

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 13, 1990.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.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., M.A., (Econ.),
J.P., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and
Economic Affairs)
Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A.,
LL.B.(Hons.), (Minister of Health)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of
Trade, Industry and Commerce)
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.),
(Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN, B.A., M.A., (Minister
of Transport and Works)
Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General,
Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P.,
(Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)
Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, (Minister of Employment,
Labour Relations and Community Development)
Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc. (Econ.), (Minister of
Housing and Lands)
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M.
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.)
Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education and
Culture)
Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of
Committees)
Mr. E. BOURNE
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: Minutes of Tuesday, November 6,
1990.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minutes of
the 6th November have been circulated and I have had no
indication of any change. I beg to move that they now be
confirmed.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

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

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move
that a Bill to amend the Barbados Community College Act,
Cap. 38 be read a first time.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. B. M. TAUT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, Cap. 116 be read a first time.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Works, I give notice that Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 86 is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this sitting.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

ORDER NO. 3 - COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAUT, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWATTE in the Chair.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1990-91, No. 9 -
\$309865731

HEAD 76 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, under this Head the sum of \$18,665,731 is required by the Ministry of Education and Culture to meet the cost of the completion of the construction of the work and packages 1 and 2 of the civil works component of the secondary education and training project, and also to continue construction work and the St. Thomas Secondary School.

This Capital requirement, Sir, falls under seven Subheads. Subhead 2, under Primary Schools, Structures. Subhead 9, under Secondary Schools, Structures; Plant,

Furniture and Equipment Subhead 15, Tertiary Institutions, Structures; Tertiary and Training Institutions, Plant, Equipment and Furniture; Subhead 26, Project Unit in terms of Operating Expenses and Subhead 41, the St. Thomas Secondary School.

Mr. Chairman, the second education project is divided into three packages. In the first package, Package 1, there were four primary schools, one secondary school and additional work done at the Barbados Community College. In Package 1 we have now completed work on the Cuthbert Moore Primary, which was completed in December 1989, the Roland Edwards Primary, which was completed and occupied in April, 1990, the Selah Primary in St. Lucy, which was completed and occupied in September 1990 and which is due to be officially opened on December 10 and the St. Matthias Primary which was completed in October 1990 and now occupied and is due to be officially opened on December 12th. Queen's College is now completed. The furniture is in the building and the Ministry of Housing and Lands has completed the insurance on the building and we expect that the building will be turned over to the Board tomorrow which gives Queen's College the opportunity to move into the school sometime within the last ten days of this term. There is no need to move furniture to the new site as the whole school is equipped with new furniture and fittings. The Ministry of Transport and Works, has been duly notified, Sir, and work is progressing on the road and I am informed by the Board that communication has been sent to MTW in terms of the arrangement for the rescheduling of school buses for that school. 12.30p.m.

Then, Sir, there is also the Barbados Community College, again still under Package 1 which is due to be completed in December 1990. In Package 2, Sir, there is the Wotton Kingsland Secondary School to be completed in January 1991 and may I take this opportunity to officially notify this Honourable House, Sir, that following recommendations and approval by the Cabinet it has been decided to name that school the Deighton Griffith Secondary School. Also under Package 2, Sir, there is the Skills Training Centre at Sayes Court which is now completed. We also have the Mount Tabor Primary School due to be completed in December 1990. There is also the Bayley's Primary School which is due to be completed in February 1991 and the St. Mary's Primary School due to be completed in February 1991.

It should also be noted, Mr. Chairman, that construction work on the St. Thomas Secondary School is progressing satisfactorily and that school is scheduled to be completed for opening in September 1991. I would just like to say a few words about Package 3. The plans are all drawn for Package 3 and Package 3 includes St. Stephen's Primary, St. Boniface, Hillaby, the Ministry of Education Headquarters at the old Queen's College site and extension work is to be done to Springer's Memorial School. That

Package 3, Sir, along with the Carrington Primary will shortly be going out for tender and therefore all of these should be on stream early in 1991. Construction work should be well underway.

Sir, I would like at this point to mention that within this whole package we have taken the opportunity when this Government took office to reorganize the project. We actually redesigned the buildings to respond to the requirements of both parents and teachers and indeed, the members of the community who had certain complaints about certain aspects of the construction of these buildings. We have all, from time to time, Mr. Chairman, complaints being made about the windows and some other aspects of that construction. We have made provision also as part of the modification to the project whereby in all of the schools, both primary and secondary, provision has been made for the needs of the disabled. We have also during this project phase, Mr. Chairman, addressed the requirements of the technical education and the exposure of the students within the educational system and we have provided first at Erdiston Teachers' Training College some 15 stand-alone computers for the training of the teachers who are passing through that institution and indeed they have further added a network with some 16 computers to enhance the training of all teachers who are passing through the Training Centre at Erdiston College. So they are now in the best position, I would say, Sir, having some 31 computers for training and I am not saying that they are being trained as computer experts. They are being trained and utilising the equipment, Sir, to be trained in all aspects of teaching which includes remedial reading, work with slow learners and themselves having exposure to all of the modern techniques dealing with what we have as a known world problem which I may say, Sir, was expressed by all the Ministers from the 40 countries who were recently at the Commonwealth Ministers of Education Conference in Barbados where Barbados, incidentally, Sir, was complimented for the attention that we are placing now on the whole question of remedial reading and dealing with slow learners because it is being done on a planned basis.

We have not left out the secondary schools, Sir, but while that was going on, and Honourable Members should know, we had a provision within the Estimates within the last two years for the planned provision of computers within the secondary schools as well. At this stage Sir, when all would have been installed, 17 of the secondary schools will be properly equipped with a network and 16 terminals attached to that network again giving the students the opportunity to have the exposure to the modern technology and also to assist the teachers all of whom are also going through the training program at Erdiston to make use of this modern technology to assist in the teaching of the children. 12.40p.m.

We are also, Mr. Chairman, addressing the requirement right down to the primary level. All the new primary schools aforementioned, packages 1, 2 and 3, will be equipped with computers again to assist the question of remedial reading and addressing the needs of the slow learners. All of those I mentioned that are now open are equipped with such equipment. They are using the relevant software to assist the slow learners, remedial reading along with the standard social studies as well as the normal primary classroom work.

I would like to take this opportunity also, Mr. Chairman, to point out that there is in Toronto, Canada, a Barbadian who is a principal of a primary school - he was in Barbados just a matter of weeks ago but based upon contacts and our involvement with the Commonwealth of Learning at the University of the West Indies, we have now reached the point where that school in Toronto will be linked by telephone lines, thanks to BET, whereby the children in the primary school in Toronto will be on line on a 24-hour basis because the lines will be there. With this comfort more primary schools and students will be interfacing thus giving them exposure not only with the equipment but also with the whole question of their social studies.

While this is going on, we thought that it was absolutely necessary, Mr. Chairman, to ensure that all of this was meshing in the proper manner. We have taken the opportunity to ensure that there is now an individual, an education officer, whose responsibility is for the whole area of technical education and who has been trained and exposed not only within our local system but is now even involved up to the level of the Commonwealth of Learning whereby as we improve on the systems we will be able to, especially at the secondary and tertiary level, make access to various research work and things of that nature.

Sir, that is what we are doing now. Of course, we cannot stop at this stage. While that is going on and we are into phase 3, we are also looking at the involvement of a third project. Indeed, we are aware that we have to continue to address the refurbishing and the problems of the Wotton School although they served us all in here well, Sir, but we have to realise that we have to deal with the modern age.

Just to give an idea of what we are looking at now, we are looking at, of course, additional primary schools under the new project whether we amalgamate, construct or refurbish. We are also looking at a few of the secondary schools in that area. We are also looking, of course, at teacher training. Along with this we have to look at the whole library system. We are also looking at the Archives because these are all part of the total educational system.

Sir, I think with those few words I would like to move that this Resolution do now stand part.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me to be a fact now that the person who indicated to the public of Barbados that \$20 million was removed from the education vote at the time of the Estimates that person was speaking the total truth and that those who sought to indicate that such a high placed public officer would not have been telling the truth, certainly, when one examines this Resolution today, it is evidently clear that they were not telling the truth, certainly not the naked truth. That is the slogan they have now? They are certainly not telling the truth as I see in an advertisement in the Press now.

It is amazing, Sir, that those who have been involved in heavy propaganda down the years now have the gall to put in an advertisement that they are speaking the truth. It is almost incredible that anyone in the Democratic Labour Party can conceive of a slogan talking about telling the truth. No wonder the Honourable Member for St. Michael West did not speak on that platform.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I do not know why the Honourable Member feels able to bait me or any Honourable Member over here...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member risen?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member obviously cannot deal with the sterling performance of the Minister of Education so he must waffle all over the place. If there was any doubt about the veracity of the Democratic Labour Party, it was removed completely, surgically, when the Honourable Member took his departure.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It was removed surgically, Sir. I like the kind of language used, surgically, a knife, cutting up people. This is the kind of language you are hearing now > coming from the Government, language of violence - surgical removal of people.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I submit that the Honourable Member is misleading the House. I submit that anyone who is an FRCP who says that to use the word "surgeon" or "surgical" is to impute violence is deliberately, mischievously and everything else misleading this House. Is he saying that all the surgeons he knows are violent? Is he saying that surgeons in Barbados connote violence? How can a doctor of his standing and experience be making that kind of statement?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just let me say to the Honourable Member that it is clearly early in the debate. We are under the Head of Education and I think we should stick to the matter under discussion.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I would have been happier if he had used the word "clinically". When you start using "surgical removal", when you are talking about political events, that...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. I did rule that was not a valid point of order. Therefore, I do not think I should entertain discussion on that. •

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I will be dealing with this clinically. I certainly will not be talking about any surgical removal of people from the political scene or anything like that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. Since he removed himself there can be no question of anybody removing him. He is the one who imputed surgically when he said...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the Resolution, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, we are all familiar with surgical removals and depressurising people and this kind of thing. 12.50p.m.

If I may continue, Sir, the point I am making is that * we have a situation today which I think challenges many of the basic principles in relation to budgeting. One outstanding feature of these supplementaries here is that the supplementaries, in many instances, are as much as the original vote, and in one or two instances the supplementary is more than the original vote. This is a serious matter. A supplementary coming before Parliament, one always assumes that because of some unforeseen event in budgeting the vote has to be topped up. What we are seeing here, Sir, is that these supplementaries, as I say, are in many instances in excess of the original vote. *

The first point I want to make is that this is not only bad budgeting, but it also threatens the very basic principles which underlie Parliament's supervision of expenditure in Barbados. You cannot come in here with a vote, for example, for \$1.2 million and then proceed to spend an additional \$3.9 million and then come back to Parliament for a supplementary for more than three times the original vote.

Under Head 76, Sir, which is the subject of this debate, we will find that under Subhead 2 the amount voted was \$5.9 million. Now we are being asked for a supplementary provision of \$4.9 million. Under Subhead 15, the original vote was \$2.5 million and now we are being asked for a supplementary of \$3.4 million. Under Object No. 25 it is even worse. The vote was \$1.2 million and we are now being asked for a supplementary of \$3.9 million.

Under Object No. 23, Structures, the original vote is \$2.7 million and now the supplementary is \$4.3 million.

I believe, Sir, that when we pass an Appropriation Bill, when we appropriate money early in the year and the Schedule to that appropriation is the Estimates, that must have some meaning. When this happens, quite clearly the Estimates have no meaning whatsoever. What is happening is that we come in here and make an appropriation or a vote for a particular activity and then the Government proceeds to spend whatever it likes without reference to Parliament. My feeling is that this kind of thing is undermining the authority of Parliament in a critical area of the control of expenditure.

I am sure that if the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, is still able to tell the truth on a continuing basis, he would get up and support my position in this matter, because it has been a constant complaint of his when he was in Opposition, a constant reminder of the ultimate authority of Parliament in terms of allocating expenditures and that nothing should be done by Cabinet or by any Ministry that would in any way subvert that principle. On many occasions I have heard him enunciate that.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am a little disturbed about a comment which the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, has made to the effect that "if the Prime Minister can continue to tell the truth on a continuing basis," or "if he is still able to tell the truth on a continuing basis." I think, Sir, that is an implied suggestion that the Prime Minister does not tell the truth. I think that is unparliamentary and I would ask that the Honourable Member withdraw that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I believe the Prime Minister understands the use of English a little better and he is quite capable of getting up and defending himself. He does not need you to defend him.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. This is a matter relating to the rules of this House, and if the Honourable Member has breached a rule - and in my opinion he has breached a rule - this is casting aspersions on the character of an individual...

Asides.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: ...and the Honourable Member has to withdraw the remark.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have order please? An Honourable Member is on his feet.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: It is an unparliamentary remark and it should be withdrawn.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyone making any reasonable inference on the basis of an intimate knowledge of the English language can only draw the conclusion that the inference is that despite the fact that the Prime Minister has spoken the truth in the past, and that if he wishes now to continue to speak that truth, he will get up and agree with me. That is all I am saying. What he wants me to do, Sir...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Just a minute.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be struck from the record.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have been around this House for a long time, Sir, and I know...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member for the City allow the debate to proceed without interruption?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I have been around this House for a long time and I know that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy does not make idle interventions. When he gets up and intervenes on a matter like that, he wishes me to underline the opposite of what I have been saying. That is the purpose and intention of that intervention. He is not the kind of person who makes idle interventions in Parliament and has never been known to do that.

If I may continue, Sir, another outstanding feature of this Resolution is the fact that the Government deficit will now rise by another \$48 million or thereabouts, because you will see that whereas some \$12 million or so would be subsumed in the \$30 million which the Prime Minister spoke about last time, and which in fact is on the face of the Resolution, there would still be another \$18 million which we will not have the opportunity to vote for, because it comes under statutory expenditure. That is for the persons in the Public Service where we would not have to bring a Resolution to Parliament, so the Government deficit will rise almost by \$48 million with one fell stroke.

These papers in my hand are equivalent to a rise in the deficit by \$48 million. We have to be very careful. When a Minister gets up and talks about this school, that school and the other school, we have on this side to look at the deeper significance of these things without following him down that road.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be struck from the record.
1.00p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I would like to give the Honourable Member the assurance that that is by no means the most heinous crime I could accuse the Government and that there will be other far more serious accusations laid. What I am saying, Sir, is that that Government came down here with Estimates knowing perfectly well that they would have to come back here and blow up the expenditure by \$48 million today.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I state categorically that is not so and I cite the Ministry of Health as a perfect example. If he persists in stating what he just said, Sir, he is challenging your ruling. Don't let him get away with it, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let me say this, Sir, the Honourable Member has been very careful to state when he spoke just now. Listen carefully. You have to understand how the Honourable Member speaks. The purpose of that intervention was not to force me to withdraw. Did you hear what he said? The Ministry of Health. That's the point he was making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That the Ministry of Health does not order its affairs like this.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I cited an example, Sir, the whole thing has to be struck. He cannot...He is enlightening the Chairman as to the nefarious activities of certain methodologies.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I made a ruling that the comment would be struck from the records whether the Honourable Member wanted to withdraw it or not. I am sure he would have wished to withdraw it but if he doesn't wish to withdraw, then it will be struck from the records. No problem. I only have to say that the Honourable Member has only one minute to conclude his time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it would seem to me that there are certain people getting very nervous indeed. Anyhow, let me take a point that the Ministry of Health is not guilty of the same kind of financial misconduct. That's the point that he is making, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. I am not making any such point if the Honourable Member will give way. I am making the point that the Honourable Member cannot give the impression that the Government deliberately misled the Committee of Supply and I am making the further point that he cannot reflect on a vote of this House either in Committee or in the whole House and say that the vote was a result of a dishonest activity. That is what he is saying, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have heard the Honourable Member, so then he should report the public officer to the Public Service Commission who said that the vote was cut by \$20 million. The officer was telling the truth and it is borne out by the facts here and that is why these supplementaries are amounting to 4 and 1.5 and 1.6, and 3.9 and 3.12 and 466.15 million dollars. That shows, Sir, that the officer was telling the truth all along and what I am saying is true, that is why the Minister of Health recognises.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired for this intervention.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central will not challenge my ruling. Your time has expired for this intervention.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, you must allow an individual to finish a sentence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central will take a seat a minute. I said that you had one minute to conclude. I am saying that no amount of shouting and raising of your voice will change my particular attitude to a debate. I think I am trying to be as fair as possible and to give all Members a patient and honest hearing. Do not try to bulldoze. Pursue it for a minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, before this day is finished the Government will be nailed on the particular point I am making and we are not going to be shifted into other areas until that point is clarified, until I get an answer on the floor of this House because so far the only answer that I have got is that the Minister of Health does not do it in the Ministry of Health and he has nothing to do with the others.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, a point of order. I didn't want to respond to the Honourable Member because he continues to reflect on the Estimates of this House within this year, but I do not want to reflect on the Honourable gentleman when he held another post, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member who just sat down is the very last if there are 257,000 people in Barbados, if there are 257,106 people in Barbados he is the very last. The Leader of the Opposition is the last person in Barbados that can raise legitimately any questions about under or over estimating. As Minister of Finance, that particular individual, Sir, not his twin, not somebody who looks like him, that particular individual was known to spend long hours in the preparation of estimates doing

precisely what he is seeking to suggest that this Government did.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A point of elucidation. The Honourable Member is quite correct when he says that as Minister of Finance I spent many long hours in trying to cut Government expenditure to make sure that Government expenditure was well controlled. That's a fact, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He now has me wondering if what I am saying is true, Sir. As soon as he says something is a fact, you have to start wondering if it is true. I am now in some difficulty as to whether I haven't said something inadvertently that I should re-examine, because I trust nothing the Honourable Member says, Sir, but I just got up to put this thing in perspective, Sir.

