into this country enough funds, particularly foreign exchange to allow the Minister of Finance in his prudence to allocate these funds meaningfully to do the works of the people of Barbados.

Over the last year, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, I believe, has been the most spoken of, written of and talked of. Some were constructive. Most was destructive but despite that, the Ministry and its officers and I want to place on record my appreciation for the officers in the Ministry who in very trying times tried to analyse the problems in the agriculture sector and tried to find the solutions to them.

No analysis of the problems in the agriculture sector can be done without, unfortunately, turning to the whole subject area of sugar, its fortunes and its future. The

solutions made today are just as relevant as at any other time. In correspondence that has been exchanged between the Honourable Prime Minister and the industry, the end of this month is a critical time for the sugar industry and we shall soon know whether or not that industry which is the oldest industry in Barbados is once again returned to the level of productivity that would allow the foreign exchange to come into this island or whether this Government or the people of Barbados would have to take some very stringent measures to rescue the agriculture of this country.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1989 crop which I am not going to go through very much because so much has been spoken about it, we had a very low crop, 66 000 tonnes, but I would just like to place on record that despite the fact it is the lowest crop for the last 50 years, it is not the biggest differential in production known in the sugar industry.

There was a time when the sugar industry dropped from 131 000 tonnes to about 84 000 - I cannot remember the figures exactly. So if we dropped the year before from 84 000 to 66 000 it is not the biggest differential. What is important has been the reasons for those drops and the solutions to those problems and what the Government has intended to do.

After numerous discussions with the sugar industry, Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Government has done everything possible to date and will continue to do everything possible to find the solutions to the industry and let me say up front that this Ministry of Agriculture, this Minister of Agriculture, this Government, are not included in those people in high places with a sinister plan to allow agriculture to collapse in order to deprive the white minority of their lands. I want to put that up front.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that this Minister of Agriculture, this Ministry of Agriculture that I preside over, this Government that I am a member of, are not included or part of those people in high places with a sinister plan to allow agriculture to collapse in order to deprive the white minority of their lands.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if those words were written by anyone beside someone of the cloth, or anyone else in Barbados of another colour, you would have heard so much commentary in this country it would be unbelievable because the charges that people in high places have a sinister plan to allow agriculture to collapse in Barbados with the ulterior motive of depriving the white minority of their land is such a sinister one that I cannot begin to comprehend the gravity and the seriousness of that statement.

5.20p.m.

But I want to place on record that I am not part of that, my Ministry is not part of that and my Government is not part of that.

After we examined it, Mr. Speaker, we were told by the industry that the industry has now lost hope and therefore they need some assurance that we in this Democratic Labour Party and this Government have a place for sugar which I have always demonstrated, and I have always told them in no uncertain terms, that the policy of this Government is to diversify around sugar with about 85 000 tonnes of sugar going up to 90 000 tonnes and other crops, as a mix.

We examined numerous problems that we would have. The main problem they imposed was the debt problem. In a pledge given to them by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, at the moment, discussions are going on between the industry, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Barbados National Bank to look at ways and means of tackling the debt problem. I want to go on record as saying, that certainly, since 1986 that there were numerous recommendations from the Ministry of Agriculture to look at those problems. These recommendations have gone, on numerous occasions, to the Ministry of Finance and they were examined under the former Minister of Finance. He knows of the problems we were having. He knows of some suggestions which I found not acceptable. Under the present Minister of Finance, he is also aware of the problems.

The second problem we were having, Mr. Speaker, is the problem of uncertainty of earnings from sugar and this was tied into the fact that the movement of the ECUs against the US\$ caused an uncertainty which did not allow them to plan. Therefore we in the Ministry for the first time, I want to repeat, Mr. Speaker, for the first time in the Ministry of Agriculture that any Government of Barbados offered to the sugar industry, at a time where they were aware three years in advance of what they were going to get for sugar....

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: What happened before? They reaped the sugar and they exported it and in the month of December when the industry's funds were available, when Uioisc industry funds since 1982 were not enough funds to allow the industry to have any certainty, they appealed to the Government of the day and the Price Support Programme started.

But the important thing, Mr. Speaker, is - and I want to spend some time on that - that on all of those occasions there was no sinister plan. Nobody was about to deprive the while minority. But the white minority demonstrated their failh in ihrir own industry, they demonstrated their willingness to co-operate with the Government of the day

by going ahead and planning for the season ahead well before they were aware of what was the end price of the sugar to them.

We in an effort to get around ihis offered a minimum guarantee price which mere seemed to be some confusion in the Barbados Labour Party about because the spokesman for Finance, the Honourable Member for St. Peter has gone on record as saying he did not believe in on-budget support. Only yesterday I heard ihe Member for Si. Thomas saying that the Barbados Labour Party would go on on-budget support for the industry. For ihe first time they would go on on-budget support for the industry when Iwo weeks ago the Member for St. Peter was castigating this Minister and this Ministry for making an on-budget support saying that we do not know what we are lelling in ihe taxpayers of this country for.

The nexl poinl I want to raise is thai ihe Leader of the Opposition, for the first time I can record in his contribution to anything on sugar, is now willing to give the sugar industry anything thai ihey want or is necessary in his opinion. One has lo be very careful, Mr. Speaker. One has to be very careful in lhat the utterances from the people in the political arena, however sincere they are or otherwise, do not create a silualion where ihe members in ihe sugar indusiry are so assured lhal ihey can call ihe shols whenever ihey want lhe shols, lhal ihcy fail to realize lhal lhey owe a duty to lhe indusiry and ihemselves to examine ihe indusiry and see where ihey can bring about savings. This is very importani because ihis is a critical monih for ihe indusiry and lhe foreign exchange earnings of Barbados.

I will tell you why ii is a critical monih. The Government has juSl passed lthrough lhis House ihe sum of \$2.15 million which will allow us lo pay a subsidy to lhe sugar indusiry which broughl ihe industry funds plus subsidies to \$950 a lonne. Thai was acceptable for ihe 1989 crop.

Discussions have been going on between ihe Ministries of Agriculture and Finance with ihe industry for lhe 1990 crop and ihe 1991 crop. There is nothing we can do about ihe 1990 crop which we expect lo be around 65 000 tonnes, hopefully il would be a little above thai. Bui we have been planning coniuuously, Mr. Speaker, between ihe Ministry and ihe Government and ihe industry for ihe 1991 crop. Il is agaisnl lhal planning which we were hoping and still hope to achieve a targel of 80 000 tonnes of sugar lhal the crucial decisions have to be made ihis month on where we go and whether or not this largel will be met. In a correspondence received from the indusiry and I quotic:

"The indusiry has indicated lhat production of 80 000 tonnes is achievable in 1991 dependent on a combination of favourable weather conditions and the implementation of a programme lo be commenced no later lhan the end of March 1990...."

In other words they are telling you if the programme does not commence by the end of March, we would miss the boat:

"to stimulate production of between 2 500 to 3 000 acres by force back and by retention of ratoons that might otherwise have been ploughed. This estimate is made on the assumption that existing land under cultivation would be available. Production at this level and beyond can be attained by 1992 and thereafter to the degree that fallow lands are brought back into cultivation on a timely basis."

We are put on notice that if a programme is not in place by the end of this month that our projection for returning the sugar industry to the levels of 80 000 and up would certainly have gone offshore. What has led to that timely warning that the end of the month is important?

The Rt.Hon. Prime Minister in an effort to seek consensus and in appreciation of the importance of the agricultural sector, after exhaustive discussions with myself and the Ministry, has met with the sugar industry on two occasions at their request 5.30p.m.

On the first occasion, the Prime Minister after examining the implication for the finances of this country put on the table \$975 a tonne for the 1990 crop and \$1,000 a tonne for the 1991 crop with a bonus of \$25.00 a tonne as soon as you go over 80,000 tonnes. That is a movement by the Prime Minister from the recommendation of my Ministry of \$950 a tonne, a recommendation that was not taken lightly after we examined very scrupulously the figures provided by the Barbados Sugar Industries Limited and after we took into consideration the concessions granted by the Prime Minister in his most recent Budget

In a meeting with the Prime Minister once again, they approached the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister willingly at very short notice met with them. After exhaustive discussions, the Prime Minister once again demonstrated his faith and commitment to the industry by moving the offer once more. The Prime Minister put on the board for 1990 \$997 a tonne and for 1991 \$1,025 a tonne with a bonus of \$25.00 a tonne over 80,000 tonnes. The industry was asked to go away and consider it, taking everything into consideration of the importance to the economy of Barbados. That is the privileged position that they occupy. Their responsibility as land owners in this country to the people of this country for the use of that land and the fact that they are purely entrusted with something that belongs to the people of this country should be taken into consideration. The fact is that we are certain that if the efforts are made that they could improve efficiency in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, let me give you an example that brings out the problem that we face in the agriculture industry about subsidy. Two years ago in Trinidad in the pork industry the Trinidad Marketing Board bought all the pork from the farmers and then passed it on to the processors at a subsidized price. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago because of the stringency they now face immediately said to the Marketing Board - "No more subsidies for pork. We cannot afford it and, therefore, we call it quits." The Marketing Board called in the pig farmers of Trinidad and Tobago and said, "Well, look as from this year we cannot buy your pork and pass it at a subsidized price to the processors. You have to deal with the processors." A few dropped out, but the majority of people in that industry who thought they could not improve their efficiency, realizing their capital outlay in the industry, got to work and within 18 months the pig industry in Trinidad and Tobago improved its efficiency by 16.5%. People started to get pigs to the market in 23 weeks instead of 31 and had records of sows weaning 23 piglets a year or 23.5%, which is the second highest in the entire world just because they were called upon to be efficient to survive and there was no subsidy as a prop. If this never happened in Trinidad, the pig industry in Trinidad would still be inefficient.

The sugar industry has to understand that they have to learn that lesson as well. What has been the response to date? The sugar industry has had on the table for some little while a minimum price of \$1,137.00. In negotiating, I expect people to move both ways. The Barbados Government has been moving but the industry has not budged one inch up to now and they put that price of \$1,137 a tonne. The industry is to meet March 22nd to consider what is going to happen. There have been allegations before that instructions have been given not to plough any new lands.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say anymore about this. This is a matter that now rests in the hands of the Prime Minister who has been in discussion with my Ministry and myself on a very serious problem. But I am saying that goodwill has to be displayed by both sides in this case. It is my firm conviction that this Government has demonstrated entire goodwill in this industry. I, therefore, hope that when that meeting on March 22nd is held that the people of Barbados will be given good news that we can expect the 80,000 tonnes of sugar.

Mr. Speaker, no Government that is charged with the affairs of people can run away from tough decisions and decisions will have to be made if it becomes necessary of where we go from here. In the interest of the people of Barbados and the economy, I hope that good sense will prevail throughout the agricultural industry in Barbados. I say no more because I do not want to prejudice the negotiations that are going on on this matter at the moment.

We have spent so much time, Mr. Speaker, in Parliament over the last year or two talking about the 66,000 tonnes of sugar which were the lowest in the land, talking about agriculture has collapsed and that there is a crisis, but we have not had time to look and see what has been happening otherwise. It is a good ploy for people to hold what they believe is a weak point in any Government's programme, quite rightly. The Oppositions have been holding their fire power for the Ministry of Agriculture but we have inherited problems. We will try and find the solutions. We have found some solutions. We Will endeavour to find the others and we will work assiduously towards those solutions, Mr. Speaker.

In the meantime, there have been successes in the other sectors. If we look quickly, Mr. Speaker, at the livestock sector in Barbados, I think it is fair to report that that sector has been performing very, very well. The latest figures also support my contention about what that sector is going through. We have seen, Mr. Speaker, in 1989, a 113% increase in the production of beef in this country and it is not by chance that this has happened. We have moved from 389,000 kilos to 832,000 kilos. How did this come about? Mr. Speaker, I would say the main reason for this was by providing a guaranteed market for the people with cows here. It was a programme that we introduced through the Barbados Marketing Corporation after consultation with the industry together with the efforts of the private farmers in this country, particularly one person who has done a very good job in beef production. I have been able to demonstrate that it is possible to raise high quality beef in this country at a good price. What we have to understand is that if we do not have to send money overseas for beef, it is a foreign exchange gain. Foreign exchange saved is foreign exchange earned.

The poultry industry continues to perform extremely well. Last year once again there was a record increase of 19% with a production of 10,426,000 kilos of poultry meat. For the first time in the history of Barbados we have produced more than 10 million kilograms of poultry meat. Pork is slightly down and we have been working on a solution to that. Veal is up. Mutton is up. We have a slight problem with eggs. Eggs are 1% down. Turkey meat and milk are down.

Let me talk a little about milk, Mr. Speaker. I saw an article in yesterday's paper which once again I think is unfortunate which is giving the impression that the Pine Hill Dairy is running people out of the dairy industry and they have to close down. Because of the success of the dairy industry to date, Mr. Speaker, last year they look in 12,821,000 kilograms of milk. They have now reached the stage where the market for the fresh milk is becoming over supplied and as a result they have to be putting fresh milk into the evaporated milk which is a tremendous loss to the industry. Now the milk and dairymen in this country have the unique opportunity and privilege of having an assured

market for their milk. Therefore, the Pine Hill Dairy is the source to provide that market. They have to work in conjunction with the Pine Hill Dairy. The Pine Hill Dairy after a lot of discussion has decided that in order to structure the industry properly they must have a quota system going. Discussions are going on between the Ministry and the Pine Hill Dairy and nothing has been reported to the Ministry to date that there has been any breakdown in the discussions. I, therefore, have no reason to be alarmed about the dairy industry. 5.40 p.m.

It is a well structured industry. The efficiency is improving in the dairy industry, thanks to the work of the Extension Officers, and I believe that this is the best way to go forward.

In the other non-sugar crops we have seen some increase last year. We have had an increase in potatoes, about 2.4% increase, where we produced 2.5 million kilos and we have seen an increase in yams. Let me stop quickly on potatoes and show the problems that we have. We have now been producing a fair amount of potatoes and we have found an overseas market for them, but just as we started to get into stride in the overseas market we ran up against the problem of transportation, in that we were looking for available space for about 5 000 boxes a week. We had gone for a couple of weeks with Gcest Line, but naturally Geest Line's first obligation to the Caribbean is to the banana people, so on a couple of occasions when we requested space we found that there was no available space for us and therefore we are beginning to have a fair amount of potatoes on our hands but we are finding alternative ways of gelling the potatoes out, since we have a good market and we intend to exploit thai market to the hilt.

We have had an improvement in yams, but we continue to have the problem of anthracnose.....

Aside

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I have just been advised that Gcest is now providing the space for us. Thanks very much.

We had an increase in yams last year as well, 76%, but we still have some problem with the anthracnose which the technical people have been working on and as a result we are trying to introduce a new variety to get around the anthracnose problem, since that is a problem throughout the Caribbean.

There has been an increase in the production of beets by 54%. We have had a reduction in cabbage, an increase in carrots, an increase in cucumbers, melons, okras, hot peppers and tomatoes. Overall there has been some recovery in the vegetable section of the agricultural sector last year, but we still have some problems. In agriculture, the moment you lick one problem a new one is discovered.

We still have the problem of white flies which the technical people have been working on non-stop with some success, but unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, for the first time they have discovered in Barbados the thrips palmae, which is a new insect to Barbados, and the technical people are very, very worried. It was introduced and found in Puerto Rico three years ago, and to date Puerto Rico has tried 32 insecticides against this pest without any success* It is particularly dangerous to cucurbits - cucumbers, squashes, etc. - and we are very, very concerned about it, since to date there has been no chemical found to be effective against it, so we can only hope that we do not have that problem going again.

In the programme for the continuing development of our fruit industry, we have had some success in that area. It is well known by now, Mr. Speaker, that we have talked about the increased production of the banana industry in this country and it will continue to increase. Our pawpaws are continuing and more and more people are getting into mangoes, etc. We continue to hope that people would take the opportunities available.

Once again I must say that the owners of land in this country are not taking the opportunities available to them. For argument's sake, there is an assured market at Pine Hill Dairy for guava pulp as well as cherry pulp and passion fruit. We have made the agricultural sector aware of it, we have been providing planting material from the soil people for it and we have done everything possible by way of demonstration to get them to go into these tree crops, but there is a reluctance to go into the tree crops and people believe it is felt that the fact that we still have the sugar cane mentality that we believe that anything besides sugar cane is not agriculture. This is not true, because Pine Hill Dairy has been putting out lots of money yearly in foreign exchange in an effort to buy those particular pulps, so I encourage them once again to get into it.

Mr. Speaker, I will not at this time go too much into the fishing industry, I would only like to report that we have reached what I believe is a satisfactory agreement with Trinidad and Tobago, the details of which will be made known at the earliest possible opportunity. It is not expedient at this time until we hear from the Trinidad Government that it has been accepted and we have something in writing to discuss it, but I am hopeful that that agreement which is slated to come into place from the 1st January, 1991 will see once again our people being able to exploit in a well managed way the resources off Tobago. At the appropriate time we will make the announcement on that.

I am going to touch very quickly on some of the Capital programmes that we are going to be looking at. Under Head 74, Subhead 5 - Subsidies, the Prime Minister has moved in the sum of \$3 million which we are going to use to assist all those people bringing back lands under

cultivation. Let me say here that the ADC is now reaping canes from 100 acres at the Belle on those lands that have been brought into cultivation. They will be expected to reap 300 acres next year. They have brought back in 300 acres of land at the cost of \$420 000, about \$1,400 an acre, and we expect to reap from that 100 acres some 2 500 tonnes of sugar this year to assist with the effort. We are using this \$3 million as a subsidy to be given to people under a programme that they would be made aware of bringing back idle lands into cultivation.

Under Object No. 7, the Member for St. Peter talked about the Three Houses Spring. The Three Houses Spring Project is on schedule and we have \$375 000 in this year's Estimates to do the collection point for the springs from which we will be irrigating over 100 acres of land in St. Philip. When he mentioned the studies, the \$60 000 is intended for engineering fees for the design of the dams and other work which we will construct this year.

We did all the testing last year, we have cleaned all the wells, we have done all the bore holes, the study is now completed and the actual project is in progress at the moment where we are doing the collection point.

Under Subhead 28 we have a sum with which we are going to construct a tissue culture laboratory for the cut flower industry. This is intended to provide high quality material at a rapid rate for the industry that we have been spending some time and energy on. We believe that it is one of the fastest growing industries in the world from a foreign exchange point of view. It is a specialty area and one has to be careful how one goes into it, because Barbadians were not accustomed to this type of production. Most people did it as a hobby. We have been doing all the work and this year we have in place the sum of \$317 000 for the construction of a tissue culture lab.

Under Subhead 12 - Structures, we have in place \$900 000 which will allow the construction late in this , financial year of the new meat packaging and rendering plant. The feasibility study is complete, the final drawings have been completed, a site has been selected and all the work is in place to go out to tender for this project. We have put \$900 000 in the Estimates as part of our funds for the commencement of the construction of the meat packaging complex this year. The site selected is just beyond Vacluse and above Central Cricket Club. 5.50 p.m.

We have moved into these Estimates under a new heading, subhead 29, a sum of \$5.2 million, and that is intended to be a price support for the agricultural production. Naturally most of that would go for sugar, but there are other items under the price support scheme, cotton, cherries, potatoes, yams, pumpkins and squash, and what that means is that we have guaranteed the people producing these items that we will purchase them at a

minimum price if they cannot get them sold at any other place. What we are saying to them is to go ahead and produce and we will find the necessary markets for you that you would not have that problem.

Under subhead 23, rural development project, once again we are extending the irrigation scheme, and areas that we will increase this year will be Neils, Wheelers and Ruby in St. Philip, Belleplaine in St. Andrew and Newcastle in St. John. Those are the five new areas that will come under irrigation and we expect as well as the beefing of the irrigation system at the Spring Hall land lease scheme. We will also be bringing that in by putting on additional water this year.

Under Markets, we have put in a sum of \$100 000 to allow us to prepare the final plans for the construction of a new market at Cheapside and we believe we have money in there for allowing us to construct the final plans for the new market.

Mr. Speaker, quietly we have been trying to look at all the problems in agriculture. In the fishing industry we have a big problem at the moment, and it is another example of one having to be very careful about subsidising anything. At the moment the fishing boats are having a little difficulty with ice, and I will tell you why that difficulty is now occurring in the fishing industry. It is because we are providing ice at a highly subsidised price at the new fishing complex at about five cents a pound in an effort to assist the fishermen. Because of this, all the boats have now gone to the fishing complex. Unfortunately the other two outlets are not operating; the one that used to be operated by Incc is no longer operating or was not operating until about two weeks ago. We in the Ministry have been having discussions with them about reopening that one to alleviate the problem, but they have been saying quite frankly that they are not able to produce ice and compete with us, and therefore they are either stopping or going out. The same thing happened with Fish of Barbados, and we have as a matter of urgency to look for an additional ice facility to increase our facility for the boats so that they would be able to go out.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that very quickly I should do a fairly quick overview of what has been happening. I will say in summary that with goodwill on both sides in the agriculture industry, with the continued application to work by all people involved, we should see the agriculture industry turning around in 1991, and I say once again I appeal to those privileged persons who are the owners in trust of lands in this country to accept their obligations to the people of Barbados and produce.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to get involved in the second reading speech, but I have been drawn into this by groundless charges laid against the Government and I may add too, Sir, by the fact as well that I think perhaps we should exercise our right to

speak on these particular matters if we so desire. In this we are doing no more than what has been done by Honourable Members on the other side. They all exercised their right to speak and they all spoke, and I think, Sir, that on this side those of us who want to speak should also speak. I say this too, Sir, because there seems to have been some problem perhaps on the other side with Members on this side speaking, having themselves all spoken. In some respects, Sir, it is not quite the same as in former years because what used to happen in previous years, and I have been long in this Chamber, was that the Minister of Finance made his presentation, the Shadow Minister of Finance made the response and we went immediately into Committee of Supply in consideration of the Estimates.

There has been a growing tendency in recent times that Honourable Members want to make statements on the Estimates, and if that is so, which is their right to do, it is okay for them to make their statements, and we on this side are doing also what we think we should do; so therefore the question of leaving the Chamber because we have been doing what in fact we believe is right and what we are permitted to do by our Standing Orders, does not in fact move us one bit.

I said earlier, Sir, that I have been moved to make a statement because of the groundless charges levelled at the Government. At the top of the list is squandermania, and this has been stressed, Sir, by the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the three other Members who sit away from the other faction of the Opposition, and by all Opposition Members, and I think that we have got to meet this charge head on. If Honourable Members on this side have spoken about the issue of squandermania, I think it is because of the fact that we cannot ourselves treat it lightly. I have observed from what is taking place in this country and the Opposition has observed this, and that is why they continue to repeat these charges, that when these charges are made against the Government often enough, it is picked up by persons outside of Parliament, it is picked up by sectional interests in the community, it is picked up by those persons who make it their business and their livelihood, it appears, to call in on the call-in programmes in order to repeat what has been said politically without in my opinion, Sir, any proper examination or analysis of what is being said. Therefore I believe it is our duty on this side, whenever the opportunity arises, or even to make the opportunity, to respond to these charges as they arise, and this is an opportunity and I will be responding to it, Sir.

At no time, Sir, when the charge of squandermania is made can they come and say and point their finger to that particular instance of squandermania of which they are reporting. It is a generalised kind of charge, no particulars. Where is the squandermania, one asks, and nothing is said. The evidence of squandermania seems to be that in 1986-87 the Estimates of Expenditure showed a figure of \$685 million whereas today there is a figure of \$987 million.

How could that, Sir, to any sane rational person be evidence of squandermania, the mere fact that the figures differ, the mere fact that there is a \$200 million perhaps increase on what was spent before without an examination of where these monies are going. 6.00 p.m.

There is no examination of (he fact that in 1986 the Estimates were \$46 850 000 whereas today statutory expenditure alone that is money that we have to pay out by law which amounts to \$667 million. Broken down, \$417 million for personal emoluments, \$59 million for pensions and \$191 million in charges of debt.

The distressing thing is that of the \$181 million for charges of debt only a minute part of that relates to funds borrowed by this Government. The bulk of that \$191 million which is an essential part of statutory expenditure represents funds borrowed by the past Government. That is what is distressing and they themselves would join with other persons who themselves should know better to say that there is squandermania in this Government I would like to hear where this squandermania is because where this squandermania is we should like to get rid of it.

I am submitting, Sir, that there is no evidence of squandermania by this Government. Like a Minister of Finance sitting at my left, there could never be any squandermania in this Government People do not understand this Minister of Finance.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: He might think it is a backhanded compliment. I am hearing some sotto voce remarks of not letting go easy. I am not sure what that means but you cannot get the dollar bills out of those hands too easily, Sir so the question of squandermania could hardly ever rest with the present Minister of Finance.

Now, I heard, Sir, the former Governor of the Central Bank and he is talking about privatising things like CARICARGO, privatising the Cement Plant and this and the other. I have never come into this Chamber and invited this Parliament to make a single cent of contributions to CARICARGO for which I have some responsibility.

Having said that I cannot deny, Sir, that CARICARGO over time and over years, even before we became the Government of this country, has had to borrow money from the commercial banks, specifically the Barbados National Bank and we have had to convert that money into foreign, get permission from the Central Bank to ship this money out in terms of foreign exchange. To that extent it represents some commitment on the foreign reserves of Barbados.

I assume, Sir, that the same would be true of the Cement Plant; but let us look at the Cement Plant because if we did not have a Cement Plant we would have to be importing cement and needing foreign exchange to purchase the cement in any event. If we do not have it we have to buy it and having to buy it it needs foreign exchange to purchase if you do not produce it.

I am not in a position to speak definitively for the Cement Plant but I leave that to the Minister responsible to do so. I understand he has already spoken but, of course, his time will come when we debate the Estimates.

The former Governor of the Central Bank did not speak about the Central Bank Building who recently spoke on "Point At Issue" and in addition, Sir, he had made some contribution to one of our periodicals here in Barbados. The Central Bank represents a considerable liability to the Government of Barbados. Every time it rains, every time the sun shines it represents a liability.

That Central Bank Building has not been paid for yet and it represents a drain on resources of the country and if there was squandermania, that is one that could easily have been identified. That is squandermania.

You know what too is squandermania? Allowing another country to owe this country over U.S. \$120 million and not being able to collect one cent. That is squandermania, if you like, Sir.

We had dealings with that same country since we came into power in 1986 and we sold an airbus to that country for a couple of million dollars - we being Air Services - and they have been meeting their repayments. We make sure that they meet their repayments but the good and efficient former Governor of the Central Bank and the Barbados Labour Party Government have saddled this administration here with U.S. \$120 million that we have not been able to collect one cent from. That is squandermania.

If the Barbados Labour Party wants to level squandermania, we can tell them what squandermania is. Squandermania is making uniforms for the Transport Board staff, conductors and so on that can only fit children. That, Sir, is squandermania.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: When that happened? That happened with the last administration. That happened in the 1980's before we became the Government. Squandermania is passing monies over to certain individuals in this country to manufacture money bags for the conductors and there have been little money bags supplied. 6.10p.m.

That is squandermania, Sir. Do you want to know what is squandermania? That happened again in the 1980s before we became the Government. That is squandermania. Let (hem talk about those things. Do they not know what squandermania is? Well those things are squandermania. Squandermania is building up your inventory way beyond your requirements and building up, and building up your inventory. That happened again in the 1980s before we became the Government. That is squandermania. If they want to talk about squandermania I am prepared to debate squandermania with them or anyone in this country. But do not come here and pretend you are going to level squandermania at a Government when in fact the most difficult thing is to get the funds to do certain things.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: But we have got to do certain things. Let me say this.....

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I hear people talk about CARIFESTA. Up to this day no one knows how much it cost But I am allowing the Honourable Member for St. Michael West to talk about CARIFESTA. That is squandermania.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in a different era. We have got to spend money if we want to make money. Nobody is given something for nothing. Nobody gives us something because they like us. Because we are now in a fiercely competitive world, we are now in a fiercely competitive region and everybody in the region has the same resources and we are after the same things. So we have got to go one step beyond if we are to attract and build upon what we have, in the interest of the development of Barbados and the people of Barbados. That is what we have got to do.

I would give an example, Sir. The cruise ship business. Cruise ship business has become big business in the Caribbean, virtually in the world. But what are we operating from? We are operating from a passenger shed. In 1990 Barbados is operating from a shed called passenger shed. Look next door at St. Lucia and see what St. Lucia has done. Any one of the Honourable Members who has had the opportunity to go to St. Lucia, I would invite them to go to Point Seraphin and see what St. Lucia has got now to offer its cruise ship passengers. Go and look at it. Go to Antigua and see what Antigua has done for its cruise ship passengers. Go to Trinidad and see what Trinidad has done for its cruise ship passengers.

And where are we, Sir? We believe that this is God's blessed place, that this is Heaven and they have got to come here. This cannot be. We have got to spend money in order to make money. This cannot be the case. This will not happen. We have got to spend money in order to make

money and if at some time we come here or wherever we go for money in order to update and modernize our facilities which we have got to do, I do not want to hear any charges of squandermania because that will not be the case. It is important, Sir, we must have a modern port, we must have a modern airport. These are the things that serve us because these are the things that principally nowadays earn for us foreign exchange. They are what earn our foreign exchange. We have got to mollycoddle them if you like. We have got to pamper them. We have got to bring them along.

We are making plans for port modernization both in terms of cruise ship passenger comfort with its related facilities and in terms of other development at the port in relation to other aspects of port development. We have been working on plans for the development of the Shallow Draft It is our plan and we intend to develop our Shallow Draft because we do not want to have another ARC come upon us and disappear because we have not got proper facilities. We do not want that to be said.

As I said, we are in a fiercely competitive region and the situation today is that Barbados is looked upon as a developed country and the people in the region come and look at Barbados and try to see what they can take from Barbados. This is precisely what happened with the ARC Race, the Atlantic Race for Cruisers. People came to Barbados from our neighbouring countries and looked at what we had and decided that we want the ARC race somewhere else. They have superior facilities. That cannot be denied. Therefore we have got to get good facilities as well. The time has come for us too to get a marina.

Aside. - •-----

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am glad to hear the Member for Christ Church East agreeing with me. He is agreeing with me, in a critical way, but still agreeing. We need a marina in Barbados. We need repair facilities in Barbados. We have not got these in Barbados. It is amazing. In a country the size of Barbados, very small with the vast ocean around, we should be using the ocean as one of our principal means of resource. In fact we are not properly doing it. We are still doing things the Eighteenth Century and Seventeenth Century way.

When we come in order to carry out these developments, I do not want to hear about squandermania. If you want to refer to CARICARGO, CARICARGO has been referred to by the former Governor of the Central Bank. I made reference to it just now. I made a statement in this Honourable Chamber about CARICARGO. It is now the only airline that I can say we have now in flight. It is owned by two governments, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Barbados. Each has a 50% share in the venture. It is a joint venture between the two countries.

I have laid the problems of CARICARGO here. We have looked at CARICARGO. We have recently set up a task force comprising representatives of the two shareholders, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. They have made their reports. I am not in a position to say what the recommendations are. They have not yet reached the Cabinet. 6.20p.m.

Suffice it to say that it is the opinion of the Task Force that we need a cargo airline in the Caribbean. I do not want to say much more on that particular one at this time.

Aero Services - The Government of Barbados recently sold off Aero Services that we should never have had in the first place. The Government of Barbados in the early 1980's rescued Aero Services from Barclays Bank and bailed out a place like Barclays Bank, if you want to talk about squandermania, and bought Aero Services on the pretence, too, that we wanted an Air Force Wing of our Defense Force. What Air Force Wing do we need for the Defense Force? We have had to sell majority interest. I have made a statement to that effect in this House already. We have had to sell 82% of our interest in Aero Services and we have retained 18%. The story of Aero Services is not a good one, but I understand that the shareholders and directors of Aero Services are now looking at joint ventures in other places. If that comes about, Sir, I believe that Aero Services can serve Barbados well.

One of the things levelled at Barbados yesterday, and I want to quote it as it was said by the Leader of the Opposition, was something he referred to that has been undermining confidence in Barbados. He said, "What political party would provide a platform for some of the most vicious racism in this country?" That is undermining confidence in this country. I do not know which political party the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was referring to. It could not have been the Democratic Labour Party to which he is referring because we have provided no platform for anybody to practice racism or either to talk about racism.

The Press cannot be held blameless. After a political meeting in Independence Square in November last year not so long ago stated falsely that it was said from the platform of the Democratic Labour Party that racism will be an issue in the next General Election. Nobody said that from the platform of the Democratic Labour Party. I challenge any member of the Press to bring the tape where it was said on that occasion or any other occasion that racism would be an issue in the next General Election. Again, as I referred earlier, Sir, everybody took that up - the call-in programmes, the former Governor of the Central Bank, the religious guru if I may borrow the term from my colleague in the St. James pulpit - I cannot call names of people; I can call names of places - picked up this kind of rumour even though a release was made denying that this was ever said

by the Democratic Labour Party. This was put out. It was denied that it was said but they chose to let it lie low for a few weeks. When they thought that people had forgotten the release that was put out, then they returned to the issue and claimed that this was not the case.

I understand that my colleague yesterday spoke about things that were said from the St. James pulpit at the time of the Holeytown Festival. I do not want to go into those in detail, Sir. There is one that really bothered me and it was referred to again this afternoon by the Minister of Agriculture. He said, "Is it true that there are people in high places with a sinister plan to allow agriculture to collapse in order to deprive the white minority of their lands?" I think this can be only the product of a sinister mind. It is only the product of a sinister mind.

Let me put here on the table the record of the Democratic Labour Party. It was the Democratic Labour Party that wrote into the Constitution what we call one of the fundamental rights, that is the provision for racism to be an offense. It was the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, that is responsible for even strengthening that provision when it enacted the Public Order Act. We stand tall in this, Sir, and therefore we have no apologies to make to anybody in this regard. We believe in equality and true equality. We do not believe that any person, sector, or interest should have an advantage over anybody else. We believe in fair play. We believe in equality. We do not believe that because a colour of one man's skin is different that he must have certain privileges. So no section of the community must believe that it is a privileged section. We believe in true equality. Others pay lip service to it, but we believe in true equality. We do not believe that because you look different that you must have some advantage and some privilege. That is not the case with us. You are going to have the same as anybody else. Then there are no problems and everybody can feel safe with us and confident with us in Barbados because we believe in equality. If you even perceive - it does not even have to be so - that your rights are being trampled upon, you can have recourse to the Law Courts. The Law Courts are independent and they do not have to wait on the Government to make a statement about it. If you are waiting on the Government to make a statement, it means that you have a weak case or that you are cowardly and I do not believe that must be or should be the case. If your rights are trampled upon or in any way offended, apply to the Law Courts and have your rights redressed.

So Sir, I thought that I would make these few points but there is one further point at least that I would like to touch upon, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West in his presentation announced that they will abolish Property Tax when they win the next Government. They have always followed the British Conservative Party in things that they do. Yet in the same breath he got up and said that he is a Democratic Socialist. I heard him say this either this week or last week, Sir, that he

is a Democratic Socialist. He is going to abolish Property Tax in Barbados. Who are the property owners in Barbados? What is certain is that when one abolishes Property Tax one has got to replace it with something else. One has got to put something in its place. When one abolishes Property Tax, something else has got to take its place. What is that thing? If they are so wedded to the principles of Mrs. Thatcher, we can look forward to Poll Tax in Barbados. We shall look forward, Sir, to Poll Tax in Barbados. That is what we can look forward to. They abolished Estate Duties. They abolished Succession Duties. They abolished these things, Sir, when in fact the principal persons that they have relieved of paying this are the real property owners. They are the persons who are relieved of paying these taxes. Now on top of that they are going to abolish Property Tax. It will be a sad day, Sir, for Barbados when they relieve the rich people of this. Everybody pays taxes but only to the extent to have the ability to own a property. The extent of the ability of a poor person to earn a property is probably, Sir, a chattel house on which you pay no tax or a small area of land. It is the persons with the large area of land, Sir, who have got to pay the highest taxes. Now Sir, the one little bit of revenue that we receive from the big property owners on the West Coast who do not pay any Income Taxes in Barbados and who come here, Sir, on holiday, and that is a contribution that they make for being in Barbados - they use our roads, water, and all our services - he is now going to relieve all those people on the West Coast, Sir, as well as everybody else of Property Tax. What is he going to collect from them? 6.30 p.m.

He is now going to relieve all those people on the west coast and everybody else of property tax. What is he going to collect from them? I hope that the people of Barbados will be ready, and I know the people of Barbados will be ready, to deal with this particular matter whenever it arises.

One final point, Sir. I have got to make this point because it has been made outside of this Chamber, it has been made by several people and those who know have never sought to put it right. The Leader of the Opposition, in reference to the drugs in the diplomatic pouch, stated in fact that the Commission should have been set up under the Commissions of Enquiry Act, in other words a judicial enquiry. Mr. Speaker, I think it is time that this is said.

The principal arena was Venezuela. I think that is known, Sir. It is supposed to have arrived here from Venezuela. The person identified with sending the substance in the diplomatic pouch is in Venezuela. How are we going to set up a Commission of Enquiry in Barbados with judicial authority and jurisdiction to deal with somebody in Venezuela? How can we command somebody in Venezuela - because the Commissioners of Enquiry also went over to Venezuela to facilitate this -

- (a) we cannot command him to attend from Venezuela to Barbados; and
- (b) even if we are in Venezuela we have no authority.

The whole thing, Sir, is a diversion because they do not want to accept the truth of what is in the Report of the Commission of Enquiry. All of these things are things that made me decide yesterday that I would want to make a contribution to this debate, and I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, look at them, Sir. The people of this country are being told about integrity and morality. There are seven of them, Sir, seven persons who are supposed to be representing the people in here and it is not going to be noted, I know it is not going to be noted, but I am going to say it to you, Sir. These seven of them, no doubt the Leader of the Opposition will hold a Press Conference or he is probably preparing a Press Release, because he prepares one every four hours, and that is probably what they are outside doing. They should be in here doing the people's business. But do you know what it is? They cannot take the heat.

They have been paying people to call in on the call-in programmes, they have been getting people to disrupt the community. I state categorically that they have been getting people to disrupt the community, and they have been frightening the white people in this country. I am charging the seven empty chairs with threatening and frightening the people in this country talking about race. That is what they are doing, they are trying to bring down this Government by interfering with the economic activity in this country by talking about race. They are pointing at one Beckles, Sir, and they are saying that a man by himself has all the people frightened.

I am going to state categorically that the only thing white people in Barbados have to fear is fear itself. They do not have to fear the Democratic Labour Party, the Democratic Labour Party has always protected minorities and will always protect minorities, and I will not fail - I know this will get you to come in - we have always protected minorities. We will not resile from that position, and while I am a member of this Democratic Labour Party I am not going to be party to any situation in which any minority in Barbados is in trouble.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Sir. I know the Minister of Health needs an audience. I have come to give him one, Sir.

are in here or not in here. Now, Sir, by extension I can carry the argument to a logical absurdity, if I also say that when I say the "Government in this country" I am not referring to the people on that side according to what you said just now, that there are no groups in here. Sir, with respect, that would have to be wrong, because under the Constitution of Barbados we have roles to play as Opposition. The Constitution of Barbados recognises an Opposition and a Government and a Cabinet. You see, Sir, your ruling is a ruling that might very well stand up in England, but not in the West Indies, not in Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: My ruling is based on May's Parliamentary Procedure, and I am asking that May's be brought that my point of view may be settled clearly.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If you want a row, you are going to have a full row, so don't believe you can bully the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. I am asking that some research be done. I am not entertaining any further discussion on the matter until I have made my decision. 6.50 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of privilege, if I can be of assistance, Sir. I have a large book here with a green binding from Australia - House of Representatives Practice. What the Clerk has in this House is outdated, Sir. I have the 1989 Edition, the latest thing.

Asides.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Sir, that this sitting be suspended until 7.05 this evening.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 7.05 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

Ayes: Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Hon. B. M. TAITT, Hon. M. A. KING, Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, Hon. W. W. HALL, Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, Hon. C. V. WALKER, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, Mr. C. L. TROTMAN, Mr. R. L. MORRIS, Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH and Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON -17.

Noes: Mr. R. P. BYER, Mr. P. J. M. MILLER, Mr. E. BOURNE, Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, Mr. D; A. C. SBTfMONS, Hon. H.deB.FORDE-6.

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now suspended. 6.55p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

The question raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West offering his interpretation to the Chair in respect of comments made - my previous ruling was that members are in the House as individual members rather than groups or parties.

I took my bearing, at least, on one of the finds which I consider should be a basis for the ruling that I gave. I am also researching another area which has not been able to be ascertained at this point but I based it on this particular one on Page 73 which refers to Privileges and Freedom of Speech - "Freedom of speech is a privilege essential to every Counsel or a legislator."

It says specifically: "The members must be as free as the Houses. No comment, no assertion or any indication referred to in this particular text in reference to what the Honourable Members were trying to suggest that groups are recognized in this Chamber.

I recognize the individual and, therefore, I made the ruling on the basis that if individual members were dissatisfied or complained of any of the privileges or rules broken in the House, then they can raise it with the Presiding Officer who would then make his ruling on the individual appeal to the Presiding Officer. That is where my ruling stood.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P.M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be suspended until 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

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

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member rose on a point of privilege after I finished speaking. I will give him the opportunity to speak.

Mr.D.A.C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I recognise and acknowledge your ruling and your interpretation of the status of members in this Honourable Chamber, qua members. What I would be obliged for a ruling on and this can come tomorrow, Sir; is whether Your Honour does not agree that the use of the phrase "the Opposition" does not in

Asides

Hon. B. M. TATTT: No, Sir, do not strike it. I wish him to hear. What it is that they heard me say about the empty chairs.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I did not hear him about the empty chairs, I heard him talk about doing the people's business. Doing the people's business does not require the presence of Members in the House of Assembly to listen to information from the other side that is not worthy of the speaker who is disseminating it, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: They can put it in any form, Sir, but they ran back in, I submit, because they know

Aside

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is a free passage. Just like it is a free country it is a free passage. Once you do not come in here in a box cart, they are free to come and go. Once they are elected they are free to come and go, but I am charging that there are forces that are trying to disrupt the economic activity in this country by frightening the white people, by saying to the white people that the Democratic Labour Party is forming part of some conspiracy to either take away their land, to deprive them of their rights, and in the final analysis I remember Tom Adams used, to say that whoever the white people vote for will win the Government

The Leader of the Opposition understands that It is in the record. The present Leader of the Barbados Labour Party understands that, and their followers and their close ones who are helping them to disrupt by the utterances on a continuing basis understand. They feel that where the white people vote that is who will win the Government How can they say that the Democratic Labour Party is anti white people?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You cannot walk in and say "On a point of order," you have to sit down first.

Asides

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. If the Prime Minister is being disrespectful, sitting down and speaking, he knows the rules. He has been in here longer than some of his Ministers. When a Member is on a point of order he must shut up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us start at the beginning. As far as I am concerned, you are not in the Chamber. One of the first things a Member must do, before he takes his seat, is to

acknowledge the Chair by obeisance. The Honourable Member has not done that

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of privilege, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot have both now. Point of order ruled out

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, on a point of privilege. Let me deal with that first Mr. Speaker, when I seconded your nomination to be Speaker of this House, I believed then that you had a duty to defend the minority and every Member of this House. If Members of this House choose to be outside listening to the debate, they are within the precincts of this House. That is the first point, Sir.

It does not give the liberty to any Member, including the Right Honourable Member if he will not shut up, Sir, to slander Members of the Opposition by accusing them of getting together and disrupting, inspiring people to disrupt the proceedings of the country. It imputes base and improper motives and it is untrue. The Honourable Member knows it. Mr. Speaker, a Member does not have to be in his place in the House if he is listening to a debate to expect Your Honour to protect his rights in this House, and it is on that basis that I say that the Honourable Member's form of speaking, in the manner in which he is speaking, is not only contrary to the Standing Orders of the House, but it is also an abuse of the privilege of the House to attack Members in the way he is doing.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I may respond to the Honourable Member, there are two ways of dealing with the matter. 6.40p.m.

The Presiding Officer may, if he thinks so, but Honourable Members also have the right to draw that to the Presiding Officer's attention. No one was here to draw it to my attention and I did not take it in the light that the Honourable Member is taking it, therefore the responsibility is on the Honourable Member. When the Speaker does not share the same view, it is the duty of that Honourable Member to draw to the Chair's attention that matter. If the Honourable Member is drawing that to my attention, then he would have to give me the precise words so that I would be able to deal exactly with the comment he is making. Barring that, the matter will have to rest.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I am raising the fact that the Honourable Member distinctly said that the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition were with other persons threatening to disrupt the order of this country by inspiring people to preach against while people as race and to say the Government is racist.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is exactly the point I am making. The Honourable Member is saying he did not say that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, Sir, just as today Your Honour called for the proceedings of the House.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have made by judgment already.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Just as today Your Honour called for the records of the House, I would ask Your Honour to be impartial as a judge and call for the records of the Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no problem with that if the Honourable Member needs that record.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I will ask for the record, Sir, and I will pursue the point when the record is here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now for the benefit of the Honourable Member, just as we had this morning the same problem, we will need time to have that report before us. I am willing to hear it, I am willing to deal with it, but in the meantime I do not think we should suspend the House until we get that record. The Honourable Member may continue his speech.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: And dead rats. You can put on dead horses and dead pigs, but you cannot take out of what I put into you, that the Opposition in this country, I am repeating now what I said, the Opposition in (his country is stirring up strife, and there are some other forces....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Honourable Minister is imputing motives to the Opposition that may well be contrary to the provisions of the Public Order Act The Minister of dead chickens, dead pigs, dead dogs

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't think that is necessary.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The imputation that we are stirring up strife, Sir ...

Mr. SPEAKER: I am taking your point. The Minister has said he does not refer to Members in this House. He has said the "Opposition". I am not clear as to where they are.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Sir, I normally do not quarrel with your rulings in matters of this kind, but if the Honourable Minister of Health is saying the Opposition in this country, I am part of the Opposition in this country. I am a Member of this House as well. By extension he has to mean me, and I am a Member of this House. I am concerned about the imputation of stirring up strife which apart from being an offence under the Public Order Act might also be interpreted to include the common law offence of incitement to riot, and I am concerned about

that I don't mind the Honourable Member continuing as he is doing, I will sit and listen to him, but be temperate.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I want to tell Honourable Members is that if you take an offence to a statement being made and you want to refute that statement, you are well within the Standing Orders to refute that statement as it pertains to you. Then if the statement itself does not apply to you, you can only do it by rising and making the point clear that you are not the person according to the Standing Orders.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to take objection to the Honourable Member's statement that the Opposition in this country is stirring up strife. In my submission the Opposition in this country must mean the Opposition party on this side and Opposition Members. Mr. Speaker, may I finish my submission. With respect, Sir, I listen to you even when you use harsh words to me. If I may with respect finish my submission, it has been my understanding that to speak of the Opposition must mean the Members who are in Opposition to the Government speaking in this House. The Honourable Member is not speaking otherwise. Let me give you the position, Sir. Although the Opposition is stirring up strife in this country, the term Government can be a generic term; when used in here it means those Members on that side, and if I am to understand that the term "the Opposition" here does not mean us, then the term "the Government" there would not mean them and it would be not unparliamentary then, according to Your Honour's ruling, if I understand you, for me to say that the Government are a bunch of thieves, rogues and vagabonds. That is what we would get down to in this House. That would not in those circumstances, in my humble submission, be a fair way to look at the interpretation.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not my interpretation. I understood the Honourable Member to say "in the country." He did not specify any Opposition, neither did he specify that it is the Official Opposition. The point is that Honourable Members are not in here elected as groups. I understand them in here as individual Members of the House, and the rules protect the Members, and therefore if Members in my view are offended by a statement, they can very well do what you just did, get up and make your point clear that he could not refer to you and it would be the onus on the Member to determine then whom he meant That was my ruling.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, as I said before, I do not normally question your rulings in these matters, but it seems to me that if I had to say "the Government in this country", whom would I be referring to? The Government and the Opposition are recognised under the Constitution and the Laws of Barbados, and if you say "the Opposition" in this country, you must by extension include the Members on this side, whether they

its nature refer to that group or body of persons in the House organised as a unit whose function is to, if I beg the question, oppose the Government and if by extension within this Chamber the chair does not recognise two distinct groups (a) the Government on your right (b) the Opposition on your left. That is what I want a ruling on without prejudice to any of the rubric or the provisions of the Constitution, Cap. 1 which deals with the Leader of the Opposition.

I am not speaking about the Leader of the Opposition whose position is recognized constitutionally. I am dealing, Sir, with the group as a matter of privilege, that body of persons who sit on your left and I am asking for a ruling as to whether Your Honour recognises that group or body as a legitimate entity called "the Opposition".

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

If Your Honour could also rule on whether the phrase "opposition in this country", I repeat, "opposition in this country" is not distinguished from "the Opposition." Your Honour might wish in the context because that was the point of departure the phrase "opposition in this country" as opposed to "the Opposition".

Mr. SPEAKER: Of course, I will promise the Honourable Members that I will give my ruling on the two issues. 7.10p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move, Sir, it now being recognized, I hope, that this sitting be suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir, and hope that, in so doing, the Chamber will be full to capacity tomorrow when we begin, Sir.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Speaking on the suspension, Sir,.....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You have a motion for the suspension.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You all do not want to hear us.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will hear the Honourable Member.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just wish to say, on the suspension, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has made the comment that he hopes that the

House would be full tomorrow. The Opposition in this country and in this House has been present in this House in this country for most of today, except for those limited occasions when the Opposition went to lunch or to the break. The Opposition in this country, in this House, has listened to all of the debate in here and will promise the Government that we will be here tomorrow paying due deference to the Speaker in this House, in this country tomorrow, Sir. We will promise the Government in this country that, when they are prepared to debate rather than to praise themselves all day, Sir, we are prepared to debate the Estimates.

The question that this sitting be now suspended until Wednesday, March 14, 1990 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 7.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

I promised yesterday that on the resumption of this morning's sitting I would pay attention to matters that had been brought to my attention for due consideration. Unfortunately, those Members complaining are not in their seats at this moment and, for the record of the House, as to the scripts required by any Honourable Member in respect of the particular matter involved, those scripts are not now available.

Consequently to those discussions, I took the opportunity to research some of the matters raised, one in particular, the question of opposition. If the question is "Oppositions in Parliament" the obvious response to that would be "Yes"; and I would refer to May's Parliamentary Procedure which deals with that issue and it says:

"The importance of the Opposition in the system of Parliamentary Government has long received practical recognition in the procedure of Parliament."

So there is no difficulty in responding to the question of Opposition in Parliament.

Section 74 of the Constitution of Barbados says:-

"Whenever the Governor-General has occasion to appoint a Leader of the Opposition, he shall appoint a member of the House of Assembly who, in his judgement, is best able to command the support of the majority of those members".

In as much as it does not specify "Opposition" by name, it clearly indicates the role of "Leader of the Opposition" and it does not in any way define Opposition no more than the majority of members whose support that one member can command. It is, therefore, important to

recognise that in the absence of that script which has been complained of, it would be very difficult for me now to apply this to the complaint that has been made and I will let the matter rest there until that script has been produced for further scrutiny and discussion.

On the question of parties in the House, at the beginning of this session I, on behalf of the Members of this Honourable House, accept on their behalf the privilege and immunities of Parliament. Therefore, I take it that members elected to this House of Assembly sit not as members of any particular party but as individuals in their own right as representatives of the constituencies that they do represent; and I quote from May's "the duty of a member being to his constituents and to the country as a whole rather than to any particular section thereof. And this is also substantiated by Theory and Practice of Modern Government which substantiates the point that "The duty of a member must be to his constituents and to the country rather than to any particular section thereof."

The question then of parties tend to be accepted as a pattern of identity rather than a right in the Chamber. So my contention and my interpretation of the position of members in this House is primarily one not as a party member but as a representative of the constituents.

I, therefore, rest the matter there until we can have the matter further identified on the basis of the complaint raised.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I attempted to speak last night, I was making the point and I conclude that point that there really is no need in this country for any group or any organisation to feel in any way that the government of Barbados as constituted under the Democratic Labour Party has ever had or will ever have any reason to discriminate against anybody and in particular to discriminate against persons on the basis of their race.

Mr. Speaker, I contend that the attitude which has manifested itself in Barbados in the last few months by opposition forces is an attitude calculated to create confusion and mischief. 10:10a.m.

I am saying that the Democratic Labour Party Government from its very inception when it first contested elections in this country, has had as one of its contestants a well-respected white man who now holds position, one of the highest positions in the private and to some extent in the public sector. From then right through until today the Democratic Labour Party while in Government and outside of Government has steadfastly and scrupulously sought to ensure that minorities in this country should not seem discriminated against And we as a Government would go

out of our way to ensure, to make doubly sure that discrimination in any way would not form a part of our policy.

How can a Government in 1990 which has - Mr. Speaker, I have sought your permission to call names only for this purpose - Mr. Clyde Fields as the head of Super ^ Poultry, Mr. Frank McConney as the Chairman of IDC, Mr. ^ Douglas Lynch on the Central Bank Board Mr. Peter Morgan as High Commissioner to Canada, Sir Roy Marshall as High Commissioner to London, Mr. COW Williams as Chairman of the Pine Hill Dairy, Father Hatch as the major moderator on CBC, Mr. Patrick Mayers as a member of the EPC, Mr. Steve Stoute as the Chairman of the National Sports Council, Mr. Bert Banfield as a member of the Barbados National Bank, Mr. Bizzy Williams on the Barbados Port Authority Board, Mr. Malcolm Martin as a member of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, ^ Mr. David Bryan as a member of the Boxing Board, Dr. Harold White a member of the Barbados Community College, I might as well put them all in, Sir, Rev. Gerry Scale as a member of the Child Care Board.... And, as a matter of fact when we became the Government Mrs. Gwen Reader was the Chairman and continued to be the Chairman of the Child Care Board until she resigned voluntarily after an unfortunate publication of a legitimate interview.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call these not to rejoice in the fact that we have done what ought to be the normal and ordinary thing in a society but to draw attention to the fact - the much more important fact - that in our pursuit of the upliftment of the downtrodden in this country, we have never forgotten the minority; and that because we have as the centrepiece of our policies the broad masses of the community of Barbados, we cannot be faulted as racists, as Honourable Members in this House have sought to make us appear to be, to say nothing of the campaign which is being _^ waged using Dr. Beckles from the university's outpourings ^*-and utterances as the basis for indictment of the Democratic Labour Party. It is a wicked, malicious and despicable , approach to politics in this country. I have no difficulty with it, Sir.

Some of my best friends are white and some of my worst enemies are white. I have no problem with race. I do not know why we have to have problems discussing race. But I want the white people in this country to be assured, if they need to be assured, that the Democratic Labour Party ^ C has no agenda for white people, never had an agenda for ; white people and does not need to have an agenda for white people, except that we would like to see more of them come into the House of Assembly and listen to the debates, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, the agenda which the Democratic Labour Party Government has is an agenda for the upliftment of the broad mass, indeed of the entire country. — We are now 27th in per capita income in the world and it is

our ambition that the next time these matters are discussed that we would have moved from 27 moving towards 17. I have no problem in saying, that as the person who in 1973 at an IADB sub-committee meeting in the United States articulated and argued that the best method of determining the way a country is living is to use a quality of life index rather than per capita, that I see that that term which has now been accepted as a methodology for measurement. I am saying that in Barbados the quality of life is such that any person in this country can be proud of the quality of life which is provided. I have no sympathy with those who, in the pursuit of their personal ambition, can make such wild and reckless statements as to suggest that Barbados is worse off today than it was 50 years ago.

It is contemptuous. Some people might think it is foolish. But it is contemptuous of the people of Barbados who have been touted as among the most literate in the world. Because if you take our 98% or, as some would say, reduce it to ninety something, and you spread it across 250 000, as compared with some other countries, we are among the most literate people in the world. Any politician or any leader in any sphere of public life who goes before the community and tells them that we are worse off 50 years later than we were 50 years ago is contemptuous of the people. But that is also true about many of the people we know, Sir, who offer themselves as representatives to the people.

I, Sir, in looking at the Estimates, ask the question whether 34% of the Gross Domestic Product is too high and whether, as Dr. Blackman the former Governor of the Central Bank suggests, we should go towards a further reduction of that. That is probably possible. It is probably possible that we could get down to 29%. But we must not, while striving towards that particular ideal, do so at the expense of the quality of life of the people of Barbados,

In Britain, Mrs. Thatcher and in the United States, President Nixon and President Reagan moved towards a particular philosophical position by excluding completely a sector of the community. When comparisons are going to be made between Barbados and the United States - as the Leader of the Opposition sought to suggest in his examination of the Minister of Finance's presentation when he said that you have to look at the base of the production system in the United States - if you are going to look at the percentage of expenditure of GDP, you also have to take account of the fact that we have a different kind of people. We are, in the words of the Honourable Member, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, a country that was transformed from a village to a town in 25 years. The Leader of the Opposition has said it over and over again in my hearing.

I am saying, Sir, that in this country the people of this country are of such that we cannot afford blindly to follow any particular philosophical position, as articulated by Mrs.

Thatcher or President Nixon or President Reagan, or any of those persons who in their supply side approach to economics follow a concept which perceived undrilled capitalism in its worst form as the epitome of life on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, a government must have a philosophy. Indeed an individual must have a philosophy. But if you are going to follow privatisation which is what has happened.... A lot of people have jumped on the bandwagon called privatisation. 10.20 a.m.

I saw last night, Sir, on one of the television programmes which portrays a lawyer at the "Old Bailey" where somebody suggested that Mrs. Thatcher was going to privatise prisons. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that when we are discussing privatisation we must look at the reality. Show me who are the people lining up to buy the Arawak Cement Plant. Where is the large crowd of people out there knocking and saying that I want a piece of the action in the Arawak Cement Plant? The problem with the Arawak Cement Plant is that when it was conceived by the Democratic Labour Party it was intended to be of a certain size that would be of use to the country and (that would have been able to be viable economically. The Barbados Labour Party increased the size almost threefold to 320,000 tonnes and as a result what we have is a magnificent white elephant which cannot be sold to anybody for anything unless we wanted to give it away. It is now part of our heritage and we cannot take it away. I am surprised that Dr. Blackman, the former Governor of the Central Bank will use these terms so loosely when I know that he has been trained to be much more careful in his language. I know that he has been so trained, Sir. So when he does not use the language except loosely then he is doing so deliberately.

If there is anyone who wishes to buy the Arawak Cement or if anybody in Bridgetown wishes to put some money in the Arawak Cement Plant, they are free to do so. But I am not going to allow myself to participate in the privatisation of the CBC. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is not for sale and cannot be for sale. You will never hear Mrs. Thatcher putting up the BBC for sale. You will never hear the United States putting the public broadcasting system up for sale. You will never hear the Germans pulling up their system for sale; and we as a people must have pride in ourselves. The Broadcasting Corporation, CBC, is owned by the people of Barbados. We are to knock it, criticize it, turn it up and eventually turn it into something worthwhile. But we are not to get rid of it.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West would like to see CBC sold off so they can have a small clique of Barbadians own CBC; so that everybody in Barbados will be just like how we are, at the mercies of a small group of people who now own all of the broadcasting and other media in this country except for the one owned by

the people of Barbados. I am saying now, Sir, that no Government of which I am a part will sell CBC. If the Prime Minister decides to borrow, in his wisdom, and that he is going to sell CBC - I know he will not - he is going to have to discuss it with me at a different level, Sir. We are not selling CBC. It is not for sale.

Heywoods has been mentioned by the Governor of the Central Bank for privatisation. Again Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has taken a decision to put Heywoods into a profit making position because we will not be "able to recover the outlay on Heywoods. Heywoods was a concept which would have been brilliant and which would have been used across the world to allow ordinary people to participate in the most significant industry in this country, and again the Barbados Labour Party took it and transformed it into a tourism hermaphrodite. That is what they did with Heywoods, a tourism hermaphrodite. R was neither fish nor fowl. We had to take it and give it a new transformation. What is that thing they do to change a man into a woman?

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We had to do that and give it some body. We had to put in 14 suites at Heywoods so that it can now accommodate people at a certain level and can now become a profit centre. Even so, as we decided to do (and it has come to fruition) they attacked it. They want to privatise it because all of a sudden it has prospects. If you forget the debt of \$60 million which the Barbados Labour Party saddled the country with in relation to Heywoods, 50% of the debt that we now have was not necessary, Sir. I state categorically that 50% of the debt from which we would have to pay interest of nearly \$200 million in these Estimates was not necessary. I want to remind the country that between year one (1627) and 1976 the debt in Barbados was \$258 million. That was the National Debt and then from 1976 to 1986 the debt went up to \$1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, one needs go no further except to say that when people are latching on to concepts like privatisation that they should examine them. The Democratic Labour Party went into privatisation with the milk plant. The Pine Hill Dairy is a massive example of cooperative privatisation, and it has been successful. I will give more examples when time permits and if we come to do these particular Estimates. But let me turn for example, Sir, to the portfolio for which I have responsibility.

As I said, Sir, a Government, political party, or indeed an individual must have a philosophy. No one who has observed the Democratic Labour Party over the years can have any doubt as to the underlying philosophy of this great party which we have the honour to represent in here. Mr. Speaker, after the litany of successes which this House heard from the Ministers during the past two days, can there

really be any doubt that the people have been at the centre of our activity? Can anyone, including the Honourable Members on the other side, honestly observe, for example, the massive road programme which has been going on and doubt that the people form the centrepiece of our thinking and our activity? Who among them or anyone else in this country can cast aspersions, after the virtual shutdown of all intellectual exercise and concern for personal development of our people, our human resources, as demonstrated between 1976 and 1986 when they cut out all training, who among them can boast or can cast doubt or aspersions on our resolve when they examine our commitment to training and development of our public servants, teachers, and nurses? After one listened to the Minister of Education yesterday, Sir, who can doubt the resolve of this Government that people are the centrepiece of our policy and our thinking?

Mr. Speaker, in the face of massive shortages of nurses, this Government has kept its promise, for example, with regard to the training of nurses in spite of the massive shortages with which we were confronted, the almost daunting task of getting blood out of stone, as it were. We have been able to allow more than 40 nurses, yes Sir, to be away from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in pursuit of one kind of training or another. We have created opportunity for more than 100 Nursing Assistants to become professional Registered Mental Nurses. We have done this at a time when most of them had given up any hope of advancing beyond the plateau on to which the Barbados Labour Party Government had consigned them. 10.30 a.m.

The same attitude has been brought to bear in the advancement of physiotherapists, chiropodists, audiologists and all of the related health sectors. Even as we have been able to open up avenues for advanced training for doctors, there has not been a Barbadian national trained as a public health doctor until last year for ten years before. Since ten years ago every public health-doctor in Barbados who is a Barbadian is a Barbadian by naturalisation. Only last year we were able to get a Barbadian to go to Jamaica to get a Master's Degree in public health, and I am saying now that the door is open, the field is wide for any Barbadian doctor who wishes to go and do his Master's in Public Health so he can become a Public Health doctor, and we have opened that door, Sir.

The Minister responsible for the human resources in this country, the Prime Minister, has been most co-operative in this regard in that we are saying every opportunity we will give to our people to go and become trained, because this country cannot go into the 21st century on the same basis and in the same condition that it was in the 1980's. We must be prepared, Sir. It is only a matter of time before we have open heart surgery in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; but if we are to have open heart surgery

for which we have started the preparations, we must have the trained personnel and therefore we must send out the Barbadians now who will be the trained heart surgeons that will save the lives of many of our Barbadians. There are too many Barbadians who may have died because we did not have the capacity to deal with it here in this country.

Even though it is a fact that especially over the last three years Barbados is being recognised as having the best health system of any developing country anywhere, except possibly Cuba and some might say Costa Rica, and we do not get any of the massive inflows that Cuba gets from the Soviet Union or Costa Rica gets from the United States, we have been able to do it with our own resources. How can anyone come in here and talk about squandermania when the Ministry of Health has been able to keep its budget this year at 0.3% of what it was last year, taking account of the supplementaries? We came down here and added our supplementaries to - and that is what they asked us to do - we added the supplementaries to the budgeted figure and it came to \$147 million, and the record will show that that is what we have asked for this year.

Even so, Sir, we are going into the new Accident and Emergency Department at the end of April. We are going to unveil shortly the model for the polyclinic at St. John. We are going to unveil the model for the new polyclinic at Black Rock. We have a halfway house in St. Peter/St. Lucy that is going to be opened shortly. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy went to see it and he came and said to me, Mr. Speaker, "I can't believe that you transformed that old house." I told him "not me, we", and it was done by an ordinary Barbadian contractor. We did not have to bring anybody from "overseas and pay them large sums of money.

That halfway house is symptomatic of the progressive approach, and in that regard I cannot help mentioning now, Sir, the St. Joseph Hospital. For \$6 million we have been able to get a property which, I am saying, that when it is completed, everybody in Barbados will be allowed to go and see it and tour it - look at it. Everyone who has come from outside of Barbados who sees what we are doing with it cannot believe that we bought it for \$6 million. The Villa Maria Convent by itself was probably worth the \$6 million. We are transforming it, Sir, and the section of it that is going to deal with residential drug rehabilitation is almost ready; the staff is ready. The Psychiatric Hospital will be in charge of it and they are ready.

The only reason that the doors have not been thrown open is because, as I have said before, the sewerage system was shot. In that respect the Barbados Labour Party Government should hang its head in shame. That it allowed the hospital to close at all is a crying shame in this country.

It is a disgrace that a public people who had gone to London, and who had gone to America, and who know that there are hospitals on every street corner in the major cities of the world allowed a hospital as a going concern to close down and we now have the trouble of having to rehabilitate the hospital before we can rehabilitate the people. Mr. Speaker, it is nothing short of disgusting for persons who participated in that kind of foolishness to then walk around trying to give people the impression, as the NDP has been doing, that we are only going to make the hospital, available for rich Americans; more attempts to give people the impression that we care more about the people who come from overseas than we care about them.

What we are saying, Sir, the broad policy position will be that the people from the North will have first call. We are also saying that those persons in Barbados who now pay massive amounts of money for their health care because they do not wish to have it in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, or they do not wish to have it among the masses, those people are accustomed paying at the St. Joseph Hospital and we are returning to the status quo ante.

We are also having an American approach to running a hospital so that doctors will have access to the hospital, and when it is opened we are not going to have any secrets; we are going to put it up front. Everybody is going to know what exactly is going on in there and we will hope to have the bills paid. You cannot run the system unless the bills are paid.

A lot of people from the Barbados Labour Party and elsewhere paid a man a large sum of money to collect bills and they paid him more than they collected for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There is a system which has to be put in place. There is a methodology which must follow, and the planning which has been done in the Ministry of Health is symptomatic of the planning which is done on this side of the House. When we open the new Accident and Emergency Department next month, we expect that people who have been going to the Casualty and spending time there like if they are on vacation will not have to do that any more. We are calling it an Accident and Emergency Department because it is designed for accidents and emergencies.

We are expanding the polyclinics. We are discussing with the people in the polyclinics - we have not got to the Unions yet - the opening of the polyclinics to a time that is useful for the people. Once more we are putting the people as the centrepiece; and when the people wish to go to the polyclinic at 6 o'clock in the evening it should be there so that they do not have to come down to the Casualty. We have just got - again thanks to the understanding of the

Minister responsible for human resources, the Prime Minister - he just agreed to give us six posts for the six pharmacists who just came out of the Community College, because we need those pharmacists. This has been the holdup with the expansion of the services. We now will have enough pharmacists to be able to open the polyclinics beyond 4.30 and beyond 6.30 if necessary, so that when a woman goes to the polyclinic to get her pap smear or to have her appointment with the doctor after she comes from work, sees that her children are settled, sees that their homework has started, watches the programme she wants to watch and eats her food, she is entitled. Women in Barbados who have to work are entitled to leisure time and they are entitled to be able to use the services which they provide through their taxes at a time that is convenient to them. 10.40 a.m.

That is what we are going to do, and so we say it is no point their going there and getting that and then have to go back the next day to get the medicine. As you would know, Sir, from your wide experience of coming out at 3 o'clock in the morning as a pharmacist to assist the baby with colic, it is when the services are available that is important. And so we will put the pharmacist in the polyclinic at the same time so that you will be able to see your doctor, your physiotherapist; we have not got enough of them yet, but we will; you will be able to see your nutritionist. All those persons who need to have some counselling on their nutrition, all those persons over fifty who are not in shape and who need to have some assistance in their eating habits will be able to

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He is in good shape. He only looks like that, but he is in great shape. He plays a mean game of tennis. The Attorney General is one of the fittest men in Barbados; he has said that so often that I know it to be true.

Sir, what I am saying is that we are ensuring that the services are brought to the people, and therefore the Accident and Emergency Department should not have the kind of press that it has been having as a Casualty. And we are making sure that there will be emergency equipment at all of the polyclinics, especially for example as it applies to the asthmatics. We are putting nebulizers in all of the polyclinics; we are ensuring that all persons who have an accident can have as their first call the polyclinic that is near to them, and we hope as a result that a number of things for which people now go to the casualty they will go to the polyclinics. But in any case, we are going to invite the population to come and see the Accident and Emergency Department, because what has to happen and what the professionals have to understand is that these institutions belong to the people.

I am grateful to Mr. Clarke who recently in an address (and his address was much wider than the newspaper report indicated) re-focussed attention on the fact that the services provided in this country are provided by the people for the people, and that we are the guiders. The Government is here to steer in the direction for the people that the people direct, and when we have these services, these are services which are paid for by the people, and therefore those of us who work for the people must have an attitude to them, not an attitude which allows them to trample their own institutions.

The concept of discipline requires that we tell people they are wrong sometimes; and anyone who knows me knows that even as a representative of my constituency, I speak out on these things. Only this morning on me telephone I was letting a woman understand that the mere fact that she telephones her representative does not mean she is right. I will represent her, but when she is wrong I am going to tell her; and when they come to our institutions, they have to behave themselves. I want the population to understand that we are running the institutions for them and therefore there will be no swearing and carrying on and no smoking either. They cannot come into the health institutions and smoke. We will put them out, because we cannot preach one thing and practise another.

Mr. Speaker, the next election in this country is going to be a watershed. It is going to turn a number of the would be politicians and some of the present politicians away from politics for good. The people are going to deal them a decisive blow and they will go and rear chickens; and I am going to give them a licence. They will have to go and do something rear rabbits or chickens; because the people are going to drive them away from politics for good; because they are going to be seen for what they have been impostors; as my mother would say "impostures". I am grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my¹ voice to this debate. This debate on the Appropriation Bill is one of the most important debates that come before this Chamber on an annual basis, and I believe that it is no surprise that it has drawn the response of so many Honourable Members on both sides. In fact I believe that most Honourable Members have already spoken on this particular Bill and one cannot underestimate its importance. This is a Bill where we prepare ourselves to examine the Estimates of expenditure for the coming year; and one cannot debate a Bill of this nature without giving some consideration to Government's plans, Government's objectives and Government's policy. And the Government has already laid its Development Plan 1988-93, and it has a very important theme, the theme "a share for all". I think that is a very important theme, and as we pursue our policy and our plans, we have to make it clear that we are catering to all the people of this country. When one talks about development, one is talking really about making the most

efficient use of one's resources. In every country we talk about our economic resources; we talk about our natural resources and we talk about our human resources among others, and I believe that they are all important. We cannot put one ahead of the other, because all of these resources are inextricably bound to each other in one way or another. In fact we cannot improve our human resources unless we can improve on our economic resources; and we would not be able to develop our natural resources unless our economic resources are such that they give us the opportunity to properly do so. It is therefore very important that we look at all of our resources together; and it would be wrong and unfair to Government for anyone to suggest that by trying to share our resources in this respect for all to benefit that we are seeking to waste money or become involved in squandermania.

I believe that this debate is about the efficient use of our resources. That is the essence of the debate and I think that we should put it in that perspective.

Previous speakers have dealt in some detail with the economic resources and how we use our economic resources. I would like to focus a little attention, Mr. Speaker, as one other speaker did, on the use of our human resources, because I believe that this is one area that many countries do not pay enough attention to. I believe that we here in Barbados are perhaps a model in this respect. I believe that we can do more, but we are heading in a right direction by paying great emphasis in the area of developing our human resources. As I was saying, many countries are not able to improve their human resources, for one reason or another, mainly because some of them have very serious problems with debt and other things. But the point that I want to make most forcibly is that the human resources of a country are one of its most important asset, and no country which is developing can allow its human resources to be neglected. Our future therefore depends on how efficient we use our human resources. The money which we will be voting this week, I believe, is going to be very important if and when spent in this particular direction.

It is quite easy to accuse a Government of squandermania, particularly when we develop an asset of this nature, our human resources, because the benefits are not seen immediately. When we train people, when we improve the living standards of people, when we spend money in these directions, people may not see the benefits immediately. But they have long term benefits not only for the people but for the country. When we neglect to spend monies in these particular areas, again we may not see the disastrous results immediately, but they will have long term effects on the people and on the country, and that is why I want to suggest that it is important for us to allocate a sizable amount of our economic resources in the direction of improving our human resources if we are to see the results as we go down into the twenty first century.

One of the areas in which the Government has been trying to achieve this objective is in the area of education.
10.50 a.m.

The Honourable Minister of Education has dealt quite adequately with that subject but I believe it would be appropriate for me to add a few remarks and, perhaps, some suggestions. Because even though we have continued to spend a sizeable amount of our economic resources in the area of education, I believe that we must recognize that we still have further to go. We have not reached the end of the line. There are always new areas. There are always improvements and there are always ways that we can go further.

We have been building new primary schools to cater more effectively to the needs of our children. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there is a primary school project where Government has been initiating construction on a number of schools around the island and I am very pleased to say that plans are in train to have one in the constituency of St. James North which I have the honour to represent; and there is no doubt that the people of that area will be looking forward to that particular school. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that those persons who were educated in this country for the last 150 years in buildings which were inadequate... Those buildings will be insufficient and inadequate to cater to our educational needs as we go into the 21st century. I believe that this is an objective which a Government with foresight must pursue; and I believe we must compliment the Ministry in that particular area.

I think that we have to look at areas of making changes particularly in relation to the curriculum in our schools. I am happy to say that we have been moving to keep pace with modern technology. I am happy to say that, for example, there are some schools where the children are now exposed to the use of computer and I believe that this is an area which should not be underscored.

The computer age is upon us and we must recognize that unless we keep pace with modern technology and unless our people and our students are able to keep pace with modern technology, we will fall behind those countries which are developing at a faster rate.

We cannot teach in 1990 what we were teaching in 1960. And, therefore, it is important for us to recognize that we will have to improve and increase the amount of our economic resources to keep pace with improving our human resources. And, therefore, I am saying that these schools and these institutions will need the continued support of Government finances in order to continue to develop our human resources in that particular area.

Aside.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: I am very pleased to hear that plans are in train to cater in the area of that school in that particular area.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we also have to recognize is that in this country there are a number of particular groups that need special attention. One of these groups is the youth. And I want to say a few words in relation to youth because unemployment is one of the areas that affect the development of our young people and as a Member of Parliament it is an area that concerns me to see that this aspect of our youth's development is being hampered. The constant problem facing the youth of unemployment is one that concerns all of us.

The Democratic Labour Party has pursued a programme to reduce and sought to eliminate unemployment. In fact, if we look at the statistics, we will recognize that in 1980 unemployment was something in the region of 10% but by the early part of 1986 unemployment in this country rose to a level in the region of 19%.

Now, I believe that recent figures suggest that unemployment is something in the region of 18%.

Aside.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: Thanks for your correction. Unemployment now stands somewhere in the region of 15%. This, certainly, has suggested, Mr. Speaker, that since the Democratic Labour Party came to office, we have reduced the incidence of unemployment and I believe that this is something which we must continue to look at but even though it may be at 15% today, I am still concerned that we must continue to deal with this particular aspect of the problem that affects our young people.

I represent a constituency where the people communicate with me on a regular basis on this particular problem. I believe that more people see me in relation to unemployment than in relation to many of the other problems that they face. What is therefore very important is for us to recognize that the educational system must expose our unemployed youths to programmes which would develop in them a sense of self-reliance and a sense of self-development.

It seems clear to me that Government will not be able to provide a job in the Civil Service for every individual. A lot of people feel today that they are not secured in a job unless they are working for the Government. And I believe that what we would have to do as we proceed with our development is to find ways of creating self employment or assisting people in creating self employment.

This, I believe, is the direction in which we should seek to focus and it is an area which I would like to see Government channel some of its additional resources to

assist those persons in our community, particularly the young people, who would be interested in getting into some trade or who would be interested in getting involved in some programme for self-development to improve themselves rather than to remain unemployed.

I believe that people who are unemployed become a drain on the economic resources of the country and they also become a drain on the human resources of our country.

In many countries around the world we find that unemployment is higher and, as a result of this, you have a lot of people who prefer to live on the streets and out of homes. We cannot allow our situation in Barbados to drift and it is, therefore, very important at this stage in our development for us to deal with this problem of unemployment because it is one which can make this country progress or which can make us fall back.

We also have to look at programmes where students even while they are attending school can get the opportunity to get exposure in a work environment. I am very pleased to know that there are many businesses in Barbados which offer employment to school children during the vacation. This is something which must be lauded and I believe that it must be encouraged.

I would like to see this programme coordinated more effectively. Perhaps, it might be possible for Government to channel some funds in this particular area to assist in developing in this aspect of the problem because it is by building that confidence in the minds of these young people, it is by giving them that feeling that they will have a job and that they are capable of performing a job that we will be able to improve on the employment situation in Barbados.

I believe we have to move away gradually from the traditional situation where every student has between 13 and 15 years of formal classroom education. And we may, perhaps, have to divert them in areas where people are involved in more practical areas of self-development. I think that the classroom education is important but we have to recognize that whenever that student leaves the classroom he has to go into a practical world. 11.00a.m.

I believe that the earlier we can expose our young people to the practicalities of life and the practical situation of living in the world, we would be moving in the direction of creating a better life for our people. Our aim is to provide a better way of life. We put people first. I believe that if we seek to do it in this way no one can accuse us of squandermania and no one can accuse us of not spending the resources of the Government in a proper way.

Whenever we come to this Chamber annually, the Prime Minister in outlining his proposals is very meticulous

in setting out his plans. I believe that no one can do less than to say that he has been giving us a good in managing our economic resources. We are not in Barbados a country that has a lot of natural resources and it is therefore for that reason that we have to be so careful in the way we manage the limited resources we have.

Another area that I want to touch on, Mr. Speaker, is the area of health because that is another area that impacts on human life of the people of a country and impacts on the development of human life in our society. The Honourable Minister of Health who just spoke dealt with the area of polyclinics and he dealt quite adequately with Government's programme of improving health services and updating various pieces of equipment and health institutions and that sort of thing. This is very important because we must recognize that as we continue to develop, it would be important for us to cater more effectively to our people's health needs. What is recognized in this particular area is that the cost of health services around the world is increasing at a very rapid rate. When he spoke about the St. Joseph Hospital one must admit that this is a bold initiative on the part of Government to expand its health services as it is doing particularly in the north of the island. I believe that the people to the North of Barbados - Barbados as a whole, but in particular the people in the North of Barbados - are eagerly looking forward to see the St. Joseph Hospital open. I believe that when we are able to do that, to open that hospital, people will see the benefits. It is not something that we can rush into. When you are catering to people's health, it is a matter which has to be done carefully. But no one can say that because we have spent \$6 million in acquiring that property that we have wasted people's money. A very significant point which has been left out of the debate on this issue is the fact that this property was up for sale for \$15 million and Government by prudent negotiation was able to acquire this property for even less than half than the owners were asking. I believe that is an area in which we should compliment the effort of the Government in this particular regard.

So we must continue to cater to our people's health needs. Women in particular will have particular problems which have to be addressed. Children will have particular problems in health. Senior citizens will have particular problems in health. Even our men will have particular problems. All these particular areas, Government will have to improve and will have to keep abreast of modern technology in dealing with these particular problems if we are to reach a stage where we can say we are happy with the health needs of the country.

Barbados is one of those countries that caters to people who are disabled. I believe that we still have to do more. I believe that there is a greater contribution which disabled people can make to this country. I believe that because a person is blind it does not mean that he or she should be written off. I believe that a person should not be

written off because they are without a hand or foot; these are people who are still interested in making contributions. I should like to see the needs of these particular individuals catered for in a greater way. There is no doubt in my mind that we are extended in spending money in these particular areas. Every year we spend a sizeable amount of our economy in this particular area. But I do not believe that we should be turned away because of criticism. We should continue to press for improvements in these particular areas. Women in Barbados I believe have been receiving a fair deal from the Government in relation to its policy on the development of women. If you analyse women as an issue and look at the global situation, no one could say that we are not adequately catering for the needs of women given the present circumstances in which we are placed.