One of the things which the Honourable Member knows and that is why I find what he is saying so unacceptable... He knows, Sir, that in Head 76, Capital for the Ministry of Education can be found a substantial amount of funds which are recoverable. He knows that this is a substantial part of a World Bank loan and he knows that these funds are recoverable and therefore to suggest... And he also knows, Sir, that in the area of capital expenditure... If this were current, if the Honourable Member had found these numbers in a situation of current account and had made that statement one could say that in the silly season that kind of analysis is perhaps acceptable. But, he is fully aware, Sir, that when it comes to capital vote that the capital vote has never been treated in any government since Independence or indeed, since budgeting became a factor in running this country, the capital estimates have never been treated in exactly the same way as the current estimates and therefore it is entirely possible when preparing capital estimates when we are dealing with the World Bank projects, when we are dealing with those projects where funds have to be theoretically expended in order for them to be recovered that those funds would have been accounted for as inflows. The Honourable Member knows that and therefore to use the numbers in the way in which he is suggesting is at the most...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is really accusing me of misleading the House and I say that one of the major risks that I have always taken in my political career is to state the truth again and again and that when I was Minister of Finance that the Honourable Member as Minister responsible for Tourism handled his Ministry effectively and within the budget allocated to him, both capital and current without ever complaining and he knows that what I am saying is true. How can you come and defend this foolishness? I would never repeat it again. It is the last time I am going to say it, because obviously the Honourable Member has gone off on a different track. I won't say it again.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, one of the things that I have always admired about him, Sir, is his capacity to stick to foolishness no matter what. Yes consistently. 1.10p.m.

But this point, Sir, about the capital. Nothing that the Honourable Member can say will gainsay the facts which are there for the population of Barbados to see in the projects which the Honourable Member, the Minister of Education has just delineated. I would expect that the National Democratic Party, and especially its leader, when we come to discuss education, would spare the population the harassment of his constant gripping about finance which is the newest subject he has become acquainted with. This discovery is causing the population to suffer from a certain kind of gripe. He is constantly feeding the same speech wrapped in a different trousers every week. What we want him to do is to tell us about the education.

The Honourable Member in his opening remarks talked about budgeting and then coming down here for supplementaries. When he was Minister of Finance we had 17 supplementaries in August to December 1986. We had 9 supplementaries for January to March, 1987. We had 7 supplementaries from April to July 1987.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I was not Minister of Finance in August, 1987 because the supplementaries would have been turned down.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In 1986 there were 17 supplementaries - I am giving the Committee information - between August and December 1986. Let the Honourable Member tell us when he was Minister of Finance. The Honourable Member should tell the truth. I was not Minister of Finance. As a matter of fact, I do not think anybody over here was Minister of Finance so it had to be him. The Honourable Member must have been Minister of Finance but maybe he cannot remember.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I understood the Honourable Member had said 1987. If he is saying 1986 he is making a foolish point because I did not construct the Estimates of 1986. The only reason why I would have come with a supplementary would be because one of the Ministers in Government requested a supplementary. As far as I know the Ministry of Finance has never come with a supplementary for operations within the Ministry of Finance.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it gets more curious and more curious. Let us assume that he is only saying now that what he is accusing this Government of doing was done by that Government. He is shifting the blame. The only pure Minister of Finance there has ever been is the Honourable Member, pure, snow-white, crystal clear.

You never came for any supplementaries. The supplementaries that were had between August and December belonged to the Labour Party, the ones afterwards belonged to the Honourable Member for St Michael South and you did not have any supplementaries. Let the record show that the Honourable Member had no supplementaries and that when he was responsible for budgeting it happened like it was supposed to happen. The only thing is that he is the only one who remembers it that way. All the rest of the Honourable Members on this side have a different recollection of the Honourable Member as Minister of Finance.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I understand the point being made for certain purposes but are we not treading on the principles of collective and ministerial responsibility? As far as I was aware, since the Labour Party is being accused of putting the situation for supplementaries, supplementary provision never comes to Cabinet for a Cabinet decision, all in the same pot together. For the records the Barbados Labour Party demitted office on May 28, 1986.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The only person who does not recall that immediately would have been the Honourable Member because when he said that he did not put together the Budget, let there be no doubt that when we came into office in May 1986 that the first thing we did was to sit down and look at the Estimates that had gone down and re-organised the priorities. He said he did not construct the Budget so the late Honourable Member who is dead must have constructed the Budget in July 1986. Who constructed the Budget in 1986? It was not me. Was it you, Sir? It must have been the Clerk at the Table.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I do not like interrupting the Honourable Member but I must when he proceeds to mislead the House. What I said was that the Estimates were passed by this Honourable House in March of 1986 when the Barbados Labour Party formed the Government. Any supplementary expenditure which Parliament was called upon to approve would have arisen out of expenditures in the various Ministries. The Minister of Finance would be called upon to come to Parliament with Resolutions to deal with those matters.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: So where he thinks these supplementaries originated, in Baxter's Road? They originated in the same Ministries, the same identical Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has not changed.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Of course they are foolish points. They are bound to be foolish points but they are real. The

point I am trying to make is that, there is something dishonest. There must be something dishonest if we are going to impute improper motives to the one side for doing what has been done by all Governments from time immemorial. There is nothing dishonest in it. I think it is unfair to try to suggest that there is something dishonourable.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I really believe that the Honourable Member should be asked to withdraw those remarks. First of all, it is a reflection on the Chair to suggest that I impute improper motives. Secondly, my point was not against supplementaries *per se*. My point was against a stream of supplementaries which exceed the original vote. That is a different matter altogether. I am talking about supplementaries far in excess of the original vote.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, in logic, let us show you how that is foolishness. All of us know of the one dollar vote. We come to this House every now and again and we put in a token vote of \$1 or \$100, then we come down subsequently for the supplementary so the point of principle is itself a foolish point.

Furthermore, Sir, nobody has to run and hide if we estimate and we say according to the performance of the economy now we cannot afford to agree to put in more money into the Estimates for this particular Head today. Thiee months later, the economy changes, or the situation changes, and a Ministry can come and make a case to the Cabinet because a Minister of Finance is not a "Lord Guru" that is by himself. Every single supplementary that comes to this Committee goes to the Cabinet of Barbados. All the Ministers participate in determining sometimes to the chagrin of a Minister of Finance but nonetheless it is a collective decision. Therefore, nobody is going to pull away and decide that as Minister of Finance I did this and as Minister of Finance I did that.

The Honourable Member must not drive us every week into discussing how the Cabinet in which he participated functioned. I think it is improper to have to force us to come and remind him of how the Cabinet functioned because one day he will push us to the point where we discuss the entire project and how it functioned. 1.20p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there are some matters which require us to tell the population like it is. We have never pretended that we are geniuses, but what we pretend is that we are good managers and we do what is necessary. The Honourable Member is suggesting that we should have put all of this into the Estimates. Anybody who ever built anything in Barbados, anybody who ever was responsible for constructing anything in Barbados is fully seised of how the matter works.

Take, for example, a couple weeks ago they were saying how dead tourism is, and you can look into every newspaper and see how dead tourism is. If you read the newspaper today now, you see that the people who a few weeks ago were shouting gloom and doom are now saying...

Aside.

-Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member for the City even called for the resignation of the Minister. Now suddenly the hotels are saying we soon will have nowhere to put the people.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In those two minutes, Sir, I can happily say that a couple weeks ago they were saying in the sugar industry "if the Prime Minister does not give us money for the sugar industry the country will fall to its knees." The Lord let the rain fall and the next thing you read in the newspaper was "the sugar crop look like she gwine be good this year."

Mr. Chairman, we have to recognise that in Barbados when you are running an economy it is a question of calibration on an almost day to day basis, and that is what distinguishes the really good ones from the rest, to be able on a day to day basis to know how far to check to the left or the right as you steer the ship on an even keel; not pulling it here and tugging it there and being a slave to some particular thesis as adumbrated by some particular group, it is a matter of practical application.

The fact is, Sir, that we have a job to do and we have been doing it and I would like this debate to return to discussing the excellent job which the Honourable Member for St. George North is doing as Minister of Education.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman... *Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Just before the Honourable Member proceeds, let me make it very clear. Asides will not be recorded and therefore cannot be published in the Press. It does not make sense interrupting the debate in that manner. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has already established that the bringing to the House of supplementaries is not a matter that fell to the discretion of the Minister of Finance, it was a matter that required the collective authority and assent of the Cabinet, and that we are very shocked and surprised that

a situation could have arisen under the Democratic Labour Party that the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Finance alone, could have brought supplementaries to the House on behalf of other Ministries. It says something, that Government went haywire under the Democratic Labour Party if a Minister of Finance, and a Minister of Finance alone, could bring a supplementary to the House on behalf of any other Ministry.

The intervention of the Member for St. Michael West I fear has not helped the Government's case in this particular matter, because there are a number of issues raised by the size of the supplementary which the House ought to reflect on soberly.

Everybody in Barbados wants to see an improvement in the quality of the plant in education. Everybody in this House would subscribe to that principle. Indeed, a lot of the work that the House is now being called upon to vote expenditure for has to do with work that was agreed to as part of a loan arrangement between the Barbados Labour Party administration and international institutions, so the Barbados Labour Party has a vested interest in making sure that a Capital programme which it conceived of is executed. Surely, Sir, the issue in this respect, given the size of this supplementary, is how fast that work is being done and the resources available for its support.

The House should be aware, Sir, that over the last five years, certainly beginning 1982-83, the Ministry of Education has traditionally been spending about \$12 million to \$13 million a year on Capital works. This year the House was asked in March to vote \$50 million for its Capital works, and it is now being asked to vote an additional \$18.7 million, bringing its total vote for the year for Capital works to \$69.2 million; something that bears absolutely no relationship to the recent past record of the Ministry of Education. Therefore, Sir, the question feasibly and practically arises, do the Government and the Ministry have the resources at hand to carry out a programme of this scale without causing problems in other parts of the system? That is the issue that has arisen.

The Minister of Health tried to take the Minister of Education off the hook by saying that the Minister of Finance should be aware that there is World Bank financing for the project, but remember, Sir, this is a \$69.2 million programme that the Ministry is seeking to execute this year, but if the Minister of Health were to check the Estimates, he will see that only \$16 million of World Bank financing has been identified for all of Government's programmes this year, which means that if the Ministry of Education had to look for World Bank financing for the project, it would be short by \$53.2 million. That is the issue.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member will give way, Sir, the Honourable Member is fully aware that the World Bank project is not comprised in a financial year.

He would know, because the project is a continuation from their time, that the project is spread over time, so perhaps he would like to do the aggregate. Go ahead.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Estimates of Expenditure on page 11 states the World Bank financing. The amount of \$16.9 million has been identified for this year. This total programme, inclusive of the supplementary today, is a \$69.2 million programme.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I think the Honourable Member, with this \$69 million, is attempting to mislead the House. The total Capital Expenditure Estimates within the Ministry of Education are not all for the World Bank project.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It seems as though the Honourable Minister of Health has succeeded in confusing his colleague, the Minister of Education. All I am saying, Sir, simply is that this year in March the House voted \$50.5 million to support Capital programmes in the Ministry of Education. We are now being asked to vote \$18.7 million additional, bringing it to a total of \$69.2 million, and the Minister of Health tried to give the impression that there would be no financial problem if only because a substantial proportion of the resources for this project was World Bank financing.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. We are dealing with Head 76. Subheads 2, 9, 15, 26 and 41 are spelt out. I was referring specifically to these and I indicated that many of these particular projects - these... That is what I said.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I thank him, Sir, for drawing my attention to the Addendum, because the St. Thomas Secondary School defeats the very point he is making. That is a project that the Government is attempting to build from cash. It is not a World Bank project, as the Minister of Education would tell him.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, again on a point of order. I did make the point in my presentation that St. Thomas was not part of the World Bank project. As a matter of fact, I used it at the last.

Asides.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Yes, we are agreeing but you are still trying to mislead.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Order!

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, all I am trying to say is that if the Government's argument is that it is fine to

spend the funds because it has World Bank financing for it, that argument does not hold precisely because...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. We are really getting out of hand, Sir. The St. Thomas Secondary School is \$4.3 million.
1.30p.m.

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The total amount is \$18.6 million. Don't let the ordinary people be misled. The St. Thomas Secondary School is \$4.3 million, if you subtract that from \$18.6 million the substantial amount that is left is much more than \$4 million. Don't let us run red herrings through here, Sir.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael West in silence. I didn't try to interrupt him, Sir, because we are in committee. He can react and make a full speech but the point I am trying to make is that what the size of this ^{<*}1 supplementary raises is the capacity of Government to give effect to an enlarged capital program in the context of a situation where as the Government knows, Government revenues have fallen this year as compared to test year and where as Government knows, Government is carrying a relatively large number of projects that it has to finance by cash. The Government is not only financing the St. Thomas Secondary School, Sir, from cash; it is also still financing Sherbourne; it is also financing the Highway 2A from cash. * And, it is as if, Sir, you were to attempt month by month to build a series of houses. The problem the Government is facing is similar to the problem you would face if every year and every month you intended to carry out a large range of capital activities rather than support them by loan. You are acting as though you are surviving by the seat of your pants month to month when you put up funds.

I want also to say that when Government does that, it makes those projects far more expensive at the end of the day because you have to execute those projects as Government finds itself in cash. You therefore spend a large amount of time on the projects and you have to pay for people's time. This is, Sir, part of what this debate is about. Yes, the programme is worthy, we are not quarrelling about the worth of the programme, Sir, but is the Government being guided by the best aspects of financial prudence?

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, if I may... ^-->

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member risen?

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I just would like to inform the Honourable Member that if we reduced the \$18 million by \$4 million which I agreed for * the St. Thomas, that leaves \$14.3 million. Sir, we have not yet drawn down some \$16.2 million but we have to complete the project. So, we have that money coming.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I must confess, Sir, I didn't understand the point the Minister made and I can't even react to it. The point I am making is that, take the St. Thomas School - The Government this year voted \$2.7 million to the St. Thomas School. We are now here being asked to vote again \$4.4 million so that what is implied here is an intention on the part of the Government to spend almost \$7 million on the St. Thomas School this year. As far as I am aware, Sir, the St. Thomas School is barely out of the ground and how much does the school cost? And can the Government, really in truth and fact, end up spending the \$7 million that it is asking this House to vote?

I have also to ask the Government, Sir, if whether given the relative size of the capital programme in Education this year - \$69 million - whether it is not in itself causing some of the confusion regarding the carrying out of work on school projects in Barbados? I remember, Sir, very recently, the Minister of Education was called upon to adjudicate a situation in my constituency where the same contractor was carrying out too much maintenance work, so to speak, and caused a lot of confusion at Boscobelle Boys' School because works that ought to have been carried out in the summer had to be postponed and carried out during normal school hours and the case was put very clearly that the man was running from job to job as part of this massive last minute attempt by Government for remedial works at schools. We want to see these things being done, Sir, but is the Government phasing them in a sensible manner and at the end of the day, does the Government have the resources to support these things? The evidence, Sir,...

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I called him. The contractor curses the men badly; too. He tells me his party is in power and therefore I cannot tell him what to do on a school site. He said that.

The point we are making here, Sir, is that this House has a responsibility to control the public purse and we have a responsibility to ensure that funds are spent in a prudent fashion. The evidence before us suggests that the Ministry of Education is in the process of trying to encapsulate a programme that ought better to have been spent over a four-year period than to have it done within the confines of one year. That is what this thing is all about. For the last four years, the Ministry has been spending no more than \$8 to \$12 million on capital development but suddenly, in 1990-91 it wants to spend \$69.2 million. I think, Sir, we can strip all of the finesse and the sophistry from it. Too little and too late. Bad planning. The planning system of the Ministry of Education would have had to have gone haywire for the Ministry to have to come down and supplement a vote for the St. Thomas School that had a \$2.7 million ceiling...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: \$4.4 million, Sir. Obviously, bad planning would have had to be involved that the Ministry would have started out at the end of the year with the notion that all it wanted to spend on St. Thomas School was \$2.7 million but now has to ask this House to vote a supplementary that is almost twice of what the House voted initially. That is what the Opposition is putting to Government.

We want to support, Sir, a sensible programme of capital development that bears a relationship to what the country can afford and this business about the gravy train coming once every five years, Sir, is foolishness. If the Government is not in a position, Sir, even now to meet some of its bills, we are saying as well that it is going to have a great difficulty meeting some of the expenditures that this House is being called upon to vote, Sir. And therefore, we urge caution in the extent to which Government takes on these last minute responsibilities because if, for no other reason, Sir, than it is going to be left to another administration to pick up the bill that this House is being called upon now to vote.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. John.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to give my support to this particular Resolution. I have listened to the contributions that have been made and I want to start first, not by looking at those contributions but by saying that if my constituents, the people who reside in the constituency of St. John, or all of them except one or two, were to examine the program of the Ministry of Education over the past four years, they would give this Democratic Labour Party Government high marks, because a period had elapsed particularly in my constituency where not one single capital project was undertaken under the Barbados Labour Party in the constituency in St. John. You see, when people talk about last minute planning there was a lot of callousness and viciousness in the manner in which, for example, the Mount Tabor School which was supposed to be built years ago was finally abandoned by the Barbados Labour Party Administration and once again, this administration had to come and ensure that the Mount Tabor School, St. John, was once again placed on the programme of capital expenditure.

Every single primary school in the constituency of St. John, St. John Primary, St. Margaret, Society, all of them have undergone repairs which have brought them basically from conditions of squalour into conditions where people living in rural areas can once again feel comfortable in sending their children to school.

I am very concerned about this, because it is clear, Sir, that the level of education that has been provided in some of the rural constituencies has been suffering. It has been

suffering because of the poor condition of the schools and the products of that suffering and deprivation are the people, who for example, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would see on a witness stand in a rural constituency. 1.40p.m.

We are now trying to reverse a trend of neglect where people from my constituency, St. Philip and other areas would prefer to send their children into the St. Michael areas to get an education because the Barbados Labour Party refused to carry out the necessary repairs in places that the rest of Barbados could not see. Their basic concept of development was visibility - build schools in areas where people were passing and where they could see.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. That argument was advanced in here in the Estimates, I believe, the last Estimates or the one before. I read out, and it is part of the records of this House, the expenditure in the Ministry of Education on maintenance. The Minister has both documents in the Ministry, has seen them, knows them to show that the Labour Party spent as much, if not more annually on maintenance of school buildings than this Government has. They have the facts. No repetition of untruths will change those facts. The Estimates will show if anybody has the opportunity and the time to research them the level of expenditure that was made.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, I listened to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Every time I speak they find it necessary to interrupt me time and time again. He cannot tell this House of one single cent that was spent on any school in the constituency of St. John during that 10-year period. Everybody in Barbados, including the young people that we are educating, will read the history and will understand what his interest in this country is.

The people who read modern historians will have a > view of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West that will be consonant with what he just said to you that they spent money but he cannot tell you that working class people working in St. John whose children were being deprived and rejected for a period of 10 years, who are now enjoying some benefits, are better off under the Democratic Labour Party. I would not expect him to say that.

I am saying to him that he can produce any amount of documents he wishes. He lives next to Society School in St. John. Let us take facts then. It was never repaired under the Barbados Labour Party.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Ask for the document, produce it and read it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. It is to my certain knowledge, Sir, that Society right in the hill there, was repaired during our time. I would be grateful if the Honourable Member when he is continuing his speech would tell us how much of this \$18 million is going to be spent in St. John and on which ones.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not answering any questions from anybody over there. Let me tell you what happened in Society. Society was one of the early schools that had, I believe, taken children at a reasonably young age. What happened was because of the extended school roll, the Barbados Labour Party bought a couple of prefabricated buildings and dropped them in the middle of Society's car park and that was their renovation to Society School, no blackboard, none of the amenities that are necessary. That is the kind of foolishness that the Labour Party gets on with. Renovations are repairs to an existing building, not dropping two prefabricated buildings in the middle of a car park and then telling people that is renovation. What it meant was that more people started to go to the same school.

They put more pressure on the existing facilities which were practically destroyed. The Minister and I went and visited it and saw the condition of the toilets and so on left there by the Barbados Labour Party. Right under the nose of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who lives on the hill above them and he is telling me that the Barbados Labour Party spent money on the Society School. I know the facts. You cannot ask me anything about the constituency of St. John. Dropping two prefabricated buildings in a yard is not repairs. You should know better than that too. Do not get up and follow him in ignorance.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Mount Tabor Primary School which will shortly be opened is part of the capital expenditure under this project. It will be servicing my constituents. The contract price is \$2 315 516.72. Rayside Asphalt Paving Co. Ltd. is the contractor. It is the first major capital work project that has been undertaken in St. John since 1976. The second ground breaking we had for the polyclinic was last Saturday.

The thing that concerns me about the nature of the intervention of the Honourable Member for St. Peter is that it is always some technical foolishness. He does not want to come out and say that black people should not get better schools so he uses some little technicality about how we are spending the money is wrong, that it is really a bit too much although we approve the project...

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is really reflecting...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what does the Honourable Member rise?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is saying that I do not want black people to get better schools. It cannot be true because I have already made the point in this House that the Honourable Member should have had better schooling because he is a poor advertisement for free secondary and tertiary education.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That, obviously, is not a point of order.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not advertise, Mr. Chairman. It is he that advertised at a meeting that he was a lecturer. I do not know on what date he was appointed. I know the meaning of the word "lecturer" at Cave Hill. A lecturer is a substantive post. He said he left lucrative employment to go into politics.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot help but mislead the House. It is his nature. I have never at any meeting said I was a lecturer at Cave Hill. I was a research fellow at the University of the West Indies. I would not have to say I was a lecturer when I was a research fellow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May the Honourable Member proceed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to mislead the House. Page 3 of the "Nation" newspaper...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not quoting. I am not reading at all. I just said page 3. Anybody can read page 3. I am only telling you I am not advertising. The point is I am talking about educational facilities and the development of my constituency. This is what this Resolution is about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member hold on a minute. I do not wish to hear the cross table comments unless an Honourable Member is on his feet. It is interrupting the debate. I do not think it displays the kind of attitude that we as Members of Parliament should display. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Mr. P. J. H. THOMPSON: What has therefore happened in this particular debate is that one can sense some kind of resentment about the fact that the Democratic Labour Party, the Party that ushered in free secondary education in this country, free tertiary education and has given a continuing commitment to the masses of people of

this country regarding education, there is a resentment about that record.

I am not surprised that it would come from the minority Opposition. I am particularly surprised that people who should know better not hear no evil, speak no evil and see no evil, the one who was around for a long time who should know better has adopted a position which is essentially anti the average Barbadian and his interest in pursuing greater aspirations in life.

What the Honourable Member for St. Peter is essentially saying is that the country cannot afford this programme. He says it is a wonderful programme but the country cannot afford it which essentially means that he thinks the programme should either be stopped or that there should be some kind of cut-back. Now the people of Barbados, therefore, have to make the assessment when they engage in their analysis of the commitment of the respective political parties to their development regarding our commitment to their future and our commitment to the young people.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, since those words will enter into the records of the House, I think I had better clarify what I said because the Honourable Member is misleading the House. 1.50p.m.

I have said in this House, Sir, that this Government spent between \$8 million and \$12 million a year for the purposes of last minute electioneering, trying to spend \$69 million on an education programme. That is what I said and what I stand on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not what you said. That is probably what you want to explain now.

Mr. D. L. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, he said it is not prudent management. He said the programme is worthy, but it is not prudent management, and then he went on to say essentially that the country cannot afford such a programme. He said that the Capital Works programme must be based on what the country can afford. If he has forgotten what he said, he must not keep getting up challenging me when I make assertions which are factually correct.

On the other hand, Sir, there are people who walk around Barbados and say that they are going to spend \$100 million on young people. They cannot tell you how the first million would be spent, but they are spending \$100 million. If you take this particular programme in relation to education, if you take the National Youth Service, if you take all of the various initiatives, the sports programme through the Defence Force, you can list any of them, if you take the combined expenditure of all of those initiatives, in one year, not five years, the year 1990, the Democratic

Labour Party all told would have spent on projects that could be identified as being exclusively related to young people in excess of \$100 million. The public of Barbados must be aware that when people tell them they are going to spend \$100 million over five years, it means they will be spending less than this Government and previous Governments have spent on young people over a five year period. People talk about when they cut it up into bits of \$20 million in the first year and \$20 million in the second. Every Government, even under the bad days of the Barbados Labour Party, since the 1970s has spent more than \$20 million on young people in this country, if you look at the programmes to which the money relates.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If the Honourable Member will give way for one minute, please. The \$100 million over a five year period...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member risen?

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

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He has given way. It is a point of elucidation. I have spoken already and the Honourable Member has given way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you need to give an indication of what you are speaking on.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am speaking on the matter of the \$100 million raised by the Honourable Member in his speech, which you permitted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me just make this clear. When an Honourable Member rises, he has to give an indication of what he is speaking about. There is no question about that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am doing it. The \$100 million programme over a five year period, which the NDP is talking about, is in addition to the kind of routine expenditures on health, education and what not. In addition to that...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: So the Honourable Member is making a speech.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ...that is what is spent in the various Ministries.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If you are going to make new rules...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order please?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I am going according to your rules.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My ruling is that no mention was made of the NDP talking about any \$100 million and therefore you cannot elucidate that. You are making a speech, in that you are introducing a new dimension to your speech, so it will not be allowed in the record.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we are treading on very strange ground. Let us move on.

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

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Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point I am making is that all of this expenditure is in addition anyway to the current expenditure of Government. The Sherbourne Centre, the St. Thomas Secondary School, the school in Wotton, Mount Tabor and all of those other projects that this Government is undertaking, it is undertaking in addition to its recurrent expenditure.

What I want really to do is to focus in the minds of Barbadians, although that is not a difficult proposition, because the majority of people understand where the Democratic Labour Party stands in relation to issues of education and understand the commitment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in two minutes.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: There is a general resentment of this expenditure and I am concerned about it, because as a young Barbadian who has benefited from the initiatives undertaken by the Democratic Labour Party since the 1960s, I am concerned to see big, as we would say, hard back men in 1990 adopting positions which essentially smack of resentment that we are giving additional opportunities to young Barbadians, additional opportunities to parents, additional opportunities to people living in the rural sectors. They seem to resent all of that, and they can actually come in here with impunity, and not feel ashamed to go back outside and face people, and tell us we should not spend this money.

Most of these projects will be completed within the next three months, so all Barbadians will be able...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Most of them that I was talking about. If you did not hear what I was talking about, that is your business. I -am talking about the projects that I

itemised, the ones I was talking about in my constituency. The point is that the Democratic Labour Party has demonstrated that commitment, and in the face of this resentment we are not going to back down. In the face of all the resentment that comes from the Opposition parties in this country, we are not going to back down. In the face of the resentment from any sector of Barbados, be it the private sector, be it any sector in this country, we are not going to back down in our commitment to provide the educational resources for young people and for the citizens of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired. Mr. D. J. H.

THOMPSON: No Opposition assault-Mr.

CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ...on this kind of expenditure is going to stop us, and on that basis, Sir, I am going to give my full, unqualified support to this Resolution.

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, 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. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m. this day.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it should revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (RESUMED)

HEAD 76 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL (RESUMED)

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I came to the House after the Honourable Minister had made his opening presentation and to that extent I may be seeking information which has already been given and if I do, I would ask for the indulgence of the House. But, I want to start with the statement which was made by the Honourable Member for St. John during the course of his speech. He said that the criticisms of the Opposition and in particular, the Barbados Labour Party Opposition smacked of resentment. He ignores the fact that the World Bank projects which are

being continued by the Government were all projects conceptualised, formulated and for which finance had been arranged by the BLP. It would be very difficult in those circumstances to see how one could be resentful of a project or set of programmes that you yourself put together and similarly, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Peter speak after I came to the House. Both parties have outstanding records in the field of education and I am not one who likes to compare what we did with what the DLP did. That is childish nonsense. Let us be mature people.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But I have to do it from time to time when lies are told and I will come to that because soon after the Government changed, Hansard records Cameron Tudor in the Senate in a very charitable moment confessing that the education platform or foundation which had been left by the BLP was one on which the DLP could find no fault and the country should be eternally grateful on a national basis rather than on a partisan basis to the foundations for education that have been laid in this country by both parties. But, it is relevant at times - I say, only for the sake of correcting distortions or speaking the truth where lies predominate - to make comparisons about records. The Honourable Member for St. John whose contributions in this House have been a source of national disappointment, who prefers to wallow in the mire of nastiness and untruth rather than rise...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I have no objection to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas describing his own attributes in here from time to time but at this particular debate he must not mix up who he is speaking about and I believe he should withdraw those remarks as being offensive and certainly unparliamentary.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am in your hands, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the Honourable Member to withdraw or recouch.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I withdraw them, Sir.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I wouldn't even accuse the Honourable Member for St. John of being raw, caustic or hostile. He knows the source of that description better than I do, Sir. I cannot amply describe him in here, Sir, because what I would say would be unparliamentary. I prefer to do it out on a platform so that he would have the opportunity if I mash his feet to get some dollars for damages, but he knows he will never get anything from me.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member was at pains to accuse the Barbados Labour Party of running down the education plan in this country and leaving a great burden.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Point of order, Sir. I don't like to interrupt, but on this occasion, Sir, I was speaking particularly of the rural sector when I made that allegation. I even credited the Labour Party with doing things in the urban area. So, the Honourable Member must not go to such an extent that he ends up imputing to his own political Party things I have -not said about them but would like to say if the facts supported.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Within five minutes of his speech, Sir, he said that the Barbados Labour Party record was disgraceful. He did not refer to rural Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have only now started to play my shots. I am now warming up.

I just want to read from a report on Education in Barbados for the period Sept. 1, 1978 - August 31, 1982 prepared by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Barbados. It is a document of this House. It is in the library, Sir. Pages 68 and 69. Just a quick sample. It is headed Building and Maintenance, Primary Schools - Type of Service. Then there is a list of the services that are rendered, minor structural repairs, plumbing, electrical repairs and maintenance, termite control, maintenance of grounds, major repairs and redecorations, resurfacing of roadways, furniture repairs, remedial work to roof and building and you see in 1978-79 fiscal year, 93 primary schools had minor structural repairs, 106 had plumbing repairs, 55 had electrical repairs and maintenance, 54 had termite control treatment, 7 had major repairs and decoration, 7 had roadways resurfaced; 1979-80 a similar number, Sir, and so it goes right through up to 1982. We are trying to find 1982-86, similarly, Sir, with secondary schools. It doesn't stop at primary schools, it goes on to secondary schools. In 1979-80 it shows the cost minus structural repairs in 5 secondary schools - \$96,000, plumbing in 9 schools - \$24,000, electrical repairs -, \$25,000, furniture repairs - \$23,000. Members can have access to it.

I just want to make the point that each year the Ministry of Education under whichever Government will prepare a programme of necessary maintenance and repair to the educational plant under the Ministry. I don't see that we should be making this a political issue. The problem is always whether you have enough money in any one year to do a bit more than you did in the previous year. That is the reality of the situation.

I see here, Sir, the St. Thomas Secondary School mentioned under subhead 41 and I would like to ask the Minister some specifics on this. What is the contract price? Is the estimated date of completion still August 1991? I didn't hear them so, Sir, I won't ask. If the Honourable

Minister has given them I wouldn't bother, Sir. Perhaps you can tell me about Farmers Primary School.
3.15p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I gather that some of that information has already been given today. While we are talking about the Farmer's School, there is a playing field next to the land that was acquired for the Farmer's Primary School whose pavilion is in a terrible state of repair. I know that quotations have gone out. An award has been made. I understand that because it is in St. Thomas it has to take third place behind one in the Prime Minister's constituency and one in Orange Hill. Perhaps, I will get the answer on that at some time. It is not for the Honourable Minister of Education to answer it. It borders on him because of the position of the land. None of those things will help them.

I would wish to hear from the Prime Minister since this is a money Resolution, Sir, whether he can confirm that Government's payable orders as of last week were \$26 million, that is to say, that they had holdings to be paid \$26 million. While he is at it, he could as well answer me and tell me what is the position with the Ways and Means account if it is \$127 million or something less. That information has implications for the capacity of the Ministry of Education to carry out some of these programmes.

Now, Sir, education, perhaps, is the greatest asset that man can have and in the decade of the 1990's and in the 21st Century, I think everybody accepts that education is going to be even more relevant as economies. Certainly, Barbados' economy must change from being labour intensive to skill intensive as we get ourselves in knowledge based industries and so on.

We cannot play around with education. Some persons who profess to be educators find it very difficult to act out that educational background particularly on public platforms. I know, for example, that the Minister of Labour and Community Services was not a beneficiary of free secondary education. However, I resent his going on a political platform purporting to be an educated person and deliberately miseducating the persons who attended the meeting at Haynesville on Sunday night.

I have written a paper for the Bar Association magazine, the Labour Party's Conference document, and have spoken several times about a penal system. The one thing I have made very clear is that the emphasis for punishment of young offenders in the future must be more punishment within the community than custodial - I said it in here and he was nodding. You know that gentleman the Honourable Minister of Labour whose reputation, I must say, for knowledge is not university claimed did, in fact, go into Haynesville and say that my solution to the problems

of youth, violence and restlessness is to build more jails. He did not embellish it any further. He said that and moved on to something else.

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No. I am not taking anything seriously about a nickname. That is a distortion. The Advocate newspaper had said that on that issue of a penal system there should be no divide between the parties. I do not think there is any divide. He goes and deliberately distorts just like a gentleman in the Other Place.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will have to come back because I have to drop some lashes in him.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I want to support this Resolution and I want to make some comments. I must first start by saying that I am surprised to hear the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who having spoken on this Resolution has said nothing at all complimentary about the building of the secondary school in St. Thomas. I would have thought that it would be a great opportunity for him.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Minister of Education incurred the wrath of his colleagues over there for inviting me first of all to be present at the ground-breaking ceremony, to participate therein by actually turning the sod and for making a speech the content of which was so attractive to his Ministry that the Chief Education Officer begged me to let him have a copy of it and they have the information in the Ministry of Education. All that I had to say about the school was complimentary and it will be dealt with next month when the Election is held.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. Thomas for that erudite intervention because we know he is a man of superior intellect. We understand the intervention.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: If you can talk about people's brain capacity we can talk about brain capacity. We have the same name. We know the reputation we have over here for brain capacity. That might be an object of envy. I understand the reason why...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. How could it be a matter of envy? Why would I envy someone who the Leader of the Opposition has characterised as a brainless wonder. How could I envy a brainless person?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That, obviously, is not a point of order.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: As I recall the two of you graduated law school at the same time. Therefore, the degrees are approximately equal so the levels of intellect must be approximately equal.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Let him get off that, Sir. The Honourable Minister of Labour and Community Services and myself did the Bar finals together. I am not aware that he has a LLB. or a LLM.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All right. Let us proceed with Head 76, please.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I understand the ravings and the rantings on the other side. The Democratic Labour Party has always had a philosophy with respect to education. We have always thought that the way for the elevation for the masses of the people in this country has been through education. We know there are proponents right now operating in Barbados who feel that certain educational facilities should be withheld from the poor people of this country.