As a matter of fact there are women in other parts of the world that would exchange positions easily for the position that we have here for women in Barbados. People here are exposed to maternity benefits. There are some countries in the world that do not offer that facility to their women. They are entitled to maternity leave. There are women in certain parts of the world that do not become entitled to maternity leave. Women in Barbados can own property. What I am saying is that even though we will see the situation from a global point of view, we have to look at our local situation and seek to continue to make improvements on the situation as we proceed. These are areas which I suggest cannot be neglected.

We have a National Insurance programme for our people, unemployment benefits. These are all areas which have come to reality in Barbados within recent years. Maternity benefits which I just mentioned. All of our senior citizens receive Old Age Pension. We have a programme for invalidity benefits and injury benefits. People get severance payments when they are severed from their employment. What I am saying is that Government will not be able to continue these programmes unless we are able to improve on our economic resources and unless we find the necessary money to do these things. It must therefore be recognized that the job which we are doing in this particular regard is one which must be complimented.

I also want to touch on the question of roads, Mr. Speaker, because this is another area that calls for spending large sums of money. People in Barbados have become accustomed to good roads since the Democratic Labour Party was returned to Government. But I believe that we must continue to expand our road programme. In my own constituency there was a number of roads which were repaired since this Government came to office but there is still a large number which I have been pressing to have repaired. I recognize more than anybody else that this will call for money. But we cannot side-step the issue of improving the conditions of roads around the island. What is significant is that Government has been concentrating its programme not just in one constituency or not just in

certain constituencies. This programme has been carried out in all constituencies around the island, constituencies represented by the Democratic Labour Party members and constituencies represented by members of the Opposition. There is no reason why anyone should try to fault Government on the programme of expanding roads. Government has been doing it systematically. I believe that given the time and given the support, Government will be able to achieve its objective in this particular area. Government has just, for example, completed phase 1 of the Highway 2A Project from Mile-and-a-Quarter to Westmoreland. 11.10a.m.

Many of us may not have seen the fine work that has been done on that road; but that is an example of the kind of work which we need to continue to do to cater to the needs of our people. That road no doubt has cost Government a lot of money and will continue to cost more money because people are constantly making suggestions for improvement. Whenever you start out on a project, there will be some ideas that will not be immediately before your mind which will develop after you have started. Since Government has started on that road, there have come up many suggestions for improving the quality of that road. People have been making suggestions, for example, for sidewalks. Only this morning I received a telephone call. People would like to have paved sidewalks so that the school children who are walking to and from school can do so in safety. This is a matter no doubt that I will be taking up with the Ministry of Transport and Works. I believe that we should not just seek to carry out a project, but we should seek to see how effective that project can be in catering to the needs of our people. This is something, as I said, I will develop hopefully a little later on. But the question of roads is one which touches the hearts of people.

There are many people in Barbados who for the last 50 years were not able to get access to their houses by a proper road. If we continue this programme and if this programme is given the continued support of the people, Opposition, and indeed other individuals, I have no doubt that the time will come when we will be able to satisfy our needs in that particular area.

So Mr. Speaker, I think that basically when we look at this debate on this Bill one cannot but say that we are performing creditably. We put people first and we will continue to put people first. I suggest that once we keep that as the theme in our performance we will do what the mandate of the people has asked us to do. Thank you.

Applause.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that we have had a comprehensive debate on the second reading of this Appropriation Bill and I will seek to reply to some of the points made during this debate. I think that in

many respects it has been a very important debate and I would like to say that in my own estimation it is a debate in which Members of this Honourable Chamber, and I am referring particularly to Members on this side of the Chamber, Sir, on the Government benches, have responded in a way that was not only reflective of deep thought and good rhetoric but they were seeking to rebut some of the many criticisms and empty criticisms made by Opposition Members. They are not how in their seats, Sir, and there are reasons for that because they believe that they can get outside of the Chamber and inside of the Chamber and make all kinds of charges against the Government and simply expect that the Government would smile and turn the other cheek. But what has happened, Sir, is that the Government has during this debate replied to the accusations made and they have run away from the heat of the replies. That is all that there is to it.

Sir, all Members of this Chamber are entitled within the Rules of the House to speak and that is what has happened. And especially when there are very serious charges made against my Government I expect that the Members on this side will respond to them. The level of charges this year have been so many and of so insidious a nature that it required total reply from this side. They have their right to speak. We have our right to speak and that is what it is.

I have listened very carefully to the debate, Sir, and I have tried to look at some of the points that have been made during the debate. These are some of the charges that have been made - wild and reckless statements coming from the combined Opposition over there. They have spoken about squandermania. They have spoken about Government slush funds. Sir, these are not terms of endearment. They are not terms of congratulations. These are frontal onslaughts upon the integrity of the Government and upon the planning and development process of the Government. They have said that we have abandoned in these Estimates the 1988-93 Development Plan. They have said that I did not present any Financial Statement during the Budget presentation last year even though that particular exercise, Sir, is labelled the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. If you see the very insidious way in which they are trying to undermine the integrity of the process of Government in this country, Sir, those things cannot go unanswered. They even held up the Estimates, Sir, and said that they have no confidence at all in the Estimates and that they mean nothing at all. The very document that we are debating, Sir, there has been a frontal onslaught on that.

They said that there is only tokenism for small business. When we come with a programme to indicate the intention to develop something that has not been developed by them when they were in office, they accuse us of tokenism. That has to be replied to, Sir, and that is what we have been doing. They said that the Democratic Labour Party which is the Government of this country has provided a platform for racism, Sir. Sir, racism is contrary to the

Constitution of this country. It is contrary to anything that any of us out here believe in. It is contrary to the kinds of ideals that we have set for this society because we believe in the rights of the individual irrespective of race, colour, creed, or any other fortuitous circumstance. We believe in the rights of the individual and equality of opportunity for individuals. That is what we believe in, Sir. When an Opposition charges the Government of providing a platform for racism, we have to reply, Sir, and not in a squeaky voice. We have to come loud and it has to be repeated because they have their minions out there who are spreading the word as well. Sir, they have said that we have put locks on the doors of the banks in Barbados. We have put locks on the doors of the banks in Barbados. I would ask anyone to walk down Broad Street and tell me which of the banks have locks on their doors and that they cannot get into the bank. There is activity going on in the bank, Sir. Everyday in every country the finance administration in the country and the monetary authorities have to take steps to regulate financial flows in a country. 11.20a.m.

Sometimes interest rates go up, sometimes interest rates come down. We are living in a dynamic society and a dynamic world in which the situation is constantly changing. Every day there is change in interest rates. Interest rates went as high as 22% in this country under the Barbados Labour Party Government. I did not hear them talk about anybody closing any doors in this country. It is nowhere near that figure, Sir. They lent money then and they are lending money now.

What we have is a group of persons who are seeking to gain some kind of political advantage out of the economic and financial situation in the country. They hope to turn that to their particular advantage, because they had control of the government of this country and they failed. We went into deep recession in the 1980's under the Barbados Labour Party and it is the Democratic Labour Party that is trying to turn that situation around. They do not want us to speak. They want to make the criticisms and we must sit down here like blind mice, like dumb persons and like lambs driven to the slaughter by people who are driven only by their own inordinate ambition. That is what it is all about, Sir, and we will reply.

They have said that there is no confidence in the Government because of some matter relating to a prisoner buying drugs on the streets. They have said that we have not handled well some porno story. They said the Government is ducking around and people have no confidence in the Government. They accused the Government, and myself as Minister of Finance, of being idiotic for looking at the stage of development in Barbados as compared with developing countries and with developed countries, and they said we are idiotic for making that kind of comparison.

Sir, we wish to develop our country and we wish to improve our standards of living. We wish to improve growth and output in this country so that we can have a bigger cake in this country; so that our people can share in that bigger cake; so that they can improve their standards of living and the quality of life in this country. We have to put that on the record, Sir, and we are going to reply.

They have said that there has been over-taxation, that there has been over-expenditure, that there has not only been squandermania, but squandermania at its grossest. These are the charges that they have raised, Sir. They have accused the Government of being arrogant. Can you imagine the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for St. Michael South Central, accusing anybody of being arrogant? The most arrogant person in public life, and I believe in private life too, is accusing this Government of being arrogant. We cannot take that, Sir. That is imputation of improper motives to the Government. It is a quality, or a characteristic, or a feature that we make no claim to. It is not one of the energising forces that give meaning and purpose to what we are seeking to do in Government, because we have Government by consensus and we are seeking to understand what people are saying; we are seeking to understand what the opportunities are and what the constraints are.

We are a Government that talks to people; we are a Government that seeks to interpret their needs; we seek to find out where the shoe pinches so that we can moderate and modulate our policies for the betterment of social and economic activities in the country. They are in no position to speak about arrogance or to accuse anyone else of being arrogant. They are the past masters of it.

Sir, they said the Government is contemptuous. They launched an attack again on the Ministry of Agriculture, and in particular in respect of CARSICOT. They said that there are conflicts between the Minister of Finance and the Central Bank. They said that leadership in this country was effete. That means weak, Sir, that is what they are saying.

These are the charges they have laid. These are not encomiums, they are not praising the Government. As I said before, they are frontal assaults and we have a right and a duty to reply to them. They said that we have introduced policies which are damaging to the economy.

The Leader of the Opposition, following upon his gross statements about abortion and after-birth during the last budget - it perhaps passed unnoticed - but he called us over here swine. Perhaps it was clothed in such a way that it slipped, but what was the point of his quotation? He said that I was anti-intellectual. I do not know what he wishes me to come in here to talk about, probably something about the Edgworth Box and about the Laffer Curve and about all of the other esoteric terms in economics. I can do that in the right place and at the right time. The House of

Assembly is a place for discussing the people's business; it is not a place for conducting a seminar at university level in advanced economics or doctoral dissertations. This is not the place for it. He could not be in it if it was that.

He said I am anti-intellectual. He did not look at my paper and I did not look at his. We are both Barbados Scholars in this country. It is not that he is one and I am not one. He had three distinctions in some dead languages - Latin, Greek and Ancient History - and I had in modern languages, not French. I am talking about Wendell Haynes, Sir. There is nobody in here by that name. After accusing me of being anti-intellectual, then he went on to say that he will therefore not cast pearls where they should not be cast. Those were the words. The imputation is clear to anybody who has the slightest nodding acquaintance with the Bible or holy works what he is saying in this House. We have to reply, but they expect us to take all of these things, be nice boys and turn the other cheek and not fight back. That is exactly what we are doing within the framework of the Estimates and the rules of this House. We are defending the Government's position.

They said, Sir, that there are high levels of direct and indirect taxation. They accuse the Government of breaking or breaching some social contract which nobody can produce. It does not exist. What social contract? A lot of 18th century twaddle about a social contract out of that kind of philosophy. There were two contracts, Locke and Rousseau, and the only person I have heard with that was when the British Labour Party some time in the 1970's tried to get some agreement with the Unions because of some problems in there. Nobody talked about any social contract in that kind of way to justify a particular position.

They accused us, Sir, of Estimates not geared to development. They accused us of criminal negligence in respect of training. Can you imagine that, Sir? When training was stopped in this country during the early 1980's? 11:30a.m.

Sir, training was virtually stopped, and we have opened up the avenues for greater levels of training and more training. The charge was criminal negligence, not only negligence, in respect of training. Then they said that the Estimates were prepared with an election in mind this year. Those are some of the charges, not all of them, Sir, and our members have exercised the right as they have under your guidance to speak in this debate and they have spoken forthrightly to the fact and they have kept (he debate to the general principles of the Appropriation Bill and the elements in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. That is what we have done.

Now let me make it clear; I have a responsibility as the Leader of the Government to have prepared these Estimates. I started out from that position; that is how I

opened my statement by setting the constitutional and legal framework for the presentation of these Estimates. We have done so successfully every year as a Government having responsibility for this country. Every year that we have dealt with the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, we have done what we are supposed to do. Apparently the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, believes that there is some ideal way, I don't know if like Plato's Ideals, some ideal Financial Statement and Budgetary, Proposals that can only be presented in the way that he feels they should be presented, after presenting one Budget in this country. That is the sum total of his experience, and he wants to set himself up as a Guru on what is proper and what is not proper as far as the presentation of Budgets is concerned. Sir, I did everything possible as far as that Financial Statement was concerned. The only thing I did not do was to let him predict what I should do, because he perhaps wanted us to speak a little longer. Sir, he had just over one year; that is his experience - fourteen or fifteen months or something like that - and he is setting himself up as an expert in these particular areas. .

Sir, I remember the time when in fact in one year there was no budget presented, no Financial Statement, no Budgetary Proposals because the then Prime Minister, the late Errol Walton Barrow, felt that he was not imposing any taxation, so there was- no necessity for a Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. So what is this nonsense they are talking about concerning the absence of a Financial Statement. And it is not even true, Sir, because the whole range of matters which may constitute a statement were included in that particular presentation and there were all the documents available with more information than has ever been presented to this Parliament when I have presented in the two Budgets that I have presented. So that is the situation. Sir.

When I was introducing this measure, Sir, I referred to move-ins. I said that there would be some modification to the numbers that were presented. I did not give the details on that particular occasion, but they relate, Sir, in terms of our totals. The current expenditure will be the figure of \$990 243 526. Current Revenue remains the same at \$1 002 682 535. The current account balance will now be \$12 439 009. The Capital Expenditure should be \$242 125 868, and the over-all fiscal deficit should be \$229 686 859. Sir these are in respect of the move-ins. The move-ins, I will add as any competent accounting firm would add, are E & OE. So if there is any minor change as far as the arithmetic is concerned, I make that clear that these will be made. Those move-in provisions, Sir, relate as far as the current expenditure is concerned to Head 19 - Finance, for a sum of \$3 040 000, to Head 37 - Housing, \$15 million, as far as Capital Expenditure is concerned to Head 73 - Finance, \$4 800 000, to Head 69 - Prime Minister's Office, \$120 000,

to Head 81 - Employment, \$311519, to Agriculture, \$8 222 000, to Head 85 - Tourism and Sports, \$849 884. That is a summary of the move-ras.

When we look at the actual Head of Estimates, at least the reasons for these move-ins are available at the request of Honourable Members, or certainly in introducing the Head we may seek to provide the information. But it is available.

Mr. Speaker, there was one question that was raised, and it relates to the figures for employment. I believe; Sir, in this country this Government is being judged by standards that are so much higher than any other previous Government has been judged by, and this Prime Minister is so being judged as well. I think our problem is the success with which we have been able to steer the ship of state amidst troubled waters that exist in the region and in the world. There is no doubt about it, Sir, that there are problems both in the region and in the world at large. And there is no economy that does not have to do with some turbulence in one of the major, what they like to call, macro-economic variables. But there has been no squandermania and no wastage apart from the wastage that is normally associated with any governmental activity; but nothing that can be called squandermania and nothing that can be called squandermania at its grossest, and only someone who is hell bent on destroying confidence in the country could say that Barbados is worse off today than it was in 1940. 11.40a.m.

Only someone who is hell bent on destroying confidence and trying to find all kinds of arguments to make people disaffected from the social, economic and political system in the country could want to make such a statement.

Worse than that, only someone who is hell bent on trying to gain political power could say that the position in Barbados today is worse than the position it was in 1981. Only someone who is trying to create strife and mischief could make that kind of statement because it is far from the truth and we will, from time to time, be dealing with those matters.

We have had growth in the economy and I said it will be at least 3.5%. But they are annoyed because we have had growth and now they are coming up with some argument about lopsided, skewed and all kinds of arguments because we have had growth in this country when they were predicting that there would be no growth. The major sectors of the economy have been contributing to that growth and they do not like it because they wanted all of the economic indicators to point downwards.

Tourism was pointing upwards, manufacturing was pointing upwards, the construction sector was pointing

upwards, the international, financial and business services sector was pointing upwards. And then we have had these kinds of indicators but they do not like it because they are not particularly interested in growth in the country. They are only interested in something that they can criticize and because there was a drop in sugar production which we are all seeking ways and means to turn around, they are making all kinds of wild alarms. They are making all kinds of statements. So we had that growth.

The effect upon prices or inflation and price level remained moderate. They do not like that because it is something successful that the Democratic Labour Party Government can claim. And they do not like that unemployment dropped. And I am disclosing these figures now for the first time. During the period March to September 1988 the unemployment figure was at the level of 18%. During the same period last year the latest figures available to me unemployment dropped from 18% to 15.7%.

The policies of the Democratic Labour Party Government are working and they do not like it because they want to give out all kinds of figures of gloom and doom. And so long as the things are pointing downwards then they hope to swim around in that and to somehow benefit from that particular position. But whether we are doing well or whether we are not doing so well, this Government will tell the people of this country what is the position; we will say what our successes are, what our problems are and we will give the leadership to the country so that whatever the situation we will seek to deal with that.

We have been successful in all of this so far and, Sir, I am happy to move that this Appropriation Bill, as may be modified by the move-ins to which I made reference, be now read a second time.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Hon. B. M. TAITT, Hon. M. A. KING, Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Hon. II. A. BLACKMAN, Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, Hon. W. W. HALL, Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, Hon. C. V. WALKER, Hon. L. L. BRATHWAITE, Mr. C. L. TROTMAN, Mr. J. J. PAYNE, Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH and Mr. D. J. II. THOMPSON-17

NOES: Dr. R. C. HAYNES, Mr. R. P. BYER, Mr. P. J. M. MILLER, Mr. E. BOURNE, Hon. II. dcB. FORDE, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS and Mr. O. S. ARTHUR - 7.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply. 11:50a.m.

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE - CURRENT - \$10 273 702

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, we had a long debate in the introduction of the Second Reading of these Estimates and during the course of that discussion, I took the opportunity in response to some statements which were made by the Members from the Opposition to refer to some of the programmes which this Administration has for this particular sector, the commercial sector and certainly dealing with industry. I would hope during the course of my presentation to refer to the co-operative department and the development of co-operatives and, of course, to the other financial agencies which fall under my ministerial responsibility.

From time to time, I believe the spokesman from the Opposition who speaks on behalf of Trade and Industry, I refer to the Honourable Member for the City says that nothing is being done for the manufacturing sector by this Administration. He has also indicated that there does not seem to be any kind of direction which could be pointed to as emanating from my stewardship in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce.

I therefore, Sir, should like to take this opportunity to indicate once and for all the work which this Administration has done in the promotion of industry, the work which this Administration has done to try to reverse the downward trends which were evident in the export sector from in the mid 1980's and to point obviously to the direction in which we are going in terms of the kinds of assistance which this Administration has provided and will continue to provide for this sector which we in this Government consider to be a vital sector in our economy. I do not think that it is necessary for me to go back to set the background against which this Administration came into office. I think this background is well known and therefore I would proceed to make mention of the fact and to repeat that the Democratic Labour Party Administration considers the manufacturing sector to be vital for economic survival.

We in this Administration have no sinister plan, no hidden agenda as has been indicated by a leading church man recently about this Administration having a hidden agenda for a sinister plan to destroy the business community. That certainly is not our interest. That certainly

is not our concern. Our concern is to provide an environment and to provide an atmosphere in which business can prosper, in which there are opportunities for the citizens of this country and also opportunities for persons whom we invite here through our industrial promotion programme to come here to set up business. We want to provide the kind of atmosphere that would enable them to function and to make the kind of contribution towards the development of this country that we are interested in.

In doing so therefore, it is important for me to say at the outset that the manufacturing sector is one which has been plagued by a number of problems, problems which we are seeking to address, some of which we are sure we would solve, but some of which have their being in the sector itself. Indeed, one of the things which we in this Administration have always been encouraging and would want to continue to encourage is that the persons who are involved in the commercial sector, as distinct from the manufacturing sector should become even more actively involved in manufacturing than they are at present.

It is a fact that there is a lot of money which is being made in the commercial sector. Enough of this money in our view is not being channelled into the more productive and certainly into the manufacturing sector of the economy. We would like to see a new attitude emanating from the commercial sector towards the manufacturing sector. I am not saying that this is not being done by some companies. It is a fact that there are some members of the commercial community who have been able to establish that link with the manufacturing sector and are continuing to build on that.

But it is the view of this Administration that a lot more can be done. Therefore as I said, we through the various agencies of Government have been making opportunities available and have also been trying to provide the environment and the atmosphere for further growth and development.

Let me first start by indicating that during the year under review, through the instrumentality of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce we set up a manufacturing, restructuring programme and it involved the Industrial Development Corporation, the Export Promotion Corporation and the Barbados Development Bank. A number of firms which were considered to have export potential became part and parcel of the study. The study was done by BIMAP and by I think it is Coopers which study pointed to some weaknesses in the particular sector and developed a programme of recommendations for assistance to these companies. The study was called "The Manufacturing, Restructuring Programme". There were a number of companies, as I said, which were studied - the furniture companies, garment companies, food processing companies - these were the range of companies which were

studied. As I said there is a number of recommendations which have been made and they are now being processed. Indeed some of the findings related to management, general restructuring, refinancing of some companies. And some were found not to be worth the while to continue with. These are facts which sometimes one has to face. But the fact of the matter is that.... I am not calling any companies. I would not be so ungracious as to mention the names of the companies because I do not think that is needed. This was a positive sign on the part of this Administration. There are problems in the manufacturing sector and we therefore initiated a study with a view to having a programme for restructuring the manufacturing sector.

That is not all, Sir. I am speaking specifically to the comments which have been made by the Member for the City who constantly claims that nothing is being done by this Administration for the manufacturing sector. We have in place, and it is not new admittedly, under the Export Promotion Corporation the Export Grant and Incentive Scheme. 12.00 noon.

This scheme continues to function to the benefit of the manufacturing sector. As a matter of fact, I think that one should make the point that between April 1989 and February 1990 over \$142,000 were approved for disbursements under this scheme. This amount covered 30 applications which were approved for activities such as outward missions, trade shows, market research, preparational sales material and testing product. And most of these funds that were approved were targeted for activities outside of the CARICOM region.

We have also provided assistance under the Export Promotion Corporation to the manufacturers to enable them to become involved in trade shows in the past and we will continue to do so. Indeed Sir, in this financial year 1990-91, the Export Promotion Corporation in discussion with the Barbados Manufacturers Association on their plans for participating in trade shows and export promotion visits in CARICOM have agreed to give support to the BMA in a number of areas. I believe that if a mission has not as yet left that one will be leaving very soon to go to Dominica, Antigua, and I believe St. Lucia. This is being supported by the Export Promotion Corporation. Support will also be forthcoming for the Barbados Manufacturers Association to participate in Caribbean Expo in April and May of this year in Trinidad and Tobago. These activities will see assistance to companies in the garment sector and electronic data entry operations to enable them to participate in appropriate activities in North America and Puerto Rico.

So that we are not only concerned with encouraging our manufacturers to go into the CARICOM region, but we are also endeavouring to direct them to the extra-regional markets. We know that it is a difficult area in which to operate with the kind of competitive situation which exists

in the world. But we believe that with effort and the support coming from the Government, and certainly by a determination on the part of our manufacturers that we can do better in the export market.

Sir, let me continue. It is not that this Administration is doing nothing for the manufacturing sector. Already this year assistance was given by the Export Promotion Corporation to five garment companies to participate in the Caribbean Carnival in Jamaica during the period January 24 to 26. Three companies went to Martinique and Guadeloupe during this year. Three trade furniture manufacturers viewed Furniture Focus 1989 in Jamaica to analyze the type, quality, and design of Jamaican produced furniture. A trade mission which was organized by the BMA went to Jamaica during this current financial year. The EPC assisted three garment buyers from Puerto Rico who were interested primarily in the 807 operations to visit Barbados during May 1989. We are participating in the CARICOM Export Promotion Project which is working to promote exports of CARICOM produced goods outside of the region. We are providing market research in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Curacao, and Aruba to mention a few, also as I mentioned earlier in Martinique and Guadeloupe. All of this research, of course, has also been done in the U.K., Canada, and the United States of America and all of this research information has been relayed to the relevant manufacturers.

We have also, Sir, through the Industrial Development Corporation provided further assistance to the manufacturing sector to enable them to go overseas. So that it is not just from the Export Promotion Corporation but there is a collaborative effort between the IDC, that is the Industrial Development Corporation and the Export Promotion Corporation. Indeed, I would wish to see this collaboration even more closely worked out and I have indicated that as long as the two agencies remain under my control that they must work in tandem. There must be very close consultation between the two agencies. After all it is true that one is concerned with promoting Barbados as a place for profitable investment and the other is concerned with the export of goods which are produced in Barbados for export in CARICOM and beyond, but the two agencies must continue to work very, very closely and we are going to see that that is done. But we have sought assistance from the CBI through the Industrial Development Corporation, the Ccnuc for Industrial Development, for the manufacturing sector and representation has been made on behalf of several other groups of manufacturers for assistance from this group. This is a group which is set up under the LOME Convention. Through the Industrial Development Corporation and in collaboration with UNIDO. We organized a repair and maintenance training programme with the objective of eventual establishment of a machine shop facility in Barbados. This is something which we will certainly put in place and this can be considered as another positive effort on the part of this

Administration to provide the kind of assistance, atmosphere, and environment in which we would want to encourage manufacturing to take place. 12.10 p.m.

There is in existence under the Industrial Development Corporation a training grant scheme to provide assistance to companies involved in manufacturing here. Within this current financial year this scheme was modified, so that assistance under the scheme could additionally be provided (in addition to what is % already going) to those companies which are involved in expansion associated with the introduction of new technology. This is a departure from what used to happen before.

The Industrial Development Corporation is also involved at the moment in providing.....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Does a Member have IS minutes now that we are in Committee to make a presentation? That is my understanding of the rules. The Minister has half an hour, other Members have IS minutes and that can be several IS minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister proceed.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Sir, it is important that the record be put straight and the Government's position must be put very clearly and squarely on the table. As I was saying, the Industrial Development Corporation has initiated the preparation of project profiles which will be made available to persons who will be interested in identifying projects for investment possibilities here in Barbados.

I would not want to exclude the valuable work which is being done by this administration, through the Industrial Development Corporation, in handicraft development, because we place a lot of emphasis on this, because we recognise that there are many opportunities for our local craftsmen, both in terms of the substitution of imports of handicraft items and that there also exist opportunities for exports.

In pursuit of these objectives, the Industrial Development Corporation will continue to place much emphasis on handicraft development. In particular, we will be paying attention to training and development, marketing and production. On top of this, as I mentioned on Monday, and as the Deputy Prime Minister mentioned yesterday, the whole area from the Bridgetown Port right through to Pelican Village and involving the old Queen's warehouse, will be redeveloped and the Industrial Development Corporation through sums of money which will be granted during this year's Estimates will be commissioning a study for the redevelopment and the redesigning, and indeed the modernisation, of Pelican Village which, when it is

finished, will be an attractive area which will certainly be in tandem with our whole approach towards the promotion and development of handicraft, the development of the cruise ship business and we believe that this is going to be a very important development

I mentioned, and I think I must repeat it, that provision is made in these Estimates under Subhead 11 for assistance to small business. The mere fact that we have separated this and put it as an item, contrary to what Honourable Members have said, that this is a recognition by this administration that we need to pay particular attention to small business. The programme is being developed; we have made a token provision in the Estimates for this and when the programme is completed we will be coming to this House for a vote of additional monies which will see this programme get off the ground, and the kind of assistance which will be worked out will be put in place. Indeed, Sir, consultations are going on with a number of agencies and groups involved in small business in Barbados -WAND, WID, the National Foundation of Barbados and other small business groups, because we want to have a programme in place in which they have participated, where we are trying to bring all the groups together and develop a programme which will be of benefit to them. I think this is a departure which we have to be very much aware of.

The Industrial Development Corporation and the Export Promotion Corporation are looking to the future in terms of developing a strategy which will further lead to the creation of employment opportunities for Barbadians. One of the areas which has captured our attention and to which a lot of attention is being paid is in the development of data processing and, generally speaking, the services sector. We recognise that there are a number of possibilities there. We have, for example, the Caribbean Data Services which have embarked on an expansion programme. Not only are they processing data for American Airlines, which they came down here to process, but they are now processing data for insurance claims and I think the possibilities exist for them to get into other areas. There are other companies which are involved in that particular area.

During this financial year provision is made for expansion to existing plant. Provision is made for continued work on the telcport which will provide a dedicated line to the data entry operators here. Provision is made for expansion to the Donnelly Caribbean Graphics facility in Wildey. Provision is made for establishing advanced factories for the furniture industry, because one of the things we have found is that in the industrial estates factories have been put down without any thought or concern about compatibility. We have found, for example, that in the Newton area we will have to move some of the furniture factories from there and they will be brought down to the Spring Garden Highway so that there will be a more compatible kind of arrangement. 12.20p.m.

In that location there will be a more compatible kind of arrangement, and we have to build accommodation for them, so that Newton will more or less be developed into a kind of industrial estate where you would have industries which can relate to each other and which would not do violence to one another. This demonstrates a kind of plan and a kind of concern for development. We are developing through the Industrial Development Corporation a regime for the sale or export of services. The services sector is a growing sector, in which there has to be a growing of recognition on the part of this administration. We recognise that the reason why we can attract the Donnelly Caribbean Graphics here, why we can attract the Caribbean Data Services and the other data facilities is because we have the right environment, we have the right infrastructure in terms of telecommunications, in terms of our general communications, our transport, our accessibility and of course the quality of our work force. So when therefore we talk about the future, these are the kinds of things which we are talking about, the concern which we have in giving direction to our industrial development; the provision which is made for and the recognition which is given to the development of small business; the recognition which is given to the development of the handicraft sector; and of course I would want in a later intervention to talk about the new areas where we are seeking to attract investment.

I recognise, Sir, that this time around my time is on the verge of expiring and I would just want to pause at this moment because I know that the debate will be going on for some time.

I beg to move that the sum of \$10 273 702 under Head 27 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce -stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is probably the worst lime I have heard the Honourable Minister of Trade speak. I am accustomed to hearing him do better than this. He stumbled and fumbled. He came in here almost as though he was not even prepared to deal with this matter. I guess that the charges I have made before about him not handling his Ministry may well be well founded, Sir. You could imagine that he could call \$100 for small business development a token to small business when \$1.00 on page 140 of these Estimates, subhead 9, to the Securities Exchange of Barbados was identified as a token contribution. This Government that is so serious about assisting small business has given them a contribution of \$1.00. Last year the figure was zero.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it is all well and good and we come in here lime after time and in other forums and keep saying vague things about how trade and industry can be developed, particularly manufacturing and specifically

export manufacturing, but no one is hearing from that side—either from the Honourable Minister of Trade or any other Minister for that matter who is even remotely involved with trade, because the Honourable Minister of Agriculture himself is involved and so is the Minister of Finance—no one is hearing from them what Government is going to do to provide the kind of climate to bring about this expansion, this development.

The Honourable Minister just said in his speech that we keep accusing them of not creating the climate, and then he went on for half an hour to not tell us what is the climate they are going to create. I sat here peaceably and waited to hear him say something, give me some glimmer of hope that they are on some kind of track, that there would be some development in this area, and I am still to hear it. Maybe at a later opportunity he will find some note somewhere to give us some indication of what he intends to do, because I still am not clear. And from the way you were observing him, Sir, it looks as if you were not clear either.

He talks about the distributive sector getting involved in manufacturing. I would agree with that and I think any right thinking Barbadian would agree with that. Anybody would want to encourage a sector that basically imports and distributes to get involved in any of the productive sectors also, in tourism " in manufacture and in agriculture for that matter. But with all the squandermania that is taking place, he still cannot tell us what the programmes are to encourage these very people to get involved. He has not told us that, Sir, and that is all I have asked him from time to time. He said I made charges. I did not make any charges; I asked questions and he has the opportunity to answer those questions, if in fact he can. If he can't answer them, then my charges, as he calls them, were well-founded that he really does not understand what is going on.

Mr. Chairman, when you compare the fact that they spent \$1 million on five luxury coaches that are sitting around somewhere and can only spend \$100 on small business, let us hear some more about this caring and sharing. Explain to us about this caring and sharing and then tell us that our charge of squandermania was wrong. You spent \$1 million on coaches and now allocate \$100 for small business. If that is not squandermania, I don't know what is. What are you doing with the coaches now?

Concerning the manufacturing restructuring programme that the Minister alluded to, he in fact pointed out some inherent weaknesses in the sector. That is true as in fact it should have, because we have always said (and I don't believe there is any disagreement in this) that there were some serious problems in the manufacturing sector. You don't need to pay attention and try to assist a sector that is doing well, so obviously it would point out there were problems. That there were management problems, it is true again. I have repeatedly said in here and elsewhere

that there are major problems in the manufacturing sector because of its relative age, because of the fact that many of the small manufacturers in Barbados (and let us get it straight, most of them are small manufacturers) came from being a tradesman, whether it be a joiner or cabinet maker, were able to grow to the point where they suddenly had a factory, but, Sir, they were still a joiner, they did not suddenly become a manager; they now had to be trained in management or be encouraged to employ the right kind of management. I have often said outside of this Honourable Chamber that I believe that part of the role that organisations like the IDC and the BDB must play is to assist these people in doing just that; to assist these people rather than just giving one of these persons a loan to buy equipment, (I will tell you that most of the time they are under financed, but I will get to that later) get their plant going, and then let them operate with the mismanagement that would - obviously come if you don't have the right management in place, be it yourself or your hired management. That is a prescription for failure, and the organisation providing the assistance would be as guilty as the manufacturer himself. So yes, the Minister is right that some of the problems have their genesis in the manufacturing sector; that is true. But that is a given, that is nothing new. All persons involved know that. But what he has to do as the leader being the Minister of Trade and Industry, he is the leader he has to show them that this administration which he keeps talking about that is so creative has to provide the wherewithal, the climate, as I said before, to bring about these creative changes that the Honourable Minister keeps saying he would like to see.

I mentioned under financing. It is no secret (and I am sure the Honourable Minister would agree) that that same study must point out that there are several operations; and that study was only done on 20 companies, where all the indicators are that they are terribly under financed. What is your plan to deal with that problem? Are you going to go on making simple and simplistic statements about if we expect to pick up people's money and throw behind these fellows and call names? I am not accusing the Honourable Minister of that particularly, but there are others in the Democratic Labour Party who have done it. If pressed I will call the names at another time. You cannot say that. What you have to say instead is that you are providing institutions or programmes to correct this problem. 12.30p.m.

My question is: Now that you have discovered through this Study what the inherent problems are (and the problems do not rest with only one company, let us get that clear) what we want to hear from you (of course, I do not want you to divulge things that are in the Report that you might not want to release at this time)... but now you have discovered what the problems are and you have discovered that they are fairly universal, and that, in fact, they are mostly in the case of the small manufacturers, you have to

tell us now what your plan is to tackle these problems. How are you going to deal with the credit problem that most of them have? - -

Aside.

Mr. P. J.-M. MILLER: If you read the Report you would discover that. It is not so difficult. Or you do not have to do that, just talk with a few of them although they tell me that they seem to have a problem getting you to talk with them these days. •""

Mr. Chairman, the Minister talked about EGIS, the Export Grant and Incentive Scheme at the EPC. He talks about research and market development that the EGIS is supposed to address this. I want the Minister to tell me if it is not so - that, in fact, when you look at the whole basket of goods in terms of research and Development, particularly with EGIS, that (1) most of the money was spent in the outward missions; (2) that we have learned from past experience going year after year that a lot of these outward missions will be fraught with problems, will not bear the kind of results; you want them to bear because of the very fact they have not done the kind of market research that is necessary to determine where you are going and who you are taking to these outward missions. I want him to tell me if I am wrong about that.

I have repeatedly said, whenever I had the opportunity, that the EGIS is a scheme within the EPC, a laudable scheme, as the Minister correctly said. It was there before. I do not know who is to take credit for it; that is irrelevant. It is a good scheme and if it is properly used it can bear fruit. ;

The Export Grant and Incentive Scheme must only kick in to carry people on mission after you have done the kind of market research that tells you who should come and what they should bring. How often have these missions gone abroad? I would like the Honourable Minister to get the reports on some of these missions and tell me if 2, 3, 4 years after many of the people who have attended these missions have not sold a single item to these countries.

I am not saying that every time you go on a trade mission that you must automatically sell something. I know better than that but I am saying that the large number of these so-called export manufacturers who have not been successful in even getting an order, that number is greater than those who have. And sometimes it is all for the want of proper marketing, a little modification in the product, a little modification in price. But if the research is not done how are you going to know beforehand?

I am saying spend some of that money that you spend on outward missions now; cut back on some of them and start spending some of the money on serious research.

Now, as far as development is concerned, it is but only reasonable to understand that you cannot talk about market development until you are in the market. Here I am just explaining to you carefully that they have not done the research properly and this Honourable Minister has not made any significant changes in that organisation since he took office.

They have not done anything much different and this is why I am suggesting to him that he examine these areas carefully and see if it is not time to start moving into the 20th Century in the way you are approaching export marketing. The research is not done and they have gone on to do development.

Now, most countries which have been successful and, in particular, the Third World countries who have been successful in any meaningful penetration into these developed countries' markets have done so because the research was done properly. Yes, but also because they tried to require some presence in that marketplace.

I understand my time has run out but I will come again, Sir.

What are we doing about providing a presence in these markets that we intend to penetrate? We have an office in New York: Yes. Is anybody in that office now? The chap was brought home. Have we replaced him and with whom? Another person who is not qualified in marketing?

I would appeal to the Honourable Minister not to make that one a political job. That is too important. Get somebody who understands export marketing and put in that office this time.

I would ask, given what is happening in Europe (and I am not only talking about Eastern Europe now; I am talking about Europe 1992 which the Minister is well aware of; he keeps talking about it especially when he came back from Lome; it was fresh in his mind and he talked about it a lot)... I would like to find out from him what we are doing about a presence in any marketplace, any point of entry, whether it be London, Spain, whatever.

When I asked the question, "what are you doing about trade and industry, particularly, in manufacturing and in particular, export manufacturing", (and the Honourable Minister of Finance continues to talk about the need for creativity in this sector if we are going to help the economy of Barbados)... "What are you doing in real terms to assist it in moving forward?" That is all I am asking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I will come again. Thank you.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: In the course of the presentation by the Honourable Minister, I think this House heard what could only have been described as a confession of a self-confessed failure, if for no other reason than that the Minister began by observing that since 1986 he has been embarking on the policy of the Democratic Labour Party to reverse the downward trend in export manufacturing. And if we are to accept, Mr. Chairman, that that is indeed the policy of the Democratic Labour Party to reverse the downward trend in export manufacturing that set in since the early 1980's, then, Sir, he is a self-confessed failure and might have been the most catastrophic failure as a Minister in this Government. And I say this without forgetting the Minister of Agriculture and, indeed, not forgetting either the Minister of Finance who might, perhaps, make equally strong claims for that particular title.

He says, Sir, that he stands to be measured by the extent to which he has reversed the trend. And the trend was, if I must tell the House (and I am referring to the Economic and Financial Statistics, Central Bank) in 1985 Barbados exported \$449.6 million worth of goods; in 1986 \$420 million worth of goods of which \$230 million were in the first six months; in 1987 this Government that came in committed to reversing that trend succeeded in exporting \$214 million; in 1988, \$248 million; and on the basis of the information that is published for the first nine months of 1989 they have succeeded in exporting only \$197 million worth of goods and if one were to analyse that, Sir, it is likely that this year Barbados will not export more than \$270 million at the most. So taking the Minister at his word, that he came in committed to reversing a trend, I am saying to the House that he is a self-confessed failure.

We must not be surprised, Sir, because the Democratic Labour Party has a capacity of not putting its money where its mouth is. And this House in evaluating Head 40 must seriously look at the question as to what has happened to the Export Promotion Corporation. 12.40 p.m.

In 1985-86 the Export Promotion Corporation spent \$1.9 million under the Barbados Labour Party. In the last year of the Barbados Labour Party we brought to this House estimates and approved \$2.5 million for the Export Promotion Corporation. But what has been the pattern since then, Sir? This Government inherited a set of Estimates approving \$2.5 million for the Export Promotion Corporation in pursuit of an export led growth, Sir. They spent \$1.4 million on export promotion in 1988, \$1.8 million in export promotion in 1989. This year, Mr. Chairman, this Government is asking this House to approve \$2.1 million for export promotion as compared with five years ago under the Barbados Labour Party. We asked this House to approve \$2.5 million. Five years after, with prices rising at the rate of 6% a year, this Government now is asking this House to approve less spending on export promotion in the context of a situation where this country's

exports of goods are half what they were in 1985. We get the sense of the seriousness of this Government when we look at these particular trends. We must be surprised that even what this Government puts before this House to be approved that the trend in exports will go down and go down under this Minister. We are still looking for the breakthrough.

I raised the question of the token vote to the small business sector as set out in these Estimates. When the Government intends something for a token vote, Sir, it states that it is intended to be a token vote. Under Head 40 the Government intends the vote to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Barbados to be a token vote and it has said so. But in relation to the assistance to small business, Sir, there is no indication that Government intends this to be a token vote at all. There is a good reason for that, Sir. Because the Government has moved in this particular Head because it intends to come in the Budget this year, at the last minute, to try to provide support for the small business sector of Barbados. And there is a good reason why it has to do that. In the Budget of 1986 the Barbados Labour Party spoke then of a graduated corporation tax and a special tax regime for the small business sector of this country together with other support. That commitment was endorsed by the Democratic Labour Party in 1986 when it introduced its budgetary measures. Indeed, Sir, a Commission headed by a Mr. Phillips was set up to provide Government with a report setting out how it should proceed in relation to the structuring of tax and the provision of other support for the small business sector of Barbados. It is within my certain knowledge, Mr. Chairman, that that report was submitted to the Minister of Finance at the end of March, 1987. In fairness to the Member for St. Michael South Central, it was submitted too late to be included in the Budget of 1987. But from the end of March 1987 the Democratic Labour Party Government appraised itself on its love for the small man in this country, had a report prepared by a group of experts as regards the manner in which Government should proceed in relation to a graduated tax to small businesses in this country - that they would treat them separate and distinct from the other businesses in the society, as well as the other supports that the small business sector should receive from Government. For 3 years the sloven Minister of Finance that we have had has sat on that Report and has done nothing with it. If you were to take a report and sit on it for 3 years and do nothing with it, you are sloven. For 3 years, the man of action has taken that Report and has done nothing with it.

We have this vote here not intended as a token vote. But the embarrassed Democratic Labour Party Government intends during the process of the Budget Debate to come at the last minute to make a last ditch effort to try to assuage their consciences when they had 3 years to take action on the Grenville Phillips Report regarding small business.

Mr. Chairman, what is so disgraceful about this whole matter is that in the interval that this Government has had that Grenville Phillips Report and the Minister of Finance has been sitting on it, the volume of resources committed to the small business sector in this society has declined and has continued to decline.

I would ask the House and I would ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce and I would ask the Minister of Finance to refer to page 48 of the Economic and Financial Statistics of the Central Bank which sets out the allocation of credit by the Barbados Development Bank the principal agency in Barbados which makes loans and advances to the small business sector of this society, Sir. And what is the record? A record of desolation. The record is simply this, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party Government came into office and it inherited a situation in which loans outstanding to small industries were \$12.1 million. By the end of October 1989, loans outstanding to small industries extended by the Barbados Development Bank have fallen from \$12.1 million to \$8.9 million. This Government that cares about the small man in this society. From \$12.1 million at the end of 1986 to \$8.9 million.

As regards assistance through the Barbados Development Bank to small manufacturers that has fallen too from \$1.56 million to \$1.1 million at October 1989 in the context of a situation where the Minister of Finance had the report put on his desk in March 1987 providing a complete approach as to how the question of small business in this society should have been addressed.

So that there has been inaction.

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It was a budgetary commitment stated by us and honoured by him. A whole team. When the private sector of Barbados, Mr. Chairman, expresses a lack of confidence in that Government, it has nothing to do with what we are saying on this side. It has to do with the fact that the expertise of the private sector of this society was called upon to help the Government to construct a regime to assist the small business sector of Barbados and they cannot understand how a Government that says it cares about the small man could have a Report for 3 years and sit on it, Sir, and now come to this House and ask us, offensively so, to move that only \$100 be voted for the small business sector.

I am going to challenge this Government now, Sir, to put its money where its mouth is. I want to propose that an additional \$5 million be moved in under Head 40, Subhead 10 so that we in this House who are serious about the development of the small business sector will at last be showing the small business sector that we are putting our money where our mouth is.

I am proposing that in the same way you have moved in money for other things, let us move some money here now if you have the courage of our conviction. I am also warning the Government about the fracturing of the effort made to help the small business sector of Barbados. In every area that is regarded as; a high profile area, a lot of institutions express their social conscience by appearing to give assistance. And one of the ways in which they do so, Sir, is by the creation of institutions to help the small man.

I remember in Jamaica we had at least 8 different institutions at one stage providing some form of assistance to the small man. What happens generally in these circumstances is that a lot of the resources go not so much to the small man who needs the help but a lot of the resources go to the institution and the bureaucracy of those institutions. We already have, an institution in Barbados which is charged in a developmental way with assisting the small business class of Barbados. It is the Barbados Development Bank. 12.50 p.m.

It has the capacity, Mr. Chairman, to assist in technical assistance, project preparation, training, and all other areas. We already have, Sir, the National Development Foundation that has been developing a capability to assist the small business sector. I am saying, Sir, if additional resources have to be created, let us vote here with the intention not so much of having the Ministry of Trade be the executing agency but that the money, Sir, be put in the Barbados Development Bank which already has a track record in this field. I am fortified in that view, Sir. I am fortified in the view, because the proven incompetence of the Minister of Trade and his inability to reverse export, as he said was his pledge, indicates that the Ministry of Trade under its present leadership is a very unsafe place to reside any developmental function. I am left to believe, Sir, that what has happened to our exports will also happen. Sir, to the small businessman in Barbados if he too comes to rely on that Minister of Trade for his development. I am left to believe, Mr. Chairman, that what has happened to all those persons who used to export to Trinidad and who look to this Minister for a breakthrough will be as frustrated that the Barbados businessman, Sir, as all of those small businessmen who used to look to Trinidad. I am also left to believe, Sir, that the small businessmen if left to the Minister of Trade will be as frustrated as those young people of Barbados who looked for the 3,000 jobs that that Minister promised by the end of 1986.

In the course of this debate, we are also going to have a lot to say about proposals made by the Minister of Trade and Industry in relation to the Co-operative Division. I believe that that area, Sir, is an area that has shown great vibrancy and viability over the course of the last 10 years. The development of the co-operative movement, Sir, in

Barbados is a development that has shown tremendous promise of having created a new economic order in the society....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am in the midst of a sentence, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It is our judgment on this side, Sir, that any changes in the relationship in the co-operative movement to the society in general deserves the widest possible discussion given the critical nature, we submit that that movement can play and has been playing in the Barbados society. We trust, Sir, that in the course of this debate the Minister will spend some time, as he has not to date spent, outlining what....

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: This is a long paragraph sentence.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: ...Which has come to an end.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: are the plans of his Ministry in relation to this sector, Sir, and what are the points of controversy that now stand between himself and that sector, Sir. I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Michael Central.

Asides.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is now that hour at which we more or less have lunch. I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for 1 hour until 2:00 p.m.

Hon. M. A. KING: I second that, Sir.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2:00 p.m. for lunch was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 12.55 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee has resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, just a few days ago there was a rather unfortunate situation in Barbados in one of the industrial estates which makes me want to make an intervention in this particular discussion. You may be aware, Mr. Chairman, that situation relates to the Newton Industrial Estate where some 150 or so workers found themselves working under very unhealthy and uncongenial conditions out of which some of them took in and they had to lose a day's work and a day's pay. The concern I have coming out of this is to have the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Commerce work closely with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Welfare and so on to ensure that when we are setting up industrial estates we take greater interest in and pay greater concern for the welfare of those people who are going to spend significant portions of their lives working in those areas.

I am pleased that the Minister has indicated that they are moving in his Ministry towards homogeneity in terms of manufacturing activities in various industrial estates. I believe that that is a move in the right direction and one that should be complimented. I am very conscious and I believe a number of people are conscious of the times when people were working in garments, for the sake of argument, at one establishment and found right next door to where they were working substances of high volatility being stored for the types of operations which really had no right to be so closely aligned to those other activities. Although the thrust (and perhaps we can understand that that was to get jobs and to get jobs where there were shelves for that time)... I think that it is clearly necessary for the Government to ensure that it has different types of shelves set up at different points with a view to establishing an arrangement which would allow the kinds of businesses which are being attracted to be brought to the area and to be allocated positions in the country based on the nature of those particular enterprises that they may be engaging in. In that regard too, Sir, I would think it very necessary for the interest of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health to be sought because we are aware of the allegation that was made sometime ago that one company which was a major employer of workers here in Barbados operating just to the north of Vauxhall was engaged in activities arising out of which dangerous chemicals were being dumped into the swamp and into the subterranean waters at St. Lawrence. Clearly, we have to be sure that we are not under these kinds of problems because chemical

pollution is a very serious and dangerous thing and we have to be very careful to weigh our interest in the provision of jobs against our concern for providing for an environment for our own people and our visitors, which environment is beyond any possibility of contamination.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, I wish to make the further observation that it seems as though it is necessary for us again to command the Industrial Development Corporation, an organization which I had the honour to serve for sometime, but again to command the Industrial Development Corporation that when it involves itself in its programmes to interest companies and businesses into coming to Barbados that it rewrites the questionnaire, interviews, and the format for interviews which the IDC should have with these prospective employers. 2.05 p.m.

That, I believe, the Democratic Labour Party Government has ensured, and I believe that working in some respects in Barbados there is a working arrangement to allow that to obtain.

I am concerned now, however, Sir, much more with making sure that in Barbados we are able to get those businesses to indicate very clearly their recognition of their obligation to make it absolutely clear to all and sundry, to the Ministries responsible, to the various inspecting departments and to the workers as well, to make it very clear what are those chemical substances that they might be using, what their chemical properties are and what the possibility of dangers might be to the people as a whole.

We are increasingly getting to recognise that there are people who are coming to Barbados from outside of the region who are perfectly aware that there are certain chemical substances which are outlawed in their own countries, which it is not permissible for them to use in their own countries, but which they would think nothing whatsoever of using in Barbados, or indeed in the rest of the Caribbean. You would appreciate that I have to look at the broader Caribbean from time to time when I speak, Sir, and it is absolutely necessary that we impress upon these persons and upon these institutions that it is important for them and it must be a *sine qua non* for the development of their businesses for them to recognise that for them to operate businesses in Barbados they must be able clearly to identify the chemical terms, the chemical properties of those substances that they are using. They must be able to indicate to the workers on request what are the strengths of the properties of these chemicals and they must be able, on the inspection of the Ministry of Labour to make it absolutely clear exactly what is going on.

I am afraid that these conditions do not seem to have been in evidence in the situation I have referred to that took place last week. It is very disturbing that even now that the workers have resumed work in that place in Newton, there

are concerns that the conditions are still applying and that the workers are undergoing and suffering certain physical discomforts. I would believe that it is necessary for the Ministry of Labour to monitor that situation, but outside of the Ministry of Labour it is my considered view that the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce should concern itself with ensuring that the facilities, which currently exist, are improved and that those new ones are set down in such a way that we recognise the importance of environmental safety, of provisions of health and safety at the work place and that generally we make sure that we do not run into the kinds of problems which we are up against.

While we are at it, Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister of Trade to recognise and to get across to his Ministry and to the Industrial Development Corporation that in the area of chemicals that is not the only area where there might be problems of this sort.

It is my understanding that in the garment industry there are the kinds of operations that obtain at some industrial estates where at the same time that garments are being cut there are provisions for extraction of the dust from the garments to be taken out of the atmosphere, so that the workers who are working in the cutting of garments might be able to avoid those kinds of contaminants which are leading to very severe illnesses to people who have been working in the garment industry for protracted periods. It would be very necessary and very urgent for the Ministry of Trade to impress upon the Industrial Development Corporation, and to other Ministries within his Cabinet "Collegiate" - if you will allow that, Sir - so that we might find an arrangement which endeavours to allow people who are working giving of their best to the work force and to the areas of their expertise that they might be able to continue to work as they have been doing for the greater part of their lives in conditions which are less hazardous than they currently might appear to be.

We are very concerned, Sir, that a number of people who are projecting their businesses and looking after the machinery that they get, looking after the kinds of office furniture that they might have, looking after the esoteric things that there might be, do not equally well take significant time and attention to pay to those people who by their sweat, their blood, and indeed sometimes their tears help to create the profit of that same enterprise.

In one of those enterprises I had reason to speak to an expatriate Manager not too long ago. I cannot call his name, Sir, I have not given you notice. I indicated to him that the nature of the work that people were doing was such

Aside.

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN: He does very much exist. I have not served notice to you, Sir, and I cannot do that, but

I would tell the Leader of the Opposition very quietly if he undertakes to assist me in helping in eradicating that kind of problem.

I spoke to him and indicated that the nature of the work that was being done was such that after those ladies (for the most part ladies were working there) had got past 35 or so their eyesight was bound to deteriorate and that they were going to find themselves in a position where the employer would have to recognise that the level of their productivity would not be the same as it was before. That employer's reply to me, at the level of the Ministry of Labour, was that his establishment was not an almshouse and so far as he was concerned, when once they reached the level where their productivity fell off he would have to get rid of them. My attitude to people like them was that they should not be operating in this place, but I do not believe that he spoke for the company necessarily.

What I am saying is, Sir, that we have to be concerned that we do not get the level of contaminants within the industry - and I do not necessarily mean human contaminants. I am referring to the need for us to make sure that at the level of our invitation to companies, at the level of our supervision of companies when once they have come here, at the level of our inspection of the machinery and of the companies generally, we ensure that we do not concern ourselves only, and I support that we have to concern ourselves with the level of export and the level of productivity, but that we have to recognise that there is a human element within that productivity, and that we have to ensure that we set the stage, we prepare the climate so that those people whom we want to contribute more, those people whom we want to be more productive can continue to produce in a manner satisfactory to the employer but also to do credit to the welfare and the well being of our country as a country that puts people first.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, in making a few comments on this particular Head, I want to start off by making a few observations. The first one is that I believe in national pride and I believe in personal pride. I believe in national honour and I believe in personal honour. I believe in national dignity and I believe in personal dignity. 2.15p.m.

To those accultured to pimping all their lives, that amounts to arrogance, and I plead totally guilty. I certainly would never find myself in a situation where in violation of the Executive of a party to which I belong, in violation of the wishes of the President of that party and in his presence, in violation of the political Leader of that party find myself go grovelling with the Opposition for a few cents as an increase in salary. I would not find myself doing deals with the Opposition to accommodate them in boundary changes in return for a job at the Community College. All these

things will come out in due course. We know all about those things down the road, and indeed it was only Tom Adams' insistence that it would only be proper if such a person should resign from this House that certain situations have developed in Barbados over the years. Let us get that record straight National honour, national dignity, national pride, personal honour, personal dignity, personal pride, that is my motto in life. If anyone or any individual who has a philosophy of pimpism or whatever you want to call it equates that with arrogance, that is their problem.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Precisely, that is what I am going to get on to, pride and industry. Let us get that part of the record straight. The second thing is, Sir, that my development has not been arrested. I believe that there are four Barbados Scholars in this Honourable House at the present moment. I have never heard any one of three of them ever tell anybody he is a Barbados Scholar, but one keeps announcing that at every opportunity. My development has moved on long beyond that. It was not arrested at that level, nor am I challenging that. It is the people outside who question the levels of mental and intellectual development or regression, not me.

On manufacturing, Sir, I would like to know if the Honourable Minister of Trade has in any way started to address the question of manufacturing in relation to cotton in Barbados and whether any money in these Estimates here relates to that particular exercise.

I want to know whether the Ministry of Industry is involved in any way in the processing of cotton in relation to towelling in Barbados and whether he is aware of the circumstances in which US\$15 000 in towelling have been brought into Barbados and the documents for the payment of that towelling still reside in a bank in Bridgetown, and that towelling was brought in by a firm called Franklin & Franklin, and what relation that has to CARSICOT. I want you to answer that if you know anything about it. If you know nothing about it, then you have to say you know nothing about it. What relation does that have in relation to the forward linkages in terms of the now defunct CARSICOT project as was projected? I want to know if you know anything about that. When you talk about confidence in Barbados, these are the things that are disrupting confidence in this country. I want you to tell this Honourable House if you know anything about a deal in relation to peanut processing in Barbados; I want to know if you know anything about the suppression of peanut production in Barbados. I want to know if you know anything about steps being taken for the processing of peanuts in Barbados. I want to know if you know a Mr. Gilroy in Belize. I want to know if you were present at the bar where the deal was made in Belize. These are the things, in other words, so many things bordering on straightforward corruption in this country that are

undermining confidence. When I hear people in here complain that the private sector and the distributive sector would not put money in the manufacturing sector, nobody in Barbados is going to respond to any call from this Government to do anything; they have no confidence in the administration, and indeed the performance in this House over the past two days is clear evidence why they should have no confidence in the administration. Let us get certain things straight right up front.

The Honourable Minister of Trade got in here this morning talking about his commitment to small businessmen in Barbados. We know what is happening to them; we know they are being destroyed by the lack of credit and the lack of access to money in Barbados. We know that the manufacturers in Barbados manufacturing for the domestic market depend on money in the pockets of individuals, money available to the distributive sector for their sales. If people can't buy as individuals, if companies cannot buy, how are they going to expand? Don't come in here paying this kind of lip service to manufacturing. The most fundamental and most deathly blow to the manufacturers in Barbados has been the wiping out of credit availability to them, whether it is hamburgers that you are processing, no matter what you are processing for sale in Barbados, if that credit is not there then your business will suffer.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter pointed out the serious damage done where the institutions that are available for helping small businessmen have shown a substantial decline in the amount of lending in this area; so you have less institutional support, you have credit wiped out and you are talking about the help you are giving to manufacturing. Then on top of that you are talking about giving all this help to small businessmen, and in these Estimates you are providing \$100 to help all the small businessmen in Barbados, and then get up and say it is a token, when in the same Estimates on the other page where there is a token vote of \$1.00, it is clearly stated that it is a token vote, and by a token vote it means that you put it in here and you can come back with a supplementary. Under this Head there is no mention of any token vote, and a token vote is usually a \$1.00 vote.

Mr. Chairman, this is what I mean by confidence. I will tell you something, Sir. I have made a solemn pledge to myself that I will not be getting dragged into any personal assault on anybody, but I am going to respond any time I am attacked, and Honourable Members of this House will note that I have never initiated any personal attacks on any single Member of this Honourable House, and in particular those people with whom I have been associated for many years. I am not going to do it in the case of anyone, but I will respond when the personal attacks come. That is a pledge that I have made myself and which I hope that I will be able to keep. If you want to know the name of

the commercial bank in Bridgetown, I am ready to give you the name either now or during the Budget I will decide when to give you the name of the commercial bank.

If I may continue, Sir. I have gone around this country for years saying that small businessmen need help. I have been associated with a manifesto that commuted itself to help small businessmen. I consider that a social contract I do not have to revert to all sorts of sophistry in relation to a name being applied in this century in that century. It is commonsense. It is public rascality as far as I am concerned if I were to make a pledge to the electorate and then proceed to do nothing about it or do the opposite and then say I am not in breach of a social contract. That is my view of it and I do not have to get into sophistry of names. Go back to mediaeval times or wherever you have to go in order to evade that. That is a clear position that I have taken and one clearly understood by every single person in Barbados. The commitment that I have made down the years on the floor of this House and as a member of a political party to do one's best to help small businessmen and small manufacturing is a commitment from which I will never ever renege. What ate the great things that they have been doing? Promoting trade shows. What has happened with the EPC? What has the EPC done for Barbados in the last four years? 2.25 p.jn.

Just say what has been the record? I know what the record is. We will have time to come back to that later on.

Back to this cotton. I am going to labour it and labour it until we get an answer because, as far as I am concerned and as far as I understand, the cotton project as conceived is as good as dead right now today and largely due to straightforward corruption.

I am not afraid to make the charges because I can substantiate them one by one. I know what the toweling was all about. I know what the deal was about. I know what the peanuts is all about. I know the man Gilroy or I know of him. I know the whole story down the road and it is all going to come out in the wash and the law suits that will be filed around the world in due course it will all come out in the wash.

Instead of getting on with manufacturing what is happening now? I think this country's name is being dragged through the mud in the various Courts around the world. That is what is likely to happen.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member has two minutes to conclude.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will fight no matter how much abuse, Mr. Chairman, no matter what is said because all of a sudden I am discovered to be the biggest liar on God's earth. I am discovered to be arrogant. I am discovered to be

power seeking. But I was not when I was over there fighting to win a Government in order that certain people could eat their bread and butter. I was not I was the darling among them and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, you are the next one in line.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Not me. I will never do you any harm. I am not going after you. I have no reason to/

I will get back to the impact on the removal of stamp duties on our manufactures here in Barbados and various other tilings and the impact of devaluations and the stupidity of not recognising what has been the policy of successive Ministers of Finance in order to protect the domestic market for our manufacturers but there is a lot more to go.

I am telling you, Mr. Chairman, that I am prepared to deal at all levels, except the personal level, but I am determined to do my best as Leader of the Official Opposition here, with the help of my colleagues and with the help of other members in the Opposition, to do my best to make sure that the integrity of this country is not compromised by persons who refuse to put the public interest before their own interest.

I will sit for the time.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was drawn to my attention that in my absence from this Chamber two allegations were made which I want to respond to.

The first I understand was about the importation of peanuts. Let me talk about the peanuts. Some time last year I went to Belize and while I was in Belize the Chairman of Belize Marketing Corporation brought to my attention that Belize had plenty peanuts. I gave him the name and address of BMC's General Manager since at that time BMC was bringing peanuts from all over the world and that was the end of peanuts as far as I was concerned.

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know the name of the person. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition is so accustomed to manoeuvring and dealing that a straightforward thing he cannot do. When people begin to delve into your own personal business about all the lots that you titled through the Courts...

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

I have never titled any old person's lot through the Courts of Barbados.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: The instructions that were issued to proceed to title a lot through the Court and I will give the name and address if he presses me. That is as far as I know about peanuts.

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

The Honourable Member says that I gave an instruction to tide the lot of a poor man or give a title to any lots for a poor man. As far as I know the only property that I know about that has ever had any access to a Court title had absolutely nothing to do with me. I was the purchaser and the vendor in order to sell the property to me had to obtain a title and these were major corporations being involved, big corporations involved. No individuals involved, major corporations in Barbados and I have never entered into any arrangements with any individual about any lot through a Court.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just have one problem that the Honourable Member intervened without stating what point he had risen on.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I rose to say that the Honourable Member was not telling the truth to say that I have obtained titles to land through the Courts of Barbados and tides to the land of old people. I say that is an incorrect statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member for St. Philip North continue.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, on the other matter. Franklin and Franklin is a company registered in Barbados to do business. I understand that he said that Franklin and Franklin brought toweling in here connected to CARSICOT. Let me give you the facts.

There was a young lady....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman I said...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point has the Honourable Member risen?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I am being misquoted.

The Honourable Member brought in - I said Franklin and Franklin brought in toweling and I asked what that has to do with future developments at CARSICOT in terms of future purchases of cotton.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

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

I think we should understand the ground rules. We are in committee. If an Honourable Member gives way, Mr. Chairman, I submit that in Committee once an Honourable Member gives way the other member can speak.

The ground rules for rowing are well known to all of us so do not worry to think that it is going to be a row on one side. Press on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just before the Honourable Member continues, let me make my position clear. While I am listening to an Honourable Member and someone intervenes and starts speaking before permission is given, I consider that not to be. Therefore I am not going to accept it. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: The Leader of the Opposition is so much swept in with wheeling and dealing how he amassed his wealth in this country, that every honest deal he sees in this country he sees a wheel and a deal in it.

Let me tell you about the toweling. I went to find out about it because I heard that they spoke about it the other night in Oistins.

There is a young lady who worked at Playtex in St. Philip, a good constituent; who was severed. When she was - severed she wanted to find something to do with the money, she was severed with and as a good constituent of mine, she approached me to discuss it. We looked around and we discovered that one of the areas that she would have got into quite easily without too much overhead was the purchasing of toweling material, cutting and stitching it.

She was not familiar with this and she approached Franklin and Franklin to bring it in for her and they did bring it in for her. She is Cicely Harewood.

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, you can puff and blow. You do not frighten me because I do not have anything to hide. 2.35 p.m.

The material was bought from a source by Mr. Knitting Amersey out of Mexico for her. When the material got to Barbados Mrs. Juman discovered that the material was not of the quality that she wanted. It was inferior material that she could not have made anything with and she refused to pay the funds. The matter is now in the courts. I know nothing about it, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN; Order.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: He is finished. I am speaking.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I heard an aside over there about tell him about the fertilizer from Guadeloupe. Your mind is just where you cannot move it

We went to Guadeloupe as a result of a company in Guadeloupe introducing to ADC that they could provide them with physical fertilizer cheaper than they were buying over the counter. The General Manager and the Chairman went to Guadeloupe and sought to look at the plant at the invitation of them. They examined the plant They made a purchase but it turned out to be very little more expensive than the one and that was the one and only purchase they made. I do not know when it came, how it went or nothing about it

I can tell the Leader of the Opposition for the longest time, you cannot find anything that I am corrupt in. You are so destined to delving into the gutter that you cannot get out the gutter. You talk about you would not attack personalities. I am not afraid of you. The wheeling and dealing you have done in this country, the 72 properties you acquired, how do you think you acquired them?

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, to set the record straight. I do not own 72 properties in Barbados.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Maybe 150.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You got up on a point of order and he told you to sit down and shut your mouth.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I enjoyed the last 15, 20 minutes. I am not in it. We are not in that, Sir. Our ship is steering a different course. I am not involved in any head-on collision.

I want to go back to the Manifesto because I think that this is a good occasion for us to review Government's policy and the efficacy of that policy and the effectiveness

of that policy over the last 4 years. On page 13 of the Manifesto there is a statement which I have never been able to understand in terms of policies which went as follows, Sir:

"Excellence in miniature shall be the organizing theme of a DLP Government's policy towards industry."

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I did not interrupt you when you talked your foolishness. I understand, Sir, why the present Minister of Trade was assigned the portfolio to deal with things in miniature. It may have a connection with his physical height or lack of it But his performance as Minister of Trade in the last 4 years tells us the absolute truth about the mini trading we have had out of his Ministry in the last 4 years. Let me just give some figures. In the export of garments, in 1984 we were exporting \$64 million worth of garments. This Minister pledged to change all of that and turn it around. It is all there in the Central Bank's yellow book. By 1988 he who promised the breakthrough by December 1986 in the field of garments had Barbados producing \$30 million. For the first 9 months of 1989 they exported....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:\$21.3 million worth of garments. That is really mini exports compared with what was happening in 1984. The objective, Sir, as set out in the Manifesto called for the garment industry, the furniture industry and the handicraft industry to be specially nurtured.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, would you kindly ask the Minister of Health to sit in his place with some decorum and to shut his large lips, Sir.

Aside.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I would wish to hear from the Minister as to what special initiatives his Ministry has instituted over the past 4 years to ensure the especial nurturing of the garment industry? The furniture industry, all Members know, was closed by the Minister of Health in one of the several portfolios he held before his current one because it was an organization which was set up by the Barbados Labour Party. If he doubts that, he can ask the furniture manufacturers in Barbados who will assure him that it is their perception that the Furniture Trading Company was closed for political reasons. Just as he closed down 400 small shops.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is he?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister of Health. How do you mean who is he? The Minister of Health when he was Minister of Trade prior to 1976 mashed up 400 small traders in this country.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not any more.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I object to that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: As a man, I do not and could not love him; He may find one who loves him near to where he lives.

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Next door.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member, Sir, must now say what it is he confesses for me. I wish him once and for all to announce what it is he confesses for me. I want to hear.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: There is nothing wrong with having another neighbour. I think that is all the Member is saying.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is my friend. Sir. I respect him as an academic, Sir. I respect that, Sir. But the love part, let him look nearer to home.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, just for the record, I wish to say that I am not like that.

Laughter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, promise No. 3 -1 will take 3 and 4 together in this Manifesto on page 13 - was that there was the financial and technical assistance provided the fledgling operations and arrangements would be made to assure small-scale operators of favourable marketing outlets.

I believe what was embraced in those 2 policies was a desire to help small business. But what is the record, Sir?

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. I am quoting from page 13 of your Manifesto. What is the record after 4 years? How has that Government and that Minister....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: May is going to be 4 years. Another 2,3 months is going to be 4 years. Three years and a lot, almost in an election now. How has the Government used the Barbados Development Bank as an engine, a vehicle for the transmission of funds to the small business sector? 2.45 p.m.

Let us look at the figures, Sir. You will get the answer. I wish the Minister to reply on these figures and tell me if they are wrong and I will give him. Sir, year by year.

In 1981/82, the Barbados Development Bank approved 196 loans. I am dealing with loans expressly for the small business for 1981/82. They disbursed \$5.8 million which created 260 jobs. In 1982/83, the beginning of the recession, 124 loans were approved, \$4.5 million disbursed and 219 jobs created. In 1983/84, 167 loans were approved, \$5.7 million disbursed and 226 jobs created. In 1984/85, 145 loans were approved, \$5.9 million disbursed and 262 jobs created.

Now let us look at the Democratic Labour Party:

1987/88, \$2.5 million disbursed and 71 jobs created. 1988/89, this caring, sharing Government, 26 loans approved, \$1.1 million disbursed. How many jobs were created? 53 jobs. Good.

They are always getting over there talking about how they like the poor black people. The Minister of Transport and Works will shout about they care about the poor black people. Fifty-three jobs in 1988/89 - it is all there.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not cursing, Sir. I am lambasting and sandpapering him but not cursing him about the 71 jobs in 1987/88. I want the Minister to get up and deny that that is the record. I want them to explain to this country whether the country is not entitled to feel let down because the manufacturing sector was one of the essential sectors for the earning of foreign exchange. When I heard the Governor of the Central Bank last week talking about there must be export led growth as though he just discovered that kind of phrase, well that was in here knocking dogs from the 1970's. Both Adams and Barrow used to talk about it. You look at it as one of the sectors to produce foreign exchange to the manufacturing sector. The truth is that manufacturing has been down and do not mind

what the Prime Minister said in his final speech today. It is not only sugar production. It is agricultural production in the world in general.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was not in here but I was listening outside. It was not only agricultural production. It was manufacturing that has led to the depletion of the foreign reserves. This Government cannot be proud of its performance in trying to stabilize the country's foreign reserves. You cannot blame totally sugar. You cannot blame the illegal leakage of money out of the country. You also have to blame it on Government's policy. Now let me give you an example, Sir. Two minutes that I can deal with it I heard introduced in here before I spoke an *Aside* thing about peanuts, not any person in the Other Place, but the production of peanuts, things that you eat. The Minister of Agriculture gave an explanation that there was no peanut production in Barbados. So he told the people in Belize that they could find an agent in Barbados and do business with that agent for the supply of peanuts to Barbados. Was that necessary, Sir? Look, I have the Economic Report for 1988, Table 27 on Page 57. In 1982, we restored peanut production in this country at 9.8 thousand kilograms, 1983 18.1 thousand kilograms, 1984 32,000 kilograms, 1985 52,000 kilograms, 1986 260.5 thousand kilograms, and 1987 34.5 thousand kilograms. In 1988, they have a dash in there, Sir. I believe that means naught or zero.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is here on Page 57. Not a peanut was produced under that Minister in 1988. Apart from the Senator, no other peanut was in 1988. It is there on Page 57.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What do you mean we do not manufacture peanuts?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We were creating a steady spiral in the increase in peanut production from 1982. It is a question of the Leader of the Opposition

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. How under the Head of Trade, Industry, and Commerce can he be attacking the Minister of Trade, industry, and Commerce for not producing peanuts? He cannot manufacture peanuts, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have a little order please? Two Honourable Members are on their feet Will both Honourable Members take their seat. The Honourable Member for Bridgetown.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why....

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I would like a little silence, Sir. I cannot hear myself think. I really cannot hear myself think.

Mr. CHABRMAN: Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me have some order please. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, to continue in one area where I left off, I think it has been brought clearly to the Honourable Minister by other speakers apart from myself that what he refers to as token assistance to the small business sector is not even token. I think he understands that clearly. I think he understands clearly that his Government should be ashamed to even call mat token assistance to small business in this country.

The ;Govenmment is going to have to decide what is their philosophy *vis-a-vis* small business people. We are pretty cleaf on what its philosophy is *vis-a-vis* the large area in the private sector, because the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central is always wont to attack the large end, as he calls it, of the private sector. I was reading in one of today's newspapers that there is a report on his feelings about the private sector as he expounded in here.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I wish the Honourable Minister of Health would give me a break sometimes. He wants to talk all the time, but his *Asides* are a little loud and you cannot help but hear him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given the Honourable Member for Bridgetown the authority to speak.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I know that, Sir, but I am getting difficulty and I am wondering if you can hear me. The *Asides* are getting a little loud.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am hearing you.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: You see, Sir, whenever we start to deal with small people and how to deal with them seriously, that Honourable Member likes to make trivial nonsense of it; he likes to make fun of it. When we talk about chicken farms and those big operations, there is no fun in that, but as soon as you talk about small people and small operations, he is going to turn back and talk in all kinds of manner. He will not detract me from that; he still has to let us know what their philosophy is.

. There is a small entity of the private sector which some of those Members on that side like to attack — the lower end of the private sector. I refer to those micro business people, as someone once called them, the vendors on Swan Street. You will notice that I have been very silent on this issue for a long time, because I have been accused of trying to make a mess of Swan Street by Honourable Members on that side. I have been accused of all kinds of things, as though I was the Government. A lot of people did not remember that in 1986; when I appealed to the then Prime Minister to intervene to stop those small business people in Swan Street from being run off the street in October, just before Christmas, that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture said they would not be put off Swan Street, that they would remain there temporarily until the whole matter could be looked at and it could be determined what could be done about them. You realise, Sir, that temporary has now become almost four years! That is temporary. You are dealing with small business people, you are caring and sharing.

To date several meetings have been held. The first one was held at MTW when the Deputy Prime Minister was Minister of Transport. It included the Minister of Agriculture, who was responsible for markets — and understand, Sir, that the whole of Bridgetown is treated as a market and that is how the Ministry of Agriculture got in. The then Minister of Health decided to get into the act too. A meeting was held between the merchants on Swan Street and the vendors, and they came to a decision that they could live with each other and that a limited number of vendors could be allowed, the areas would be clearly demarcated, the Ministry of Health would clean the area each morning at 6 o'clock, the Ministry of Health was going to have the Community College design carts for them* and all sorts of things were talked about

At that time I thought that the fellows should be properly organised and I got a lawyer who was a friend of mine, who sits in the Other Place, to act as the lawyer for those vendors and they formed an Association. The vendors then had regular meetings, a properly constituted body, and for a long time they heard nothing from anybody. When certain people decided that they would make a political football out of the issue, they kept making noises to various Ministers that something had to be done with the vendors, so that they could get a little coverage.

Finally, last year, 1989; the Honourable Member for St. Michael East called a meeting, along with the Member for St. Philip North, in Queen's Park; but *prior* to that, Sir, continuing the dialogue, even although nothing much was happening, I continued to find a way that we could put those people in better conditions. Who would want to stay on Swan Street with no toilet facilities, nor anywhere to get a glass of water, in the sun and the rain, if you could have better facilities? Very-few people out there would tell themselves that they would not prefer better conditions.

I wrote a letter on the 26th October, 1988. I spoke on the telephone prior to writing the letter, to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. I took him to a site on High Street which I recommended to him as an area I thought would be great for these Vendors because of its proximity to Swan Street and the fact that they would not be put out somewhere, as happened with the Temple Yard, where they would be out of the path of the pedestrians who, are their main customers. I then wrote the letter on the 26th October and I am willing to make it a document of the House. The letter reads like this:

"October 26, 1988

The Honourable Warwick Franklin
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Graeme Hall - r
Christ Church .

Dear Sir

Further to our discussions yesterday and site visit to area on High Street. As I indicated to you then I thought that any decisions made on the fate of the vendors in the Swan Street area should ensure 'that they will have the opportunity to market their wares in an equally prominent location. I believe the site 1 identified on High Street opposite Swan Street would be an excellent location and can be developed into a beautiful open market/mall.

Following your request I have investigated and found that the two parcels of land running from High Street to Palmetto Street are owned by one Mr. Walker of General Agency (B'dos) -Ltd, Roebuck Street and one Mr. Nairne of B. E. Naime & Sons Ltd., Qistins, Christ Church.

Government could acquire these parcels of land and erect booths, similar to the ones you propose to put along the inner basin of the careenage and proper public toilets could be installed. I believe the High Street and inner basin locations will take care of the bulk of the "problems" identified by various groups and at the same time provide these small entrepreneurs with comfortable surroundings.

I offer this recommendation in the interest of assisting the vendors without putting any other groups at a disadvantage."

The letter Was dated October 26, 1988. We had a meeting with the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture in 1989 in Queen's Park with the vendors. After that meeting the two Honourable Ministers went to the very sites. Subsequently, in speaking to both those Honourable Ministers they indicated to fine tfiat the matter was being dealt with and that they were hopeful that something positive would come out of it. 3.05p.m. ,-.*-.-

What I want to say for your benefit in particular who keeps reminding me about yesterday's paper, is that I don't go by the paper; the paper just said things that I said that I don't even know anything about. So let me make it clear, you put in the paper that it is going to happen. Okay it is time to start doing some dressing up. What I want to know is (and if the Minister of Trade can't answer it, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will answer for him) when are you going to implement the plan. I don't mind any Government notice. I want to know what is your programme, what is your policy in terms of these vendors. While I am on that I think you had better carefully examine where you are putting all the other vendors. We had discussion on the inner basin by the careenage, but you may want to examine the whole thing again, because from the Palmetto area, the other areas could pose some other problems. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. H./ deBtj FQRIfifi: Mr. iChajfrnap, thece is no doubt that despite the rhetoric which we have had from the Government oh the second reading of this Bill when they spent the whole time congratulating themselves on how good looking they are and what they did....

Hon. B. M. TA1TT: On a point of order, Sir^I draw to Your Honour's attention that the whole tenor directed does not take account of the fact that there is a section 3 notice in the newspaper yesterday, "Ail that certain piece or parcel of ; land the property of...." - .•

Dr. R.C. HAYNES rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central risen? There are two Honourable Members on their feet.

Hon. B. M. TAnT: There is only one, Sir. The other Honourable Member is sitting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order or do I have to use the rules of this Chamber?

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Sir, I was merely drawing to Your Honour's attention the regulation that says that an Honourable Member should not mislead the House. The Honourable Member who just sat down led....

Asides.

Hon. B. M, TAITT: It does not say whose speech it has to be in when an order has been broken. I am drawing to the Chair's attention...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask the Honourable Member for Bridgetown to observe the rules of this Chamber.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member for the City led this House to believe that the Government's policy was nugatory when in fact only yesterday in the newspaper dated March 13, the section 3 notice under the Land Acquisition Act, Cap, 228 for the acquisition of all of the lands the Honourable Member just spoke about was published. The Honourable Member misled this House, Sir. All of this is published. The Honourable Member misled this House giving the impression that the Government had taken no action.

Mr, CHAIRMAN ruled that certain remarks made at this point in the debate be struck from the record.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I was making the point, Sir, that the Honourable Member for the City misled the House. He led the House to believe that the Government had taken no policy on, a matter which he wrote and quoted his own letter, when the section 3 notice was published on March 13 acquiring the whole property which he was describing. I am saying that it is a travesty for anyone to get up

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You are not even Chairman of Delaware. You cannot be on any point of privilege when he has given me the floor. You can't just get up. Where do you think this is, Delaware?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central take his seat.

Dr. R. C< HAYNES: On a matter of privilege, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will be accorded that point when it is fit.

: Dr.tR, C. HAYNES: But, Sir, the proceedings of the House have to stop when a Member rises on a point of privilege.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central take his seat?

Will both Honourable Members take their seats?

Can I have some order. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West rose on a point of order. I cannot accept the point of privilege interrupting the point of order. I will give the Honourable Member an opportunity to raise the point of privilege immediately after the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has concluded his point of order.

I will also remind Honourable Members that the Chair will not be bulldozed by any Honourable Member. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West may proceed with his point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, the point I am making is that I can only assume that the knowledge that I have in this House is knowledge which any other person can have. I am saying, Sir, that the Honourable Member made a speech which left the impression that having written to the Government and made a recommendation about the acquisition of land to assist the small businessmen in Swan Street, that the Government was deaf to his pleas, and I am drawing to his attention and to the House's attention that he was misleading the House, for on the very day before today on page 26 of a newspaper in this country under Government Notices, Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, notice under Section 3, the exact lands which he described in castigating the Government are being processed by a process of law for acquisition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West rose to speak. 3.15p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members of this House...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member risen?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a matter of privilege.

These Standing Orders are not just rules made up for clubs. These Standing Orders of the Honourable House of Assembly of Barbados are made under the Constitution of Barbados, Section 50(1).

The privileges of each and every member of this House are breached and circumscribed when a member for the *rther Side, the Honourable Minister of Health, is permitted to rise on a bogus point of order and then proceed to mislead this Honourable House by accusing another Honourable Member of misrepresentation.