I have read where the two Opposition parties have been supporting the people in this country who are actively advocating the abolition of tertiary education in this country. That is a fact. I understand your position.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House to say that the Barbados Labour Party and, to the best of my knowledge, the National Democratic Party has ever...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am finding difficulty in hearing the Honourable Member's point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is not true for him to assert that the Opposition parties support anyone who is advocating the reduction in the benefits of tertiary education or secondary education. It is not true. It was dealt with in here during the Budget and made perfectly clear. I do not believe it has surfaced since then. It is a distortion.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order. I do not know where the Honourable Member got his information from. Nobody in the National Democratic Party, like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said, or for that matter in the Barbados Labour Party has ever gone to the lengths that he has gone to. 3.25p.m.

Let me go a little further. It would seem to me to be unreasonable that anybody in present-day Barbados would be making such a demand. If I heard anybody making a statement like that, I am certain that the Honourable

Member for the City as well as myself would be very opposed to such a person. I would be very glad if the Member would just go on and talk about something else and not foolishness.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am stating categorically, I have documents which I will use, that there are people in this country who are advocating the abolition of free secondary education. I have read where Opposition parties are supportive of these people and have come out openly and said they are supportive of these people. Your leaders have come out and said they support the same people who said they would abolish free secondary education.

Mr. R. P. BYER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Do you see where the technique is misleading us, Sir? I am laying the charge of misleading this House on the doorstep of the Member for St. Michael South East. What he is saying is that a group of people have come out and said something, that this same group of persons have published a document as well and he is trying to link the two of them as though to suggest that the very people who published the document have said that they are opposing free tertiary education and therefore we are in cahoots with them, because these two parties have supported them in some other way before. I know of what he is talking, but he is misleading the House.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, what I said was clear. There is a group of people in this country who have a philosophy, an integral part of which encompasses the abolition of free tertiary education in this country. If you do not know what you are supporting, get up and say that you do not know what you are supporting, but you have come out in support of the very people whose philosophy that is.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Sir, on a point of order. There is no way, published or unpublished, that there is any policy of this National Democratic Party to abolish free tertiary education. These documents the Honourable Member keeps speaking about remind me of documents he had about people who were drug barons also.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East will continue.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I can quite understand the knee-jerk reaction of the Opposition parties. They cannot have their cake and eat it too, they cannot serve God and mammon.

Certain remarks made by Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS and Dr. E. A. SIMMONS were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be struck from the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me ask the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East to press on with the debate and do not repeat the statement that he had been repeating. You have another three minutes to conclude.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I practise medicine as a living. I understand psychology and I understand that when people are under extreme pressure they will behave in very bizarre ways.

Aside.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: All that nonsense you talk cannot ruffle me. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed with the matter under discussion, please.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: The point I am making is that the Democratic Labour Party is a party that is given to the philosophy of educating the masses for upward mobility in this country and I want to quote from the Courier magazine, which is the magazine of the African/Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Parliament, the September to October issue, an article in that magazine written by 'Mr. Keith Sandiford who is the Professor of History at the University of Manitoba and this is what he has to say about Barbados. I quote:

"We place more emphasis,"... (he is talking about Barbados, Mr. Chairman)... Mr. Chairman, I have sat here in silence. I have said absolutely nothing when speakers were speaking, now that I stand up, I have lots of interruptions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order? What Honourable Members do not understand is that if we have these kinds of interventions that all they are doing...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot stand when I am addressing the Chamber. I am very disturbed about the quality of behaviour and I cannot continue the debate in this fashion. Honourable Members must understand that it is a dignified Chamber and we should conduct our debates with some sense of dignity. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I was quoting from the Courier magazine an observation made by Professor Sandiford from the University of Manitoba and this is what he had to say in this journal.

"We place more emphasis on education than anyone else. We have been devoting consistently more than 22% of our gross national revenue to the upkeep of our schools, colleges and libraries. This is a miracle. The Americans for example, often spend less than 5% on education. The result is that we have more schools per square miles, more teachers per capital than any other society of which I am personally aware."

And he goes on:

"At the most conservative estimates, at least 5,000 private and public teachers operate in a community of 250,000 people. We have also updated our curricula and have come to pay more attention to such disciplines as agriculture, biology, chemistry, physics and engineering."

I would like to add what the Minister said "computer sciences", but he goes on to say this:

"This magnificent obsession with education has paid off handsomely in the quality of our House of Assembly and our Senate."

But I think if he heard the debate today, he might probably retract some of that. So what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, I cannot understand why Barbadians outside can identify education as the area in which Barbados has placed its greatest emphasis. Our greatest resource in this country is our educated people and we need to understand that. One cannot question the expenditure of money that is placed on education because it is the fulcrum on which Barbados operates, a most important aspect of our human existence and therefore it is very important, but the very people...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: ... who question the input of money into education will not question concessions for the private sector. I think it is important. I know it hurts you, the intelligentsia over there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. James North.

Mr. J. J. PAYNE: I would like to add a few words to the debate on this Resolution. In fact, I would like to start by saying that I support the Resolution because the whole question of education is one which we have to take very serious as an aspect of the development of this country. We were here today and we have had all kinds of statements made in relation to the proposals on education. In fact, I think that one of the Members who spoke earlier was

suggesting that the country could not afford the projects which we are pursuing.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that education has played such an important role in developing the minds of our people that we cannot ever dream of backing off of our policy and plans in this particular direction. When we look at the situation of the schools around the Island and we look at what has been done not only under this administration but in the past one can only say that is a programme which should be continued. I believe therefore that the whole concept of upgrading the capital structure of our schools is one which must be complimented and the Democratic Labour Party in pursuing these programmes. In fact, the Minister of Education deserves some credit for the part he has played in this particular regard.

I must say that there are many schools around the Island, particularly those in the country areas which are to benefit from this programme. There are some areas that have already benefited. I know there are plans to build one of the schools in St. James. I believe that we have to look at these projects from the point of view of their total contribution to the whole educational system in Barbados as they benefit not only the students who attend these schools. We have had complaints from many teachers and parents about the condition of the schools around the Island. Only recently, I had a complaint from a parent who maintains that the lighting at some of these older schools is so poor that it has placed a strain on the eyes of students. Many students at these primary schools which are in a bad state of repair have to wear glasses. I believe that this is a matter which the Ministry of Education is looking at very seriously.

We find a situation where so many students are suffering disadvantage because of the poor conditions at these schools, whether it is the lighting, whether it is the dust, whether it is the condition of the furniture, whether it is the actual structure of the building itself. Many of these buildings are in such close proximity to the highway that when vehicles pass it is very difficult to hear what the teachers are saying. Very good examples exist all over the Island. And, the proposal by the Ministry to pursue its programme is one that must be complimented.

The fact that the project of the program is costing the Government a lot of money should not be taken into account as the only factor as to why we should slow down. I believe that the money spent in this particular regard is going to be money well spent. We will not see the full advantage of these projects in the short term but I believe perhaps in another 10 - 20 - 50 years, those who come after us will be able to benefit. Many of these old schools have served this country for the past 150 years and most of them have already outlived their usefulness and the idea of building new schools and upgrading the capital structure of the schools is one which I would like to support and I

would like briefly to compliment the Ministry of Education for the programme in that regard. That is my contribution.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I hadn't finished just now. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East quoted from the Courier. I have no quarrel with that part of the speech as to what his party had done in education. I am aware that the philosophy of his party has been formulated in relation to educational development. I am against him for distorting the truth. 3.45 p.m.

Sir, he said that education is so central to the development of the human resources of Barbados that we should not question the expenditure on education. Now, I think that is too simplistic altogether an approach and an attitude to adopt as a parliamentarian. One of our functions in here, on either side, is to scrutinise public expenditure. I know the Honourable Member is American trained but he must know that is a basic function of a Member of Parliament. It is not every piece of expenditure that is brought into the House that you can just let go unchallenged or, indeed, because it is for education you ought not to look and determine whether in your own judgement or that of your party the expenditure is well justified. Surely we must have more critical powers than merely to assent to and rubber stamp matters that are brought to the House otherwise there is no point in having us.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East does not appreciate that the Sherbourne Project is under the Ministry of Education and Culture. It is part of its capital programme. Notwithstanding what the Government says about Sherbourne, the public at large is against the Sherbourne Project. They see it as a waste of money because the announced plans for Sherbourne do not meet with public accord because you are going to build an examination centre to seat 1 000 persons just to write examinations at different times in the year. There was confusion in here between the Minister and the Prime Minister whether it would be used for tourism related > activities or not.

We had the information given last week to show that the project is galloping away. It is at \$43 600 000 as was given in answer to a question I filed in here. No doubt it will burst that \$43 600 000. Right now it is said that the contractors on the Sherbourne Project are preparing to give Government a letter asking that they be paid otherwise they are shutting down the project. Those are things we as Members of Parliament are entitled to debate in here.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of order. If the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is aware or has information, it would be appreciated if he would share it with the House. I am not aware of any such letter. I go on to say I do not think it is necessary every time we are here on a debate to repeat the three functions of the Sherbourne

Centre. The Honourable Member is smiling. There is no point repeating this every time.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Minister of Education is such an affable and congenial person I would not continue to flog him anymore. I shall certainly tell him what has been brought to my attention about the problems at Sherbourne.

I was using that as an example to say to Honourable Members that because we all accept the pivotal role that education must play in the development of the human personality that ideal is not in itself sufficient justification for us to relegate our critical powers and just let anything that comes in here on education pass without comment. That was the implication and the purport of what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East was saying at one point of his speech.

In relation to the St. Thomas Secondary School, it seems that they want me to write certain things into the record. I hate repeating myself. I will deal with one aspect of my view about the proper use of the St. Thomas School. I have said before that I never spoke against the plan to build a school in St. Thomas. I feel that schools built in rural parishes, if as I understand and was assured by that Minister of Education and I believe a lot of what he says as distinct from others, he assured us on the day of the groundbreaking that there would be a large auditorium, hard courts, floodlit playing fields and so on. On the basis of that I made a plea for the greater use of the school for community purposes.

I think Government's money would be put to better use if the facilities of the school could be kept open to the general public up until 10.30 p.m. or 11.00 p.m. at nights. You cannot just build these massive structures and close them down at 3.00 p.m. or 4.00 p.m. in a rural district like St. Thomas where we have few indoor recreational structures apart from the community centre at Rock Hall which is about to fall into disrepair.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address your remarks to the Chair.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. I will speak to you. We have little pavilions for various parts of St. Thomas, Bagatelle, Content and Holy Innocents. We do not have any indoor facility at Bridgefield. We have a lovely ground but no pavilion. It is difficult for the parishioners to get from certain parts of St. Thomas to the Community Centre at Rock Hall because there is no across parish bus service. Since the existing playing facilities do not lend themselves to the proper development of cultural and artistic talents, I would have thought that a new structure such as the St. Thomas Secondary School could fill a gap in being a centre

for the development of the cultural and artistic talents of the people who reside in St. Thomas.

I said that in my speech on the ground-breaking. I think the Minister saw some...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I spoke at the ground-breaking for the information of the Honourable Prime Minister. I know he was very upset about it. He was very upset that I was invited, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. I think the Honourable Member is misleading the House, Sir. He said it before and we let it pass. It is the policy of this Government, and it has been the policy of this Government that wherever facilities are being open that we invite the parliamentary representative of the area. The Honourable Member for St. Peter can tell you that is our style.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I only had the one invitation to the school.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has indicated that I was annoyed about his invitation to be present at some ground-breaking ceremony and annoyed that he was speaking. That is entirely untrue. What I was really astonished about was, not that he got an invitation but that he attended. I would not like it to be on the record that I was annoyed about that. I would be really glad if he would withdraw that, Sir. 3.55 p.m.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will withdraw any imputation against the Honourable Prime Minister of an unfavourable nature. He knows that when I am available and he invites me to the Court, I go, Sir.

I want to wind up on tertiary institutions and tertiary education, because I think those who have had the benefit of tertiary education, even those who are employed at tertiary institutions, ought to be spokesmen of the truth, because the temptation for young people, or pupils, to believe and in some cases deify their elders who teach at tertiary institutions is indeed a very strong temptation.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, it is not correct, it is highly inaccurate, it is indeed...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I know you are a little bit disturbed.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, Sir, I am not disturbed by anything, I just want not to say he is a liar, so I am saying that he was very economical with the truth when he said that it was the Barbados Labour Party's intention to barricade off certain hotel areas so that only certain people could have access to them. That is not true, Sir. Who said that? The Lone Ranger or Tonto? They had the Lone Ranger and Tonto down there Sunday night riding side saddle, Sir. The Minister of Transport and Works and the Prime Minister. I was very upset. Sir, I must confess that I was very upset about the meeting. Having been away from the public for six months, a Government in power, a month away from an election, could only muster 450 people, 183 of whom were BLPs. I am upset for my country.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. In terms of numbers, if I may quote VOB, VOB named a large number of people, but in terms of election predictions, Sir, this document I hold in my hand, which I can make a document of the House after it has been properly dealt with, is proof positive that he does not know, has not known and cannot know when the date of the election is. This, as Your Honour knows, is proof of his inability in these matters and I wish he would stop misleading the House further.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will confess to having misled the House about the election date being 6th December. I concede that. They have me on that. It cost me \$100 and we will drink some of it this evening. I have paid him the bet, Sir.

But, Sir, I think as persons in responsible positions, when we speak on platforms we can be as vehement as we like, we have to be. We have to touch the other fellow a little bit, but you cannot deliberately distort.... I find it offensive - I have said it several times on platforms, Sir - in 1990 for black people who are in control of a Government and who are in Parliament to get on political platforms and seek to mislead other people who perhaps do not know the facts, or who perhaps cannot rationalise, by telling them a lot of half truths. We had that from the white people and we broke the backs of them in 1937. We cannot do it to ourselves, Sir. I do not mind you attacking my policies, stripping them up. That is fine, let us debate vigorously at the level of policy, make a little joke about each other, but do not say that we intend to enslave black people. What foolishness! Do you believe that any of the three parties in Barbados really and sincerely would espouse that kind of philosophy?

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was saying that some people, like the gentleman who spoke, operate according to the phases of the moon and the phases of the moon inform the sanity of their minds.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me say that the debate, as Honourable Members know, will conclude in a short while. If the Honourable Minister has to be allowed any time for response, then we will have to tailor the debate accordingly.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I will make it short, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that what we are debating today needs to encourage any quarrel. In listening to the Honourable Minister in his opening remarks I do not recall hearing any mention of the completion time of the St. Mary's Primary School. The only reason I am mentioning that is to say a few things about that area in general. As the Honourable Minister knows, there has been a lot of confusion surrounding the start of that school to begin with, and in terms of its relationship to the area in general with regard to what area the school will take up, including its recreational facilities and so on, and so one needs to be a little clearer on it. 4.05 p.m.

Almost on a weekly basis, people in the area are asking what is really happening with the schools. As the Honourable Member is probably aware, there is a very large area in the back of the school pretty close to where the new building is going which is known commonly as the Murphy pasture and there is a hard court there which is used by the young people of the area. You know, Sir, one of the things that people tend to think whenever they hear of the city is of the negative things that the young people in the city may appear to be involved in. I say appear because in a lot of cases a lot of the blame that they carry should be really resting on the shoulders of young people who come from other constituencies and who hang out in the city and are involved in some of these lawless and illegal activities so that in that Murphy pasture area you will find on the hard courts there are several young people from the area who play basketball. As a matter of fact, there is a pretty good basketball team from the Reed Street area - the Cats Castle area, who use that court and they themselves are concerned as to what is going to happen once the school is completed and that area is supposed to be taken in by the school.

We would want to know whether on the one hand as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was making the point before, when you look at some of the school buildings you may have to look at them in terms of how the community surrounding the school can use the facilities

after hours. So, one would want to know if the hard courts are going to be included in the school grounds and the pasture *itself* and if that is so whether the community will be allowed to use those facilities as happens at the Westbury School, for instance.

Another thing that I would like to ask the Honourable Minister Sir, is what plans does the Government have for » the existing St. Mary's Infant School because as I am sure we are all aware, once the new facility is completed that will include the present primary school and the infant school in that one facility and one would want to know what will happen with the existing infant school building which is near the corner of Mason Hall Street and near the St. Mary's church wall. I suspect, that if that building is structurally sound one could look at it for use as a centre for the teaching of certain particular skills. I am not too clear, as are many people, as to what really is happening with the National Training Board. We are not too clear on what ** really goes on at a lot of the skills training centres. I know that in the City of Bridgetown not a lot is done in terms of educating the young people, in skills and I myself have made some effort by assisting a lady who teaches the art of dressmaking at my centre.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Let me explain it Sir, as there ,«, seems to be a little confusion. I provided a centre which I have on Westbury Road - the Bridgetown Development Council uses it - and the lady is now teaching several young people how to do dress making. And I am saying that there are a number of those types of skills where people can easily get into making a dollar quickly for themselves, which we may want to look at.

I am wondering if there is some possibility of the old infants' school building being used as a skills training, but not necessarily skills that we have to get involved in a •*» whole lot of expenditure and equipment. I am talking about the kinds of skills that are easily taught, like making icecream, if you want, but that is a very technical area.

Sir, as the Honourable Prime Minister would know, with the scarcity of land in the City I wouldn't want to encourage him into teaching people how to breed black belly sheep, either. That, we may leave in St. James. So that is something that I think we may need to look at, the use of _^ that building because all too often once we move on from -• one building it sits there and starts to rot and, as I said, if the engineers decide that it is structurally sound, maybe we should look at doing something positive with it.

There is another very serious issue in the city which I feel I must raise. It is well known that we are fortunate in that constituency to have three of the best primary schools in Barbados, namely, Wesley Hall, St. Mary's and Westbury and there is always a problem, some difficulty,

some complaint from people living in the constituency to get their children placed in those schools and often they have to send them as far away as Westbury and what we find is that because of the quality of those schools people from as far away as St. Philip have their children placed in those schools. This is something that I have heard debated here, Sir, and elsewhere for a long time and I think it has come for us to start addressing it seriously and to determine whether or not - I don't know exactly how the zoning will be done - those persons living in the area should not get some preference because of the logistics of moving their children all around. This is something I have been asked to raise and I have done just that.

The last point, Sir, because I have agreed to cooperate with you and try to be as brief... so I wouldn't spend too much time on this one, but I want to make it clear for the records because I was very disturbed and I am always very disturbed especially when I hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central make these kinds of statements because they are two gentlemen for whom I had the highest regard for a long time. I question myself about that these days. I thought that by listening to them all through 1986 and before that they were really serious about setting positive examples for young black people. I have to question that these days, because when they make statements, when they take little bits and pieces and try to put them together to paint a picture that is basically dishonest then I have to question my judgment in terms as to what I thought they were. At no time, did the National Democratic Party, its spokesmen, its leader or anybody pretending to represent it ever said, or ever indicated that we were against free tertiary education in Barbados. It is literally dishonest to even try to give the impression that it was ever that way. We have been very clear, Sir, on what our position is as far as education is concerned. We have been very clear on any of the policies we have enunciated so far and what the NDP as a government would do in terms of education. If the Honourable Members want to know what the position of the NDP will be as far as education is concerned in the not too distant future I will make sure they get copies of our manifesto. Yes, Sir, this Party believes in manifestoes. Yes, we believe that they are a social contract with the people.

Asides.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: If the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister believes that what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East says is that sort of thing, I would tend to agree with you. You cannot be talking about what I am saying because I know you don't believe in manifestoes. You made that very clear in here. So we have no problem with that. Wherever I go, I advise people that any time anybody from the DLP brings a manifesto to them, throw it away. It is not worth the paper it is written on.

The last point, if we are going to get in here and try to tell each other about setting examples for people and about setting examples for young black people and about trying to correct the malaise among the young and the restless and the lawless.

Certain remarks made by the Mr. P. J. M. MILLER were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I withdraw it, Sir. He tries to denigrate people and he makes a lot of snide remarks. I believe, Sir, that if we are going to come in here and we are going to try to give people the impression that we are really serious and we really want to show the poor young black people in this country some leadership, then we have to behave that way. I support fully what the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said with regard to the things we say on political platforms because, Sir, when you look at it broadly all of this has to do with educating the people of this country. I thank you Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education. 4.15p.m.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, the debate ranged far and wide. However, there were not too many points that I deemed actually necessary for response. Other than for a few Members who were not present, I will make a few points as I have made the points before, if necessary.

I will start with the Honourable Member for the City first, just to respond to his query. Again, he was not here. As I said earlier, the completion date for the St. Mary's School is February 28, 1991. The cost is still \$2 859 749.52. The projected cost has not changed. The community will have access to the school, the point you raised. I would like to inform you that the building currently used by the Ministry of Education as a school is the property of the Church. Under the standard procedure it will have to be given back to the Church.

Your other point raised was in the general area, *vis-avis* Westbury and Wesley Hall. Yes, we are aware of the problems. From time to time one has spoken in here about the complaints that you received about pupils from the country areas coming into the City. If you would recall the debate here - I do not want to reflect on the debate - when we were discussing this, one of the reasons was because we have the children coming from the St. Philip area specifically down that route. However, the headteachers have been informed that the priority should and must be given to students within the catchment area. We have not established a hard and fast percentage. At this stage we are leaving it up to the judgement of the headteacher. I think those were all the questions you asked.

The Leader of the Opposition really did not raise anything that I should answer. Nothing was said. He was trying to give the impression that we come in here with Estimates, we come to supplement Estimates and this is the first time that we are supplementing Estimates because he feels he has to say so in November 1990. If he feels so, please proceed.

I think I responded to the Honourable Member for St. Peter in terms of the debate but just to state that we will be completing these buildings within the next 90 days. We will then draw down the \$16.2 million which you know about. I am not going to get into any debate as to whether you were lecturing or what have you. You would know from some of your experiences the manner in which things are done.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: He changes his figures too? Well, he is only human.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas, I know that this was given before but you were not here early. Just to repeat for you there is no problem. The cost of that school - it must be given in relationship to that and others that are within the project - is \$50 319 520.26. This is a fixed contract price, as you know.

Now, one may ask about Queen's College, because I have heard this raised some time which was only \$11 058 000 but Government owned the land. The same thing goes for the Wotton which is now the Deighton Griffith - \$777 984.28. This is the fixed price on contract.

The Honourable Member for St. James North who is not now in his seat raised the question about Highway 2A and the dust. Yes, we are aware and we are looking at it. As I discussed earlier, we discussed St. Boniface and Hillaby which are within Package 3. Once we get going on that package soon we will be able to solve that problem.

As far as further down where I know he was, without calling the name, I know he was referring to the All Saint's School which is shared with the Honourable Member for St. Peter, who constantly is begging for a wooden building. We are giving consideration under the 3rd project for schools such as the All Saint's Boys' and Girls', St. Matthew's, Holy Trinity and Buelah, St. Bartholomew's Boys' and Girls', St. Alban's Infants and Junior, St. Clement's Infants and Junior, St. Paul's, St. Jude's and Society, St. John. I just want to reiterate that all the projects which fall under the supplementary are either completed or due for completion within the next 90 days except the St. Thomas School. If anything we may say that they are late.

Aside.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West has an invitation to join me at the Opening. He will be afforded the same pleasure that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the Honourable Member for St. Peter got. I am not going to discriminate. You call him your leader so he should have been first.

Mr. Chairman, all I can say now is that we hope to ->. complete this one, we will then complete package 3. Then we will move when next we are dealing with Project No 3. We will look forward to a successful project.

I have already moved that this Resolution stand part.

The question that Head 76 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

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HEAD 24-PENSIONS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 24 stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD « seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 4.25 p.m.*

On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to. «,

ORDER NO. 4 - THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend, as is stated, the Barbados Community College Act, Cap. 38.

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Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I wish to make it clear that the copy of this Bill

was served only yesterday afternoon around 3 o'clock, as was the copy of the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Bill and the Resolution which we had today. This part of the Opposition is not going to delay the Government in regard to the Barbados Community College Bill, because it is short and the purport is fairly clear, but in relation to the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Bill we want to make it known now that we will not be in a position to accommodate the Government on this Bill. It may lapse, and I am sorry about that, but so will other things.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, we are sorry to hear that they only received it yesterday. We take their point that the Community College Bill does not present any difficulty, the Magistrates Bill will require some examination, since it is substantive policy, and we will accommodate that. We have time. Mr. Speaker, you might not be aware, Sir, but we have time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George South wanted to raise a question.

Mr. R. P. BYER: The Member for St. Michael West has given me the assurance which I sought.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister then proceed.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, Sir, although it is an amendment, it is really an expansion of the capabilities, capacities and all the goodies that go together with the work being done at the Community College.

What we are really seeking to do, basically, is to add two sections, 3A and 3B. I do not need to read all the details for Honourable Members, just to summarise in terms of where in accordance with the rules of the Board permission is given to grant certificates, diplomas, associate degrees and any other awards to persons who successfully completed courses by approved study at the Community College, and also to give the Board the opportunity and the authority to confer honorary degrees and any other awards upon persons who have rendered distinguished public service in Barbados or elsewhere. In 3B, the College, under the direction of the Minister and in accordance with the rules of the Board, may enter into an association with other universities for the specific benefit of the Community College and its students.

With this I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I just wish to briefly speak in support of this particular Bill, which I have looked at and

which will give the Barbados Community College even more scope to carry out its mandate than it had previously.

I am not a person who can speak with any significant authority on the Barbados Community College. The Honourable Member for St. George South and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South have both had very distinguished careers as lecturers at that institution, but I think a debate like this should not pass without us taking note - I do not think as many Barbadians as should have taken note have done so - that the Barbados Community College has emerged on the threshold of 21st century as an institution that is practically taking over in terms of scholarships the existing institutions that have sixth forms. This is a very significant and impactful event that should not be glossed over.

When the Barbados Community College was sought to be established in 1968, at that time the Opposition was not as enlightened as perhaps it is now and three persons in the Barbados Labour Party Opposition then criticised the establishment of the Barbados Community College as not being a priority. They also stated unequivocally that by establishing the Community College, what in fact was happening was that the Government, the then Minister of Education, was abolishing the sixth form schools, that the teachers who were teaching in the existing sixth forms would have been taken away from those sixth forms and the quality of education would be considerably eroded; that in addition to that there were so few people in Barbados doing 'A' levels, that by establishing the Community College what we were doing was watering down the entire system of sixth form education.

The Democratic Labour Party went through a very difficult period and a very sharp debate, characterised by some pretty offensive positions taken at that time to have the Barbados Community College established in this country.

The Labour Party has taken a long time to understand when vision is vision and action is action. The Barbados Community College has developed and grown from an institution which at the time when it was established catered only, as a former Prime Minister - he was just a simple Member of the Opposition then - Mr. St. John, indicated, was only providing for academic subjects, into a Community College that provides a broad range of educational pursuit. What is so significant about this is that all of us talk in here about development. Those who are economists, those who say they have all kinds of visions of young black entrepreneurs in industry, those who talk of economic enfranchisement for young black youth, and they have failed to recognise that the institution that is going to provide those young people who are going to put their shoulders to the wheel, who are going to have that ability in

technology and who are going to lead Barbados into the 21st century is the Barbados Community College. 4.35 p.m.

A group of young people recently got together and mounted a public meeting in Barbados and I was proud to hear them say - I am just talking about the background to them - that one of them, Sir, who had attended the Garrison Secondary, which was not a 6th form school at that time, had left the Garrison Secondary School and gone to Barbados Community College, had left ^ Barbados Community College and gone to university and is now on his second degree. Now, when he sat the 11+ exam this country, had determined that he was essentially a failure in the sense not that - let me moderate the language - this country had ordered his priorities in life at the age of eleven and had said, "Look, you are fit for the Garrison" and if the educational system remained as it was in 1968 he could not today be the beneficiary of tertiary education in this country or would have had the opportunity to sit the A levels.

I want you when you are talking about vision and action to read that debate because it was an eye-opener. I read it and I just asked for the references again. To think that in 1968 a man who went on by a fluke to become Prime Minister of this country said: page 1835. The 1968-71 session, 16th July 1968 and he spoke at length:

"It is positively clear that it is the Government's policy that sixth forms in the existing school will be abolished."

We hear a lot of talk about lies today. Four of the same schools have sixth forms in 1990 and are also producing Barbados scholars in 1990. You talk about distorting the truth?

"We feel that this college is not a priority." I am talking about today. I am not interested in the intricacies of the exercise.

"We feel (this is the Barbados Labour Party speaking in 1968 under a Leader whom they say the people want back). We feel that this College is not a priority in the sense of which the Government feels it is a priority."

This is 1990. The Barbados Community College produced nearly more scholarships and exhibitions in this year of children who would not have had an opportunity to go into a sixth form who are now Barbados Scholars, who are now persons who have received A levels and who have gone on to the U.W. I. in this country. You talk about vision? The Democratic Labour Party has every answer when it comes to the issue of education in this country and I would like to hear Honourable Members on that side who like me represent rural constituencies where one in ten children might have the opportunity of going to a sixth form

school and the other 9 at Princess Margaret and Grantley Adams Memorial. The majority of the young children of my constituency go to Princess Margaret and Grantley Adams Memorial. Because of the existence of the Community College they have not been destroyed for life nor abandoned to a life of poverty or working for somebody else. They can go to the Community College. They can be taught Law by the Honourable Member for -St. George South. Anyway, the point is that those children are no longer marginalised because of the Democratic Labour Party, that the parents of those children can see them going to the Barbados Community College and that the Community College fills that void that was created or existed prior to 1968. In fact, if ever there was proof. Well, you could either look at it one way. You could even take the point of view that the Barbados Community College had demonstrated once and for all the fact that the 11 plus exam is not the solution or you can take the other angle to it and say that even if we have the 11 plus exam that there are creative ways of capturing the energy of young people at different stages of their development and helping them to go further in life. Because notwithstanding the difficulty that the 11 plus exam creates in this country a young person who can get 5 or 6 O levels can still go on to do A levels can win a Barbados Scholarship or can do enough part-time to get some A levels and go on to university and to further their education in this country. And this thing was bitterly opposed. I do not think I would ever witness a debate like this. You read it? Listen to page 1840. This is a former Prime Minister. He went on to become Prime Minister.

"What kind of material you are going to get if you are having these sixth forms still in existence with your statistics showing that you can only get a maximum of, I would be generous, 175. What are you going to be left with?"

How many students are presently doing A levels in this country or going through a process of education leading to A levels? When I was at Combermere there were 100 alone. This is vision. You understand what I am trying to say? That is a class position. I was fortunate enough to get into a sixth form school and I was also fortunate enough later in life to have the benefit of representing people and learning and seeing for myself how the educational system through innovations like the Barbados Community College has provided more opportunities for Barbadians from all walks of life in this country. It is a credit to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. Whatever battles he fought ... You say, internally. Wherever. The point is it was implemented and he stuck to his guns on the Barbados Community College and today it has been further expanded offering education to persons of all levels of achievement in this country.

The other point I want to make relates to the offer that presently exists of \$10,000 to the student who gets 2 "A"s at A level in modern subjects - English, History,

Geography, Languages and so on. Now I understand that the Barbados Labour Party perceived that there would be deficiency of interest by persons in pursuing the arts at A level and instead of examining how best to solve this problem the then Prime Minister came up with a solution that he would offer whichever student got these 2 "A"s at A level \$10,000 in addition to the Barbados scholarship they would receive. That whole idea, as far as I am concerned, should be abandoned to the dust bin, because during the time since it was implemented, for example, since the DLP was in office, only three persons have benefited from that. I do not know that there has been any increase. 4.45 p.m.

Since May 28, 1986 there have only been three recipients. There has never been more than one in any given year to the best of my recollection. It was introduced when I won a Barbados Exhibition at Combermere. The same education officials were at variance with the position of the Prime Minister then. It was that very year they determined that the course options, English, History and Geography were to be dropped. Then Geography ended up clashing with English so you could not pursue that option. That was the very year at Combermere School when the best results came from the persons who were doing that option, English, History and Geography. That is the strange thing about it. The following year I believe they shifted it around so you could not pursue the three because they said the course load was too heavy.

The point is that this particular measure which was introduced in a budget does not make sense. This does not encourage more young people to pursue the Arts at "A" level. It certainly has not achieved any results because it seems as though we have to look beyond the question of giving the award at the end. We have to encourage people from an earlier stage to be interested in pursuing what they call the "Arts" up to "A" level rather than offer an unnecessary inducement.

Why should a student who has chosen the Arts be singled out to receive \$10 000 when he has achieved something when a student who is pursuing the Sciences or any other varied combination is not being given such an inducement. It does not make sense. It is the kind of play things that politicians come up with, little ideas that they eventually have to abandon because they do not produce the results that are desirable.

The aim is not only to look at the ones who are excelling. The aim is to get more people involved in pursuing the Arts at "A" level. You do not do that by singling out those who achieve in the Arts only. You have to do that by encouraging other young people who would not normally be interested to become interested in the Arts.

It is true to say that "A" levels in the Arts are lagging and that is one of the areas that the Ministry of Education should look at carefully and abandon this idea of a one shot inducement. The Minister says it is a question of cost but people simply are not reading for pleasure the same way. They are not reacting in the same way to the passion of the Arts - History, Geography, Languages and so on in the way they used to years ago. Those are viewed as esoteric pursuits. I still believe that there is a case for the Ministry of Education to make a special effort to encourage more people to pursue the Arts at "A" level.

I have absolutely no hesitation, Mr. Speaker, in supporting this particular initiative. I know I speak on behalf of those many constituents of mine, parents of children who, were it not for the 11+ Examination would have been abandoned at an early stage in life, but who because of the Barbados Community College and other similar agencies have an opportunity to go on to greater heights. It is not a small number. There are a large number of young people who have benefitted in this way, who I know are grateful for the vision and wisdom of the Democratic Labour Party, who if they read the speeches in 1968 would recognise what the Labour Party was denying from them. It is only now to be covered over in a shroud when it comes to questions of educational policy in Barbados. I give my support to this Bill, Sir.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House has just been treated to what one can only call a lesson in the instant rewriting of history. In the 1960's I, rather imagine, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. John was still then a stranger at the gate. Perhaps, he was in London, Sir, had not yet applied for Barbadian citizenship because there was no pending bye-election in St. John.

This evening he has come to pontificate in this House about matters in 1968 about which he knows absolutely nothing and of which I suspect he is going to embarrass his own leader. I was in Barbados then, Sir. I was at school as well, had just been taught - I am not calling his name in a derogatory sense - by a Mr. Erskine Sandiford in Lower Six. He taught me English as well. There was a very fierce debate in Barbados because the then Minister of Education, Mr. Sandiford, had a policy that as far as he was concerned all of the sixth forms should have been removed and that the Community College itself should have been the repository of all sixth form students in the country.

His own party, and the leadership of his own party, and in particular a Mr. Cameron Tudor and a Mr. Errol Barrow opposed, and I remember very vividly a speech day at Harrison College - I was going to school at Harrison College then. Mr. Cameron Tudor came to Harrison College and wiped up the floor with Mr. Erskine Sandiford on the question of whether we should abolish sixth forms in this country or not. That happened in Barbados.

I gave the present Prime Minister credit for his vision then that he wanted to have the Community College as the repository of all the sixth forms students in Barbados but he received the fierce opposition from persons like Cameron Tudor and Errol Barrow. If it was a class position, they were very frontally and directly involved. They were the leaders of the class position that stopped that person from exercising his vision and his action in 1968.