I further submit, Sir, that he could only have risen on a point of order in relation to a speech by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who has already had occupation of the floor of the House and, therefore, the Honourable Member could never under these Standing Orders be granted permission to rise on a matter of a Standing Order unless it emanated from something that he had said, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. That is a fact

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is obvious, despite all of the rhetoric and the filibustering by Members on the other side, particularly the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, that the government's boast of doing anything in relation to the manufacturing industry does not hold water, as, indeed, the Government's post..

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

I object to the Honourable Member saying when I rose on what I considered after a legitimate point of order, saying that I was filibustering and I invite the Honourable Member to withdraw that

I submit to Your Honour that it has nothing to do with filibustering. It was drawing to the attention of the House a matter which even the Honourable Member for the City said he was not aware of and I, therefore, object to his saying that I was filibustering. I have no reason to filibuster.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You said that? I apologise to you. I thought you said you were unaware of it. Ask him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just before the Honourable Member for Christ Church West proceeds.

I am not at all impressed by this kind of behaviour. I believe that we are responsible Honourable Members of this Chamber and we should so behave and I do not wish to have to speak in this vein again.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West may proceed.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the only resources in this country that are not under-utilised is the capacity of the Honourable Member who keeps interrupting every minute, Sir, on points of order in order to disrupt the flow of my speech.

But it is obvious, Mr. Chairman, Sir, from everything that we have heard, and, indeed, from an objective

of the manufacturing sector in Barbados that one of the problems - in *fact*, the fundamental problem we have here is an industry of under-utilised resources of manpower and under-utilised resources of plant and equipment. And on any tour of the manufacturing sector, even without talking to people in the business, you will see that this *fact* and this statement which I have made can be easily proved.

If you engage in discussion with the manufacturing sector (and, indeed, if you follow what is happening with them in the banking community) it is obvious that they are still raiding it extremely difficult to service their indebtedness to the banking community.

Unfortunately, Sir, as well, we have seen creeping into the end product in Barbados some production that is not of the highest standards that we would wish to see for Barbados. In other words, we are going through as well not in every instance, but in few limited cases, an instance of poor quality of products.

I really find it difficult to give the stamp of approval to the performance of the Minister of Trade and Industry after he has been holding that portfolio for sufficient time which should have enabled him to take proper and corrective measures to deal with a very serious further decline in the standard that is appearing in Barbados manufacturing.

I say this, Sir, because despite all that the Minister has said, the figures would show that nearer to home, in his Industrial Development Corporation, and despite the boast of the Prime Minister this morning in using point to point figures from periods of March to September in one year, that there had been a decline in the number of jobs available and in IDC assisted industries.

I believe at the end of 1988 the figure was something about 8 000 people employed. At the end of 1989 the figure is about 7 900 people employed, less than that, in fact I think it was about 8 300. These were the figures I got. By the end of 1989 it is about 7 900, a net loss of jobs in IDC-assisted industry; and although the Minister might have the exact figures and I have not got, from calling around various institutions and asking those who have had growth and those who have declines, it appears, in my calculations, that there has been (I want the Minister to respond and give us the up-to-date figures) a net loss of jobs in IDC-assisted industry in Barbados between the end of 1988 (if you look from year to year) and the end of 1989, and that the decline has continued and particularly in the area of food and beverages, in chemicals, in handicraft, in fabricated metal and electronics and in some other manufacturing sectors. And if you look around you would notice that the only significant gain has been in the area of data processing, an area for which the Minister can take no encomiums whatsoever; nor can this Government, because the CDS of

which he spoke a while ago was promoted and came in under the Barbados Labour Party. He must know that; and the Minister must know as well that Donnelly of which he spoke a while ago in the printing industry was one of the manufacturing concerns just before Mr. Louis Tull left the Ministry that was coming into Barbados at that time. 3,25 p.m.

And what has happened, Sir, is that we see a continuation from 1988 where there are large decreases and losses in various sectors of the employment sectors in IDC assisted jobs. I am not surprised, Mr. Chairman, Sir, because the Minister has had a lot to say when he first came in about how he was going to put right the trading patterns between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. The Barbados Labour Party warned the Democratic Labour Party at the time that it was a dangerous political ploy to seek to divide the two parties on the basis of our bilateral trading relationship with a friendly CARICOM country. It was made to appear that the only thing the country had to do was to change parties leadership and the Trinidad market would be all open to us and we would be back in business in what was then our principal marketing export, CARICOM market. But what really is the truth, Sir?

If I may go to a statement made by a member of the Democratic Labour Party one of the Directors of the Central Bank and a man who heads one of the leading companies in Barbados, he has said that the non-tariff barriers being placed against Barbadian goods still within the CARICOM market calls out for some positive action on our part. Not only has he said so; he has written about it. There is no doubt, Sir, that at present we still are witnessing non-reciprocal levels of protection against extra regional imports. What we are seeing is something that the manufacturers continue to cry out about where Barbadian manufacturers even within CARICOM are not getting fair and equal treatment despite the provisions of the CARICOM Treaty which should bind us.

I do not think there is anybody in this House more dedicated to the ideals of Caribbean unity than I am. My first active interest in politics was as an under forty in which I campaigned for a wider Caribbean nation and Caribbean unity. What I am going to say must not be interpreted at all as altering my basic philosophy and belief in the future of a Caribbean nation. But we must play the game according to the rules. It is not fair to Barbadian manufacturers, particularly where we have been facing massive devaluation in currencies within our principal trading partners, that in addition to having to face the competition of devalued currencies and lower production costs including lower wages in places like Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and elsewhere that we should men be up against non-tariff barriers that have been working against the interest of Barbadian manufacturers.

I say that if the Government really had its diplomatic skill about it and if it had the power which we hear so much about, this Government - I think the Prime Minister described himself that the Government is having the best foreign policy and having the best muscle of any Government of Barbados, usually it is self puffing, Sir - we would have expected from this Government some positive improvement and some positive action.

Let us take last year - the last year that I have from the Central Bank's statistics available to me. Our trade with Trinidad... We exported to Trinidad \$21.3 million in goods. We imported \$104.8 million. In 1987 we exported \$15.9 million. We imported \$94.7 million. In 1986 we exported \$20.9 million. We imported \$84 million from Trinidad. In 1985 we exported \$35 million and imported \$122 million. In 1984 we exported \$67.9 million and imported \$113 million. In 1983 we exported \$79.4 and imported \$114.3 million. So if you compare the years 1983 for instance with 1988, you will see the vast difference, \$79.4 million of our exports to Trinidad importing \$114.3 million from them. In 1988 we exported \$21.3 million to Trinidad and imported \$104.8 million from them. I have used Trinidad as one of the areas, Sir.

But the truth is that the Government has not produced and has failed to produce adequately despite all of its rhetoric in increasing in any significant way trade with the principal trading partners. I said before in this House that the only bright spot for us within CARICOM was the OECS countries. And even there there has been a good deal of criticism from our local manufacturers about the failure to get adequate protection within the CARICOM Council of Ministers against non-tariff barriers.

I ask the Minister, how long is he going to wait before he exercises real strength and muscle at the meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers? Barbados can only play within the rules if other countries are prepared to play within the rules. Part of our difficulty, Mr. Chairman, Sir, is our failure to press very rapidly and strongly in a hard way to improve the provisions within the CARICOM Treaty itself.

One of the other problems I should like to highlight, Sir, is the problem of domestic marketing. There is no doubt that within our own market Barbadian manufacturers must try much harder to obtain a higher market share. We have not concentrated on the foreign exchange savings which could result from a higher market share within our own domestic market. Nothing that I have seen or heard from these Estimates convince me that the Government has set that as one of the targets that it should be stimulating for the domestic marketing situation.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter spoke at length of the failure to have to follow through on obvious policy measures which would have assisted the small

manufacturer. Other Members have spoken likewise. But I have heard nothing. I have heard about a trade show here and a trade show there but no concrete policy measures, as though the Government is totally lacking in imagination and creativity. Everything they have spoken about here have been measures that the Barbados Labour Party put in place on the productive side, prior to going out of power.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member can conclude in one minute.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We have to wait until we return to power in order to give a new thrust by way of creativity to the Government before it could get anywhere, Sir.

Sir, I want to talk a bit about financing and working capital because it is obvious to me that...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: He said time up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said one minute, but complete your sentence.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The litany of woes outlined by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas shows that even the existing institutions such as the Barbados Development Bank have failed miserably in answering the financial needs of particularly the small business manufacturing sector.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, one has heard a lot about the performance of the manufacturing sector in Barbados from the Members of the Opposition. They have used and are in the habit of using the Central Bank Reports to substantiate positions which they have taken on this particular matter. I too should like to refer to the Central Bank Report for December 1989, Volume 16, No. 3 at page 3. The Report has this to say about manufacturing:

"For the second successive year the manufacturing sector recorded encouraging growth. Increase in activity 5.3% which is about the same as last year for the corresponding period enabled production in the sector to reach its highest level since 1981."

Sir, those are not my words; those are the words of the Central Bank. I will read the whole paragraph because the entire paragraph was not complimentary. 3.35 p.m.

"The wooden furniture subsector which grew by 29.5% last year performed strongly again growing by almost 40%. The building materials industry benefited directly from the building boom with cement production

increasing by 17.4% to meet a 15.8% rise in local consumption. Following two years of decline, the electronics subsector increased production by 20.9% from its relatively small days. However, while exports of food and garments for the regional markets have grown, there has been a reduction in output in these subsectors. The decline was especially steep in the garment sector which fell by 23%."

Now the Honourable Member for Christ Church West (in an Aside from his seat, which I should not even acknowledge, but will follow on the argument which I will advance, and commenting on the reference to the electronics subsector in the Central Bank Report about growing from a small base) must know that the major component of the electronics subsector was Intel. Intel had intended in any case closing its operations in Barbados from about 1985 and it was as a result of some pleas which were made by the Barbados Labour Party Administration begging Intel to hold on until after elections that they held on. But the close of Intel was always on the card and as a result....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Barbados Labour Party Government did not ask Intel to stay on in Barbados until after any election. That is not so at all. Ask him to produce the papers then.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Further to that point of order....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That has been settled. Further to that point of order, Sir, I was the Minister of Industry that took over in this country when we got the Government. I state categorically that the files reveal that the Barbados Labour Party Government asked Intel to remain in here until after the elections at least I state categorically.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Further to the further point of order, Sk. I would like the Minister to explain therefore why it was that Intel was prepared to stay on under the Barbados Labour Party but were not also prepared to live immediately under the Democratic Labour Party, Sir. I want him to explain that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I can answer the question on a further point of order. Because they had something going in the offshore sector, Do not press me to give you the details. The offshore sector with the late Prime Minister permitted them to do things in this country which you would not wish me to reveal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member for St. Lucy continue.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for...

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Minister, *Sir*, is misleading the House. I want the Minister, *Sir*, to state whether it is not true that in the course of 1986, *Sir*, Intel in fact invested a large sum of money to expand its operation in this country, *Sir*. I want the Minister to state if that is not true. Offshore?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will state for him, *Sir*. Intel made it clear in a letter addressed to Tom Adams, the then Prime Minister, that they had no intention of staying in this country. They did not invest any large sum of money. I tell you categorically. In 1986 they did not invest any large

Asides.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am saying, *Sir*, that he asked the question so I am stating for the record that the answer is, "No". They did not invest any large sum of money in 1986, 1987, or anytime thereafter. I am stating that they did not and that they intended to leave and we had negotiations going on with them why they should stay. So they did not invest any money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, you have made your point.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sk, I have no difficulty with this. There was an officer in Intel who recognized that if they stayed here it would still be to their advantage despite the comparative disadvantage vis-a-vis manufacturing in the Far East. But the President of Intel stated categorically that because he was not certain that he would get the same privileges which Tom Adams, the then Prime Minister, had given him that they had to go. Those are in the records and I can bring them and put them on the floor of the House. It was Tom Adams who gave him extraordinary privileges in Barbados. This Government would never give him or any manufacturer coming from anywhere in this country. Do not bring Intel. Bring something else.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point was made. Will the Honourable Member for St. Lucy continue.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has not even spoken yet

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, he had spoken a few words and I am entitled, Sir, to rise on a point of order. I am rising, Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear the point of order.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, lest the Member for St Michael West be allowed to mislead the House, the concessions that were granted in relation to Intel was the change in the amount that enclave industries were allowed to retain as a rebate. The removal of that, Sir, from 50% to 80% in the Budget, Sir, of 1985 (because it was 50% before) and nothing was irregular about that because in Trinidad, Sir, they allowed their enclave industries to retain all of the profits exported as a rebate. Secondly, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party Government was prepared if necessary to keep Intel in Barbados to allow it to operate as an international business company. If its operation here as an international business company and being a 2% profit would have meant our retaining the 1,000 jobs, I am sorry that the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, did not follow that approach.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just let me say this. We are in Committee of Supply and all Honourable Members will have an opportunity to make a contribution. I, therefore, would wish to reduce the number of points of order that are turning out to be speeches.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, I am not making a speech. I am enlightening the House and the Committee. What the Honourable Member said, Sir, means that he was not privileged to the letters that were addressed to the late Honourable Tom Adams and he was not privileged to the letters that are addressed to Louis Tull. I would invite the Honourable Member to wait until he sees the copies of the correspondence. I speak without fear of contradiction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I will hear the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: For the fourth time, Sir, as I was saying and I hope that I can be allowed to continue without any interruptions. Now Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West indicated that as a result of failure on the part of this Administration at the level of CARICOM to get adequate protection for Barbados' manufacturers that they are not doing well in the CARICOM market Sir, it is a bit difficult for an Honourable Member to blow his trumpet but let me say that the Barbados Government in representations at the level of CARICOM since this Administration came into office were able to get for the first time an item included in the agenda

of the CARICOM Council of Ministers where there had to be a report made on all of the buyers which exist in every country where manufacturers have reported these problems. 3.45 p.m.

There is a mechanism for dealing with these problems. Let me say, Sir, that a lot of the problems which have arisen and which have been reported, whether they are problems originating in Barbados, problems originating in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia or wherever they are, that these problems to a large extent have been resolved at the level of the Ministers, or even before it reached the level of the Council of Ministers.

I go further to say that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has indicated that this administration has not used its diplomatic channels in order to resolve some of the difficulties which our Barbadian manufacturers might experience from time to time. It has to be clearly understood that in any trading arrangement problems are going to arise. Our diplomatic channels have been used, and used effectively, to resolve a number of problems which the Barbados manufacturers have experienced, whether it is in Trinidad and Tobago, in St. Lucia, in Jamaica, or wherever the problems arise.

I am not at all saying that all of the problems have been resolved. We recognise that problems will arise, that there are some problems which can be solved easily, that there are some problems that cannot be solved that easily. But let me move on to indicate the way in which there has been performance, particularly in the manufacturing sector, in the CARICOM area.

I would want to say, and I must say, that during the 1980's during the administration of the Barbados Labour Party the Regional Integration Movement went through a lot of difficulties and a lot of problems. CARICOM trade was almost at a standstill. We therefore had to come to a situation where we had to put measures in place in order to get the CARICOM trade moving, and it was as a result of the initiative introduced by the Barbados Government that we were able to see an improvement in CARICOM trade in 1987, a greater improvement in 1988 and an even greater improvement in 1989.

Barbados' performance during the years which I have indicated would show that the trade in the past was falling and we have seen some improvement. Indeed, Sir, if you look at the figures for the Trinidad and Tobago market, you will find that in 1985 there was a drop from \$66 million to about \$35 million.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: All right, I said about the point I am making is that there was a considerable drop

between 1984 and 1985. The Democratic Labour Party was not in operation then. There was another drop between 1985 and 1986, and there was a further drop between 1986 and 1987. Indeed, in 1987 we were only able to do \$15.9 million, but in 1988 what we found was that there was an increase and that we were able to do trade to the extent of about \$21.3 million. In 1989, for the¹ January to October period, already we have recorded \$28.6 million in trade with Trinidad and Tobago, so that the movement has started upward*!

With Jamaica, where in 1984 we did \$8.5 million in trade, in 1985 it was \$7.3 million, in 1986 it was \$5.2 million, in 1987 \$6.7 million, in 1988 \$7.8 million, and for the period January to October 1989 we have already done \$13.1 million. «

With Guyana, where in 1984 we did trade to the extent of about \$2 million, in 1985 it was \$1.6 million, 1986 \$1.1 million, 1987 \$997 000, 1988 \$2.2 million, for the January to October period for 1989 \$ 1.9 million.

With Antigua, in 1984 \$2.8 million, 1985 \$2.8 million again, 1986 \$3.5 million, 1987 \$3.4 million, 1988 \$5.2 million and already for the period January to October 1989 \$4.4 million.

With, Dominica, in 1984 we did trade \$1.7 million, 1985 \$1.9 million, 1986 \$2.8 million, 1987 \$3.4 million, 1988 \$5.1 million, and for the period January to October 1989 \$4.085 million.

With Grenada, in 1984 we did \$3.6 million, 1985 \$5.2 million, 1986 \$5 million, 1987 \$5.2 million, 1988 \$6.8 million and for the period January to October 1989 \$6.6 million.

I do not understand what the Honourable Member is talking about.

With St. Lucia, in 1984 \$5.9 million, 1985 \$7.3 million, 1986 \$7.9 million, 1987 \$6.8 million, 1988 \$9.5 million, and for the period January to October 1989 \$8.4 million.

Sir, I could go on. With St. Kitts, 1984 \$2.4 million, 1985 \$3.1 million, 1986 \$3.6 million, 1987 \$3.5 million, 1988 \$4.3 million, and for the period January to October 1989 \$4.357 million.

The point I am making, Sir, is that the evidence which we have would give the lie to the position taken by the Opposition Barbados Labour Party. I am not at all saying that we are entirely happy with this performance, but the fact of the matter is that there has been some improvement

and we will continue to press and to ensure that there will be further improvement, and we will give all the encouragement possible to our manufacturing sector to enable them to compete.

One of the problems which they raised was with the duties which they had to pay on machinery and on raw materials. This administration took the bold step to remove the duties on machinery and raw materials in order to assist our manufacturers to compete in the domestic market and in the region, and, if possible, to give them that kind of opportunity. Sir, I think one has to understand very clearly what this administration has done, and will continue to do, as much as is possible and as much as the resources would allow to assist in the development of the manufacturing sector in this Country.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, when he made reference to my comment about CDS and Donnelley Caribbean Graphics..... it is a fact that the two of them came here during the Barbados Labour Party's administration. It is a fact that they are doing well. The point is that an administration has to understand that it will ride with the tide. 3.55p.m.

When things are bad, the Government gets the blame. When things are good and there is anything you can point to as a success, it is not the Government, it is somebody else, and that is the problem with the Opposition. Any time that this Administration can point to a success, you hear them say, "it is not because of you." They can find all sorts of other reasons for success, but it has nothing at all to do with this administration. I think it is very important that that point be made.

I will have to come back on a number of other points, but just let me take up this matter of the token vote once more. The Honourable Member for the City and the Leader of the Opposition made reference to provision in the Estimates of a token vote of \$1.00 for the Securities Exchange, and they compare that with a vote of \$100 which we have provided for assistance to small business in this country.

Mr. R. P. B. YER: On a point of order, nowhere in the Estimates for 1991 in the explanatory notes for the Head that the Minister is dealing with is that \$100 referred to as a token vote. It was not even amended. If he wants to amend it, he can amend it.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in the Estimates a token vote could be \$1.00, it could be \$10 or it could be \$100 or \$1 000. The fact of the matter is that I am saying that this is a token vote and it is a clear understanding with the Minister of Finance that this particular vote will be supplemented at the appropriate time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And this is the appropriate time.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I shall return.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to respond to a query and comments made by the Honourable Member for the City with respect to the Swan Street vendors. The Ministry of Transport and Works, not the Ministry of Trade, is the executing Ministry responsible for bringing order to that situation. The approach of the Ministry of Transport and Works is predicated upon the fact that this is the 200th time in the history of Barbadd that persons of that class, poor black, working class males, have been sought to be forcibly removed from the environs of central Bridgetown because it is claimed that their presence represented an eyesore, they posed health hazards; and all kinds of negative things were attributed to the presence of these persons. On the 19th occasion not so long ago the police solved this problem by moving into Rockers' Alley and violently routing these poor businessmen.

The Swan Street vendors represent an explosion of entrepreneurial talent from the grass roots, and having regard to the social implications and the history of the treatment of persons of that ilk who were seeking to get a piece of the turf in Bridgetown, did not rush precipitantly into a solution of the problems. The demand to remove them from central Bridgetown altogether was categorically rejected. These people are Barbadians from a deprived class and if persons can come from behind God's back and elsewhere and work in central Bridgetown, so can these people. But it had to be done in an orderly manner.

It was patent that the area of Swan Street where these vendors ply their trade was overcrowded; and after considerable discussion with the vendors themselves and their representatives, a solution agreed to by all concerned was reached. At most times of the year 85 vendors are working.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: The Steel Shed meeting was called by me; it was not organised by anybody else. The Honourable Member for the City was invited out of courtesy.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, I happened to be in Queen's Park that day. You did not see me, but I saw the Honourable Member for the City in Queen's Park that day.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: He came upon my invitation as a matter of courtesy since he had an interest which was displayed from the time he was a member of the Democratic Labour Party. You know that my philosophy

goes wherever I go, and I parted company because I found few kindred spirits over there.

Mr. Chairman, arising out of that meeting referred to, it was agreed that the Government would acquire two lots at the corner of Swan Street and High Street on nobody's recommendation other than the vendors themselves. I am not concerned with bits and pieces of paper. Anybody can put any son of ink and symbols on a piece of paper. During my consultations with the vendors, they themselves indicated to me that they would like to be located in as close proximity as possible to the current location which they were using, and their concerns were based upon the fact that they wanted to be in the stream of pedestrian traffic so that any relocation whatsoever would result in minimal losses to their business. That came from the workers and the businessmen themselves. That was their primary concern, nor did it require any parliamentarian or any genius to come to this conclusion. They are the people doing the work and they know what was best for themselves, and during the extensive discussions which took place the primary concern of the vendors was always that they had unimpeded access to as many pedestrians as possible.

Now this proposal does not envisage the clearing of Swan Street in its entirety. About forty vendors will be left on the block in Swan Street where they now work, and the owners of the stores in Swan Street have accepted this proposal. Indeed many of them after feeling a certain-discomfort at the presence of vendors on the sidewalks in front of their businesses came to the conclusion that the presence of the Swan Street vendors to some extent enhanced their business. 4.05 p.m.

An amicable agreement was worked out in which 40 such vendors will remain where they are and the malls will be extended into the two lots referred to before which have been acquired on High Street.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: One is owned by a man called Naime. I cannot remember the name of the other owner.

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

It is quite clear that the Honourable member for the City is far more knowledgeable on this matter in that he indicated that one lot was owned by a Mr. Walker from General Agency, Barbados Limited, Roebuck Street and one by Mr. Naime of B. E. Naime and Sons Ltd; Oistins, Christ Church and that he was the person who identified the two lots.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: A sphompric point. It is puerile to believe that the remembering of a name betrays an understanding or comprehension of a complex problem. When people are at the level of adolescence, that is a point. Indeed that was the sort of point I used to score against the Honourable Leader of the Opposition when we were adolescents. I did not think that he would bring it into this point I did not think that he was still stuck in that kind of intellectual stasis.

In addition, to this, Sir, it is proposed to erect another 40 demountable stalls on the northern side of the Careenage. These stalls, called demountable because at the end of the day they are collapsible. In every case the appropriate sanitary facilities will be made available to vendors.

The stalls on the northern perimeter of the Careenage are designed primarily to bring some order to the situation around Parliament Buildings and in the circumference of the Cenotaph.

This would cost the Government about a half a million dollars exclusive of land acquisition costs and, indeed, since it is provided for under Head 84, Subhead 5, and it can be found under that appropriate note.

I am surprised that any Honourable Member would have thought, if he had read the Estimates carefully, that the Government could be accused of doing nothing on this particular matter.

Come April 1, the Ministry of Transport and Works will go full speed ahead on this particular issue having regard to the historical social concerns of the class group involved in this particular relocation to ensure that this unfortunate class of persons will have apart of Bridgetown as their own in order to do their business. That is a clear, concrete commitment on the part of this Government to dealing with small, marginal businessmen.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that this response clarifies any misunderstandings in the mind of members of this Honourable House that the Government is dragging its feet on this issue or does not have a solution to the problem.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, I was very happy to hear the Minister of Trade say that he was not happy with the way his Ministry was performing and my contribution in this debate will be at the level of trying to look at Government policy and what the Prime Minister has said for some time on matters of trade and industry.

In the Budget of the Democratic Labour Party of 1986, what the Minister of Health referred to in a remark by the way as the foundation of policy, the basic philosophy of

the Democratic Labour Party in terms of its approach to these matters is set out at page 13 of the DLP Manifesto. And the Honourable Member for St. Thomas had in some way referred to certain aspects of that policy.

Now, I want to direct a number of enquiries to the Minister and I would be very glad if he is in a position that he could answer the queries that I would want to raise.

Now, in the Budget of 1989, the Prime Minister set out a number of measures which he hoped would have stimulated growth in the manufacturing sector. The Minister not too long ago in a very Aaron Truss like approach in response about the performance of his Ministry rattled off a number of figures for the entire 50 minutes of his presentation which did not really answer any of the questions raised by previous speakers as to the performance of his Ministry because, at the end of all of that, he still said that he was not happy with the performance of his Ministry, the very point that the previous members who spoke were trying to point out to him. ;

Now, at Page 23 of the Budget of 1989, the Prime Minister also said that one of the objectives that the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals would have been devoted to was to further support the manufacturing sector with special emphasis on export marketing and then he went on at Pages 26 and 27 to set out a number of measures which he hoped would have addressed this problem.

Now, one of the things that he said he would do to bring some relief to the manufacturers of this country is found at page 26 under the heading "Manufacturing". And he said that he proposed to exempt machinery and equipment imported for use in the manufacturing sector from import duty and consumption taxes with immediate effect.

Now, Sir, this, as far as I am concerned, is a very lofty suggestion, a very lofty policy because it is my understanding that the policy has not worked with any considerable merit, that when manufacturers approach the Customs Department they have considerable difficulty in trying to have the machinery and equipment exempted from import duty and consumption taxes because as far as I am aware, Sir, there are no clear-cut guidelines as to the criteria used for determining what is machinery and equipment imported for use in the manufacturing sector.

Now, what I would like to find out from the Minister is if my understanding of the situation is, indeed, correct, and also if he could tell me up until this point whether the concessions that were expected to result from this policy whether the manufacturers did earn those concessions. 4.15p.m.

The concessions were of the order of \$4 million. This is what I would like to know. I want to know the effectiveness, whether that quality has been effective.

If we may move on another step. At page 26 of the same Budget Debate - and we are examining policy - Sir, the Prime Minister said mat:

"Early this month I agreed to an export competitiveness and marketing study to identify strategies to achieve Government's objective of export led economic growth. •'

So that the Prime Minister feels that the way out for manufacturing in Barbados and where the emphasis ought to be placed is in the area of export led economic growth. He went on and he outlined a number of measures which this export and competitiveness and marketing study would have addressed.

What I want to know at this stage, Sir, is whether this study has been undertaken and what is the state of the study at this date? My understanding is that it has not been undertaken as yet, that the basic guidelines have not been expanded. It is said that that study was to focus on the existing incentives and protection to ensure that the system is consistent with the stated policy of Government. It also goes on to speak about the law of company restructuring, garment, furniture and industries and the processes which offer the best production and export opportunities for foreign investment and joint ventures. It is almost a year now. April 26, another six weeks would be a year since this promise was made to this House.

What I want to know, and this is at the level of policy, whether the Ministry of Trade and Commerce has indeed addressed this aspect of Government policy as laid down in the Budget of 1989?

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I want to hear from the Minister first and then I will make suitable responses, even though I have no reason to doubt the remark coming from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

On that same page, Sir, page 27 the Prime Minister is also saying that he has under consideration a proposal for the establishment of a molasses price equilization fund by the rum refineries and "I hope that the details of the fund can be worked out early." I want to know what is the level of preparedness in this regard, whether in truth and in fact the proposal was established? This is all under manufacturing and I would hope that the Minister would not come and tell me that he does not know anything about this because it is «n& of the policies in relation to manufacturing and how manufacturing would have been

stimulated in the area of molasses by the establishment of a price equilization fund. Because we always have a way of forgetting things said in the Financial Statements and Budgetary Proposals. When I say we, Sir, I mean the ordinary public. We never ever remember what was said and what to expect. So that when on the next occasion the Prime Minister comes and says one thing or another in relation to the effectiveness of a suggestion he made in a previous Budget then one is at a loss to find out whether that suggestion was a .workable suggestion. One is at a loss to find out whether anything at all resulted from it. So I am just at this stage. Before I go any further, I just want to address these aspects of policy and depending on the response I get from the Minister I will make further responses.

I spoke earlier on about the Prime Minister's desire to achieve progress in the area of manufacturing by resorting to export led manufacturing growth. Strange enough, Sir, in 1988 in his budgetary presentation when addressing exports at page 19 of that Budget in 1988, the Prime Minister said and I quote:

"Penetrating extra-regional markets is not proving to be an easy task. Manufacturers have to determine the needs of the market and provide products at their highest quality in time to meet tight delivery schedules."

"What is more significant, he went on to say:

"Government is in the preliminary stages of investigating the role that an export trading company can play in the export drive."

In 1988 we heard about the fact that the Government was in the preliminary stages of investigating the role that an export trading company can play in the export drive, along the lines of the models established by Japan and other South East Asian countries.

In 1989 we are now hearing about an export competitiveness and marketing study. Nowhere in the focal objectives of that study is there any talk about any export trading company. I want to know from 1988 until now, whether they are still in the preliminary stages of this export trading company. We have not heard anything about it at all, at all, at all. I would very much like to know whether the Minister can throw any light on that for me. Maybe if these things are addressed the kind of performance the Minister is expecting in his Ministry might result. I do not know, Sir. But I should very much like the Minister whenever he is winding up this Debate to address the matters that I have raised.

I have noticed, Sir, that you have indicated to me that my time has expired and I thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St Lucy.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am not winding up the debate. I think it is generally understood that questions are going to be asked. We are asking questions and I assume that the Honourable Members would want to get some answers. I am prepared to do that

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I know. We have to stay in here until Friday so we can debate this until Friday. I am prepared for that.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: You will get a chance. Sir, in my first intervention, time expired and I did not get a chance to respond to a very positive intervention made by the Member for St. Michael Central. He was asking the question about the possibility of the IDC first in its promotion programme to ensure that persons who are invited to come here do not use substances in the manufacture of their products which could be harmful to workers and which could be potentially dangerous to the environment unless proper systems are put in place to ensure that this is done.

I think that it ought to be said that there is a committee which has been set up under the aegis of the IDC and it is called Risk Analysis and Monitoring Committee for Industrial Development, RAMCID. It is made up of a variety of people drawn from a wide area of businesses. The Industrial Development Corporation is represented on it; the Barbados Workers' Union is represented on it; the BNSI is represented on it; the Fire Service is represented on it. 4.25 p.m.

The Ministry of Health is represented on it. It is a broad based operation which makes it possible for these kinds of problems to be examined. I think that we are moving in an area now and certainly in the world where the question of the environment, both the working environment and the general environment, is of primary concern to people today. Indeed, I would want to say publicly that I will compliment the Barbados Workers Union for the continuing interest which they are playing in this whole question of occupational safety and health as demonstrated here by the Member for St. Michael Central. I can assure him that as Minister I will ensure and certainly impress upon the Industrial Development Corporation that it has to pay particular attention not only to the working environment but also to the general environment.

Indeed Sir, sometime ago when I spoke to the Chairman about some directions I wanted to see I made the point that in order to emphasize this particular concern and the concern of the Government, that during the awards ceremony of the IDC where every year they make awards to industry for performance, innovation, and a wide range of things, that they should have an award for safety. I would hope that this matter be taken on board and that provision be made not only for the worker with the safest record but also the company which pays particular attention to occupational safety and health. I think it is very important. It may be a symbol but I think it is a very important symbol and will certainly demonstrate the commitment of the Government to this very important area. We recognize the importance of the environment and the importance of a safe and healthy working environment.

Now the Honourable Member for St. George South asked some questions relating to statements made in the Budget where he said that the Prime Minister promised through the removal of duties on machinery and raw materials to the value of about \$4 million... whether this was done or not. Just let me say that the policy is in place and it has been effected and manufacturers are taking advantage of this particular arrangement. I am in no position to say whether or not the value to the revenue which will be lost is four million dollars, three million dollars or not. I am not in a position to say that. I cannot answer that particular question. All I can answer is that that has been put in place in terms of effecting a Manifesto pledge.

I meet, contrary to what the Honourable Member for the City has indicated, that I do not meet with the manufacturers. I meet with the Barbados Manufacturers Association on a reasonably regular basis at their request and sometimes at my request when they have problems and we discuss problems which they have. My recollection does not lead me to say that this was a problem which was raised in any real way as a general problem. There may be one or two individuals who might have been experiencing problems with the operation of a particular policy. But this will happen with the implementation of any particular policy measure. I just want to disabuse the mind of the Member for the City and any Honourable Member who may think that we do not meet with the Barbados Manufacturers Association.

Now as far as the Export and Marketing Study is concerned, the Honourable Member has cast doubts on whether this study has been undertaken. Let me give him and this Honourable House the assurance that the study has been undertaken and I think it is in the final stages of preparation and sooner or later hopefully we will be able to see the results and begin to implement the result of that particular study.

As far as the....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I wonder if the Honourable Member can tell the House who carried out the study.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Maxwell Stamp. Well, you know about it He knows.

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Does he not know? It started with the Honourable Member.

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: As far as the Export Trading Company is concerned, the final report on the feasibility study into the establishment of an export marketing mechanism to assist Barbadian manufacturers in trading markets will soon be available to the Export Promotion Corporation which has commissioned this study.

So that these are things which are in the pipeline. We have made commitments and we are following through on the commitments. When the results of the studies have been completed and we get the recommendation, we will be able to implement those recommendations which we consider to be implementable.

Now Sir, whilst I have the floor, I would want to advert to a comment which was made by the Member for St. Peter where he invited me to make some comments on the whole question of co-operatives and the development of co-operatives in Barbados. Now on December 14, 1987 I appointed an *ad hoc* committee to examine a draft Co-operatives Bill and make recommendations for its adoption together with regulations. Now for a very long time efforts were made to get a new Act put in place in Barbados. The existing Co-operatives Act was put in place, I believe in 1948, and has had no revision except just one or two minor changes ever since then. The committee was made up of the Chairman, Dr. Frank Alleyne, the President of BARN ACS, Mr. Basil O. Murray, Mr. Oriel Doyle, Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Co-operative Credit Union League, Mr. Cecil McCarthy, Attorney-at-law and who represents the City of Bridgetown Credit Union, Mr. John St. Hill, Managing Director of Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions, Dr. Nicholas Liverpool of the University of the West Indies, Mr. Sherman Moore, Attorney-General's Chambers, Mr. Patrick Toppin, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados, Mr. Anthony Ellis, President of ICAB, Mrs. Desiree Cherubin, Central Bank of Barbados, the Acting Registrar of Co-operatives and two representatives of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce.

Now this committee met on several occasions. The committee held 23 sessions in addition to several sub-committee meetings during its deliberations. They were assisted in their work by a Mr. Smith who was a CUSO Officer and attached to the Barbados Co-operative Credit Union League and also a Mr. James Paul of BARNACS. The committee handed in its report which contained a number of recommendations. One of the recommendations contained in the report dealt with the establishment of a stabilization fund for the credit unions. Let me pause, Sir, to make the point that the proposal for the establishment of a stabilization fund under this proposed Co-operative Bill came from the credit union movement itself. 4.35 p.m.

The Credit Union Movement, the Co-operative Movement, made the proposal. I will bring the Minutes if you challenge me on this to show that the proposal for the Stabilisation section of the Bill came from the Co-operative Movement itself.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Honourable Minister to bring the Minutes to show where the Co-operative Movement is requesting that the Stabilisation Fund be established under the proposed Co-operative Societies Bill. My understanding of the situation is different, and I challenge the Minister to bring the Minutes to show it. I do not want to be misled, I want to be sure as to where I am going, so I challenge the Minister to bring the Minutes.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The Report of the Committee was the Report which was agreed to by all of the members. There was no minority Report, all of the members who were appointed came to the meeting when the Report was handed over. There was a unanimous Report, not a minority Report, no deviation from the Report which recommended the inclusion of a Stabilisation Fund within the context of the new Co-operatives Bill. *«

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I am speaking without fear of contradiction and I would challenge any Member that I mentioned here representing the Co-operative Movement who sat on this Committee to deny in public, or deny anywhere, that they proposed a stabilisation section of the Bill, and would challenge whether or not they disagree with the Report and with the Bill as submitted. They all came to the meeting when the Bill was submitted. ..v

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I attended a meeting of the Credit Union that I am a member of where that very thing was discussed at length, the Stabilisation Fund matter, Sir, so I am very surprised to hear the Minister say now that there was a unanimous Report, and that that is the feeling of the entire Credit Union. ^ 1

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: It just means that the people who have been reporting to the Credit Union Movement have been misleading the Credit Union Movement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member has one minute to conclude.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: We will spend a long time on this. Sir, I am not discussing the Bill at this point, but the Stabilisation Fund was proposed in Part XXH of the Bill. We will get a chance to come back and discuss it later on.

Part of the proposal relating to the Stabilisation Fund which came up from the Committee had that the representation of the Committee would be made up of five members, two of whom would be recommended by the Credit Unions, a representative of the Central Bank, a representative of the Accountants Association of Barbados and a representative from the Ministry of Trade. It was after this Bill was submitted with these proposals that one started to hear little rumblings among the Movement that this, stabilisation was not acceptable.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Well, Sir, being the democrat that I am, having picked up the feeling that there was some problem, and presumably the members who represented the Movement were not reflecting the feeling of their members, I called a meeting of the representatives of BARNACS and a meeting of the representatives of the Barbados Co-operative Credit Union League Limited. We went through the proposed Bill from cover to cover. They made certain suggestions about changes, which we accepted, and then when we came to the Stabilisation Fund they said they did not like the way in which the proposal for the composition of the Committee which would administer the Fund was made, even although they had agreed with it when the Bill came up. This is evidenced here.

I then directed that they sit down again with the Chairman, with the Legal Draughtsman and a representative from the Ministry, including the Acting Registrar of Co-operatives, to see how they could arrive at a medium, some understanding on this particular matter. It went backward and forward for some time, bearing in mind I indicated that this Government has a commitment in this party to ensure that we get a modern piece of legislation in place. That is one of our commitments and we are determined to have this done. That is why we will be getting a new Co-operatives Bill very shortly.

The Committee, not having been able to reach an agreement, made a proposal based on which we then adjusted the Act, and this proposal was again that the Committee should comprise five members. I think it is very important, Sir, and I am sure that the Honourable Members....

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Just give me two more minutes. I will finish just now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Wrap it up in one minute.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The proposal which came back from the Committee was included and when we recognised that again this was not acceptable to the Movement, I called them again and spoke -with them, because I have as much interest in the Co-operative Movement as any Honourable Member in here. I am a member. I am a saver and a borrower in the Credit Union, so I have an interest.

The point I am making, Sir, is that after that, and I recognised that there were still some problems, what I said to them quite recently was that I would take the Stabilisation Fund out of the proposed Bill and that there would be an ongoing discussion with the Movement to try to get some kind of arrangement on that. 4.45p.m.

The point of the matter is that we will be having a Bill shortly, the stabilisation fund will not be in the Bill, but we will have a modern piece of legislation in place.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, it is quite clear that the Minister and the Government are not yet in a position to bring before the House this very important piece of legislation, and I want to make a suggestion in good faith. A lot of documents prepared on behalf of Government are circulated for comments to members of the private sector, to groups that have an interest in the matter. It seems to me that we have not yet developed the convention in Barbados where we treat Members of the House as if we too have an interest in the development of the country. I think that it would be a good development. Things like, for example, the employment task force views, the private sector can see it in draft and nobody in the House of Assembly who has an interest in the development of Barbados can see it in draft. There are Members in this House who have an interest in the development of the cooperative movement, and I am suggesting that in the same way that a variety of interest groups can see things which obviously cannot be privy nor covered by secrecy, that to that same extent Members of the House who have an interest in these matters and will contribute in good faith, it would be a good thing if we can see these things in draft too, because we on this side in the Barbados Labour Party have an interest in a modern piece of legislation that protects the integrity of the cooperative movement as a cooperative movement, that protects the various interests in the cooperative movement, not only the shareholders who also are the lenders that provide insurance such as would preempt the situation that has happened in certain other cooperative movements in certain other parts of the world,

particularly savings and loans institutions as happened in the United States of America from happening here. I have not seen the legislation, Sir, and that is the point I intend to make, and the Members can be sure that this is a matter that we would be glad to contribute towards in good faith, particularly the question of providing some form of insurers for our cooperative movement to preempt the kind of problem that has afflicted other cooperative movements in other parts of the world.

Mr. Chairman, as regards the Minister of Trade and Industry himself, he has been careful in all the contributions that he has made to continually stress that the really bad performance of manufacturing was in 1987, and perhaps we have been harsh on him without placing the strictures where the strictures should have been applied. I seem to recall, Sir, that in 1987 the Minister of Industry was in fact the present Minister of Health, and I therefore want to congratulate the Minister for having taken stock of the very pathetic performance of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West who presided over the worst performance ever of manufacture and manufacturing exports in the last ten years and having removed him from the Ministry of Industry, because the Minister is very careful to continue to make the point that things have started to improve since 1987 when the Honourable Member for St. Michael West had been unceremoniously dismissed from that post.

Mr. Speaker, I can fully well understand why the Prime Minister found it necessary to dismiss the Honourable Member for St. Michael West from that post because he has shown this evening an alarming lack of understanding of a very serious issue, and that serious issue concerns the role and the future of enclave industries in Barbados.

The Honourable Member, Sir, if he understood anything about enclave industries such as INTEL would have recognised that it was necessary for a Government of Barbados to enter into discussions with INTEL around 1975-76 as regards its future in the country for one good reason, that INTEL operated under a piece of legislation applicable to enclave industries that gave it a ten year tax holiday in this country.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order, lest the Honourable Member will continue down the road, I wish to draw to his attention that the present Honourable Member for St. Michael West was the original Barbadian that got involved in the enclave industries and is responsible for almost every industrial park in Barbados. Press on.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the point I am at pains to make here is that there is nothing unusual about the Barbados Labour Party talking to INTEL about its future. INTEL was established in 1976 and it meant obviously that its existence in Barbados under the regime that applied to it would have elapsed in 1986. The point I am making, Sir, is

that this country has ceased to attract large high technology companies such as INTEL. The Economic Report for 1988 shows that only \$4.5 million in foreign investment in four enterprises came into Barbados. The truth is that in order for countries like Barbados to retain these industries, the question is what kind of regime should apply to them after their initial tax holiday period has elapsed. Now the fact of the situation, Sir, is that a company after it has exhausted its tax holiday period can thereafter qualify for concessions only under that piece of legislation which allows them a rebate on the profits that they realise from export. The Honourable Member will recognise that our first attempt to try to stabilise INTEL'S relationship with Barbados was in point of fact to change that legislation to allow a company that earns more than 50 per cent of its profits from exports to retain a higher percentage rebate. We moved it from 50 per cent to 80 per cent, which meant that had INTEL stayed in Barbados its effective rate of tax would not have been 35 per cent applicable to any corporation, but would have in fact been 9 per cent.

The issue also arose, Sir, whether a company like INTEL, like a company like Caribbean Data Services of which the Minister is speaking should not qualify as an international business company. The Member should know international business company legislation because he is a lawyer, but that legislation provides that any enterprise that is not engaged in the buying and selling of commodities in Barbados, and in which there is not more than a one-tenth per cent Barbadian ownership can qualify as an international business company, which means that over the existence of its operation in this country, it would pay not a 35 per cent rate of corporation tax, but a corporation tax of two per cent. The issue that was being discussed with INTEL, Mr. Chairman, was whether like the Caribbean Data Services it should qualify in Barbados as an international business company. There is nothing in the international business company legislation, Sir, that prevents a company like INTEL from operating here. Caribbean Data Services, Sir, is an international business company and it is a successful operation in Barbados, and the other printing companies have set up in Barbados under the operation of the international business company legislation.

I am raising these points, Sir, if only to ask the Government whether as part of our developing and long term on-going relationship with enclave industry we will see the international business companies legislation as the relevant legislation in the future, given the difficulties that we have experienced in the past in retaining enterprises under the auspices of the Fiscal Incentives legislation that restricts the operation in Barbados to ten years, because our problem in manufacturing in Barbados is that companies set up for ten years and when their tax holiday has elapsed, they leave, which means that we have to go through a process every ten years of trying to rebuild an industrial system. I am asking this question deliberately, because in

the case of Trinidad, for example, Trinidad has in some respects abridged, has taken unilateral action, Sir, in relation to the harmonised fiscal incentives that are meant to apply to all Caribbean countries. An enckve industry such as INTEL operating in Trinidad would now qualify for 100 per cent rebate on any profits realised from the sale of goods outside of Trinidad, and by that mechanism Trinidad is making sure that what has happened to this country in relation to INTEL does not happen to them, but they have acted unilaterally as it relates to the harmonised fiscal incentives. They have tried that route as a way of making sure that they have a continuous process of industrial production, but the question that the Minister must face is what is the relevant legislation and, the relevant fiscal regime that he intends to use in order to make sure that these types of industries can be attracted in Barbados, and can stay here over an indefinite period. ;

I asked the question, Sir, because the Minister has from time to time told this House that his Ministry is looking at various aspects of the existing fiscal legislation with a view to amending it, and I am asking the Minister, Sir, - he nods in agreement that he has been looking at these particular matters - if he can share the benefits of his thoughts with us. From our point of view, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party's position is clear. Our position is that the existing fiscal incentives legislation is useful in causing industries to be established, but they do not deal with the operational problems of industries as they mature. 4.55 p.m.

Yes, in the initial stages of an industry's operations it may need a tax holiday; you may need import duties relief, and so on but as the industry matures, things such as incentives for training, things such as incentives for quality control, research and development, incentives for market penetration, product development, process development - these are the issues that become most important when an industry has moved from its first few years of its operation into a stage of maturity.

All fiscal incentives of the day do not in any way address the operational problems that will face a company when once it has gone beyond the start-up period.

We have taken a position on this matter already in a speech that my leader gave before the Manufacturers Association that we have stayed too long, for example, with the same industrial strategy and must change it, and we want to hear the Minister's views on the issue.

Also, his reaction to the criticism that has been leveled " against him in relation to trade. It shows how very seriously — he has missed the point. The point that is being made here is that Barbados' overall trading position with CARICOM has worsened. That is the point.

He may be able to show, in a few isolated instances, that we might be exporting a few more dollars worth of goods to Dominica and Antigua. But the reality is that at the end of the day our trade balance with the rest of CARICOM has worsened.

If you were to take the number, Sir, in 1984 the trade deficit was targeted at \$54 million. It reached \$155 million and then it was brought down but in the last two years it has worsened and I am suggesting (o the Minister that .in many respects this Government is approaching its relationships with CARICOM in a naive way.

We have had the situation where the Minister of Finance has come to this House and said that he is going to remove stamp duties on CARICOM goods on condition that they are reciprocal arrangements put in place in other CARICOM countries to make it easier for Barbados to export goods to CARICOM. And the next week Trinidad went and changed the exchange rate making it more difficult for Barbados to export to Trinidad and yet the Minister proceeded with his policies of making Trinidad goods cheaper in Barbados as if Trinidad had not, at the same time, breached the spirit that had made that entire arrangement possible because CARICOM countries agreed that they would remove stamp duties on each others goods and that they would enter into a set of reciprocal arrangements whereby all the impediments to freer trade would have been relaxed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member has one minute to conclude.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The point I am making is that Barbados' trade position with the rest of CARICOM has not been improving. The Minister might be able to cite a few instances in which our exports might have increased but the truth is that our imports from the rest of the Caribbean, to some extent, has been rising at an even faster rate and we have paid our duties to live peacefully in CARICOM.

Barbados was the first country in CARICOM to introduce the Common External Tariff in the early 1970's. Up to 1980 Trinidad and other countries had not yet introduced the Common External Tariff. We had to press at Nassau in order to get the Caribbean countries and to date, Sir, they have not yet put those things into operation.

The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that the Government in its relationship to Trinidad and Tobago must see our whole relationship in its totality, see the relationship between their continual high levels of imports to us and proper treatment for our fishermen in their waters.

I am saying that we cannot in Barbados year after year continue to have a situation where our trade balance with Trinidad is almost \$100 million but we cannot use that as a bargaining weapon in getting them to agree to a fishing protocol that can allow our fishermen to go into Trinidad and in a peaceful manner fish and collect fish that the Trinidad market does not use under ordinary circumstances.

I am saying that the Minister in his relationships to CARICOM must put the matter in its totality and link the fact that those CARICOM countries have continued relatively unrestricted access to our markets as his chief bargaining instrument in ensuring that in areas critical to the Barbadian economy such as fishing the rights, the interest and the progress of our people are advanced.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not be very long in this intervention. I just wish, because I recognize that the Honourable Member is relatively young and may not be seized of certain information... It is necessary for the record to straighten him out,

First of all...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In respect of the Honourable Member it may be necessary because the terms in which...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well, I still look younger than you. I saw pictures of you in the newspapers where you look awful.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Everybody agrees that I look younger than you Haynes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member does not remember when he spoke about INTEL. I just wish to draw to his attention that I was the Minister. I regret having to say this; but I was the Minister who negotiated INTEL to come into Barbados. I was the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce when we made contact with Intel, discussed it with them, negotiated their coming here and they did not come in while we were the Government because they did not wish to sign the requirement for the trade union because Intel is a non-trade union company and I refused to allow them to come in.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, On a point of order.

The Honourable Member is saying that I am young and, therefore, inexperienced but I want only to say that since he knows that he was the Minister who brought Intel here in 1976 he should also know that INTEL came under an arrangement that allowed it to stay for 10 years and that by 1986 it would have been in a position to leave unless another arrangement was worked out.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member is really demonstrating that he is not only young but he is innocent. The fact is that the reason they did not come in under the DLP regime was because they did not wish to sign the constitutional consideration that would allow trade unions because INTEL was a company in the United States which did not allow trade unions and they balked at signing the agreement which the IDC requires any company to sign.

The Minister who relieved me, Johnny Cheltenham, as Chairman of the IDC and the Barbados Labour Party got INTEL in and agreed to matters which I could not agree to. I am not seeking to run down. I am seeking to put the record straight.

On matters to do with INTEL I know them intimately. I brought them in and I saw them out. I do not brag about that. It is necessary for the record. When the Honourable Member is talking about INTEL there is nothing that the Honourable Member can tell me about INTEL.

I want to make the point that the fiscal incentives legislation which the Honourable Member is now discussing with the authority of a person who learns it from the book, he must understand that they cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time. They cannot be discussing how strongly they are pro-Caribbean and then argue that the ^ discussions which we must have to bring this region to a *"... Caribbean position must be engaged in the same way in "* which we engaged in discussions with people from Third countries.

It is true that in the arrangements in the Caribbean from time to time one country or one sector of the region will be at a disadvantage *vis-a-vis* the other sector. But the -reason why that will occur is because in the 1970's when we negotiated the CARICOM agreement we recognized that we were at different stages of development; and we ^^ understood that some of us were in the MDC's and some > were in the LDC's; and Barbados, which was in the special position of neither MDC nor LDC would, from time to time, benefit from the LDC arrangements and from time to time benefit from the MDC arrangements. 5.05 p.m.

Therefore if you look at the sections of the Caribbean *. Community Treaty you will see there were special provisions made for Barbados, I believe it is section 34,1 Z am speaking from pure memory. The point has to be made

that to discuss Barbados as being disadvantaged vis-a-vis trade with the MDCs is to make a statement that is full of fury signifying nothing because always Barbados might appear.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Full of sound, I beg your pardon to be superior to the OECS countries. If you carry this argument ...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am sorry. I left out sound. I said fury. He is my colleague. If he says I should add in sound, I add in sound. I have no quarrel.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well of all the things in my life, I never thought I would hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central correcting me on a matter of information, pronunciation or consideration of the language. What is well known about the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is that whatever else he may be enunciation and language is not one of his attributes. Enunciation and language I said.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I agree. I do not enunciate language.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Or anything. We have always agreed that the Honourable Member is one of the few persons who has done Classics of whom you cannot recognize it, based on his expressions. We have accepted that. Do you want to deal with me? Okay.

Sir, the point I was making.....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Do not mind I am saying nothing. Try and see if you can listen. The Honourable Member must understand that vis-a-vis the OECS we are always going to appear as if we have them at a disadvantage and vis-a-vis the MDCs from time to time, we will also appear as if we are disadvantaged in relation to them. Therefore to expect us to have a relationship with Trinidad and Tobago where we have a perfect balance of trade and to come and argue that the Minister or any Minister has failed because we are showing an overall deficiency in the balance is to make suggestions which are not in consonance with the argument which the Barbados Labour Party is putting forward about what a regional minded organization His.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You will not understand the point The point he also made about the financial institutions, again if he were seized of the spirit of the harmonization of fiscal incentives he will recognize that the harmonization of fiscal incentives requires or required the entire community to move with the same deliberate speed as they look at the next stage of the fiscal incentives which were offered.

The Democratic Labour Party did not have to take a position on the international business companies because the Democratic Labour Party was the one that brought the international business companies regime as part of the entire offshore sector. If the Barbados Labour Party carried it forward....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We initiated in 1968. The point is that to get up and make discussion about the offshore sector and the international business community, if you are saying that it is time for us to look at the advancement of the fiscal incentives, to look at different incentives to be offered then you can say so without recourse. And then if you were seized of what is going on in the region you would know that regionally they have been looking at that for some considerable time because we agree that we will always have more or less the same incentives being offered. Therefore for the Honourable Member to get up and try to score points because what the Honourable Member did was to demonstrate that contrary to what you were saying there was in fact an improvement in exports. That is what was being discussed. And when he got up and started to read out the exports, you then quarrelled and said that in the overall position.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. on every occasion that I cited the exports I also cited the Imports. I called the numbers to show the visible difference on the trade figures, the balances. It was obvious that the relationship was there.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Furthermore, Sir, - I am discussing the Honourable Member for St. Peter. I do not know why the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is getting in this. I did not even remember that he spoke. The Honourable Member for St. Peter is the Honourable Member whose remarks I am addressing. And the Honourable Member went on to suggest that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago had devalued their currency in response to Barbados' removal of stamp duty.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Member is trying deliberately to mislead the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point?

Mi. O. S. ARTHUR: I did not at any stage say that the Government of Trinidad devalued its currency in response to -1 never said that, Sir. I said that the Minister of Finance changed the Stamp Duty on CARICOM goods on condition that reciprocal arrangements would have been put in place by all other Caribbean countries to make Caribbean trade become freer and after he did that, the Trinidad and Tobago Government subsequently went and devalued.

But, I am saying, Sir, on a point of order and on a further point of order, Sir, as regards the international business companies. It is only relevant to this debate to the extent that this Member tried to convey the impression that Tom Adams was conducting some kind of sinister negotiations with INTEL whereas all that was being discussed was the question as to whether INTEL would have been interested in operating under the international business companies legislation which is more applicable to the offshore Industry.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Alright Sinister is your word. I am saying that there was correspondence between the President of INTEL and the Prime Minister of Barbados to which you obviously were not privy. I am saying that there was correspondence between Louis Tull and the President of INTEL to which you obviously had not been privy. I say no more and you will not force me to say any more.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Publish what? It is not something to publish. Do you think we are washing clothes and hanging out linens? Why do you feel I must publish it? I have not cast any aspersions.

Mr. Chairman, I do not understand the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party when he talks about "publish it" trying to give the impression that I was casting aspersions. I was merely making the point that the Honourable Member for St. Peter was obviously not privy to why INTEL left. I do not know what you want me to publish. Do you want me to publish the files. I am not in the business of publishing. Am I an Informant. I am not publishing. I am just making clear for the record why INTEL left. INTEL did not leave for the reasons which he thinks and I believe he thinks legitimately. They had other reasons because they had another agenda and that agenda included Tom Adams.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But he is dead of course he is dead. So what? Do you want me now to resurrect him? He is dead.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the debate.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am saving to you when I come in here and I speak and I am in the record I am supposed to be an Honourable Member. Either I am speaking the truth or I am not. If you believe that I am not speaking the truth, get up and say so but do not raise any questions about that. It is not a matter for you.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: At least that What has Barrow's attack on Reagan to do with it?

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Barrow attacked Reagan That is Barrow's privilege.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg your pardon?

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Tell me, do you want me to say, among the reasons why they left is because Barrow called Reagan a cowboy? Do you want me to say that? Mr. Chairman, they say dead men tell no tales and he wishes me now to be the apostle of two dead men carrying tales. That is what he wants me to do.

Asides.

Laughter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That does not wash, Henry. That did not go very well. But then humour is not one of the things which the Honourable Member knows very well. 5.15p.m.

The point I am making, Sir, is that when it comes to the enclave sector, and this is the point the Honourable Member for St. Peter raised, what is the policy on the part of the Government on the enclave sector? The policy of the Government on the enclave sector is that the enclave sector will always form a substantial part of any manufacturing activity which is going to go on in Barbados. It is becoming extremely difficult to attract the enclave sector into Barbados. The fact is the incentives which can be given to the enclave sector by themselves will not be sufficient and the regime has to be one that is acceptable to the entire Caribbean Community. Because we are signatories to the Caribbean Community Treaty, therefore we cannot unilaterally make decisions. No one has questioned or put in a negative position the initiatives which the Barbados Labour Party took in the enclave sector regime. No one over here has sought to suggest that there was anything wrong with them. Therefore, the Honourable Member's statement which indicated that somehow this Government

is not paying attention to positions which had been taken by the Barbados Labour Party when they looked at the international business community suggests that he does not understand that what in fact has happened with the enclave sector is beginning with the Democratic Labour Party's initial bringing of the offshore business community to Barbados. The Barbados Labour Party Government has continued it and the present Government is seeking ways in which it can extend it. This has never been a matter in which we have taken Labour Party positions or DLP positions. ; -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in one minute, . . ?

Hon. B. M. TATTT: It should not be brought to that where the Honourable Member is starting to discuss it in those terms. When you are a developing country trying to attract business from outside of the region, you have to work in concert with the other developing countries in the region. You cannot have a situation where Barbados is offering something which St. Lucia is not offering and vice versa because the people from the third country will use the one against the other.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well, that is another regime. What it seems to me that the Opposition is suggesting now is that Barbados must somehow repudiate all of the agreements which they have reached and because the other countries may be in breach of the treaty, Barbados should be in breach of the treaty as a quid pro quo.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I would be quite concerned as a Member of this Government if the Government deliberately set out to breach its treaty obligations. We cannot blow hot and cold and on the one hand say we are for Caribbean unity. A treaty obligation is one of the most solemn obligations a country can undertake and I would not be party to that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Bridgetown.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I was at pains to point out how the whole matter with those small business people in Swan Street developed from 1986. I gather, Sir, that in my absence the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works tried to cast doubt on the statement that I recommended the site on High Street. I believe he could have only been trying to cast that doubt on that statement because he is not fully seized of the facts as to how that whole question of that site came about. I, in fact, did identify that site and I cannot understand how the Honourable Minister of Agriculture can sit there and let the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works go on

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. This Member was not in the Chamber when those statements were made. . ,

Asides,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City is on his feet

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, on the Order Paper the first question you will find goes like this:

"Question 26 - Notice of this question Was given on October 21, 1986: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries:

L Is the Minister aware that the Superintendent of Markets is the authority who issues permits to sell within the prohibited areas?"

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: You do not even know what is going on in trade and you are trying to answer for agriculture now,

"2. Is the Minister aware that permits issued by the Superintendent of Markets may allow a vendor lawfully to sell outside of the terminal markets at Fairchild Street and Cheapside?

3. Will the Minister state the criteria for the granting of such permits?

4. Is the Minister also aware of the extreme difficulties vendors are encountering in obtaining permits?

5. Will the Minister take steps to correct this problem and once more allow these small business people to earn an honest living?"

Question given on October 21, 1986. Question is not answered to date.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The Honourable Prime Minister will make fun of it because he already told me what his position is on those vendors. If you want to force me to repeat it for you, I will tell you. I do not know if you remember the so-called retreat at Heywoods. I do not know if you remember what your position is on those vendors - "cluttering up Swan Street". Do you remember your position? So do not let me get into that. I understand how you feel about small business people. I understand how the Honourable Minister of Finance feels about small business people. The way he conducts his Budgets and so tells us the story. You do not have to go any further.

The point is, Sir....

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I am going to get to the site for you now. The Minister of Agriculture (now in his place) let him get up and say that I am wrong now. I said that the letter was written on October 26, 1988. The meeting that the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works speaks of in Queens Park is that yes, he called the meeting. No, I did not call the meeting. Yes, he invited me to the meeting because he knew that I was working on behalf of the vendors. That meeting at Queens Park came a year after this letter. Let me explain something to the Honourable Minister of Transport. That morning the Attorney for the Vendors Association of Barbados who sits in the Other Place - he is a Senator. If you want me to call his name, I cannot call his name. If I call his name, I may use unparliamentary language. So do not let me do that. I asked him to act as Attorney for this group. When I went into Queens Park, he had a meeting prior to the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works and Agriculture meeting which he called and asked me if I could come a little earlier so that I could be at the meeting with the vendors to prepare them to deal with you all. Do you understand what I am saying? This was to prepare the vendors to deal with you. Get that clear. I went to the meeting and I had the copy of this letter that I read out here today. I went to the Attorney for these vendors. I showed him the copy of the letter. He asked for a copy of the letter and I said that you can have it because I have more copies. I showed him the copy and I said, look when the two Ministers come here just remind them that I have already suggested to the Minister of Agriculture a site for these fellows to go on. He took the copy of the letter, showed it to the vendors, and asked, "What do you fellows think about this? Is this a good place where you all would like to go?" The majority of them said, "Yes, we have no problem with that because it is right off Swan Street."¹¹ So to come in here now and try to give the impression that the vendors came up with the idea of the site, you realize in fact you are telling lies. Because this is really what you are saying that I am misleading the House

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said that I got the recommendation directly from the vendors. I did not get it from you. I have never seen the letter that you are alluding to. I merely state an incontestable fact that the vendors told me that is what they wanted. I am not going to get into the useless pastime so frequently heard in this House as to who thought of what first I am too old to indulge in that foolishness. I merely state the fact again that the vendors told me that they wanted those sites.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, what the Honourable Member just said is absolutely true. They told him about the site on the same morning of the same

meeting. How is that different to what I said? I said that I told him about the site. They got up at the meeting and told him. What is the problem? The point is that all I want to do, Sir, is to clarify the joint. 5.25p.m.

I was very careful. I told him that the Honourable Minister of Transport may have been misled. I made that clear. I do not think he would deliberately go out to say something that would not accord or parallel with the truth; so I was just making my position absolutely clear. I agree with him it does not matter who was responsible for it; what matters, as I told the Honourable Minister of Health earlier today, is that you do not use these poor black people to ride on their backs to seek political gain.

I thank you.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I want to join the discussion on a number of areas relating to trade, the enclave Industries and the whole question of co-operatives to show that in fact there is a very vital link among these things.

It seems to me that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, who claims to be one of the first persons to help to bring enclave Industries here, would remember probably with excitement looking into the future from the late 1960's at the possibilities of introducing some of these Industries, at a time when man's knowledge about micro electronics and so on was relatively new, and the major enclave Industries that would have been coming here would have been those in the early stages of micro electronics development. Again, there were some small companies making gloves and so on, but it amazes me that those of us who are now looking back from the perspective of 1990 can have certain romantic considerations about planning our development along the same path.

The facts are that 22 years down the line we cannot be thinking about attracting those same types of businesses, no matter if you bring up certain kinds of incentives, because you have passed on into another era in a relatively short period of time. That is what happens in technology and we have to understand that. The plans that were made in the 1960's to bring in that kind of investment from outside - do not saddle IDC and EPC with those kinds of considerations now.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir, lest the Honourable Member misleads the House. The two successful Industries which the Minister of Trade and Industry referred to are Industries which are in fact selling all of the services as enclave Industries to the United States of America. I do not understand how it becomes a romantic idea for Barbados to be putting weight on

Industries such as CDS and Donnelly that are selling all of their goods or services to America. How does it become a romantic ideal Sir?

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Sometimes when you do not allow people to develop their points you would get that kind of outburst. I am making general points; I am making my contribution to this debate. I am not relating to anything in particular that the Honourable Member might have said. What I am saying is that if you are looking forward to foreign investments in Barbados in terms of the enclave sector, we have to understand that there are certain investments that will not be coming here again. We have to understand that very, very clearly, and that the patterns that guided us in the past are not likely to be patterns that will guide us again.

As the Honourable Member for St. Peter said, our experience has been that after about 10 or 15 years most of those people leave. I do not believe, quite frankly, that if you have to change the incentives in such a way as to give them the possibility of staying on for a certain amount of time, that that in itself will mean that they will stay on. That is all I am trying to tell you. There are other overriding considerations. For instance, the product life. If, as far as those people are concerned, they have got the benefit from the product life and they are moving on to a new technology, by extending your benefits for another five or ten years will not mean that you will keep them here. If extensions of your benefits will still not match up with new benefits offered when they will be starting fresh in another place, they will still be counting their cost and deciding when they are going to leave here and go somewhere else.

I am saying that multinational corporations do not make their decisions based on any particular liking for or loyalty to a small country. They will make their decisions based on what is best for them, what they consider to be more suitable for them. I am really amazed and concerned that at this time of our development, quite frankly, we do not see the kinds of benefits that we should be getting from those kinds of organisations. It is not a question of "should we give them total exemption of profits to keep them here for another few years?"

I think the greatest benefit we got from Intel, to name a particular corporation, is the training, the skills, the engineers that were left behind, the training in management, personnel management and administration. But some of those persons who worked at Intel, I understand, have been able to start their own companies, because they have had the kind of high-level exposure. That is the important thing about it: that whenever we go into the knowledge transfer, the technology transfer, should be the important thing, not the 500 jobs we know we are only going to keep for a short time before the people run off and go somewhere else. If we do not go for that knowledge and technology transfer and use that as the genesis for our own development, then I

think we are losing out. It is vitally important that whatever they decide to do we will have something tangible left in terms of skills, in terms of a positive approach to marketing and so on. I believe that is vitally important.

I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Peter that the kind of investment we have to be taking is going to be in things like informatics and so on. That is the area that seems set for the future. The micro electronics, the silicon chip. That silicon chip has so many industrial, as well as consumer, applications. You put the chip in a pen and you have the clock pen. You put it in a toy and you have toys that walk, all sorts of things. I think what we have to understand is that once that knowledge has been developed, it is developed for all mankind. Once those people who have acquired the patent, once the period for that patent has gone out, then we as Barbadians have to look at that knowledge and see how we can use it for Barbadians, how we can transfer that knowledge for our own use.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter talked about the balance of trade between Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean. If we are going to have a positive balance of trade between Barbados and Trinidad, Jamaica, et cetera, that is not going to come about because of governmental functions alone. Government has to pass laws, it has to respect the arrangements in CARICOM. That is a private sector matter. Let us understand. If we are going to be out-trading Trinidad, Jamaica and Guyana, et cetera, it has to be what we are producing, and if we are able to market it Government can set up certain structures, but Government does not produce any of the products that we would sell in Trinidad or Jamaica or anywhere else. If the Trinidadians are out-producing us, if the Jamaicans are out-producing us, what are we going to do to stop them from getting into our markets? We have to be able to produce. That is a private sector function and Government will only be able to set the parameters within which we produce.

* We have to come together and think in this country in terms of how we can give further spur to the manufacturers. I will make the case again and again that the people in Barbados with the resources are not the people who are going into manufacturing; it is the small craftsman in Barbados who has made the transition into being a manufacturer with limited resources, a lot of will power, some initiative and some creativity. That is where the support is needed, with those entrepreneurs who are not getting support from the people who have the funds in this country, who have traditionally built up millions of dollars through buying cheap and selling dear, and who are not prepared to move from that.

That is where I come to the Co-operative Movement, because as far as I am concerned the Co-operative Movement has to be seen in the light of breaking out from that kind of past. The Co-operative Movement has to be able, through the Credit Union Movement; to accumulate

funds to make them available to young entrepreneurs, and we have to teach our young people that the only way to form a business is not by forming a limited liability company with a few people owning a lot of shares and controlling other people's labour, but our young people have to be able to understand that there are such things as industrial co-operatives and producers' co-operatives, that they should get together and pool - large numbers of men with small resources - and use that as the economic base. Young people must be trained properly and they have to make the break into business by using the Co-operative Movement
5.35p.m.

It must not be a pallid Bill or Act put on the Statute Book that is peripheral to those one or two people who are called cooperators; it must be seen as a path forward to make significant economic change in this country, to mobilise resources. It is expected that we will have \$100 million in share capital in the cooperative sector by the end of 1990. We are talking about an institution that has tremendous potential, but it will not have that potential unless there is a certain vision about it. A society has to have aims and objectives first of all, and when you have those aims and objectives, then you can determine what developmental paths you want to reach. If the aims and objectives of Barbados include first of all ensuring that we can provide for our people the standard of living that we expect them to have in the future, and if we recognise that a lot of that will come from our own self-reliance, that we cannot depend totally on outside help, recognising that some people are not likely to give you aid, that some people are not likely to give you concessionary terms in trading and so on, then we have to understand that within ourselves there are certain skills, there are certain organisational mechanisms that we have now to hone and to sharpen. Once upon a time the cooperative movement would not have had in lawyers and what we would call middle income people; it used to be thought of as poor people's business. Now City of Bridgetown, National Union of Public Workers, BWU and all of these are manned by University lecturers, by people who have training in business et cetera, and that is where our young people have to go. The young people who are coming out of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, the young people who are doing their ACCA and CGE et cetera have to understand that the world out there now will not be one where everybody has to set up a small one-door business and say this is mine. They have to be able to pool their knowledge and energies together in industrial cooperatives and producers' cooperatives. They have to understand too that the world of tomorrow is not only going to be a product oriented world; you don't always have to sell something that is a product in the sense of a chair or a table; it is going to be a world of knowledge and services, selling research, selling designs, and we may have among our own people the brilliance. You don't have to be a big country to have brilliant people. Barbadians are bright people; we have to train Barbadians

to be bright Americans would buy our ideas; it would not be then their sending down some material for us to put cheap labour and send it back up to them. If we have ideas, if we have groupings of young people who come up with designs, ideas, soft wear and so on for computers, the Americans and the Europeans will buy it and so on. We have to start changing our focus in keeping with modern realities. The idea of sitting down here and waiting to see if American companies would come down here and set up some cheap manufacturing section to produce X, Y and Z and send it back up - the enclave sector and so on might be looking from a 1960s perspective, or looking from a 1990 back into the 1960s perspective. That is not where we are at now; we must be looking down the road. We must be looking from the 1990s into the future and I believe that a lot of the discussions that are centred with a kind of nostalgia about what happened in the 1960s and why it is not happening now, and that would put the blame on IDC and the Export Development Corporation for not being able to do that again, might be misguided because I believe that we are looking at a different scenario and there is need for very clear and very new thinking in our country. I thank you, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for twenty minutes.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 5.45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply.

COJ^MITTEE OF SUPPLY (RESUMED)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr/Chairman, I wish to deal with Subhead 3 of Head 40 first. I go back to my earlier theme that after nearly four years in office the time is right to test the sincerity of the Government in implementing its various policies for the various Ministries.

In respect of Industry on Page 13 of the Manifesto, the Democratic Labour Party promised that the rental cost of factory space in industrial estates will be reduced substantially. I would be obliged if the Minister would tell us the percentage reduction in rents over the three year period beginning from May, 28, 1986.

Secondly, there has always been a problem with arrears of rents owed to the IDC and I should also be obliged if the Minister would tell us what is the level of arrears. Indeed, if he has the figures for the three year period that we can have them for comparative purposes to show whether the delinquency is being ameliorated or not, it would be of assistance.

There has been a lot of silence on this matter since the former Minister of Trade, made some outbursts, as is his wont, when he was Minister of Trade promising speedy reduction of rents. I seem to remember that his request to the Cabinet for a substantial reduction in the rents met with the Cabinet's disapproval of the Cabinet Paper which was submitted about 1987. And shortly after that failed submission to Cabinet that Minister was moved again. He was in CBC once, then he was in Trade, and he was moved again probably to Health where he was silent for about eight months. So that is my basic concern with the IDC.

Turning to the next Subhead 4, Export Promotion Corporation I wish to say that it is the policy of the Barbados Labour Party, and we must not be misunderstood on this, that we have every intention of enhancing the Export Promotion Corporation and developing it into an organisation similar to the Central Bank for these reasons, Sir.

The whole House agrees that the economy of Barbados, as the jargon goes, must be export led. This country has not been earning foreign exchange at the rate that is desirable and, consequently, we have had to borrow to fill the gap caused by the loss of earnings. The manufacturing sector has been one sector from which we can earn foreign exchange that has under performed.

I think that the time has come, instead of tinkering, really to take the Export Promotion Corporation, as it were, by the scruff of its neck, and create an organisation that is properly staffed with high quality personnel, specialists, particularly in the field of marketing, who have a commitment to the development of outlets for the goods and services which we produce.

I think we have tinkered around with the IDC overseas offices. We have, certainly, not launched the Export Promotion Corporation overseas with the kind of zeal that is required of a country which sees the necessity for foreign exchange earnings for manufacturers.

There was a time when the EPC Office in New York had one person in it, an officer, a secretary and a filing cabinet. This whole part of the DLP Manifesto talks about excellence in miniature. So you were dealing with a kind of mini situation. I have gone past that.

In my conceptualisation of the thing, I would wish to see - we know we have to spend money - an organisation so funded and so staffed that it would make an impact in those areas, Europe, England, North America et cetera. Latin America and Central America is an area to which we have to look. But we cannot do it by going at it in a half-hearted way operating like you are on Cheapside. If you have to spend some money, go to it in a big way.

We really feel in the Labour Party that this is an area where the country needs to spend money. I believe with the right kinds of people doing the market research and seeking the markets for our manufacturers and our produce, generally, that in pretty short order it would not only pay for itself but the country would reap the benefits generally from that investment of funds.

I wish to say that for me it would be an area that could well prove attractive for some of the graduates whom we are turning out from Cave Hill every year. There is no doubt in my mind that Barbados in the next 5 - 6 years has to grapple with the need to find jobs to suit the talents and the qualifications of the graduates that we produce from Cave Hill.

I will have a lot more to say about that if we come to another Head where it is more appropriate but I can see people trained in business administration who get a good first degree year, who go overseas and do marketing as a second degree being found employment in the EPC just as that kind of person has found his way into the Central Bank and develop the Central Bank with the kind of organisation that we all recognize is worthy of commendation. I think that hand in hand with that we have to make similar movements towards the development of the Export Promotion Corporation. 6:15p.m.

But I give the House the commitment, they will see it in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. It is there already so I could talk about it. I have got the permission of my colleagues; it is in there already. It is written. Do not worry. The first draft is written and locked away. We will make adjustments after next month when we have some financial folly. I just want it clearly understood that the Labour Party is firmly committed in pursuance of the goals

of reaching the highest levels possible through the promotion of exports to develop an organization that can spearhead the thrust in that area.

Now, Sir, I turn to Subhead 6, Public Utilities. The Manifesto on page 7 did promise something in which I am very, very interested because I am short of cash:

"A DLP Government will immediately" not 4

years later, "immediately". Way back in 1986: s

"enter into discussions with the Barbados Light and Power Company to agree"

You cannot plead not guilty to this., All of you were in it together:

"on arrangements for the disbursement of the \$39 million to Government and consumers,"

I am one:

"in such a way as to ensure that the cash flow position of the company remains healthy."

Do not let us joke.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has 2 minutes to complete his speech.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister responsible for public utilities owes the country an explanation as to the state of negotiations with the Barbados Light and Power Company with a view to having this \$39 million that they spoke about that he endorsed and he supported returned to the Government and the consumers. It is gross neglect, almost criminal negligence for the Democratic Labour Party to say that the Light and Power Company owed the Government of Barbados a substantial proportion of \$39 million in deferred taxes, not to speak of the little humble consumers and the Government has not reported to the country the state of negotiations to get back this \$39 million. It is not three cents. This Manifesto was launched in the Prime Minister's constituency as a deliberate political tactic. He knew all about this. I verily believe that he spoke about this \$39 million during the campaign.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not tell me that he wrote that. How do you mean he wrote that?

Laughter.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He wrote that and you spoke it with all the confidence and support that was vested in a person who was announced as Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member for St Thomas, what he should have said is that the Honourable Member wrote it and the Prime Minister spoke about it with his full knowledge, agreement, consent and command, in terms of the pledge.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How could that be a point of order? Would the Honourable Member just wind up very quickly.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am obliged to the Honourable Member for St. George South for reminding the House of that pledge of truth. It was done with humility and a sense of decency, as the pledge at the back says. So the Prime Minister cannot escape. Indeed he commanded the printing of this, Sir. I am very serious though.

We cannot tell the public that a public utility has somehow taken from the Government and the people \$39 million. As I said it is not three cents, you have a specific figure and that must have been arrived at as a result of the various rate cases that we have had. So there was a known and identifiable figure. For all this time your light bill.....

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Are you telling me, Sir, that your light bill dropped?

, ""'. *Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You got back yours. Mr.

CHAIRMAN: No. I was saying it is time. Mr. D. A. C.

SIMMONS: You are saying it is time. *Laughter.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am not one of those persons to make jokes about Manifestoes which have been solemnly put to the electorate of Barbados. If the Democratic Labour Party wishes to dishonour any of the pledges in the Manifesto, they have dishonoured enough already and that is just another one that they are dishonouring. I have no difficulty whatsoever in recognizing that I was part of the rate hearing process. How the \$39 million figure was arrived at and how it could be dealt with in a manner set out in the Manifesto.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I just simply say, Sir, that the figure now based on the same kind of calculation criteria would be a lot more than \$39 million. So if they do not wish to carry out their Manifesto, that is their problem. It is

not the responsibility of the NDP to carry out that Manifesto:

It is amazing, Sir, it is the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, what they do and what they do not do.... It is Me. I am very happy.

There are one or two things, Sir. I believe that this debate on trade in respect of CARXJKf is a very serious thing and it is important to recognize that the Government has been precipitous in certain fiscal action which has operated to the detriment of the manufacturers in Barbados. When the Stamp Duties increased was first introduced in this country around 1983-84, when it was spread beyond normal stamps to a stamp duty, it was always understood that that was not only a revenue measure, it was also a mechanism to adjust problems in relation to the competitiveness between locally produced goods and imported goods by the price effects at the point of importation. I know that there was a lot of pressure from various Ministries of Trade throughout the Caribbean for the abolition of the Stamp Duties in Barbados.

My view on the matter is that one would make a token gesture by making some reduction in those duties but not an abolition in them. It was somewhat that I was always unhappy about because I knew exactly what was going to happen,

When the Honourable Member for St. John made his wild allegation about persons in Bridgetown and manufacturers and so on over invoicing and taking foreign exchange out of the country, all I can say is this, you created the environment for it

Mr. D. J. H. ME: «PERSON Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order, the Honorable Member of the Opposition is misleading the House. I never made any statement at all in my life about over invoicing. I never made such a statement. I talked about private sector mercenaries shipping out foreign exchange. I did not say the money by which it was shipped out. And I did not say it in this House. I said it outside and I have it carefully recorded, exactly what I said. Yesterday you told me about misrepresentation, stick to your own advice and let me hear you correct you. 6.25 p.m.

Yes Sir, I am going to stick to my own advice. I am going to correct & My apologies to the Honourable Member. It would appear that he said that the private sector was shipping out foreign exchange and the Honourable Member for St. Andrew told this Honourable House how they were shipping out the foreign exchange through over-invoicing.

The whole point, Sir, is the Government has created the environment for that because for the first time there is no penalty whatsoever for over-invoicing. If you are

importing goods on which no duty of any kind is charged say for U.S. \$100,000 in goods, you can invoice that as \$200,000 and get U.S. \$100,000 at no charge. If there was a Stamp Duty on with a rebate or something like that, then there would be a penalty for that transaction ...

>*>

Asides.

¹ Dr. R. C. HAYES is significant. With B% Stamp Duty on mat, it means that you will have to sell those U.S. dollars for \$2.00 plus 15% more. But now you can sell it two to two or do whatever you like. Now I am not accusing the manufacturers of doing that. All I am saying is that the removal of the Stamp Duty has facilitated that kind of activity. I have heard rumours that some people make more money on foreign exchange transactions than on manufacturing. That is the situation created by the Government itself.