It is very unfortunate that he should now come to rewrite history to make it appear as if the only person in 1968 who had misgivings about the furtherance of the role of the Community College was the former Prime Minister, Mr. Bernard St. John. I am sorry that the records of this House now have to be sullied by that unfortunate reference by the Honourable Member for St. John who will not do his research.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. I read from the record and my remarks regarding the class position represented the words that were written here. I never read any speeches by anybody else except the persons who spoke in the debate. The persons whom he alleges had some other position did not speak in that debate. There were about four speakers. History has repeated itself because the then Honourable Member for St. Peter talked as much foolishness as he is now talking.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot take that latter end as a point of order. The first part is quite all right.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by that standard he shall very soon become a member for St. Peter but that is not the point. The point is that the Democratic Labour Party knows that even within the Democratic Labour Party when the concept of the Community College was first developed there was a division of opinion. It was not on the basis of any class position as such. It is therefore very unfortunate that the Honourable Member should now categorise and reflect on a former Honourable Member of this House as a class position in the context of a situation when the country as a whole and members of his party, and leading members of his party, had a position that was different from that of the then Minister of Education. We have come to expect that kind of childishness and foolishness from the Honourable Member for St. John. He does not do his research, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to remind Honourable Members to choose their words more carefully. I do not accept foolishness in here.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the word "foolishness".

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not withdraw it but I just ask to make sure that the language is conducive with what you are saying.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I think what the House should have heard from the Honourable Member for St. John is what we should be hearing in all of these debates that the political parties in Barbados have been resolutely committed to the development of education in this country as one of the chief ways by which we can carry forward Barbados.

It is a matter of historical fact that the Barbados Labour Party found the Community College in existence. When we left office in 1986 the Community College was providing a wider range of services in its curriculum than when we inherited it. It is to the credit of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West that legal studies was added to the curriculum of the Community College under his administration as Attorney General of this country. What we have had systematically throughout time is a process by which the curriculum and the role of the Community College has been expanded by both parties that *• held power in this country to reflect the needs of a changing society.

The same thing can be said of the polytechnic as indeed of most of the secondary schools in Barbados. 4.55 p.m.

I say, Sir, it is cheap, foolish politics for the Honourable Member, for St. John, in the face of the **• historical record, to come and mislead the House in a matter as serious as this. We heard today of resentment to Government's spending on education. I have been associated with the University of the West Indies from 1971. The Barbados Labour Party opposed to education, Sir? Foolishness! It is nonsense, but it is part and parcel of a very sad political syndrome that is now evolving whereby to castigate certain people you have to deny the truth; that we have been opposed to education, Sir, because the Democratic Labour Party needs to have that kind of hat rack on which to hang its hat. *

Mr. Speaker, this kind of shallow approach to issues is increasingly what we are coming to expect from the Member for St. John. That is why I keep insisting in this House that he is a poor advertisement in this country for free secondary and tertiary education. We expect that somebody who has gone through the discipline of a tertiary education must show a deeper intellect than the Member for St. John. He comes to this House and condemns me for •» giving a technical analysis, and we are spending money in"• our secondary and tertiary system to train people to undertake technical analysis, but unless you are prepared to go out, as he wants the Young Dems to do now, Sir, and as he has said and boasted that he has trained them to go and curse people, unless young people are prepared to do that...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter must not distort the truth just to make a simple point.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is a lie!

Mr. SPEAKER: It is exactly what I said I would not want in this Chamber. The Honourable Member talked about someone cursing someone. I do not think that kind of language is suitable for this debate. We are talking about education, and if this is the level of education, then I am asking Honourable Members to think again. Choose your language carefully. You are not permitted to cast that kind of slant from one Member to another. I will ask both Members to withdraw both statements.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I withdraw my statement, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I withdraw my statement as well, Sir. It is a matter of fact that the Honourable Member said in front of persons presently sitting in this House that he had trained mem.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I never had any conversation with anybody. How could I have a conversation in here unites it was with somebody on this side?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: They were not downstairs discussing anything like that with me, and I must ask the Honourable Member, if I am being called upon to withdraw statements on the basis that he said I cannot produce evidence, to withdraw it.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. While we are on this point as well, I have adopted the procedure that where Members object to statements being made twice or three times, if the person is able to substantiate the statement by some documentary proof I will allow it, but as long as a Member objects to it I have no other way of saying anything other than to drop the matter and let it be solved in that way.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member said also...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. In order to substantiate what is being said, I was present by the bar, not in here, but down there, with the Honourable Member for the City, when the Honourable Member for St. John came in with two young men and a young lady, the young lady who lives near to where he lives, and introduced them to us as the Young Dems who will be kicking off on the following Sunday night in Curwen's Avenue, or

somewhere like that, and that he was training them and we would get some good lashes.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of the matter. Continue.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member also sought, out of context, to harshly criticise the Barbados Labour Party for a statement regarding persons who do well in modern studies. The tradition has been that not only has Barbados not been getting scholars in modern studies, but that the number of persons who were showing an interest in those fields was dropping throughout the latter part of the 70s and into the 80s, and the offer of \$10,000 to students who did well in modern studies was but one of a series of measures undertaken by the Barbados Labour Party in order to recreate and regenerate interest in modern studies on the part of students in Barbados.

There are persons in this House today who were graduates in modern studies at various institutions. The Prime Minister, the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party and the Clerk of the House were all graduates from the modern studies programme in the secondary schools and it was a matter of pride to the Barbados Labour Party that a field of study that had grown up at colleges in the past was no longer the policy at the time. The Member should go back and understand the context. When he speaks he should have done the research. It was not just a question of offering the money for the sake of offering the money, it was in order to rekindle an interest on the part of the young people of Barbados to go back to History and English and things of that nature, because there was real concern being expressed in the country that the country was going the way of the sciences, that students were interested only in the hard core subjects like chemistry and so on, they were not interested in the humanities.

Given the context that the party which put this in place now has to subject itself to the kind of loose criticism from the Member for St. John...

Aside.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: He asks, Sir, what has it achieved. At least we can point to three persons since 1986 who have won Barbados Scholarships in modern studies, but there has been a year when not a single person in Barbados had been able to win a scholarship in modern studies. If he is now to tell the House that these people in four years have now reached the stage again where they are winning scholarships in modern studies, at least he should be honest enough to admit that it has achieved something... because we can point to a time when there were none whatsoever. That is the point, that the young people of Barbados were showing less and less of an interest in the Humanities. 5.05 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of elucidation.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not yielding, Sir, to a point of elucidation.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Fair enough, if that's your attitude.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not yielding to a point of elucidation because the Member is taking this thing out of context. I think that this is the kind of issue that makes politics in Barbados so rancid, that a Member of a House could come to this House-Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misrepresenting a position that was taken. He is not gracious enough to give way for me to elucidate it. Prior to the award being given, I cannot recall that there was any one year in which there were no scholars in the arts. It has even been since then that there have been years in which there are no scholars in the Arts. He can check the record. There might have been very few but he is misrepresenting the fact to argue my position for me.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir. The bottom line of this is that if the Barbados Labour Party had found an existing incentive to encourage a particular field of study and had not taken that incentive we would be subject properly to criticism, but we came, Sir, and found a situation where there was a declining interest in the Humanities. We offered an incentive for people to become interested in the Humanities and now, Sir, we are to become the object of the most carping and I think, Sir, insipid criticism from the Honourable Member for St. John for simply offering an incentive. I am saying, Sir, that that is why politics in Barbados has become so rancid, that even when we have offered incentives to people... and you offer an incentive for people to take an interest in the Humanities, in History, in Geography, in different languages, Sir, and are we to be criticised for that?

The Honourable Member, sad to say, in my humble assessment, brings nothing to public life. This kind of criticism of a past administration for offering a monetary incentive to rekindle interest in subjects, that I think, are critical to the development of a civilised society and the total society, is just a mind, Sir, that will criticise merely for the sake of criticism and that is what we have to come to expect from the Honourable Member for St. John.

We, on this side, Sir, will support this legislation. We, too, are interested, as the DLP, as well as the NDP, in the fullest development of the educational system of Barbados. We resent, Sir, and the Barbados Labour Party all of the argument that went today about how we are trying or how we have this plan to abolish free tertiary education. We resent it, Sir, and we resent when persons like the Senator from the other place will tell - so the Honourable Member

for St. John says - that I have said in a senior common room in 1984, that I am supposed to have told a Frank Alleyne in the presence of Mr. Shorey that I would want to see free tertiary education in Barbados abolished. That is the kind of low level to which politics in Barbados is now being reduced.

My colleagues, Sir, have already made a statement in *"" relation to that Senator. I, too, whenever I hear his comments, Sir, the first thing I do is to check what is the phase of the moon, because that is the only way in which one could bring any order to his statements. But it is clear, that what is emerging now, is an attitude on the part of the DLP to approach this matter of education with the high-mindedness that only they and only they are interested in education, while all other people are not. The record, Sir, cannot substantiate it.

We expect that as elections gets closer and closer, that ** the DLP administration is going to want to try to find these issues which are not really issues to try to justify a record, Sir, that is not a record. As my colleague says, the worse since 1939. These issues brought by the Member for St. John to this debate, are a kind of trashy foolishness that we will hope that in the election, Sir, the Barbadian public will see through.

I have spoken in this vein, Sir, because I am serving •** notice on the DLP that we are going to be challenging every distortion of history, of the contemporary reality, because the Barbadian public, Sir, will be in the next election made to understand that the truth is a mighty sword.

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

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I think the most important aspect of this Bill to me is that it moves the ^ Community College from being a teaching institution into becoming a testing and certifying institution. I think that it is vitally important. It is something that we have to look at very carefully. Most of our colleges - Harrison's College, Queen's College etc. which prepare students for secondary level, the transitional stage to tertiary, are basically teaching institutions and they have to prepare for overseas examining bodies. Now, we have to look at that in context of what is happening at the CXC level. As I understand it, the Caribbean Examination Council is poised to introduce the _ "" Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate at advanced levels. It means therefore that we have to be looking very carefully again at the distinction between the sixth form schools and the Community College. It must be becoming very clear to parents that in fact the sixth form schools are offering an inferior education to what the Community College is offering. I do not think it would be equitable and * just, really to continue a system where students go to a sixth form, Harrison's College, Queen's College, Combermere, etc. and are able only to take advanced levels at the end of

their period whereas those who go to the Community College are able to get a vastly better programme, that offers an Associate of Arts Degree. So what is happening right here now in our country is that we can see that because of the evolution of the Community College it has become a superior institution to the other sixth form schools and basically, the road that has to be followed in the future is that we must have the Community College expanded with branches and the logic will be that you cannot maintain those sixth form schools. They would not make any sense whatsoever. There must be a movement from the inferior to the superior and what the Community College is offering in terms of curriculum, in terms of structure and now by the results in terms of quality is clearly supportive of the wise decision that was made by the present Prime Minister, the then Minister of Education, who started this very innovative institution, one of the most important institutions in our country.

I want to make it very clear that we need to examine the levels of education. We have to compare what is happening at the Community College and what is happening at the sixth form schools because the sixth form schools are still bound very much into a colonial system of education where teaching is done in one place and testing is done in another. Certainly, Sir, this is not the sort of dualism that we need to encourage in our country. We need, not only to move forward our teaching but we have to be able to test and certify. What I am saying is that the colonial system of education is one where we taught here and then somebody else examined and that has led in modern times to certain problems and therefore in terms of the ordinary level certification we not only teach but we also test and certify. 5.15p.m.

We are moving in the same direction in terms of secondary education at the advanced level. We are not only going to be teaching but testing and certifying. That is where the Community College is going and that is where I would imagine that all sixth form institutions would have to go. Therefore, rather than multiplying the system I think we need to centralise the Community College and have branches of it and encourage parents. That is the next transition we have to do. We have to educate parents to the value of the Community College. We have to let them know that is the institution of the future.

While I think it might have been considered wisdom at the time not to discontinue all the sixth form institutions but to go ahead and establish a parallel system, that could only be a temporary and transitional decision.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: What was Cammic's speech? We should only have the Community College? I am not aware of it, quite frankly. I would say very clearly what I am

saying so that those who know what other people said can make the comparison. I am speaking for me. What I am saying is that from my understanding of where we have to develop as a country, the Community College is an excellent institution. It was theory once and it is practice now. Everybody can see the results in terms of the quality, the diversity of the curriculum etc. I am saying that it is superior to what the other sixth form schools have. I am making that claim categorically that the Community College offers a superior programme to the other sixth form schools.

I am saying the logic of the future has to be that the Community College has to be the institution for that level of education and how we make the transition from having Sixth form schools to the Community College is something we are going to debate today in terms of the "when" or the "how". My mind is not limited to thinking in terms of institutional continuity. What I am talking about is what educational function we want the institutions to perform.

There were people who were caught up about whether Queen's College could leave its location to go down where it is supposed to be now. They were people who were willing to spend months and years debating about whether we should move Queen's College, a physical building, whether the children should go down to where this building is going to be, whether it would be the same Queen's College or not. People waste time on those things. I have no time to waste on these sorts of things.

If the sixth form schools were discontinued tomorrow and the children went into the Community College, all that would happen is they would probably perform better. That is all that would happen. Harrison College would continue as a very good school teaching people up to fifth form. The children would then leave there, go to the Community College as they are now anyhow.

Several children are leaving fifth form at Harrison College, Queen's College, all of them and going to the Community College. That is the norm because the sixth form schools cannot accommodate all of their fifth form products anyhow. Barbadians who are backward in their thinking believing that you cannot hive off certain sections of these institutions in light of new and futuristic developments, I cannot contribute to that.

I have two sons who graduated from the Community College. I want to put this in the record very clearly. One did Economics, Law and Accounts. The other one did an Associate Degree in Pharmacy. I as a parent am very satisfied. The one who did Economics went on and did a degree in Management at Cave Hill. All I am advising them to do is to get their second degree somewhere else. Go overseas and do the second degree but do the first one here. Go to the Community College, go to the university here and do the second degree somewhere else and a third degree

wherever else you want to go. We have a good system. The Community College system is an excellent system. All those who have been associated with it know it is one of the most dynamic and progressive institutions that we have been able to develop.

The Honourable Member for St. John has already paid the credit to the person who must be associated with it in terms of the initial stages. It has grown and, therefore, several other people have been associated with it. Now the Minister of Education has the responsibility there and certain changes are taking place. What I am very satisfied about is the way how the Community College has responded to national needs. Wherever the country has shown a need in certain areas the Community College has responded to that need. Therefore, we can see courses. They have moved away from the concept only of the formal academic approach to education. Several courses have been developed, courses in things like Design and Journalism. All sorts of courses have been taken on at the Community College in response to the developmental needs of our community. I believe that is a very positive thing about this institution.

The question of certification is a very important one because the Community College has to develop a facility now for testing and establishing levels of testing. I have no doubt that in conjunction with the famous testing institutions, just as the CXC would have used places like the University of Cambridge, Princeton University, etc. I remember being associated with the CXC when we were first setting standards. The CXC went past the standards that Princeton would have offered to Caribbean people. In fact, I would go so far as to say that the CXC exceeded the standards that Cambridge would have wanted to establish for Caribbean people.

We can be very proud of the Caribbean Council Examination Certificate. It really is a certificate that can stand with any other certificate anywhere in the world at that level. In fact, some people would tell you that it is a very tough certificate that having seen the equivalent to ordinary level they are really waiting with baited breath to see what the equivalent to secondary level would be because, of course, we want to set the highest standards in this part of the world.

I want to make the point that we have not given serious consideration in Barbados to training our people for export. It is a vitally important area we have to look at. Between the Community College, the Polytechnic and the University of the West Indies we can develop such a high level of knowledge and expertise in our people that they can be used for export and import in one way. They can become consultants and, at the same time, they can also go to places where there is a shortage of labour in certain areas and take up those positions.

I, for instance look at Africa as a source of our knowledge surplus. I see our African brothers struggling because of certain systems that were established there in terms of supplying vital labour at middle management and technical levels. I can see a relationship between Barbados and, in fact, the Caribbean, where we can train a surplus of labour. We are talking about nurses, and pharmacists. Of course, we need to satisfy our own labour pool first. That is something we are working at but when we get that surplus we can get these people to move over to Africa, Zimbabwe and South Africa, when the time comes, and all of these various places. Money would be coming back to our country.

I can see our young people forming consultancies and companies based on knowledge and initiative. We live in a time when people believe that when we are talking about producing that we are only talking in terms of export that you are only talking about goods, tangibles.

Britain, Japan and the countries that are progressive recognise that wealth tomorrow depends on brain power, knowledge, the ability to produce knowledgeable people. Knowledgeable people have a mobility throughout the world. There is no problem. If you have ability you can go from one country to another country. I believe fundamentally that for some reason or another Barbadians have been gifted with good intellect. I think they are trainable. I think they can be educated.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Demonstrate that we are intelligent people in my speech? Demonstrate that I am intelligent? I do not have to make any points to anybody in here about my intelligence. The Leader of the Opposition knows I have come through the Barbadian education system from primary school to where I am now. I have been taught, tested and certified. In turn, I have taught, tested and certified. I do not have to make any point to you, Sir. This is a Harrison College boy talking to a Foundation boy so you have to come good when you are talking to people who went to my school.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I just wish to confirm...

Mr. SPEAKER: But I have not heard what you have risen on.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. The Honourable Member has drawn me into the debate. I wish to confirm that I consider him a very well educated and intelligent person who finds it very difficult to put forward an argument in defence of the Government.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, these fellows would not leave me at all. I understand that Johnny Cheltenham went into Gall Hill and said that I was a Sandiford puppy that I always get up barking on behalf of the Government. At my level of intelligence I find these things vastly humorous. If they intend insults they cannot reach me. I would recognise that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would not associate himself with that kind of platform. He would not even sit down and hear that kind of foolishness.

I defend my Government because my Government is a good Government, quite frankly. It has a record that can stand up anywhere. I would have defended the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, when he was on this side when he was a member of this Government. I would have defended him fully down the line because he had a good position then. 5.25 p.m.

I would give him my full support and defence. He was a member of this Government. He was the Minister of Finance. He used to get good support from all of us, there was no problem with that. I hope we can get the same kind of support from your side as I am willing and prepared to give to my side. I really hope so, not only the same volume but the same quality of support.

Mr. Speaker, I was diverted. What I was saying is that the whole question of certification is a very important one. I remember in the early transmission days when at Community College we were wondering whether or not we should depend on outside agencies in terms of helping to establish levels of certification, whether in fact the University of the West Indies should be asked to help in the whole certification process and whether there should be a link. Some people believe that in fact there should be a link between what the Community College offers and what the University offers, but I think that is something that has to be discussed. Should the Community College be able to get the autonomy to give its own certificate? Or would it have to depend on the University?

I would like to establish that I think the Community College has to develop its own expertise. I believe that for most of its programmes it has to set its own certificates, but if it wants it can do what Erdiston College does. Erdiston gives its certificate and then it has an endorsement by the University of the West Indies, and I believe that that can work, but that the Community College must have the right to do its own certificates. I believe it has the ability to do so and to present a good certificate, but I believe in some areas where perhaps the University is in the same kind of operation they can go for an endorsement by the University. In other areas where the University does not even begin to touch or to reach - because this is the sort of thing we have to recognise - that in terms of curriculum the Community

College has a much more diverse curriculum than the University.

There are areas where the Community College is really the trail blazer in this country, because let us recognise, Mr. Speaker, that the University has always been very traditional. The University moves very slowly. The University's first degrees would have been the arts, in the second degrees science might come in. They have now reached management. They would do law, all the traditional areas, but universities do not diversify very easily. I am not saying that the University might not be progressive, but university education is very expensive, and where the University might want to go into certain areas the cost sometimes of mounting those programmes is not inconsiderable and therefore they stick with the areas where it would appear that the demands are. Sometimes that might move very slowly in terms of the needs of the society, and therefore you have to mount a less expensive but relevant programme and I think that is where the Community College function comes in.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that there are a few other areas I would really like to see taken very seriously at the Community College; areas like marketing, purchasing and supplies. It is always strange to me in countries like ours sometimes how the main areas we operate in are almost neglected. I just want to spend a little time on these, starting with agriculture.

There is a little project going on at the Community College - I think they call it the young farmers' programme - which is almost totally supported by voluntary funds. I know Barclays Bank used to help. That is a programme I would really like to see developed. I am so pleased when I travel, especially in the eastern section of our country, nowadays and see the banana groves. It is really a pleasure meeting the eyes when you go through St. John and those areas. They remind me very much now of St. Lucia, the huge banana groves. This transformation has come about in such a short time. Then you drive a little further and you see the ginger lilies and so on.

Barbados is becoming a bit more conscious of the need to diversify in terms of agriculture, but that diversification will not come unless it comes against a background of knowledge. We have to train our people in these horticultural and agricultural skills, otherwise there will be some other person who has experience in some other country who will come down here and reap a mine, make a lot of money, because they come from a country where these things are normal and they come down here and they appear to be brighter than anybody else and have more initiative, but that is not what it is, it is just that they had the exposure and the training.

We need to train people in areas that will make money for the future, and I see agriculture as a standard. We

cannot ever move from agriculture. Agriculture will always make money for this country. I want to see some institution taking agriculture seriously, and the institution I would like to see doing that is the Community College, because I have faith in the institution. I have faith in the way it has grown and developed, and I believe it can do very well there.

The other area, as I said, Sir, is purchasing and supplies. We are a country that has to do a fantastic amount of buying and selling. I doubt there are two people in Barbados with a diploma or certificate in purchasing and supplies and that sort of thing. You go to Britain and most people who have to do buying and selling have diplomas or degrees, but we might have companies like Cave Shepherd or the Goddard group and so on that have to be buying supplies in bulk from overseas persons. How do we know what expertise they have when they negotiate purchases? These things then impact on our country in terms of price and I believe that these are areas for training. There are a lot of business men who have been doing these things off what experience they have, but they have not been trained in purchasing and supplies. These are considered the esoteric areas when in fact they are the life-blood of the country, and I believe that we have to be looking at setting up local areas of training so that we can have a number of people in these specific areas that we can use when we put teams together to go overseas to buy things.

Sometimes we have to spend a lot of money to go to buy buses from Brazil or somewhere else. Whom do we send? Maybe a Minister who has certain levels of expertise, maybe a general manager and an engineer or something like that, and they are going to purchase. They have never done any real studies in terms of negotiating items, goods and so on. I am saying that they might come up against a guy who has a Masters from the Institute of Purchasing and Supplies or something like that, and who gets the better deal? These are areas we have to look at very seriously and I believe we have to train people for negotiating purchases of goods and services in our country, and in the area of marketing. As long as we are into things like tourism, we have to have good marketers, we have to have people who are expert in marketing. You do not go through Barbados and find five people who have a Masters in marketing. Go into our marketing agencies - EPC, IDC and so on - and show me four or five people who have specialised degrees in marketing, and tell me why at this stage of our development we have not seen the need to train people in this area.

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I am sure that there are not five people in this country with that specialised kind of training, but we always feel that you can give a person an economics degree and it takes only a little bit more knowledge to become a marketing specialist; or give a person a degree in

medicine and it does not take too much to become an economist.

5.35 p.m.

This is the way we operate in our country. I mean bright men can make that switch. I am not saying that it can't be done. It can be done. I am not backing off but I am not even telling any political person that he is. bright but I **** am talking about how we operate in Barbados. A top lawyer believes he could be a management specialist, or something like that - that is possible - or adviser to businessmen. I am making the point that there are exceptions to the rule. We have trainers in industrial relations too. I am both. I am one of those fellows fortunate to be both, but, Sir, the point is that we need to see areas of specialisation and we need to train people in those areas and I am concerned quite frankly that some of the signal areas to be developed in our country we are moving *ad hoc* in terms of training people for them. I would like to see people trained in marketing and the ^ other thing is, I don't want to see it starting at the post graduate level. I want to see people get into management from the time they are at a place like the Community College. Start planning a career fast from the time you reach those levels. Start planning a career fast and move forward. I have had some extraordinary experiences teaching at Foundation School, teaching O'level English, History and Language and so on. They come to the Community College, where I am teaching and they say I ** must do these three A levels and I say: "why should you do those three A levels? You have to do something different. You have to do Economics. You have to do Accounts and so on. You have already got a foundation in those matters, so it is not only a question of being only educated in the modern studies."

You must move from one area to another. Once you have the basic level of education, you can start out with the Arts at one level. You can go on to A Levels and do Business. You can go on then to degree level and do Medicine. You can do anything. People don't understand that. Once you have the basic education...

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: No question about that. I am talking about people going to formal institutions and getting certification, testing and certification. That is part of the whole system. We can all learn by reading but testing and *** certification is slightly different. Nor am I saying that a person who is tested and certified is necessarily better than someone who has not been. I am not making that point. I am saying that we need very much to identify certain crucial areas and I think, bring them into the Community College net because I see that as the institution of the future for education in Barbados and I would like to compliment * those who brought the details of this Bill here before us. The whole question of relating to other institutions overseas - that is a very important one. I don't have time to expand

on it but I know that the hospitality sector has always worked very closely to the universities in Canada. I see now that Pharmacy is going to be related to Long Island University and I believe that this is all to the good of the Community College. We have to have those linkages. That is a tremendous growth path for the future. As I said, I don't have the time to spend on it. Penn State University is a link-up with that and I think that is all for the better and if we can get exchanges for Barbadian students to get some experience elsewhere and for students overseas to come and get a look at our educational system I am sure it will be better for us.

Let me say, finally, that the Barbados Workers' Union and the CTUC are playing host this week to some four South African trade unionists who today visited the Community college and had a tour and they expressed wonder at how this small country has been able to develop these kinds of facilities for our people and I wouldn't be surprised if a request is made to the Government that they be allowed to send some of their people to get this kind of training in Barbados. But knowing the Democratic Labour Party, I have no doubt either that if a request like that came that we wouldn't be able to follow the advice of the private sector leaders but that we will be able to open the doors, which we have opened to our own people, to other people also, rather than to close those doors. Thank you very much, Sir.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Your Honour, I will be brief. It is not often that I, particularly in these days of adversary politics, congratulate persons on speeches but the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central has made a speech that I concur in and really want to congratulate him on the level to which he has brought the debate and I hope that his younger follower from the constituency of St. John would take a leaf out of his books, Sir, and learn how to defend your side on the high ground and make creative and useful suggestions without the sort of negatives that one has heard from him.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has already corrected the record and insofar as he misrepresented in relation to the performance of the Barbados Labour Party in education and I certainly in the few minutes that I intend to speak will not spend much time on that, Sir. I dismissed a lot of the statements that are being made now as to what the BLP has done or will do in the future as really statements of the moment. People are a little bit excited about the coming elections and you are hearing a lot of trite foolishness, Sir, which I think the population is sufficiently mature to dismiss it for what it is. My party has an outstanding record in the area of education and it has always supported the development of tertiary level education, not only for Barbados but for the Caribbean as a whole and I believe in

the, ... certainly, I know, that in the 10 years since we returned to office between 1976 and 1986 we have placed a tremendous amount of emphasis on the expansion of the Community College and expanding its curriculum and building on the foundation which was laid in the years prior to that. I do not believe that today the Community College is a cause of dispute between any of the three political parties at present in Barbados and I would trust that the debate about this subject in the House or out of the House will not be conducted from the narrow basis on which the Honourable Member for St. John sought to build. So, I believe it is true to say that between 1966 and 1976 there appeared to be very few Barbados scholarships which were being won and one particularly in the field of the social sciences and in the field of the arts - English, History, Geography, etc. The number increased subsequently but even in the field of the arts it was very obvious that students were being attracted more to the scientific and mathematical subjects than to the arts and the provision of an incentive for a student in Modern Studies was just one of the many incentives being used to get young people again interested in these subjects. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and myself and the Clerk of the House are three of the persons in Barbados who had the good fortune to win scholarships at the Barbados Scholarship Level in Modern Studies. I always contended that it is more difficult to win a scholarship in Modern Studies than it is to win it in Classics for that matter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. Modern Studies, Sir, that is a study where the language is English and things you are familiar with from birth. When you think of the Classics, Sir, you really have to learn the languages for it - Latin, Greek, Hebrew, those ancient things - and then get on to other stuff.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sometimes, Sir, we may remain only in the ancient land. It is more difficult to win it in modern studies than to win it in the sciences or to win it in mathematics or those areas and I think that we ought to encourage our young people to recognize that life is not only about the technical although we are in the technological age but it is also about culture. 5.45 p.m.

It is also about a wide field of arts in general whether it be the visual arts, the audio visual arts or the dramatic arts indeed. I am pleased about that incentive. I hope that the Minister of Education would be in a position to assure us that the incentive is now attracting a larger number of people into the field of Modern Studies and that there are other ways of encouraging students into these areas. Sir, there is no doubt that the Community College has developed into an institution that is highly respected here in Barbados and beyond.

If I may pick up on the last point made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central,

overseas students have been attracted into the Community College from as far afield as Africa. They are coming not only from the Caribbean but they are coming as well from Africa. Certainly, when I had the honour and the privilege to be the Minister of External Affairs, I was delighted on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados to offer training opportunities at the Community College to students from Zimbabwe and Namibia - it was then Southern Rhodesia - in the hope that we would have been making a contribution to the whole African development movement. I have seen some of those persons have gone back to their country Namibia now it is independent and Zimbabwe and already are making a contribution in their territories.

I believe that we can sell our services in this respect both by attracting people to the Community College as well as sending graduates of the College outside of Barbados as well.

My real purpose in intervening in the debate is to talk a bit about certification and testing and to suggest that, perhaps, we should explore together with the University of the West Indies establishing not only for the Community College but for some of the other tertiary institutions in Barbados a common testing standard and certification standard as well.

When I speak of other institutions, I speak of Erdiston Teachers' Training College, the Polytechnic, BIMAP and the Regional Police Training School as well which I hope will ripen into the Regional Police Training College. It does seem to me that if we can by means of coordination coordinate the testing and certification efforts using the experiences of the University of the West Indies and, of course, some of the experienced testers whom we have developed in the CXC, that we would establish in our institutions, particularly the tertiary institutions, a very high level of certification which will mark our institutions out as institutions of excellence. At the same time, we would be using the resources which we have in the most economic manner. I am looking forward, therefore, to that development.

I said, Sir, that there is already some relationship between Erdiston Teachers' Training College and the University of the West Indies. Although Erdiston Teachers' Training College does its own examination, it actually gets an endorsement of its certificates from the University of the West Indies. I believe that added endorsement is recognised as a positive addition for persons overseas who may need the services of people graduating from the Erdiston Teachers' Training College. It is interesting what is happening in the world of education overseas in other countries in relation to colleges of the same level and providing the same type of training and courses as the Community College is providing.

I think it was last year that "The Economist" brought out an article doing an analysis of the degrees offered by the polytechnics in England, universities in England and elsewhere. There are two points made in that article which I now recall. One is that they were providing degree courses at a lower cost than the universities were themselves providing. Secondly, they were providing those degrees over a wider area of courses and more relevant to the field of work than the universities were providing. Thirdly, they were providing those degrees as good a quality and in some cases at a better quality than some of the universities were providing.

In fact, it made the point as well that many of the young people were shunning the older universities like Oxford and Cambridge, Bristol and Birmingham and were now finding it much more in their interest to go to the polytechnics for their degree. Although our Community College is called a college rather than a polytechnic, the polytechnic is the phrase used for similar colleges in England and indeed in Canada. Ryerson Polytechnic really was a community college offering a whole range of subjects which has now reached almost university standards. Actually it is equal now.

I anticipate myself that less and less emphasis would be placed in education into the 21st Century at qualifying at what is now known as the sixth form level. I do not anticipate - this is really my own reading of the situation - that there would be an abolition of sixth forms in schools. This is a matter on which the country was divided in the 1960's. It is a matter on which, I believe, that if it comes into the political fray at this time it will cause, perhaps, the grossest of misrepresentation of positions. I am very careful what I do say on such matters particularly at this time. Barbadians do not move too quickly on some matter, not on all but change is always a very difficult thing for people to take in their stride and to imagine what would happen with change. One has to be able to sell change in such a way that it does not upset a community unduly, that there is not a rear guard action against change which in the long run would be beneficial.

There is no subject on which Barbadians are more touchy than on the subject of education. Understandably so because really in many respects it has been the catalysts which have reversed a lot of the discrimination and imbalances which existed in our Island. I imagine and envisage that in the 21st Century offering the sixth form education will not be the important thing in the life of the child coming through what is now CXC.

I believe that the educational process will be a continuant and that the Community College will breach the gap, without deciding whether to abolish or to keep sixth forms, between the child going from the level of training and moving into the level of work, then continuing into the level of knowledge. I expect there would be that

interregnum, as they say in some other respects, to move from one to the other and that the Community College has an important role to play here in this respect.

I was glad to see the expansion of courses at the Community College included bringing the nursing profession under the aegis of the Community College. I have had to listen very often to the political points being made by members on the other side about the Labour Party stopping the training of nurses. The true facts are on the files, not that this means it is good public relations for us to keep silent because we know that the way in which it is expressed against us is not true. 5.55p.m.

The point is that we were seeking to ensure that nursing education moved to the same level and status as tourism education was moving here in Barbados. This was in keeping with what was happening in the Caribbean as a whole. Really what you have to do is to keep the link between the academic aspect of it that was going to the Community College.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: It is on the files, yes. The Honourable Member must have lost the files from his department, if he has not seen them, but this is a fact because there is a memorandum from the Caribbean Nurses Association on the whole matter and it was discussed with them. What you really have to do is to keep a link between the Community College, where you are getting the academic, and professions such as nursing, et cetera where you also need the practical. In fact, I recall very vividly there was a long time with negotiations going on because the Community College authorities were not exactly satisfied that the persons who were doing the teaching in practical nursing were going to meet the standards that they wanted...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member, the fact is that what he is saying about the relationship between the Community College and the University is accurate. The decision not to train nurses was a specific decision made by the Ministers, the two Ministers of the day, and they articulated the reason why, so I do not think you can join the two.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member will stick to his point and I will stick to mine. I do not now have access to the files and I cannot subpoena the Honourable Member to bring them down here.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I give the Honourable Member the assurance that there is a Bill that is coming before this House shortly that will deal with the issue, and I will not only bring the files down, I will make them available to him if he wishes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: That is my memory of it and I do recall, as a matter of fact, representing on the Community College Board the location at one stage with those persons who were going to be seconded over from the Tercentenary School of Nursing to the Community College. I recall that this was a *casus belli* between the parties which was causing all the difficulties which were occasioning the problem between the parties.

Now, Sir, the Community College now produces paralegals. That programme was started on a mere \$10,000. That is all that was provided for it. I recall myself, when I became Attorney General, seeing the need for people who serviced the legal profession to be trained in that field and recommended to the Community College Board that it be added to the curriculum of the Board. I have no doubt that there are several other subjects that can be so added.

I would like, however, to issue a word of caution because of the slender resources of a country like Barbados. There will always be an area of duplication among our tertiary institutions, among BIMAP, the Community College, the Polytechnic, Erdiston Teachers' Training College, the Regional Police Training College and even the private institutions such as the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College. I believe that these institutions can share among themselves common courses and that there should be some co-ordinating body which will allow them to share these courses among themselves in order to cut down on cost and to prevent duplication as well.