The second impact of the removal of the Stamp Duties (and Honourable Members are quite right to make that charge) is that you have created a situation where goods from CARICOM are more competitive in the Barbados market than goods produced in Barbados, hence the heavy influx of CARICOM goods into Barbados. That was compounded, of course, by the devaluation in Trinidad soon after the removal of the Stamp Duty. And there is no countervailing fiscal measure that can be exercised to deal with that. These are realities and I can assure you that when you remove the Stamp Duty in Barbados and Trinidad devalues at the same time then their goods are substantially cheaper in the Barbados market for two reasons; one by the Barbados Government and one option by the Trinidad Government. So that is another reversal effect for the local manufacturers.

The third point to recognize is this. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West was quite mistaken when he talked about you should not mind of the net balance of trade. If you are exporting \$30 million or \$40 million to CARICOM, that is gross exports. The net foreign exchange earnings from that might be only \$6 million or \$7 million because you have to import the goods. You have to pay people wages that have some foreign exchange significance in terms of expenditure. Then if you import \$100 million from Trinidad, in gross exports you export forty million dollars and your foreign exchange earnings are \$6 million, then you have to pay for foreign exchange. So when you hear that you export \$100 million from the manufacturing sector, it does not mean that you have made one hundred million dollars in foreign exchange. You may have had to spend over \$80 million in foreign exchange for raw materials in order to be able to export that \$100 million. If you have a negative trade balance whether it be from Trinidad, United States, or wherever you like, it is the same thing. Foreign exchange has to go out of the country. There is no question about it that sooner or later the Government has to look at its trade balances in these areas.

Another impact of the removal of those Stamp Duties... They should never have been done before a proper inspectorate was established in CARICOM to make sure that goods from Third World countries do not come into Barbados free of Stamp Duties labelled as CARICOM goods. All you do when you do that is that you make those goods as well cheaper in the Barbados market. As far as I am concerned, a precondition would have been to have some kind of assurance or counter-balance in relation to any exchange rate change and, secondly, a strengthening of the CARICOM inspectorate before there was any removal of any Stamp Duties in Barbados.

So that those two points have to be taken. They are valid. The effects on your trade in CARICOM can be clearly seen and there is very little that you can do about it now because it is very difficult for this Government or any subsequent Government to back away from that position. As a matter of fact, the impact of VAT in Trinidad now is not going to be to our advantage as far as goods exported from Barbados into Trinidad.

But Sir, before I approach anywhere near my fifteen minutes, let me deal with a subject that is very dear to me, Sir - Agro Industrial Development. So far, Sir, we have been able to establish during this debate that I was telling the truth about \$15,000 in toweling that was brought into Barbados by Franklin and Franklin. The House was also advised that it was brought in on behalf of a constituent. There are some wealthy constituents up there. The House was also advised that they were bought from a Mr. Nitin Amersey who as you know is the main shareholder in Scothalls and who was supposed to have been the 51% shareholder in CARSICOT. We all know that toweling would have been one of the objectives of the process of growing cotton in Barbados of knitting, spinning, and going on to the finished product including toweling. It does not have to be towels. There are many things done with toweling. All right. That is why I said toweling and not towels. I just want to set the record straight I have, Sir, a fistful of cheques here in my hand. But I do not propose to use them on this occasion. It was established here by myself earlier on and later by the Honourable Member for St Thomas that under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture peanuts grown in Barbados fell to virtually zero. I can give this House an assurance that in a pub in Belize the Honourable Minister of Agriculture....

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:... I am talking of Agro Industrial Development - peanuts. The processing of peanuts is a manufacturing and industrial process ...

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is right and price controls. I will not be stopped.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My only problem is that this is your second intervention in which you are mentioning the same....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No, Sir, not the same thing directly or indirectly, Sir. The point I am making, Sir, is that that deal was struck for peanuts to be brought into Barbados at the expense of destroying the props of the fanners in this country. The exact price I will give this House in due course. •

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister of this country has to ask himself a question. Why are all these things surrounding one person? All the time something is new. He cannot sleep at night you know because you do not know what is going to come out tomorrow and I can assure you that there are more things to come. Because if that suit is filed here in Barbados very shortly, a lot is going to come out. As you may well be aware, a law suit in relation to the relationship between Scothalls and CARSICOT may well be filed in Barbados very shortly. I am talking about Agro Industrial Development which is the most important form of manufacturing for Barbados. It has the greatest value-added. When I spoke earlier on, Sir, about when you export \$100 million, you have to import \$80 million. 6:35 p.m.

In the case of cotton, Sir, when you export \$100 million you may earn \$80 million in foreign exchange. That is the point, Sir, and that is the connection. I have laid the background for it. The point I am making is that there is clearly a need for a public enquiry into CARSICOT under the Commissions of Enquiry Act, and it is quite clear that the Prime Minister

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Only • today his Deputy Leader, who is the Attorney for Scothalls, said his client is without blemish. A

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member will conclude in one minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: One minute, Sir? As matters are emerging now it looks as though in fact the culprit might not be the client, the culprit might be very much here in Barbados - I cannot say among us - so the two statements may not be incompatible.

The final point, Sir. I did not volunteer the information about a visit to Guadeloupe and subsequent importation of fertiliser at prices higher than prices obtaining here in Barbados. That information was volunteered by the Minister himself. •

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is very funny, Sir. He goes to Brazil,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He goes to Belize and comes back with a nut deal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He goes to Guadeloupe, he comes back with a fertiliser deal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He goes to Montreal, he comes back with a towel deal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I travel all over the place and when I come back I come back broke. I can never come back with a deal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is ignoring the ruling of the Chair.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sorry? I did not hear you, Sir. What is the ruling, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That your time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And you have ruled in that way before, Sir? This is the first time I am hearing you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, you have heard it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: My apologies, Sir. Mr.

CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Chairman, because of the state of his mind, continues to impute improper motives to people. He made a statement that every time he comes back he comes back broke, but I come back with something, implying that I benefit financially from travelling to these places. I would invite him any time to examine his financial affairs and my financial affairs by private and independent auditors and it will be proved beyond any doubt that his affairs have a lot more to hide than mine. I have no affairs to hide, you can examine them any time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. it is not a question of a lot more to hide, I have nothing to hide. I just want to get the record straight,-that I have nothing to hide.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I invite you any time to examine my financial affairs against yours; your business practices against mine when I was in private practice. You were practising as a Minister and you were still practising as a doctor. When I was a Minister I stopped practising overnight Anything you want to do I will challenge you now. Stop imputing improper motives to this Member.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I have already stated in this Honourable House that when I was a Minister, within the first week or so before I could get doctors to work in my office, I had to see patients. Thereafter, I obtained the services of two Specialists to work in my office, and only on a Saturday morning or a Sunday morning would I go down to my office invariably to see patients who were non-paying patients of my practice for many, many years, including my constituents. Let us get the record straight. There were two doctors who took over my practice, Dr. Brancker and Dr. Forde.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, the practice I had required a lot more time to wind up than his, and I handed it over. The Member for Christ Church West will tell you that, because many briefs he gave me I passed them on. Up to now there are cases unresolved that I have given up, thousands of dollars of work, and I never functioned. You must stop imputing improper motives to people. You have acquired your wealth by honest dealings, so do you believe anybody else will acquire theirs dishonestly?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think we have given enough scope for this.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I was in this House when his own brother-in-law was in this House and some of the things his brother-in-law told him about the equipment that moved out from the hospital when he left are in the records in here, and I never opened my mouth because it was not my business.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, anyone who has come to my office in the past 20 years knows that as a physician I walk with my equipment in my car, my two hands, my eyes, my ears, a stethoscope that probably cost in those days \$2. As a physician you do not have any equipment, and in any event, the only ptece of equipment I have ever had in my medical office was an electro cardiogram* which operates on a voltage and otherwise completely different from hospital equipment. Any equipment that was stolen from the hospital certainly cannot be used by me. I do not use equipment, I never have.

F? MI ChairmaiWihiy:®rst real with theiHoflburable Leade (rftfteO^^^tion •was! When-my ^birdther fdll ifl-with his stcima* anifeonslilted him in his professional capacity. I will not say, but thfeiWay he reacted to him left a lot to be desired as a professional.

fe Fey :'''!J>uy teflicjjfc -ntfiTu: ;r.i.- Kisgu >;>; a ano .
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you charged y(kir fees/
tH^!;t5^9Blt^%ilh him ind- told him not to pay the fees. You are coming to the wrong

i- DP. I(^C
one, Sir, we will 'deal Witfc'these;V.'licaliino'treeall'wBether or not I would have seen his brother a»*d<i>etor, would fee ovej'f20 years ago^'1'fca'fltBt*eiirienber the other hand, if he says^'did^ibttduch him, if I made the diagnosis without touching him and the diagnosis was right,

Hon. W. Ot FRANKLD&.kam geing^o rnoVe flway from this. i Mr; CHAIRMAN: I am very grateful for that.

Horn W. O. FRANKLIN: ---I- am going to tell the Honourable Leader<of the Opposition that whenever he is ready he can appoint an independent Commission to examine anything that belongs to me, and examine his too. Let us put them on the table.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in his intervention raised some questions which I believe he will want <e get answers to. Firstly, he raised questions relating to rental arrears at the Industrial Development Corporation. The information .which I have at my disposal indicates that in 1988 it was \$1573 888.
6.45p.m. , r

The rescheduled debt was \$1 165 952. In 1989 the current arrears are \$1 724 924 and the rescheduled arrears are \$996 335, making a total in 1988 of \$2 739 840 and in 1989 \$2-721 259. A^ the 31 sf August 1989 the total receivables totalled \$2 309 865, or \$411 394 less than at 31st March, 1989.

The Government has continued the policy which began with the Barbados Labour Party in rescheduling some of i these det>ts.> As<a fnattef of fact I'think'we rescheduled them tWice already since AVC were in office'.

The Honourable M«mber' for St. Thomas reference to the Export Promotion Corporation and the proposal which he says his party has for enhancing the

'aritif^'''

Export Prefeflte^ XSbrp^t an
organisation similar to the Central Bank. I think that, we are

and it is question of how we do it We ourselves "hY'ns administration have been having a look at the ^Export Promotion-feS^Jfei^n^A^^fexirl^-^Kiifih'g' that'll has a greater impact on the role which it should play. in the pora^fioii^fJ^EpbfW, and I'anT-yiurfef^lmat.mefe ^fl be a reorganisation which will take ptecfef.^{JU} -1 E ' . ' . " a

STIJ a^^4lso^ariid^{El}certaiiiiyy th^Pnrne MinisteJr in his last Budget made reference to this) developing a'j^iall'wferf we will use our embassies in a much mpre effe^Jive manner fo -p«rlate^the 'q'uestfon% B^tflos • and .4jpo|ts from Barbados. So we are loofing at' i wider apprbadh man merely at the^ level of the Exploit Promotion rC,orpqraton, beeadsfe it is our befief that four embassies should play a more meaningful role in the promotion of Barbadcls as an investment centre, the promotion of products, coming out of

On the question of market research which he - itidicatedV" yfes, '•ihie^E^port "f Proririoton Corporation is conducting market research. I agree entirely that more has to be done in this particular area. After all when the Honourable Member talks about the staffing and the structure of- the Export Promotion Corporation, I don't think it is necessary for me to remind the Honourable Member that it was the Barbados Labour Party that set up the Export Promotion Corporation. The staff which is there is essentially the staff which had been put in place by the former administration, but we are taking a very serious look at the Export Promotion Corporation with a view to ensuring that it makes a greater impact in the role which it has to play.

Now thfr Honourable Leader of the Opposition made mention of the stamp duties. I know his feeling on the stamp duty and what he has demonstrated again here today is a total lack of understanding of the history of this x particular issue relating to the stamp duty, .Npw. it was because of a certain country in the CARICOM region imposing stamp duty as a way of (maybe not for this reason but the impact was such) frustrating trade within the region, and to provide protection for themselves— I am being a little diplomatic in the choice of that phrase; and it was in 1984 at Nassau where the Nassau Accord indicated very clearly that stamp duties should be removed because they were considered to be an impediment to trade. At least no country really heeded that particular request. Then in 1987 the Trinidad and Tobago Government after constant pressure from the other members of CARICOM decided that it would implement the removal of stamp duty on a reciprocal basis, that is, any country that had a, stamp duty against their goods, if that cpuntry removed the stamp duty, they would also remove the stamp duty. Generally speaking; at the urgings of the CARICOM Secretariat, the point was made that the imposition of a stamp duty was

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Trintaad, a&^fctf 'the an^^

Today-if my Memory SWves^mfrtoritectiy, aB
in CARKOM h^€ WfeWdth^sten^ 'duties; so^thtt

But I think it demonstrates very clearly the total lacfc &f
appreciation for this particular arrangement, because
otherwise how could an Honourable Member

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01

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

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addressed, and even the cost of removing the stamp duty
was in fact sent to Mfe'fi8*fr^ly6IH⁵ Ministry. All I am saying
is that the impact of removing it has been X, Y, Z. I have
said'-thatf I¹*Ba1ise'tteB^fFfade"MinisterS"had 'a particular
profeMM^flfrit-I saifl that'when I spoke; se-dore't taifc'this
business of not understanding. Who could be¹ mere igrt©rant
than you?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member knows

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think the
Honourable. Merttfeer -has demonstrated -that te is more
ignorant than I aim'iThe 'fetonottrabte'>Member for St.
Michael South Central, the Leader of the Opposition, is
more. ignorant than-I aar. It is very clear.

The point I am making, Sir, is that the whole question
c# starmpi dutynwas' not-' any4hirigi%f> concern only to
Ministers of Trad&> •»•'.: ,;< 'i

thinks that he has a licence
to get up in -this -Hoasfe and say whatever he wants to say
About other people,,fe> refute anyflying that anybody says',
and the minute that some person says anything that he does
fiot?agFee with, he-Xa^Stfe is being attacked. You know, Sir,
thafcfiry bngueisiioftboTeasy.
6.55 p.m.

¹ Mr, CHAIRMAN: Order. -

y:•>> H6n>P. M.-GREAVES: Now, Sir, I think that it is
very-efear {Katth^SoverHnment of Barbados is committed to
'playing¹ its role in'thC'promotion of CARICOM and if'the
promotion of the Regional Integration Movement. I think

that fe very =fcrear. What ii? not'felear to mis Sidearid'to *B
coughtry Is whaHs ffie- f Mostrophy 'aird the 'approach ^'te

fW wHole ^WSttoW 6f

Regional^fegfation and G ARICOM/ 1 w<<Wd wart'fo MSr
lhe'm saytt^ti⁵ vnsqmoD i.^v/ol & jriaLI gu'sfidiBfi sdl rfjiw
E h^isn ?f;ri rximoM sfdnfifonoJH 3,'5T .bavfsfesi naad svc?i
I think I know what tfie' Bart^es iLab^uV'partft
position is. I would like to hear what the National

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promotion of the Regional Integration MovemeW from
the kind of soundings which are coming and the kind

f r ^

of nature which is coming

Party, I have some very grave and serious doubts about
their commitment to CARRCOM or anything so I would
like to hear the Honourable Members on that.

vigatbroa.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas
made reference to the Manifesto commitment on the
question of LigH^ f»o^tf \ififie^MjiSl' tftilities. I am not
in a position at this point to make a definitive statement on

Minister of Finance indicated that he had complete^ afl of
the matters of financial implications but this is a matter

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' "• It'iS'a'-th^ttet" which',"! would have^to confess, I r
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beifl a positioh'tb deal. I feally^tanriot make a corrttriitnent
on

The point I would like to make is that in a Manifesto it
would be a^ Very Difficult thing to achieve everything Which
is^siatedift a manifesto af tine fell swoop. More serioiijyy,
W the' qileSiton^f fublic¹ Utilities, I "fliink^t is'very'i:iear
*f**theF\AHc Utilities Board is doing a very good job 'for
which I would like to compliment them. -"no-v

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

'Belere the^ Minister compliments the Public Utilities
Board; IMuld be grateful if they would look into some of
the g6ifigs-on at the Telephone Company. The quality of
service Has deteriorated. ^ - -

Only Sunday morning, 8:30 o'clock, a very senior
person in this country was talking to Miss Edwards and Mr.
James came on the line and they were talking about Mr.
M&Clean and 'Dasli 'Vifley' and 'all tWat conversation was
heard on a telephone in this country^ Th'at is not right. I will
speak to him.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The matter has been drawn to
my attention. I will note it as a complaint which I will ask
the Public Utilities Board to investigate.

L'OV . . .> .0
• Asyou would appreciate, this is as far asi I could go. It
is a complaint which 'has been 'made. It wfl be drawn to the

attention of the Public Utilities Board as other complaints which have been drawn to my attention and which we have drawn to the attention of the PUB; and they have consulted and, indeed, discussed with the Telephone Company or with the Barbados Light & Power Company and the matters have been resolved. The Honourable Member has raised a point and I will, certainly, take it up.

I think that is all I would want to say at this stage. Thank you.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be now suspended until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that and in seconding the motion I would express the view that I hope Members of Parliament, especially those who have been here for a little time like, say, from 1978, would exercise some decorum, would not allow themselves in the presence of persons who would not stretch the Speaker's patience.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Honourable Member would take the advice to observe certain patterns of behaviour which he has freely offered me. I would suggest that you should behave with the same decorum as well.

I just want to suggest, in the interest of the country, in the interest of Parliament, in the interest of proper scrutiny of Government's expenditure, that in view of the fact that we have had one complete day lost in terms of examining the Heads of the Estimates, that we should come back here tomorrow morning at 10.00 o'clock rather than 2.00 o'clock.

The Government has decided to stage a filibuster and speak for the whole of yesterday including part of this morning. I am urging on the Government to give a higher consideration to the examination of the Heads of the Estimates and to come back tomorrow morning at 10.00 o'clock. 7.05 p.m.

I am willing and ready, Sir, to come back at 9.00 o'clock or 8.00 o'clock tomorrow morning, if necessary. But to be convenient, I would say 10.00 o'clock.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I am not going to allow the question to be put unless I put on record our position. I am the Leader of Government Business in the House. At no time has the Government been filibustering on anything. We were speaking on the Resolution before this Chamber at all stages. Each person, on our side, spoke relevantly and materially to the matter before the Chamber at the time. We observed the Standing Orders of the Chamber and we spoke to it.

They all spoke to the same matter. Each one of them, every single one of the 7 of them spoke to the same matter. They exercised their right to so speak. We on our side exercised our right to so speak. If we filibustered, you filibustered. Okay? If you decided all of you are going to speak, all of us have the right to speak and we spoke on the matter. That, Sir, is the end of the matter.

The question that this sitting be now suspended until Thursday, the 15th March, 1990 at 2.00 p.m. was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 7.08 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

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COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

The question that Head 40 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 82 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CAPITAL - \$7 244 819

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, before we move the passing of this Head, Head 82, there are some amendments which I would like to draw to the attention of this Honourable Chamber both in terms of numbers, not in the actual figures but under Subhead and Object No. where it is "23" that should be replaced by "16" and "Object Classification" should be "Grants to Public Institutions." "25" under Consumer Affairs should be "16 - Grants to Public Institutions." The notation for Subhead 1 should read as follows:

"The Barbados Industrial Development Corporation -

This Subhead provides for a grant to B.I.D.C. to carry out its programme of construction and restoration of factory buildings, and infrastructural development of industrial estates."

Under Subhead 3 Description that should be amended to read as follows:

"This Subhead provides for a grant to the Barbados National Standards Institution to meet the cost of specialised equipment for its Library and Laboratory."

The Explanatory Note to Subhead 4 should read as follows:

"Computer Services -

This Subhead provides for the purchase of hardware and software in respect of computerization of the several activities of the Ministry including the Co-operatives Department."

I beg to move, Sir, that Subhead 82, as amended, for the sum of \$2 244 819 stand part.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that, Mr. Chairman.

The question that Head 82, as amended, stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS CURRENT - \$27 483 690

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, about 48 hours ago I had the occasion to speak to the question of tourism and our plans in Barbados. Since the vote for the Ministry of Tourism, and Sports under my purview, is to the tune of \$27 483 690 for expenditure. I would need therefore to speak today in the allotted time of my particular brand of sporting administration, and what the Government of Barbados would like to do.

It is my considered view, Sir, that there are few Governments in the Caribbean that would be able to put the required amount of money into sport that we would all like to see. Since we have to make do with our scarce resources, I think, Sir, that we have to expound on a plan that would more or less coincide with the type of money that we have to spend. But we have to understand that world wide, in the field of sport, there has been a great infusion of cash by the private sector so as to raise the standard of sports in many countries. Only last week for instance, the Royal Bank of Scotland sponsored the home rugby international game to the tune of one million pounds. In the last few years they have spent some seven million pounds.

As far as international sports is concerned, one has to look at cricket, racing, football, lawn tennis, golf, just to mention a few, Sir. One will notice that they are sponsored sports. Therefore if we in Barbados are going to do better, I think that we would have to look at the entire global scene. There are some organizations like FIFA who this year with

the World Cup Games in the United States have actually decided - in fact, it is before the 16S nations that make up FIFA - that the game of soccer as we know it with two halves, first half and second half, that because of TV advertising, football would be in four quarters. Can you imagine that, Sir? Four quarters; first quarter, advertising, second quarter, advertising, third quarter, advertising and at the end, advertising. They *sax* now asking for 340 300 Swiss Francs for the next three World Cup Games.

As far as the Olympic Games are concerned, Sir, the same thing has happened. The NBS paid \$390 million for the rights to televise the games in Seoul. It is true that with athletics it is a lot easier, because except for a marathon for which they would not show the entire thing, you would find that you are still able to advertise. Barbados was-able, in the Seoul Games, to advertise this wonderful island during the Olympic Games. I am not saying that we negotiated it from the beginning. It would have been too expensive. When someone dropped out, and we at the last minute heard about it, we got what was considered a bargain. I have said all of that, to let this Honourable House know mat as far as sports is concerned, it is big business. They say in FIFA, that football is business and business is business.

I think that we have to look very seriously at what we have, and our scarce resources before we can jump into the big league. I said all of that for 2 or 3 minutes, to say to this Honourable House exactly what we have been doing in Barbados.

It is my considered opinion that the days of Empire, Spartan, Pickwick Rovers and Wanderers, and all of that son of thing is old hat. I would never forget in 1955 when I left Combermere at the age of 18, if I did not join Empire or Spartan, and I was not a policeman I could not play for any club in Barbados. So it narrowed down to the point where you were very restricted. 2.10p.m.

Well, in those days as you know I played BCL cricket too. I do not advertise it because they do not like me to. But the point I am saying, Sir, is that in 1955 when you left school you could only play for Empire, Spartan, or Police. You could only play with Police if you were in the youth club, the Police Boys Club, like Sir Gary Sobers or if you were a policeman.

Sir, what I want to say is this. Even between Empire and Spartan, Sir, you had a situation where Empire was formed as a club when the great illustrious son of this soil, Herman Griffith, was not entertained at Spartan. So Sir, my philosophy is this. As far as sport is concerned in Barbados, I think you have to have a broad-based concept which allows the Government to put in the necessary infrastructure in areas that are very thickly populated around the city

areas and also move systematically into the rural areas so that ultimately all of Barbados would have adequate facilities.

If one, Sir, were to take the voting patterns in Barbados, you will notice that nearly 100,000 I think, Sir, live in the St. Michael area and perhaps that is the reason why we have eleven constituencies including the City. In much the same way, Sir, in sport you will find that since most of the people are living in the City area you should try and concentrate very heavily on making sure that[^] those people are adequately served. But at the same time you must make sure that those people in the rural areas are equally served and that has been our philosophy. So that instead of having Empire, Spartan, Pickwick Rovers, and Wanderers one would see the emergence of great clubs out of the communities like for instance the boys from Gall Hill, and Paradise out of Dover. For instance, Sir, you can look and see Black Spurs from Black Rock. You will see Everton from Emmerton Lane, South Wales from Carrington Village, Benfico from the Ivy, Deacons from Deacon, and Kimberley from St. Lucy, Sir. You will also notice, Sir, that Sion Hill from St. James are now in the first division. It does two things, Sir. It allows those in the rural areas to enter into the league.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I will get to St. Thomas. Do not worry. It also allows not only those in the City area, Sir, to play competitive sport, but it also allows those in the rural areas to do likewise, Sir.

I have said all of this, Sir, because I truly believe that this is the policy that a country like Barbados should pursue. I think that when the Member for St. Thomas was the Chairman of the National Sports Council and he wrote the White Paper for Sport, that was it. That was the policy that he looked at. That was the policy that he put forward, Sir, and one which I heartily endorse. It is a continuation of that policy therefore, Sir, when we have great concentration in the areas that are thickly populated and at the same time, Sir, bring those in the rural areas outside.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am speaking about sports and I do not think the Member for the City has ever played tiddlywinks. Sir, I do not detect in the Member for the City any hand to eye coordination. He can hardly walk, Sir.

Laughter.

Hon. W. W. HALL: So when we are talking about sporting activity do not just give me sides, because we are in a big league here. Therefore, this is a policy that I am talking about and let us not get into that.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, there are many great pitchers in full flight with yours truly being the epitome of everything that is not only powerful but graceful and beautiful as well. So for the Member of the City, Sir, to suggest that he has ever been in that league is -1 would not say dishonest, Sk; but it is preposterous/ He has never been in that league, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, it is in that context, therefore, having painted a picture very clearly in your minds that the policy of the Government is to have community based sport so that the people in the populated areas will have access to many grounds and at the same time the people in the rural areas will do likewise. That is why, Sir, when the Member for St. George South came to me and said that he wanted some improvements in St. George South, I went up there and immediately set about it. So much so now Drax Hall are champions in volleyball. The same can be said for Progressive and Well House in St. Philip. The same can be said for them, Sir, and Malvem. What I am trying to say, Sir, is that no longer have we seen a concentration of talent only in the City areas. So what we need to do, Sir, is to spread.

Sir, I just wish to say that in the last two years we have completed hard courts at Drax Hall in St. George, Wotton in Christ Church, Belleplaine in St. Andrew, the Folkestone resurfacing was completed in St. James,' beautiful basketball and volleyball courts, Sir and in Gall Hill. It was a mountain site, Sir. We had to blow it all away and put in fantastic facilities there. At Holders Hill, Sir, where they used to play just tennis, we have now put in a basketball court and resurfaced it. Only on Sunday afternoon I had the privilege of going to Checker Hall and opening a recreation centre and hard court facilities in Checker Hall in the northern area to look after the needs of the northern parishioners. In Bagatelle, Sir, the court has been completed. In Horse Hill, would you believe, Sir, we xhave done the impossible? We have actually found space in Horse Hill, Sir, to put a basketball, netball, and volleyball court. Those are the things we have done. When one considers, Sir, that only two years ago we had put in courts at Valery, Eden Lodge, Friendship, and Gall Hill, and those are just a few that springs readily to mind, you can see the job, Sir, that the Government has been doing.

As far as playing fields are concerned, Sir, we have gone to Briar Hall and there is a magnificent playing field there. In Cliff, St. John, we spent \$50,000 in transforming one of the most undulating surfaces I have ever seen on a playing field. 2.20 p.m.

Plumgrove, Christ Church has been transformed into a beautiful ground. I had a lot of trouble with Hoytes, St. James, but eventually we have been able to get that one

completed. In respect of Speightstown, I know that the Honourable Member for St. Peter will probably comment on mis, but we have cleared the ground and would like to get the necessary facilities there. We have a slight problem which we will have alleviated in another two or three weeks.

Mr. Chairman, you should consider the playing fields that have been upgraded, like Blenheim B, Friendship, Famum Land, Haynesville, Valery, Bayville, The Glebe, St George, Salters, St George and Passage Road. Let me pause for a minute, Sir, and tell you about Passage Road. We now have a beautiful pavilion and a lovely playing field there, and later on we will do the necessary. At Shorcy Village, St Andrew, where the great Conrad Hunte played, we have had some extension.

You will have noticed that the tenders closed three weeks ago for the lights at St. Christopher, Sir. God knows that if I had \$20 for every offensive word that has been said about me by the Member for Christ Church East, I would be a millionaire, but he is my friend and therefore I know that in his anxiety to get things done he took it out on me. Despite the abuse, Sir, we never let him down, the lights will go in, not the four searchlights he wants me to put up there. Sir. He wanted any kind of lights. I do not know what kind of representation that is, any sort of lights at all. I am putting in great lights that will illuminate the whole of Christ Church. It will not only illuminate the whole of Christ Church, it will illuminate the dark comers of Ginger's mind, Sir.

The refurbishing of the roofs of the stands at the National Stadium, the improvement of the drainage system, the replacement of the seats in the Louis Lynch Stand, the electrical refurbishment, refurbishing the football field, and most importantly, the irrigation processes we have developed there. We no longer have to put four men at midnight and hope they will water the field before the sun comes up, we just press a button now and the field is watered. We spent over \$1 million in the renovation of the Stadium.

I must say, Sir, now that the Leader of the Opposition has come, I am very glad to see that the Opposition is listening to me today. He will probably destroy me today, but that is all right. I thought the action of the Opposition two days ago when I got up to speak - me, Sir, an erudite man, a man full of eloquence - I must confess that my first reaction was that I thought it was a diabolical act. It was horrendous, it was wicked, but such are the vicissitudes of life.

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

Our keeping our distance when the Minister spoke on the ~ Second Reading was not meant as a personal offence to V him, but since as a member of the Cabinet he must subscribe to the principle of collective responsibility, our

action was an action against the Government as a whole and not him personally, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister proceed.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I will say this, that as far as I am aware this is the first time that all of the Opposition Members have spoken on the Appropriation Bill. This is the first time in my experience that I have seen all of the Opposition speak.

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I have great experience. You should know that I have experience that it comes out of my ears. I am saying that this is the first time I have seen the entire Opposition benches speak on the Appropriation Bill. I am only saying this in reaction to what the Member for St. Thomas said. I understand what he said, but I consider that since it is the first time in my experience that I have seen the entire Opposition benches speak on the Appropriation Bill, I think it is a curious...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES^ On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member has indicated that this was the first time that all Members sitting on the Opposition spoke in an Appropriation Bill. That is not correct and I think the Honourable Member would always wish that someone would rise and put the true position before the House. It has happened several times before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister proceed.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, we will never be able to prove that, but I was making the point that since all of the Members on the Opposition benches spoke, I think it would be a curious paradox if we did not all speak too if we felt like doing it, because it was our right, I think. That is all I was saying.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I was not filibustering. Mr. Chairman, my only position today is to put the position of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, since that happens to be under my purview.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have five minutes to do that

Hon. W. W. HALL: All right, Sir. No problem. Since the tourism and sports fusion is one that I consider to be a dynamic force, and since I think that tourism will be complimented by sport and not be in competition with sport, I think that having laid the groundwork to explain that our position on this side - and I think it will be appreciated by all and sundry, by anyone who has a modicum of commonsense - that we have as a small nation with scarce resources to see what we can do, because if I

were to recite to you the exploits of Barbadian sportsmen in the last year or two, Sir, it would be vejty good reading. Only last month, or two months ago, we had Bernard Sealy winning the prestigious Mr. World Middle Class competition, Sir. Not that this is the first time a Barbadian has done that

Aside.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Universe. The words mean the same thing. 2.30 p.m.

This is, not the first time that a Barbadian has done so. But, Sir, in the few minutes before I sit, I just wish to say to this Honourable House that we are very proud of the fact that we are able to provide the necessary facilities for our youngsters. I say so, Sir, because we live in a society where it is okay for one club or a combination of five or six clubs to have a lottery to raise funds. It is okay for the Barbados Cricket Board of Control over the last ten years to raise so many dollars that they can have the Three Ws stand, the Sir Gary Sobers stand, the Hall and Griffith stand and the Mitchie Hewitt stand. Thanks to them, Sir, but I am saying that a club or organisation can have a lottery. If the Government chooses to do mat, all hell would break loose, and I am saying, Sir, that somehow we have to look at sports very seriously and recognise that the money that is necessary for us to push on to greater heights will be lacking in any of the Caribbean countries. There is no doubt about it. The IMG organisation is now the marketing specialist for the West Indies team. Do you know mat for some many years since 1928 when we got test cricket status nobody ever paid any money to cover the West Indies team despite the fact that for the last fifteen years we have been world champions? Now they have been able to go to Sky Television and you can see a test match today or tomorrow in France or in any part of Europe. Only last week there was a big row in London because ITN TV, for many years had come down here and taken pictures free of cost, and do not want to pay even for highlights, so the marketing specialist representing the West Indies Board and indeed the West Indies players have told them no way. I am only saying, Sir, that this is how it has to be as of ROW. We have to pay our players commensurately with their ability. We have to make sure that we build on the great foundation that we have actually seen laid by some of our great players in the last fifty years or so.

Sir, I have run out of time I suppose, but I know that I have a lot more to cover. There are other areas in terms of training, there are areas in the provision of a gymnasium so that you will have twelve disciplines in it, and there are reasons too why that will only start later this year, which when I have time I will be able to explain to this Honourable House, and I do feel that we need to look very carefully at how we tackle sports in the entire West Indies region and more particularly in Barbados, Sir.

. I have to pause now for station identification, and therefore I beg to move that the sum of \$27 483 690 under Head 43 - Ministry of Tourism and Sport, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, sometimes when I listen to the Honourable Member who just took his seat, I get the impression that he mistakes being Minister of Sport for being the Minister of making sport, but you know, Sir, the Honourable Member is such a type of person that you would really be too hard on him because he is a fairly pleasant person though he is not too clear on what he is dealing with. When it comes to sport I am not going to argue with him. He was a world famous cricketer, someone whom I admired. I may not be able to play the game too well. It is strange, but I did. When it comes to running the country and running a Ministry, that is a different ball game, if you will pardon the pun.

Sir, I listened carefully this morning and he was very clear in saying that he was not going to deal with tourism today, he was going to deal with sport because earlier this week he had spoken on-tourism and we walked out I listened to him a bit and though he did speak on tourism, there were a number of areas that he did not address which yourself and I and others would like some clarity on too. So my intervention at this point will be primarily to deal with a few areas that I have some concerns about. We will touch on a bit of the squandermania again as we get further into this tourism matter, because there was one blatant case of squandermania and up to now the Minister has not explained to us what he is doing about it but I will get to that as I go on.

Now, Sir, there has been a lot of debate in the public domain in recent times about conditions at the Heywoods resort. Now I noticed that the Chairman of BTIC and the Minister has attempted to give us the impression that things are improving at Heywoods, which is not true, and I believe the Minister, honest person that he is, would admit that this is not true. Far from things improving, they may well be getting worse. It is all well and good to send a few people as surplus who were guests at the Hilton down to Heywoods for a few days, quote those days and say the occupancy is up by X amount. The print outs that I saw which spoke of a very low occupancy, somewhere around 7 per cent for a hotel like Heywoods in March, were in fact projections.

Hon. W. W. HALL: On a point or order, I think the Honourable Member is misleading the House. It is not fair, it is not a very honest thing to do Sir, to say that moving the

guests from the Hilton to Heywoods is what we have done. That is not true. It is a normal thing if one hotel is full that they will send the guests to another place. Barbados under this regime has been fortunate to dump, that is what you call it, when you are full to other hotels. One more thing, Sir, if from 30 per cent to 60 per cent is not an improvement, I don't know what is.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: As I was saying, if the Minister was listening instead of reading he would have understood that I did not say that they moved the people from the Hilton to Heywoods to show an improvement at Heywoods, I said that they took opportunity when that happened - of course that always happens and anybody who has the slightest clue about what goes on in the hotel industry knows that sort of thing happens - to use the figures to quote as an improvement

The Honourable Minister knows that the facts are there steering him in the face. Even if you are going to say that when I said that there were projections of something like 7 per cent in the height of the tourist season was only a projection and it was not accurate, that is true, but then again what else does business live by if not projections or budgets? That is what we are talking about. Even if you did 100 per cent better, that is only 14 per cent, so rather than spend time trying to nit pick at what I said, you should spend more time trying to tell us what you are going to do with Heywoods and tell us what you are going to do with Wyndham: That is what I want to hear. Don't tell me whether I am right or wrong, because the Honourable Member has already made it clear that it does not matter where you place blame or credit, the matter is that you have to deal with the problem.

Now, Sir, it is a fact that there were lay-offs at Heywoods at the height of the winter season. Now tell me that is normal too. It is not normal. Check at the same hotel in its short history and tell me when in any winter season before that hotel laid off people to the levels that they did this year. For God's sake, don't let that gentleman next to you advise you. Check and you will see that there was no time in the history of that hotel that at that time of the year in the height of the winter season you had that level of lay-offs. There were some people who were severed; cooks, if you will, maids. Is it not true that there is a Food and Beverage Director down there who is a non-Barbadian who seems to have a serious problem with the staff? There are problems at Heywoods and you have to face them squarely and let us know what you are doing about them. When we say that we hear that the Management Company that they chose was a bad choice, there was a lot of hullabaloo about it, and up to now nobody has yet convinced us or anybody else that it was the right choice to choose Wyndham to run the Hey woods Resort. 2.40 p.m.

That is our taxpayers money and we want to know what you are doing about it.

Looking at the area of promotion, if I can move on from Heywoods a bit Given the global economic conditions - these are the kind of things we want to hear and we were hoping to hear on Monday or Tuesday when you spoke - what are your plans in terms of your marketing? What markets are you targeting as priorities? What are the more desirable markets?. Is Europe more desirable than the U.S.A at this time? What is your programme in terms of targeting that market or the markets? How are you going to achieve it?

Much more important, what are you doing about the field officers? You have been asked that question several times. You say to me that the European market is important The Honourable Minister just returned from a Tourism Conference somewhere in Germany. It is a feeling in the Caribbean that Europe is the way to go. That is the impression I get

While you are saying that, what is happening with the office in London? Is not that the European office? There has been no manger in that office for a long time now. A manager from Canada was brought in and you are putting him in London. Does it mean that you are going to have now no great interest in Canada because no one has heard so far, not to my knowledge, as to who you are going to replace the manager in Canada, if he is going to be replaced because, remember, you had the office in New York now running auto pilot for some time, no manager there either.

I believe that the Honourable Minister himself would agree that there is something terribly wrong when you are talking about you are serious about tourism and when the Honourable Minister of Finance continues to tell you that it is extremely important that we need badly that foreign exchange earning from tourism and your very field officers are running on what I call auto pilot, anything goes. Most of the time nobody knows what is going on up there, I mean even the people in the office themselves.

Are you telling us how much of the money voted for the Board of Tourism goes into administration and how much goes into promotion? Do you not think that is something that you should be examining. When you look at the level that is spent in administration vis-a-vis the amounts that are spent in promotion, one wonders how serious you really are about promotion.

These are not necessarily criticisms of the Honourable Minister. These are criticisms of the way the whole Ministry is managed. If the Honourable Minister who is supposed to be guiding believes that he wants to take everything personal as though they are personal criticisms, well then, so be it but we need the answers.

If you are going to defend the charge of squandermania and stop getting angry about it every dime somebody mentions the word, then say how you are not squandering the money because when we mention these things and you do not come up with the answers, we wonder if (1) you do not know, (2) you do not intend to say, (3) you are really guilty of squandermania and you cannot say anything or (4) I do not know what your problem is.

Mr. Chairman, we talk about that squandermania. Do you realize that time and time again we keep asking until we get tired asking, what are you doing with the five coaches, the \$1 million in coaches? We ask what you have brought them in in the first place for? At first the answer was a little confusing because they were brought to transport parliamentarians and I heard another Honourable Member at some time saying that he did not see the need because there were enough airconditioned taxis and coaches around.

You told us that you brought them in to transport these parliamentarians but they were bought by BTIC. They were transporting parliamentarians coming here to a conference but they were bought by the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation.

The next question we asked was, if they did not buy them why are they marked on the side BTIC? That is what was painted on the side of the buses. They are marked BTIC, driven by the Defence Force personnel and transporting parliamentarians visiting Barbados so one was totally confused as to what these buses are for. It seems to us that the Government itself was confused because the Conference was done and now nobody has answered up to now as to what you are going to do with these buses. I would wish the Minister would tell us what you are going to do with these buses. They may be some people out there wanting to buy them. You may be able to unload them and cut your losses.

You have seen them around the Deep Water Harbour once or twice. I do not know why. I do not know if they are being used to transport people from the end of the breakwater wall from the cruise ships back to the baggage warehouse. They have been seen in the Harbour once or twice. Maybe the Minister can tell us what they are doing down there.

But, it is a ridiculous thing. You have a serious shortage of housing. You have serious problems in the country and you have \$1 million in buses that you have brought in to serve people for a week or two.

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: But, Mr. Chairman, it is a very serious matter and you feel as though you are being treated

with contempt that nobody bothers to answer about these buses. Maybe the Honourable Minister of Finance since you spent the money and you are the man holding the purse can tell us what you intend to do about these buses because as far as I gather, the Honourable Prime Minister was the one who authorised the purchase of the buses.

I wish he would tell us and the rest of Barbados - if you could arrange a little commission for me I might try and get them sold for you because you have nothing to do with them.

Mr. Chairman, I will come again.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: In many ways the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Sport is a very lucky man. He is on a personal level, perhaps, one of the best liked people in this House and I would think that whatever criticisms one may make of him from time to time he manages to maintain very good relations so to that extent he may believe that the Opposition is a bit easy on his Ministry,

The second thing that has been favourable for him is that the upswing in world tourism has benefited the tourist plant in Barbados despite such efforts as has been put in to our own promotion here and marketing in Barbados.

It is true to say that the economy has been largely propped up in the last three years by the growth which has occurred in the tourism sector and that, this very growth in itself might have lulled the country and the Minister and the Government into a false sense of believing that all is right in the tourism sector. 2.50p.m.

It is my contention, Sir, to this Committee that although the sector, unlike agriculture is not in decline yet the lack of positive planning from the Government has resulted in the sector not being able to realize its true potential. What is even more threatening for us is that if there are certain cyclical changes in European currencies we will be apt to find ourselves regressing rather than progressing.

Any brief inspection of the tourist statistics will show that the highest area of growth or in fact the main growth in visitor arrivals in this Island has been from Europe, principally from the United Kingdom, to some extent from inner Europe, Germany and more recently from Scandinavia. Any long-term examination of tourist development in Barbados looking at the cyclical changes would tell us quite clearly that this pattern of growth occurs whenever European currencies harden as against the US currency. In the last few years, they have so hardened. As a result Barbados has benefitted from the currency fluctuation and has attracted not only the top market from Europe which constitutes about 10% of our basic tourism, particularly those who return from time to time but we have

been able as well to capitalize on what is called the summer trade, a market that is more fickle than we believe. A lot of the people who come then usually come when there is money in their pockets.

But what has been perhaps the most disappointing part of the Government's strategy has been its failure to really follow up on the North American market particularly in the United States and Canada and any examination of the statistics there shows that there has been no real growth and indeed in some instances on a year to year basis, there has been a decline.

I say that therefore one has to examine carefully the reasons for this and not to be lulled into a false sense of believing that all is well in our tourism market or our tourism industry, so to speak. I want not to make sport but to look at the relationship of sport to tourism. On this nothing new at all has come out of the Government. All of the major areas of sport tourism from which we have benefitted were developed prior to May 28, 1986. The Honourable Member....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: And I am going to talk about the ARC. So the Honourable Member must not say, "Oh Lord..." for St. Thomas has already spoken in this House about how Sir Garfield Sobers came to be recruited by the Board of Tourism and the benefits that he has brought, whether it is wind surfing. Windsurfing was promoted prior to 1986 and we saw the possibilities for it. When we went out in 1986 arrangements had been made already for the ARC to come to Barbados.

In yachting the Government has had more than 3 years now to have developed the necessary facilities not to have lost the ARC to Barbados this year. The Minister when he spoke at a time when the Opposition could not immediately reply said that the Government had done everything in its power to keep the ARC here. But I doubt that, Sir. The ARC organizers themselves have been criticizing the fact that the customs arrangements made for them became expensive and the Government had not looked into the manner of arranging for customs officers. They had to pay for customs officers at the time. Because they were arriving at so many different hours, they had overtime costs for customs officers. They had been arguing that that was an area for special arrangements.

Likewise, Sir, and on this one I myself have not been able to check the information with the minute care I normally give to these matters. But I must ask the Minister if it is a fact that there was a lack of co-ordination between his Ministry and the fact does not lie in his Ministry, but in another Ministry where a high official informed Jimmy Cornell the organizer that the Port would be under repairs at the time when the ARC would be coming here again.

I want the Minister to tell me whether or not what I am hearing on the yachting circuit that this is a fact that has occurred. If it is so, I would submit to this Committee that that shows a lack of proper governmental co-ordination on the part of the Government. I submit that the Government failed to recognize in time the real and true needs of yachtsmen. They constitute a sizeable market share in what is more and more becoming a segmented market in which people are catering to the special needs. Barbados is ideally located to attract more and more yacht people here, not merely for the annual ARC but on a regular basis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, before it be said that the Labour Party is only talking now, the Honourable Member will note in our Manifesto we had facilities for planning for the whole Carlisle Bay development. It is there. In fact the cover of our Manifesto highlights the pains we had in place from Brandon to the Hilton which was going to be a special area developed with all of the facilities not only by the Government but by the private sector. The surveys are within the Ministry done by the OAS and others as well as for the development of marina facilities there.

Likewise, Sir, I understand for instance that there has been again a lack of proper co-ordination in governmental Ministries in relation to the promotion of grand prix formula racing in Barbados and I want to know if I am correct in this point that the Ministries have different views on this matter, not the Ministry of Housing or Town Planning or the Ministry of Agriculture but the other Ministries refused to recognize that Barbados can only attract this type of development if the necessary concessions are given and given within a reasonable time.

The Honourable Minister spoke about how well Barbados had done by its bodybuilders and weightlifters. Let me ask the Minister, what are we doing in both areas to promote this sport and to attract to Barbados, particularly since we have so many outstanding persons in the field of bodybuilding? The Minister would know in my own constituency I can mention Patrick Nicholls for start as one of them and I can go on. So the Minister will know that in this area there is a possibility for it. Likewise in the field of golf as well the Minister should know, I heard and saw in Government's Development Plan that they were going to do something - and indeed in their Manifesto - about Durants. We are now 3½ years on and there has been no progress on the Durants Golf Course. I believe last year there was a token vote or the year before in the Estimates. I do not think it is even mentioned this year in the Estimates about Government's plan.

Sir, I want to go on to show the lack of new investment. One of the problems confronting tourism is that there is no significant new investment coming into the industry particularly in relation to the up market where

there is still a case for additional hotel rooms and there is a continuing need for additional hotel beds in this area.
3.00p.m.

To this extent, we must look and see that even St Kitts, Seychelles, Aruba, and St. Lucia are attracting the major hotel chains and inquire why it is that Barbados has ceased to attract new investments in this field. It seems to me, Sir, what we require is a coordinated marketing thrust from the main Government Agencies whether it is the Board of Tourism, Barbados, Tourism Investment Corporation, and the internal agencies who have responsibility for packaging and processing applications relating to these matters. I ask the Minister - what are the Government plans to attract such investments?

I want to turn my attention to conferences incentive meetings and executive meetings. This is perhaps one of the biggest growing areas in the tourism field. It is growing more rapidly than even sports tourism has grown. You would note, Sir, that in our negotiations of a double taxation treaty with the United States what we insisted was to get the benefit which will flow to us from exempting taxation from conventions held outside of the Continental United States. So that our taxation treaties must be geared particularly in Europe whether it is Scandinavia, Switzerland, and where else to getting similar advantages for the Barbados tourist market. What are Government's plans to really attract here more incentive meetings, more executive meetings, and more conferences? I make the charge, Sir, that Dover at present is under-utilized by meetings and incentive groups. It is true that Dover helps service the domestic needs of conferences, but it is certainly not being marketed overseas as efficiently and effectively as we would need. Despite the fact that the Chairman and the Manager of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation go to everything, trade shows and everything overseas, they seem to have no effective way of making use of these opportunities for marketing Dover as a convention centre. I would submit to the Minister that within that organization there is not the type of management that have the marketing skills for this job.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in two minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Two minutes. I cannot deal with it in two minutes but I will come back, Sir, because I am sure that I will have to argue something. Sir, I am submitting to market tourism one must have a coherent, an implementable marketing plan, and strategy which seek to maximize the flow of tourists from various market segments and special interest groups. At the moment there seems to be within the Board and within the Ministry itself a lack of any such plan. The Honourable Member for the City spoke of the fact regarding the officers of the Board particularly in the marketing segment there have been acting appointments. I have the most recent 30th Annual

Report which has been laid in Parliament, Sir. When you look through, you find that the Manager, Public Relations was acting. I think he still is acting. A Manager in Canada was appointed. He has been assigned to go to Europe. I am not sure that Mr. Riley as yet has been appointed, but at that time the Manager, U.S.A. was acting. There was an officer in charge, indeed the officer who is still holding on in London, went up from London when we made a supplementary vote here in order to tap the British market at a particular time to hold on for three months in order to deliver tourists to us at that time, he is still holding on after almost three years. He is not appointed. The officer in charge of Europe is acting too. As a matter of fact, the Government at first was closing down the office in Germany. I raised it already in the Committee of this House on a Supplementary and they have now gone into reverse to recognize that with the hardening of the European currency, something that we were hammering to them then, the possibilities are there so the office has suddenly been reopened.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You cannot have a position where people are in acting positions interminably with no decisions being made about their substantive appointment for such a long time and expect to get even from the staff that you have there /the best morale and the best performance that one would expect. I will come back, Sir. .

Honourable Member for St.

(George South.

Mr. R. P. B YER: Sir, I want to go away from the main focus of the debate so far. I want to get into the area of sport. It is an area that I want to concentrate on because in any debate on tourism and sport the debate could become bogged down into one purely and simply about tourism. We do not often get into debating sport ;

Sir, now in relation to my constituency the Minister said that there are a number of areas that he developed in the constituency when I asked him to do that, which is true. The area is provided with better playing facilities at Malvern in St. George which is really Ellerton in St. George and that involved the regrading of the playing field there. Ever since that time we were able to see that cricket club, which plays primarily cricket and football, increase or improve on their performances all the time. Drax Hall is another area where there has been some development and Dash Valley as well. There is a playing field at Byde Mill as well.

Sir, why I mentioned these areas is to make this point The areas of primary sporting talent in St. George South constituency comes from those areas, Ellerton, Byde Mill, Drax Hall, and Dash Valley. Those are the areas where you have the playing facilities and those are the areas where the

sporting talent is concentrated. Now the point I am making is if you were to provide other sporting facilities in other areas one might very well see that there could be a blossoming of talent in those areas as well. At sometime later when the country can afford it, I will make representations for playing facilities certainly in the other area of Drax Hall, which is Drax Hall Hope, to accommodate the villages of Greens, where I live, Prerogative, Todds, Superlative, St. Judes Village as well as Woodland and Fairview. Those districts contain several youngsters. I do not think one thousand would be an unfair estimate and very little sporting talent comes out of those areas because of the lack of playing facilities. On one occasion I did bring to the Minister's attention the fact that there might be a need for playing facilities in those areas and rightly so he told me that he could not entertain the request at that time because several other requests had been made. He figured that Drax Hall and Ellerton were being developed and those would have to serve at the moment. I found no quarrel with that. There is so much that one can do and so I rested my case. But at some later stage I will certainly request from whoever the Minister of Sport is for playing facilities to accommodate the youth of those districts.

Now Sir, sport is big business these days and the only sport that does not really rival the big business interest that controls sport is really cricket. Let me just give you a few examples. CBS paid the National Football League in America three billion dollars for television rights into 1992 for three years, the 1990-1992 seasons, and they have not sold one ticket yet. The concession stands have not been given out yet and so on and so on. You can go on and on. They have not sold any material for the 1990 season yet but at the moment they have been able to have \$3 billion in their coffers. 3.10p.m.

The NCAA, for example, in America in relation to basketball is now big business, an amateur sport in the NCAA, but the schools, colleges and universities make millions of dollars yearly from the television stations when they televise basketball. ESPN does it, CBS does it, NBC does it, and they pay these colleges or the NCAA a lot of money to do that.

One of the disquieting features about that kind of arrangement, though, is that in an effort to boost their performances the schools, colleges and universities have been violating the NCAA rules and have been importing questionable talent into the League. They go for the best players and the majority of the best are the black players. They go into the inner cities and bring them out, sometimes their educational qualifications are not the best, but yet they get entry into these colleges.

On the one hand when you are looking at the positive aspects of developing sport in terms of the kind of revenues

it can generate, one has also got to look at the negatives and see that wherever there is a lot of money there appears also to be a lot of corruption and a lot of squandermania, if I may say so.

This brings me on to the next point I want to develop. It is this, that if we are able to market sport properly in the West Indies, given the examples I just described, then the sportsmen will make more money, they will be able to enjoy good future years, we will be able to have good benefits that they can enjoy as well, and it is my opinion that being professionals they should be properly paid. Better pay will be obtained through increased revenues, but we can only get increased revenues if we improve our marketing and other types of promotion. That is my approach to this whole thing.

As the Minister said not too long ago, since 1928 people have been coming to the West Indies in relation to cricket. People have been coming to the West Indies and have been tapping into certain property. You do not want to call it intellectual property, but you get the point I am making, that they have been using highlights shown on British television, Australian television and so on, but yet our players were not making any money, they were not getting any benefits from those highlights. Now we have proper marketing and promotion, we are able to get some benefits through those avenues.

My point is that if we are to improve the quality of cricket in the West Indies, it is not only the talent we have to unearth, but we must also have certain inducements to encourage that talent. I have seen many persons in Barbados with very good cricketing skills who were not able to make it because they did not have jobs when they were 18 and 19 years old and they had to go out and look for work. I had a very good player who lived next door to me, Nigel Johnson who plays for Police now, who I figure is lost talent to the West Indies, but when he was 17 and 18 he could not get any employment and he really slipped into a rut from which he never came out. He played for Barbados on one occasion, but he was the only player in the youth tournament in the West Indies that ever scored five centuries in the matches that were played, against each team. No one has ever done it and no one, I believe, will ever do it again, because we now have the division into A and B camps.

If we are able to market our sport properly, then we will be able to get the maximum benefits for our players and sportsmen and from the regional Boards and also the West Indies Cricket Board would be able to obtain the maximum benefits.

How can we do this? I remember years ago Garfield Sobers, as he then was, played in Australia for the Rest of the World team against Australia and he scored 254 against Dennis Lillee in his heyday at Melbourne. There was a 30

minute video - it was not called that in those days - of that innings and it was narrated by Sir Donald Bradman. I only saw it once, I have never seen it again. The point I am making is that that could be sold, that is Gary Sobers* property and it can be sold. He has an interest in it and it could be sold.

I like basketball. I like to watch Michael Jordan. He is a very good player. He has a lot of good moves. He plays in the NBA for the Chicago Bulls. The NBA put out a video on him recently, which retails for \$29.95 in America, 40 minutes which traces his development right through to the professional leagues. I am saying that we can do some of these things in relation to our players. The West Indies Cricket Board or some other agency just did a video on West Indian cricket, but it was in the nature of coaching. Indeed it showed the technical skills that our players have, but I am talking about something that I can go home and sit down and watch. I love sports. I can watch ESPN a whole day, even when they got on fishing, although I come from St. George.

We have to place great emphasis in these areas to make our sportsmen's talents, even when their playing days are over, reap benefits for them in those areas because of the joy that they gave us. I saw Everton Weekes bat once, that is when he captained a Barbados B team in those days, I think it was, when we played Australia, and he scored a century. I remember that innings very well. That was the first match that the fellow Reifer, who was another lost talent to West Indies cricket, because he did not have any encouragement by way of inducements and so on - all the Reifers, there are probably 11 of them in St George, but they only got as far as the Barbados team - and one wonders why.

I know somewhere at the BBC in England there is a lot of tape lying down about Everton Weekes that could be, let us say, harvested, looked at and some video can be put together about him. Somewhere in India there must be a lot of tape about Everton Weekes in the great innings that he played there. These are the things I think the West Indies Cricket Board should try to do, unearth all of that information, package it and sell it I would pay \$50 to see a video of Wes Hall, whoever he is, Sir, the person that we now refer to as the Member for St. Michael West Central. When he was bowling in Australia I was a very young boy at the time.

I will come back on this, because there are a lot of views I have in relation to development of sports tourism.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I do not wish to have to reply to ten Honourable Members at the same time, so now that I have three to reply to, may I crave your indulgence to reply to some of the things that have been said?

First of all, just let me make it abundantly clear today, 15th March, 1990..... 3.20 p.m.

Sir, I do not wish it ever in this Honourable Chamber to be thought by the Opposition or anyone else, that I am such a nice fellow, that you all cannot say anything that you want to say about me. The last people who did that was when I was a professional cricketer. They used to say that Wes will always congratulate a man when he got 100, but I believe that most of them had been in the hospital, some of them are dead, and what I am saying, Sir, is that you should not regard me as this pious fellow. I can be pious as the Jackdaw of Rheims, but at the same time, if you have to say anything about my Ministry or about me personally, say it; don't say that I am such a nice fellow. I am not all that nice, so please don't give anybody the impression that we could kill him but we are easing him because he is a nice boy. I am not sweet, I am not nice, so as of now get up and talk.

I want to make that abundantly clear, because, Sir, I cannot believe that somebody could tell me that it is the upswing and that I am lucky. If I am lucky, you all have been very unlucky. That is all I am saying, Sir. No one looking at the results of tourism in the last 3,4, 5,10 years could then walk around and say that there was an upswing. The upswing was not only for Barbados; the upswing was for everybody. When - Barbados suffered from the seasonality problem and then the charters were brought out of Europe to alleviate that problem, there were people who wrote many articles in the papers saying it was foolishness. So I really do not wish it to be regarded that "he is such a nice fellow". I have to say that in my private life, in my professional life, at the work place, I am not merely a politician. I smile with everybody. I do not carry any animosity in my heart for anyone on that side.

Asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Beware of the Greeks when they > bring gifts. I am saying, Sir, that I really do not wish that. I do not need your charity. Let me make that very clear. I am not going to hide behind anybody that he is a nice fellow, so we are not going to talk about him. I ask no quarter and I am giving none either. It is analogous to Don Bradman's batting. His test average is 99.96 and yet to this day people tell you that he could not bat on bad wickets. Let it be very clear that I am annoyed about that.

Sir, the sports tourism fusion. "Every skin-teet is not a laugh". The Leader of the Opposition said that yesterday, and I think that is the truest thing he has said for many a year.

The Leader of the Minority Opposition, Sir, spoke on many things. I wish he had not brought up the ARC,

because two days ago I alluded to it and I even quoted from some letters that I got, but I am going to have to quote it chapter and verse because this Government and this Minister were accused of being incompetent. Therefore I will have to prove to all and sundry that since I explained what happened with the ARC and k was brought up again today, it means that they did not believe me. The Opposition walked out when I was speaking last time. I began today and perhaps in a jocular fashion, I said that they walked out when I was here. But obviously they did not listen to what I said, otherwise nobody could ask me about a marketing strategy in continental Europe. I was very clear on our marketing strategy in continental Europe and indeed in North America. I am going to read out the figures for Western Europe now from 1981 to 1989, and then you will see who was making sport from who was not. I am sick and tired of people telling me about making sport. Let me tell you something, I just happened to play test cricket for the West Indies from the age of 19 to 32. It is not my fault, Sir. Since then I have been occupying with a great measure of success, executive positions in two of the best regarded companies in Barbados. If I were a Barbados scholar, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would not begin in these tones about my being lucky with a World Tourism upswing. Look how many of you have been lucky with everything you do, not only in politics. I may not be a politician, I am a statesman. I know that That is how the people in Europe regard me, that is how the people in America regard me, that is how the people in Australia regard me. In Barbados? No man has any honour in his own country. They say, can anything so good come out of Nazareth? So it really does not bother me or the Ivy for that matter. We have two Ivy boys in here and you can see what they have produced.

Sir, if I go to London for five minutes, you would find that the popular BBC programme at 7 o'clock in the morning that has an audience of six million people, a programme that many politicians in Britain queue up to get on, as soon as I get to Heathrow Airport, they are asking if the Minister can come on it. Do not sell me short. I don't really want to talk about it, Sir, because I think I would get very annoyed about that.

-/v I just wish to say in respect of the ARC race that for three years we have negotiated the race. It had always been known that the docking facilities at the port with the ground swells you get - there is a down and out tide there and only people like us who know how to sail, would understand that when boats are tied up they tend to rock and what really was required was to get the stabilisers. I mentioned in here, Sir, that we have done everything possible. The much maligned Royal Barbados Police Force that people say don't do this and don't do that, had been down there for two weeks, 24 hours a day in a mobile station. The Honourable Member alluded to the Customs. I would just like to say

that sure the Customs were paid, but the yachtsmen never paid a cent; it was subsidised by the Government. It was \$26 000 in overtime not only for the Customs, but also for health and immigration. We brought Baxters Road fish sellers, chicken sellers, we brought the best of entertainment, jazz, pop, calypso, dub, reggae, limbo. Sir, they had it all. The only thing, Sir, is that they were a little uptight about the mooring facilities. Jimmy Cornell, the coordinator, said for all of us to hear, and the radio men and the Advocate and the Nation were all there, "we love Barbados, there is no place like Barbados, and we will be returning in 1990, 1991 and 1992" and even said that up to 1992 he would give us the time, because he recognised that the Government not only had in its Five Year Development Plan, plans for a marina, but he was told that the pre-feasibility study had already been embarked upon. Good dear, Sir, do you think it could be right, having been told that only 48 hours ago, to come in here and give the impression that we did absolutely nothing for three years? I want to read the letter, Sir.

Mr. Jimmy Cornell wrote to me on 20th February, and I would like to make this a document of the House. He started by saying that he had stressed on many occasions the lack of docking facilities, and that he had had several complaints from participants regarding the docking situation in Barbados, especially as most of them are aware of better facilities in the Caribbean Islands. He then said "that under the circumstances, we are forced to look for an alternative venue for the ARC of 1990. This is a very painful decision for me as I have made many friends in Barbados and I have been very happy in my stay here. I have done my best to promote Barbados over the years, but I have been let down. Unfortunately I have no other alternative but to accept St Lucia's offer of finishing the ARC in Rodney Bay where I have been assured that the entire ARC fleet will be moored inside the existing marina." He closed off by saying, "I understand that there are plans to build a marina in Barbados and when this project finally becomes reality we would be too happy to return to your shores. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the tremendous help you have given us over the years." 3.30p.m.

The same Jimmy Cornell had written me before saying that it did not matter if we got a marina because the marina -1 read out the letter two days ago - is a long-term plan and he knew of no developer who would give up a whole marina for an ARC race and, therefore, a marina was not important. Now, he comes and says that we do not have docking facilities and when we get a marina he will give it

Not only that he alluded to the fact that he had heard that the Port Authority would be doing renovations. The letter that he wrote me he copied it to about six people. He

copied it to the Port Authority, the Yatching Association, the Tourist Board, all these people and in replying from the Port the Manager of the Port told him -I can make this a document of the House too, Sir

"I refer to your letter of January 10 to the Honourable Wes Hall, Minister of Tourism and Sport copied to the Barbados Tourist Authority.

Docking and Mooring Facilities:

The Barbados Port Authority is aware that the docking facilities at the Shallow Draught are not optimum as you stated. There is a likelihood that there will be development on the eastern side by the boats of the Shallow Draught facility.

It is, however, felt that mooring facilities can still be made available north of this development. The question of making the entire quay available is one which need to be decided upon by the authority of the Board."

It is on this that he is claiming that we are not going to have docking facilities.

I say that it is untrue to say that we were not making any arrangements. On the receipt of this letter I got the Tourist Board to ask the Barbados Yatching Association to get a quotation on the docking facilities and the prices and up to last night they had not yet received the quotation for the prices.

I have just allayed all fears that this Government did nothing. The Yatching Association had said how much work had gone into it by the members of the Ministry, the Tourist Board and, indeed, the Yatching Association.

There are over 80 people in Barbados who give of their time voluntarily to bring in the boats, not only during the day but all hours of the night. Two of the yachts that have been lost off our shore up by Sam Lord's they were given refuge and all sorts of niceties by this wonderful Barbadian people and to hear that we have done nothing -I am sorry I have to spend so much time on that but, surely, it makes me very sad when one is given the impression that we in Barbados did not do anything to save the Arc.

What is more, the President of the St. Lucian Association who has been a consultant in Barbados, and who resides here weekly, I think he got married to a Barbadian, he was up and down in Barbados in December begging Jimmy Cornell to come to St. Lucia so I say that we were back-raised and every five minutes I am getting a letter to send a cricket coach, a tennis coach, every manner of coach. I say that I am not sending any more, full stop, *puntofinito*, case finished.

Sir, there are a few other things I would have to get back to. I will have to give way to other Members so that I can reply to them.

Mr. D. A. G. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I will limit this intervention to Sports mainly.

I do not know why the Minister feels that it is necessary to remind everybody that he is not nice. There was a time when he was playing cricket he was known as "Think I Nice Hall?" He would hit you and ask you "You think I am nice?" and I know he is not nice.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He has asked me to tell the House about my shoulders. That is the only thing he can boast of in relation to me.

My very first match in the First Eleven he came back raw bowling wide and wide from Pakistan. He ran about the Indians and the Pakistanis. I was a boy 17 years old at the Lodge School and the first two balls he bowled to me I hit him one fine and one square and licked down the pavilion at Lodge School - two fours. He went down by the goal post and picked up a run with the third ball and he was so spiteful, the only person who has ever bowled a beamer at me in all the years I played cricket was the Minister.

He bowled a beamer and it came through the air, it dipped into my shoulder and struck me. I did not go to school for three weeks. He nearly broke my shoulder. He put some ligaments in trouble so I would know from those days, 1957, that he was not nice.

I do not think the Minister must remind us of how great he was and is. Now, he is a statesman, as he says. We know that he has been an outstanding Barbadian personality and any criticisms that he gets in here are made in pursuance of Members' functions and it is a Member's responsibility to scrutinise Government expenditure so he must not be too thin skinned and take umbrage at every little criticism that is made.

In regard to the ARC all that happened with the ARC is that the many promises that we had from the Democratic Labour Party Government for the construction of a marina have proven to come to nothing and, obviously, the organisers did not know how much longer in the future they would have to rely on these promises coming to fruition and during the time that the ARC people were here, St. Lucia sent up a man to negotiate behind the backs of the Barbadians - it was a classic piece of espionage - and, obviously, back-raised Barbados because Barbados was putting \$150 000 in the project and we can only speculate what St. Lucia put in because the gentleman from St. Lucia had instructions to get it to St. Lucia at all costs and that really is the essence of it.

Now, I am not dealing with tourism. I just make .that point for those who may w» know the background. All that Mr. Cornell would write in his 'letter would be only to put an excuse at a level where the real truth could met be exposed. The real truth is that Barbados was bacik-raised because the St. Lucia Government was determined to get it That is all.

In relation to Sports. I am very grateful to the Minister in his opening remarks for acknowledging that sports in Barbados for the first time had a development plan when I was Chairman...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Asides would be interrupting the Honourable Member and he knows that I wrote that over a couple of nights myself and submitted it for the Board and that development plan ran from 1982 to 1988. The time has now come for another development plan but in so far as the Minister has said that he found nothing wrong with the plan which was conceived in 1982 and that what his Ministry is now doing is purely an extension of that original plan.

I expect that there will not be too much deviation in the future because die essence of that plan was that Barbados in pursuance of apolicy of selling services, ought to have linked sports to tourism. 3.40 p.m.

Over the years there has been a gradual development of that policy and we are reaping the benefits for it I accept that there should be community based infrastructure put in at the level of Government and that is Government's role in sport as I see it, Sir, that Government should be the provider of sporting infrastructure but sport is ideally a matter which is best organized -by private individuals and organizations. You cannot want a better example than the Barbados Cricket Association privately run and organized with very little Government interference. We have seen the benefit of what they have done over several years now.

What we need to do is to encourage a number of the other sporting organizations to follow die example of the Barbados Cricket Association because there are still too many internal problems in sporting organizations in Barbados which inhibit the proper development of the particular respective sports. For years when I was close to sport, netball was in a terrible state. The management of netball in Barbados never seemed to appreciate that the game itself was larger than the individuals who purported to run and manage it. I think that there is an example that could usefully be followed by sporting organizations using the Barbados Cricket Association as the precedent.

What I think that Government has to do more of, Sir, is in making sporting infrastructure available. It is not good

enough just to put down a playing field and leave it. It is not good enough just to put down a pavilion and leave it. In this regard I have some criticism to make of the present policy. I have spoken in here before, might have been earlier this year or late last year. The pavilions -which are erected across 'Barbados are not fully utilized. There is no point potting down a pavilion and opening it to the people of a district for 3 days a week. That is a waste of the facility. It must be available throughout the week and particularly on weekends and bank holidays pavilions and so on should be open. If we accept that one of the reasons for establishing pavilions across the Island is to provide a place of resort for young people to go and congregate and engage in wholesome recreational activity, if we think that that will assist in the development of discipline and in the proper utilization of leisure time, then Government must meet die community fully. Open the pavilions the whole day during die week and on weekends. I have given examples. The Minister has responded once or twice but I have given specific examples in my constituency at Bagatelle, at Content and at Holy Innocents where die pavilions have been under utilized on the allegation that there has been a shortage of funds to pay die caretakers. I would hope that Government, instead of putting \$1 million into 5 coaches, I do not know what they are doing now, the 5 coaches that were bought last September, put some of that money into ensuring that the pavilions throughout this Island are open and properly supervised.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That was an example of squandermania then.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The buses. Yes. It does not appear to me - there may be a plan but it does not appear to me that there is - that there ought to be a plan for die proper use and deployment of equipment. Too often, Sir, I have had phone calls to ask that I get in touch with die Sports Council to get a field cut in die constituency. I think...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS:... it is important, Sir, that in addition to providing sporting infrastructure, there should be enough equipment attached to the Sports Council and deployed in such a way that, let us say if you zone the country, the northern zone has 2 tractors or the grass cutters or whatever, the southern zone, central zone, however they can do it, so that you know that on Mondays they will cut the fields in St. Lucy and St Peter. But if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has a team playing at one of his fields in St. Lucy, I am sure he has been through the same experience that I have, they call him and say they want die

field cut, there is a game coming tomorrow. He then has to call the Sports Council and ask a favour of somebody to reorganize things and send equipment down there. I think there can be better organization of the equipment, especially in relation to the rural parishes which are some distance from the centre of headquarters at My Lord's Hill. So that in that regard, Government will be fulfilling its responsibilities.

I should like to get on to the question of sponsorship, Sir, but I would have to come back with that insofar as you have only allowed me another 2 minutes and I need to develop that. But I wish also to disabuse Members' minds of something that surprised me the night of the last awards ceremony at Frank Collymore Hall. I did not go but I heard it on the radio. I heard that somebody came and made a speech there and that was the first time that you were having that. But let me say this. The National Awards Ceremony was started by me. I put up the idea to the Sports Council. I do not get in here normally and say these things, Sir. The first National Awards ceremony was held at Dover. Tom Adams gave the feature address there. So whoever the person is and she knows who I am speaking about, at an appropriate time must correct that historical error.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, on a point of order. I do not think that this Member will give a criticism that is not constructive. I just merely wish to say that when I introduced Clive Lloyd AOOG, I said that this was the first time that we had got an overseas speaker to speak at the function. I know that the late Tom Adams spoke. But as far as I was concerned, Sir, I always believe Tom Adams to be a Barbadian. 3.50 p.m.

I said an overseas speaker. I mean paying someone's passage. We had to pay his passage and put him up at Rockley to come and speak. That is the measure of class that I put in this year, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If I misunderstood the Minister, Sir, I accept his explanation and I apologize to him. Sir, I would like the Minister at sometime during the debate to address a couple of things that seem to be taking rather long to come about. In 1987 at the opening of the basketball season, the Minister promised that within a year we would have had the gymnasium. I was there and he knows that he said that. That was in 1987. I have not seen the gymnasium yet.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What adjustments? You had \$20 million given to you by the Chinese. What adjustments? I also saw the Minister on television about two and a half to three years ago pushing off some ground

at Sanford in St. Philip for a new race track at Bushy Park, Sir. He was on television, Sir, with Bill Marshall

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time has expired.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, on a point of order. I just wish to state that I have never put one foot on Bushy Park ground ever in my life. Far less to say that, Sir, it is not true. I did not do that. Do not tell lies on me man.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the submission of the Minister of Tourism that this Committee should take seriously a discussion of the Estimates of Expenditure on his particular Ministry. I agree with him, Sir, because for the first time since World War II, the economic fortunes of Barbados have been made, Sir, to rest on the performance of one sector of the economy to the extent that has not been the case in this country since the days when the economy rested on the performance of sugar. Barbados, Sir, is now rapidly becoming a monosectoral economy, an economy based on tourism, in the same fashion as it used to be a monosectoral economy when this society looked to sugar for income, foreign exchange, and employment creation. I think that we can agree with the Minister's verdict because tourism in Barbados under this particular Minister, Sir, is in danger of confirming the second law of thermodynamics, the law which says that all physical systems left to themselves eventually tend towards a state of atrophy.

This debate, Mr. Chairman, is taking place at a time when in point of fact after a few years of good performance from tourism, and one concedes that, there are lay-offs in tourism at the height of the winter season. If I were to take Heywoods as a microcosm, Sir, of the structure and functioning of the Barbados tourist industry, it is taking place at a time, Mr. Chairman, when....

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I will not be interrupted by the Minister today. We are talking about tourism, a Ministry from which he has been dismissed for incompetence. But Mr. Chairman, Sir, the goings on at Heywoods illustrate the lack of direction that is being brought to bear in the Administration of an important part of the state-owned industry in Barbados. If we were to put all the trends together, Sir, the Barbadian tourist industry might be at the initial stage of a cycle that pertains very severe structural difficulties. Let us begin, Sir, to understand what are some of the structural difficulties that one is beginning to observe in the industry.

First of all, Sir, there has been no substantial investment in hotel capacity in Barbados in recent years in

striking contrast to a situation which presents itself in most of the other Caribbean countries particularly those which have traditionally been classified as lesser developed countries. We are one of the few countries now, Sir, in the Caribbean which can no longer say that there is a process of capital formation taking place in the industry. But yet, Sir, our entire economic strategy is predicated on the continuation of a strong performance from tourism, an important index which those who have an interest in Barbados would pay close attention to. A lot of nagging problems, Mr. Chairman, which can affect the international image of Barbados in the market place are not being addressed with seriousness. If I may illustrate what I am talking about, Sir, the problem with the jet-ski operators is a matter which in my humble submission the Government is afraid of grappling with, because it does not on the one hand want to antagonize one group or on the other hand want to antagonize the other group. But in the interval, Sir, the name of Barbados can come to be damaged as a consequence.

The leader of the Barbados Labour Party, Sir, has already made reference to what we regard as institutional chaos at the Tourist Board. There is no point, Sir, in this Chamber in trying to sweep this matter under the carpet. There are problems in direction and in relation to policy formulation at the level of the Tourist Board, problems of interpersonal relationships at the very highest level of that Board which impact upon the capacity of the Board, Sir, to do what that Board must do particularly in the area of developing an appropriate marketing strategy for the benefit of this country, Sir. These are things that are significant and I am saying, Sir, we ought to debate them if only because Barbados has now reached a stage where not only a good performance in tourism is necessary, but tourism is now expected, Sir, to over-perform and to compensate for the inability of manufacturing and agriculture to generate income, employment, and foreign exchange, Sir. It is in that context, Mr. Chairman, that I think that in this debate this ought to be said that the performance of tourism, Sir, in recent years has indeed, Sir, been adequate. I am not going to say that the Minister has been fortunate. It is true that in recent years the growth in arrivals in tourism in Barbados, Sir, has been of a level that has in some years been commendable.

Between 1982 and 1983, Sir, the industry underwent a recession that was due in large part to two things, Sir. One was that in the entire post-war history of tourism industry the only period in which there has been a fall in international tourists, Sir, have been in those two years. But also, Sir, given the linkage of the Barbados dollar to the United States dollar, we are caught then in a situation where the Barbados dollar appreciated against all European currencies and the appreciation of the Barbados dollar against all European currencies gave rise to a fall-off in the demand by Europeans for Barbadian holidays in much the same way, Sir, that the depreciation of the Barbados dollar

against the European dollar in recent years has been one of the factors which have underwritten the relative success of Barbados, Sir, in those particular markets. I am saying, Sir, that the recovery in tourism indeed, Sir, is not just a recovery based on the performance of the last two years. The recovery, Sir, has been taking place since 1983 and it has involved a number of facets including, if I may say so, Sir, the link of tourism to sports which the Minister has been honest enough to concede was something that he did not invent. It involved, Sir, a flexible marketing strategy designed to allow Barbados to maximize tourism inflows based upon catering to the market in which we had an advantage because of exchange rates and things of that character. But there can be no doubt, Sir, that out there in the market place today tourism is on the point of reversing the successes that have been realized in recent times. This is what this House ought to be talking about. 4.00 p.m.

We should be focussing on the immediate plans that the Ministry has to make sure that this industry on which so much now depends is not allowed to go under. We are hearing about difficulties that are likely to persist in relation to the number of seats provided by airlines for the Barbadian market. Everybody knows about the fundamental relationship between tourism, hotel capacity utilisation and the number of airline seats. What are the Government's plans in this particular respect?

I also want again this year to reintroduce an issue that I raised last year. Last year I made a document of the House a Paper that was done by a Mr. Peter Whitehall of the Central Bank of Barbados. It was a Paper entitled "The Measurement and Interpretation of Leading Tourism Statistics in Barbados Using a Model of Tourism Expenditure to GDP." As I said last year, Sir, the Central Bank of Barbados in June of 1988 was in a position where it could say that based upon everything it had at its disposal, the estimates of tourism receipts that the Government was using were grossly over estimated. This was as far back as June 1988 and I made it a document of the House.

The Central Bank called attention to the fact that a proper survey to determine the true levels of tourism expenditure in this society has not been done since 1983. I want to refocus this issue today, because we in this society are being made to believe that the increment in tourism receipts amount in some years to more than \$150 million over what was received in the previous year, but we can see no evidence of the increase in tourism receipts in the Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax. It is completely inconceivable, as this side has already pointed out to the Government, that you can have \$150 million increase in tourism expenditure in Barbados but the Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax either remained constant, as it did one year, or increased by only a very marginal amount. I am asking the Government if it has any intention, in the interest of the proper planning of the affairs of this country, to undertake a serious survey that

would allow it to more accurately gauge the volume of tourism receipts than is the case at present. It is not an academic point, Sir, I must press this point because too much of our national economic welfare has become predicated on the estimate used of tourism receipts and the estimate consequential derived of the level of economic activity in this society, Sir.

I am suggesting to the House, Sir, within the two minutes you have told me that I have, that indeed if the tourism expenditure estimates are as inflated as the Central Bank is telling us, the Prime Minister's estimate of our growth is also over estimated; that the estimate of the volume of resources that this society has at its disposal to do those things that the Government feels need to be done is also grossly over estimated. Therefore, I am pressing again, in the interest of the proper planning of this economy, for the Ministry of Tourism, or indeed the Ministry of Finance through its Department of Statistics to commit resources so that we can come to more accurately gauge the volume of receipts from this sector that now more than any other sector serves as the basis of foreign exchange generation in the Barbadian society.

Mr. Chairman, it is wonderful for us to compare past patterns of tourism arrivals and foreign exchange and so on. The critical point is that at this particular juncture tourism must perform above itself if the Barbados economy is to maintain any level of stability, far less growth, and that the signs are there which are suggesting that tourism is on the point of going into a set of very serious structural difficulties. I believe that we have a responsibility in this House as Members of this Honourable Assembly to bring these things to the Minister's attention so that rather than he regale us about old wives' tales about how well he has done in the last two years relative to how well or how badly we did in the previous ten, he may better focus his mind and his colleague's mind on the present difficulties and the difficult time's that lie ahead for this most important industry.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister of Tourism must not get upset if his illustrious career as an outstanding cricketer overshadows the perception of him among his many friends in this House as a top flight executive. All it simply means is that your sporting career exceeds significantly other aspects of your life, so you must not get upset by it.

Sir, in the 15 minutes I have available to me I must say that I fully endorse many of the observations made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter on the macro economic and sectoral implications for tourism in Barbados at this point in time. It is quite clear that Barbados has always had a cycle of investment during periods of growth in the, tourism industry which has been an important factor

in getting it out of any frost that followed those periods of growth. This did not occur during the past few years and that must be a matter of grave concern within an industry which has become so important to the development of Barbados.

I think it is fair to say that apart from the jobs directly generated by tourism, that is, people directly involved in tourism, that maybe a third to half the jobs in Barbados are either due to tourism directly, exclusively or in some measure, so this is a very serious matter that we have to address. It is quite clear that tourism expenditure in Barbados is grossly exaggerated, whether you look at the measurement in terms of the returns on the Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax, whether you look in terms of the transfers from the commercial banks, the sales of foreign currency from the commercial banks to the Central Bank, if you look in terms of our balance of payments, in terms of our foreign reserves at all levels, it is evident that tourism expenditure in Barbados has been significantly over estimated since 1988.

You can see in the annual Economic Report where that transformation in estimation took place, where all of a sudden you got a massive increase in tourist expenditure with no corresponding increase in the number of arrivals in Barbados. Therefore, what is happening is that you are not seeing the hard currency reflected in the reported levels of expenditure, nor does any other financial index correspond, with the reported levels of expenditure. Those of us who think deeply on these matters would have to look at a significantly deflated figure in our planning programme for Barbados.

The second point that has emerged has been the influence of exchange rates on tourism patterns in Barbados. There are some major items in the international community to which tourism is exceedingly sensitive. One of those is exchange rates. 4.10p.m.

Whenever the exchange rates swing in any part of the world that we get our tourists from in favour of the tourists coming to Barbados, where there is a depreciation of our currency in relation to theirs, you tend to get a flow of tourists from that area. Unfortunately although the US dollar has maintained its relative weakness against European currency, a significant sector of the UK market is now facing other problems, namely, in the United Kingdom the impact of the high interest rates, high mortgage rates, and so on which are beginning to cloud the advantage of exchange rates in that area. This is why you have seen we have had growth in Europe, but if you really want to look and see what is the impact of our promotional efforts minus exchange rates, look at North America and you will see what has happened, in that there has been no significant growth and maybe a slight decline in growth in tourism from North America. But, Sir, exchange rates are only one

of those factors that have a very serious and rapid effect on tourism. Another one, Sir, is the domestic environment for tourism, the impact of crime on tourism in Barbados. What is being done about it?

There have been many reports from all the tourist resorts in Barbados, from all the tourist areas, and indeed at Sunset Crest there are people who have had their houses broken into several times. I know of a particular couple who have had four break-ins in their house and eventually they locked up the house and handed it to a real estate agent and said they are not coming back to Barbados. They were coming here since 1963. What are we doing about crime in Barbados? What are we doing about the impact of crime on the image of Barbados as a tourist resort? I can assure you that in a broad sense crime has an important impact on tourism anywhere in the world, and in Barbados it is having a very negative image.

The second one relates to the question of drugs, harassment of tourists on the beaches by people offering cocaine, marijuana for sale. There is hardly a person that goes to certain beaches in Barbados for two or three hours who does not encounter somebody offering them some kind of drugs for sale. What are we doing about that?

As you know, Sir, I have said in here before that there has been a study done under a relatively controlled situation which suggests that somewhere like 34 per cent of all visitors going to a particular beach in Barbados was approached on one or more occasions by someone offering them drugs. Now these things have a tremendous destabilising effect on the tourist industry particularly when you are dealing with a plant like Barbados which depends heavily on repeat visits and on word of mouth promotion.

Now quite clearly those two things are not within the competence of the Minister of Tourism solely to deal with. That is a matter of a recognition by the Cabinet as a whole of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the tourist plant. You know we have so many examples of this. We have seen what this kind of thing had done to Jamaica at one stage just around the corner.

Another area, Sir, - and make no mistake about this, this is one of the things affecting not only investment, but will have a very negative and is having a negative effect on tourism - is racism in Barbados. There are many people who have been coming to this country for years and that is one of the reasons why even when we get a significant fall off in tourism as happened in January and February of this year, nevertheless the luxury hotels on the west coast manage to maintain their occupancy levels. These are people who have been coming here year after year and they integrate to a significant extent with the local population. Our tourist plant is not isolated from the local population. It is part and parcel of the same geographical sector of the Island where most of our people live. Very quickly, within

one or two days of being here, they pick up the change in atmosphere, they are talking about it, they are telling their friends about it, they are telling you about this changed situation in Barbados. You have to decide whether you want a tourist plant or you want to walk around all day and shout racism in Barbados. There is a price you have to pay for everything. Make no mistake about it that when people see leaders in the society either making certain statements or refusing to address certain statements, I can assure you that these things spread very rapidly throughout the society, and it has had a serious effect on the tourism industry of Barbados. So when we think of the environmental aspects, when you think of tourism you have to think of the local environment, and the local environment is as important in promotion as your external environment. We cannot control exchange rates, we cannot control interest rates in the United Kingdom, we cannot control the preferences to a large extent of where persons may select from year to year to go for their holidays, but we ought to be able to moderate and control the domestic environment, and I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we are not doing enough in that direction, because unless you deal with these major broad areas that impact on tourism, there is little point dealing with the other things that need to be done.

You can have the most efficient, the most highly professionalised Tourist Board in Barbados, you can have the best and most efficient offices overseas, if the domestic environment is not right the tourists are not going to come, or if they come they are not going to come back. So let us be clear about that. So those are three major areas where I think a lot can be done if we are serious about our tourism and it does not cost any money to do it. There is no big lot of money involved in dealing with those three things. There is no big lot of additional money involved in dealing with crime, in dealing with racism or any other area. So let us face it. The reality is that these are problems that have got worse; there is no point pretending that they do not exist, and there is no point pretending that they are not impacting on the tourism effort. If we are going to pretend and we are not going to do something about it, then we are wasting time here.

Now, Sir, there are many other areas I would have wished to deal with, but I believe that Members have adverted to the lack of capital infrastructure. This is another area that over the past few years we have not had an expansion of our capital infrastructure to accommodate an expanding tourist plant whether it be by way of convention centre, by way of golf courses, by way of other facilities in the area of sport, even in the area of educational and cultural tourism. There are so many wonderful things that could be done for tourism and a lot of it does not involve Government expenditure. We just have to define our objectives, determine the segments of the market that we want to go after, make sure that where it is necessary for an infusion of public funds we go in there and do it and get out and roll over that money and move on rather than try to

manage it and keep throwing away money year after year. That is just a general approach to the matter, but we can deal with the specifics of these things later on if the opportunity arises during this debate.

Sir, one final point. I forgot to mention the cost of living in Barbados. We have to watch the cost of living in Barbados very carefully, because again just as tourism is sensitive to exchange rate factors, it is because that translates into a cost of living factor for the tourists when they are here. 4.20p.m.

We have to watch the impact of an ever escalating cost of living on tourism and this is one of the reasons why you see places like St. Lucia, Antigua and these places their tourism has been growing and expanding so much faster than Barbados and this has nothing to do with the base at which they were in percentage terms. They have been expanding in absolute terms, in terms of the segment of the economy which it represents and so on. So there is no point saying that you are starting from a lower base, therefore, you expand faster. That is not correct in the case of St. Lucia and Antigua.

Thank you very much.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to raise a point here. I have been hearing speakers in this Chamber referring to racism as a serious problem in Barbados. It frightens me. I do not know who are the people that are preaching racism. I know that there have been some structured calls to many of the call-in programmes coming from certain people with vested interest making statements about racism.

I have seen nowhere in any hotel notices forbidding guests of a certain colour. I have seen in no restaurants any such notice neither have I heard of any situation involving people in the service industry rejecting the clientele of any person of black or white colour.

I have lived in a society for seven years in Britain where it was made clear to me that I was not welcome. There were many times you would go to look for a room and I believe the Honourable Member for St. Thomas might be able to bear me out on this where you see "Room Vacant, No Coloured". They could not even spell "coloured" "COLORED". I have seen no such thing in this country.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: "And No Dogs." That is a fact.

I have seen nothing like this happening so I would like really for those people who are arguing that there is a race problem to explain to me where it is coming from.

The other point dealing with crime. You would agree with me that we have a reasonably well-trained police force who have been given as many of the necessary tools as possible to go out there and fight crime. We have a problem like any other country whether it be U.S.A, Canada or the United Kingdom where you have an element that is not willing to subscribe to the normal rules, regulations and they decide that they would resort to the laws of the jungle where they help themselves. It is the same here in Barbados. What we also have is a fine police force and we also have an independent judicial system that arbitrate in such matters.

I quite agree that if a visitor to this country arrives here and suffers any particular problem that they would have reservations about returning to the country. Most of us from time to time have travelled and if we encounter a problem in that country we have reservations about returning but I cannot see how you can blame the administration in tourism or otherwise for such a situation. We have to deal with our problem. We have to get Barbadians to understand that if they want to keep tourism here then we have to welcome them and make them feel comfortable and safe. But that will have to be done over a period of time. All of us will have to share in that not a single Minister of Tourism, or the Board of Tourism, or otherwise.

We use the media, electronic and also the printed media from time to time to get to our people so why are we making such a big hullabaloo about the question of crime when we know we have an agency responsible for protecting us and also our visitors? Why are we constantly raising this spectre of racism?

We hear it in churches. We hear it on the radio. Again, we see it in the Press but who is preaching it? If a few lecturers, historians, as the case may be are making a point and they overstate a case, the next move is to relate that statement to a particular political movement and we begin to blame people. Why are we doing this? I am concerned as a Barbadian that this should be happening. But then when we get to this Chamber where we should be seeing things in a broad perspective, we are adopting the same attitude. Are we not cutting our own throats? It is about time that we get down to this serious problem and rout it out because it is creating unnecessary fears. What the visitor is hearing are voices, not necessarily experienced in a situation, and when they hear us they say, well, if they are saying it, it must be true. These are our problems.

Looking quickly at some statistics much is being said or much is being made about the state of tourism, as it stands today in relation to where it stood, say, a few years ago. I would say from 1982 onward there is clear evidence that there has been movement upward in our arrivals from all our markets. In the last two to three years there has been no decline. There have been increases.

You take a situation, arrivals from Europe. In 1981 you had something like 29 621 and in 1988, 34 404. From the United Kingdom in 1981 you had 72 000 arrivals and in 1988 there was 101 000. The United States tells the same story so I am stating here that the situation is not as bad as it is being made to look by some of the statements I heard made only a short while ago. 4.30 p.m.

The other area quickly which I should like to deal with is that I heard statements concerning the question of the arrivals and the payment of Hotel and Restaurant Sales Taxes that there seems not to be a correlation. We are going through a very serious situation here in Barbados where many of the properties in tourism in this country are not owned by Barbadians. A lot of the funds that are generated outside of Barbados for accommodation here in Barbados does not arrive in this country at all.

You have a situation where promotions, et cetera are done by their various overseas connections. There is a tendency to remit to Barbados just enough to pay local wages and local taxes. I might as well say it, there are some businessmen who adopt various systems in ensuring that as little as possible arrive in Barbados. I will not call a name but I know for a fact that there was a hotelier here in Barbados who owned a car elsewhere and he had it among the assets of the hotel here in Barbados enjoying capital allowances and the operating expenses for that car, although it was held elsewhere. That is one of the examples. You have a situation, again taking away from the funds, where the all inclusive bookings are taking place outside of Barbados. When the funds arrive they are minus discounts even for the day tours. So one must begin to understand that where our receipts are concerned we are not getting the full impact, people pay their taxi fares before they leave home even to visit some of our nightclubs, those who are involved in scuba diving, all of these extras that are paid elsewhere, they are even removing discounts from them. Hence everything is being done to really cut back on what should be legitimately coming to this country.

I am making a case that we should look closely at the kind of packages we tie up with some of our overseas people and get more involved, become very detailed in our checkings to ensure that what should be coming to us by way of revenue does reach here and is reasonably accounted for.

Mr. Chairman, I think I will come again at this.

Thank you.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few comments on this Head. Before I make my substantive contribution I should like to respond to some comments that I heard in this Chamber this afternoon.

Those of us who have spent most of our lives in Barbados will know that St. George was once considered to be a place where you hear about heartmen and where everybody in St. George had guns made out of iron pipe or lead pipe. I believe if the Leader of the Opposition were an ordinary man coming up in an ordinary house, his grandmother would have told him about duppies in St. George. I do not know that the result of hearing about duppies in St. George and heartmen and gunmen stopped any migration from other parts of Barbados or any Christ Church tourist going to St. George. I believe people went there because as scientific people, people who have an understanding of reality, you would have heard about these things and they would have gone to St. George if they had any reason to go there, if St. George had anything to offer.

I say this because I think the Honourable Leader of the Opposition cannot come into a Chamber like this where there are intelligent people and create myths like duppies that frighten him and try to frighten sensible people about what he is saying. He is talking about tourism at a time when it has never done better. The numbers are high, the earnings are high, and he is telling us that tourism is failing because of crime, drugs and racism. That is utter hogwash. There is no dipping of tourism at this time. Even if he is saying that drugs are at a high in Barbados or crime and racism; why do we not see the corresponding decline in the tourist figures? That is only a myth in his mind. He wants to create pictures to frighten people who cannot understand anything. The facts are that the tourism statistics are better now than they were before.

But let us get down to the substantive areas he is talking about, high areas of tourism in this world. Can you compare the amount of people who go to New York in terms of tourism to people who come to Barbados? Do you want to compare crime in New York with crime in Barbados? Any one of the big metropolises in this world that are big tourist areas.....

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: When I am talking about crime I am including drugs so I do not know why he is pulling drugs from under crime. Drugs is one of the major crimes in the world. The big metropolises in this world have crime rates that Barbados could never get anywhere near to.

I would make a point that I want to hammer home to this country. What is the crime situation in this little Barbados now? Does the Leader of the Opposition believe that because our newspapers take up 2 and 3 pages, detail little minor petty crimes by poor people in this country; that because the drug cases are heralded again with the poor people in this country exposed in the newspapers that Barbados is a heavy crime area or heavy drug area? And do they believe that the same people who come here, our

tourists come from the same New York, our tourists come from the same Toronto that they are afraid of drugs, that they do not know what drugs are about when they are the people sometimes who might be involved in the same drug use? What foolishness is he telling us about? That drugs in Barbados are frightening away tourists. Frightening away which tourists? The tourists know more about drugs, although all tourists are not drug users. They are more conversant with drug use than Barbadians. Do you think Barbadians started drugs? Do you think poor people in Barbados started drugs? So who is he trying to talk to now? He is trying to give the impression that under the Democratic Labour Party crime is rampant, drug use is rampant, so the tourists are not coming here any more. And to make things worse he is giving the impression now that this particular administration is not doing anything about crime or drugs. I should like to indicate to him statements made by the Commissioner of Police just after we came into office which were carried in the newspaper and which carried responses from the Member for St. Thomas and some others when the Commissioner at the time said he now felt that serious attempts were being made to control crime in this country.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, he never said that. The Report is in here. He said about a perception and they expected better co-operation from the public. Only last year, he said in April that the level of crime was at its highest and he expected it to go even higher. Last year April. I would send for the file now. I have a file on him.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The point I am making, Sir, is that it is fairly useless and not very sensible to think in terms of Barbados as going to be some paradise where there will be no crimes and no drugs. It is fairly foolish to believe that because we are a tourism plant that we are going to reduce Barbados to a situation where there are no crimes and no drugs. It is really moronic to try to give the impression that a Government's encouraging the increase in crimes or that a government is encouraging the increase in drug abuse and that we are to blame therefore. This is really the logic of the arguments that are being put forward, let us understand the logic.

It is really stupid to give the impression that tourists would come to a country only if that country does not have crimes or that tourists will come to a country only if it does not have drugs. That is really non-sensical.

But turning to the question now of racism. What racism is there in Barbados? Let us be very clear about what one is talking about. The racism that has traditionally been practised in Barbados has not changed. If we are going to say that we are going to conduct our affairs in this country in such a way that we will not discuss issues that

belong to us and that if we discuss them that visitors would not come here, that again is non sensical because you are relegating sensible tourists into dummies. 4.40 p.m.

If you are going to tell me that tourist will not come to Barbados because they believe that issues will be discussed here that might be uncomfortable for the locals, I really do not understand that because there are issues that are going to be discussed in Britain, Monaco, Hawaii - I read in today's paper that all of the workers in Hawaii walked out of the hotels and went on a strike and that the top people had to come and work.

So what are we going to try to say now that we have got to create in these tourist havens and countries like Barbados areas where nobody discusses anything because it is uncomfortable to a tourist coming from outside? So we in Barbados will never discuss any issues which are relevant to our own development because some of you have put labels on it. That is all you have been doing. A lot of you who are afraid of yourselves, who do not want to be who you are and abetted by the Press are putting a lot of labels on discussions in Barbados that have no right being put there. I want to be very clear about that. You are not going to stop Barbadians from discussing issues that are relevant to Barbadians because you put labels on discussions. That is not going to frighten those who are courageous enough to discuss those issues. You can put all the labels that you want. The cowards who would run away from it because they do not want a bad Press as they would consider it, or they want to be in somebody's friendly books will not advance the cause of this country. Let us be clear about that. What racism is there in Barbados? What people from either race are being treated negatively on a day by day basis in this country? Racism is an issue created by the Press in this country. It is a lot of words and I challenge anybody to deny that. Anybody in this country will speak ' for an hour and, if they put the word "race" or anything like that, or anything that could be even slightly concerned with it in one sentence, that is the one that will be carried. It has nothing to do with the context - pulled out of context and used for political purposes particularly by the Barbados Labour Party and now by some elements within the NDP, but not all. Because some of them are ashamed of the position that the leader will take on these issues for cheap political gain.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I said so, yes. All of them in the NDP cannot agree with him because their statements are on record and their actions are on record. They cannot be in agreement with the "Minnie Mouse" position that the Leader of the Opposition takes who cannot get involved in these kinds of issues.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will Honourable Members sitting in their places refrain from interrupting the debate in that manner.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The issue of racism is only a political issue. There is institutionalized racism in this country. I have said so before. At the level of individual racism, there is not much of that. Blacks and whites and whoever you want to call them get on together. But institutionalized racism is here and in the United States of America. It is in the United Kingdom and people still go to those countries. Let us understand these things. It depends on the level that people want to play up these things too. Regarding the Member for Christ Church West, I remember listening to a radio programme one night - I am going to touch on you now. It was one of these late night programmes with sweet music and everything else. I cannot remember the incident now but someone asked you about the high point of your life and the Member for Christ Church West said, "The years I spent in England I would live those years over again."

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I certainly would.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Do you remember that? Yes. The high point in your life was the years when you were a student in England. Those are the ones you would want to live over and over again. I found it strange quite frankly. I found it very, very strange.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You gave reasons. You might want to repeat them here for our own edification. But it is entirely possible you know that tourists will come down to Barbados and go back and say that the high point of their life was the three weeks or so that they spent on holiday in Barbados. It is possible but I think it would be very, very strange if they did. Because there are some people who understand who they are and where they are from. When they go visiting whether for a short term or a long term, they understand that they are going to somebody else's culture. When a tourist picks up from Canada or from the United States of America and comes down to Barbados for a week or two weeks, that tourist understands that he is coming to somebody else's culture and he will be a bird of passage, entertain himself, and go back and he is not going to be over odd about the local discussions inside here. It is the same thing when we travel abroad. I think, therefore, that the Leader of the Opposition should be really ashamed to be bringing this kind of juvenile kind of argument at this level that in Barbados discussions of what he call racism, crime, and drugs are running away tourists. He has no statistics to show it either, no statistics to show that anyone is running away anywhere, and no survey has been carried out. It is emotional talk.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that there is a particular feature that I would like to see developing. There are small examples of this and that is exchanges of workers from a tourist plant in one part of the Caribbean to Barbados and one of my colleagues, LeVere Richards, who is also a member of the Board of Tourism has been associated with this kind of exchange. Last year he took a number of Barbadian workers to the Bahamas and this year he intends to take another number of them to Bermuda. I think that this is an excellent example of the sort of thing that we should encourage where a number of workers can leave Barbados and go to other parts of the Caribbean and see how their colleagues in the industry perform in the tourist sector and that we can encourage exchanges from people from the same areas of Bahamas and Bermuda to Barbados so they can see how we perform in our own operation also. I believe it should be given full encouragement. As I said, it is a private venture almost. It gets support I know from certain business houses as well as from the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and in fact the Board of Tourism. But I would like to see that particular scheme expanded. I would like to see other organizations getting into that venture because I believe that type of exchange and interchange can be useful for our country.

Another area that I think is also very, very important and augurs well is the entertainment development in Barbados. When the CPA Conference was here last year, I was really extremely pleased and I am sure that those who attended certain occasions were pleased also at the level of entertainment that Barbadians could put on as a package. I recall particularly at the Frank Collymore Hall there was a multimedia presentation and I think that no one anywhere in the world could have been given a better form of entertainment.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Did you go to it? Pardon. I have got to speak to your leader. Did the Member for Christ Church West get to that? I do not think that you all came out to many of these things. Maybe the Member for St. Thomas might have come. I am not sure. I think he boycotted most of the activities. It was easily one of the best bits of entertainment that I have seen, a multi-media presentation with all Barbadians. It was a mixture of dance, video, and music. Then when we went to the Plantation Restaurant, again that cultural extravaganza I think left - in fact, those persons who have been writing us are still stunned that Barbados could put on this kind of a package. Normally, when we travel on CPA occasions, we are given the best that they have to offer. I am saying that Barbados' best has surpassed the best of many different countries and I would like to see encouraged more the Xanadu, Plantations Spectacular, and the Museum Show. I am not sure if Barbados, Barbados is still on. But I believe we have to encourage our people who have artistic and cultural skills to

develop these packages and to sell them as part of our tourist attraction. I believe that there are some people who felt that this kind of entertainment was a here today and gone tomorrow situation not realizing that in countries like Britain you have Broadway Shows that will go for several years. One show will go for 100 years. 4.50 p.m.

Of course the actors and actresses change, but I think we have to recognise that tourism is not a thing for today. There are several people who still tend to think that tourism is only something that will last a very short time. I hear my honourable friend from St. Peter talking about moving into a new tourist cycle, using these terms and so on. Again, one has to recognise that tourism in Barbados is relatively young. You talk about cycles? Tourism is going to be with us for a very, very long time. You have not started to see cycles yet, so when we get these learned expositions about new cycles you can see and so on, and things about plant, putting in more capital, don't you recall....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, since the Honourable Member....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point have you risen?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Since the Honourable Member is philosophising, I wonder if he would be able to explain the phenomenon that this winter has apparently afflicted the whole Caribbean area, because everybody is reporting a downturn in tourism. He says it is not a cycle. I want him to explain that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: However, the Honourable Member's time has expired.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: But I have to conclude, as I was on my feet. I am saying, Sir, that there will be fluctuations in any long term development.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Yes, but there are cycles within cycles. In the early eighties one of our biggest problems in the tourist sector was the expansion of plants, moving too rapidly into plants and having to pay back. As you know, borrowing money for tourism plant in Barbados, short term repayments can be very, very difficult for those who invest in it, and we have to be very careful therefore when we go on another splurge of investment, because the question is that we might not be able to attract that investment from outside. The people who are talking about investors coming and setting up big plants again, that is one avenue, but if we are talking about local plant, local investment in more plant, we have to be very considerate about that.

I just want to say that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is using language. He gets caught up in this language

talk, but when you look down to the reality of what is happening, you are saying you are going into a cycle when there is a downturn, and at the same time he is talking now about developing plant and capitalising, putting in more plant. That does not seem to me to be very consistent, but there is a certain consistency in his inconsistency.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

On the motion of Hon. E. E. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for 15 minutes.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 4.55 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I rise to reply, Sir, to three specific points, first the gymnasium, secondly buses and thirdly the golf course.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas said that since 1987 I had said we would have the gymnasium. That is true, Sir. The facts are that sometime after June 1986, I think it was some time in 1987, the proposals at the time were that we should have a gymnasium in Passage Road with a capacity of 2 500. It was my considered opinion then, and it is still now, that we should not go ahead with those plans. As a result, I made representations to the Chinese officials that we would like an increase in the capacity to 4 000 and that I did not believe that the Passage Road site was a good one, not at the top of Baxters Road, Sir. I thought parking would be chaotic, and as such we pursued the idea of going to Wildey. That would have kept us adrift for some time, because we then had to make a lot of adjustments.

Secondly, Sir, we had to come into Parliament under the Special Loans Act, Cap. 105, to regularise the borrowing of money from one country to another. That took a bit of time, and then we had the Chinese situation where things were in a state of flux for a while. Added to all these things, it must be said that the Chinese are very meticulous people. If you told a Chinese gentleman you would like to meet him tomorrow, he would say yes, you would like to meet me tomorrow. He will repeat what you have said. Very meticulous. At one time we agreed to the drawings. I said the drawings were acceptable. A month or two passed and I was told yes, you said they were acceptable but you did not approve them. Another time, Sir, with the very final drawing, at the end of a paragraph we did not put in a full stop and I was told we need to look at it very seriously because there was one minor flaw, there was not a full stop at the end of the paragraph. Those little things, Sir.

I am not making excuses, I am only saying that at Wildey we will not only have a gymnasium with 12 disciplines, but it will be in the middle of a Mecca of sports which will have very near to the site facilities for swimming, two hockey fields and football. The question now is that we have just had the design contract signed and the Chinese are here now doing their last minute preparations. Thereafter the bulk of the equipment will be sent. All of the local architects and civil engineers have been doing the work, and that is the reason why there was a move-in for \$849 884, which is 4% of the cost. This is to provide for the payment for the design contract. The Chinese have done a wonderful job and therefore as of now there should be very plain sailing. 5.20p.m.

The gymnasium is on the way. We will have most of the work like the car parks and the roads and things like that cut in a very short time and come September, November, because they have to bring some of the heavy stuff via Hong Kong and, Sir, we will find that in another three to four months the work will begin. I hope that everyone will now know that the gymnasium is really on the way.

As far as the golf course is concerned, Sir, I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church West mentioned this, it is true that all along we felt that Durants was a good place. Indeed, Sir the Government bought the land. Anyone who can play golf and anyone who knows anything at all about good golf courses will tell you that Durants suffered from the point that they never planned it. No feasibility study seemed to have been done. Eighteen holes were just put in; it was windswept, arid, treeless, greens hard. I played there, Sir. I don't know if anybody else in here played there, and it is a hard golf course. It would be okay for people just learning, but the expert have told us that it would not be the type of golf course that could be described as one of the first fifty in the world. When we had the experts to come down last year, they went to Durants, made

a report on Durants and then came to the conclusion that Graeme Hall would be a better site.

Sir, Graeme Hall is a great site for a golf course. What you could do is that you could have 27 holes. You have the two championship holes and a back nine. Golfers would understand the terminology. What I am saying is that we need to look very seriously at this because as you know, because of the covenant, you cannot build and some golfers are saying that they would still like to play some golf at Durants. The firm which was doing the feasibility study is sending its experts who will arrive in Barbados on the 3rd of next month to do the feasibility study. We have also got some entrepreneurs from Canada who have expressed a great desire in funding the exercise, and what is more, we have always felt that just having the golf course with a club house at Graeme Hall is okay, but we look at the possibility of having a great resort, because the truth is that golf courses bring tourists and not the other way around. So we are looking very seriously at that, and as soon as the feasibility study is finished and the Canadian entrepreneurs whom I am told have raised the money and ourselves can get together on that, Sir, that would be on stream.

The Barbados Golf Association are still desirous of having something done at Durants and we have had some entrepreneurs who are coming to Barbados, I think one is coming on Saturday, to have a look at not only Durants, but to have a look at the other areas in Barbados where you can have golf courses. Sir, apart from that, respecting the golf course that is supposed to be under private enterprise at Westmoreland, plans I understand for that course are also in the making, and therefore within a few years we should have adequate golfing facilities. One must never forget that in the Bermuda, a very small Island, there are nine golf courses, and you cannot get on those golf courses. We feel that a place like Barbados can attract about three or four 27 hole golf courses.

We also have to look and see that it costs you about \$200 000 a year to play golf in Japan, and they have embarked on many sojourns to San Francisco and Los Angeles just to play golf. There is a great golf explosion all over the world, and we in Barbados are looking forward to the time when we will be able to capitalise on such things. So that is the situation with the gymnasium and the golf courses.

You want to hear about the buses? I will tell you about the buses. Sir, Barbados is a sophisticated tourist destination. There are many Governments who would like to have conferences here. Sir, what I was saying in reply to a question about the buses when they said that we have only given \$100 for small business enterprises and we are spending \$1 million on buses, which they call squandcrmania. In the Oxford Concise Dictionary, I don't know if the Honourable Member knows the definition, because if he did he would not say that is squandermania.

Sir, the buses were bought for \$1.2 million. That is common knowledge. The idea is that we in Barbados see the growing need for the acquisition of these buses. The tour operators, when I met them three months ago, their grouse was that they wanted some buses, the Government did not allow them to buy buses and then we went and bought the buses. When I asked them what was their definition of a luxury coach, their definition of a luxury coach was that it was air-conditioned. An air-conditioned coach is not a luxury in Barbados; it is a necessity, and therefore all coaches 20 seaters, ten seaters, 25 -seaters should be air-conditioned. It is the luxury component of it that is important. In other words, a bus might be big enough to have 60 seats, but if it is a luxurious bus, you may find that bus will have 35 seats with some degree of comfort. It is the same way you have economy and first class travel on a plane. St. Hill has a bus the same size. If a cat was born in an oven, you would call it a bread. Because St. Hill has one, does it mean it is a luxury coach because it is the same size? I can take a man who has wet sawdust in his head because it is absorbing, but if it is dry it is regrettable.

Sir, the tour operators told me that not only do they need five buses, they need ten. I have asked them to come back to me, put it in black and white and let me see exactly what is the situation. It is because of that that I went on the rail. They have not yet replied to me and it should have been a simple thing, because I thought that we should all sit down and listen to everything that everyone had to say. I am saying that we had the ACP conference down here; there was an advance party for the Vice President, the prime Minister of Canada is arriving next week, and there have been so many requests, because when the luxury ships are coming in, because you know nowadays the cruise ships are no long two by four, they are beautiful machines, they are indeed floating cities, and when 600 come off them they don't take taxis, and they have been in real trouble to get the tourists down there.

Sir, I just wish to say that we have reached that stage of sophistication. I will tell you that we are always talking about up market, we are always saying that the charters have cheapened the whole scenario, and yet we do not recognise that there is a need for these coaches in the tourist industry. 5.30p.m.

I am saying that this Government bought the coaches. We stand ready to defend it and whenever the occasion comes that the coaches will be utilised, they will be utilised. It is as simple as that. If buying five coaches is squandermania, well, then so be it as far as you are concerned.

I am only saying that we see the need for the coaches because the people that come by the mode of transportation, the people are not going to travel by taxis and it is as simple as that.

I just wanted to make it very clear on (1) the gymnasium, (2) the buses and (4) the golf course. I will get back to convention centres. I will get back to all the other attractions but, Sir, I will say one thing. If the Members of the Opposition were in here 48 hours ago, they would have heard exactly everything I said. I can only assume that they have not heard. You listen but you did not hear. That is the problem and, therefore, they have come in here today and they have not said anything for tourism for three years - not you, because you were here on this side for three years. You used to tell me what a good job....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please.

Hon. W. W. HALL: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition always used to come and tell me "Wes, you are doing a good job." You used to do it all the time.

The Opposition has said nothing about tourism for three years the intelligentsia, all of them, big High School fellows, but that is not the recipe for success. Sometimes you have to treat people decently....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time has expired.

Hon. W. W. HALL:...like buying a few roses for their workers, the women and you have to interact.

On this note, Sir, I will sit down because he is my family-in-law and, therefore, he should not get into this but I will return again. On these three issues I just wanted to get it in.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a few points that have arisen in this debate which I really should quickly reply to and I wish to take up the Minister on the issue of the coaches. I think that he misunderstands what the Opposition has been saying on this point. The Opposition has not argued that there was not a need in Barbados for some luxury coaches. What we have said is that the industry itself, the private sector tour operators industry itself, had been applying to Government for several years for permission to bring in these coaches.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am telling you the correspondence that I have in my possession from them unless they used different dates. You see, people do not understand in this country that people do not keep information private as you all think. We have the right to talk to people and I will continue to do so.

The point I am making is this, Sir, that it was unnecessary for Government itself to involve itself in an area where tour operators are prepared to make the investment and to go on and to do the job and particularly where they have been doing the job all the time and it is

now going to be in a position where Barbados Investment Tourism Corporation is going to be in direct competition with tour operators in this field. It is really not the way we should go about development in Barbados and that is the gravamen of the charge. I am going to move off from that point though, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The coaches are now used by the Defence Force from time to time and rented out occasionally. That is all that is happening with them and it is on that ground that we say that Government's investment in this regard was misplaced and really did not pay regard to the wide position.

Now, Sir, I was disappointed, if I may put it that way, in the reaction of the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the reaction of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central to the genuine concerns expressed from this side of the House about problems, or if they wish to put it this way, the perception of problems that have been occurring in Barbados and it is not sensible of the Government to make light sport of these matters and to pretend that there are not problems that people see occurring in Barbados, and to give the impression that nothing should be done about it.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: On a point of elucidation.

I am not aware of any member of Government making light sport of any matter discussed here. If the Honourable Member for Christ Church West wants to make his contribution to this aspect of the debate, let him put in the records what he feels about the current debate and its impact on tourism or anything else but I am not aware that anybody on this side is making any light sport of any matter. We consider racism to be a very serious thing and we will speak out against it wherever it occurs. We, certainly, are not guilty of it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Let me deal with the issue of crime. I recall very well sitting in this House both when I was Attorney General and when I was on the back bench, hearing Members now on the other side holding portfolios, using the statistics in relation to the general crime level in Barbados and the specific statistics relating to crimes against visitors in Barbados and warning us at the time when one had to be very careful of the impact which crime could have on your tourism industry.

Now, I addressed the Hotel Association within two years of being the Minister with responsibility at the time for law and order on exactly this question. I still have and I think in the Ministry files there would be a copy of the speech I made then.

At the moment the statistics in relation to crime against visitors is very seldom published by the newspapers and for that I am reasonably grateful as a Barbadian because you do not want to excite people unnecessarily so that it could redound to the discredit of us all.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Those statistics can be available if one wrote to the Commissioner of Police about them.

One has to be very careful in Barbados to give the impression that things are not happening and that all is well. I think that as responsible Members of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and ourselves, have spoken in here and warned the Government that we have to keep a tab on crime and how it is rearing its ugly head in Barbados because it can have an adverse effect on the main foreign exchange earner for the country and I believe that that is a valid criticism and they must not forget it and think that it is a political ploy.

Those of us who have spoken on this subject here have spoken very seriously this afternoon, not in any lighthearted manner and, certainly, I do not believe from a partisan perspective on matters such as this. It is too vital to Barbados for us to make light of a matter such as this and we are serious about it.

The Honourable Member says he wants the facts. The statistics would be right within the Government's coffers. But those of us who intermix with visitors to our Island must be aware when the visitors tell us - we do not raise the question with them, I certainly do not - of the problems that they see confronting Barbados today and Barbados tourism and as responsible legislators, we have a duty to speak out about it and the Government, I think, has a duty to listen to us as well about the matter.

You take the issue of the jet skis and the motor wet bikes, as they are called. That is an issue, whether the Honourable Members like it or not, which has been impacting negatively and the perception about the Government is that the Government has laid back and has not taken action to deal with the problem. 5.40 p.m.

More than that too, Sir. The question of harassment on the beach, only a couple of weeks ago, you will see that the Minister, the other Minister, the Minister who is going to speak after me said that they were now taking steps to have patrols and training and what not and to step up watching or something on the beach. But do not tell me that there is not harassment. I represent a tourist area too and my constituents, not merely visitors to the island complain about Rockley Beach in particular and what has been happening there. This is a fact. We cannot pretend that there

are no problems existing in this society, Sir. So that the domestic environment of tourism is most important and I subscribe to the view that has been expressed by Honourable Member who have spoken, as part of that domestic tourism and particularly since the Minister of Community Development is going to speak after me, he so indicated to me, Sir, I would wish him to tell us what is being done about establishing adequate changing facilities on the major beaches in Barbados. There are some beaches where there is still not adequate changing facilities, Dover is one. I could cite as well not only Dover, I go back to Rockley as well which is perhaps the most used beach in Barbados, bathroom facilities are not there as well as kiosks for vendors..

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. Forde: On our major beaches. But I spoke about Accra Beach because we had acquired across the road a property, or were in the process of acquiring a property ...

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

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not like interrupting the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member is giving information to the House and the Honourable Member is aware as to why over a fairly long period of time, including when they had the Government and we are not being critical, the facilities at Rockley Beach presented a problem. I am just saying include that and then go on to say what you are going to say.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member wants to make my speech for me. I have illustrated this by saying that Rockley is one such beach. I also included Dover where the problem was not the sort of problem that the Honourable Member wants me to allude to at Rockley.

But the point is, Sir, there are on the beaches of Barbados, including Rockley the need for these facilities. I want to know when we can expect those facilities to be established there, Sir. We are now in the process I agree of bringing the South Coast Sewerage Scheme, one of the areas that we had gone ahead and arranged for during our time. I expect that when that is in place any further delay in any area such as this in relation to Rockley would not occur. But there are other beaches that the same constructive criticism which I have made applies and are in great need of assistance.

I move to cultural tourism. This was touched on very lightly. I am going quickly, Sir, I am moving to cultural tourism because....

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Yes. Sir the Honourable Member *sotto voce* wants to ask you a question. I am moving to cultural tourism because I believe this is a most important area and one which we have not promoted to the maximum. I was pleased to hear the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central speak about the pleasure which it gave the delegates to the CPA Conference to see the tremendous improvement in the performances of the cultural arts in Barbados. Perhaps it has been one of the fastest growing areas in our country. I have repeatedly in this House and outside of this House spoken about the tremendous opportunities which exist for our young artists whatever form of the arts you take, Sir, the performing arts, the dramatic arts, whichever form of the arts you go for or indeed our designers, the tremendous opportunities that are there now and the tremendous growth that has occurred in this aspect of our cultural life. It seems to me that we have a duty therefore to implement a series of policies to maximize those opportunities as well as to package for ourselves as well as for visitors to the island the growing industry.

Our calypsonians, our dancers are still part employed and I have seen no strategy for dealing with their needs in our country at this moment, outside of the Crop Over Festival. I was pleased to hear the Honourable Member talk about the Frank Collymore Hall. When it was being constructed of course we came into tremendous criticism for that, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It was part of the Central Bank complex. Indeed we would have been criticized more had we gone on with the overall plan which we had for that part of Bridgetown which included

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: extending the Hall in order to cater for a wider dramatic area so that from the Cathedral Square right back up to Queen's Park would have been an area reserved for the performing arts as a whole.

But I am saying to the Government, we have already announced it, we have spoken about it in our last Manifesto and we are going to have it again in this Manifesto, we have spoken about it, we intend to put tremendous emphasis on the performing arts. I am not going to go any more into the specifics because you told me, Sir, I have 2 minutes.

I want to deal with another aspect that I think the Committee has not spent enough time on and in the last 2 minutes available to me, I want to make some comments on this area for the benefit of the Minister. In my view we have

to be very careful to ensure that we are retaining our market share of tourism by having at all times airline capacity. It is a very essential and important component of the industry as well as of the marketing of the industry. Sir, I am concerned at present at what has been happening in this aspect of our affairs. We do not seem to have the seriousness that is required in promoting and going after ensuring for ourselves that we retain enough airline seats and airlines to service our area as well as too look for the expanding area, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member *sotto voce* interrupts again, Sir, and wants me to go down the line of one. Let me tell him, Sir. My information is that when American Airlines wanted to change to have a hub right through Puerto Rico there was very little persuasion if you like or talk if you like coming from the Government. But it has had a negative effect. If you talk to some travellers and would-be travellers you would see that that has had a negative effect on tourism already.

Likewise, Sir, not because of the Government but Wardair changed its marketing strategics and started looking domestically within Canada. Unfortunately this failed and it was taken over by Pacific Western Corporation. But the result of that for us has been a reduction in the normal seating capacity or flights that we would have got out of the Wardair connection, although now of course we do have the successor corporation Canadian International coming in here and bringing 2 flights per week which I am told will shortly be scaled down to one flight a week.

I am concerned as well to make sure that Thompson which has been taking up some of the charter operation that that will maintain a seriousness about Barbados as a destination. Again I am asking the Minister, what I am hearing in the airline industry is that Air Tours is unlikely after this year to give Barbados the serious attention that it has been giving before because I understand that the Jamaicans have been wooing them and that unless therefore there is a co-ordination between the Ministries of International Transport and the Ministry of Tourism on this point I feel that Barbados can be seriously disadvantaged in its air link promotions, Sir.

You have told me my time is up. I may have to get back on this one.

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

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I want to respond to some of the concerns of some of the Members on the other side, as it relates to beach harassment and crime and to changing facilities. I believe the Honourable

Member for Christ Church West did say that he knows we are doing something about the problems on the beach. But I think that we all remember too that the Barbados Labour Party administration attempted to do something about the problems on the beach but it is my view that their approach was wrong. It seemed very high handed at the time and it had the reverse effect to the extent that we know of the calypso, et cetera, et cetera. 5.50 p.m.

We learned by that and what we did last year was to form a committee, the Ministry of Employment, Tourist Board, and the Police, to decide what we would do about the problems on the beaches. We had the meetings with the vendors, rangers, braiders, hoteliers, and all persons concerned or interested in working on the beaches. From that we came up with a strategy and we asked for their cooperation. I am happy to say that we are getting cooperation from all sides. At the present moment we have four vehicles, two on the West Coast and two on the South Coast. They are manned by the policemen and rangers and they have a five minutes response. If something happens on the beach, a hotelier or whoever can call a special number and within 5 minutes they will be there.

All reports so far are that they are getting there within two minutes of the call. Only in today's paper strange enough on Page 12 of the Nation a reporter said that she spent two days on the beach, I guess it was Paradise, and she was happy to note that there were policemen and rangers patrolling the beaches. Last week I got a letter from the Hotel Association thanking us very much for the efforts we have taken and, according to them, it is the first time anything like it has been done in Barbados...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. In December 1985, 60 new recruits passed into the Police Force. Part of the reason for giving that increase, Sir, was to create a separate force for the beach. You can check with Government's Chief Security Officer. He has said it at all of the branch meetings that he has spoken at and we had a special type of policeman patrolling the beaches in this country. This is not the first time. I will speak on this later on.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I said that a letter was received. If I had known that I would have been speaking on it today, I would have brought the letter we received last week from the President of the Hotel Association.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will give way.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I would like to state, Mr. Chairman....

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am not making a speech man. A newspaper report of this week states that there is rampant robbery at Silver Sands Beach. I want to know whether these vehicles are tied up in town or whether they are in the sea.

Laughter.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: If the Honourable Member had read the paper further, he would have seen that the police have arrested about six people, they are before the court, and that their parents have even refused to take bail for them.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: The same case. The parents refused to take bail for them and told the Magistrate to send them to the Psychiatric Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could we have some order please?

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I mean I just do not understand you know. People unfortunately cannot even comprehend what they read.

Mr. E. BOURNE: This is a letter written by a visitor stating about the robberies that they had two days before.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, there are four vehicles patrolling and I received a letter. I know of the number of persons who were brought into the Police Force to do the beach patrol and we also borrowed from that. I do not think that they had the same support. They are going from beach to beach and they meet every morning at 9 o'clock to go back to District A to get finals of the problems. In other words, it is not only the police that are involved but the beach vendors as well and anybody who works on the beach are trying to assist in breaking down the problem. It is wider than that and we are getting response. I agree with you. Everybody is involved because unless you can get information, you cannot.....

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: We wanted to make sure that the people who are legitimately on the beaches....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order please?

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Sorry. I was just saying that we wanted the people who are legitimately on the beaches to be reassured that their livelihood was not in jeopardy.

Therefore, we brought them in so that they can assist us in solving the problem and so far it is working well. It was on a trial period incidentally and the Hotel Association has just asked us to extend it throughout the year. We are looking at it again, but what we are trying to do as well is to rotate the people in it because if you remain in certain sensitive areas for too long there could be problems. So we have reached that stage. What we are doing as well is every month the Committee meets to evaluate the situation and report and so far it is working exceptionally good. Of course, there will still be crime on the beaches but we are trying to get it down to a minimum.

In respect to the changing facilities, I believe the Member for Christ Church West asked about that. The changing facility at Rockley this year. I think all of us here know of the problem at Rockley. You cannot build where you may cause a back up of sewage and you have to get special sewage treatment for that. But I would just like to say that we have opened facilities at Bathsheba so far, Half Moon Fort, and next month Brandon will be open. We have repaired Pebbles, Barclays Park, Folkstone, Bath and River Bay are now under repair. So that we are doing as much as possible to make sure that the facilities are provided on the beaches. What I can say is this. We are somewhat reluctant to put snackettes on the beaches because I am not convinced in my own mind that they are getting a good return from your investment. At the present moment they go up for tender and the person who offers the highest price gets it - \$600. I mean that does not make sense. If somebody wants to build a restaurant on the beach, lease them the land and let them build it, and they could clear their losses.

Besides the changing facilities too, we are trying to put in more lifeguard stations on the beaches and you would have noticed that this week we have advertised for more lifeguards. Unfortunately, the lifeguards do not last very long. They usually after a couple of years find themselves in Canada, England, or America living. We have always to have more lifeguards recruited.

I would just like to find out though how many changing facilities were built by the Barbados Labour Party in their term of office. I do not see any changing facilities.

Asides.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: All have to be repaired including Pebbles and those. If you say so, I accept that.

I, too, am concerned about cultural tourism. The performers are having a particular problem. They are not paid for their talents and I think part of the problem is theirs. When Barbados first went on a tourism drive, there were many persons who were willing to assist them in forming a union or an association of some kind or other and they refused to. At the present moment they are finding that

they are paid little or nothing for their services. They will have to decide how best they can solve that and it is up to them.

So I thought, Mr. Chairman, that I would just respond to one or two things from the other side. I want to compliment the Minister of Tourism and Sport, however, for the very good job that he is doing in the area of sport. I do not think that there is any constituency that can say at this present time that nothing has been done in their constituency by way of upgrading or putting in new facilities. 6.00 p.m.

Again I must say that the facilities in Haynesville and St. John the Baptist have been improved tremendously. Let me say this as well. A lot of people have been writing all kinds of foolishness about the people in Haynesville, but yet one of the best kept facilities in Barbados has been the one at St. John the Baptist. It has been there for about 25 years and, until it was changed, the same fence around it was there. But you will get the impression from what you read in the paper if something happens in St. Lucy that it started at Haynesville. If it happens in Christ Church, it started at Haynesville, but yet I cannot see any Haynesville people before the court.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Like Chapman Lane, yes, and Emmerton Lane once upon a lime. Let me say this as well too. This year alone we had five cricketers on the Barbados team from Haynesville. Nobody praised that; too good. We have five cricketers from Haynesville in the Barbados team. The Captain, Johnson, Wallace, all from Haynesville, and nobody has said anything. I cannot remember the other two names. Franklin Stephcnson. There were five of them.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Can you help me? Is Haynesville the same place as Holders Hill?

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Yes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Haynesville and Holders Hill is the same place?

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Yes.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You are the representative. If you say so, I believe that.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I will educate you. St. John the Baptist playing field is at Haynesville, because the houses are there next door.

Aside.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: You are talking about Bagatelle.

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

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Haynesville runs from Holders Hill over to Husbands, up to Thorpes Corner, down to Durants Village. Haynesville runs from Holders Hill, Thorpes Corner, Watermans Village, down to Durants Village. That is Haynesville. The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that in terms of sport we are making our contribution. All the Barbadians who play golf for Barbados are from Haynesville, but we do not see that in the papers. Too good.

I will come back, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I wanted to spend this 15 minute period responding in detail to any sensible comment made by the Honourable Member who just sat down. He made no contribution and therefore I cannot respond to anything he has said. Having made no contribution, I will deal with the contributions made by other people that had some content in them.

The Honourable Minister of Tourism clearly had a bit of a difficulty defending the acquisition of luxury coaches, as he said, for SI.2 million for six weeks for a conference. He had grave difficulty, understandably. I believe that this Honourable House should know that the reason why the Honourable Minister of Tourism is having a difficulty is because he did not even know anything about the purchase of the buses. It was only after the buses were here, after the people left the conference and they could find nothing more to do with the buses, they asked him to find something to do with them.

Hon. W. W. HALL: On a point of order, Sir. I would just like to say that that is very far from the truth; very, very far, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am very grateful, Sir, that the Honourable Member did not say that it was not true, and there may be some temporal discrepancy on my part in the sense that he may have known about them before the people left the country and not just after they left. That is a possibility. I do not have the dates, but what I am saying is absolutely correct. Sooner or later I will have a lot more to say about those buses. I am usually quite well informed, but I do not speak until I have all the information. When I get all the information, I usually give a little at a time. Ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

I realise you have a difficulty, and being an honest man I realise that you recognised you had to put up some kind of defence, but I am sure that you must feel, like all Barbadians that work hard for a dollar and pay taxes, that it

is absolute nonsense and certainly amounting to the charge of squandermania to buy six buses for \$1.2 million and at the same time deprive a whole lot of suffering taxi drivers and people in the transport area of the opportunity to make a dollar in Barbados.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Do you notice while all the frivolity is going on that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has increased the buses to six? By tomorrow the Member for St. Thomas will make them seven, and the next thing you know we are going to have a whole fleet.

The Honourable Member must not mislead the House. Two things. He said that I did not know anything about buying the buses. If he means the actual transaction of paying over the money, that is true, but if he means that as a matter of policy, I am stating categorically that the Cabinet of Barbados - do not worry to think you are going to single out anybody in this Cabinet and play games of who knew and who did not know - the Cabinet of Barbados was aware that we were purchasing the buses as part of the 350th anniversary celebrations, and we have said so in this House before.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, all guilty. I have never been afraid to be guilty, you know. 6.10p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain words spoken by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central be struck from the record.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There is no point wasting any more time with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I think the point has been made to all those who deserve about it, so it is all right.

If I may continue, Sir, the Honourable Member has occupied five minutes of my time, and there are deliberate interruptions again and again whenever we try to speak on this side. It is a trick.

The Honourable Minister of Tourism did not get up and object to anything I said because he knew that I was telling the truth. The Honourable Member spoke about some entrepreneurs who were here in relation to the development of golf courses in different parts of the Island, people who have money ready to invest and so on. I wonder if he could tell the Honourable House what has happened in relation to the motor racing track. I understand that there was an investor here for some period and I gather that...

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: On a point of order, I just want to know if the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has paid

for his private investigator's licence for the year. He is delivering a lot of revelations in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not opposed to it.

Hon. W. W. HALL: On a point of order, I just do not want to go too far. I just want to say that the last I heard of the track was that you bought it.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Whoever told you that has given wrong information, but I wonder what happened to the investment. It seemed to me to be not a bad project, and I am not criticising it. As far as I know there was one group of investors inside here some time in the 1986-1987 period, I gather that some problem developed with the availability of money, and I gather that new investors looked at it. I think it would be a good development for Barbados. I don't always criticise you know. Even when I criticise I criticise constructively, and I can support that kind of development, so I am just asking a question. We might now know who bought the coaches.

If I may continue, Sir, it is not correct to say that Durants is not suitable for a golf course. Some golfers believe that when Durants was operational that it was a better and more challenging golf course than Sandy Lane. Therefore I cannot see the difficulty in going ahead with Durants and if you have private investors who want to go into another golf course in the Christ Church area, it is not a problem. The Island needs five or six or seven golf courses. There are about 20 million people in the world today right now, Mr. Chairman, looking for somewhere to go to play golf, and we only have one golf course in Barbados. There were 17 million two years ago and there are 20 million people now, and you can imagine that with a low cost infrastructural thing like a golf course that we cannot even get one off the ground. I know that there have been all sorts of proposals put up by consultants to the Ministry of Tourism as to how that could be paid for, how the hotels in the Christ Church area particularly the small hotels can be involved in the exercise, but I don't need to go into those details now. The Minister is smiling; he knows what I am talking about. It was a sound proposal, and all that was needed to be done was for the Government to come down here with a Resolution and acquire the land rather than mess around trying to straighten out titles and this kind of thing, and I believe the price was something like \$240 000.

The whole point is that that course should have been in place. You check out what was the problem with the transfer of titles.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House perhaps inadvertently. The facts are that the money for

Durants I believe was appropriated by the last Government and was put in escrow by the lawyers because there were some legal difficulties. The golf course was owned and is owned by the Government. It is simply that because of covenants there were some people whose lands abut and bound with the golf course and there were some little technical difficulties. It had nothing to do with the incompetence of either Government. It is a legal matter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I never said it was due to the incompetence of that Government nor did I say it was due to the incompetence of this Government because that would have been self-condemnatory for a short period of my stay. What I did say is that we must not allow minor things like that to get in the way of a development, and we should have had a golf course at Durants particularly when some two years ago a group would have been interested in putting a hotel on that site as well. I say no more. If they would not talk to you, that is another problem. Indeed, Sir, more than that, private funds were available to assist in a development of the golf course. I wonder if the Honourable Minister would like to give this Honourable House his assessment of the performance of the Wyndham group in relation to Heywoods. It is generally felt throughout the country that a grave error was made in awarding the contract to Wyndham, and I wonder whether he could indicate to this Honourable House what was the level of profitability of Heywoods last year, what it is projected to be this year, how much money was spent on upgrading Heywoods this year, and whether Heywoods has been able to make any contribution whatsoever to the payment of either interest or capital on its long term debt.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time has expired, but in the light of what has transpired I will give him two minutes to wind up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He took up seven minutes of my time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have gone over already, but I will give you two minutes to wind up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow he did not make any valid point during that period.

One final point, Sir. What is quite clear is that the Minister of International Transport, my very good friend, who has been generally speaking silent if not sleeping in here over the past three days.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I take serious objection to that. If anybody was sleeping, it was the Leader of the Opposition because we had not seen him in here. 6.20p.m.

He was no where in here so I assume that he was sleeping somewhere else. He was not doing the people's business. He was not in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member conclude.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I know how to get the Honourable Member to wake up, to get him out of sleep.

Now, he has occupied now one and a half of my two minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You just used the other half.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point I wish to make, Sir, is that we have already stated that it will be our policy to have the Ministry of International Transport and the Ministry of Tourism under one Minister. We feel that this is very important. We feel that, perhaps, the most important reason for the existence of a Ministry of International Transport is for its support to the Tourism industry and we recognize that one of the major constraints in the development of tourism over the years has been the inability to have a proper matching and harmonisation between availability of seats and availability of rooms in Barbados plus, Sir, that area of civil aviation is so critical to the development of the industry that for proper planning and proper development we feel that there should be one Ministry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, recent statements coming from the Leader of the Opposition clearly shows he has no knowledge of what goes on in the Ministry.

There is very close collaboration between the Ministry of International Transport and the Ministry of Tourism. There is a committee comprising both Ministries. The committee meets regularly. It reviewed the position as regards seating capacity on airlines for Barbados.

My Ministry', that is, the Ministry of International Transport, does not take any decisions as regards the issuing of licences and permits for the purpose of passengers to Barbados unless the matter is referred to the Ministry of Tourism so there can be no question of any problems between one Ministry and the other or one Ministry holding the other one back. There can absolutely be no question of that because you need one.

The reason why it was being advanced that we should have none was that there was conflict. That was the reason

being advanced. That was stated just now. The word "conflict" was not used. I am saying that. But the intention was clear. The meaning was clear.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I said that was not used. I said the meaning was quite clear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish the Honourable Member for Bridgetown would allow the debate to continue without that kind of interruption.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: He is a big man without any manners whatsoever. One thing he has not learnt is manners. Learn some manners, young man. It is about time you had some manners. Let him rise on a point of order if he wants to rise. I said you, the Honourable Member for the City has no manners.

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

The Honourable Member cannot say in this Honourable House that an Honourable Member has no manners. I would like to suggest, Sir, that that is out of order and should be struck from the records.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No point of order?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is a point of order?

If the Honourable Member had manners, Sir, he would have.....

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: On a point of order. I am serious now. The Honourable Member cannot tell me that I have no manners. Furthermore, there is no-one in here that interrupts people more than he does and is more unmannerly than he is. Now tell me that is not a point of order!

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is a point of ignorance. That is all it is, a simple point of ignorance.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has to recognize that I intervened in the debate because of your interruptions.

Let the Honourable Member continue, please.

I think due consideration must be given to the authority of the Chair and I have had to speak to the Honourable Member for that on too many occasions. I do not want to have to do it too often.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I merely rose on this particular point raised by the Honourable Leader of

the Opposition as regards the collaboration between the Ministry of International Transport and the Ministry of Tourism. There can be nothing wrong, Sir, if one wants to put the two together. There can be nothing wrong with combining any Ministries. It is entirely a matter for what the Prime Minister who has that responsibility requires. There is nothing wrong with that.

What I am trying to say is that in this particular instance, as a matter of fact, when we were first the Government between 1961 and 1976, the two Departments, that is, Civil Aviation which is held by the Prime Minister and Tourism which is held by other persons not just a single individual, they were never combined.

It is, perhaps, true to say that between 1976 and some point in 1986 that the two Ministries were together but then they were separated subsequently during that period of time but there is no hard and fast rule. It is entirely a matter for what the prime Minister requires and if he ever becomes Prime Minister which, I suppose, is doubtful, but if he does, then if he wants to put them together, put them together but do not make it appear as though there is a problem.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: If it is not a problem then there is nothing to talk about.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition obviously wishes me to enter this debate. I would think that the Ministry for Tourism and Sports has given a very eloquent and a comprehensive review of the performance of that Ministry, both in relation to sports as well as in relation to tourism and the fact remains that tourism is now the major contributant to our economic output in this country and during 1989 must have contributed, I believe, approximately about 9% or so of the growth in this country.

I think those who are concerned with growth and development would note, therefore, the importance of this industry and the need to continue to plan for its growth and for its development. I think, Sir, that the country as a whole can take comfort in the fact that that particular sector has remained vibrant.

Sir, there is nothing to indicate that there will not be problems in the tourism sector or that there would not be problems in any sector of the economy and it is right that we should think about these things and seek wherever possible to obviate them and if it relates to tourism, or what I prefer to call the travel industry, we should be seriously concerned about planning for the further growth and development. 6.30p.m.

The Minister of Tourism and Sports has set out the matter quite clearly. I only wish to set the record straight in respect of the coaches. I do not believe that in this day and age when some of us may visit other tourist destinations and see the integration of the various elements that go towards making a successful tourism product that anyone could be arguing about the fact that an industry that means so much to this country could have in it a component for coaches.

I think it is really a very strange kind of way of dealing with the public affairs of this country that when in every developed tourism sector in other countries, that particular segment of the travel industry is characterized by the presence of coaches, some owned by Government, some owned by the private sector, whatever the mix is is determined by the policy decisions of the country.

We are talking also having established the fact that travel by coach is an essential part of the tourism sector or the travel sector of most developed tourism industries whether it is Britain, the United States, Canada, the Pacific countries.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is part of it because the mass movement of people and the movement of people in tourism in comfort is an essential part of looking after the needs of tourists.

We are talking within a context in which some 55 buses have been provided for this country at a cost of I believe 50 at US\$3.3 million. You are talking a total of 55 buses. I believe 50 to one public sector industry.

Aside,

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am saying that there are buses ordered for Barbados as part of a total package financed through the Crown Agents of which some 50 or so have gone to the Transport Board and 5 have gone to the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. There is no secret about this. There is no point giving the impression that these were secretly ordered.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You are accusing my Ministers of not knowing so it must have been a secret deal somewhere, unless you are modifying it. The members of the Cabinet knew about it. When they were ordered as the Minister of Health indicated Parliament or certainly the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branch the Executive was aware of that because I had indicated to that particular body that the coaches would be arriving. What is wrong with that?

I believe we are seeking to find ways and means of casting some kinds of doubts at every turn about the operations and activities of the Government. We are trying to give the impression that there is always something underhand about the actions of this Government. I think you are trying very hard but you will not succeed in that particular area. You are accusing my Deputy prime Minister of sleeping. I do not know if you gave him any medicine to cause him to do that, if he did it. I hope not. I just wanted to make that point. There is nothing underhand or secretive about it. We agreed to purchase a number of vehicles, I believe 55 of them, 50 for the Transport Board and 5 luxury coaches which were allocated to the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. Those buses would provide....

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: How do you mean it is not going to wash? I am not going to wash anything. I am saying I am going to make the services of one of those buses available on request to the Royal Barbados Police Force with specific relation to the Police Band. They used to have a bus that could transport the members of the band and their instruments. I believe that that is no longer available to them and they have been renting the services of a vehicle in that respect in very uncomfortable positions. I will make through the appropriate agencies the services of one of those coaches to them so that they can travel in comfort to their particular assignments.

They will remain with the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. They are demands even now, as the Minister of Tourism and Sports indicated, for the use of those buses. They will be available. I do not want to give any impression that these are going to be made available for purchase by any private entrepreneurs. The services of the coaches will be available on request in accordance with arrangements which will be worked out by the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. The Government has uses or needs for transportation in comfort for those who come as guests of the Government. From time to time these will be met through these particular coaches.

There is a demand from the private sector and that will also be met. There are demands from various interests in the public sector as well for these coaches. I do not think that this should be a major matter of debate that a Government is seeking to provide an improvement in the ground transportation facilities available in this country to support governmental needs, other public sector needs as well as private sector needs.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
6.40 p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, I will accept and I have no reason to doubt the Prime Minister or that there

was nothing underhand or secretive about the purchase of these buses. But something remarkable just came out of what the Prime Minister said. It has to do with the fact that nothing he said parallels with what the Minister of Tourism said in relation to the purchase of these buses. Now one must equate the purchase of these buses, Sir, with the building of the thing up there at Sherbourne, Two Mile Hill. It is as though the buses were brought into Barbados and then a decision was taken and the question was asked - now what are we going to do with these things? I could not for one moment imagine that the five buses that were brought into Barbados will be used to complement the public service vehicles of the Transport Board. Well, that is what the Prime Minister said that there were fifty-five.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation. The point I was making was that there was a total package as far as the purchase and financing of buses was concerned. I was saying that a total number of buses came into the country. The vast majority of them were going to the Transport Board and I am saying that five luxury coaches were going for the specific purposes as determined by the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Now did you say anything different to me? You said that the fifty-five buses cost \$2 million. We have fifty buses costing U.S. \$3.3 million..

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Let me clarify that - U.S. \$3.3 million for the buses for the Transport Board plus. Let me separate them for you if you are having a difficulty. It cost some \$567,000 for the five luxury coaches.

Mr. R. P. BYER: You see, Mr. Chairman, this is why the citizenry of this country must sometimes question why Government is doing certain things. Now it is all right to see buses appearing in a country. How long were they here? God knows how long. This is the first time we are now hearing the rationale for the purchase of these buses. Because I am still of the opinion, Sir, that when these buses were buses that Government did not anticipate what use they would be put to. As I said, the parallel can be drawn with what is happening at Two Mile Hill. Up to now, the development is taking place from time to time. Today it is one thing and tomorrow it is another thing. Plans are being made up as you go along as to what that eventually will be.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, do not jump on me. I just drew that, Sir, for the purposes of comparison. I just made a point. I am done with that.

Now I have serious difficulty with the rationale of the frequent requests that are being made for this type of

transportation. I am of the opinion that the coaches in Barbados that are owned privately can certainly handle the requests that are constantly being made for transportation. This puts me in mind, Sir, of those trucks that are used to transport sugar. At the end of the crop season you put them down to the next crop season. What will happen with these coaches is that they will be put down for long periods of time, Sir. I say that is an unnecessary expense. The only time that they were used since the CPA Conference was the other day when the Vice President of America was here. A long time has expired. The Prime Minister has got to come better than this. So nothing that you say that this ought not to be any serious political issue changes anything. It has got to be one. Because the whole thing was shrouded in secrecy from the very beginning. It was shrouded in secrecy according to the Prime Minister from what I can gather from what he has said because until now no use for these buses was determined none whatsoever. I still have difficulty with that.

The Prime Minister was not very clear on what he was saying about the 55 coaches that were purchased. The only thing that was clear to me in clarification was the actual cost Fifty of the buses cost U.S. \$3.3 million. Those are the Transport Board ones that are in Barbados and the other five cost U.S. \$1.2 million. Is that what you said? That is the only thing that is clear to me at this moment. Nothing more is clear to me. I just think that the Government is searching for reasons to justify the purchase of these coaches and I still have grave difficulty with this. The only one of those buses that has been put to any use whatsoever is the one that will be given to the Police Band. That is the one that will be put to any frequent use. The other four will remain at the Tourism Investment Corporation sitting down and catching rust. I want to know what will be the maintenance cost for buses of that kind and quality. One of the things that you learn about quality vehicles is that they have to be constantly on the move just like yours as well. We have similar taste - got to be on the move all of the time. The Prime Minister can tell you about that as well.

Asides.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I am giving way to the Prime Minister.

I have not finished talking.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not think that the Member should be in any difficulty. We are trying to be as open as possible with you. You have a difficulty. What we are saying is and what I was trying to point out was that it is a financing package to upgrade transportation services in this country both for general transportation through the Transport Board and they were allocated a number of buses. » Let me give you the figure. I believe the Minister of Tourism has indicated that there were, in fact, 45 buses plus** five giving a total of 50 buses - 45 to the Transport Board

and five luxury buses. So I hope there is no misunderstanding on this particular matter. The cost again is U.S. \$3.3 million for the buses going to the Transport Board and \$567,000 for the five luxury coaches. If there is any further information that you require, I will be happy to give it. 6:50 p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, the only thing that the Prime Minister has done is to change the amount of buses, from 55 to 50. He has not said anything more. For months the Opposition has been trying to find out about these buses. I believe the Member for St. Thomas has a Question on the Order Paper about this. I have problems with the rationale and I am of the opinion that as we go on the reason for the purchase of the buses is now coming out. I do not understand, I know the Minister of Transport in these matters. When it comes to the question of transport, the Minister of Transport and Works is up front with buses providing transport for the people of Barbados. What input did he have in this? That is what I would like to know, if the Minister of Transport and Works had anything to do with this decision.

As I said before, Sir, at the risk of repeating myself, nothing the Minister of Tourism said parallels with anything the Prime Minister has said. They are poles apart on the reasoning and the reasons for the decision to import these buses. I say no more on that, Sir.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the argument put by Government this evening in relation to this matter underscores, and I think illustrates, the point that the Opposition has been trying to put to Government regarding the extent and the reason for squandermania in Barbados, that once a source of funds is available to this Government it will spend it, that it has expanded taxes at a most ferocious pace and it will spend the taxes.

Similarly, Sir, we are being told this afternoon that Government has bought the buses only because a financing package was available. Barbados has in the past hosted a large number of international meetings, including meetings of the ACP, meetings of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, meetings of Commonwealth Ministers of Finance, but we have never yet been put to the necessity in this country to indulge in this bout of public spending in order to accommodate what was indeed a one shot operation. I do believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Government has a responsibility to justify why it has to incur capital expenditure of that extent, together with down stream maintenance and operating expenses associated with the running of the buses, merely because there was a CPA conference in Barbados.

There is an additional point, Sir, that the Government seems not to be concerned with. One of the issues that has been raised in this country is an issue put by the taxi men of Barbados to the effect that since 1986 the large number of

licences for new taxis has made it harder and harder for those that were there to begin with to make a decent living, and for the additional number of persons that have been granted taxis also to survive in the context of a more intense competitive situation. Obviously, Sir, if these new coaches are now to be added to that situation, in the context of a general environment in which the prospects of making a good living as a taxi man has been already worsened by reason of the large scale increase in the number of licences for taxis, if we are now going to add

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There has been no large scale increase. The quota of 1200 five sealer taxis was fixed by the Barbados Labour Party Government in 1984. They are the only permits which have been issued.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Minister of Transport has at long last clarified this issue, but certainly it has been out there without rebuttal from Government that part and parcel of the difficulties faced by taxi men in this country has been the extension of the number of licences issued, but the point I want to come to is that the Minister has told us that these particular coaches have been brought in to be integrated into the tourism industry.

Clearly the House needs to know what are the terms that will surround their operation by the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. Is it now intended that the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation is going to go into the business of running these coaches for a charge to compete with those persons who are now in the private sector, including a lot of small men that the Democratic Labour Party likes to beef about? Are we to understand now that the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation will now assume the responsibility of competing in the provision of transportation of tourists in Barbados? If they are not going to be doing that, pray kindly tell us what they are going to do with these coaches.

I think we also need to be told in this House now exactly what are the conditions that will attach themselves in circumstances where these luxury coaches are to be used in competition with the existing private sector which is making a living from transporting tourists in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, it is also very clear to us on this side that the funds that were spent by Government in acquiring five luxury coaches for Bds.\$1.2 million to be put to sit down now, after they have been used by the CPA, would have been better spent if they had been given to the Ministry of Transport and Works, which got 55 at \$3.5 million, as compared to five at \$1.2 million, to enable constituencies like mine, Sir, where the bus service has deteriorated, or like that of my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas where the bus service has deteriorated, or like that of my colleague from Christ

Church West where the bus service has deteriorated, or St. George, even the City, St. Michael South Central, if these funds had been used rather than our spending \$600 000 to buy coaches that are now not being used, if we had used those funds, put the funds in the Transport Board where more buses would have been bought, and the Minister would have been in a position to tell me today that there is some sort of solution in sight to the problems of a bad transportation system in St. Peter, and clearly this reflects poorly on Government's ordering of its priorities, because we are now being told that this Government finds it more desirable to find funds to buy five luxury coaches to be used once every so often, that it prefers to spend money in that form and fashion rather than use those funds to expand the rolling stock of the Transport Board, and we all know the crisis and the problems faced in that particular respect.

All told, the common DLP syndrome, you can now call it the Sherbourne syndrome, we will build and we will find a use for it thereafter. We will purchase and we will justify the expenditure thereafter. Once taxes are available, we will spend. If we can find loans we will also spend. It is a wonderful syndrome, Sir, part and parcel of a Government which in our submission is guilty properly of the charge of squandermania, because it is a form of Parkinson's Law here being operated, that expenditure expands to absorb all the revenues available for its support, and that is the charge that this Opposition has been putting to the Government. There is no instance that better illustrates it than this particular instance where we now have five coaches, but this Government does not know what to do with them. The Prime Minister even on his feet was struggling, making instant policies, struggling to say one might go to the Police Band, but we cannot be sure, only on request, and with the next four any number can play. 7.00p.m.

He said one might go to the Police Band, only on request, and the next four available to the Barbados Defence Force. Any number can play. It is a sad situation. I think that rather than to have made this very unfortunate intervention which more than anything in this debate substantiates squandermania, that the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister of the country would have done better if he had come to the assistance of his Minister of Tourism who has been struggling in this debate.

I found the Minister of Finance's intervention sad. It reminded me of the occasion when he went to the Hotel Association and started his speech by the observation that he knew nothing about tourism. Nothing has changed since then, because it was pathetic for the Minister to come to this House to tell this House that tourism has contributed 9 per cent of the growth of the economy in recent time. Now good Lord, if tourism has only contributed 9 per cent of the growth of the economy in recent times, then in point of fact the economy has not grown at the rate that the Minister has been talking about, and we have in the course of this debate

brought to the Minister of Tourism's attention the fact that there is a serious situation facing tourism in Barbados today where at the height of the winter people are being laid off for the first time in history, that in the case of Heywoods, Mr. Chairman, it is now becoming a microcosm of the general problems facing tourism in Barbados, and we have not had a response from the Minister of Tourism in relation to what lies ahead, and we heard the Minister of Finance who presides over his economic council and over Cabinet and his only response to the situation which is now unfolding on tourism is to say that there is nothing to indicate that there will not be problems in the tourism sector.

I think, Sir, that we deserve a higher level of commentary from the only Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs on a matter as important as this than the bland observation that there is nothing to indicate that there will not be problems in the tourism sector, nothing of vision, nothing of courage, nothing of substance. There is nothing to indicate that there will not be problems in the tourism sector. We can agree with him, Sir. There are serious problems in the tourism sector now, and the real problem that faces the Minister of Finance, as we have made the point today earlier, is that Barbados now finds itself in the peculiar position that that sector which has underwritten any growth in the economy over the course of the last two years, is now itself facing a situation of pressure raising the broad spectre of general decline in the economy, and that is the issue that the Minister of Finance ought to have been addressing in this debate and rather than telling the House about his speculations as to how these coaches might be used or might not be used, should be telling the House how he intends to address in collaboration with his Minister of Tourism the problems that have started to emerge in tourism, so that we can be confident that the prospects not only for tourism but for the general economy will not be worsened by reason of an inactive and a wayward Government.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I won't need the two minutes, Sir.

I just wish simply to say that the Minister of Finance's intervention in this debate has been very unfortunate. It causes us to believe on this side that this Government is spending money merely because there is money to be spent, willy-nilly, as my friend from the City says, Sir, that there is no justification whatsoever that is capable of being advanced by Government in relation to the coaches, and I really feel that the Government would do the country a service if it were to sell the coaches that have been lying down at the Barbados Defence Force under the armed guard of the soldiers of the society, and put the funds realised from the sale of those coaches at the disposal of the

Transport Board so that rolling stock can be purchased to deal with the real rather than the imaginary problems of this society, and I am obliged to you.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in many ways the intervention of the Honourable Members on the other side about the coaches bring a measure of pain to anyone who has for whatever reason spent some time for Barbados outside of this country and who has observed the position of Barbados as perceived by a large number of countries around the world. There is a tremendous sorrow when one hears Honourable Members putting forward a mirror image of Barbados that is more in keeping with the image of Barbados in the 1950s than is the present situation.

Mr. Chairman, when we came to the end of the 35th Small Countries Conference and the CPA Conference, there was a closing ceremony at the Frank Collymore Hall to which all Honourable Members and many people in Barbados had been invited, and there is not one of them who was there who was not moved by the comments and statements by a number of visitors to Barbados from across the spectrum of the Commonwealth who spoke in the most glowing terms about the efficiency. They all said that this was the best conference they had ever attended since they had been attending Commonwealth Conferences for ever from their inception. There were persons there including the Speaker of the Zimbabwe House who spoke in such glowing terms about how he felt that he had come home when he came to Barbados. He said that they had heard so much of Barbados, especially the Africans, they said that they could go back - I remember these words almost verbatim - he said we can go back to Africa and we can tell our brothers and sisters that we have seen what has been wrought by those lost brothers and sisters over so many years.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, I do not think the Honourable Member should mislead the House by having us believe that because our African brothers rode in air-conditioned coaches....

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member knows that you cannot anticipate, but I will get there and I will explain because the Honourable Member embarrassed me tonight. All of the Honourable Members except one who spoke over there embarrassed me as a Barbadian. I understand that there are ordinary Barbadians who have a right to question the spending of money. When they hear the figure \$1.3 million they will know that is a lot of money because for ordinary Barbadians that is a lot of money. 7.10p.m.

I do not understand Honourable Members on this side who themselves have participated in international conferences around the world and who heard some of the

comments that were made by us, \$1.3 million without more is a very small investment for the coverage which we will get across the world in the commonwealth and the attitude which was engendered and it was engendered by the charm and the efficiency of the Civil Servants and the other persons who worked as Liaison Officers with them.

Now, Sir, here is why and they commented specifically about the precision with which we were able to move large groups from point A to point B and the reason we were able to do it - everyone is agreed - was because everyone from the Commonwealth Secretariat, and all of the delegates recognized that we were to do it because we copied from what we had seen in places like Canada where by using a certain size of ground transportation we were able to move large groups, precisely in the same way.

The question was what kind of transportation we would provide for those distinguished visitors and for other distinguished visitors to come, not for one year, not for two years, but for as far as the eye can see. They are speaking as if these buses are disposable like a syringe, that once you have used them you can throw them away or gloves that they are disposable and that once you have used them you could toss them away.

The fact is that these buses, that \$1.3 million, is a long-term investment. The buses if they are cared, and if they are maintained they will be available for the following. We had the CPA Conference. We just had the Vice President of the United States here. He brought 100 people with him. We will have the Heads of Government of Canada and the CARICOM here next week.

We are going to have, and let me say before I go on. The CPA Conference, and this is the reason why we had to look at the buses. It was the first time we were going to be hosting as large a group as we then were going to host and one of the questions which Mr. Speaker continued to ask is whether we could accommodate a large group of 700 or more and it was recognized that we would have to have them at disparate places at different hotels and the one way in which we could coordinate that was to have buses of a certain kind to bring them together.

But we recognize that we could invest that money because we were going to be needing that kind of transportation in the future. We have coming up in Barbados this year the Commonwealth Education Conference in which over 900 people are expected to come. We have a Health Minister's Conference coming up. We had large groups of VIPs coming into Barbados and these are things that are going to go on year after year after year.

Now, one of the reasons why we have always had problems with maintenance is because if you have one of anything and you drive it and you cannot maintain it, then it will break down. If you have four buses available and you

can have continuous maintenance then you are in a position to offer the high quality service of luxury buses.

Now, I challenge any Honourable Member over there, especially the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who has been a Foreign Minister, and who has travelled for Barbados, we cannot be like bookies who when we go overseas we enjoy the luxury and the accommodations which the people give us overseas but when we are inviting people to our shores we cannot behave in a manner as befitting a country that is middle developing.

Barbados is not a backward little country. Barbados is a country that I and a whole lot of other people have gone across the world saying to them by our actions, by our attitudes, by our speech that we are ahead of a vast number of other people and when they come to our shores they find us civilised, they find us able to have debate, they find us able to do a number of things. We do not live beyond our means but we can never say we have no airplanes, we have no ships except for the warships which the Labour Party bought. We have none of the luxuries which are contemporaneous with certain mentality of certain developing countries but four buses.

The Opposition in pursuit of the politics of expediency would drive the population of Barbados to believe that those four buses are too good for us. There are five buses. I beg your pardon, not four. Those five buses are too good for us. Journalists can tell you that they have gone to cover a story somewhere in the world and they have driven in buses of the same quality.

The buses were purchased in a package. I can understand some Honourable Members but not the Honourable Member for St. Peter. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has negotiated packages before. They come and they talk to us about the foreign exchange problem. We wanted to purchase the buses. We did not have to take up the taxes that the ordinary people paid. We were able to get as a package 50 buses.

We are borrowing the money. Yes, we are borrowing it but we are borrowing it through the Crown Agents which means we do not have to look for immediate foreign exchange and that is why we took the opportunity, all things considered, to include the five buses in the package. It is no mystery. It is something that happens in international financing.

The reason why we did not make a big production out of it is because we did not think that the picayune and pejorative nature of the queries would have been such as to require us to come out and make a massive statement about five buses.

We apologise for not making a triumphal statement about the five buses but..

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am talking foolishness but you are the only one who would think so because you have a perception that is just above....

Sir, as I was saying. We have an understanding, Sir, that people would quarrel about things. We expect the Opposition to fight us. We expect them to demonstrate that we are incompetent, that we are wicked, that we are squandering the people's money. That is path for the course but, honestly, not the five buses that would help us to present a particular image of Barbados to people who come here. You want the heads of Government of Canada and the other people to think of Barbados in the same backward terms as they think of The Gambia? What kind of mirror image you want for the country?

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes. I said the Gambia because they will say it themselves. I am not cursing them. The lady who is the Minister of Health for the Gambia will tell you herself that that is how they are perceived.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You hear that? When I say that they use race to stir up trouble you hear how he is throwing in the word "black" like if nobody does not know that The Gambia is a black country? But that is the whole misery in the Opposition forces in this country. You have nothing....

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

The Minister of Health has been making a big huff and puff about what has transpired in this debate concerning those buses but he has missed the point.

The point that we are making and that the Opposition has steadfastly made is that the reasons for buying the buses were (1) not worked out before they were bought beyond the Parliamentary Commonwealth Conference or any conference. Secondly, that the decision was made to buy the buses and when nothing could be found to do with them they were dumped on the Minister of Tourism and now, all of a sudden, we are trying to rope in the Minister of Transport and Works in the whole thing. We are dealing with the rationale behind the purchasing of the buses not that anybody wants to have a big mirror image.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I still do not consider that a point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if they were not disposed to assume that everybody is a dishonest rat, they would never have assumed that we would do it like that.

The fact is that when I said that we knew about the buses, they wanted to suggest that I was grand-standing. The fact is that it was decided that we would purchase the buses. It was not a matter that the Prime Minister was driving along in his car and decided to buy the buses or telephoned somebody and then came and dropped them on the Minister of Tourism. The question arose. I will tell you. Of all the Statutory Corporations we have, which one would be the most appropriate one to have the buses kept because we intend to have them kept for the next 10 to 15 years? 7.20p.m.

I know about that. I had a car that came from the United States. Every one of you in here knows that it lasted for 13 years until one of my friends wrote it off. He used to call it a bus. Tom Adams called it a hearse. But it lasted for 13 years. We expect those buses to last at least 10 years. So work the \$1.3 million over 10 years. We knew about that, it is not something that happened.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. IIAYNES, lion. B. M. TAITT and Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD were ordered, by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the Record.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Unlike the youngsters, he is an old gentleman in here. He knows what was happening there. You were in the Chair and you know too that you do not have to say it if everybody knows it. You know that if it is a point of order....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You did not know? I beg your pardon.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Sir. Whenever I was in the Chair, I was very careful to say these things all the time.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He has what you would call then, Sir, an elementary mind which requires that the thing be said all the time. But some people take the shorthand like the present Chairman. He does not say it all the time. I cannot tell the Chair what you should do.

As I was finishing, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am an old gcc/er compared to you. This mind of mine is so old. It has been around a long time, cured. Not like yours that is unused. This is one that is tired from use. This mind is tired from use. Yours is still virgin. Give it a chance.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I was making the point that we determined that the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation was of all the corporations we have the one that would be responsible for the distribution and handing out of the coaches which would remain in the compound under the jurisdiction of the army. When the CPA was here, the Army drivers drove them. We feel secure with them in there. There is no mystery to it. It is a whole straightforward position taken by the Government. We accept responsibility for it.

I do not understand why, if you cannot find anything to quarrel about, if you cannot find in tourism anything to quarrel about but the 5 buses that sends a message to us. That tells us that the success which has attended tourism over the last few years since the Democratic Labour Party came to office is an indication of the quality of Government which we have brought to the country.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter should be the last to talk about the Parkinson's law. He did not quote Parkinson's law but he said it was a version thereof, obviously being concocted by him. He is good at taking theories, rules and laws and twisting to suit his purpose. But maybe you would say that is creative.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member has one minute to conclude.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He would know because he is a person who was in Ihrcr when the Central Bank was built. He was the person who saw the accretion of \$108 million in building. How much was it, more? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition when we used to compare notes on the cost of the Central Bank at the last time of counting, we were up to \$92 million. That is where we were. Up to the time he left, the figures had not been completed, the Central Bank was \$92 million.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter therefore should not Uilk about it. That expenditure expands to find its level or some such twisting. We spend \$1.3 million to buy 4 buses that will last for 10 years. You can do long division or short division and you will discover that that is a proper investment over the period of time.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. We always knew that it was a proper investment. Five hundred and sixty thousand US dollars is no more than the Honourable Member for St. Michael Souih Central will dispose of in a weekend, all things being equal. And you look at a whole big Government, a whole big country and you want us for \$560 000 not to have 4 buses to allow former Parliamentarians to be able to drive in them for the next 10 years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude now.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I regret that I have to get into this but I end by saying that we must, we have a duty as leaders, we have a clear responsibility as leaders to provide a certain standard to which all of our country must aspire. They put us there to lead and to show them the way. Sometimes they are not always with us, sometimes they are ahead of us. But generally speaking in these matters, even though some people who might not know any better will bleat and blow, we do not expect Honourable Members on that side to make political points that may turn out to be detrimental to the fabric.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will come again, Sir.
7.30p.m.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make two short points. The first is that at no time has anyone ever approached me to authorize either the workshop of the Ministry of Transport and Works or the workshop of the Transport Board to take care of those buses.

The second point is that I support the buses for use at the conference and, if that was the sole purpose for which the buses were purchased, it is my contention that that would be enough. We in Barbados aspired not so long ago to have a Barbadian elected as the President of the United Nations. We even aspired more than 10 years earlier to have the Honourable Member for Christ Church West elected as the President of the United Nations General Assembly. If he had greater faith in the Ambassador of the United Nations at the time, he might have enjoyed that particular distinction.

Mr. R. P. B YER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear the point of order.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I wonder who was that Ambassador, Sir.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Do the arithmetic and you will find out. Mr. Chairman, the point that I am trying to make, is that it is inappropriate to use crude profit and loss criteria in trying to analyze the benefits of diplomatic activity. If we attempted to apply the same criteria to the money spent on Barbados Missions in New York, Washington, and other places, then a case could be made out that such money ought not to be spent because it is impossible to quantify all of the benefits that are derived from diplomatic activity. Obviously, the hosting of a

conference of an international nature is an important Foreign Affairs decision which was made and once such a decision was made the Government of Barbados was bound to accept all of the responsibilities that are incumbent upon a host Government.

I have represented Barbados in Yugoslavia and they gave me a new Mercedes Benz that nobody had driven in before and a chauffeur and I could give that man instructions to drive me wherever I wanted to go at anytime during a 24 hour period. The same thing happened even in a country like Belize which is less developed than Barbados. As a matter of an expression of gratitude for the work that Barbados had done on its behalf, the Belizean Government invited me to Belize and placed a small aircraft at my disposal and I was flown all over Belize. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West received a similar invitation which he did not avail himself of the benefits.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, we are not in the realm of counting pennies and cents. We are in the realm of sophisticated diplomatic activity and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who was a distinguished Foreign Minister should know better than to come into this Honourable House and demean himself by discussing diplomatic issues in terms of cents and pennies. Let the more inexperienced and uninformed Members....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. I have not on this issue discussed any diplomatic matters in terms of pennies and cents. I have made a very simple intervention in this case but a deep one, which is that in instances of this nature where the private sector could provide and was willing to provide in this case because there was no necessity for Government to have an expenditure.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Government has a responsibility to ensure that it controls the resources at its disposal in such cases. There has been in the experiences of countries many an instance where private sector entities chose to embarrass Governments when foreign guests were in the country and many countries exercised the required prudence by ensuring that on such occasions when they invite hundreds of guests within their jurisdiction to make sure that they exercise the fullest control. I may add in passing, this tendency to invoke the private sector as if it is some sanctum sanctorium is something that I reject out of hand. I do not believe that Government should fail to exercise its responsibilities particularly in an area like that because a few individuals who are private citizens in Barbados have coaches. I can see no fundamental principle in this. When a Government acts in its relation as a sovereign body in relation to other sovereign bodies, then it

cannot be at the mercy of any petty individual citizen or entity as represented by that citizen.

So I want to restate my position very, very clearly that in the area of diplomacy it is impossible to quantify benefits. Nobody can with certainty apply a mathematical value to the benefits that will accrue to the people of Barbados as a result of hosting a conference. You do not know when a response will come maybe now or within the next six months or the next six years where the same countries would support Barbados on important questions that will bring material benefits to Barbados. In the area of diplomacy, one works slowly and patiently building an edifice of goodwill brick by brick by brick and in this particular area when benefits come it is very, very difficult to identify any single cause. One of the most important task of diplomacy is for a country unremittingly to cultivate goodwill wherever and whenever it can. It is myopic and misguided to see the purchase of the buses and their use in any other way than a legitimate exercise of the foreign affairs function of the sovereign Government of Barbados and nobody anywhere in the world attempts to apply crude profit and loss criteria in the evaluation of a particular Foreign Policy Act or policy. 7.40p.m.

I repeat again, given the magnitude of the conference, if the buses had been purchased for that and that alone, in my view it would have sufficed.

Having said that, I do not believe that the Government should have rushed precipitately into disposing of the buses. I think a deliberate measured and considered response as to what to do with the buses is in order. There are many people who believe that decisiveness is characterised by immediacy. A man rushes pell mcll into an act and therefore he is decisive. The most important decisive decisions are those that are measured and well considered, and I believe that it is appropriate for the Government to take its time to determine how the buses will be proper!}' used to ensure that the Government gets whatever value is left for the next decade or more when they can serve a utilitarian function.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by lion. B. M. TAITT', Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit a^ain, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the ('hair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be suspended until 8.30 this evening.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.45 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee has resumed.

The question that Head 43 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 85 - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS (as amended) S9 054 665

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of S9 054 665 under Capital - Head 85 - Ministry of Tourism and Sports - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES \$16 818 654

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, within recent times we have had quite a lot of debate on agriculture. What I propose to do very quickly is to go through the Heads and then seek to answer any questions posed under this Head.

Under this general Head I should like to give a very quick review, which I did last week, on the fortunes of the agricultural sector over the last year. As usual, any discussion on the topic of agriculture has to start with sugar, which is central to the whole discussion.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, it is well known by now that the fortunes of sugar have been at a low ebb over the last year or two and we really do not expect to see any significant improvement in that situation in the present year. However, the Ministry, in consultation with the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited, has been having an exhaustive look at the situation that presents itself for the year 1991 in an effort to return the sugar industry to a state of viability which will allow it to earn some foreign exchange for this country and once again becoming an important sector.

In an effort to do this, we as a policy decision have made a programme under the minimum guaranteed price level which includes sugar cane and a few other crops, and we have placed on the table before the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited for the year 1990 a revised amount of \$997 and for the year 1991 the sum of \$1 020 with an additional \$25 per tonne if the crop should go over the 80 000 tonnes.

The Barbados Sugar Industry Limited has once again requested, and continues to request, that the subsidy paid under this Head for sugar should be \$1 137 and therefore we have not been able as yet to reach any agreement on the minimum, guaranteed price for sugar. We have been able to have an acceptance for the 1989 crop of \$950 a tonne for sugar and we will continue to discuss this, because it is critical if the 1991 crop should reach anything like the 80 000 tonnes that we hope for, that we would have to get a programme put in place at the end of this month which will allow them to start to cultivate, to bring in about 3 000 additional acres or so, as well as to retain some fourth crop ratooning and apply the necessary agronomic work to keep it going. 8.35 p.m.

The industry has gone through a very rough period and the main difficulties of the industry is the present debt burden which is over \$180 million, most of which is owed to the Barbados National Bank, and because of this debt burden the industry is in a state of very low morale. Part of the discussions going on between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance and the industry is to seek to find acceptable ways to bring a solution to the debt problem in the sugar industry, and these discussions will continue, and I am hopeful that we will have some successful solution to it.

The reason for the offer of the minimum guaranteed price is to allow the sugar industry to plan with some certainty over a three year period, since one of the main difficulties they encounter as has always been stipulated to us is the fact that the movement of the European Currency Unit against the United States dollar has always posed an uncertainty, and therefore as a result they were not ever sure of what type of receipts they were going to get from sugar. I do hope that we will be able to meet a consensus between ourselves and the industry on the 1991 programme so that we would be returning to some viability.

Very quickly if I might take an excursion through the other sectors of the Ministry, under the subhead crop research and extension, once again we are continuing our work in these areas, and one of the main difficulties we have had in that area is the matter of the control of diseases affecting our crops, and the main ones have been the white fly, which we have not completely licked as yet, as well as the antrachnose in the yams, and the more recent one is the thrips palmae which I spoke about the other day.

The sugar cane variety testing station is continuing its work and for the first time in a long while the industry is beginning to pay some attention to the varieties of cane. One of the main problems that the industry I believe is encountering is the fact that of the varieties of canes at the moment in this year's crop, about 77 per cent is the 64261 which is a variety about 27 years old, and it has been proven throughout the world of sugar cane that when varieties begin to get as old as 25 years the productivity goes down and this variety is becoming quite susceptible to diseases. As a result they are being urged to move to some newer varieties which they have been testing, and we hope over the next three to four years that we will see the dependence on the 64261 reduced where we would have at least 35 per cent to 40 per cent of the varieties of cane as new varieties that have been placed on the market.

The land and water use research division is continuing its work, and the policy under this division is to try to explore and map every possible source of irrigable water in Barbados, and this is intended to enable the Ministry to ultimately move to a stage where we would have about 5 000 acres of land under irrigation mostly using the drip irrigation system that would allow us to plan our non-sugar crop and be a lot more productive. This section is very important to us since more and more of the farmers with available water are moving towards drip irrigation, and we have seen this particularly in those new people going into bananas where most of them have been using the fertigation system where they inject the fertiliser into the irrigation system as well as any other herbicides or so they need for their bananas.

The plant protection section as I said earlier on has faced some difficulties with the three diseases that I have spoken about, but we are hopeful. Work has been going on on the white fly and there has been some success with it, There has been limited success with antrachnose and as a result we might have to move over to other varieties of yams. The Lisbon crops are a favourite of the antrachnose. It has almost wiped out the Lisbon crops throughout the entire Caribbean. It is unbelievable that you plant two varieties of yams and you see that the Lisbon crops are attacked very severely by the antrachnose and the other one is not. Last year we had some increase in the yam production, we went up to about 474 acres and hope that if we can gather all available material which we are now hosting up that we will be able to increased that section.

Under livestock development we will continue our work with the Black Belly sheep. The main work that we are doing is a genetic selection programme for the development of the Black Belly sheep and this is going on in conjunction with an American University where we have been using a computer model. The Ministry has finally decided on a genetic programme for the Black Belly sheep because before we had done some research on crossing the Black Belly with the Wiltshire at first and then crossing the

Black Belly with another imported sheep, but our experience has shown that we did not get the results that we were looking for and ultimately it has been decided that the best way to handle this is by genetic selection of the Black Belly sheep. We have a very interesting programme for the expansion of the Black Belly sheep and we are encouraging more and more people to breed the Black Belly sheep in what we call a very intensive feed lot system, where they are kept indoors and they are fed by a ration and local stuff.

This year we are doing a beef feed lot in which we intend to see the economics of developing a beef industry using the feed lot system. This feed lot system is being developed at Greenland in St. Andrew where we buy some bulls and we would feed them with a locally developed ration, chart their progress and see if we can develop a beef industry using the feed lot system. Some of this work has already been done by the ADC at Spring Hall where they have been using an almost totally local ration comprising cotton seed, brewers yeast, molasses, potatoes when they have been dried and grated, as well as the grasses that we have, and we have had very good success with that programme using that local ration, and we intend to continue to develop it, do all the necessary statistics to pass it on to the other sector.

In the livestock sector this year the health of the overall livestock industry has been very good. We have not had any outbreaks of diseases in our livestock industry. Our vet services together with our private vets have been doing a relatively good job, and I would say that the health of the livestock sector in Barbados is quite good.

Under the livestock sector I will report very quickly that the dairy industry continued to improve. There has been an increase in the intake at the Pine Hill Dairy this year so much so that it is beginning to pose a little problem as to what to do with the fresh milk, but they are now doing an extensive campaign to get Barbadians to drink more milk. They are now discussing in conjunction with the dairy industry a quota system which would allow a structured development of the industry, so that the suppliers and the people would be able to decide on what they are doing.

Under animal nutrition, as I said, we continue to develop our local feeding stuff. Vet services. The vet lab continued to provide the services to the whole sector and there have been no particular problem with that.

Very quickly on markets, in this year's Capital Estimates we have provided a sum of \$100 000 to do the final designs for a new market at Chcapside. At the other ones we have had some minor repairs, but our main thrust in markets would be the final design for the Chcapside Market as well as the Fairchild Street market would be demolished this year for the extension of the bus terminal. 8.45 p.m.

The Fisheries Division - as you know the Barbados Fishing Complex came on stream this year and as a result most of the boats have moved down to the Bridgetown Fishing Complex. As I said yesterday, we have had and we still are encountering some problems with the supply of ice. We are aware of this and it is mainly due to the fact that the cost of ice at the Complex is much cheaper than the cost of ice most places and two of the others, like the one in Cavans Lane have not been producing. We have recently had discussions with Cavans Lane to reopen, that ice complex to allow the fishing boats to use that.

Met. Services, under this Head there is nothing special that ever goes on at Met. Services. They have been doing their work as usual and would continue to do their work.

In summary, the year under review has been a mixed year for the agriculture sector. The sugar cane industry is still very much in decline and, as I said, we hope that next we will see some upward movement on that.

There has been some improvement in the non-sugar sector. The stats are becoming available. There have been some increases in certain items as well as increases in production of the main crops, yams, potatoes, carrots, and melons.

There has been some decrease in pumpkins and I will try and get the stats available for them. But in all, the non-sugar sector has shown some improvement. The livestock sector has performed very well, with poultry leading the way. There was improvement in beef as well as the pork sector.

In the controversial area of our cotton industry we expect that there would be slight decrease in the production this year. As I reported to this House before the draft of the Special Audit, I am told, should be available very shortly and when that draft is available, any action that has to be taken as a result will be taken.

The Government has instituted some alternate measures to reschedule and to restructure the whole industry so that we will be able to get back on schedule but at this particular moment because of the sensitivity until the special audit is available, I would prefer not to comment on it.

Mr. Chairman, I think the best way to handle this is to move that this Head stand part and deal with any questions that might arise.

There are no amendments in this section. There are amendments in Capital.

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

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to lead off my debate with Markets. Now, as you would know, for the past almost four years I have been complaining about the conditions of the markets in this country and I have been complaining about the fishing industry and until something is done to upgrade these you will be hearing me every time there is a debate on agriculture.

It is my duty to put the case for these people since they have told me that I have been the first Member of Parliament who have taken it upon myself to look after their interest.

Now, I will start first with Oistins Market because I believe in starting from home. Just about an hour and three quarters ago I passed Oistins and as I was passing going in the direction of the Airport, I heard someone shouting "Look Ginger car going up. Look the vagabond going up."

I heard another person shouting "I wonder if he knows we have to burn snuff bottle lamps in this Market."

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: That is a bottle with a cork wick and kerosene oil. I had to tell him. He might forget. He tells me he does not know.

Another person shouted "Oh, he is not going to take you on now, not even Bobby Morris because this is a different constituency." This is true. This is the type of things we hear.

I want to implore on the Minister of Agriculture to kindly look into this problem because it really is a disgrace.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am always in Oistins Market hiding. The Minister went once.

There has been a lot of talk about improving the Shallow Draught and removing the fishermen...

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I am going from what these people are saying. You have not told them that? You had better tell them.

In any case, Sir, I would like the Government whether they are removing the fishermen or not to provide them with proper facilities for beaching their boats. What I see at the sand pit is a national disgrace. We need something better.

I turn next to Bay Street. I would want to see a proper shed set up at Bay Street to accommodate the repair of

boats whereby the defunct fish market could be turned into better use, namely, changing rooms for bathers and additionally it could be used for some kind of handicraft work, something like that. I think that is a building which is going to waste and if we want to keep the environment clean, I think it is but right that we build a proper shelter for the repair and the maintenance of boats. I hope the Minister is listening to me carefully and when he takes his notes he would not just go to his office and dump them in the wastepaper basket because I will be back here again complaining about these things. 8.55 p.m.

It is ridiculous when you go to Browne's Beach in particular and there is any amount of rain, it is impossible to walk on that beach. There is a float which runs from the new complex above the private place next door, cruise ship centre and it floods the beach. I was told that a culvert which was put down many years ago to channel the water to the sea has been broken up in order to accommodate this facility. I think that we should make arrangements to have the water flow continuously to the sea. I understand that the Minister was up there and he had promised that he would look into it. Each time I stop on the beach I am being harassed.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Oh yes. They like to harass me. Ice. I cannot understand why we would want to build structures like the Chcapside Market. You are going to install an ice machine to cater to the ice boats. I thought that the sensible thing to do would be to find out how much ice would be required for the number of boats per week. Now that the complex is finished we find that the machine cannot supply the demand. This is the problem with the machine at the Bridgetown Fishing Complex. The machine is too small, it cannot meet the demand.

I am saying to you, Mr. Minister, you either get a bigger machine or you get an additional machine or machines. There are boat owners who have to tie up their boats for over a week. They have to list their names. This is not good enough because these guys have to pay their loans to the bank. As you would know, the fishing season is very short. It is not as long as many people would believe it is. Any time lost is money lost. When you consider that today they cannot go down to Trinidad, it makes it very difficult for them.

I have been hearing lots of talk and I have been reading in the newspapers about the fishing Agreement in Trinidad. The Minister attempted to tell us what the Agreement is all about but so far, I have gained nothing.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Wait a minute. Let me talk. I should like to know from the Minister if he can tell me at this time the number of boats. The question is not the fees. The fishing people are not too particular about the fees. Their quarrel is the number of boats and whether they will have to give the Trinidadians 50% of their catch. They want this explained now. There is no point keeping this information then you go and sign this Agreement, you present it before them, and then they are saying it does not suit them. I think the best thing to do is to give them an idea of what the Agreement would be like and then let them make their comments.

I notice here that some money is being spent or is to be spent on aquaculture.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order, please.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I remember a short while ago the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and myself went down to his constituency into Longpond and we had a good look around with an engineer who told us that fish farming is possible and fish farming in that part of the country would be a profitable venture. A few weeks after that a visit was paid by the Prime Minister and the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I thought that by now something would have been done as regards aquaculture.

I would want to know from the Minister when he is replying whether he is going to spend this money in Longpond or whether he is going to waste it some other place.

I have been quarrelling about concessions to the fishing industry. After all these years they are only receiving a subsidy of \$350 for the fishing boats. They get a subsidy of \$350 each. Three hundred and fifty dollars nowadays cannot buy a gallon of bottom paint. I think it is unfair that all sectors of agriculture can benefit from worthwhile subsidies and these people who contribute greatly to our foreign exchange still have to go cap in hand for little pittance.

I think it is about time that they get a worthwhile subsidy and that they get duty free equipment. When I say duty free equipment, I do not like the present arrangements we have where you have to go to the Fisheries Officer to get it certified. That is fair enough because anybody could say he has a fishing boat. That is alright with me. Then from there he has to go to the Ministry of Agriculture. That is nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has 2 minutes to conclude.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Already. I want to know if you have in the works, fishing facilities for Speightstown. For years, I have known Speightstown, Hometown, well Hometown was more or less a hotel area and there is no real active fishing going along at Hometown, but I should like to know whether you are going to build a fishing complex at Speightstown like the one at Bridgetown. Because looking at Oistins, I think that it is about time that we get a real fishing complex at Oistins. Oistin Fishing Complex is a hazzard to the fishing industry.

Asides.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I have said that. I have been saying that all the time. It is a hazzard to the fishing industry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: order, order.

Mr. E. BOURNE: The person who had designed that or dreamed about it should be put at the bottom of the seas with 100 pounds of lead around his neck.

How could a person build a jetty, the jetty is roughly 75 yards out to sea on a reef? The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central knows what I am talking about. He is from the area and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: You have to be insured to go out there. 9.05p.m.

It is ridiculous. What should have been done at Oistins was done at Bridgetown. You have to make provisions to protect the boats. As it is, when the wind starts to blow you cannot tie up a battleship

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. E. BOURNE: ... because this would be knocked to pieces. Sir, I will come back again on this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I speak in this debate as a representative

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I speak in this debate as a representative of a rural constituency, a constituency in which the livelihood of the large mass of the constituents depend upon agriculture. I, therefore, have more than a passing interest in this Head that is under

discussion and in particular the General Administration of the affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture. I believe, Sir, that the debate into which we are about to enter is likely to be one of the most decisive debates for the rural society in general. Barbados has reached a very critical turning point at which a decision will have to be taken as to whether agriculture as we have known it as a source of income and employment for the rural people of the society, Sir, will survive in this society. I am saying, Sir, that this debate is in many respects about a particular agenda of the Democratic Labour Party, an agenda that finds at its centre incompetence and corruption in high places, Mr. Chairman. In the absence of an agricultural policy, Sir, we find corruption, and incompetence in high places and in the course of this debate, Sir, we will have to set a proper agenda for the discussion of agricultural issues in this country to bring out the extent of the corruption and the extent of the incompetence which now puts the livelihood of the rural society, Sir, at risk.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am talking about the General Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture under Subhead 8 of Head 25 of the incompetence and corruption extending from the Agricultural Development Corporation and the behaviour of officials at the Agricultural Development Corporation, Sir, straight through the General Administration of the affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture. Yesterday, Sir, the Minister made a statement to this House that was grossly misleading.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is going to come out in this debate of the incompetence and corruption in high places, because this is what Barbados' agriculture today is all about. The names will be called. Do you want me to call the name of Leroy McClean.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is Leroy McClean?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: He is one of the Directors of ADC, Sir, who is now living in an ADC house. I was the Chairman of the Board of the ADC, Sir, and no person at the ADC could offer me even a cherry. But we now have in Barbados, Sir, a member of a board of a corporation who is living in a corporation house. Is he paying rent, Mr. Chairman? If any member of a board of a corporation under the Barbados Labour Party was to live in a house owned by that corporation, Sir, it would be a big scandal in Barbados. Are we to sit in this House and not call names? I am calling names then. Are we to tolerate a situation where a Mr. Leroy McClean, a member of a board of a public corporation....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member of St. Peter, would you take your seat a minute? The Honourable

Member understands the conditions under which names are called in debate in this Chamber. I would strongly suggest that when the Chair is addressing this Chamber and I am in the Chair I do not wish to hear any interruptions. Who is a candidate?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter, I would wish him refrain from calling names which he knows is not the normal practice in this Chamber without the permission of the Chair. The Honourable Minister may continue. I am sorry. Just a minute.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is on a point of order.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a point of order, Sir. Just to set the record straight, the house that the Member for St. Peter is referring to was returned to the Ministry of Housing by ADC. It is now in the Ministry of Housing. It was always vested in the Ministry of Housing. It was on loan when the plantation was being used and after the plantation went out it was returned to the Ministry for its administration.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Minister has confirmed that the House is owned by the Government because that is the essential point, Sir, that is here entailed. But we will come to all of that, Sir. The point that has to be established, Mr. Chairman, is that agriculture in Barbados is in a state of severe crisis, a crisis of a kind that it has never yet experienced in its entire history.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Do you want me to call more names then? Keep challenging me to call names and the names will be called.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are talking about a situation in Barbados in which sugar production has declined to about 60,000 tonnes a year. The stage for the decline of sugar in Barbados was set by the present Minister of Health from as far back as 1974, Sir. When acting in his usual ignorance which caused the demise of almost 500 small businesses in Barbados, the Minister of Health then the Minister of Trade and Industry took fundamental decisions that have brought the sugar industry of this country, Sir, to a state where the level of its production, Sir, cannot go beyond 80,000 tonnes without the sugar industry facing severe problems. The record, Sir, has to be stated again that before 1974 Barbados used to enjoy a guaranteed market under the old Commonwealth Sugar Agreement of 139,000 tonnes a year and that Minister of Health, Sir, was part and parcel to the negotiation of a new arrangement for sugar where that

139,000 tonnes a year were reduced to 53,000 tonnes under the LOME successor to the old CSA based upon his fantasy in 1974 that a country like Barbados could perpetually produce sugar for the world market merely because in 1974 you had a one shot increase in world price for sugar based upon the average demand.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I never knew that the Honourable Member was so ignorant. I never knew he was so ignorant. I am disappointed that he could get up because he read some old newspapers and obviously does not understand them, or is so purblind that at the moment he does not understand what he is reading. That is a fact. What you just said is a fact, but it is a fact that was agreed by the whole Caribbean that we would reduce the amount of sugar that we would put into the ACB. It was a negotiated position. It had nothing to do with the Minister of Health and any idiot who followed the negotiations knows that that is how we functioned back then. Mr. Chairman, I will speak on the matter but I do not see how he can be discussing agriculture in the context of the Minister of Health unless he is thoroughly and completely perversed. 9.15p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is still accusing a Member of perversity. He said that he is discussing it in the context of the Minister of Health, unless he is so perverse. The implication is he is discussing it in the context of the actions of the Minister of Health and therefore he is perverse. That is the logical argument, Sir. In my view it is unparliamentary language and the Honourable Member should withdraw it.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I do not want it withdrawn.

Certain remarks made by Mr. O. S. ARTHUR and Hon. B. M. TAITT were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, they say Barbadians have short memories, but we have to focus upon one matter in particular, that in discussing the existing performance of the sugar industry in Barbados we have to understand how it is that a country which in 1974 had a guaranteed market in Europe for 139 000 tonnes a year finds itself in 1990 with a guaranteed market of 53 000 tonnes, and the blame can be laid directly at the door.....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member knows that the sugar industry in Barbados participated in the negotiations and the sugar industry indicated that they wanted no more than 50 000 tonnes of sugar from Barbados for the European

Community. The Honourable Member must know that, unless he is totally and completely devoid of knowledge.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, since he speaks in terms of all CARICOM producers enjoying low quotas under the EEC arrangements, I will make a document of this House the Barbados Sugar Industry 1984 Review and Outlook, because it says here, Sir, that whereas Barbados' quota under Lome was reduced to 54, that Belize, a CARICOM producer - I am going to call for, you the producers whose quotas were increased, because he is saying to the House when he says all CARICOM producers' quotas were reduced and it was part of a CARICOM arrangement.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I never said anything about all Caribbean producers. Is the Honourable Member intoxicated, Sir? No one in here heard that but you, are you hearing voices? I have never said anything about anybody being reduced. I challenge you to produce in here my saying that any quotas were reduced. Is the Honourable Member still with us?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Make your point of order.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: That it was a CARICOM wide agreement to reduce the amount they were selling under Lome. He just said that a minute ago, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Article 3 of the Lome Convention, the Sugar Protocol which we negotiated:

"Quantities of cane sugar referred to in Article 1 expressed in metric tonnes of white sugar, hereinafter referred to as 'agreed quantities' for delivery in each 12 month period referred to in Article 4(1), shall be as follows:

Barbados	49 300
Fiji	163 600
Guyana	157 700
Jamaica	118300
Kenya	5 000
Madagascar	10 000
Malawi	20 000
Mauritius	487 200
People's Republic of Congo	10 000
Swaziland	116400
Tanzania	10 000
Trinidad and Tobago	69 000
Uganda	5 000

That is a negotiated agreement for the first time. Subject to Article 7 these quantities may not be reduced without the consent of the individual States concerned. Nevertheless, in respect of the period up to 30th June, 1975

the agreed quantities expressed in metric tonnes of white sugar shall be as follows:

Barbados	29 600
Fiji	25 600
Guyana	29 600
Jamaica	83 800
Madagascar	

and it goes on, Sir."

The point is that this is not an agreement that was made in a rum shop, this was negotiated over a very long period of time, and these agreements were reached after very heavy negotiations. The Honourable Member is reducing it now to foolishness, coming into this House trying to give the impression that this Honourable Member by himself had something to do with the sugar in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, the composition of the delegation included representation of the sugar producers.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I am becoming increasingly disturbed by the extent to which the 15 minutes allotted to Members on this side are being eroded by speeches particularly by the Minister of Health. I have done a rough check there and about seven and a half minutes so far have been used up by several interventions by the Minister of Health.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order, but it is certainly a matter over which the Chair has great control.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the very simple point that is being made here is that there are certain countries, including Belize, which managed to end up with a quota under the Lome successor to the CSA that was higher than the quota they had under the CSA itself, and that Barbados now finds itself in a position where 15 years ago it had guaranteed markets for sugar under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement of 139 000 tonnes a year, and that it now has premium markets, including the exports to Europe, of only 80 000 tonnes a year, and that the real pragmatic difficulty that faces this country is that whenever it goes past a certain level of production financial bankruptcy becomes a real prospect that faces sugar in Barbados, thanks to the Member for St. Michael West. 9.25 p.m.

If he had done what the people in Belize did, and what the people in Fiji did, and what the people in Mauritius did, make sure that Barbados got at least the same quota or an increased quota under Lome as compared to under the CSA, that the sugar industry's problem of today would not exist.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in two minutes.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Food imports, Sir. The food import bill of Barbados was reduced by the Barbados Labour Party administration between 1971 and 1985 from \$179 million a year then to \$155 million in 1985. Under this Minister of Agriculture food imports have grown from \$155 million in 1985 to \$192 million in 1988. Week by week the arable land of Barbados is being alienated and brought out of agricultural production, and earmarked for purposes that cannot assist this country in feeding itself, and if this Government had any conscience, it would go to the price index and recognise that as more and more land is being brought out of agricultural production in Barbados, the item in the price index that has been subject to the fastest increase is the growth in prices for food. This society, Sir, now finds itself in a position where the agricultural sector is no longer earning foreign exchange, where we are no longer in a position where we were before of near self-sufficiency in vegetable production, where the food import bill is rising, where the food prices are the fastest rising item within the consumer price index

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time for the Honourable Member's intervention has expired.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of courtesy in this House that a Member in mid-sentence should be allowed to finish the sentence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said three minutes ago that your time would have expired in two minutes, so I don't know.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I had no intention of joining this debate, but in light of the intervention of the last Honourable Member I think it is only fair that this Committee should be brought and refreshed of what occurred. In the 1970s, Sir, when the CSA, the agreement with Britain, when Britain made the decision to enter into the European Common Market, one of the issues which arose out of that decision would be what it would do with the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement embraces Commonwealth countries that produce sugar and the British Government was seeking to get those countries that were not yet independent a quota in the European Community. They were called the Part 4 countries, and the countries that were independent, the MDCs were able to negotiate, that is the Caribbean. It was determined very early that in the Caribbean we would negotiate as a single unit, and that we would take those countries that were not yet independent and we would take them with us to Europe, to Brussels and we would negotiate the sugar protocol, and we did take them and we had an internal discussion throughout the period where in Georgetown we finally settled in absolute terms the quota that had been allotted to the region. That quota that was allotted to the region allowed for us proportionate to the amounts that had been shipped under the CSA agreement in previous years, and the sugar industry in Barbados was party and part of the negotiations and the discussions, and

the amounts which Barbados fought for to get 50 000 tons was a decision that was reached by the private and public sectors in open discussion. There was not a single discussion that was held concerning sugar in Barbados that did not include representation from the sugar industry. The 50 000 tons, if the Honourable Member for St. Peter would look at the rest of the clippings which have excited him, he would see that the 50 000 tons at that time was hailed by the sugar industry....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House when he says that I speak from clippings. The only clippings that I have speak about his performance as the Minister who caused 450 small shop keepers to be out of business and talk about the privilege pump. My clippings do not refer to anything about the sugar industry. I have made a document of the House a paper by Mr. Hagelberg as regards the arrangements in 1974 that caused Barbados' quota to drop from 139 000 tons to 53 000 tons, thanks to the Minister. It is against the rules of the House for a Member to quote from newspaper clippings and he is accusing me of being in breach of the rules of the House. I have made a document of this House the report from which I have cited.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I did not accuse him of anything. I said the clippings that had excited him, but apparently it is not the clippings that excited him, it must be something else. I don't know what it is. I apologise; I thought it was the clippings, but if it is something else, I apologise. But he is excited because Hagelberg came long afterwards. You can make it a document of the House. That is not a problem. Hagelberg is a man who came from Australia at the behest of the Barbados Labour Party Government. We paid him a substantial sum of money.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If I say he came from Australia.

Asides. He was a German working in Cuba.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I don't know Hagelberg. I have no personal knowledge of Hagelberg. I thought he was in Australia because he used to say when he was eating lunch in the House that he had a thorough knowledge of the Australian industry, so I assumed that he was Australian. But I will take their word that he was a German. You all know more about these people than we do. I don't know anybody so. But what I am saying, Mr. Chairman,.....

Aside. You know Van Brunt.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, I know Van Brunt. He is an advertising agent that worked for Barbados for 22 years and put Barbados on the map. I know Van Brunt very well. I don't know if he made a mess of the Tourist Board, but I

know he brought a tremendous growth in tourism to Barbados. When we did not have offices in New York he allowed Brenda Gilkes to be attached to his office over twenty years ago. Van Brunt is a name that I can speak with pride about. I am not embarrassed about knowing Van Brunt. Van Brunt is in tourism, but we are discussing agriculture. Even if he got locked up it would not take away the fact that he made a substantial and significant contribution to the growth of tourism in this country and helped all the small hotels on the south coast to flourish.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to agriculture please.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I hope he brings some more for the campaign fund. It is legitimate contribution. We don't have access to the funds in the Turks and Caicos Islands, so we would have to take legitimate funds where we get them. We are not like the Barbados Labour Party. You would know because when it comes to Cayman Islands and those kinds of things, the Honourable Member is an expert.

I could get another seven minutes if you want to know where I have mine. I have mine nowhere.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are having some conversations across the table that we can't really accept.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Do you mean as soon as I am going to talk about his Swiss Bank Account...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want it stopped immediately.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I was making the point that we went to Brussels and we negotiated a unique agreement for the first time in the history of the world. The small countries called the ACP, the African, Caribbean and the Pacific, were able to reach agreement on the quota that had been determined in negotiations with the EEC, and then we had to determine proportionately how we would distribute the quota amongst us, and we came to a quota for the Caribbean. So that when the Honourable Member talks about Belize, the Honourable Member must understand that the entire Caribbean community assisted Belize because at that time Belize, Jamaica and Guyana were the countries that needed the most assistance in the production of their sugar. If you will recall, by 1975 the world market price of sugar was going through the sky and at that time the people who produced sugar in this country would have preferred us to even reduce the amount for Barbados to less than 50 000 tonnes and it was here in the newspapers and elsewhere as a magnificent agreement when we agreed to 50 000 tonnes. 9.35 p.m.

I remember Sir Neville Osbourne, I call his name not pejoratively, who at that time had gone from being Financial Secretary to Advisor to the Sugar Producers and who was the chief advisor in the negotiations about the

quantities and Charlie Skeete who was then the Permanent Secretary. We will put it in the record. The Honourable Member is relatively young and I would forgive him because he might not be seized of the circumstances. He is not like his old colleague who should know better and who should advise him. It was considered a model agreement, the sugar protocol.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Not all the sugar. If the Honourable Member is talking about the world market - Barbados for the first time got involved in the marketing of sugar and in 1975 was responsible for getting the largest return ever on the world market for sugar and the Honourable Member who is an economist, and for whom I have offered respect to this House for his knowledge, and I am now beginning to wonder about my own position in that regard....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes it is. My sagacity is questionable because if I can be praising you and you are now taking a position which suggests that in future - he should know that in the first year Economics Course you know that when you are addressing the commodities that are traded in the world market as futures that you cannot predict what is going to happen with the price, whether you are discussing coffee, or cocoa, or sugar or wheat? You make a prediction based on the best available advice so that sugar in 1975 was perceived as gold almost and no-one would want to go into the EEC at a price that was fixed, where the ECUs were fixed.

You are talking about sugar? That is the only sugar we produced in 1975.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member at that time was busy with other things which I do not wish to go into.

The point is that in discussing sugar in 1970's and in 1975 if we could put all the sugar on the world market that is what was desirable but within a very short time, the price on the world market dropped and in this country people were heard to say - people who are expert in sugar, people like the Armstrongs and those people who really know about the sugar industry. Yes, the ones who know about the sugar industry.

Do not mind that some of them will pretend from time to time. In the final analysis the people who really know about the sugar industry include a number of those persons who now belong to the Barbados Sugar Industries Ltd. They know about sugar and sometimes they pretend to be

more ignorant than they are because they want an advantage here and there. But they know about the sugar industry and they will tell you.

Let me tell the Honourable Member. We went to discuss sugar in London with the Minister, the Tate and Lyle representative, the man from Guyana and the Bookers people. Sir Frank Walcott and I led a delegation - and I just want to say to the Honourable Member - I do not do this as a rule - but also Sir Anthony Murray who is the expert so far as sugar in Barbados is concerned, the advisor to the Government and the advisor to the Government for the longest time, advisor to all Governments, indeed, to all administrations. We did not make these decisions on the basis of some discussion in a back room. These were discussions that were arrived at after very careful consideration and after the most careful consideration of what would be good for the country in the medium and the long term and I really am disappointed that someone like the Honourable Member for St. Peter would seek to make what can only be described as a cheap political point and score cheap shots by trying to identify a particular member with the situation in regard to sugar now.

Even the Good Lord does not send the rain in the same proportion every year and how does he expect that this Honourable member - I am proud of any positions which I have held and any negotiations I have participated in on behalf of Barbados and the record will show that from Georgetown, Guyana to Brussels, to London, to New York; to Australia, wherever I have gone the name of Barbados has been regarded with fairness and in a fair vein because I have represented this country well according to what others have said.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I have no difficulty and would have no fear of the record being opened up so anyone could see what role I have played in the development of this country.

I will not let it be sullied by any cheap observation about 139 000 tonnes when that 139 000 tonnes bore relationship to a mendacity relationship with the British Government. The CSA was nothing more than the people leaving here and going to London to discover from the British what they had decided that year whereas the position arrived at in Brussels was a negotiated position. It was a position taken by a sovereign country. It was a negotiated position which finds itself in this document which is the LOME Convention and we have had LOME I, II, III and now LOME IV with the sugar protocol.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, not too long ago the Honourable Member for St. Peter embarked upon a matter pertaining to the rental of a ADC unit at Wildey Plantation now returned, I am told and I verily believe, to the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Now, Sir, I sought to find out in an aside - and then the Minister of Agriculture got up and he said that the house was returned - what time this house was returned.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Does the house form any part of the matter we are discussing?

Mr. R. P. BYER: Wildey Plantation. Yes, Sir. I am discussing Head 25, Subhead 1 General Administration. That is what I am talking about. Whatever comes under there I am talking about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could you identify it for me?

Mr. R. P. BYER: I have just identified it, Sir.

We will have argument on this and you are not going...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You just said to me that you were discussing whatever is under Subhead 1 General Administration.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I am discussing Head 25. Head 25 is what I am talking about, Sir. What is in there I am talking about. He is always trying to throw people off when you want to talk about something. I am talking about a matter that concerns a....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you saying that I am trying to throw you off?

Mr. R. P. BYER: I have not called any names, Sir. That is what I meant - Honourable Member. 9.45 p.m.

Mr. R. P. BYER: That is what I meant of course, the Honourable Member. Yes, Sir. The fact that the house was returned to the Ministry of Housing and Lands does not erase the fact that the act of rental was committed. This strikes at the very foundation of our democracy and it goes to the root of the whole concept of integrity. If we had legislation dealing with this kind of thing, it would never happen, integrity legislation.

My point about it is that it is highly improper for any member of a Board in the absence of a policy on these matters or even if we had a policy on these matters, it would be even more reprehensible for any Board member of any corporation in Barbados to be making use of the facilities of that corporation whether those facilities were held in fee simple by the corporation or whether those

facilities were held by way of lease. It is highly improper, Sir. Very, very improper.

What makes it even worse is that that person is the Prime Minister's Personal Aide sitting next to the Prime Minister, privy to most of the Prime Minister's - but he is his Personal Aide whatever that implies, a Board member of the ADC connection is made, Sir. I am talking about agriculture.

My point is how could the PM allow this to happen?

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: You have what made up what. How could this happen. This is what I am talking about. This is what I would like to know.

I know yesterday that the Leader of the Opposition made a remark for the Prime Minister's attention where he told him that if his Government should come down that members around him, people very close around him would bring down his Government, if he is not careful. The Leader of the Opposition told him that yesterday. These things disturb me. These are things that I do not like to see happening.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I do not want to talk about CARICARGO plane. I leave that for somebody else to talk about. The whole thing about it is that I cannot understand how on the one hand we can have the National Housing Corporation throwing people who owe for rents out of houses and then on the other hand, you have somebody else in a house in a similar situation, a house which belongs to Government and that is not happening. These are things that we have got to look at. These are things that we have got to examine.

It is not to say that the member does not have his own dwellinghouse. He rents his house out, receives rent and then cannot pay the rent for the one that he lives in. I should like to know if it is a fact, Sir, and I should like the Minister of Agriculture to tell me this because it must have happened before the house was retransferred, whether outstanding rents are still owed for the use of this building. That is what I should like to know. All of these things have got to come out, as they say, in the wash. This is what has to happen. So nobody will derail me from what I am saying by saying that the house was retransferred. That does not erase anything. The fact that the act was committed, that at the time it was committed that it was wrong. He might have done it in the greatest of honesty. The point I am making is that no person being a Board member of a corporation should have access to the facilities of that corporation in such a manner. That is the point I am making. It is high time that certain propriety

has got to be brought into public affairs in Barbados. This is what has got to happen.

I have never seen any of the older members of the Democratic Labour Party indulging in this type of behaviour. This is the first time that I am hearing about this. During my association with the Party and even now. The member should purge himself by removing himself from that building even if it has been returned to the Ministry of Housing and Lands. He should move out and go back to his own building. That is how he should purge himself of his wrong doing.

Now, Sir, let us move on to something else.

Aside.

Mr. R. P. BYER: CARICARGO is for another time. Sir, I want in the next 10 minutes that are available to me, whatever time it is, Sir, I want to look at agricultural policy.

Outside of the DLP Manifesto, the only part that agricultural policy has been addressed in any degree is in the Budget of 1989 where the Prime Minister made such grand statements as he commits himself fully:

"I commit the Government fully"

Page 24:

"to the revitalization of agriculture by farmers both large and small."

Grand statements. Then he goes on to speak about Government's intention to remove the constraints to efficiency in agricultural production including praedial larceny. There are two things that arise from this sentence on page 24 as well. Since the Minister will try to answer any question that might be asked, I would like to find out from him whether he has moved to remove these constraints to efficiency in agricultural production. In the first place, what were these constraints to efficiency? In other words, what were the inefficiencies. And secondly what steps have been taken or are being taken in relation to praedial larceny? I suppose this is a matter that is currently residing maybe in the Ministry of the Attorney-General because I believe that the law would have to be adjusted to suit that.

The other thing is on page 25 a package of incentives was referred to and the talk about the removal of duties and taxes on agricultural inputs. What would agricultural inputs refer to? To continue in this regard, we also talk about the farmgate price for selected agricultural products whether the selected agricultural products have been determined and in each regard what is the farmgate price for that. Then we talk about S3 million for bringing the unused land back into cultivation. I want to know if this referred to all unused land

of the ADC and secondly, how much of the S3 million has been used up so far in bringing this land back into production? 9.55 p.m.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: ... And whether at the same time the fourth incentive which is the Amendment of Section 14(a) of the Income Tax to allow the benefits of that section to sugar exports other than bulk has been considered as yet. I cannot remember any legislative instrument being brought down to the House to address that particular problem. I wonder if the Minister could be good enough to help me as to what is the position in relation to that. In other words, how much of the details of these schemes have been worked out in consultation with Government and the agricultural sector?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to recast the focus of this debate a bit. As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, the agricultural sector is one of the most important sectors in the total economy of Barbados - agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Man, ask him to shut his mouth someumes. Good Christ! Good Lord! The Minister of Health believes that he is God. He has never done anything wrong in his Ministerial life. He spells GOD - Goalie of Distinction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may continue.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Everytime somebody tries to speak in here he is interrupting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My difficulty is that I will have to cross you because the conversations are right across the floor. Please continue.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was submitting, Sir, I do not want him not to get on. I want him to shut his mouth. I sat down here and I did not say a word and he talked two or three times already.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to you.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We cannot play around with this topic before the House. This is agriculture. The Prime Minister has been forced to concede that agriculture has been the one sector in his opinion that has been a thorough failure and all Barbadians are suffering as a result of that. Now we are spending about \$22 million in Current

Expenditure but so far we have not had from this Government in almost four years any clear policy against which we could match the expenditure to determine whether the Government is proceeding in a manner that is acceptable to the farming community and in a manner that will produce the best results for the country.

The policy framework for this Government must surely have been the Manifesto of 1986. I get the impression that rather than the respective Ministers keeping the subject areas on their desk in front of them and going through with their Permanent Secretary of let us say Agriculture - yes we did that, Positive Incentives For Land Owners - we did that. But instead they have put the Manifesto in a drawer at the bottom and covered it with books.

When Barbadians voted in 1986 apart from the financial incentives fiscal package, I am sure that the members of the agricultural sector would have taken to heart all that appeared on Page 10 of the DLP Manifesto and indeed it went on to Page 12. But how many of the 19 promises made by the DLP in 1986 have been kept? When one comes to examine whether agriculture has, in fact, performed in the last three and a half years under this Government, you have to start there and ask the question - have these policies been kept? Now let me just look at some of them, Sir. I will take a couple of the simple ones. "More Government land will be made available for Springhall type projects in plot sizes which are determined to be manageable and appropriate to the type of cultivation envisaged." Now how many of those lots has this Government put in place since 1986 to give the small farmer an opportunity to be productive in agricultural produce? None. Yesterday, I gave the figures in here about peanuts whereas in 1985 this country was producing 260,000 kilograms of peanuts and in 1988 not one. The Leader of the Opposition gave his opinion as to why that was so. Take this, Sir. "Incentives and facilitations will be offered for the production of marketing new approved agricultural and horticultural products." What incentives? I love this one. "Government Agencies will work closely with farmers on the design and implementation of methods to minimize practical larceny and crop destruction by monkeys and rats."

Every week the farmers complain about practical larceny. What has been so difficult in regard to the implementation of legislation to outlaw practical larceny that this Government could not get it in here for almost four years? They have laws in Trinidad. We go to England and borrow legislation. We copy from Australia. We copy from Canada. Go to Trinidad and copy theirs. It exists. We know the answer. The Government does not have a clue, none of them, and the people of Barbados are paying the price for their incompetence.

Now Sir, I have argued in here several times that the Government through its own plantations, the ADC, Dodds, Plantations in St. Lucy and so on, should be using those lands as pilot projects for the production and experimentation of various types of crops. Nothing is wrong with that. As they used Graeme Hall for experimentation purposes, they could use any of the others. Try and test a particular product and determine what are the requirements to make it productive for Barbadians. 10.05 p.m.

What examples have we got of their plantations? The ADC plantations. Check St. Lucy. A lavish expanse of grass at the St. Lucy plantations. Dodds, similarly. I cannot speak of River, I have not been up there recently, but I have passed by Dodds. I am speaking of personal knowledge in respect of Dodds. That is the kind of example that the Government is setting to the average farmer in this country - (a) an inability properly to manage the plantations, or (b) an inducement to believe that there is something profitable in the growing of grass.

There was a time when Barbados had a reputation as being an orderly and properly laid out country. I am satisfied that it is no longer the truth. I would really wish to hear from the Minister of Agriculture - and I am grateful that he allowed me to speak before himself so that he can reply, and I hope suitably - I would wish to hear when can we expect the change. The fact that it is the only Ministry in Barbados that has two Ministers is not enough to convince me. Indeed, I think that since that phenomenon has occurred the House ought to be told how the respective areas of responsibility and duties in regard to these Estimates are being delimited.

According to the President of the Barbados Agricultural Society, this Minister will be responsible for insects. He will become the Minister of insects, entomology. The other gentleman, the Senator, I do not know what he will be responsible for. The Prime Minister had promised that he would have some responsibility for managerial and financial matters within the Ministry. I do not think I am misquoting the Prime Minister.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If Minister No. 2 or No. 1, I do not know what he is, if he is responsible for financial and managerial matters within the Ministry as from late last year, I am led to believe that the Prime Minister in making that appointment was expressing the view that this Minister, who had been the substantive Minister for three years, did not have the financial and managerial competence required properly to run the Ministry. It stands to reason, it is not an illogical deduction, you would agree, Sir. If the Prime Minister is therefore seeing the necessity for an additional body in the Ministry at that level to do very important

managerial and financial management of the Ministry, then of course this Minister ought to have resigned. He still has a few months. Nothing will happen until after September.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, no, there are some manoeuvres that have to take place with the new candidates that will ensure the life of this Government at least until September, because those things cannot be sorted out until September.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member must conclude now.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the country really deserves to have a broad based plan and policy put before it from the Minister. He has tried manfully, but trying manfully is not synonymous with doing your incompetent best, and I believe that this country in the last three and a half years has been the recipient of ministerial incompetence at its best.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: There are two issues, Sir, which I would like to address very briefly. One relates to a question which the Member for St. George South raised as to how I could have allowed something to happen in relation to a house at Wildey. That was my understanding of the point that was raised. I came into the Chamber and heard the Member for St. Thomas again on the question of the allocation of ministerial responsibilities as they relate to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sir, in respect of a matter relating to the Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister, my understanding of that particular issue is that some time in the first half of 1987, I believe, the Personal Assistant became a tenant in a house owned by the Government through one of the agencies - I am not sure if it was under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture at that time or the Ministry of Housing - but the arrangement as it has been explained to me is that the house was unoccupied for almost six months prior to that tenancy and that it was in a state of disrepair. I am further advised that there was an understanding that the Personal Assistant would occupy the house, that he would carry out repairs to the house and maintenance on the house, and that those expenses would be offset against rental due for the house. 10.15p.m.

I am just saying that is the position as I understand it, and I have further been advised that a letter has been written by the Ministry of Housing and Lands to the Personal Assistant requesting a settlement of some arrears for rental and that a reply has gone to them indicating this understanding about arrears outstanding against repairs and maintenance.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, we are in a very serious situation here. Since the Prime Minister is giving chapter and verse....

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not giving chapter and verse.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You had eighteen months at least. This matter has been in the public domain and you should have known about it. I would like to know how it is that a private person can be occupying Government property on a promise to do repairs. I want to know who is going to value those repairs and what was the rent.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, I would also like to know the following. You can get out there and skin your teeth as much as you like.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must know....

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am sorry, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas put that in the same category as an agreement. The Prime Minister said there was an understanding that the Personal Assistant would occupy the house. Now you see, Sir, this goes real far. The extent of these repairs will determine as any of the legal persons in here will tell you whether or not that person has an interest in this house, the doctrine of acquiescence and encouragement, equitable estoppel, whatever will determine that. This is a very funny agreement or understanding. A lot more has to be told about this agreement or understanding for me to be satisfied.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have asked my Personal Assistant to supply me with the details of this matter, and I expect that by tomorrow I should have in my possession a letter from him setting out how he sees the position. He is in discussion with the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Mr. CHAIRMAN instructed that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central be struck from the record.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Committee should be aware that whatever the transactions were, they would have been entered into before I became Prime Minister. Whatever the understandings were occurred before I became Prime Minister, but as I said, I certainly have nothing to hide on this particular matter and I will seek to give the information when it becomes available. I think I have given the House the information as it is available to me, and I think I can pass on to the second issue.

I don't think I need to speak on this question of the Ministry of Agriculture in relation to ministerial

responsibilities. It was raised before, but they keep raising this particular matter. It is quite common in different countries to have more than one Minister in a Ministry and some are designated by different titles in the Caribbean and outside of the Caribbean. You have Ministers and you have Ministers of State and I deemed it desirable and in the public interest, because of the important matters to be determined and administered under the agricultural portfolio to allocate the ministerial talent available to me in the best way that I thought possible.

There is a Minister of State in almost every Ministry in the United Kingdom Government. You have a Minister of State, more than one in many instances, and a Minister. In Caribbean countries you find it as well.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Because you have Ministers of State in England and so on, we are Little England, so we can have. It is no big thing. 10.25 p.m.

But I was concerned about all these various Subheads and seeking to find out for which Subheads this Minister would have responsibility and for which other Subheads.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS : So he is the maguffy? He is the Kiaki King.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: We do not have any Kiaki Kings in here, no Kiaki Kings in the Government.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture is in this House. There has never been any doubt about it.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You never called him the Prime Minister. He was in my Ministry and there is a Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman. If I may try to answer quickly.

I want to assure the Honourable Member for Christ Church East that I am aware of the problem. The problem is as a result of putting down a second sewerage tank that was necessary at Oistins. It was necessary because there was only one sewerage system at Oistins. Everything was going into that one sewerage system and as a result it created a problem when it was constructed under the Barbados labour Party.

We had to go in and put in a second sewerage in order to split the sewer, that coming from the normal sewer in the fish end. When we were digging to the second sewer, the main trunk for the electricity line was cut. It was

temporarily repaired but any time you have rain or moisture there is a leakage into the trunk main and it cuts out the line. As a result we have to rewire the whole system at Oistins which we are going to do as soon as the financial year starts out.

As far as the sand pit is concerned, the fishermen are not being....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The asides are a bit loud.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Discussions are going on between the fishermen and the Port Authority for a suitable building to accommodate them at the sand pit.

Bay Street - the people at Bay Street have discussed with me and all that they require at Bay Street is a room in the building that we have to store away their tools and some of their equipment - I am agreeable to that and they know that they will have a room and whatever use is made of that building to store away their tools.

As far as the drainage system is concerned, I have had discussion with the Ministry of Transport and Works. It is not an easy problem to solve because the problem is that the level at the road is almost the same as the level at the sea. As a matter of fact when the bank builds up, the bank is higher than the level of the road so there is a low section there just below the new constructed building.

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Well, the problem is that every now and again we cut through the sand to allow the water to go in. It builds back up so that has to be done continuously.

As far as the Fishing Agreement with Trinidad is concerned, I cannot at this time disclose the details but I will only say that included on the delegation to Trinidad was the President of the Co-op, Mr. Mason and a fisherman Mr. Butts who were agreeable to the Agreement that we have reached with Trinidad and Tobago. As soon as the Trinidad Cabinet has ratified the Agreement, the details will be announced.

Agriculture at Belleplaine - that project is going ahead and the last I have heard about it they are doing bore holes to test and see how far the coral is down and see the rate and velocity of the coral to see if they have to line the system down there or if they can get away without lining it so that project is also going on.

Concessions to the fishing industry - we are looking at the possibility of a concession by way of safety equipment. We are now evaluating it to see what safety equipment we need to put on the boats, what it would cost and see if we can include that on that one.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter made a statement that Barbados is no longer self sufficient in most food items and I will say that there is nothing to indicate in the normal items used by Barbadians.

During the year of 1989, there was no importation of vegetables or food crops into Barbados. As a matter of interest, quickly, the production of the major food crops in Barbados for the year are sweet potatoes 2.56 million kilos and we are exporting quite a bit of those, yams 2.412 million kilos which is up, beans 520 000 kilos, beets 285 000 kilos, cabbage 413 000 kilos, carrots 1.76 million kilos, cucumbers 430 000, melons 263 000 kilos, tomatoes 576 000.

As a matter of fact, we did not import into Barbados last year any vegetables or root crops as well as we did not import, besides chicken wings, any chicken. We imported one set of eggs at Christmas for the special Christmas situation. Pork - we have been importing some for the processors but the fresh pork market is taken care of.

The production in beef has done very well last year. We produced 832 000 kilos up from 389 000 kilos last year and that is continuing. So as far as the food crop, root crops and vegetables are concerned, we were self sufficient last year in Barbados and that trend is expected to continue as you will see in the price of tomatoes on the shelves now in Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. George South asked the question about praedial larceny. That is a problem. We have had extensive discussions. We have a draft Bill which has gone to the Attorney General's Office but there are certain areas in the Bill which we need to have a look at.

In the meantime, GIS did a series of programmes trying to enlighten the people that praedial larceny is a society problem and explaining the problems in the losses. We have been working as closely as possible with BAS on it so we expect very shortly that after looking at the Bill again that we will have a Bill before this House.

Removal of Duties and Taxes on Agricultural Inputs - This has been done very successfully and in all the agricultural inputs the duties have been removed. The system is now working quite smoothly. There are certain grade areas that we have, naturally, to look at but the system is working very smoothly.

The \$3 million for unused land - We have not been able yet to expend any of that money. It is in this year's budget being voted under Capital. In the meantime, ADC did reclaim....

Aside.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Under Capital you will see the sum has been moved, \$3 million under capital to serve that. The reclamation this year was mainly done by ADC at the Belle, some 300 acres of which 100 acres of cane will be reaped this year and 300 acres will be reaped next year.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas enquired about more Government lands at the Spring Hall Land lease Project - we did not do any additional land on the Spring Hall Land Lease Project because we were not satisfied with the progress made on the Spring Hall Land Lease Project.

After evaluation we looked at it and some of the things we have discovered were that the lots, in the opinion of the consultants, were too big. Some of the farmers were not equipped to handle the size lots. There was not enough housing accommodation on the site. We are now about to adopt the recommendation by the consultants. Some of the farmers have been given notice because they were not performing. Therefore, there are some new tenants that are being interviewed to go on to the lots. 10.35 p.m.

These mainly were the questions. On the question of the ADC plantations, the plantations that are presently under ADC's management are all being well worked. Those that we have problems on and that we are looking at are those lands that were leased to CARISCOT and we had a problem with that. As you know the whole arrangement is now being examined and what we will be doing with those lands will be made known as soon as the legal arrangements are completed with the necessary people on that.

Those were the questions posed and we will take it tomorrow on that one.

Thank you, Sir.

LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and asked to sit again was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

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

The question that this sitting be now suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 10.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply has resumed. The question is that Head 20

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, when one addresses the question of agriculture in Barbados, one has to speak really against a background of sadness. Indeed, Sir, whenever a Head in these Estimates is being debated and the centrepiece of the thrust of debate has to be questions of straight forward corruption, decadence of certain persons holding public office, decay and devastation of an entire sector of the Barbados economy, one could not help but be very sad to engage in debate against that background. For indeed, Sir, the situation facing agriculture in Barbados today is far worse than at anytime in the history of this country. Despite idle talk and bogus statistics, it is clear to any Barbadian who has even minimal vision. Once he is not blind, all he has to do is to drive around the countryside of Barbados and he can see what has happened to agriculture. The whole physical landscape of this country has been transformed and overtaken by bush and weeds. Sugar production has fallen dramatically over the past years. Non-sugar agriculture is in an appalling state and indeed, Sir, we have seen the virtual extinction of an entire species and that species is the small farmer who in the past contributed significantly to agricultural production in Barbados both at the level of sugar production and non-sugar production.

Sir, here you have a Government which is posturing as a Government of the small people in Barbados by every action and by the result of their actions and inactions we can see the trauma being inflicted on the poor people of Barbados. If you go around the countryside, you will see the impact of the destruction of agriculture on the levels of unemployment among the young people in Barbados. If you go from St. Philip to St. Lucy, what do you see? Acres and acres of abandoned lands are overtaken by bush, shrubs, and weed and that is the story of agriculture to date. But apart from that, Sir, even the institutions where we spend a considerable amount of money to support our agricultural effort whether it be the BMC, ADC, extension services offered by the Ministry of Agriculture, all around we see nothing but decay and decadence. Underlying all of this is a

serious crisis of confidence in the Minister responsible for agriculture.

We have tried, Sir, on this side of the House to bring to the attention of the Government the very serious problems facing agriculture. We have done so in many, many debates. We reached the point, Sir, where we brought in a "No Confidence Motion" not as a matter directed personally against the Minister but because we felt it was in the public interest so to do. He was defended by his colleagues and day after day they are faced now with new levels of embarrassment. Even during the progress of this debate everyday something crops up new that amounts to nothing less than straightforward corruption at some level in agriculture.

For example, Sir, two days ago I brought to the attention of this House a situation where there was \$30,000 in toweling brought in by Franklin and Franklin.

Asides

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were asked to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In relation to the matter to which you are alluding, I would strongly advise not to go down that line. It has absolutely nothing to do with the Head under which we are discussing and I would really advise not to go down that line.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Head deals with ADC which has leased lands to CARSICOT. The Head deals with the Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture which has entered into a policy situation where on the floor of this House it was announced that the major shareholder of Scothalls is Mr. Nitin Amerscy and a 51% shareholder of CARSICOT. That is in the record of this House in a Ministerial Statement and also in debate. I am dealing with policy matters. I am saying that the Minister has put himself in a compromising position to say the least where Scothalls which is supposed to be a 51 % shareholder in CARSICOT which as you know, Sir, wasted millions and millions of dollars of taxpayers' money where he entered into an arrangement to import \$30,000 or where Franklin and Franklin entered into an arrangement to import \$30,000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now just a minute. The Member made a comment that the Minister of Agriculture made an arrangement and then said Franklin and Franklin. If you would wish to withdraw one or the other, well then I will be very happy.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I withdraw the Minister and I say Franklin and Franklin.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were asked to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Franklin and Franklin imported thirty thousand dollars of toweling and it is my understanding that the \$30,000 have not been paid to Scothalls or Mr. Amersey. Actually, you have a situation where the Government is in dispute with Scothalls and where an originating motion for a lawsuit is being filed in the High Court of Barbados today by the same Scothalls. 10.10a.m.

The Minister of Agriculture finds himself in this situation and comes in here and tells us that that was imported for a constituent of his. The name of the constituent was called by him. If I were to pursue that matter in detail it would be most embarrassing, and I do not propose to do so in this intervention, except to say that the constituent cannot even complete the building of a home far less invest in \$30 000 in towelling in Barbados. I will say no more. I will continue, because it is going to end up in a very serious situation, but that is the situation you are faced with today.

A law suit is being brought against the Government or its agencies, or a private company in which the Government has substantial interest.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Government has no substantial interest in any private company to which the Honourable Member is referring.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am talking about CARSICOT and the Honourable Leader of the House is misleading the House. The Government has interest in CARSICOT and he ought to be ashamed to get up on a point of order and try to mislead this House.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member said that Franklin & Franklin imported \$30 000 worth of goods and has not paid for it and will be taken to court. Government has no interest in Franklin & Franklin.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Very clearly what is happening is that the Honourable Member is trying to sidetrack my ruling in relation to making mention of the importation of some material. This is where the matter is being confused somewhat, but if you would stick to the Head under discussion I would be very happy.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am not confused at all. What I am saying is that Franklin & Franklin has imported these goods from Scothalls, Scothalls is a shareholder in CARSICOT, the Government or its agencies are shareholders in CARSICOT and a law suit is being filed

today against CARSICOT in relation to the shareholding and other matters in CARSICOT. The point I am making is that the Minister is responsible for CARSICOT now finds himself in a compromised position in relation to one of the persons suing the Government of Barbados.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a point of order. I do not intend, Mr. Chairman, to enter this debate at the same level as the Leader of the Opposition. At some time, some place, I will take the Leader of the Opposition on this debate. Just to put it on the record, he knows it is a requirement when you assume ministerial duty to give up all directorships in any company. I am not a practising member of Franklin & Franklin, I am a Minister of Government.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Sir. You also gave up your shareholding in relation to the person on behalf of whom Franklin & Franklin was doing purchasing. If I may continue, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For two minutes.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Two minutes you said, Sir? We have plenty of time. That was three days ago. The next day we heard about the problem with peanuts; no denial. Next day we heard about the problems relating to the Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister of Barbados and problems relating to living in an ADC house. Every day you are hearing problems that clearly relate to behaviour which is not in the public interest, and in many instances behaviour which is tantamount to corruption.

Now, Sir, this matter has today brought the Government of Barbados into a situation where the Canadian Government and its agencies have expressed grave concern about the activities of CARSICOT. It has brought a public financial institution in my country, the BNB, into a measure of disrepute. It is creating problems in relation to Japanese businessmen who bought cotton assuming that it was Sea Island Cotton, which turned out to be Pima cotton and they are now about to file a law suit against CARSICOT or participants in CARSICOT. It is creating problems for a law suit which the Government itself, or one of its agencies, is filing in the United States to secure the Sea Island Cotton copyright.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time for this intervention has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Despite the interruptions, Sir? I will conclude in one minute, if you do not mind. Now, Sir, another embarrassing situation I am advised is developing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time for this intervention has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Okay, I will come back. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I, like the Honourable Member who just took his seat, share the grave concern about the condition of agriculture in this country. I share the grave concern that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East expressed about the management of the sector and the Government's posturing and tinkering with a very important sector. Like the problems we see in other equally important sectors, like the same tinkering we see, the same inefficiency, it is not anything to amaze me that agriculture is in the state it is in. I am not amazed, because when a no-confidence motion was brought against the Minister, other Honourable Members on that side who in their hearts knew better, got up and, I must admit in a very weak fashion, defended the nonsense that is going on in agriculture.

Sir, I will get to some more details as I go on, and if I have to get up a number of times I will do that, because sometimes I am amazed that Honourable Members in here who claim to represent rural areas, like the Members for St. Joseph and St. John, will get up time and time again and, except for attacking personalities, say nothing about what is happening in agriculture. 10.20 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, a number of areas were identified yesterday and I need to address some of them. The Honourable Minister said, and he glossed over it really, that **the** Cheapside Terminal Market will be renovated, refurbished, rebuilt, I am not too sure exactly what he is going to do with it, maybe he will clarify it when he speaks again, I am not too sure if he is going to demolish it and build a new one, if he is going to refurbish that; I don't know how much refurbishing you can do to that, because except for the walls there does not seem to be much left in that market. It is probably one of the largest rat nests in Barbados. He also indicated that they were going to demolish the Fairchild Street market for something; I didn't understand what he said was going to go there. I remember reading in the press some time ago that there was some plan to extend the bus terminal, and I am not sure if that is what he said is going to happen there. But if in fact they are going to demolish the Fairchild Street market, and he has not in his speech identified if there is going to be any alternative site for persons to sell their wares, I should be interested to know if in fact any study has been done to determine whether there is no need for a market of that sort in that area, and if that is so, then he should explain that to us.

To get back to the Cheapside market, two years ago or thereabouts the Honourable Minister told us that the

Cheapside market was going to be renovated. Yesterday he told us again that it was going to be renovated. Again, as I said, he does not explain to what extent the renovations will take place, or what kind of renovations will take place, and so he can enlighten us all if he could explain that. Sir, some time ago when I had words with the Minister, I suggested to him that the Cheapside market could solve a lot of problems for vendors and other small people, and I suggested that the whole area stretching from what is called the Lower Green bus stand or Jubilee Gardens right down to the new Post Office building could be an area for crafts people, an area for vegetable vendors, an area of relaxation, an oasis if you will, in the City of Bridgetown.

There was talk some time ago, I believe even as far back as from the last administration that the Lower Green bus stand as it is known would be moved down to the area just north of the General Post Office where there is an existing bus stand and that would be renovated and the Lower Green bus stand would not be necessary any more, and there was a suggestion by a former Minister of Transport that the area which is now the Lower Green bus stand be put back to its former glory as Jubilee Gardens, as a small park in the City. When I was suggesting to the Minister, I suggested that the old City Hall, if the walls are structurally sound - I know you had to remove all the balconies because they were falling down - but if it is structurally sound and you can do something with it, it could probably form a nice area for an Art Gallery and things of that nature.

I remember discussing that too with the late Rt. Honourable Enrol Barrow and he thought that sort of thing would be a good idea for the area. I suggested then that the Cheapside market because of its height may very well lend itself to a nice mezzanine floor where you could have small shops on the second floor, nicely laid out stalls on the ground floor for the vegetables vendors with, obviously, nice sprinklers over them where they could wet the vegetables, because I am sure those of us who travel would have seen other markets where there are those kinds of facilities because vegetables need to be kept cool if they are going to retain their freshness, and in a tropical climate like we have, you would need to have those kinds of facilities. Of course in keeping with our hope that this Government which continues to say that they would be in the vanguard for small poor people, they would want to provide the best kinds of facilities for these people whenever they go about restructuring these markets. I would hope that the Minister is not just going to put on a coat of paint, patch a few holes and tell us that the market has been restructured.

On the question raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East about Brownes beach in Bay Street, I would like to suggest to the Honourable Minister that some time ago he indicated to me that those boats were going to be removed from that beach. I took the Honourable Minister of Employment, I keep saying unemployment

because the employment is not improving, I took him to that beach and showed him the state it was in as a result of bad planning. The indication was from the Minister that the boats would have to be removed from that area. One of the things that was said at the time was that the new fishing harbour would have enough facilities to take care of the boats from there and from the Fergusson boat yard at the time. I believe that looking back at it now the Minister probably recognises that this is not so, that the Bridgetown fishing harbour has some logistical problems and will not adequately take care of that sort of thing. We live in Barbados, we cannot be theoretical about this thing, we have to be realistic. These people build their boats as they get a piece of change in their hands. It is like how most people build houses in Barbados, they put up a few blocks, hold until they make some more money, they put up a few more blocks and finally after two years or so they have a house. The same thing happens with these fishermen building the boats. They can't haul up that boat in that fishing harbour, an expensive property like that. It would be too costly for them for the time it is going to take. Sometimes these boats take two, three years. The Minister indicated that the people who built the cruise ship centre next door had some difficulty with these boats being there, and I appreciated what he was saying. The beach was being used by the facility, but while I appreciated what he was saying, there was no way that I was going to see these people whose navel string, you could say, was buried at Brownes beach being displaced by any cruise ship visitors. We would have to find some kind of compromise for the two of them to exist next to each other. If the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would listen, she would understand what really happened.

What happened then was that I went over to see the people who owned the centre or who control it, and do you know what I discovered, Mr. Chairman? I discovered from the man who manages the place that in fact the tourists love the boats there; they thought it was such a picturesque thing and many of them took pictures and some even sent back pictures to him. They took pictures of the boat builders, because, let's face it, a lot of these people come from cities in the United States and Canada, they probably never saw a boat being built. It is just like I remember some kids in New York were taken to a farm and saw live chickens and could not understand how these could be chickens, since all the chickens they ever saw were plucked. They thought chickens were born without feathers. So a lot of these people never saw a boat being built and certainly never saw them being built in this nice quaint way that we do it.

As soon as I talk about chickens, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister of Health is going to try to get in this thing. I am not talking about chicken cadavers. I just drew that as a reference. But, Sir, if we can try to retain some seriousness, the Minister indicated yesterday, and I am not clear and this is why I have brought it up again, that in fact the gentlemen would be able to haul up the boats there still.

What I want to know is if they are going to be allowed to continue their boat building exercises on that beach. That brings us to another very important point.

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

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Now it was pushed aside yesterday that the problem with the flooding on that beach and the filthy water which comes on that beach were because of some drain that was in fact above the level of the road. 10.30 a.m.

Do not let these so-called technocrats tell you about their theories because if you go to the people who have been on that beach for all their life they will tell you that it has never happened before. When that drain was there as it was it used to work fine. What happened was when the Centre was built that culvert was broken up and they put soak-aways but the capacity of the soak-aways cannot accommodate both the water coming from the roadway and the water coming from the very Centre so you have this overflowing and then a lake kind of formed and then in no time the water is stagnant.

What I would like to do for the Honourable Minister is that the next time that it is flooded, I am going to wait three or four days because you have to wait a few days to see how bad it smells because you only do not want to see it, you want to smell it too. I am going to take him down there and let him see and then he would understand.

I am happy to hear that the fishermen are going to be left on the beach but I also want him to understand that they have to be left in relatively decent conditions. I will come again, Sir because I am not finished. I am not even halfway through.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Just quickly, Mr. Chairman, just to take up the last point made by the Honourable Member for the City and it is to a positive response to a point raised yesterday by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and it relates, Sir, to the development in the Shallow Draught involving those people who have been using the Shallow Draught area for years for their livelihood. I am referring to the fishermen there.

I want to state here positively, because I do not want to be misrepresented because I know it is misrepresented elsewhere, that the Port Authority has no intention of removing fishermen from the Shallow Draught. As a matter of fact, the plans of the Port Authority are to improve the mooring conditions at the Shallow Draught as well as other conditions.

The Shallow Draught is making available a building comprising 400 to 600 square feet where they can go,

where they can change. It will be equipped with lofty facilities. They can play their Domino games if they want to. They cannot sell fish there. That will be against the agreements with the Inter-American Bank because you can only sell fish within two miles of the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour. They cannot sell fish there but they can moor their boats there and, as I understand it, it is a fairly safe mooring for fishermen. They have used this for years.

I am saying this positively here now and I hope it is reported because there are some mischief makers in the community who are making the fishermen believe that they are being removed and I refuse to see the fishermen along with that mischief maker and I told the fishermen I will see their legal representative. I will not see the mischief maker. The mischief maker and I are good friends. When I say "good friends" I mean we have no problems apart from that one.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: We are not in the same party. I am not referring to who you are referring to.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Right. You understand who I am referring to. Maybe it is a relative of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I do not know. They operate the same way.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Evan Forde is not a relative of myself. He formerly lived in Harts Gap. He does not live there now but he has always told me that he was a card-bearing member of the DLP and had done a lot of work for the party at all sorts of levels and, in fact, he showed me his card at one stage. I am surprised if he has left the party. He certainly has not left for the BLP.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Maybe he is a card member of no party. I do not know.

Honestly, Sir, let me say this. I say this person is a mischief maker. I believe he is well meaning but he is misrepresenting the facts here for what purpose I do not know and I want to state here positively once more, Sir, that there is no intention on the part of the Port Authority to make the fishermen remove their boats that are moored there from being moored there. They will stay there.

As a matter of fact, and I will repeat, we are going to make better mooring conditions. We are going to improve the mooring facilities right there in the Shallow Draught, right in the area in which they are now. If they have to be moved, it will be no more than 20 yards but better facilities right in the area where they are at the moment. I am making

this statement here now because of what has happened in the past.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I am on five minutes.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I happen, Sir, to be the constituency representative of the area where the Shallow Draught mooring which is being discussed and which is called a sand pit is located.

The sand pit is where the late Capt. Fergusson, who was my predecessor representing St. Michael South West, actually lived. This is where his house was and he allowed the house to be taken over by the Government and I say that because anyone who knew the late Capt. Fergusson knew that notwithstanding anything else, unless he himself allowed that to happen, it could not possibly have happened without a lot of discussion, war, and Capt. Fergusson allowed the house to be taken over. The Shallow Draught continued and it is a tradition that a large number of fishermen and people from the area have always been there.

Now, I read in the newspaper recently that the fishermen said they cannot be moved, that their representative told them so. I have no quarrel with that story, none whatsoever. If their representative told them so, that is so.

What I can say is that the Government has accommodated my request and I remember the Minister of Agriculture went with me to meet with the folk and we gave them the assurance that the Government could not and would not behave in a high-handed manner in relation to something that is so important to them.

There has been some discussion in relation to the size of the space which we made available and I have had the assurance of the Port Department. I have had the assurance of Mr. Barker at the Port Department that in the arrangements which would be made that the fishermen would be taken care of in a manner that would be worthwhile.

I do not believe that it is an issue on which we want to have any posturing and that is one of the reasons why I have refused to posture on this matter. It is a fundamental issue. It is serious and therefore I treat it with all the seriousness it deserves.

I do not think it is a matter on which we wish to have a newspaper story every other day with contending sides because it is much more fundamental than one of the nine day wonders that come along as issues. This is a serious issue for the people who are there.

I would say in passing, however, that a large number of the boats which will be moored there do not come from Westbury Road or its surrounding areas. They come from all over the country. It is important that it be understood that wherever there are fishermen, one or other of them probably has a boat that has moored or will moor there and so it is not something that is being done only for the people of St. Michael West. Indeed, there are probably fewer fishermen now from St. Michael West who moor there than there are people from, say, Christ Church. I have no quarrel with that.

The point is that the Port for purposes of security and for purposes of development must develop the area as they see fit. This is an issue that has been going on now for nearly 12 years. I remember when Mr. Bolden was the Minister of Agriculture an attempt was made to remove the fishermen and I went and had discussions with them and to his everlasting credit Mr. Bolden recognized, having himself come from the area, how inherently important it was that the fisher folk be given the opportunity to preserve that spot which has more than an economic interest. 10.40a.m.

It has a cultural interest for them. The Government is sympathetic. The Government would have to be sympathetic. I am not a little fellow in the Government.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Huge. So that we are sympathetic. I do not think that we need to spend any more time. I am grateful to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West for giving way to me, Sir.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me begin by saying that I was born in an agricultural district in Water Street in Christ Church several years ago and have grown up with a constant interest in agriculture. As a matter of fact I come from a household of people who have been in agriculture for a long time. My paternal grandfather worked at Kingsland Plantation for several years until he became an overseer and died at the ripe age of 93 when he fell, still on the job, going around the plantation. So from a personal point of view I have had a constant interest in what has happened to this industry which I think everybody in the island now recognize is a most important part of the economic life blood of our country. In fact there was a time when agriculture was the only thing which fuelled the economy and which contributed substantially to the progress which the country has made during the last 50 years.

Therefore it is a cause of great concern to me that we have seen a continual drift in this industry and particularly

in the sugar aspect of the industry. A lot of things have happened between 1950 and today to the production of sugar in Barbados. Some of them have been of a beneficial nature and even when they were conferring benefits have raised new problems and questions for us. Others of them have been deleterious and have had a damaging effect on the viability of the industry. I am not going to recite in this Committee on my first intervention on the subject of agriculture the whole litany of woes that have occurred or indeed all the changes, that have occurred. Let me say we have seen a reduction in the number of factories which mill the cane and produce the sugar. We have moved from a high of about 34 factories in 1950 to 4 factories today with one new factory being built over the last 64 years or so, a factory whose capacity is still being under utilized.

We have seen on the other side with this rationalization output per factory has tripled. We have seen mechanization in cultivation and today it is true to say that perhaps most of the land is prepared in a mechanized fashion and one of the consequences of this has been a reduction in the number of people employed in agriculture.

We have seen different harvesting systems introduced. When I was a boy the harvesting was done by people cutting canes and loading canes and sometimes carrying them in their donkey carts and mule carts to the factory. Today harvesting on a large number of plantations is mechanically done.

We have seen as well, Sir, a change in the cropping methods. Now you have many more instances of the force back crop making use of the cyclical change of the weather. We have also seen as well, Sir, intercropping being used. We have seen plantations go out of the production of sugar completely, some of them going into large scale vegetable production. As Honourable Members before me have spoken, some of them going into residential use and some of them, too many of them being allowed to remain fallow and unharvested.

None of us can be completely satisfied with the changes which have occurred because at the end of the day it would appear that the sugar industry, unless we grapple with its problems urgently is going to become further and further indebted and finally might become extinct.

I recall the statement made by the then Honourable and subsequently Right Honourable Member for St. John, the late Errol Barrow in which he looked forward to the day when there was not a cane blade in the land of Barbados. Those of us who were probably not as politically sagacious as he but certainly better statesmen and wise persons recognized that this was a wrong characterization and a bad policy for the country. But unfortunately because of the sociological implications and inferences which would be drawn from the sugar industry, it was a statement that struck note with some persons. We got into the emotive

period where people concentrated on the slave history of sugar without looking at the tremendous contribution which sugar had made to the development of Barbados.

We saw as well after that statement in particular an increase in the burning of canes in Barbados. I will submit that the increase in burning, and in fact an official policy of burning of canes, resulted and is perhaps the most important factor contributing to the downward yield per acre of our sugar crop. Unfortunately that policy again was implemented by the Democratic Labour Party Government. It became part of their official policy to sanction the burning of canes.

We had the painful task when we were returned to power to reverse that and, instead, in the period subsequent to 1983 persuaded workers' representatives and the sugar producers to introduce a Green Cane Incentive Scheme to encourage people to be paid for their labour adequately and at the same time to maintain a higher yield. We have also seen, Sir, a failure to invest within the industry and to do research in order to improve the cane yields and in order to improve the viability of the industry. Once again, it was the unenviable task of the Labour Party in its period between 1976 and 1986 and particularly in the period subsequent to 1980 to implement a series of measures to begin to stop the industry from going further and further down the slope. I can list some of those. We took measures to reduce cane fires. We made available research and development grants. We altered, and encouraged the alteration in, the system of how canes were paid for. And we provided price support both off budget and on budget for the industry in order to counter the ill effects of the price fluctuations from the European Currency Unit which was paid to the sugar people for selling their canes. Those are some of the measures which we took in those periods.

I think now we have done enough studies for sugar. We have had the most recent study which is the Landell Mills Report although it has not been brought to the House. It is in wide circulation within this industry. It is in wide circulation within Europe from which I got a copy when I was in England some time, I think it was last year. Everybody have access to these documents. I think the Government has had enough time to make up its mind as to the policy measures which must be taken to deal with the question of rescuing the sugar industry. The Minister in his second reading speech indicated that the Government has a meeting with the sugar people on March 25th, a few days from now. I do not want anything that I say, since I believe that when the next elections come
10.50a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point of order.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a matter of elucidation, it is not the Government. The sugar industry will be meeting on March 24th. It has nothing to do with the

Government. The meetings with the Government have already been held.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Minister said that they have had meetings with Government and the sugar industry is now looking at Government's proposals and that meeting will take place on March 24th. I certainly do not intend to make any statement which would adversely affect any negotiations that are going on. I recognize that when the Barbados Labour Party is returned to power shortly we will be the persons who will have to put in place the concrete measures which are called for in order to rescue sugar and put it back as a main foreign exchange earner in this country. Therefore, with the responsibility which I have as a very serious legislator and a leader of a very serious party, I will be very careful how I speak and the manner in which I speak in these Estimates on this question of sugar. But let me make the first statement, Sir.

The price support scheme was introduced by the Barbados Labour Party in 1982. I want to reassure the people in sugar that we will continue as a matter of deliberate policy to ensure some price support for the industry. It cannot be interminable nor can it be inexhaustible. I myself do not like on-budget subsidies to industries whether they are public sector industries or private sector industries. You will note that in the period 1982 to 1986 we encouraged off-budget subsidies and gave a Government contingent guarantee. I am pleased to see that the private sector as a whole, particularly the insurance companies and other persons, rallied and put their money where their mouths were to support the bond issues that were made. However, because of the fluctuation in the ECU, we had at the same time to recognize that we had to give some on-budget subsidy. I will say and I think the sugar people must recognize this as well that the country cannot afford to continue interminably on-budget support. No industry whether it be the Government owned public sector industry, which is a commercial entity, or the private sector must expect on-budget subsidy to be interminable and it must be fixed at a price which would help the industry but which not at the same time continue to penalize or make sure that the pockets of the general taxpayers will carry the cost.

On the second area, Sir, I do not believe that price support is going to get rid of the total problems of the sugar industry. Those problems are now structural and in some respects endemic. The Labour Party has already enunciated and I restate here that there must also be capitalization of this industry. The Honourable Member for St. Peter who shadowed the portfolio in here on our behalf, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who because he represents a rural constituency and otherwise himself is a small farmer who has a deep interest in this matter and myself on behalf of the party have taken the opportunity to say on more than one occasion that there must be a recapitalization of the industry. Government must look

seriously at this problem, determine the level of capitalization which is required and, therefore, deal with the problem to enable production cost to fall and yields from the land to increase.

The third area that the Labour Party has made a plank of its policy and we are very positive on is the area of debt relief. It is obvious that there will have to be some debt relief. Even in the banking system in which the Government is a partner this must be done and done as quickly as possible of rescheduling debt over a period of time. The issue cannot, therefore, only be simply a question of how much money you give this year or the next year to the sugar people to lure them to increase their output. If there is one criticism, as you have indicated to me, Sir, my time is running out, that I must make of Government's policy on price support is that Government has been very dilatory in dealing with this question and the result has been further deterioration.

Finally, Sir, in this first intervention although I will come back to the point and develop it further, the land use policy has been disastrous for agriculture in this country. I am appalled when I go through St. John and go in a place like Wakefield right behind Villa Nova. I myself have driven onto the land to see some of the deepest agricultural land in Barbados now being cut up with roads and permission having been given to take some of the best land of this country to go into residential development.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: We must be crazy, Sir. We have no sense of what the future is telling us and we must have lacked our sense of responsibility to future generations of Barbados to have sanctioned such land use. I call on the Government, Sir, to do everything within its power to stop this type of cutting up of the lands of Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I just would like at this time to deal with some of the matters. Let me start with the Member who has just taken, his seat. His approach to the debate is one that I appreciate because he is dealing with some questions on certain matters and I will start to deal with some of them as we come down.

First of all, the matter of investment in research. Now I do not think it is fair to say that there has not been enough research in the sugar industry over the last year. The sugar industry is the only complete industry in Barbados from production to marketing and has its own research entity in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and they have been doing research for many years. As a matter of fact, the sugar variety testing station, which is exactly about 100 years old now and equals in area nearest to that in Java, has been one of the outstanding breeding stations throughout

the world and has produced excellent qualities of canes that have gone all over the world. So there has been tremendous research going on in the sugar industry. What I would join in saying is that the research results that were available to the industry have not always been taken up by the industry in a timely manner. This brings us to the situation where we are now. I think it is fair to say that the fact that 77% of canes now in Barbados is of a variety which is over 27 years old. Despite passing to the industry tested varieties that have been demonstrated to have excellent qualities of tonnage, content, suitability for harvesting mechanically, resistance to insects, there have been a kind of reluctance to move into the modern varieties therefore providing a better mix and it is regrettable that in 1990 that you still have 77% of the canes being reaped in Barbados of a variety of 27 years. There is some indication of some movement from the new ones that have been put into the newer and tested varieties which would allow us once again to increase our yields. There are many other areas where research has gone on. Research has gone on in the effect of mechanization in the industry and compaction from the sugar harvesting. Continuous research has been going on on fertilizer application. 11.00a.m.

Continuous research has been going on on weed control and, at the processing level, the quality of the processing plant has been improved throughout the years. It is true there are some areas now in which research has to be done. For argument's sake, the ratoon stunting disease, there has to be some work done there. There is some foliar analysis work going on to see what type of fertilisers and how the plant itself takes up the fertiliser, and this will continue, as well as approaches like strip tillage, what kind of strip tillage work needs to be done, the matter of mulching or whether or not mulching is one of the problems, the matter of the causes and the effect on the sugar production due to fires - all of these are matters under research and we will continue to do the research. I can only hope that when the results of the research are made available we will have the management that would move that research, after it has been tested on the plots, into the day to day applications.

On the matter of the cane payment system, this might now be posing a problem in that the present cane payment system which spans over about 38 different categories, ecological groups, was designed at a time when we had intended to have at least 150 000 acres of canes. The system is so loaded that the people producing in the least suitable lands for sugar cane are paid a higher price in order to compensate them for those difficulties, while those in the better producing areas, the high rainfall areas, are paid a smaller price. This system was very suitable when you were encouraging the production of 150 000 tonnes or , more, where you needed to maximise on the acreage under sugar cane. With a decision to rationalise the industry to ** about 85, 90, 100 thousand tonnes or more, there is now a

consistent cry from many of the farmers in the higher rainfall areas about the payment system. You must know that at the moment there is experimentation going on in which they are trying to move the payment for canes as a result of the sucrose content and its capacity to yield sugar.

This is an argument that has been going on now for the last five or six years and it has been put forward by many plantations that if the present payment system was not in place you would not have a situation where most of them are claiming not to make profits, but quite a few of them in the higher rainfall areas would find it profitable, and would therefore allow them to have their plantations at such a stage that they would expand and grow all the cane necessary in those areas suitable for cane, and we should well look at those areas that are marginal for cane under the present policy to get them into another production system.

There is some contention that that system of cane payment is at the present moment creating a problem for some of the farmers, and we are examining it, because there are legitimate arguments on both sides. My contention is that with the positive policy decision to reduce to 95 to 100 000 tonnes that there is no necessity for so many ecological groups. You now have about 18 ecological groups and subgroupings between there, so you have about 32 different payments for canes now, which takes some mathematics to do.

On the position of the price support scheme introduced in 1982, the sugar industry has always contended that the price support schemes have not assisted them, but as was said by the Member who just took his seat, one has to be careful in any subsidy to any private enterprise, particularly an industry that is over 300 years old. You have to structure a programme to make sure that you do not encourage inefficiency in that industry, that you do not give the industry the feeling that the country is so totally dependent on that industry that they can do whatever they please by way of bad agronomic practices, bad management, and still draw a subsidy.

Let me tell you one of the problems that we are presently having with our discussions. The industry's position is that you should guarantee a price which would cover production cost as well as given them a market for profits. I think it is fair that all of us who are familiar with the sugar industry know that there has been an ongoing row about what is the true production cost of sugar in this country, and I do not think either of the administrations dealing with it was ever totally happy that the production cost figures produced are the ones that are the most accurate and without any room for improvement.

The system used at the moment is a sample of the estates and you then have to extrapolate from those samples to come to a conclusion as to what is happening in the industry totally. Despite one of the conditions some time in

1983-85 that there should be a cost accounting system in the industry, that cost accounting system is still not in place. With all the best information available to us in the Ministry, taking the historical cost of production from the ADC and other people we have, we are of the view that there have always been areas of difference in the cost of production as presented by Barbados Sugar Industry Limited and the cost of production as arrived at by the technocrats and the other people in Government working on it. This has been one of the problems we have had.

As regards the fact of on-budget support, it is well known that in the off-budget support scheme the bonds were redeemable mostly from a sinking fund. The sinking fund was developed by the price of the domestic sugar over the 1982 price, so whatever is the price of domestic sugar over 1982 goes into the sinking fund that redeemed the bonds, so subconsciously the people of Barbados are redeeming the bonds, because it is the cost of the domestic sugar, which is higher in Barbados than in most places, that goes into the sinking fund that would allow the redemption of the bonds.

When we examined this situation we realised that the way it was structured there would have to be a price increase on domestic sugar almost every two years. What we did in 1986 was to vote \$21.6 million and we put \$3.6 million straight into the sinking fund to prevent us from increasing the cost of domestic sugar. We are of the view that if you are going to redeem bonds that way by continuously raising the cost of domestic sugar to the housewives in Barbados, since it is an essential thing, we could as well offer a programme of on-budget support for a pre-determined time, during which we would put other matters in place to bring the sugar industry, hopefully, to a situation where it would be economically viable and would be able to survive without a subsidy or a very small subsidy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has two minutes.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On the matter of the debt situation and the recapitalisation of the industry, we have realised that one of the big problems in the sugar industry is its present debt. Therefore, ongoing discussions between the sugar industry, Barbados National Bank, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance to find an acceptable solution are going on. 11.10a.m.

These discussions are going on; there are certain proposals and the industry as usual will put their reactions to those proposals and we in this present administration realise that unless a solution is found to that debt problem, that the morale in the industry will continue to be low, and whatever other suggestions we make we will have that problem. ..

Capitalisation of the industry is also one of the recommendations being presently being considered' in a series of recommendations resulting from the Landell Mills Report which are now before the Ministry of Finance to be presented to Cabinet very shortly which would include capitalisation of the new industry, the approach to the debt structure, an approach to the whole management of the industry, and we hope that we will have from that overall . approach an industry that once again would see itself functioning at the level of efficiency that would produce the foreign exchange and some employment, because it is becoming highly mechanised. In the interest of further saving we will have to continue this policy, so the industry cannot be looked at now as a big employer of labour because we have to continue mechanising it in order to make it as efficient as possible.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the latest Central Bank Economic Review for December 1989 quickly dismisses agriculture in one paragraph. It says that the agricultural sector continues to perform disappointingly registering its third year of decline. Sugar output fell by 17 per cent, and other non-sugar food crops were also affected by the weather with a short fall in domestic food production emerging from the lower acreage which was planted.

We also see, Sir, in the Economic and Financial Statistics for December 1989 that since May 28, 1986 the general level of prices in Barbados have increased by 17.8 per cent whereas the general level of food prices in this country have risen by 29 per cent, and there is no other single item in that basket of goods that has risen as quickly as food. Then when we look at the production of selected agricultural commodities not only has sugar production fallen, but the production of onions in this country has fallen from about 776 000 kilograms in 1986 to 227 000 kilograms; the production of peanuts has vanished; the production of yams has declined from 2 943 000 kilograms in 1985 to 1 365 000 and so on and so forth. Indeed, Sir, we recall last year where sweet potatoes in Barbados were fetching as high as \$2.50 a pound, and where at Christmas there was a complete hiatus regarding the importation of eggs and other commodities into the country.

I say all that, Sir, to come to my point, that Barbados needs a programme for expanded agricultural production, but the programme to reverse the three successive years of decline of which the Central Bank speaks in such cryptic tones, cannot take place, we are submitting, within the existing context within which policy within the Ministry of Agriculture is being undertaken. I want, Sir, first of all to come back to the issue that this House was debating last night, because there is a lack of faith on the part of the farming community not only in the policies of Government, but there is a lack of faith, Sir, on the part of the farming community in the actions taken by the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture has gone on record as saying that all the farmers are interested in are prices and

markets, as if farmers are not producers too and should not be interested in prices and markets. But my point is simply this, that there is a need for a restoration of confidence in Government's policies and in the Minister of Agriculture, and I do feel that Government could take a major step in restoring confidence by addressing directly and head on the matter pertaining to the composition of the Board of the Agricultural Development Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, I. was formerly a Chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, and there was an employee, I will not call his name, of the Corporation holding a very senior position alleged to have been a Member of the Barbados Labour Party for many years, but he was engaged in activities which in our judgment were not in the best interest of the Corporation and we dismissed him. From time to time members of Corporations will do things that are not in the best interest of the Corporations, we cannot hold Ministers responsible for that, but we must hold Ministers responsible if when these things happen nothing is done by the Minister to address the situation. Last night the Prime Minister of this country said that his Personal Assistant is living in a house which formerly was an ADC plantation house under an undertaking whereby he would undertake to repair and maintain the property in lieu of the payment of rent.

Mr. Chairman, I have never in all of my years in public life heard of a more outrageous arrangement more designed to bring into disrepute the functioning of public' corporations in any society, and I really feel that the Government just cannot make that blanket statement; that the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister should also have told this House that immediate upon his having been told of that arrangement which is so outrageous that he asked that the resignation of that Board Member should be put on his desk or that he instructed his Minister of Agriculture to have that resignation on his desk at the earliest possible opportunity. I really feel that if you are going to create a climate of confidence in the administration of agricultural affairs, then all of these matters have to be dealt with and dealt with directly and dealt with frontally. It savours of corruption, and there is no point our trying to avoid the general issue that part and parcel of the general crisis in which agriculture finds itself today is that there is an atmosphere of bedlam and corruption that pervades not only ADC but the Ministry of Agriculture in its generality.

For example, Sir, can the Minister tell the House whether the tractor that was missing from the ADC has yet been recovered?

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I will identify it when you produce to the House the persons ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member would be introducing something into the debate that is not necessary if he responds to asides. They are not recorded. Let us get on with the debate.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Anyhow, Sir, there are a lot of things happening at ADC that the Minister would do well to get on top of, and we are going to be forced into a position on this side as if we appear to be spoilers by bringing to Government's attention things that any alert Government should be aware of. But the Minister must be aware of certain relationships between top persons in the ADC in their capacity as private owners and that Corporation which are offensive to the operation of good Government. I have not yet in this intervention requested your permission to call people's names, but if it becomes necessary in the course of this debate today I will have to do so, because things that have been done in the ADC are not only irregular, they are corrupt.

The Honourable Member for St. John has challenge me to do it, but I am warning that they are ignoring too many things at the ADC. We fired people when they required firing from the ADC, we did not flinch from firing them, and there are people at ADC, Sir, who want firing. You must deal with it and let it hang out.

Mr. Chairman, the whole question of Government's relationship to CARSICOT and through CARSICOT is a matter that the Government has not handled with confidence. The Government will want us merely to accept that because there is something intrinsically idealistic about having a sequence of production in Barbados going from cotton production to ginning, carding, combing, spinning and weaving and garment production, that because that sequence of production is idealistic and desirable, that in itself prevents that project from standing up to scrutiny, and we are putting the case to the Government that separately and distinct from all of the financial arrangements surrounding that project that cannot stand proper scrutiny, that if we are going to have a process of integrated cotton production in Barbados, then at least let us first of all master all of the problems surrounding the first stage, the problem of primary production to begin with. 11.20a.m.

You are never going to be able to have or sustain an integrated cotton industry in this country unless we can first and foremost assure ourselves of a proper volume of output at the primary stage.

Indeed, Sir, the industrial experience of the world has shown that in order to move from primary production to higher levels of production, Sir, each stage of production has to emerge as a solid business in its own right and there is no point, therefore, telling us about the intrinsic values of integrated production. We understand that but there has to

be a process by which you can master primary production of the cotton in its own right.

The Minister has an obligation to this House to explain how he is going to sustain an integrated process of cotton production in a situation where the farming community as a whole does not identify with the goal of expanding cotton production in the country because the Minister has not set the correct price environment within which that production can take place.

I want to say this, Sir, because I have not yet spoken on CARSICOT, but it would seem to me that on the evidence on what has so far been made public that the foreign investors' only interest in that project is not in assisting us in bringing about primary production or integrating the industry but that the foreign investors interest in that project is the use of the trademark that would enable them to import cotton from wherever else call it sea island cotton and thereafter rebale what is not sea island cotton as sea island cotton and sell it to the rest of the world at a premium price.

That seems to me to be the only interest of the foreign equity holder in that project and it explains to me why there has been no systematic investment by anybody to date in producing the sea island cotton in Barbados to begin with. It explains to me why you have the situation emerging of cotton coming from elsewhere, known not to be sea island cotton but with the instructions that it should be rebaled and sent on to other parts of the world as sea island cotton for the benefit of the people who produce it in the other parts of the world.

We, therefore, Mr. Chairman, want to hear the Minister speak directly to these kinds of issues. Is it not true, in his judgement, that this country is being taken for a ride? Where, indeed, is the commitment of the investors to making the first step in integrated production making sure that, at least, the primary product is efficiently produced and produced at a cost that would not only allow the farmers themselves to realize a return on their investment, but, also, allow the integrated production of which we speak ranging from direct cotton production, through to spinning, carting, combing, weaving and garment production at each stage to be a profitable venture in its own right.

I, certainly, Sir, cannot see the commitment from the shareholders in this respect and if we on this side had to deal with any potential investor in a matter such as this we would be telling him that he cannot come to Barbados and expect to exploit a trademark right, the benefits of which can run into millions and millions of dollars for him without a commensurate commitment on his part in at least allowing us to benefit from the expansion of production in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I have some other matters of a constituency nature to address later but I trust that the point has been made that the whole context within which agriculture policy in Barbados is being taken is a sad context. The environment is rancid. Unless there is a dramatic change in that environment agriculture will continue to decline.

I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I must take issue with the Minister when he stated yesterday that his subsidy to the fishing industry would be in safety equipment. Let me point out here and now that that is unacceptable for the simple reason that safety equipment comprise a compass, a waterproof flashlight, a distress flag, three hand held flares, a bilge pump, a life jacket, and a VHP radio.

All these items will last for a very long time. The shortest life is about three years for a bilge pump and the others will last more or less with care until the owner dies. This, Sir, I cannot accept.

What we want in the industry is tangible financial support. Either we get the financial support or the industry dies. I feel quite strongly that there is a sinister plan to get rid of these small entrepreneurs in preference to very large ones. I hope that my feelings will not materialise in the near future.

I am saying now, Sir, that going from a report which I read in the newspaper, the Ministry seems to be embarking on squandermania. I have read that they are going to undertake the introduction of a new fishing boat design. Now, tell me for what reason would you want a new fishing boat design? The boats we have in this country have evolved over time for about two centuries and I see no reason for having a new design.

Boats do not catch fish. It is the men who take them to sea and the men who take them to sea can only catch fish when there is fish for the taking. What we need, Sir, is for the Ministry of Agriculture, the people who man the Fisheries Section in the Ministry of Agriculture, is to go out there and do some worthwhile exploration.

I have been hearing all kinds of talk about inshore exploration, deep sea exploration, and all types of exploration. I want to know from the Minister if any professional fisherman or amateur fisherman, if at this time in their progress, can go to the Fishing Office and purchase a chart or beg for a chart which can tell him that he can go such and such a place around this country and he would be in a position to find such and such a species. It is time that we get up and do something worthwhile for the money that is being spent.

I want to know, Sir, if I can go to the Fishing Office and buy a chart about the tides around Barbados. Fish, as you know, Sir, go about with tides whether they are demersal fish or whether they are pelagic fish. These are things the Minister of Agriculture should be looking at. 11.30a.m.

Now, Sir, I will turn to the position with the peasant farmers. We have several peasants around the country - although this word is not very much used today - who would like some help with their fruit orchards. Several people have been complaining to me about their pear trees and their citrus and their cherry trees. Only the other day a man was complaining that he cannot get any help and he has to cut his trees down.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Get the Ministry of Agriculture. Let them come and look at your lime trees. Our limes rot every year and yet we import limes from overseas.

In Antigua which is a country with a similar climate to ours, you go to Antigua and all the pineapples you get are locally grown in Antigua. Here in Barbados everything we eat must come from outside. Why is this? I am asking if the Ministry of Agriculture is asleep or dead.

For years Barbados has been an agricultural country. I remember as a boy when Sir John Saint was responsible for agriculture, we had all kinds of food to eat. Everything around us was green. Even if you stuck your finger in the ground it would turn green. Here all we have is black dirt and some bush.

I remember some time ago - I think it was the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who was talking about the ugly state of the countryside. The Minister in his reply stated that the Government is not responsible for all the agricultural land in Barbados.

It is true the Government does not own all the agricultural land in Barbados. Sir John Saint did not own all the land in Barbados. I do not think he even owned a cane hole in Barbados. But he had a policy whereby every person who owned land in Barbados had to conform or else. Mr. Minister you can do the same thing. You are in charge. You set the pace. You make the law. There was a penalty for every person who did not plant what Sir John wanted them to plant. Do you mean you people do not learn from experience? This is the way to go, Sir.

I want to know what is going to happen with our pigeon peas. Why are you dragging your foot? Why are you dragging your foot with our okra production. St. Lucy, part

of St. Peter, St. Philip and Christ Church were the okra producing parishes in Barbados. They were the parishes for guinea corn and nuts. I remember as a youngster at St. Christopher the half caste boys were always referred to as the St. Philip boys and it was said that if all the Negroes went back to Africa and the Europeans to Europe they would remain in St. Philip to plant guinea corn and nuts.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Yes. This is true. I want you, Mr. Minister to get down to serious business. This is time when we should be saving every possible cent. We cannot afford to lose foreign exchange. We cannot afford to give people who do not need it our hard earned currency. There is no pea in this world as good as our pigeon peas. Why do we have to eat everyday split peas, whole peas and all kinds of stupid peas and whenever there are pigeon peas we import them? This should never be the case. You should have a programme whereby everybody would be out there who has one or two cane holes, I understand the Prime Minister says he has how many cane holes, Sir?

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: He would not grow any? Make him grow them.

Aside.

Mr. E. BOURNE: Push the guard walls down. You are in charge. You need food. You do not need guard walls. I lived in Canada and there is never a house in Canada with a guard wall. You are in charge. This is what you should do. You either persuade them or force them. There is no point our walking around saying that the taste of Bajans is such and such. How can you have a taste for something when you have never tasted it. I do not have a taste for venison. I do not even know what it looks like. I read about it in the Bible. You must taste these things to acquire a taste.

Mr. Minister I would hope that you get down to some very, very serious business because I am serious. I am dissatisfied really. I feel that by now we should have a programme whereby every house should be involved in some kind of agriculture even if it is just planting one breadfruit tree or pear tree or pepper tree. We should be going around giving these people these trees and showing them how to maniculture them. If you start doing this then your agricultural policy will get off the ground.

With those few words, Sir, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and hope to come again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I have to follow in the line of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who just spoke, except that I think, Sir, that his diagnosis might be similar to mine, his recipes for change would be considerably different and his responsibility for what is happening, the way how he attributes responsibility, I would not agree.

I can stand in this Chamber and say that we were raised in agricultural areas basically and that there are certain practices that became common to us. We can speak personally of experiences where your grandfather would have had some land which is subdivided and every uncle and aunt got a piece and so on. Your father would have been keeping about five acres, personal experience, and when the time came for cutting canes, as a son, you were expected to go and cut some for pocket money but also because you were making a contribution to the family. Your brothers, your sisters, your mother, your father were engaged in that exercise.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Oh yes. Very many times. When your father put an acre in butter beans you had to go and pick butter beans too.

We hear a lot of stupid arguments about how Barbadians do not want to get involved in agriculture because of slavery and so on. That is utter nonsense because I am as conscious of history and slavery as anybody else. 11.40a.m.

But from the time I was a youngster when my father planted canes I knew that I had to cut them. I had to be part of reaping that harvest. I had to go and cut those canes. When he sold beets, carrots, or whatever, I was part of reaping that harvest too. It had no notion of who owned plantations and so on. That was our lot and we worked on that together. What has happened to a large extent is that our people have moved away from the experience of working with the family on lots, because remember too the size of those lots have withered because of getting larger families. Your grandfather passed on and your father passed on. By the time it got to you there is not anything really to pass on. So most of us have only been able to go and buy a lot to put a house on and something small around it. If you own a half acre lot, most of us still put some fruit trees and, if you are like me in the country instead of a guard wall, as you said, I put up wind breaks and my wind breaks will take the form of pigeon peas and inside there you would plant something else. But if you are in a residential area, it is not the same thing. You are not expected to put up the pigeon pea wall. You have to put up a fence, either the chain-link fence or the wall. So we are talking about a

different era and I believe that change has impacted a lot on what I call "grass root" agricultural practices.

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, one of the things that has always bothered me and I have said it before is that an agricultural community like Barbados should have had teaching in agriculture. I mean we must go back to the days again when you were at school and there was always a lot of land at school and there would be a teacher who would be introducing you to the rudiments, the very basics, in agricultural science. You remember in the classroom you would start off with a little pea or bean and you had to draw the plant as it came up. They fostered some idea or love of agriculture in you and then you had your competitions of schools for prizes. Once that is ingrained in you from the time you are at primary school it is very difficult to break out of it. It becomes part of your consciousness. You are very close to the earth.

I believe we have never taken agricultural teaching seriously. We have always depended on the ECFI, for instance, to do our training for our agricultural people in the middle management level. A few would have gone on to McGill and so on, one or two at the top. But basically our experts in agriculture at that intermediary level would have gone to the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute in Trinidad. I know from conversations with several of them that when they came back to Barbados they came back first of all into the bureaucracy and rather felt frustrated. They have gone on to do other studies as management and business where it is easier for them to make money than to stay in the fanning bureaucracy as such.

So that I do not think that we have emphasized sufficiently the whole aspect of training in agriculture. Do not talk about training for fishermen and so on. That is only a recent thing. I believe that we need as a people an apprenticeship scheme. But we need people to refocus on agriculture because any economist would know that agriculture is basic to your development. You cannot surrender your concentration on agriculture and move on to secondary and primary levels of economic development. You have to look at agriculture.

Agriculture is basic for any country like Barbados and I feel we need to saturate our young people to the idea that agriculture is important. We have to do that. A lady in another place associated with this great party always advises us to put food first like a beacon throughout this country adumbrating her ideas. We are in danger and we have been for sometime of losing an appreciation for our basic Barbadian foods and so on. That is why I have no liking and I will say this for the on-rush of certain fast food kinds of businesses in our country because our young people can get turned on to this American thing so easily. I prefer them to want to eat some Creole breadfruit and Creole yam and good cassava with a butter sauce and, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East talks about,

you cannot really beat pigeon pea rice. You can put anything with that. You can put salt fish and lamb. You could just eat pigeon pea rice then. It does not need anything at all and Bajans know how to cook it. Pigeon pea rice is just one of the most delicious things in the world. But we have good Barbadian foods and recipes that are relatively cheap too. Pigtales must be in there.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Well, that is for the ones who have high blood pressure who will use something else. But those of us who can still indulge in pigtales must have pigtales somewhere along there. I remember once going to Canada and visiting the underground restaurant with Tom Clarke to eat pigtail souse, the first and only time that I ever had that experience. I cannot find a Barbadian to deal with it. Pigtail souse was a delight.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Now the Honourable Attorney General will be in trouble from now on. I will be a regular visitor.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: The problem is that we attach certain status symbols to food, a very strange consideration. Some people feel that when you get to a certain level you cannot eat salt fish or pigtales, herring for that matter, or good old corned beef. I remember going to my friend, the Leader of the Opposition who tells me he is a very good cook. He is a good expert at cooking split pea rice and corned beef. That is good roots food.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: We have reached a situation in Barbados, I am serious now, where you have Barbadian foods whether it is breadfruit or whatever and the difficulty with us is that we make such rapid transitions and moves. When I was a youngster 14 or 15 in the village people were cooking frizzled salt fish. There was an old lady that I used to go to on Saturdays and her meal would have been something like breadfruit coucou and then she would have frizzled salt fish and cucumber. But each week she used to do the cucumber a different way basically.

What I am saying is that sometimes we lose swiftly of these things. We have to go back sometimes to the old recipes and reintroduce them to our children and reintroduce them to people from outside of Barbados who come in here. There is a danger of becoming so international that we will lose the rich variety that our fore-parents have developed of their culinary skills over the years and we will surrender and toss them away. But we

will go to another Country and use their culinary delights. We in Barbados might say they are not suitable for our palates, but if we hear it used in that country we may be tempted to try it. But I am serious about this because there needs to be a public education on this. As parents, we need to sit down and introduce these things to them. Do not let them run away and eat only at Chefette and McDonald's or wherever. Now if we do that and show a lack of appreciation, how can we be selling yams to somebody else when we do not eat yams. We have to use local foods. We have to cultivate. We have a certain perception and we have to maintain that perception and let people reach your perception because it is all tied in with who we are. We cannot get agriculture going unless we can translate to people how important it is.

Now let us get into the whole question about cotton. I cannot get into the details about CARSICOT but the Minister is fully seized of the details and can discuss it at that level. I am pleased with the philosophy behind the diversification of cotton which is a magnificent move by this country. We all are agreed on that and that this Administration must get the praise for having decided to go in that direction.

I remember going to the Foundation School and wearing a grey flannel pants and a woolen grey sweater when cotton was being grown in this country and all through the Caribbean. But we had to be taking wool from England and so on. 11.50a.m.

Cotton could have been grown in this country or throughout the Caribbean, but we had to be taking wool from England where they were raising sheep and just dumping it on us, and for centuries nobody would have challenged that, we took that as the order of the day. We have now, at this time of our existence, to change the priorities, we have to determine we can produce the best cotton in the world. We also have to remember we are switching from people whose minds are still on sugar as the one perhaps and only

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am sure the Honourable Member, being a historian, would know that he might be running the risk of misleading this Honourable House. Cotton was grown in Barbados on several occasions in significant quantities and the problem has been erosion and insects that destroyed the cotton crops, as happened with tobacco before, so it is not correct to say it has not been tried.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I can deal with the history of cotton, as you will be aware. Cotton was one of the first crops. Before there was sugar, there was cotton, there was indigo, there was tobacco, etc. All I am telling you is that the persons who determined the structure of our economy determined that cotton was not it at the time.

When cotton really became a world class primary crop, that was in the 19th century when the mills of Manchester were really moving. Barbados' cotton was not significant, because if you wanted cotton in quantity, there were other parts of the world like the southern United States of America where cotton was in vast numbers. In the mid 19th century to keep on producing sugar in Barbados was still important to them and they decided where they wanted to keep their cotton. The next time would have been the 1930's, for instance, when we had a cotton industry, but it never became a significant thing again. Remember we were a colony and our whole economic structure was determined by others. When the Moyne Commission reported in the 1940's to plan what would happen in these islands thereafter, they never indicated in terms of the economic recommendations that we should move away from sugar. You read the Moyne Commission Report. They never said there should be any manufacturing in these islands, because they felt that we would always be an area receiving from them.

I understand the history of cotton. That is why I am saying now we have a chance to write our own history, and you have to understand what is happening. In Barbados in 1990 for the first time we are starting a cotton manufacturing area. Do you realise how late we are then? For the first time in our history after about 350 years as a colony we are setting up a cotton manufacturing plant. We have had sugar from way back in the 17th century, but Barbadians for the first time are setting up a cotton manufacturing plant after being around for 350 years. Do you realise what we are doing?

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am aware that we have a little thing at Spencers, but as I understand it, we are moving on a different scale, and that is a challenge to the status quo, because it means surrendering certain rights and certain considerations. It is not going to be easy. In these matters you have to look outside for expertise. I was in Israel last year, Mr. Chairman, and I was taken to a cotton plant, a beautiful piece of new technology. In fact, there were only about four workers in the entire plant. The entire plant is mechanised and computerised and it goes from the introduction of the raw material and when you walk out at the last room in the plant the bales of thread are actually going out on a conveyor belt on to trucks, and only three people are in there pressing a button here, pressing a button there, calibrating and making sure everything is all right and so on. Do you know what they are doing? They get about four different products. The cotton seed, they are getting cotton seed oil, they are getting the lint, they are getting feed and also from the husks of the cotton they are making some kind of product that goes into the cones of satellites for the space programme. So out of cotton alone they are getting about four different products.

It is totally mechanised, and that is a very important area of the Israeli economic thrust in terms of modernisation of their agricultural sector. I hope, quite frankly, that with access to Japanese technology that is where we are going in relation to this particular area of activity. I think that that and the agro processing plant - and I agree to a certain extent with the Honourable Member for St. Peter that we have to do a lot of planning so that at the basic level we can go through stages and there will not be any hiccoughs. I have no doubt that that is being done. I do not like for people to assume, because they are outside of an administration, that those who are in an administration do not know what kind of steps have to be taken. It is going to take some time to get your act together, because you are trying to persuade people and to change things. I have no doubt that with the benefit of looking back, because we are now moving in, that we will see that these things have been established and that in the future we will be benefiting.

I just want to again emphasise this happening after 350 years of our being around here, so let us know what we are doing for the first time. I think the Barbados Labour Party took an attitude to the BMC that I was not pleased with. I think it is still a very important developmental agency and for a while its path was diverted and I hope we can get back into the path of making the BMC a very important organisation for marketing our agricultural produce.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I want to continue where the last speaker stopped. I have been told, or advised, by the Leader of the Opposition that the cases have been filed. What I will say is that there are a lot of legal implications going on. I have made a ministerial statement, so I am not going to get into that aspect of it. As I said in the ministerial statement, when the audited statement is available to the Government of Barbados, whatever steps are needed to be taken will be taken and I will get to that when that is available.

I would just like to state for the benefit of this House what motivated me as Minister of Agriculture to get the Government of Barbados involved in this project. All I would ask is that we do not throw out the baby with the bath water. That is a Barbadian saying and that is all I am asking. It is important that we recap very quickly the historical background to it.

As was said, Barbados one time produced nearly 130 000 bales of cotton, but it had gone into a kind of slump for the simple reason that the world price of cotton fluctuates. For those of us who are not familiar, the Sea Island Cotton produced in Barbados is only about .03 of 1% of the total cotton produced in the whole world, so that would give you some idea of the reality of it. The Leader of the Opposition is familiar with the first part of the aspect of the cotton industry, but I would like to put it on the table for what it is worth.

We started the resuscitation of the cotton industry as a result of a Japanese gentleman by the name of Mr. Suzuki who came down here and offered what was then an incentive price for Sea Island Cotton of U.S. \$4.50 per pound. When that price was offered, the price of the next best cotton in the world, the Egyptian cotton, the SB 45 and the Pima, was about U.S. \$1.60 per pound, so the premium paid on the Sea Island Cotton was nearly something like 200%. It was made very, very clear that was an introductory price and the farmers of Barbados were encouraged to get into it and they were paid at that time, I believe, something like \$2.50 per pound of seed cotton.

The relationship between seed cotton and lint is that from every pound of seed cotton you end up with about .31 pounds of lint, roughly 3:1, so if you are looking at the relationship, when you get \$4.50 a pound, which is \$9.00, and you do anything above \$2.50, which would give you about \$7.50, you are paying for the seed cotton, plus the ginning cost, you will realise that there was no manoeuvring for that. 12.00 noon

Even at that price the farmers of Barbados were claiming that they could not produce sea island cotton to make a profit. We got a further set back on the cotton when there was a unilateral decision to reduce it to \$US2.20 per pound at just about the time I came into office. Through the efforts of all the persons involved in Government at that time, we sold in 1986 some 200 000 pounds at \$US3.15 to Mr. Suzuki, and the rest was sold at \$US3.50 to SCOTTHALLS of Canada. At that time it became crystal clear to the Ministry and myself that we cannot support a cotton industry selling it as a primary produce alone, because in the world market situation even if you got a premium price for the sale of cotton, which was always about 200 per cent above the rest, at some time the world market could not continue to pay for it, despite the fact that it is a niche market; and even at that we have the difficulty with the primary producer. So we had one of two decisions to make, either to take the conscious decision that we cannot grow sea island cotton as a crop, or we look beyond that to what we could do to produce some value added to that crop in Barbados. That is where the whole search started.

It was very obvious that until you had a chicken and egg situation, until you were able to pass back more money to the primary producers, the primary producers would not be able to produce at a profitable rate, and because it is a crop that calls for a lot more agronomic help and practice than sugar, it would be very natural that the majority of planters in Barbados would not plant it, because if they have a crop that is not giving them a better return than sugar, that calls for a lot more attention and husbandry than sugar, the people are accustomed to sugar for which they have very little husbandry to apply, they would never grow cotton. Therefore you had to make the conscious decision

whether or not you were going to write it off as a crop or you were going to do something about it. We then made it very clear that it was not our intention to keep it as a primary crop, and we had to go to value added because there were so many things that we could have gotten out of it. The very first one is the cotton seed which is still being used by some of our cattle people, but you would be surprised that a lot of people in Barbados are not making use of the sea island cotton seed. Many thousands of pounds of sea island cotton seed are dumped every year after you have selected what you are planting because the dairy men and the beef people for some reason do not make as much use of it as should be made, and it is very cheap. We could also get the cotton seed oil which is one of the oils where there is no aphloxin, as well as the lint which goes into things like filters, and we go right down the line of spinning into yarn, into the cut sew industry in Barbados, and selling high quality garments into Europe.

These were the things naturally that we looked at as planners in the Ministry. We made some obvious decisions that the technology was not available to us, that we did not have the know-how, and by a series of meticulous searches from numerous people who approached us, we made some decisions on companies that we would go with after all deliberate checks that were available to us. We made those decisions and we started.

The plans are just as important today as they were at any time. Unfortunately there has been a hiccup, but I would say that what we have to do is to rectify that hiccup and move on, and that is exactly what is happening. Because of the complicated legal involvement going on, I don't think it is appropriate at this time for me to give the details. All I would say is that when the details are available and the decisions made by the Government on the way they should go, I would then bring them to this House. That is the situation.

On the other matter, raised by the Honourable Mcmbei for Christ Church has! about the lishing industry, we have had some consultancies and naturally they have been looking at designs of !h.' boats available. No definite conclusion has boon armed ai thai you are going lo mo'e out from any boats, but what they were looking at was the possibility of having the boats a lot more versatile thai you v'ould fit mini long lines on diem. You arc therefore looking at the after depth situation, you arc looking at the icebox that you do not disturb the centre of gravity of them, and therefore cause unnecessary tensions on certain parts of the design, and these are the things that have been looked at. Quite naturally, as you said, the fishing boat in Barbados has evolved and we will lake that into consideration in what we are doing.

I think my colleague I he Honourable Member for Christ Church West gave a good example ol what J was talking about. I am just as disturbed as you arc about the

fact that many people are not making use of the lands available to them, but you posed a question, and I made a note of it, and you said persuade them or force them. We have tried persuading them. The last administration put on a levy on lands that were not cultivated and that did not help the siluation. That did not stop the slide despite the fact that the levy was there. We did an analysis of it and concluded that the levy, although it was punitive, was not bringing anything beside bringing some revenue, and as part of a manifesto promise we decided we would refund it and I think we refunded something like \$1.27 million from the levy. We have been trying every way possible by way of persuasion.

As you would know, in the Sir John Saint days, these were during the War days, there was an Act which I believe is still on the Statute Book which said that every plantation had to grow 12 per cent of its acreage in food crops, and because of the environment at that time there was no food coming. You have to take the environment at a particular time to understand. There was no food coming into Barbados then. Barbados had to feed itself with the big grain rice as you know, so therefore because of the environment of the World War plus the fact that the legislation was on the Books we had at that lime the maximum agricultural production lhat was ever done in Barbados. We have a situation now where we believe under the law we practise that in most cases people should have a right to do whatever they like with what is theirs. We have a freehold system in land ownership in Barbados, we try the persuasive methods, but as you have said, persuade them or force them; if we are now coining to the conclusion that the persuasive method is not working, we might have to look at some other method. I would hope we do not have lo do thai. The Ministry of Agriculture has been trying everything, but when you come back lo the situation you will come to the critical problem that none of us has faced as yet in (his debate, and that is the ownership structure ol lands in ihis coijuiy, and whene. ct yun look al ihc suu.H!:-i ;h:u ai iv:¹...; no more than eiugt jt,i--.ons under the aiioineysmp syMeri >u this counliy make decisions J'or we!! over 2> 000 aciv-; o! land, you understand what you are up againsi.

Time and lime again you are talking about young people getting into agriculture. I have seen so many young people lhat say lhc only cane they are going lo cut is enough to suek; they tell you ihey are nol going oul lhcrc in agriculture and you know it. We have an acute problem every year with the sugar crop where there arc big advertisements for people, and up to ihis week they were advertising. We have a problem with picking of cotton. Anything to do with labour in agriculture, you have a problem, because you have developed in Barbados a kind of educational system and you have paid so much atention to the white collar workers that all of our young people arc trying to be white collar workers. They want to be lawyers, they want, to be doctors, they want lo be accountants, engineers and teachers, but not agriculturist. Even if you

take those agriculturists who are trained, we have a difficulty that when they are trained they are very few of them that want to become farmers on their own; they want to come into the Ministry and be advisers, quite rightly, but how many of them have branched out into actual farming on their own? Until such time as we take the courage in this country to look at the land holding pattern, I would say that we have a serious problem. We have a problem in this country where there are rumblings by a few people that unless you do that, we are not going to plough up. Do you realise what they are saying? That they have within their hands the power to almost bring a Government to its knees, if you want to use that expression because of the present land distribution ownership in this country. 12.10p.m.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, when I saw the Honourable Prime Minister come back in I thought that we might have heard something about that problem with the ADC house at Wildey and I would hope that during the course of the day we are going to hear something about it. I get the impression that he is formulating something in his mind to tell us about it.

The amazing thing is that I never thought that yesterday when I mentioned the five buses, just asked them what they were, what they were going to do with them, that I would have gotten four Ministers to get up and tell us four different reasons for the buses being there with the last one indicating that with careful thought, well thought out we should get rid of them.

The same thing that crops up now, it appears, with this ADC house in Wildey.

Aside.

It was four different Ministers giving four different reasons for those so-called luxury coaches to be in Barbados.

It can be for many reasons, I agree but what I was hoping was that he would understand what was the rationale behind it.

But the house in Wildey. Let us get back to the house in Wildey.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Whenever I speak I give the Honourable Member for St. John something to say so he will make a speech after me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Let me just remind the Honourable Member of Standing Order No. 66 (7): "The debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided and not deal with the

details of expenditure but may refer to the details of revenue or funds for which that service is responsible."

Let us get on with the debate rather than wandering all over the place.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Yes, to continue on the ADC. I believe I am right in assuming that ADC is still under agriculture so since that is so - I am talking about the ADC house in Wildey - all I am saying is that I am hoping that the Honourable Prime Minister is now very clear in his mind as to what went on with this house because yesterday evening we got the impression that he was a little confused as to what really happened there and if I was in his place I would probably be confused too.

I would like to echo the call by, I believe, it was the Honourable Member for St. Peter, that you might consider distancing yourself from that Personal Assistant before he causes you any great embarrassment.

Let me move on Sir.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Get your thoughts together first. Do what I tell you so that you can come clear one time.

Now, Sir, let us get serious and deal with this question of the Agro-Processing Plant.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: They sent me a Prospectus. You mean they sent me after it closed? I only got it this week.

Mr. Chairman, I wish you would ask the Honourable Minister of Trade to make his speech on his feet and stop trying to make a speech in asides. The Agro-Processing Plant that is being put together by Government. The Honourable Minister knows full well that when he first mentioned to me some years ago that there was some difficulty in getting the private sector to get involved to a greater extent in processing of agriculture produce that I agreed with him that maybe sometimes Government will have to take the lead and show them that it can be done, as has happened in other cases in Barbados and then you sell it off to the public so I have no difficulty with its being a privately owned operation or part private and part Government. I never said I had a difficulty with that.

What we have a difficulty with is that at the time we were talking about an operation that was going to take up local produce and process, in other words, we were looking at some backward linkages. What is, in fact, happening to the plant is that apart from, as is claimed, it producing

purees which it will sell to, or hope to sell to, Pine Hill, with the economies of scale that Brazil I do not know how they are going to get the price down to Pine Hill level, or if we are going to have to protect Pine Hill totally now because the price of the juice will go up. I do not know. I am not even going to speculate. But apart from the purees that it intends to produce, most of the other products will be products made from produce from countries outside of Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Let me continue and then you will understand what I am saying.

Apart from that - if you are going to talk about that kind of backward linkages - you have to prepare the fresh produce - the producer at the same time has to be parallel with what the plant is going to be doing.

But, let me get back to the part where we were talking about importing. A lot of work has been done in Jamaica on tomato ketchup being made from local tomatoes. I know and I must know it very well, I have been involved in it, that there is a great difficulty in growing the Roma tomato in the Caribbean. It needs more of a Mediterranean climate and I know there is great difficulty in growing it. I know that that is also the tomato that is best suited for making tomato paste from which you make tomato ketchup. I know all of that. I know all of the technical aspects of it.

In Jamaica they have developed ketchup where they make it directly from the tomato where they do not go through the stage of going through the tomato paste with all the vacuum and so on.

To get away from all the technical aspects of it, the point I am making is that you are going to be using this processing plant to make a tomato ketchup with an imported tomato paste. I have not heard anywhere or read anywhere where the plant is going to go on. Even if it is going to use that....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: The competition is already coming from CARICOM so it does not matter if another one comes.

Even if they are going to use that imported paste as a means of helping them offset their overheads to get the plant off the ground, I have no problem with that but we have to come out and say, "Are you going to go on from there to develop our own?" because if you read No. 13 on page 10 of the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto it says: 'A DLP Government will encourage and if necessary participate financially in the establishment of a multi-faceted processing plant for vegetables.'

I did not think when I read that at the time, and this is what I was telling the Honourable Minister of Trade that I have no difficulty with it, that you meant imported vegetables because we have enough of those screwdriver industries in Trinidad and Jamaica. I thought you meant that we would be using local vegetables.

I also said before that you cannot grow vegetables for the fresh market and use the ones that are not suitable for the fresh market to do processing. That is the worst way to go about it. You have to grow vegetables for processing. 12.20p.m.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East talked about pigeon peas. Most of the pigeon peas we get in Barbados come from Santo Domingo and they package them in the simplest form. They fast freeze them. I am sure the Honourable Minister knows this. One of the difficulties with having pigeon peas in Barbados, clearly, would be the cost of, not so much harvesting them, but shelling. But do you know, Sir, I only discovered this last week, that a machine was developed in Trinidad of all places, next door, at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, a man called Rodney Haranarang, I cannot pronounce his last name too well, but he developed a pigeon pea sheller which has been very successful. He himself now is going into developing pigeon peas in Trinidad for export because I am sure the Honourable Minister knows as my colleague here has indicated here before, there are big markets now in North America and Europe for these so-called exotic vegetables. You can go into the market in Toronto and find frozen okras. I do not know why you believe that we seem to be the only people that like okras. Egyptians eat a lot of okras. Indians eat a lot of okras. There are large ethnic groups and these large ethnic groups make up a lot of the population in Canada, in the United States and in England who eat these same vegetables we eat. And we for some reason, I do not know if it is the soil in Barbados, climatic conditions - do you grow okras too?

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Oh, you grow okras yourself.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: That is true. That is very true. Anybody can grow okras. But it has to be a programme. What are you going to do? You are going to let everybody grow two okra trees in the yard and then send around a truck picking up a bunch from here and a bunch from there? You have to plan it. Let me address you, Sir. I am really speaking for the hearing of the Minister of Agriculture because the other gentleman only has a passing interest in farming and they know nothing about processing. I believe you might know a little more about processing.

The point is that the processing plant has to have a clear programme for want of a better term, as to what it is for. We cannot put it there to say, well you see we are into agro processing. We have always been in agro processing. You can take it to the absurd limits.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I am going to start again from this year though. The point is for instance, Sir, I just had the honour of leading a regional mission to Barcelona for food produce. I happen to have the invidious position of being the Chairman of the regional agricultural group for the region. We just went to Spain and one of the things we discovered, and it was interesting, was that well packaged, well presented exotic produce has a fantastic market niche in Europe. I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, I see him nodding, would greatly agree with that because he has seen the same sort of thing come out of Israel.

All I am saying to you, Sir, is that if you are bringing a processing plant do not let us do it so that somebody can get up one morning and plant a lot of cherry trees, at Lears, for instance. What have you done with the ones at Haggatts? You are the one who was always concerned about this thing with the private sector grabbing on to these things. That is exactly what is happening now. What are your plans? For instance, planting orchards of guavas? Another fantastic crop, easily grown in Barbados.

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

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I do not mean the two trees that you may have in your yard. I mean the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I have a genuine guava orchard.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Oh, you are talking about the one in St. George. To be serious, Sir, I believe that with the right planting of these orchards, there are several fruits that are easily grown in Barbados. Barbadian soils are not suited to most crops. You know that.

I have said before we wasted a lot of years pursuing citrus. We cannot grow good citrus. Apart from your lime tree which produces a lot of limes, all the citrus we produce comes out sour, the limes, the oranges, the mandarines, anything, it comes out sour.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Yes. The limes are okay being sour. That is all right. If I could just finish my point, Sir. The point I am making is that we have done all of the studies. We know by now after two decades of study on top of study when one Administration goes out of office, the next one comes in and starts to do the same studies all over again. I am appealing to this Administration, do not do these studies over again. They have been done. We know what we can grow. We know what we can grow effectively. We know what we can grow with high quality. These are the things that we must pursue and you must....

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I must have injury time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are still on your feet.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Four more minutes, Sir. Thank you. You must grow these things after you have decided what you can sell, after you have decided where the markets are and after you have decided as part of an overall plan, including the Ministry of Trade, how you are going to encourage more people to get involved in this processing here. But this is too important an area, Sir, for me to leave it at this so I am going to have to come again.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, earlier this morning the Member for St. John....

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order please?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: was inviting praise for the Government.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Praise, p-r-a-i-s-e, not p-r-a-y-c-r-s.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. But you were shouting across here to give us some praise. In respect to agriculture it would be more appropriate if we all said some prayers.

Sir, I spoke generally last night. I now want to deal with some specific matters in relation to agriculture as quickly as I can. No one should be too surprised about the unhappy state of agriculture. Unfortunately under the Democratic Labour Party that is a trend. It was so in the seventies culminating in 1976. For the benefit of the Member for Christ Church East Central in 1975 cotton exports fetched an average price of \$3.65 a pound and

earned an estimated \$1.3 million in foreign exchange, \$3.65 in those days, from the Central Bank's Annual Report for 1975.

In relation to the cotton versus sugar debate, Sir, I have one or two matters of concern, I am not dealing with CARSICOT today other than peripherally. The sugar industry of Barbados has been worked predominantly by Barbadians, kept alive in the interest of Barbadians and I think, substantially owned by Barbadians. The cotton industry as presently set up is really operating substantially in the interest of a number of foreigners. A very incongruous thing happened last year, September, because the workers at Spencers were terminated with less than adequate notice and only within the past 6 weeks have received their termination benefits. They were got rid of so that Amersey and Murphy and all of them could come in. 12.30p.m.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. To set the record straight, Mr. Chairman, the workers were given the option of being relocated with continued employment by ADC or to be severed and they opted to be severed.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now if you are going to relocate them on other lands and if you move them from Spencers and ask them to go and work in St. Philip or St. Lucy, that may in itself entitle them to severance. It may be severance and it may certainly be constructed as dismissal. So they took the right decision. But they had to wait for at least 5 months.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I do not think, Sir, that the Minister is giving this House the most up to date information because it is my understanding that an attempt is being made to remove certain assets or potential assets from CARSICOT and ADC is about to take back over the lands leased to CARSICOT. One or two workers are now being asked to have their employment position revert to ADC as of yesterday.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Anyhow Sir, I am just concerned that the interest of those workers are properly protected. As I said, it is to my knowledge that they had to wait for at least 5 months before they got any termination benefits and in the interim they did not draw unemployment benefit. I think that was unfair to the workers.

Now Sir, in the Ministry of Agriculture, I have always been of the view....

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Not now, but years ago I have spoken in here about it before, Sir, that it seems to me that one of the problems with agriculture in Barbados was that in the days when you had two Permanent Secretaries

and a Chief Agricultural Officer and a large team of researchers there was too much time spent in pushing paper. Apart from any personality problems between officers, too much time was spent in pushing paper rather than getting out in the community and setting examples by action for farmers to follow and I never forgot. About 1977 I had a Monday parliamentary meeting with the Labour Party. I just said in the course of the meeting that I thought that it would have been a good idea instead of having the seed store exclusively up at Crumpton Street that there should be chaos in the bus stands so that if a person was going home in the evening and he saw some rain set up he might buy some carrot seeds or okra seeds and go home and plant them. It was said to me that it was an idea which they would look into. After a year the report, Sir, came back that in the Ministry they would have to prepare a Paper on setting up a little chaos with some seeds for somebody to come and buy. Now that is the greatest act of bureaucracy that I have ever seen in my years in public life, Sir. It told me about how Government does not run efficiently.

I am not surprised with that kind of tiling that you can find on the Auditor's General Report for March 31, 1988 on Page 29 a whole set of errors which reflect excesses in expenditure of 537,683.17 and \$937.27 in the account against Head 25 for Item 2. These excesses together with that of \$702.03 shown in the account against Item 10 were unauthorized and are listed at Appendix B and the officer is liable to be surcharged. You go through and you will find a number of cases where money was wrongly appropriated. What was supplementary provision was shown as original provision and what was original provision was shown as supplementary provision. This is old maths. So are we to wonder then that everybody is free to do as he likes and that the ADC, a corporation headed by a chairman and a board and so on can find itself entering into a contract with a member of the board for the supply of cane plants for the Belle? Do you understand why it cost so much to recultivate the Belle? A member of the board sold cane plants to the same corporation. In the same ADC we have known within the last three years that a member of the board's spouse contracted with the ADC to supply decorative plants and do landscaping for the office at Fairy Valley. Where is the tender for that? None.

Now when you have that added to what we heard last night, I am obliged to agree with the Honourable Member for St. Peter that it does not inspire confidence from the farming community. It is all right for them to say they know about them. If they know about them, the point being made from here this morning is that no Minister, as a general rule, would knowingly permit situations of conflicts of interest to persist in his Ministry once that they have been drawn to his attention. I put that too strongly, Sir. No Minister ought to allow persistent conduct bordering on corruption, clearly a conflict of interest situation, to persist in the Ministry. Once you have found out about it, you may not be able to stop it at first. That would happen. There will be people who work

in the system who take advantage of the system and a lot of them feel that because they belong to a party they must be protected. Now we have a duty to set proper standards. When that kind of conduct is brought to the attention of Ministers, they must act decisively and quickly and the only way to do it is to ask them to resign or fire them. That is all we are saying and that is all I am saying. I am not accusing the Minister of being a participant in that. What I am saying is that when these things are drawn to his attention, have them checked out. If what we allege is proven to be true, act decisively and chase them away. They have a lot of people out there who are willing to offer their services and talents to the country. Bring on somebody of known probity.

Sir, I have since last night been rethinking my position in respect of the squatters at the Belle. Because if at the highest level of Government a person can be allowed to squat in Government property, then we have to be very careful to what extent we castigate the poor people who have no home. A serious precedent may have been set. I am rethinking my position on it now, Sir, in the light of what I heard last night. 12.40 p.m.

That would not be carried on CBC. In fact, CBC has refused to carry McDonald's ads and has thrown away \$160 000, but they could come in here for three different subsidies. CBC can throw away a contract worth \$160 000 from a company producing fast foods, and do you know the reason? They would tell you that the company is in here illegally so they cannot advertise. Deal with them then, if you say they are in here illegally. Show the courage to deal with them. Do not come through the back door and try to say you are not taking the ads which are worth \$160 000, when you allowed them in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, let me start with the last speaker first and go backward. Since the Honourable Member for St. Peter has spoken I have made some enquiries and I am advised that the tractor was sold. They are to send me the receipt for the sale of that tractor. I have taken note of the other things mentioned by the Member for St. Thomas, and as soon as I have information on that I will decide what action I will be taking.

To deal quickly with the structure of the cotton industry, I am to advise the Member for St. Thomas that every effort is being made to incorporate the private farmers in any re-organisation or otherwise of the industry. We are making every effort to make the price for raw cotton, in the first instance by way of a subsidy, attractive enough that the private farmers would grow. Everything is being done....

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: 'On a point of order. I spoke earlier on this matter of cotton. I wonder if the Honourable

Member whilst he is speaking would let us know whether it is the policy of the Ministry to have 30 000 acres of cotton grown in Barbados, as was contained in a speech by the Honourable Prime Minister in Tokyo recently.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think the Ministry's policy has been put out in a paper, and I have said before that taking everything into consideration in Barbados we cannot expect to go outside of 4 000 acres of cotton.

Let me deal very quickly with some matters that the Member for the City raised. First of all, the Cheapside market. We have had a design done on the Cheapside market by Design Collaboratives and it included a mezzanine for craftsmen, etc., but when it was examined by some experts who came from Massachusetts, they were of the view that one of the problems with the design was that there were not enough open areas for walk-through traffic, and that from their experience with markets they seem to attract people when they are open and they can go in and out. Therefore, with their assistance, we have made some minor alterations and included in this year's Estimates is the sum of \$100 000 which is intended to do final designs for the Cheapside market. It would incorporate the mezzanine for craftsmen, the leather people, etc. and the bottom floor would accommodate a continuous flow of people in and out for-vegetables, etc.; so the money we have is for the final designs.

That whole area of Bridgetown is under consideration for being redesigned, so whatever we do has to fit into the overall design, including the old City Hall building which was mentioned. In conjunction with the Ministry of Transport and Works we are looking at these areas.

Let me talk a little bit about the local agro industry. The agro industry complex that is being built has been started with funds put up by Government and the policy of this administration is that when demands are made on it for the local shareholders, we will sell those shares to the local small farmers, whom we are encouraging to become shareholders in the agro plant. One or two big concerns in Barbados have offered to buy quite sizeable blocks of shares in it, but we are resisting that type of thing, like a quarter of a million dollars in shares being enquired after by one of the big concerns in Barbados. We are trying to get as many small farmers as possible to get involved in it, and therefore you will see that there was a special meeting with them.

My understanding up until now is that we will use as many local fruits and vegetables as available. The pickles and relishes are what we are starting with, because we will be able to use up a lot of our okras, sweet peppers, cucumbers and cabbage, and these lines are on. Talking about the tomato ketchup, the Honourable Member would know more than I, but I am advised that there is some

method you can use where green bananas and pumpkin can be used as substitutes, and we are looking into that. These are the ones we are looking at.

One of the areas in which we have done a lot of work is that the Ministry has developed a variety of what we call a non-sweet sweet potato and the experimental kitchen has done a lot of work with the chips from this potato. I cannot remember the name of the variety, but this work has been done now over the last three years. When we take into consideration the large quantities of potato chips that have been brought into the island, we are satisfied that this is a substitute. It has been tested already in the hotels and the hotels find it very acceptable. I have had some myself and the quality is good, the appearance is good and the ADC has about 12 acres standing by for this variety of potato which has been brought in here from Brazil.

Like you, we discovered very recently this pigeon peas sheller. We knew of one that was developed that used compressed air to blow the pigeon peas apart, but there was a problem where the pea itself was being damaged and it was not working as well as it could have been working. Only recently we have discovered this one and everything is being done to try and source it. We have already done a lot of work on the dwarf pigeon peas and we have stuff available for that.

Like you, I am alarmed that we have not as yet gone into guavas and proper orchards, because it has been known and put out at least three years ago that guavas are very easily grown here, a few people have gone into it and we have provided planting material at Haggatts for it and we are doing everything possible to encourage it. There is now a credit scheme available for orchard development which is operated by the Barbados National Bank and we hope we will get a few more people interested. 12.50p.m.

There are other matters. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas enquired about the extension service. This is an area in which we have tried our best. The Island is now divided into eight areas and we have pooled the resources available at ADC as well as the resources available at the Ministry and we have now introduced again an extension service. There was a time when as a result of a report by an Australian consultant we had gone to the research extension, and the reason for that was that it was a bit difficult for the extension people to take the work of the researchers out to the farmers. There was a little gap between taking the work that was researched, and we then came around to the research extension where the researchers actually did the extension. What has to be understood in Barbados is that there has always been and will always be extension services in Barbados, but with the big plantations getting into sizeable acreage on non-sugar crops that they were unfamiliar with, the researchers and our extension people

spent a lot of time with those people because from the acreage and the return on the market it was necessary.

What we believe the small farmers mostly need are services and we are trying to evolve a kind of video package where we can show them, for argument sake, how to do all the dairying, - we will give it to them - how to recognise certain diseases in their vegetables et cetera, and we are now working on that type of communication system for the small farmers, because it would be impossible now with the manpower available to us to get to them on a one to one basis as often as we would want to, so we have to try and reach them by the art of modern technology, and that is being looked at in Barbados.

I believe I have responded to the points that have been raised and I beg to move that Head 25 stand part.

The question that the sum of \$16 818 654 under Head 25 - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

ON RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

When the Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it must revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

CAPITAL - HEAD 74 - MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES

Capital - Head 74 - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries - was called.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$23 326 000 under Head 74 - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I had promised this morning in my other interventions to make a few observations on constituency matters pertaining to agriculture, and I believe that subhead 27 of Head 74 dealing with other fish landing sites allows me to deal with that particular matter.

Six Mens, Sir, in the constituency of St. Peter is a fishing village, and there is a fish landing site in Six Mens the future of which is being threatened by what I can only regard as the very irrational intemperate and perhaps even unlawful behaviour of a person who purports to be the owner of the land, and I am bringing this to the attention of the Minister first of all that Six Mens has always been a place where fishermen have vended their trade.

Asides.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: All this would suggest that there are some lawyers in Barbados who might want to give their clients better advice, because in this day and age for the ordinary people of Barbados to be given letters terrorising them with the threat that they have to vacate at seven days' notice is a bit much, and I really feel that the lawyers who understand the law should not guide people to do foolish things knowing them to be unlawful, and I would want to urge the Minister of Agriculture and Lands to make sure that the fish landing site at Six Mens continues in perpetuity to be a fish landing site so that the fishermen of Six Mens can continue to enjoy the benefit of their profession.

In relation to other matters, I want to raise a few concerns relating to some of the Ministry's capital projects. In 1987 I had raised certain concerns

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just hold a minute. May I inform Honourable Members that the Reporters are complaining for the noises. The Honourable Member may continue.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I would not be long on this one. In 1987 when these Estimates were being discussed, I had raised the question regarding the future of the Spring Hall land lease project. I believe this project was conceived of as a pilot, so to speak, through which we would come to determine whether or not the fracturing of estates into 20 acre

lots was a worthwhile occupation, but I don't think. Sir, that it was ever intended that we should have establish a bureaucracy into which we would pump half a million dollars each year in order to run an estate.

Indeed, over the course of the last six or seven years if the amount of funds that have been spent at this project were given as grants to the farmers, there would be no need whatsoever for these farmers to have to farm, and I think the time is coming, Sir, when the Government has to decide that a project like the Spring Hall project and any other similar project has to be converted into a farmers' village, that you just simply cannot raise nor answer any serious questions pertaining to land reform if the whole project is managed by a project office, if the tractors work on an eight to four basis, because that is the antithesis of farming.

A farmer gets up in the morning at 5.30 to do his ploughing and he may want to work in the evening after the sun has gone down. Spring Hall is being run as if it is a Government office with a Government bureaucracy and it is not going to yield any serious answers as regards the question that it was intended to pose, and it was my suggestion in 1987, and it is my suggestion again today that we can only derive a meaning from any similar venture of this kind if the farmers themselves eventually are organised in the nature of a cooperative, and any assistance that is given through the budget is given to the farmers' organisation rather than spent on a top heavy bureaucracy. 2.05p.m.

The reality now is that most of the funds that are now being earmarked through this capital project for Spring Hall are going either to the maintenance of property, that is, the buildings that house the civil servants, and the largest proportion of the rest is going out in personal emoluments.

Too much of the support on this project is going on the bureaucracy surrounding the projects and my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, today made the point earlier today that to too large an extent too much of the work of the Ministry of Agriculture involves sheer paper work.

We see the same evidence of it. Sir, in the case of the rural development project where out of a total budget of \$1.4 million \$890 000 is going out to pay for staff and the farmers whom these projects are intended to profit are receiving a very small proportion of the contribution.

I am therefore saying that the time has come when the Democratic Labour Party in pursuit of its Manifesto commitments to develop other types of Spring Hall related projects, should look to do an evaluation of the experience at Spring Hall and present this House with the result of that evaluation.

Can we now derive from that experience any answers as to whether it will be feasible for Barbados to conceive of a new class of farmer, farming not over 100 acres as the case of the old estates, or less than 5 acres in the case of the old peasantry, but can we now conceive of a new class of farmer economically farming 20 acres and are we not now in a position to say as I think that we are, that in order for us to progress in the future in relation to these types of land lease projects, that there will be need for us to try to develop them under a different institutional dispensation?

I would like to see, Sir, even if the House would vote for these funds, for a larger proportion of these funds to be utilised not in supporting the bureaucracy, nor repairing buildings, as it is here not being envisioned, but much more of these funds should go directly into the support of measures to increase farmers productivity.

Therefore, Sir, I would urge the Minister that even while I am giving support to the half a million dollars that is being sought, that he would urge the Minister to understand that he would get support from this side, for sure, if he was to engage in a rethinking of the concept that has to date, informed projects of this character.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that the behaviour of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is nothing new and you have not seen the worse of him. I have seen the worse of him and I can assure you it is not bad at the moment.

If I may continue, Sir. One brief question about what is happening at Tent Bay.

Aside,

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have no interest in anything anywhere near Tent Bay, around Tent Bay, perhaps within mile's of Tent Bay. Certainly, within 6 miles of Tent Bay.

If I may continue, Sir. There has been a considerable amount of debate in this Honourable House for sometime now over the Tent Bay situation and year after year we see the matter cropping up again. Now, my understanding is that some money has been spent in the area but it is still not an adequate facility for the fishermen and that the fishermen still have to come to Bridgetown whenever they are faced with weather problems and that the facility is not being used by fishermen.

My recollection is that you yourself many years ago when you were sitting in roughly the same place but that used to be the Opposition benches, that you were extremely

knowledgeable on the question of Tent Bay. I would be most grateful if you could inform the Honourable House what is happening there.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I will just answer the few questions. Tent Bay first. We had a problem with Tent Bay. On the Tent Bay situation the original slip there which was constructed out of concrete, was running almost at right angle with the shore and you have a problem that at very high tide and the boats slip their anchor, they were going down tide and that slip there damaged quite a few of the boats when they slipped. As a result of that and in consultation further with the fishermen, they decided that they would use a temporary slip drain which was running almost parallel with the beach and a temporary slip bay was used and it was discovered to serviceable. Therefore, the consultants recommended that we put the permanent slip way running parallel with the beach head section and to move the slip way that runs at right angles to the beach.

Tenders went out for that and the tenders that came in from two main contractors, there was a big discrepancy between the quotations, and the Tenders Committee did not see fit at that time to accept either of the tenders. In the meantime because of the sea work that has to be done, I am advised, and the Honourable Member from Christ Church East might tell me, that it can only be done sometime between May and June when the tides are extremely low and, therefore, that kind of sea works cannot be done before June this year but tenders are going back out again for that slip drain.

The other construction is on land for facilities for the fishermen and those tenders too are being awarded and we expect that that work will be done this year so as long as the Tenders Committee accepts the tenders the Tent Bay Project should be finished.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter asked about the Six Men's landing site. The situation at Six Men's has been brought to my attention and I am aware that it has been used as a landing site for some considerable while. The Fisheries Officer has been down there in consultation with the fishermen and the matter has reached the Fisheries Division. We will do what is necessary to make sure that the fishermen have a landing site in that part of the Island. Discussions are going on about that at the moment, too.

The Spring Hall Land Lease Project. The evaluation is completed and I would just say that as from next year the Spring Hall Land Lease Project and the IRDP would be discontinued as projects and they will be brought under the purview of the ADC. Therefore we expect to have some savings and utilise the staff to service in conjunction with the Ministry on the Extension Programme.

Mr. Chairman I now beg that Head 74 stand part.

The question that Head 74 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10-GOVERNOR-GENERAL,
CURRENT \$338 502

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not usual that the Head of Governor-General is debated if only because we like to keep that office free from political controversy but two days ago I tried to speak in here about problems which affected the Government Electrical Engineers Department. 2.15p.m.

Members told me about some injunction and *sub judice*. To my great surprise the person who is allegedly applying for an injunction had a whole column in the NATION yesterday commenting about what is going on in his department. I only wish to say in regard to that...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. I only wish to say, Sir, that after nearly 4 years, the electrical installations at Government House have not been completed, the electrical person, the person in the electrical department who should be issuing the relevant certificate to allow the use of an emergency generator has refused to issue the certificate for 4 years. Do you know what the cost of the generator is, Sir, \$250 000? It is up there not in use for 4 years because a certificate would not be issued. That is foolishness. I added to that last time \$850 000 in respect of the AC units at the National Insurance Office, \$850 000 plus \$250 000; \$1 million that is wasted because of the intransigence of a bureaucrat. I call on the Government to deal with it.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Send him on some more special leave.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, if the Honourable Member would give way. I think it really is a little unfair. The Government can do almost anything but there are some things which even the Government should not be called upon to do. You cannot call on the Government to do something with the Government Electrical Engineer. As he says the matter is *sub judice*. Do not ask us now to go and subvert the courts. What to do? You yourself know that the lawyers, as your colleague just said, some foolish lawyer gone and putting people off in 7 days, some other one.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Government Electrical Department comes under my Ministry. The Government Electrical Engineer is a civil servant and I have no authority to deal with him. If I used to deal with the staff, I know where all of them would be at this particular point in time. But certain recommendations were made at the highest level of the permanent civil service staff to the Public Service Commission which recommendations were rejected. In this body, people always sing paeans of praise to the Public Service Commission. I have no authority over the Public Service Commission. I cannot tell them what to do nor am I going to accept any responsibility for their sins of omission or commission. I have no responsibility whatsoever to the chaos in personnel relations that obtains in the Government (lectrical) Department. As a Minister my hands are tied.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I accept all of that, Sir. We "did not pass the Ombudsman legislation for fun. If there is maladministration in a Government that is the proper purview of the Ombudsman.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. Again the Honourable Member knows that the only person who cannot complain to the Ombudsman is a Minister.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. But we want to make the record clear because other people do not know that. You were omitting, you would deliberately omit to remember. We cannot complain to the Ombudsman. This is democracy at work.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well one of those members of the public who is being severely disadvantaged and inconvenienced because of the foolishness out there will in due time go to the Ombudsman.

Sir, the office of Governor-General is the highest office to which anyone can aspire in this country and is indeed the highest office in the country. It is an office for which the appointee must be a person of shining integrity and unblemished probity. I understand that the office will soon become vacant and judging by the writings of a certain columnist over the last six months who has in the past been prone to involve himself in a very partisan way in politics in this country, mixed bags, men and matters, all kinds of things, I have noticed that in the last six months the tenor of articles coming from that person has been so free from local controversial matters as to give me the impression that in a quaint kind of way that person is trying to grease his way into Government House.

I wish to say that the office of Governor-General should not be for a person who presented a telegram to a secondary school suggesting that he had a second degree and thereafter when it was found out that the whole claim to a second degree was a fraud, he had to refund the school the money that was paid to him on the basis of an assumed degree which he did not have. I do not believe that the office of Governor-General should be for a person who....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. I just wish to be certain. Rule 28(8) says and I quote, Sir:

"The name of Her Majesty the Queen or His Excellency the Governor-General may not be used to influence the House."

I draw it to Your Honour's attention. I hear the Honourable Member....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, no. I think you would agree that it is my duty to draw it to His Honour's attention. I just want to be certain that you are not cursing the incumbent.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me just interject at this point.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The incumbent is my godfather.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me just interject at this moment that so far as I am aware the office of Governor-General is presently held. You are both speculating.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am only looking at the qualities that should attend a person appointed to the office, the highest office of the land.

I am submitting, Sir, that that office should not be occupied, if you like, by a person who was known to give marks for history to two students in the third term when those students had already in the first term left and gone to Harrison College.

I do not believe that that is the office that should be held by a person who has judgements in the Registry going back - CIBC 1976, Si 800 and interest at 8% and another one \$51 387 on 12th October, 1977. 2.25 p.m.

Another one for \$1574.00 on January 24, 1978, another one for \$3,000 and interest - all of them carry interest from June 20, 1978. Another one on June 13, 1983 for \$2275....

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas is clearly making

reference to the character of some person or persons. He has not identified any person or persons by name.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: I did not say a rule said that he has to do that. I said that he is clearly making reference to the character of a person or persons because he is becoming very specific now in referring to particulars which in my submission tend to identify a person or persons.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Now that is not for me to say. I am saying that Rule 28 of the Standing Orders 10(a) says:

"No reference may be made in debate to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity."

Now from the tenor of the Honourable Member's speech, it seems to me that reference is being made to a person other than in his official or public capacity. He is not referring to the Governor General, of course. But it seems to me that he is making reference to a person other than in his official or public capacity. Now where the Member desires to do that Rule (b) must apply and Rule (b) has not been applied. I, therefore, submit that the Member should not make reference. He is out of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I tend to accept the submission based on my early intervention that there was too high a level of speculation as to what you mean, who you mean, or that kind of thing because you are becoming specific and I would suggest that the Honourable Member proceeds to make his contribution under the Rules of the House.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Unlikely, Sir, that there could be that degree of speculation if I were becoming specific as you say, Sir. I think speculation involves a state of affairs when there is no specificity.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you are becoming very specific.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want me to become specific, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are becoming specific.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If a person was a Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs and handled the entry of dope in the diplomatic bag badly, I am entitled to comment on that then, Sir, according to the rule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would that be dealt with under the Head of the Governor-General?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir. But what I will say is that any person who held the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs and was so callous about his Ministerial duties as to allow what happened with the diplomatic dope as what happened

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Attorney General is on a point of order.

Hon. M. A. KING: What the Honourable Member is saying has no relevance to the Head which is being debated, that is the Head of the Governor-General. He is addressing a point in relation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would seriously suggest that the Honourable Member....

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I agree with your ruling, Sir. I am saying, Sir, that the office of Governor-General would be tainted by appointing thereto a person who has been known to all Barbadians who were alive in August 1976 to have received a cheque from a man convicted as an international criminal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is precisely for that reason that I am saying to you that it is irrelevant because the office of the Governor-General is presently held.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I am at a loss because I do not understand how Head 10 could raise questions that are being raised by the Honourable Member. Head 10 is Governor-General. I do not understand how the Honourable Member could be raising these kinds of questions. Mr. Chairman, I really am at a loss. I think that the Honourable Member has been here long enough. I mean after all...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West persistently rises on points of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member risen?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On an attempt to mislead the House. The Head is called Governor-General. You can discuss any matter relating to the operations of the Governor-General under this Head, any matter past, present, or future under this Head. If you look, Sir, at the items under this Head, it talks about cars and repairs to that. You do not have to be talking about the present Governor-General. It is rubbish to get up and make the kind of submission that you have made to the House. You not only want to talk for two and half....

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

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am ruling that the matters raised by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas does not properly fall under the Head that we are discussing and I am of the confirmed opinion that you should desist from going down that road.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, would you allow me to say then with the greatest respect, Sir, that the office of Governor-General in this country ought not to be devalued indeed devastated by the appointment of a person whose probity is a matter of great doubt among the general population.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have to deal in speculation, Sir, to the extent that it is known that the incumbent Governor-General wishes soon to retire and someone will have to be appointed later on. The appointment is not one for which there is any consultation provided in the Constitution. Since the Prime Minister does not have to consult with the Leader of the Opposition on that matter or me or anyone, I wish to say that I believe in this regard, because I first raised it in April last year at a meeting in Wotton, I am representing the views of B's, D's, and N's who feel very strongly that we must be very careful in terms of the person who is appointed to that office.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: To that I would say that you have made the point and we can press on now with the legitimate business under the Head.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am only imploring the Government, Sir, not even the Government but the Prime Minister because this thing rest in his own breast. I am imploring him on this one to think carefully and listen attentively to what is being said in this society. I wish to warn that if the appointment is made of the person among there is great speculation...

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

CHAIRMAN: I will hear the point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I wish to submit to this Committee, Sir, that it is quite unseemly under the Head of Governor-General for us to be engaging in the most strange, I mean to me, Sir, it is speculation which results in the kind of threat. But I mean you cannot threaten now. 2.35 p.m.

The Honourable Member is now issuing threats from the floor of the House. Surely that must not be right.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am not threatening anyone in here.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Oh! That is all I am concerned with.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But I am issuing a threat to the Government to this extent, that if that person whom we believe is likely to be appointed is in fact appointed, there will be demonstrations in this country. Speaking for myself, and I want my colleagues to join with me, I shall not attend any function at which that person is present, not even a Swearing In. Let it be clearly understood. I will not be party to the devaluation of the highest office in this land, full stop. Now you are warned, threatened and advised.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it is customary ' not to debate the Head of Governor-General in this Honourable House. However, I am becoming increasingly concerned that there might from time to time be less freedom of discussion in here than outside. For example, there is a blanket determination that if any matter is before the court it cannot be referred to or discussed in here.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am just saying what the rulings have been. What I am saying is this, my interpretation of Mays is that that ruling applies only to criminal matters before the court, not civil matters, and even in respect of criminal matters it only applies to the extent that words should not be used in here in such a way as to influence the outcome of a debate. That is my understanding of the rule. In other words, if anyone wanted to stop this House from discussing anything, all they have to do is to go into town, pay a few dollars and issue a Writ, and that is the end of discussion in the Parliament of Barbados. That is wrong.

Similarly, the convention not to discuss this Head only \ applies in so far as that there are not matters that should properly address the attention of this Chamber. Where there is concern, where there is agitation in the public mind as to who is the likely successor to the office of Governor-General in this country, it is a legitimate debate in this Parliament and I will not be prevented from participating in that debate under any kind of strange interpretation of rules.

If a building is to be built next year, we can discuss it in this House this year, so all this business about the future and so on is completely irrelevant in the determination of what has to be discussed. The money is going to be spent during the whole year and the point of succession is going to take place during this year.

We in the NDP have taken a very firm decision on our stance in public life, and that is to put Barbados first at all times and whenever we see that there is any threat to the integrity of any of the hallowed public institutions of this country we are prepared to take a stand, and we are going to take a stand. We feel very strongly

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If the Honourable Member for St. Michael West wants to get rid of a peeping nuisance from adjacent to him, that is fair enough, but he cannot expect to dump him in Government House. If I may continue, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West has not to my knowledge any peeping nuisances adjacent to me, and secondly, I am in no position to send anybody to Government House or elsewhere. If I could send anybody anywhere the Leader of the Opposition would be among my priorities, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much. If I may continue, Sir. We strongly believe that any successor to the post of Governor-General of this country should be someone of good repute, of high moral standing, of impeccable integrity and of the highest probity. These are the criteria which have been used in the past in terms of appointments to that office and this country has been well served. We further believe that anyone appointed to such an office should have habits, tastes and preferences which accord with national norms and which could not possibly remotely be of such a nature as could cause a security risk.

I believe that that office has a tremendous unifying influence on this society, and in times of political difficulty, in times of economic difficulties, in times of social difficulties in the future, I am quite sure that the people of Barbados are deeply committed to the maintenance of such an office in our society and the integrity that goes along with it. We never know what kinds of national crises this country may face in the years ahead and it is important that the integrity of that office, which indeed from time to time can have significant powers under the Constitution, and in those circumstances the people of Barbados would need an assurance and a reassurance that the person in that office is someone in whom the total community has trust and respect.

I think, Sir, that wherever possible, although this is not a disqualifying point, of course, one should aim to have embodied, or to make an appointment which embodies the wholeness of family life, particularly at a time when there are so many problems among the youth and the problems we are having in Barbados in keeping the family foremost as the unit of society. 2.45 p.m.

I believe, Sir, that it is also important to look at the history of that person in terms of his or her performance in public office, and to ensure that it is totally free from any reasonable charges of corruption. Sir, let us get this clear. I think the time has come when political parties in this country have a duty to articulate the feelings of a broad section of the community, and like the Honourable Member we will not be supporting or accommodating the appointment of anyone who does not reasonably qualify on the grounds that we have set out before in this speech. I would find it impossible unless there is a constitutional requirement to attend at Government House on any matter whatsoever except I am required to do so under the Constitution of Barbados if an appointment is made which frustrates these very minimal requirements and attributes. ' However, Sir, I believe that it is enough to have said what I have said. I will go no further, but I can see a situation where the women of this country, where the majority of those as I say, committed to uphold those habits, tastes and preferences which we all consider to be normal, I can see the Church, I can see many groups in this country taking a very strong stand against any attempt whatsoever to place anyone in Government House which would not meet the basic minimum requirements of a broad cross-section of this society. I will say no more than that and on that I take my seat.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I find it very difficult in the circumstances to understand what it going on. Mr. Chairman, as I am aware we have Head 10 - Governor-General. This Head has come before this House in the past; it has gone through without even a murmur. Suddenly in 1990 Head 10 is exciting the strangest kind of comments from Members of the Opposition parties.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What are you talking about? I don't understand. How can this Committee exist on speculation and rumour. When I was learning Geography from a man called Laddies Goddard, Laddies always used to tell us about persons going to take an exam, and he used to tell the story of this young man who would go to write the exam, and they ask him "could you describe the characteristics of the tundra or the characteristics of a Mediterranean climate", and this young man not having done his homework, not having studied, would write in the first paragraph, "I do not know anything about the characteristics of the temperate zone, but if you had asked me about the tropical zone" and then write 32 pages. That is what he used to say.

I am being reminded by someone who did not have the benefit of learning under Laddies about "tropic" as opposed to "tropical", but tropic and tropical are both descriptive. He is now saying they are about the same thing, so we are *ad idem*.

But, Sir, this is the first time I have ever heard so far in this House a debate based on speculation in regard to Head 10. Are they saying they know something we do not know. I do not understand it, and this is the kind of fabric or lack of fabric which has been attending the public affairs in this country on the last few months. I do not understand how it is possible for us serious people in a serious Committee of Supply to be discussing these matters in these terms. The only thing that is left now is for the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who has a wide and vast experience in this House to engage in that kind of speculative nonsense. I have a lot of difficulty, Mr. Chairman. I will not speak long. I hope that Honourable Members will conduct themselves in the manner to which we have become accustomed when we are discussing Head 10. Head 10 is a Head which has always passed without this kind of discussion, but the discussion is not even related to anything that has happened with Head 10. It is related to some kind of speculation. Could the Honourable Members be more specific. Would you help us to understand what it is you are talking about?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the position of the Barbados Labour Party on this matter has been put both at the level of our party since October last year when I addressed the annual conference of our Party, it has been restated in the public domain by me on at least two occasions, and it has been equally forcibly put today by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who opened this debate.

I am not in any realm of speculation on these matters, Sir. The point is that His Excellency the present Governor-General who has given very yeoman and outstanding service to this country will shortly be demitting office. That is known publicly. I don't think it is a matter of speculation, and therefore it follows as night follows day, unless we are going to change the Constitution of this country, that there will shortly be an appointment to the high office of Governor-General. 2.55 p.m.

The office of Governor-General is not like that of any other political office like the office of Prime Minister, or the office of Leader of the Opposition, or any of us in here in that, obviously, purely partisan considerations, based on the vote of the electorate apply to those offices.

The office of the Governor General is one which, wherever possible, should be devoid of all partisan considerations and I think up to now Barbados has been very fortunate to have had as persons holding that high office people who have been, not that they have not had their own political preferences, but they have been above the political fray whenever they have held such high offices. It is just like the office of a Judge or the Chief Justice. We expect a certain well recognized quality to be represented in the person who hold that office.

The sort of characteristics which have been outlined in here by both Honourable Members are the characteristics that we would expect. We would expect the person to be extremely loyal to the Constitution and, in fact, throughout their life to have demonstrated that quality and not in any way to have sided, for instance, with people who have at time, in fact, given succour to people who have at times tried to overthrow the legitimate Government of Barbados.

We would not expect such a person to have been known to be openly in association with gun runners and we would not expect to find about such a person on any Government file secret or otherwise, the fact that money was paid by a foreign government to a gun runner, part of which found itself into the hands of that particular person. We would not expect that at all.

We would also expect the person, Sir, despite the fact that they might have been in politics before, not to have gained the reputation of the person who, probably, has been the nastiest politician with the cleanest type of looking smile that you could ever find. We would not expect that at all.

Certainly, in the case of two of the former holders of the office who have been in politics, their political career, although partisan, has never been one that one could consider would have divided the nation at their appointments; neither the deceased Governor-General, the late His Excellency Sir Deighton Ward or the present Governor-General, both of whom had the honour during their political careers to be members of the Barbados Labour Party, the party to which I belong. In fact, they have all been looked up to as people who despite their political differences, have never had any of their opponents in any way or, indeed, of the people on their own side doubt the manner in which they conducted their political life.

Likewise one may say the same of the late Sir Winston Scott, who was a Senator. I believe he came in initially as a Senator appointed by the Governor-General in his discretion but if he had a political preference, I would say it was for the Democratic Labour Party. He was a very close friend of my late adopted mother. I had known him from the time I was a child. I have known him to be friendly for years and I personally had nothing but the greatest admiration for the type of religious qualities, family qualities, the fact that he understood the norms as referred to by the Leader of the Opposition of family life represented in this country.

I would, therefore, hope that when a recommendation is made and I would expect by now, that that recommendation should be made or would be in the process of being made, that this will be remembered.

I do not believe that anybody can be in doubt as to the type of person and the person who would merit the greatest

protest in this Island about such an appointment. Let me make it absolutely clear, Sir, that like the Leader of the Opposition I would find it beyond the call of duty for anyone to expect me outside of the Constitution binding me so to do, to be present at any function official or otherwise presided over by that person in his capacity as Governor-General.

There is very strong feeling in this country on this issue and I myself have tested that feeling not only among people who may be diehard party supporters, but among others and there is extremely strong feeling on this issue in this country.

I would hope that the Prime Minister would be guided, or has been guided, if he has already made his choice and his recommendation by those considerations.

The tragedy about a new country such as ours, and although we have had a long parliamentary tradition of 350 years, in many respects we are very young in building up our conventions and matters of this nature would normally not be discussed either in the public domain or, indeed, even on the floor of the House if we had established certain time honoured conventions that are respected by other countries.

I have previously, in speaking in this House on constitutional conventions in the manner in which our Constitution works, adverted to the fact that the concept of consultation, which is a very necessary concept to smooth areas of difficulty in which one would not wish to see a fracture of the nation and a fracture of our political system, that that concept has not yet taken root firmly in the workings of the democratic system to help us more or less in the proper functioning of our democracy.

I hope that in some way in the remaining years which I have in political life that I would contribute to that, Sir. I would have thought that this area is an ideal area, in which, within the confidential obligations which bind us, there could have been a maximum consultation not necessarily to remove from the person who has the responsibility, the element of choice, but to ensure that always that the type of person who comes to this office is one who would meet with the broad spectrum of acceptance.

I am not sure, since I myself have not had access to the files dealing with how this matter was handled in the past, and I can only rely on such oral statements that I have had from persons who have had the responsibility for dealing with these matters but it is my understanding that there has been some measure of consultation before in the past whether casually or informally on those matters so that those persons whom we have chosen have met with the complete and unanimous approval of all of us in Barbados, all sides of the political spectrum and what is more, even those persons who are not concerned with these matters.

We have spoken in clear and unmistakable terms, not to embarrass the Government, not, in fact, to challenge the Government, but to make it quite clear that like the Government, except, Sir, there is supposed to be no opposition in here but like the Government in this country, we the Opposition and the other side of the political spectrum in this country, will make sure that Barbados will always have holding the high constitutional office that is Head of State, a person to whom every citizen and particularly the children of this country could look up to and emulate. 3.05 p.m.

Have no fear that they would suffer in any way at all from having this person as a role model. No matter what political services people may have rendered to particular political parties, it is not always politic or civic to reward those persons with the highest political office. People have their function, people have their roles but sometimes one must bluntly say to even your dearest colleagues, and to your family as well, that there are some roles that they cannot fill given their antecedents, Sir. From a complete examination of the antecedents, both those for and against, unfortunately those for are very strong minuses, I would find it very difficult as I said, if a certain appointment is made, I would find it impossible to give to that high office the deference that it would normally deserve, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the unfortunate thing about a debate of this kind is that so much of it is premised on bare speculation as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has said. The rumours are based on speculation as well.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: The difficulty

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: You see all the comments are based on the assumption that somebody else other than the Prime Minister is going to make a decision in this matter. What a debate of this kind does and what the rumours and the speculation and all of it does is to create the impression that the Prime Minister is about to do something which is so terrible to the country'. It does reflect on him. You are in a way attacking the Prime Minister, based on rumours and speculations by suggesting that he is about to do something which will do such great discredit to this country. That is what the danger of the rumours which are being spread about and what a debate of this kind does. Because when people hear a debate of this kind they are going to

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg your pardon.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: I am saying that a debate of this kind has the effect that it tends, you may not be intending to do so, but it tends to smear, I am suggesting, the character of the Prime Minister. Nothing could be more unfortunate in this regard.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. No one would wish to attempt to smear the character of the Prime Minister on this or any other matter. Indeed what I hope would come out of a debate like this is that it would be of great assistance to the Prime Minister in his deliberations.

Hon. M. A. KING: The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that it is extremely difficult to deal with a debate of this kind and to deal with the comments which Honourable Members make in this regard, except to underscore the point. I do not disagree that you need a person of the highest calibre and quality and probity and all that to fill the office of Governor-General. Of course I agree with that. But when you go on to make the point that if you make an appointment which does not comply with them I would find it difficult to go to Government House. All of us feel that way. If anybody is in an office which we feel...

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes. But what I am saying is that when you put it in those terms, do you not understand what I am saying, when you put it in those terms, you are creating the impression that the Honourable Prime Minister, the Right Honourable gentleman has done or is about to do something which is going to create just that situation. All I am saying is that it is unfair to him to do that sort of thing. It creates the wrong impression in the public's minds.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: I have not missed any point. I think we have enough trust, enough credit in the

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be struck from the record.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, there is not an awful lot one can say or needs to say because I am just trying to make the essential point that one should not try to put the Right Honourable gentleman on a spot in this debate. That is precisely what Honourable Members over there are trying to do.

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

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Chairman, the Attorney-General said that the contributions made by the Members on this side have been based on speculation. Very recently, Sir, the press reported the Prime Minister as saying that a named person had made a substantial contribution to the social and political life of this country and that when the occasion comes he ought to be elevated to the highest office, as reported by the press.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. Words are being attributed to me that I have never used. I categorically deny that I have ever used the words which the Member for St. George South is now attributing to me.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, I said that it was reported by the press. -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the Prime Minister said he never said that.

Mr. R. P. BYER: I am not attributing any words to the Prime Minister....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That point was made.

: Mr. R. P. BYER: that were not attributed to him by another source. As far as I am aware, this is the first time that the Prime Minister is at this moment refuting that remark saying that he never spoke the words, as far as I can recall.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is purporting to quote words from the press. Let him produce the words that he is quoting. Just produce the record. I have said that I have never used the words that you have spoken. I am not sure that what you are quoting from the press is actually what the press reported. Produce the record. You are responsible for what you say in here so you should be able to produce the record.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Sir, the thing about nature is that it has blessed us with a mind and a memory. If we were all to lug around with everything that we read in the hope that if we quote or if we speak something we would be asked to quote that thing, it would be a tremendous burden. Any one knows that one would not survive until one's 30th birthday, if so far. If I had time, I could go and I could get the record and come back. I do not have it here with me, but we know that in this House it is not a habit to quote from newspapers. They are never ever allowed to be laid as documents in the House. 3.15p.m.

I am merely relying on my memory which after all, Sir, if I have come this far with it, I expect to go further with it. It has not deserted me at this moment.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And it is younger than his.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Well, that is a fact chronologically so. Now Sir, debates can be based on hypothesis. Nothing is wrong with basing a debate on hypothesis. The difficulty with that is that if the hypothesis is wrong and the foundation that you are going to proceed upon is wrong, then in all likelihood the conclusions that derive therefrom will also be wrong. Conversely, if the hypothesis is correct and there is no fault in the way you proceed in your logic, then the conclusions will also be correct.

So that nothing that the Attorney General said just now does not in any way deviate from anything that was said over here before I spoke as far as I can recall, Sir. His was a remarkable speech in support of what was said on this side, remarkable for its subtlety, Sir. Now Sir, I would hope....

Hon. M. A. KING: The Honourable Member cannot say that. The whole tenor of my contribution was to suggest and to state emphatically that the position being taken by the Honourable Members on the other side was unreasonable. So I cannot say that you are being unreasonable and I be unreasonable myself. I am saying that you are unreasonable to pursue a debate of this kind in the way in which you are doing so. That is all I am saying.

Mr. R. P. BYER: In any case, Sir, I would hope that when the occasion comes and when the Prime Minister sits down to deliberate upon his choice of a successor to the office of Governor-General that he appoints a person to that office of the highest repute, habits, and taste. Those are my recommendations. I would also hope that in his deliberations he has due regard to the sensitivities of Barbadians. These are my suggestions to the Prime Minister and the recommendation being made in an Aside by the Leader of the Minority Opposition that a woman be appointed to that high office is one that the Prime Minister should take into consideration. It is about time that a woman be appointed to that high office. Other countries in the Commonwealth have done that. At one time I think it was Grenada who had a Governor-General who was a woman, Hilda Bynoe, as far as I can recall. The Governor-General of Canada who visited these Chambers only last year, I think it was, is also a woman and I would hope that will be taken into account.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, in all of my years as a Member of this Honourable Chamber, this is one of the strangest and quaintest debates that I can recall certainly on this particular Head. In a sense, it is very painful to sit through and listen to some of the comments that have been made, painful in the sense that I believe we can hold opinions on issues and those opinions can be at variance.

Indeed, they can be antagonistic and depending on the force of the conviction with which we hold these opinions and the way those opinions may be expressed may also be somewhat coloured by the strength of the convictions. We can sometimes put matters very forcefully as an indication of how strongly we feel about these matters.

But Sir, I detect in this debate, and this is my own inference from what I have sat and listened to, a kind of anger or a kind of bitterness. Sir, I cannot use the word "malice" because that would not be the word to describe it. But the cutting edge of the debate seems to be so sharp that sometimes I think in this country that our people tend to be our own worst enemies. I can understand someone getting up and saying, if the occasion were the appropriate one, I do not believe that such and such a person should hold an office because of certain reasons. But when there seems to be this personal cutting edge, when there seems to be this element of bitterness, and when there seems to be this element of lack of concern and appreciation for the record of service of persons who have made substantial contributions to this country, then I say that we are doing a disservice to our own profession and indeed the kinds of examples that we are setting to the nation as a whole I do not believe are the most worthy.

Sir, I would like to make this position clear. I have never stated in any place to be quoted by a newspaper that person "x" should be elevated to any office.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation, Sir. Did the Honourable Member say that he did not say in any place or he did not say it to be quoted in a newspaper. It would seem to me that what he has said was that he did not say in any place to be quoted in a newspaper. Do you mean that you said it but you did not wish it to be quoted or that you did not say and, therefore, it should not be quoted?

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You cannot put words into my mouth. I have said and I repeat it here now that the distinguished person being discussed has done a very outstanding political public service for this country both as a representative of a constituency and in respect of diplomatic postings which he has held and as a Foreign Minister and a Minister of the Crown. 3.25p.m.

That is my feeling and my belief. I believe that the gentleman has rendered very outstanding political public service in this country. Sir, I am not afraid of saying that, and as I said before, I am saying that he is worthy of the highest recognition or acclaim in this country for the service that he has done for Barbados. I have never said anywhere that the office of Governor-General, or whatever office it is that may be called the highest office in the land, that the person should or should not be elevated to that particular position. I have never adverted to that particular question.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I don't like this backing back. I am not talking about any backing back. What backing back? This is a party that keeps going forward, and that is what over the past few days we have been trying to let the Opposition know.

I have said, Sir, and I maintain that our position is that the gentleman has rendered outstanding service to this country and I am not joining with Opposition Members who have today tried to lay bare the service, the personality and the character of the gentleman. When we discuss our leaders in these terms it can only send signals that tend to fracture - I believe that is the word that was used - the body politic and to create a sharpness, a kind of acuity, that does not augur well for the discussion of public affairs in this country, and we see the spill over effects.

Sir, we have had persons, as the Member for Christ Church West has indicated, who have seen political service appointed as Governor-General in this country. I do not recall at any time the matter being discussed - perhaps it has been discussed, I do not recall it - on the floor of the House prior to any such appointment, and certainly not in the terms that have been discussed here, and I am not joining in that kind of discussion. I reject those kinds of comments.

I would like to say now, Sir, that this is the first occasion that I am being given this kind of gratuitous advice in a matter which, quite frankly, Sir, is not before us, and there have even been threats. This is the first time that pressures have been sought to be exerted and the first time that threats have been used in this particular

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The only begging I have heard about is on the floor of this House. I can say without , fear of contradiction that no one has begged me for anything. No one has pressured me into anything. I have no requests before me in respect of anything relating to this office in respect of any person or persons who may have spoken about the matter. I have no pressures and no requests at all. I can say that without fear of contradiction and I would like that to be known.

When the time comes I will make the appropriate recommendation and, as in the case of the appointments I have made previously, I am sure that that recommendation will meet with the widest possible acclaim in this country. That is the only point I wish to make in this particular debate.

The question that Head 10 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

 HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT - \$3 356 600

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that the Head stand part, Sir, but in so doing I will draw to Your Honour's attention that after 350 years of a system that for the first time we have appointed a Management Commission of Parliament which is in keeping with the commitment made by Parliament generally to advance the methodology for consolidating and managing the affairs of Parliament.

If there are any Honourable Members who have any questions, we will be happy to answer, but I doubt there will be any.

I beg to move the Head stand part. Hon. M.

A. KING: I beg to second that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there are a few things I want to say about Parliament. We have debated this Head on numerous occasions and I think that the record of Hansard as published will reflect the several occasions on which some of the things I would have wanted to say here this afternoon have been repeated, so I am going to avoid repetition, but I am going to talk to the specific.

We have to live with the reality of the Constitution of Barbados as it exists, and under the Constitution as it exists there has been a change in the post of Leader of the Opposition. The reality now is that Barbados has three political parties that are represented here on the floor of this House. The politics of that will be dealt with on the political platform in due course, so I am not getting into the politics of that at this moment. What I am, however, getting into is the reality that if the Barbados Labour Party Opposition is to carry out its functions in this House and to the people - and despite Mr. Speaker's statement, Mr. Speaker not having yet ruled as to what the word "Opposition" in this country means - but if we are to perform our duties I would expect that there is a minimum standard of accommodation. 3.35 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, if the Honourable Member would give way, the Honourable Member is going on about something which he raised before and for which an assurance has been given. I think it is only fair to point out to the Honourable Member that the only reason why a number of the things which he had raised before had not been put in place is that (a) the Management Commission had not come into operation, and (b) we had given the assurance with regard to the former staff of the Honourable Member, certainly to the accommodation within the environment, but again the matters are being prepared. I am not telling him that he must not speak, but to save him from going down the same road and getting the same responses, the assurances have been given by this side that they will take care of the third political party even though we would have been willing to accommodate him in the Leader of the

Opposition, but he allowed the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to pass him by on the left side. While he was looking over his right shoulder, the Honourable Member passed him by on the left side and now has gone and occupied his office. I beg your pardon, Sir, he said he was driving a left-hand drive car but he passed him on the right side.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to delay the Committee. The Honourable Member has repeated the assurance that adequate accommodation and services will be provided and I accept that assurance and would hope that the Management Commission would meet shordy, and to that extent I am not pursuing the matter. I can assure the Honourable Member that as I said, I am not going into who passed who on what side or who is going to take care of whom. I can promise the Honourable Prime Minister that as he demits office after the next election, I will make sure that he is accorded all of the courtesies due to a person who has given long service and has reached the highest political office in the land. I will give him my assurance that I will look after him as well adequately.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Just to get the record straight. I think it is quite clear now that Barbados has three major political parties. It is also quite clear that the National Democratic Party, when we were challenged to hold a political mass meeting, held one and got ten times the largest crowd which the Democratic Labour Party was able to attract at any political mass meeting, and over twelve times the amount that you had in Oistins. I think, Sir, that it is quite clear that a political reorganisation and readjustment is taking place in Barbados. How that would turn out at elections - I confidently expect that the NDP will win the next elections. I have very little doubt about that. In any event, what I am quite sure about is that the DLP will not win the next elections. Of that I am quite sure. Any time you see a party in Government choosing the first reading of the Appropriation Bill to have a mass political meeting, you know they are doing so because they cannot get an audience on the public platforms, and I am quite sure that when you go to Sion Hill on the 25th, you are not going to get one-tenth of the crowd that we will get in Ellerton on the same night. Sion Hill is a much bigger population area, but the people are not going to walk 20 yards to come to hear you all. They are fed up with you and that's it. They are suffering from a thing called turn-off and tune out. So you will not be able to speak to them because they are not coming to hear you. They are coming to hear the gospel according to the National Democratic Party. As a matter of fact, Sir, even the Honourable Attorney General came out on his patio last Sunday night to listen to the meeting.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. First of all, I don't have any patio, and secondly I did not listen to any meeting of the NDP from any patio. I said to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that on

Sunday night he was disturbing my rest by making a lot of noise some distance away from where I lived. His sound system was probably so good and the wind was in the right direction, and the sound was coming down, and whenever he called my name he made sure that he called it loud enough that I could hear it and he called it on a number of occasions.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, Sir, all I wish to do is to apologise for saying that the Honourable Member came out on his patio. The Honourable Member has admitted that he was in bed and he opened the window in order to hear more clearly. He has now confessed.

Hon. M. A. KING: I am glad to recognise that the Honourable Member has admitted that he misled the House on a previous occasion.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I always apologise on those occasions. I am very pleased to learn that you listened to us and I hope that it was educative and that you benefited somewhat from it.

There is no question that Barbados now has three political parties. The second point I wish to make is that these three parties are here to stay. The NDP is not a fly by night party, we are here to stay, we are fully organised as a political party and I think we have to provide offices for all three parties.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, just before you put the Head, I know the Honourable Member so well and for so long that there are some things he will put in the record. When you see him being in this jovial mood you have to watch him, Sir. The NDP is the party that tricked the BLP, and I never thought I would live to see the day...

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, whenever you see the Honourable Member in this mood too, I have to watch him because I know he would put something in the record. Let me again restate the position of the oldest surviving political party in the Caribbean. From out of our womb sprung the Democratic Labour Party and it has not been the best of our children; it has been errant in many ways. I suppose now out of their womb has sprung the NDP and I hope it will be a better child, so that I can say then that I am glad that it has instilled some political sense in the country. The BLP has never been tricked by anyone. It has the knack of surviving and it has a tremendous record that neither of the two parties will ever be able to equal.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is when it had great leadership, but now that it has been reduced

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member obviously should be able to compare. It had good leadership, it then got better leadership and it has had the best of leadership for all times now.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, let us look at it this way. Now that it has the best leadership, it allowed a neophyte who had nothing at all but being a mere grandchild to come and snatch away the leadership of the Opposition. Anyhow, Sir, we will watch. As I said before, the next election will be a watershed. I notice that the Honourable Member said five times that the NDP is a serious political party. 3.45 p.m

I do not think you have to say that. You have been saying it continuously from the day you formed the party and you have to go on saying it is a great political party. If you wish to say that, it is when the bell is rung that we see the sheep being separated from the goats.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You want to get on with the debate? The Honourable Member is telling me not to put anything on him now, Sir, to wait until later so I will rnrqe on.

There is just one thing on Parliament. There are some persons who have asked why we had to proclaim the Management Commission Act and leave out two sections and there is no mystery to it. A member of the Press had asked me this question and I just wish to say it for the record that the reason why there were two sections of the Act that were not proclaimed was to allow another section of law to come to full fruition. That is to say, the Debates Committee of Parliament having had the responsibility for the employees of Parliament, the employees of Parliament are no different from the employees of any other entity and must, therefore, reap the benefits of other legislation when it comes to bringing their employment to an end and the Debates Committee as an entity came effectively to an end when the Management Commission legislation ...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am coming to it.

What I am saying is, Mr. Chairman, that it was necessary for us to leave the appropriate period of notice for those employees who, in fact, are going to be taken over by a new employer to exercise an option which is available to them under another piece of legislation and, therefore, the Act will come into force in its entirety at a date that would have taken account of all of the subsequent changes that would have to be made.

All employees of parliament have been given the option, which is usual, to allow them to determine whether they wish to cease operation or continue with the new employer which, is in fact, the Management Commission. No employee of Parliament, and it would have been strange if we had done otherwise, would have been disadvantaged, or will be disadvantaged, by our having moved to a

Management Commission as opposed to the Debates Committee. I think that is all that I need to say on Parliament.

The West Wing of Parliament is in the process of being refurbished in the same way that the East Wing was refurbished and there are other bits of legislation which will be brought to this Honourable House which will allow for a complete package of programmes and this is something which all sides are agreed upon which will make Parliament in Barbados a modern institution without in any way interfering with the conventions and the historical processes which have brought us to where we are.

As we ended 350 years I think that we can say that our legislation is now becoming a model for countries which are larger than ours and endowed with greater resources than ours but our Parliament, notwithstanding the sometimes apparent difficulties between parties, our Parliament is still standing out as a beacon and as an example and, indeed, if I may say so, as the best model in the west. I say no more.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I just want to make two comments. One relates to our Standing Orders. It is obvious to me that our Standing Orders are now in need of great revision. I think we have had enough experience under these Standing Orders to recognize some of the areas in which we are defective and I believe that some of our procedures can be modernised in order to allow greater scrutiny of some of the measures which come before this House.

Speaking for myself, I find it very difficult to be able to go through in the time allotted to us here a detailed consideration of these Estimates. It seems to me, Sir, that we should be able to provide for a more frequent meeting of Parliament, particularly leading up to Estimates, so that Members would have a greater opportunity to extract relevant information and also to deal with that information in the public's interest.

The other great disappointment that I have and this relates to the Standing Orders too is the fact that although we have several parliamentary committees, it has not been possible, given our existing rules, given the way in which we maintain Parliament financially and in terms of staff, for those committees to really make any effective contribution to the proper functioning of Parliament.

I believe that there are some matters that may have been referred to the Committee of privileges during the time I have been in here in this session. I doubt whether they have got before the Committee of Privileges up to now.

I believe that the only committee that only meets on a regular basis and that not even as regularly as we would

have liked, would be the Debates Committee and I make bold to say, Sir, that when I held the office of Leader of the Opposition and had responsibility for the functioning of the Public Accounts Committee, I think we only had one meeting because I doubt whether the records could even been found.

I consider that it would not take too much money for us to have our Parliament functioning in a much more businesslike manner than has been possible up to date and whereas we enjoy the cut and thrust of debate, we must make sure that we are not only relevant, but that we are effective in the way in which we are answering the particular problems that come before the House.

For instance, Sir, there is a large body of legislation and other governmental measures which should warrant consideration by members. It is very seldom that we have been able to debate areas of foreign affairs. There must be a whole host of information that is available on several questions that are non-partisan and noncontroversial but which we should canvas in a House such as this. That relevant information is not available to us.

Then again, Sir, I think we have to, and I have been in Parliament since 1971 so that is close to 20 years, Sir. I believe that the Right Honourable Prime Minister and myself are the longest serving Members in Parliament...

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Well, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and in this Parliament, certainly, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and myself came to this House on the same day so we have been, to the extent, that we came to the House together and in this particular House we are the longest serving members but the Right Honourable Prime Minister served in the Senate in Parliament prior to my coining to the House so I have to make this point.

But I have been in here long enough, Sir, and I am absolutely convinced that we really have to say to the public of Barbados that if you wish the standard of public life to be conducted at the highest possible standard, then there is a minimum cost for that and the minimum cost must be to provide adequate facilities.

We have been making steps and I think in the last 15, 20 years, each administration has taken some step to advance the better functioning of Parliament. 3.55p.m.

We have been taking steps and I think in the last 15, 20 years each Administration has taken some step to advance the better functioning of Parliament. But there are some basic steps, research staff, people available to help you with doing basic research, not available to Members of

Parliament. We may well get a financial measure and special notice, in accordance with the Rules is given to us on the Friday. The Notice is sent out. The Clerk may get it to you on the Saturday, the Friday or sometimes the Monday for debate on the Tuesday and you have not got the facilities far less the time in order to do the adequate research in order to debate the matter in that way. These are my areas of concern and I believe that we should really address and not continually talk about, Sir.

The last point I want to make is in relation to the staff of Parliament because very often we speak about ourselves and we forget that as an institution we could not function unless we have willing helpers. I think each one of us has found the staff extremely co-operative and very helpful, sometimes beyond the call of duty whether Parliament is actually meeting or outside of Parliament there is no request that they would not try to respond to.

But I get the distinct impression as well, Sir, that in fixing the accommodation of Parliament we have not been mindful of those people who have to take the records of Parliament down. Although the attic is a very beautiful place with the stained glass windows, I would find it very difficult, not only claustrophobic but rather difficult from the type of vision and what not to be confined to doing shorthand and the other secretarial duties at the pace at which persons are required to do it and to find that that is the place from which they must do it.

I was pleased therefore to hear the Honourable Member say that the West Wing is going to be used. It maybe that we should be able to look at the whole allocation of space in another way to see whether or not we could not, by a reallocation of rooms make it much more convenient for the Reportorial staff to have more commodious accommodation available to them, Sir.

I know that we are following, to some extent, the tradition of the House of Commons of London in having them seated where they are in what is referred to as just near to the press gallery. I myself have gone up to the back of that gallery when Members have been speaking and the public is there and sometimes there is quite a bit of competition. I marvel myself at how they manage to decipher what is said by Honourable Members, particularly, when in the cut and thrust of debate Honourable Members sometimes do not hear what each other says because we are at it in a sometimes loud manner.

Those are the point I want to make under this Head at this time. I do not want to delay us because we would want, in the limited time available to us, to look at other Heads, Sir. But I did not think I should allow this occasion to drag on without registering those two concerns.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In the briefest possible way, Sir, I should like to make the point that this Parliament is not

only governed by Rules and Standing Orders but also by certain conventions.

As it now stands, if the Estimates debate were conducted according to the Rules of this House, it is quite possible for a Government with a large majority for everyone of them to rise and speak on the Second Reading to call the most irrelevant Heads for each one to speak for 15 minutes on Heads that have no political significance at a given time, for each one of them to speak on those Subheads and you can have an Estimates debate which in fact conforms with the Rules in every way but has broken every single convention of Parliament.

So when I read a press release today in the newspapers, it just shows the extent to which the Government would go to try to convince this country that this country was subjected to a most ignoble filibuster during the Second Reading speech.

But the point I am making is this when we are looking at those Rules I think we have to look and see whether we should not enshrine somewhere in Rules provisions to ensure that those who are not supporting the Government in any Parliament should have the kind of priority at Estimates time which is usually allocated to those parties under the conventions of Parliament. In other words, our Rules are such that they do not accord that priority to those not opposing the Government. As I always understood it in the past, the Estimates time, the time set aside for the Estimates is the time for those not supporting the Government to question Ministers about public expenditure and so on, as a matter of convention. I am saying that whereas there has been a major breach of the convention, certainly the breach took place within the Rules. I suspect that since this is the first occasion that this has ever happened and I hope that when the Management Commission gets around to looking at the Rules then they would make sure that those Rules, the Rules relating to the debate of the Estimates would be such as to ensure that those not supporting the Government have > adequate time without having to depend on any convention on the part of the Government. I trust you see the point I am making.

If I have to do a mathematical formula, let us say there are 20 Members over there and 20 of them speak for half an hour on the Second Reading Bill, that is 10 hours. Let us say 20 of them proceed to speak for 15 minutes on each Subhead that comes up, that is 5 hours each time. The point I am making is that if a Government is so insensitive to the traditions of Parliament and they wish....

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is talking about Rules and conventions and he is talking about a breach of conventions of Parliament but within the Rules. You cannot have a breach of conventions within the Rules. Because the whole point about conventions is that

conventions are those rules which exist where there are no other rules. So that if there are Rules, then Conventions do not apply. If the Rules address a specific point then there are not conventions on the area specifically addressed by the Rules. You cannot have compliance with the Rules and yet breach of a convention in relation to the same identical matter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Of course you can, Sir, as has happened. The honourable Member is misleading the House or trying to mislead the House. The point is that every single Member has a right to speak on any issue before this House.

What I am saying is that it is a matter of convention that Members of the governing party who prepare the Estimates and bring them here usually curtail their own rights in order to permit Members of the Opposition to have enough time to examine the Estimates. This has always been the convention, the practice here. If each Member exercises his right to speak on each matter called between the Appropriation Bill and the end of the debate of the Estimates then very little of the Estimates would be debated and everybody would have conformed in accordance with the Rules. 4.05 p.m.

That is the point I am making. But that is not the purpose of the Estimates Debate and that is why we have to change those rules to ensure that for the future what took place on the second day of this debate never happens again in Barbados.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first let me deal with the sobre points. We in the Management Commission, and I am responding to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, are examining and will examine the Standing Orders. He is a Member of the Management Commission. The Leader of the Opposition is a Member of the Management Commission whereas this Member for Christ Church West is not, so I will respond to him although his party is represented by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. If the Leader of the Opposition had come to the meeting instead of doing as he usually does, he would know this. He always has excuses when there are meetings of a certain kind, legitimate excuses no doubt, but a break of the convention within the rule. But the fact is that we are examining the Standing Orders and the Honourable Member will have a chance to make representations or aberrations on whatever he wishes to do about the Standing Orders. In regard to the precincts of Parliament, we will seek to have a definition of this that will be acceptable.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well, that is what we are seeking to do. The Leader of the Opposition is a doctor and he

therefore is party to an exact science or should be. In fact, there is nothing which exists now which defines the precincts of Parliament in such a way as to be acceptable to all and sundry.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But whereas his father might have carried it in his head, you unlike his father cannot retain that kind of material in your head and, therefore, we need to have the rules written down. We are going to be looking at privileges and immunities to ensure that these are dealt with in a particular way. But this is the Management Commission and it will be done by Parliament. The rules for broadcasting will be examined among other things. These are matters which the Parliament will have to determine.

On the question of the Committee of Privileges, one cannot help but agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. He knows that when we discuss matters relating to Parliament we have a tendency not to be partisan in our approach to these matters because we are not only protecting our individual position right *vis-a-vis* the present Parliament, but we seek to set a framework in which the Parliament can continue on its long and distinguished journey in time.

So far as the staff of Parliament is concerned, I think it is reasonable to assume that the Management Commission will be able to discuss change of accommodation for the Hansard Reporters if necessary and no one will deny that the Hansard Reporters are in fact the backbone of the reports which go out of this Parliament. We need Hansard and an accurate Hansard and, therefore, every effort must be made to ensure that they are comfortable. Thus, this is a matter which will be discussed in the Management Commission.

The actual place of location while the House is meeting is a matter which is having attention to ensure that the Parliamentary Reporters will be screened off, if you will pardon the express, from the rest of the gallery to allow them the kind of environment to which the Honourable Member alluded. This is a matter that is in hand and it is only a question of the speed at which things happen where we are not able to identify that.

So far as the Leader of the Opposition's input about something not having happened in the history of Barbados, the Leader of the Opposition has to be told this if he does not know it which I believe he knows. This House of Assembly will be long after he has and we have gone. It was here before we came and it will be here after we have gone. It makes no sense while trying to score a particular point not to recognize

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Who is the Bimshire Cat? The point does not need to be overstressed. The fact is that these rules by which we operate are rules and you say conventions and the Honourable Attorney General has dealt with that. Conventions cannot be broken within rules. You have rules and conventions. You do not have conventions within rules. The public of this country needs to know that the Leader of the Opposition is not nearly as stupid as he pretends sometimes. He does that as a matter of tactic - talking about conventions within the rules. He knows that you cannot have conventions within rules. A rule is a law. He knows that. He did science. I do not pay him any mine. You will never hear me say that.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, protect me from these two lawyers. The fact is that in this House all seven Members of the Opposition got up contrary to the practice and spoke on the second reading. When we had three Members of the Opposition, that was all right. They were only three.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On several occasions I have seen all the Members of the Opposition speak in a second reading Bill and what usually happens the same number on the other side speak.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It must be in a Parliament somewhere in Timbuktu. When you say all, you see the Honourable Member does that all the time. What he just said is not untrue, but it applied when we only had three Members of the Opposition. Now it would have been unconscionable for us to regard the fact that all three of those Honourable Members spoke in the same vain when all seven of the Honourable Members representing seven different constituencies spoke. Do you think that the Honourable Members on this side dropped down that they cannot speak for their constituencies? Then they were not speaking about matters in such a way as you would say they are reasoned and sweet careful interventions. They abused the Government, Sir, upside down.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. I am sure His Honour the Speaker and yourself as Chairman, Sir, would have not allowed anyone in this House to abuse each other.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I did not say abuse.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Or any shortened version of the word.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, to say abuse would have been contrary to the rules but you understand in Barbados what it means by "busing" somebody. That is "busing". But Sir, all seven lambasted the Government and then they expect the Government to get up and agree with them. Do you know

what happened? "Wuh sweeten goat mout does bun 'e tail." I recall when the Honourable Member for St. Andrew was about to speak, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West got up and instead of giving way he insisted on taking his position to the extent that his two colleagues left and walked out. His two colleagues were so disgusted.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: You know I think that you really want to prolong now, Sir. The Honourable Member want me to "buse" him because it is not true, Sir. He knows that it is not true. What happened, Sir, is that I had indicated to His Honour the Speaker that I had seen his eyes and I was going to speak. I got up. Then the Honourable Member for St. Andrew also got up almost simultaneously and one other Member. Mr. Speaker said that I had caught his eye and I was therefore in duty bound to continue and speak within the rules, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is within the rules, Sir, but the Honourable Member and I know because we have been around now for a very long time that even though Mr. Speaker may have caught his eye he could have given way. He could have indicated to Mr. Speaker in the way we do and we have done with each other. I give way to the Honourable Member. He gives way to me. He is so purblindly allowing the Leader of the Opposition to take him down the garden path. They were so intent on destructive analysis of the Government's performance that he could not wait. 4.15 p.m.

Now all that happened was that the 20 or whatever number Honourable Members over here felt able to discuss the constituents' requirements in certain terms. We can change the rules, but what goes around must come around. That is all you need concern yourself with. What makes it worse is that the last time this present Democratic Labour Party Government allowed the Opposition to speak freely and do what is now being proposed, there was a report where somebody went out and then bragged - let me see if I can recall some of the things they said. They were satisfied with the performance of the three-man Opposition who had made contributions over the five day period amounting to 17 hours and 44 minutes, while the Government benches had spent 16 hours and 43 minutes debating the Appropriation Bill.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. On this occasion, however, even if the Government had spoken longer than this Opposition, it has spoken not as well as the Opposition or as effectively as the Opposition, and the Honourable Member in particular, who speaks so much and says so little at the end of the day. It is that wasted time that could have been used effectively in here.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You can say that we did not speak well, you can say that the Honourable Member spoke too much and did not speak well, you can say anything but you

cannot go back out and brag that you three spoke for 17 hours and the rest of us could only speak for 16 hours, like if we are intellectual humbugs. There was an editorial commending the Honourable Member for St. Peter for speaking for four and a half hours, in comparison with the Prime Minister's two hours. That is the nature of the beast.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Who is this Bimshire cat you keep asking me to talk about? I do not know any Bimshire cat. There are no Bimshire cats in here, Sir. Do you know any Bimshire cat in here? The Honourable Member keeps telling me about some Bimshire cat

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not, but I know you have another two minutes to conclude.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, there was editorial comment last time which said "Once again this year the Opposition has demonstrated that the paucity of their numbers is more than compensated for by the potency of their intellect and devastating debating skills." All I am saying is that we exercised the rights which we have in this House to speak. If it is rubbish, it is rubbish representing the people of this country. The Honourable Member said we talked rubbish, but that is not what the people outside are saying.

The Honourable Member should be the last to talk about the rights of the Opposition. Now you talk about breaking conventions within the rules? If ever that were possible, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is the epitome of breaking conventions within the rules. In Trinidad and Tobago, where they have six Members of the Opposition who broke with the Government, they had an Opposition of only three and yet Patrick Manning continued to be Leader of the Opposition, but he went and usurped, pulled away, within the rules the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member not only on this occasion, but on previous occasions, has sought to mislead this Honourable House and the country as a whole on an important constitutional matter. I would never have thought that the Honourable Member was so ignorant of the Barbados Constitution. There are no rules in this House that can determine who is the Leader of the Opposition. It is what the Constitution of Barbados says. You check it out.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am so ignorant of the Constitution that I will draw this to your attention. The Governor-General cannot take notice of anything that is happening in here unless somebody brings it to his attention, and if the Honourable Member did not go and draw it to his attention and get all of them to write a letter drawing it to his attention, he would still be able to make his contributions, the Honourable Member who represents

45% of the people in this country would have been the Leader of the Opposition and life would probably be better for you. But you could not wait to move into the chair, so you were right according to the Constitution, but you have to understand that there is a difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. The spirit of the Constitution says that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West should be Leader of the Opposition. That is the spirit. You went to the people on a DLP ticket, you should resign and let the people decide, if they want you back.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. Another instance of constitutional heresy. I would not like to see the day arrive in Barbados when a few yardfowls in a political party can determine whether or not I remain in Parliament. Our Constitution is so designed that it does not even recognise political parties. Political party is not mentioned in the Constitution of Barbados. Our Constitution recognises Trade Unions, it recognises about three Ministers, it recognises representatives of constituencies as individuals, and you will never bring into Barbados a Guyana type Constitution. Is that what you want? Do you want to bring in a Constitution where when people vote for a party and when they get inside here they have to shut their mouths up and cannot do anything inside here? No way! Not in this country. We will not allow the Honourable Member for St. Michael West to convert Barbados into another Third World dictatorship. That is what he is trying to bring to Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I did not use Guyana, I used Trinidad and Tobago which has a more advanced Constitution than Barbados. Trinidad and Tobago's Constitution in terms of the arrangements are more advanced than Barbados', but you would not know that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I was in London at the time when this particular matter was being addressed in respect of the Barbados Constitution and I remember at the time that particular section of the Constitution was so worded because there were three parties in this House of Assembly at that time. It is so worded to take care of the particular situation that existed in 1965-66, the same situation which 25 years later existed in Barbados. It is quite remarkable the kind of foresight which the people who framed the Constitution had and not the kind of half baked constitutional positions being advocated on the floor of the House now. Sir, there is a constitutional expert in this House who knows what went into that Constitution and why that particular clause was worded in that way. You are not the expert.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is true. I am not an expert who was in London. Not only were you in London, the Queen and a whole host of millions of people were in

London. That is a nonsensical statement, that you were in London when this went into the Constitution. I am saying to you that you went in on integrity and it is a question of morality. You are correct in the letter of the law, but the morality of the situation is that if I were going to go on morality, all of you could have resigned and let the people speak. That has nothing to do with the Constitution, it has to do with what is in your guts. He should be the Leader of the Opposition because 45% of the people said so. 4.25 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and the Honourable Member for St. George South be struck from the record.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I am saying that the Honourable Member has no moral authority to sit as Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. E. BOURNE: I want the Honourable Member for St. Michael West to implore the Prime Minister to call elections tomorrow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We are discussing Parliament, Sir, and I am saying it is a time worn tradition that goes back more than 300 years that there is a level of morality attached to Parliament which includes the rules, the regulations, the conventions and the moral positions of an individual. It is that which leads a person to resign in certain circumstances, it is that which leads to certain changes. I am saying that the phenomenon which occurred when the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central became Leader of the Opposition was something that had not been anticipated by anyone anywhere at any time. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central by virtue of his being able to demonstrate that he had leadership of a majority in the House was able to become Leader of the Opposition. I am saying therefore that he is the legitimate Leader of the Opposition. However, I am saying that when you are going to pin your entire political existence on integrity that morality forms a substantial part of any judgment that is to be made of that position, and I am saying, Sir, that if you look at Trinidad and Tobago where there were three persons and there are six persons who moved over and they used their moral position to stay without one of them becoming Leader of the Opposition, if you do a comparative analysis with Barbados the only conclusion you can reach is that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was not in the same position as Mr. Patrick Manning in Trinidad and Tobago. I am saying that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has a moral position and that is why we are going to give him accommodation within these precincts because he represents 45 per cent of the people in

this country, he and his two other colleagues, whereas we are not yet sure who the NDP represents. That is all we are saying. We do not deny you your right as the legitimate loyal Member, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is all right, we will find out, but in the meantime I am saying you could have waited. If you had waited, the people would have told you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I believe that there is a point of morality which demands that when people are dealing with constitutional issues, that they either speak from a position of conviction or from a position of knowledge, or conviction based on knowledge. There is absolutely no comparison between the Trinidad situation and the situation in Barbados. The Trinidad Constitution was amended some years ago in order to create a situation where people, once they are elected to Parliament, would have to toe a party line for those next five years between elections, or if they should cross the floor then they would have to resign and run for a seat. That was legislation introduced at the height of the dictatorship, of the dictatorial hold which a particular person held in Trinidad and Tobago.

I recall, Sir, that when the Barbados Constitution was being drafted, I believe it was one weekend in Slough, a person who is a senior lecturer at the University of the West Indies and some one now who is at a diplomatic post was at that particular place that particular weekend, way back around 1964, 1965 or 1966. I remember that well. I remember that when that particular clause was being drafted, it had to deal in fact with who would be the Leader of the Opposition in Barbados. That clause was put in and worded in that way to accommodate a situation which could possibly arise if you have an equal number of Members of more than one political party in Opposition, a situation very similar to what exists now. The Constitution is absolutely clear on that, and that is why it will always work. Under our system of Government people elect individuals to Parliament. People do not vote for political parties; when they cast their votes they vote for individuals, and that is a very important difference between the kind of freedom that the people of Barbados enjoy under their Constitution and the kind of abridgement of freedom which would exist under other Constitutions, where people are given a party and a slate of names to vote for and thereafter the party takes over, and then the yard fowls and the hierarchy of the party, and the yard fowls can virtually determine the fate of Members of Parliament thereafter rather than the electorate.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is talking about proportional representation which does not have any place in our system at all. Proportional representation first started in Italy, it was tried in New York City, it now exists in Guyana, and it

is available in a couple of places. That is proportional representation. Barbados has always had first past the post and the Constitution simply put down the law that was in existence in the common law system of this Parliament. You cannot have any slate of candidates therefore in our system. It is entirely wrong to try to give the impression that that is what is said. 4.35 p.m.

I am saying that the Honourable Member is legitimately - I want to repeat, legitimately - the Leader of the Opposition. That is not in contention. I am not questioning it

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, No. He just got up and tried to obfuscate the point. I would not allow the Leader of the Opposition to obfuscate while I am on my feet or while I am sitting down. It has nothing to do with that. It has to do with moral suasion and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East would know exactly what I am talking about. If next Tuesday, or two Tuesdays, he just merely slides his chair further in that direction we have a new Leader of the Opposition so try and behave yourself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: To continue. The point I was making is that under our system of Government, under our Constitution, people vote for individuals, not political parties. You can say whatever you like about your political party organisation. As I said before, the Constitution of Barbados does not even mention the words "political party".

In fact, it mentions "Trade Union" at one point in time and I believe apart from representatives of constituencies, the only other named offices in the Constitution would be the office of the Attorney General, the Minister of Finance at one stage and the Prime Minister among the political offices.

At one stage it says the Minister of Finance shall present to Parliament an Appropriation Bill and a final Appropriation Bill - the only three Ministers mentioned in the Constitution and you talk about representatives of people, individuals representing people.

As far as the Constitution of Barbados is concerned, the lousy DLP does not exist and I thank God for that.

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

Sir, "lousy" is an unparliamentary word, I submit, that the Honourable Member has used. You can find it in May's and whereas "lousy" is unparliamentary, "stinking" is not.

Now, Sir, the Constitution does not recognize the lousy DLP in here but it recognizes the stinking NDP.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may continue, Sir. I have no problem with that at all.

I further made the point that there are Constitutions so designed where people vote for political parties as well as the names of persons. This may take place either in a situation of proportional representation as exists in some countries, but it also takes place where there is not proportional representation.

As far as I am concerned, I think that our Constitution is by far the freest and the most mature among the Constitutions and it is quite clear what needs to take place when a situation arises where there are two parties sitting in Opposition because, in point of fact, Sir, what the Constitution seeks to say is this, that someone has to be Leader of the Opposition and the person who commands the support of the majority of those in Opposition would be the Leader of the Opposition and the situation would have to be as it is now unless one of us pledged our support to the Barbados Labour Party.

One of us would have had to publicly pledge our support to another party so when you hear the kind of constitutional ignorance indulged in this Honourable House by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, when you see an Honourable Member trying to use his pseudo intellectual arguments to seek to subvert the Constitution and peoples understanding of the Constitution of Barbados, it must be a matter of grave concern.

You have done a grave injustice to the people of Barbados and an even greater disservice to the people of Barbados. You must not tamper and try to mislead people in their understanding of the Constitution. You must not do that. It is quite wrong. You can do that kind of thing when you go up to Sion Hill up there talking to 200 people a week on Sunday. Go up there and do that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The member has two minutes to conclude.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member must not be indulging in that kind of conduct. The fact is, we have conducted ourselves with honour, with integrity, with humility and with dignity we have conformed to the Constitution in every single particular and we will stick to that. We are cognisant of the fact that there is more than one Opposition party and whilst we are prepared to conform to the requirements of the Constitution, from the very beginning I have pointed out that every single facility would be made available to all persons sitting on the Opposition benches and I have tried to conduct myself in that way.

You are not going to ever get me to violate the Constitution of Barbados. I believe that there is a way of doing things constitutionally, nevertheless, being sensitive to the totality of a situation. I believe that, certainly, in our parliamentary presentations and our parliamentary positions that we have taken and in ordering our business in Parliament, I think that both Opposition parties have been able to live well together in Parliament and defeat the Government in every debate.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I say we are able, in the interest of Barbados under the existing Constitution to work well together in Parliament and defeat the Government on every single debate that has taken place and that is why, despite the filibuster of Tuesday, you have been sent home limping, bruised, one or two of you crying, hurting on every day apart from that.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Hon.

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

The Honourable Member said in here during these Estimates debates that he does not tell lies. He just stood up on his feet and said that one or two members over here cried.

Now, Sir, that is the kind of statement that I submit that I know of my own knowledge that not a single member here cried for any reason whatsoever in the last few days and I am going to tell you further, Sir. The Honourable Members over here had no reasons to cry. The Honourable Members won the debate hands down and the Gallery told us so. Even the NDP Members, the six or seven who were in there came and told us that we unfaired you all and we really feel that you are neophyte except for you. We do not feel anything for you but we feel something for the other three because we...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken.

The question that Head 12 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4:45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 11.

HEAD 11 - JUDICIARY \$18 304

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the appropriations under this Head is required to cover the expenses for the Judiciary in the coming year.

I beg to move that Head 11 for the sum of \$18 304 stand part.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - \$411380207

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the appropriations under this Head are designed to meet the cost of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the coming year. The areas in respect of which the appropriations are required are in respect of the headquarters division and in respect of the High Commissions, the Embassies and the Consulates overseas. Everybody knows where they are.

Honourable Members will note that there are some increases in the appropriation for the coming year. The major increases are in relation to Statutory Personal Emoluments. One will understand the reason for the increase in this. This is a routine increase. Other Personal Emoluments, there is an increase of \$256 742. This again is consistent with the increases which have taken place in the public service.

National Insurance contributions \$152 040. Again the increase in National Insurance contributions would relate to the increases in Statutory Personal Emoluments and in Other Personal Emoluments. In relation to travel and utilities there are some minor increases. There is a major increase in relation to the Maintenance of Property and Operating Expenses. In relation to Maintenance of Property, this item has tended to be underfunded in previous financial years. As a result there has been a great difficulty in missions meeting their commitments promptly and meeting the cost of reasonable maintenance to the buildings of the missions, preventing dilapidation and things of that kind. The whole point is that we want to ensure that the buildings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs overseas do not fall into a state of decay but are treated to a regular and routine maintenance over the years; so that a reasonable figure to cover the cost of Maintenance to Property has been included to address that problem. In relation to Operating Expenses, the increase in that vote is at \$55 569. The reason for the increase under that item is because of the fact that we invariably have to come back for supplementaries in relation to Operating Expenses because the charges in this area are usually in respect of differences in the exchange rate which tends to take up a sizeable proportion of this vote. Those changes and the exchange rate do fluctuate from time to time. We consider that the additional appropriation of \$55 569 over last year is a reasonable increase to meet the cost of fluctuations in the exchange rate position.

In relation to Subscriptions and Contributions, Honourable Members will note that there is again a substantial increase of \$230 000. There had been \$50 000,

in respect of the UNDP office. The position is that the cost of financing the UNDP office in Barbados apparently had not been met over the last 3 years and the figure of \$280 000 this year represents the increase for this year plus the cost of the 2 previous years in respect of which payments had not been made.

Mr. Chairman, I move therefore that Head 35 stand part. If there are any particular questions which Honourable Members would like addressed, I am quite willing to respond.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I believe that during the last Estimates debate or around that time, the question was raised over reported heavy escalation in expenditure in relation to Foreign Affairs personnel. I believe, I do not have the document in front of me, the figure was somewhere in the region of about \$4 million to \$5 million in the particular year, as reported in the Balance of Payments statistics, as published by the Central Bank of Barbados.

It was my understanding, Sir, that the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs did not agree with the figures as published by the Central Bank of Barbados and that he called upon either his Ministry or the Central Bank or both to give some kind of explanation of that very significant increase in spending on foreign office personnel, as reported in the official Balance of Payments statistics of the Central Bank. During that discussion I recall that the Honourable Member, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs indicated that he was pursuing it and I do not think he gave any commitment that he would report to Parliament or anything like that, but that he would be looking into it. I am wondering whether or not he did look into it, whether the figure as reported in the Central Bank publication was correct. If that was not correct, by how much was the increase and for what purpose? And whether or not that level of expenditure would be undertaken again in this particular financial year.

The second point, Sir, relates to my concern of the serious indignity and embarrassment suffered by this nation as a whole over the diplomatic dope episode. I believe that all right thinking Barbadians recognize that that is one of the most serious blows to the image of this country that has ever occurred, because that whole diplomatic dope episode is not only a domestic matter for Barbados but that bag would have been transported in another country. It really becomes an international incident and also it involved the transport by LIAT, so it involved a regional airline. I have seen LIAT issue a statement in relation to that matter, at least to the comments in the Report relating to them recently showing that they are concerned even about the position taken by the inadequate commission that investigated the diplomatic dope affair.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They did respond to it. They issued a statement.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They responded about it and they were concerned about the charge that was made. We really see here that it is an international incident. I am sure that the Government of Venezuela would wish to be assured that this kind of thing has come to an end. I am sure that the LIAT pilots would like to be assured that this could not happen again and all other countries where Barbados from time to time would be receiving or sending mail through the diplomatic bag. 4.55 p.m.

So that I believe the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs should try to give this country some assurance that steps have been taken not only in respect of Caracas but in respect of other destinations to ensure that this country would not be embarrassed in the same way again. Of course, Sir, it is something which should never have happened. It is very, very difficult in this day and age with the changes in Eastern Europe, with the change in the political perceptions of the major nations in the world, in fact, in a day of change where military posturings no longer seem to be the predominant determination of political and economic affiliations, and where the struggle against illicit drugs is occupying a higher priority and there is every possibility that that particularly as it impinges on security will occupy an even higher priority in the thinking even among the larger nations of the world that at this point in time that this fair country of ours should have had its name stained in that way.

I believe, Sir, a lot of diplomatic effort will have to be made. A lot of assurances will have to be given if people are to feel confident that when they are receiving a diplomatic bag from Barbados that they are not carrying a bag containing dope from or for Barbados.

Now there are some people, Sir, who seek to minimize the impact of that incident. But I can assure you and I believe the Minister might be aware of the serious ramifications of such a thing particularly where there is evidence that it had been going on for sometime.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I believe the Honourable Member is misleading the House. There is a published report of the three men Commissions of Inquiry into that matter which has been laid before the House. There is no evidence in that report that this kind of thing, as the Honourable Member alleges, has been going on for any length of time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not referring to this Commission of Inquiry Report because the Commissioners quite early in their report set out quite clearly the kind of limitations under which they function and that they could not take evidence because they did not have available to them the facilities that would have been offered if they had been set up under the Commissions of Inquiry Act

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sorry. Ask the Commissioners. Did you read the report?

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You appointed the Commission, not me. Well, he is not a Commissioner.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member address the Chair?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, you cannot reprobate and approbate at the same time. You cannot direct my attention to the report and say that what I said is not in the report. Therefore, it is not true. When I pointed out to you that the Commissioner said that they had certain limitations because they were not appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, you at the same time are now going to tell me that they could not have the Ear. Even in that report they talk about large parcels that came in the Ministry before but they put no judgment on it. Check the report. I do not think the Minister has had the opportunity of reading the report as yet. This is my feeling. He is a very busy person, Sir. He has to read a lot of documents.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member will just give way. Let me assure the Honourable Member that I have read the report and digested the report, and that we have taken appropriate procedures to deal with the problems.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Well, fair enough, Sir. But the point is this that there is additional evidence. Are you aware that this thing might have been going on for sometime and, indeed, there might be some element of truth attached to the statements of certain persons deemed to be involved at a particular level who might not have been involved at that particular level either. But more will come out in due course.

It is regrettable, Sir, that we did not have an inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. I feel that Barbadians would have felt much happier today and we would not now have a report where the Commissioners indicate that they could only go so far and no further. Because in point of fact that report is largely a Civil Service affak of who was here, who was not there, who is to blame for this, and who is not to blame for that. The public is not

interested in that. What they really want to know is who was responsible for putting the dope in that bag and whether the diplomatic bag of Barbados was being abused in the traffic of illicit drugs. They want to know whether this has been stopped. This is what they want to know.

Sir, before I sit down, I just want to reiterate that this is not a matter of simply a bit of cocaine in a pouch found in an office. This is a matter which has damaged the image of this country considerably. It involves other countries and it has also raised concerned in all of those countries where Barbados' diplomatic bags either go to or come from. I would feel, Sir, those who seek to down play this issue as being merely a breakdown in Administration or something like that certainly have no notion whatsoever of the kind of impact that that has had in the international world. Because that diplomatic pouch, Sir, as you know is sacred. Not sacred, it is sacrosanct. I mean it is protected property and has certain rights under the various international conventions and it is important that as a nation we should not been seen either as violating or permitting the violations of the diplomatic pouch. I think it is a very serious matter and I believe that it deserves a fuller, better, and deeper inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. I am quite sure the Commissioners are careful, intelligent, and Honourable men but they have a problem. The problem is the extent to which they could go because of the limitations imposed under their terms of reference and the legal arrangements under which they were operating.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member and Leader of the Opposition has raised a couple of points which I would like to respond to immediately. First of all, let me deal with the question of the diplomatic pouch. He has raised the point that the Commissioner of Inquiry should have been appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. He made the point that Commissioners themselves said that they had no power or authority to subpoena witnesses and to take evidence on oath and as a result that the effectiveness of the inquiry was to that extent compromised.

One can pass a judgment. The question is though the essential point which the Leader of the Opposition said the public wanted to be aware of was who put the dope in the diplomatic bag. Whatever was put into the diplomatic bag was put in at Caracas.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Well, the Leader of the Opposition knows a lot more than I know. 5.05p.m.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: The Leader of the Opposition knows a lot more than I know. If you have the evidence you should give it to the Commission. If you know that it was put in in Barbados' territory in Caracas, you should go and give the Commission that evidence. I do not have any evidence on that. That is all I can say. What has been clear, as a result of the Report, is that there had been some deficiencies in the procedures in relation to the putting up of the diplomatic bag, sealing it, getting it to the airport and so forth, and as a result of that the problem occurred.

The fact was that there was a person or persons who dealt with the diplomatic bag, who are not diplomatic officers of Barbados. The fact that non-diplomatic officers could have access to dealing with the bag could be the source of a problem, though not to the same extent as the Foreign Service Officers of the Government of Barbados. What has happened as a result of this is that we have ensured that the procedures which have been formalised are required to be followed on every occasion where dealing with the diplomatic bag is concerned.

What one has to remember at the end of all of this is that we are still dealing with people and that in the final analysis you have to depend on the honesty, the integrity and the goodness of persons. The essential point I am making is this, that irrespective of how tight your procedures are, irrespective of what conditions you lay down, irrespective of what regulations you have, if you have dishonest people - and you are not going to always know who is honest and who is dishonest - working with you, you are likely to have problems.

I have always made the point, when we are dealing with the drug problem in Barbados, that if you have dishonest Prison Officers, if you have dishonest Policemen, if you have dishonest Customs Officers, if you have dishonest Public Servants, you are going to have problems with which you are not going to be able to deal. Irrespective of what procedures you have, you have to ensure also that you have persons of the highest character and the highest integrity in your service, because if there is a breakdown in that regard I am saying that with the best will in the world you can still have problems.

I say all of this to make the point that I am not too sure that even if you had a Commission of Enquiry appointed under the Commissions of Enquiry Act that you would get any further than you have got now, because even if you had a Commission of Enquiry that had the power to subpoena witnesses you could not subpoena any witnesses in Venezuela where the person who was best able to help in this situation was.

We have had a lot of experiences in Barbados where Commissions of Enquiry have been appointed under the

Commissions of Enquiry Act, where the powers to subpoena witnesses and to take evidence on oath have been there and yet in many of the cases, in most of the Commissions of Enquiry which have been held, no positive and clear answers have been given. Witness the Malone Commission of Enquiry. That was a long, full enquiry where all the powers under the Commissions of Enquiry Act were available to the Commissioners and yet there was no resolution to any of the issues which the Commission of Enquiry was called upon to determine.

There are other Commissions of Enquiry which have been appointed, on which I will not comment at this stage either, but sometimes one adopts the attitude that appointment of a Commission of Enquiry under the Commissions of Enquiry Act is a total answer to a total problem. That does not necessarily address the problem. What this Report does highlight is where certain breakdowns took place in relation to the apprehension of the person who was to receive the parcel in Barbados. What I am saying is that what we have to do is to ensure that the procedures are such that where there is the need to deal with issues of this kind in the future that the same foul-ups do not occur.

What the Public Servants have said is that it has been a novel issue for them, which they had to deal with. There were problems in dealing with an issue which was new to them. It is a bad experience which we have had. None of us is attempting to minimise the seriousness of it, certainly I am not minimising the seriousness of the abuse of the diplomatic bag. It is a serious thing and we want to ensure that procedures are in place as far as possible to ensure that this sort of thing does not happen again, and certainly the rules and the procedures which we have instituted for the use and the management of the diplomatic bag will as far as possible deal with that problem, barring of course the human element which is always an equation with which it is impossible fully always to legislate.

In relation to the other matter which the Honourable Member raised - the reports of over expenditure in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - I believe I have given an answer to that in this Honourable House before. There had been charges, in fact, based on the figures which had appeared in the Central Bank 1989 Balance of Payments Survey, that expenditure had increased from \$5.524 million in 1987 to \$13 million in 1988. The figures of actual expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1986-87 \$10 983 045, for 1987-88 \$12 847 905, which was an increase of approximately \$1.8 million, and then in 1988-89 the figure was \$12 668 456, which was a decrease, in fact, of \$179 449. These figures clearly demonstrate that there has not been that dramatic increase in expenditure by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the fiscal years between 1986 and 1989. The increase in Current Expenditure was in fact 0.5 for 1986-87, 16.13 for 1987-88 and 0.35 for 1988-89.

The other point I wish to make in that regard, which I believe I did make before, is that the balance of payments surveys of the Central Bank are prepared on a calendar year basis following its own technical criteria for that specific purpose, whilst the expenditure in relation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as it is with all other Government Departments, is compiled on a fiscal year basis from 1st April in any one year to 31st March in the ensuing year. 5.15p.m.

Sir, to use Central Bank statistics and figures, would tend to give an inaccurate and incomplete picture in quantifying expenditure of any particular Ministry or section of a Ministry. So I suggest that the proper source for the information on the actual expenditure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the years which we are concerned with, is the Annual Report of the Accountant General which gives a complete break down of the actual expenditure of all the fiscal years. Thank you.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, at twenty minutes past five, a couple of minutes before the guillotine comes down on these Estimates, it would not be possible for me to engage the Government in a discursive analysis of the foreign policy of Barbados, and I must, therefore, perforce, limit myself to a few comments on various matters which are current. I wish, however, before I do so to advert to one matter which has concerned me for some time, and which I think is without precedent in my experience of foreign affairs, and it is simply this.

It has always been my understanding that once a person is appointed to hold the high office of Barbados' principal representative or the principal representative overseas of any country that whether that person is a political appointee or an appointee coming through the public service, there are certain basic rules that are obeyed and honoured. One such rule is that the person holding the office must not engage in writing to the press in any partisan manner, and certainly it would be beyond comprehension for any such person to write a letter and articles to the newspapers criticising leaders of other political parties in the execution of their office. That high standard has not been maintained by the present holder of the office of High Commissioner for Barbados to Canada. It is a serious breach of the basic fundamental principles under which this Government ought to operate, and any sensible Government operates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN ordered that certain words spoken by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West be struck from the record.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to refer to him any further by name. I am going to ask the Minister what rules as a matter of policy he has in his department to prevent political appointees or civil servants writing publicly to the paper in criticism of Members who

hold high office here. That is the standard that we have got to in this country, that once he belongs to the political party - a person belonging to a political party is a party hack of the worst order - he could do anything and he could flout all the diplomatic rules, he could flout what is accepted as proper behaviour and the Government will say nothing about it I am dealing with a situation that affects me. I have held the high office in this country as Minister of External Affairs and have conducted myself with absolute decorum and I believe that history will show that I did well, Sir, and therefore I expect that we will have a certain procedure to be followed in this country. I have been under tremendous pressure to write on this matter to the newspaper and I said "no, I wouldn't do it", because I believe that the Government must have a policy on this matter that neophytes who do not know how to conduct themselves and are probably not deserving of the office they hold since they don't know the rules, should never in any circumstances be allowed to represent Barbados abroad if this is how they are going to behave, and I don't care who it is. Whether it is under me if I was Prime Minister or Minister of External Affairs, I would never allow that standard of conduct to occur as I see them writing as they, like willy-nilly, criticising. If he wants to be a politician, let him come back and be the politician; that is what I am saying. That is a matter for the Minister and myself or whoever, from time to time. But, Sir, I will get my opportunity to deal outside of this House with those people.

I had the spectacle, I sat in a Cabinet where the Israeli Foreign Minister had the gumption to go into the Ambassador's office and be rude to the Ambassador and the Ambassador threw him out. He had the gumption to come into Barbados and complain to the Prime Minister and made the mistake of coming near me with that, and I threw him out of my office, speaking foully about an Ambassador. He now sits on the opposite side and politically has crossed to the other side. But I stood up in defence of that because it is unheard of, and I sent a note of protest to the Israeli Ambassador and the Israeli Foreign Minister on the matter. That is how we conduct ourselves. I feel very strongly on this matter, and I trust that I will see some satisfaction and a suitable apology being sent to the Leader of the Opposition and myself by the particular person concerned.

Now, Sir, I am going to move off that matter. I want to talk about the report. Once again, Sir, it pained me to have had, having held the office of Foreign Minister, to have to come into the House at the time I did and make the comment that information made available to me in the diplomatic circuits that you have here in Barbados, was to the effect that unfortunately the Diplomatic Pouch had been used for the transmission of dope from Caracas to Barbados. 5.25 p.m.

I am always very deeply conscious of the role which I hold as a person in public life and I try to live within the rules. I cannot say that each of us or I, myself, always conform in the way in which one would wish to conform so I am not going to hold that up. But it was painful to me, as a Barbadian, to have to deal with that situation in the context of what had occurred.

When I made the exposure, it took some of the Government side by surprise and one Minister sitting in his seat said that I was not telling the truth which was by itself a very serious charge.

The Prime Minister said in response that he had some information about a substance and the matter will be enquired into and the result was the setting up of the Commission of Enquiry. This Commission of Enquiry, in many respects has told us very little and very little that is new.

In the back of the Report it has castigated one or two Foreign Service Officers for how they reacted to a situation. I consider that the Report is probably unfair in that regard and that it has used the occasion to make one or two Foreign Service officers look stupid where the real calumny about this situation, in my view, is what is the correct political posture that should be taken in an instance where you preside over a Ministry in which, as the Minister described it, there was a "bad experience" - and I think he is speaking euphemistically here because it is worse than a bad experience that this should happen to Barbados.

What should have been the correct political posture? The correct political posture is that heads should have rolled. I am not talking about Mr. Trotman. If I was Mr. Rufus Trotman I would take the same attitude and say I am not coming before a Commission of Enquiry. You have dismissed me. You have not given me an opportunity, as the Commission has said here, to even put my case in writing and you now ask me to come before a Commission of Enquiry, whether it had powers under the Commission of Enquiry Act or not; so to that extent, nobody can, reading this Report, call Trotman condemned. The Commission has come out and said he could or could not have been. They have come to no conclusion.

But what is the position, by virtue of the standards and convention that we follow, of the person who had political and overall responsibility for the Ministry at the time? He should have known, given the many years of which we have heard he has given outstanding public service to Barbados, and has made such a contribution, he should have known that his correct political posture should have been to have tendered his resignation to his Prime Minister.

It would have been left to the Prime Minister to do one or two things, to have accepted it graciously, or to have

said, Mr. Minister, in my view I will await events, or to have shifted him. That convention was not followed. Not the present Minister, I am speaking about the former Minister. I think he still holds the post as a Senator in this country.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: He has resigned from the 15th? Yesterday. Therefore, his correct political posture then was to have done this otherwise he should have dealt with the position of his Ambassador.

There are chains of command and unless we say this and get it into the system now, this is not making political hay and capital. I am concerned to make sure that unless we insist on these precedents, and unless we are strong to say to our closest friends, our closest advisors, our colleagues in the Cabinet that there comes a time when you have to have grit and stand up and say "No, I am not going to do a particular thing" or "Yes, I must do this particular thing", the standards in public life will continue to go down and we would then be left wondering why out there we understand and hear people saying that the moral and other fabric of our society is decaying.

I say that one of the worst things that happened to Barbados is that this should have happened and the only people, again, who should be criticized and come under the heavy hammer is the small person down there and that the people at the top, particularly the ultimate political master, not that he put it. Nobody could possibly make that allegation, but the political convention and precedent is clear that he should not have waited until a year after to say that he was giving up being a Minister and then wait a little later to resign as a Senator.

He had a clear duty, given his long experience in public life, to have done the only decent thing that I know that anybody would do in those circumstances. For such a serious omission occurring in the department for which he had maximum responsibility he should have tendered his resignation to his Prime Minister and gone home and I could have got in here and said that that is a precedent that I could follow and I could give you the stamp of approval for many things hereafter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. M. A. KING: This issue is always one that...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the Honourable Attorney General proceeds, the guillotine becomes effective at 5.45 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: If I allow you 5 minutes I would not be able to deal with all the issues that have to be raised. I would not have a chance to talk at all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. M. A. KING: If you have 5 minutes, and you have 5 minutes, the guillotine comes down then I am shut up and then you will say that I have stood here and run away from the issues and not responded to the issues raised. I am trying to get my response in before the guillotine comes down on this debate.

Mr. Chairman, the essential point which I want to make is this. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West makes the point that the Report of the Commission is unfair to the public servants. He says at the end of it it makes a number of Public Service officers look stupid and the concern of the Honourable Member is what should have been the correct political posture and his concern is that political heads should roll. I think that is what the Honourable Member is concerned about, seeing political heads roll.

What seems to be coming through from the Honourable Member's presentation is that he does not even seem concerned about how the diplomatic dope, as it was called, got into the bag.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of explanation.

I am very concerned about that. I began by saying it pained me considerably to have to mention the matter so I was even more than concerned.

I am a Barbadian. At the end of the day I am not only leader of a political party and not only a politician, I am a Barbadian and I am proud of being a Barbadian. I have no other nationality. I must be concerned.

Hon. M. A. KING: I can assure the Honourable Member that I am proud of being a Barbadian too. I have no other nationality but I am saying that from the tenor of his presentation I tended to get the impression that he was, in the main, concerned about the political position.

He said, you cannot hold Trotman condemned. I say to you, why cannot we hold Trotman condemned? All the evidence, all the indications seem to show that it was he who improperly put something in the diplomatic bag so that I am saying that if that has been done and if he has been the person responsible for it, why do we not condemn him? Let us not be blinkered on occasions like this and seek only to

make political capital out of these issues. I agree that there has been a problem.

You make the point that the Public Servants,...

Aside.

5.35 p.m.

You see the way how the debate....

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: How do you know that? The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central knows very much about how dope....

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes. He seems to know all the details about how the dope comes in the diplomatic bag.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. My information is, Sir, that on a previous occasion when dope came in in the diplomatic bag, Mr. Trotman Senior was in Barbados on holiday.....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... on a previous occasion when dope came in through the diplomatic bag, he was in Barbados.

Hon. M. A. KING: The Honourable Member knows about a previous occasion, Mr. Chairman. I trust the Honourable Member will do the House the courtesy of telling us the previous occasion on which the dope came in the diplomatic bag. We would want to know. It is important to know.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West raises a concern about the public servants. He says that the Report is unfair to public servants, some public servants. Some public servants have said to me that the Report is unfair to them. We have taken a long time agonizing over this. That is why the Report has taken quite some time coming to the House because I was concerned to see that as much fairness as possible, was meted out to the public servants whose names had been mentioned in an unfavourable way, in the Report. I was concerned about that, I said. We were clearly looking for a way in which to redress that imbalance.

What has happened in essence is that permission has been given to the public servants, within the context of the General Orders, to make public their views on this matter. We have given them that right and in the fullness of time presumably, their views on this matter, on the Report, will be published. So that we are not seeking to embarrass

anybody. We will give them an opportunity to have their comments made public. We are not going to suppress their comments in this regard.

Asides.

lion. M. A. KING: Whose chief canvasser?

Aside.-

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I always do the bulk of my canvassing. I always do the bulk of • the canvassing by myself. I am my chief canvasser. My second chief canvasser is a very reliable taxi owner/driver whom you know.

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: But you are interrupting me all the time; so how can I deal with an issue when I am getting persistent and continual interruptions from the Leader of the Opposition? You are trying to stop me from making my presentation. So that if I have to continually respond, Mr. Chairman....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. M. A. KING: Are you hurrying me, Mr. Chairman? I am saying, Mr. Chairman, if I have continually to respond to the comments of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I am not going to have an opportunity to make the essential points which I want to make.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that in relation to the point raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, there are the General Orders - just let me finish the sentence, Sir - of the public service which regulate the conduct of public servants.

The Honourable Member has made a number of charges in relation to an officer of one of the missions and I give him the assurance that I will investigate the charges which he has made and see what the position is and act appropriately in relation to the matter.

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

77^{k1} question that Head 35 stand part was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 77 - MINISTRY (OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - jSM) OCX)

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 77 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the sum of S850 (XX) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - \$28 392 933

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13 - Prime Minister's Office for the sum of S28 392 933 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 69 - CAPITAL - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - 55 746 720

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 69 - Capital - Prime Minister's Office for the sum of S5 746 720 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 14 - MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND IMMIGRATION - Si 1 292 101

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 14 - Ministry of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration for the sum of SI 1 292 101 stand part, Sir.

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

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

HEAD 70 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND IMMIGRATION - S3 000 200

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 70 - Capital - Ministry of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration for the sum of S3 000 200 stand part, Sir.

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

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

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE - \$4 782 261

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15 - Cabinet Office for the sum of \$4 782 261 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL ,
SERVICE \$7 246 371

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 16 - Ministry of the Civil Service for the sum of \$7 246 371 stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.45 p.m.

HEAD 18 - AUDIT - \$335,895

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$335,895 under Head 18 - Audit stand part.

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

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

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS - \$8,461.02

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$8,461.02 under Head 19 - Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs stand part.

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

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

HEAD 20 - REVENUE COLLECTION - \$3,864,920

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$3,864,920 under Head 20 - Revenue Collection stand part.

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

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

HEAD 21 - STATISTICS - \$1,405,910

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,405,910 under Head 21 - Statistics stand part.

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

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

HEAD 23 - LOANS AND ADVANCES - \$7,674,900

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$7,674,900 under Head 23 - Loans and Advances stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 24 - PENSIONS - \$18,000,000

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$18,000,000 under Head 24 - Pensions stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 73 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS - \$28,122,024

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$28,122,024 under Head 73 - Capital - Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 27 - METEOROLOGY - \$1,386,880

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,386,880 under Head 27 - Meteorology stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

**HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL
AFFAIRS-\$3,485,730**

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$3,485,730 under Head 28 - Ministry of Legal Affairs stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 29 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS - \$75,493

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$75,493 under Head 29 - Public Prosecutions stand part.

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

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

HEAD 30 - POLICE - \$11,902,460

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$11,902,460 under Head 30 - Police stand part.

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

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

HEAD 31 - PRISONS - \$2,423,874

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$2,423,874 under Head 31 Prisons - stand part.

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

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

HEAD 32 - FIRE SERVICE - \$1,073,155

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,073,155 under Head 32 - Fire Service stand part.

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

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

HEAD 33 - PROBATION DEPARTMENT - \$151,786

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$151,786 under Head 33 - Probation Department stand part.

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

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

**HEAD 75 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
CAPITAL - \$8,697,000**

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$8,697,000 under Head 75 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - Capital stand part.

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

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

**HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE - \$114,649,840**

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$114,649,840 under Head 34 - Ministry of Education and Culture stand part.

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

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

**HEAD 76 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND CULTURE - \$50,532,571**

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$50,532,571 under Head 76 - Capital - Ministry of Education and Culture stand part.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - \$94,288,804

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$94,288,804 under Head 36 - Ministry of Health stand part.

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

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

HEAD 78 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - CAPITAL -
\$30,458,954

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$30,458,954 under Head 78 - Ministry of Health - Capital stand part.

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

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

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND
LANDS - \$12,989,162

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$12,989,162 under Head 37 - Ministry of Housing and Lands stand part.

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

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

HEAD 79 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF HOUSING
AND LANDS-\$16,374

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$16,374 under Head 79 - Capital - Ministry of Housing and Lands stand part.

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

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

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT,
LABOUR RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT - \$37,909,729

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$37,909,729 under Head 39 - Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development stand part.

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

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

HEAD 81 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF EMPLOY-
MENT, LABOUR RELATIONS AND COM-
MUNITY DEVELOPMENT - \$13,373,446

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$13,373,446 under Head 81 - Capital - Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development stand part.

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

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

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS -
\$61,180,704

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$61,180,704 under Head 42 - Ministry of Transport and Works - \$61,180,704 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 84 - CAPITAL - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
AND WORKS - \$42,004,313

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$42,004,313 under Head 84 - Capital - Ministry of Transport and Works stand part.

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

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

HEAD 50 - POST OFFICE - \$4,995,191

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$4,995,191 under Head 50 - Post Office stand part.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 as amended was called and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

Schedule as amended was called and passed.
5.55 p.m.

The Schedule as amended was called.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg in move that the Schedule as amended be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

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

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

On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Appropriation Act, 1990.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn. We have had a long week and we have had some good-natured exchanges, some not so good-

natured I can assure you, Sir, but all in all I think we have had a good week. Those who have been participating in the work here this week will understand how very tiring it is to be able to carry on for a whole week in these particular matters. I think one has only got to be involved in it to really understand it. Looking on from the outside I do not feel one can really appreciate it that much, but it is a strain on Honourable Members, physically and indeed mentally. I believe that Members would need a little respite now from this place, and I therefore move that the House, do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 10th day of April, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.00 p.m.

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Joseph) BOURNE, Mr. K. (Christ Church East)
BRATHWAITK, Mr. ! i, (St. Michael North East)
BYER, Mr. R. P, (St. George South) EORDE, Hon. II.
deli. (Christ Church West) FRANKLIN, Hon. W. O.
(St. Philip North) GREAVES, Hon. E. E, (St. Lucy)
GREAVES, Hon. I". M, (St, Michael North) HALL,
Hon. W. VV. (St. Michael West Central) HA YNES, Dr.
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(City of Bridgetown) MORRIS, Mr. R. L. (Christ
Church East Central) NEBLETI, Mr. C. A. (St.
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WALKER, Hon. C. V. (St. George North) WEEKES,
His Honour L. A. (St. Michael North West)