The last point I wish to make on this Bill, Sir, is that the Community College, because of the flexibility of its hours, offers greater opportunity for promoting continuing education and an opportunity for retraining people both for the work force and generally, and I would hope that the opportunity will not be lost to ensure that there are enough courses catering for the persons who wish continuing education, whether they be housewives, persons who have given up their professions temporarily and are seeking to go back into the professions later, for whatever reason marketing, designing, whatever field it is. I believe the opportunities are there for these continuing and refresher courses, and that the Community College offers the opportunity.

I hope that the association with similar institutions, particularly in North America, will continue. I know that we are twinning ourselves to a large measure with colleges of a similar kind in the United States of America. I would like to respectfully suggest that the Canadian colleges offer experiences that are very similar. I am happy to see that BIMAP is linked with the University of Manitoba, for instance, in connection with developing business courses, training manuals, et cetera, in the Eastern Caribbean, and by that means it is earning hard foreign exchange for us, as well as pushing business enterprise in the Caribbean and Barbados. I hope that the Community College will find it

possible to link up with some of the Canadian colleges. I cited Ryerson as one of the outstanding institutions.

Aside.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Minister says there is already a relationship but not with Ryerson. I hope that that relationship will deepen. I am picking up the point because the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central had mentioned journalism and I know that Ryerson has an outstanding reputation worldwide for training, particularly in the media and in the whole field of communications, and in tourism as well. 6.05 p.m.

It is the sort of institution that I would like to see the Community College linked to.

And last, I want to say, Sir, using the experience of the Community College as well as the University of the West Indies and Erdiston Teachers' Training College for upgrading other institutions that have a potential for developing our human resources in this regard, that the UWI and the Community College in particular, should be encouraged to undertake a study of the Regional Police Training School and College and its future development and see in what respects they could help this Institution.

I said in the House last week, I believe, that law and order is a very important part of the economic development of this country and I think to emphasise that I would like to see the emphasis going on training in this regard, particularly, for continuing training for protective services, whether it be the Police Force or whether it be the military arm or whether it be even at the level of security guard.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to make a prolonged contribution on this particular matter. I just wish to clarify one or two aspects of our policy. The last two members who spoke, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central dealt with many of the significant issues facing our tertiary educational system and have made some suggestions in terms of the direction in which they would like to see us move. However, Sir, there were other contributions on this matter which have attracted my attention.

Perhaps, Sir, I think, one of the saddest occasions that one has in this House of Assembly is to hear the Honourable Member for St. John, who in my view represents the most articulate tragedy of the current political scene in this country. A young man, clearly with ability, a young man who is clearly articulate and a young man who cannot appreciate that you need information in order to launch the kind of attacks that he seeks to launch on individuals and on political parties in this Honourable House. Indeed, I think that he has taken on the role which

those far more senior in his own political party should assume, having indeed the background information to stand on their feet and make remarks that do not stray so far away from the truth and from reality. It is a recurring problem and I think that one which certainly needs some element of correction.

There can be no question, Sir, that as far as the ** educational system of Barbados, that all Barbadians now for several generations even before 1937 have put a premium on education and I have never heard anyone question in any significant way the educational budget of Barbados. The argument has always been as to the extent of participation of various groups and ways in which the educational system of Barbados can be improved. No one is going to argue as to whether the Community College has made a significant impact on Barbados. So it has, so has the sixth forms system that we have had with us for some time and I think, Sir, it really stretches the imagination a bit far ** to hear anyone who has been familiar with what is happening in Barbados get up and accuse any political party of not advancing the educational system in this country to the extent that they could with the resources available to them during their term in office.

It is that kind of politicking that I believe is somewhat due to the failures in our system. It is nice of course to congratulate ourselves for having had free secondary * education introduced into Barbados and to congratulate ourselves for having free school meals at the primary level. These were important steps taken in the human resources development of Barbados. What is significant, Sir, is that we have not had any major steps revolutionary in education for a long time and what has happened is very interesting.

Today, we have a system which addresses the needs of those who have done well in the system. For example, they can get into the Community College and go to the University and so on. There is of course a qualification barrier in terms in getting into the Community College and getting into the University. We have a polytechnic and an interesting thing has happened and I am just showing you how changes take place and we are not responding to it, whilst we keep congratulating ourselves on what has happened in the past.

When the Polytechnic, Sir, was built in Barbados, it was felt that this would fill a gap for those who did not **• qualify to go on to other areas of tertiary education that they would be able to get into the Polytechnic. With the changing economic scene, a very interesting thing has happened, that there are many people, a large percentage of the people who now go to the Polytechnic are people who have qualifications to go elsewhere but they are smart enough to know and learn over the past fifteen years that by •«*» developing certain types of skills they can get into the job market. They can be more successful in the job market, earn a better living, far more rapidly than if they went to do the

Arts or something like that. So, now, there is a qualification barrier there as well, but there is a large pool of youngsters who do not get into either one. They don't get into the sixth forms. They don't get into the Polytechnic. They don't get into the Community College. They don't get into any of these three institutions, but they have skills and they have interest and they form the large bulk of the unemployed youth in Barbados today. And, for some reason, you see they would have gone through a primary and secondary school system which has not geared them for the world of work. They have not done well enough, either to participate at the sixth forms level, the Polytechnic, the Community College, so they are left there and that is one of the biggest problems facing us - how you deal with those thousands of persons who come out of school, cannot get into the sixth forms, cannot get into the Community College, cannot get into the Polytechnic and they are left there without any hope of getting training or getting into a job.

There is some skills training but it doesn't deal *en masse* in the same way as the education at the university meets the demands for tertiary education at that level or the sixth forms and the Community College meet the demands at that level and there is that gap. What I find in Barbados today is that we need to address that problem. It is a problem that is the product of our educational system and I believe that that impinges on a whole lot of things, what is happening in terms of social cohesion, levels of crime, violence and various other things you have to deal with. There is nothing to get those children into useful programmes of further education and further training and this is something that we just have to focus on.

So, I would urge, that whilst we congratulate ourselves on what has been achieved in the area of education, that at the same time we recognize that just as those who held office before us came up with ideas to deal with the problems of their day, we have a duty to be innovative, creative and deal with this major problem facing us. Sir, I believe that that problem has to be tackled at the primary and secondary level and sooner or later somebody has to come along on the political scene and take some firm decisions as to what is going to happen in relation to that transfer from secondary to tertiary education in many ways. 6.15 p.m.

I have heard all the arguments today about sixth forms and the absorption of the sixth forms into the Community College. I have noticed that the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party made absolutely sure that he appreciated both sides of the argument and quite wisely. It is unlikely to come down one way or another now although I can assume that having got my electricity bill this afternoon which has gone up considerably for November and having got my water bill which has gone up as well, also having got my land tax bill, which has not gone up....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure all of that is to do with the Community College.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir, and education.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure of that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It makes it very unlikely that there would be a dissolution of the House today.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure you will not allow me to deal with the water bill problems today.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is what I was trying to indicate to you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I would not want to get into that. The Honourable Member is trying to distract me. Of course, it is going to put the cost of tertiary education up right through when the water and electricity bills go up at the Community College. I did say I would not make too long a speech in this particular matter.

Now, there is another point I want to deal with. I think that Honourable Members on the back bench should listen very carefully to what the Honourable Member for St. Michael West says.

Mr. SPEAKER: But he has not spoken yet in this debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I know, Sir. I am speaking generally. When he elects to tell an untruth, he makes sure it is an area that cannot be checked, also an area that would not be immediately apparent to everyone in Barbados that he is so doing.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has said that this party supports the private sector view which supports the abolition of free tertiary education. Now, Sir, I would not like to call that a lie because if I did it would not only be unparliamentary but it would also be an understatement of the depravity of attributing such a statement to a responsible group of people who have formed a political party in Barbados. I believe, Sir, that people have to distinguish between the political platforms outside and this party. Honourable Members must learn that when they come in here and make statements like that then they will be subjected to a serious examination of what they have said. I do not think I have to do anything further to defend the position of the NDP. We support-Mr. SPEAKER: Just one moment. I have not heard any Member in my presence today making the statements. If the statements have been made, then I expect them to be

dealt with at the particular time. I want to be very careful because I have not been privy to those statements.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you, Sir, for reminding me of that. I think that it is important that we should make it clear that the NDP supports the whole concept of free tertiary education. It is totally untrue to state otherwise.

Now, Sir, there are one or two areas mentioned by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central who on the whole I think made a good speech except he made one remark about me which I cannot remember. However, it was rather witty. What Honourable Members should realise that as good parliamentarians even although someone attacks you and he attacks you in good humour, you would get up and defend it but you appreciate the quality of the remarks. There is never any need to stray too far from the truth in order to achieve that objective.

He spoke, Sir, about training people in various areas and I believe he mentioned purchasing and supplies. That is important. He did not mention contracts but I would like to mention negotiating contracts because it seems to me to be one of the peculiar weaknesses of this society that we do not have the persons skilled in negotiating contracts. I feel that the Community College can include this in their syllabus so that when people, for example, are negotiating contracts for the supply of windows, we would have skilled persons in Barbados who can be recruited to make sure that Barbados gets the better deal.

Sir, this is an example to illustrate what I have said to show what can happen and purely to illustrate. We find a company, P.S. Security Aluminium Windows and Doors being awarded a contract at twice the price...

Mr. SPEAKER: But not for the Community College.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir. Not for the Community College. I am just dealing with the training. I am just giving an example.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. I can take the training. I hope that is the point you are making.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This is just an example of how training can help Barbados. If we had persons trained in the award of contracts, Sir, then we would not have had a situation where a company such as P.S. Aluminium Windows and Doors would have succeeded in a contract at twice the price of other persons in Barbados involved in metallurgy, like Oran Ltd. That is another course which I think should be offered by the Community College.

I am calling on the Prime Minister of this country to investigate whether there is an element of godfatherism that has resulted in that disreputable award. When we send our children to the Community College to study Metallurgy, if

it is included in the syllabus, when they come out they have to be employed in factories in Barbados. We cannot start now in developing a situation where people who are involved in the productive processes who are employing our people who have come from the Polytechnic and form the Community College when they will be put out of work because of the practice of godfatherism.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I am not clear where the Leader of the Opposition is going. If he is speaking about windows, as he said, for the Community College, the same company supplied all the windows.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Very classic. It is quite clear to me that the Honourable Member...

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Sir. I have heard a lot about Metallurgy. To the best of my knowledge there is no such course at the Barbados Community College. I am submitting, therefore, that the Honourable Member is irrelevant. 6.25 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I do not think the Honourable Member heard me. What I am suggesting is that metallurgy should be included.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Sir. This is becoming entirely hypothetical. You cannot create a situation like that and then build an argument upon it. I submit that the Member is irrelevant and should come back to the debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, the Honourable Member has drawn me back to the debate. I am quite sure, Sir, you appreciated the intellectual exercise where I have just been following in the footsteps of my good friend, the Member for Christ Church East Central, who made recommendations in respect of purchasing and supplies to be included, and they were good suggestions. I would never have got up here and said that they were good suggestions unless I had a good reason for saying so. I have included metallurgy and contracts. I am quite sure the Member for Christ Church East Central would appreciate what I am saying.

I believe I have made my point and I do not wish to stretch this out much longer, but that matter needs to be investigated at an early stage, because it does not sound good, it does not look good and it is not going to have the appropriate kind of response, it is going to have a depressing effect on all those young people who have gone through the Community College and are now working in «* places like Oran Limited.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am neither the contractor nor the builder. I think some of my windows came from Stuart's Manufacturing. Those I know about. All I am saying is very simple, Sir, that that matter needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

There is one other point I wish to make. I do not want to be misinterpreted, listen very carefully to what I have to say. We have to be careful sometimes that we do not find ourselves in a situation where the parents and the attitude of parents do not constitute a major barrier to changes in our educational system. When we see that there is a need for changes, I think we need to focus more on the children than on the parents. I will tell you why.

It is clear to me, Sir, that with the efflux of time the sixth form situation we have in Barbados will gradually disappear. I think that the institution of these sixth forms occupies a different position in the psyche of people my age as compared with the children who are in them now. I believe that there are many children who today opt freely to go on to the Community College rather than to go to one of the sixth forms as a matter of choice, so I believe that as far as the children are concerned, they themselves are taking a completely different attitude and they do not have the same social hangups which their parents may have in relation to these sixth forms.

We are here as representatives. It is important to recognise that a representative is not a delegate. It is a concept which a lot of people have some difficulty in dealing with. A delegate is someone bound by a position to represent a given position of those who send him there. He is bound and he is tied to that. A representative in a democratic Parliament certainly enjoys delegate status, but he also enjoys an even higher status, in that he is not only bound by the views of his constituency, but he also has a duty and an obligation if in his view a situation needs change, to seek to change it, and even vote in a way to change it. There is a significant difference between delegate status and representative status, and this is not always signalled to the people of Barbados.

I think the time is going to come where, after an objective analysis, it is seen that there is need for a change in our sixth form situation, where it appears that the majority of the children in that situation would accept it without the kind of trauma that they may have gone through 10, 15 or 20 years ago to take decisions. Interestingly, Sir, a lot of things will flow from that. If that bottle neck is dealt with, do you realise what will happen to the 11 plus? Just think about it. It will become a lot easier to make the transfer from primary to secondary schools and a lot of the problems associated with that would virtually disappear overnight. It will have a remarkable positive trickle down effect on the whole system, and then what is going to happen after that is that right from the beginning in primary schools, where you do not have the pressure of the

ridiculous 11 plus examination, you can get children involved in the business of a more satisfactory education and one that is more relevant to Barbados of the 1990s. You will not now have a situation where after 16, 17 or 18 years you have a large pool of youngsters out there who cannot qualify for the Community College or the Polytechnic, and cannot get into anywhere without an adequate education which would give them an opportunity to find a job, but those persons would have had the opportunity to be adequately educated and be prepared for the work force over the entire period of their schooling.

I doubt, Sir, whether anyone will be brave enough to take any fundamental decisions on this matter at this stage, but I think it is something that has to be looked at and we have to focus on the failures in our system, because they are not academic, they represent themselves in the long run in human tragedies, in lost opportunities for a large number of young people. 6.35 p.m.

When I look at my constituency, Sir, and I move around, I see that pool of people. When I go to St. Lucy, when I go to Crab Hill, I see that pool of people. In every constituency in Barbados today you see that pool of people and they are the pool of people that you see under the tree in Gall Hill. They are the people that you see at Six Roads.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I did not trouble the Honourable Member and he just would not leave me alone. In many ways, Sir, a lot of the problems facing the youth of Barbados today are the result of our educational system. I don't want to get into the very significant biases against the moderate achievers or the underachievers, but that is a fact and it needs to be looked at. If one were to identify two major areas where there could be a significant thrust in our education system today, one would be in the area which the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central spoke about, that is the relevance of education to human resource development against the background of the services oriented economy and the export of those services for job generation and the betterment of society as a whole.

Sir, I have put it in nice economic language for him. I have tidied up his speech for him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time... You are winding up? One minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have tidied up that section of his speech. That is what he really meant to say. That end of it and the other end, what is happening to those thousands of young people out there after they leave the secondary school system and they don't get into either the Polytechnic or the sixth forms or the Community College. I believe that the answer lies in many of the suggestions made here today.

The question is who will be brave enough to do it. We have no difficulty, Sir. We, in the NDP, have no difficulty and we can assure you, Sir, that we will deal with the problem but it is the Government of the day that has to take the decision and they don't seem in anyway inclined to take any decision on the matter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I really did not intend to speak during this debate but I believe having heard some of the contributions that I feel I should make a few points. First of all, to clarify certain positions and secondly to point the way forward. I do not think we can seek to build our arguments on false premises and I think that the Leader of the Opposition throughout his speech has been seeking to build an argument on the premise that if one does not get into the Polytechnic or the Community College that there are no opportunities available for continuing education. He seems to be projecting some time in the future for some one of courage to come forward and take the decision. He also is indicating that the NDP can take that decision. No doubt they can take the decision, but they will not get the opportunity to take any such decision. So, I think that is really a non-starter in this particular situation. I would like to indicate, I believe the Minister of Education will speak on this issue and indicate the kinds of steps that have already been taken and which will be intensified in respect of the matter that has been raised because already the National Training Board was set up some time ago, I believe, under the BLP Government. I must say this is a debate that is one of the more refreshing debates, let me put it this way Sir, on education, entirely different from the debate that preceded it earlier in the day, Sir, and I really was wondering what was really happening to Members and what kind of example they were setting.

All of the Members who have spoken, Sir, starting with the Member for St. John who set the tone for the debate and who in a very eloquent speech filled with content and thought and foresight sought to set the situation in perspective. I have lived through this whole scenario relating to the Barbados Community College and I would not expect that this debate would turn on those issues. I am not reliving that situation. It is a fact, Sir, and I of all people should know, that the BLP Opposition of the day was very scathing of the policy and the practice in respect to the establishment of the Barbados Community College. The records are there both in the House of Assembly and outside of the House of Assembly but the only comment I wish to make on this occasion is that they should know the mettle that I am made of now because if I had succumbed to the kind of attacks and onslaughts that were levelled at me by the Barbados Labour Party, I would not be here today. And the object lesson of this, is that whatever attacks they level on me now, they can understand that I am very resilient and I will stand up to all of them. Just as they criticised the Barbados Community College and now recognise the important place and role that it had to play

and is playing in the educational and social development of Barbados, both in terms of the expansion of education, because we were on a programme of expanding secondary education, in transforming our educational system from being an elitist one only for a few people attending a few secondary schools to the spreading of secondary education throughout the country by the construction of secondary schools out of our own resources, a fantastic expansion of secondary education which in turn meant that there would be more children coming up to complete secondary education and who would wish to continue their education. That was a start of it, Sir. There was a place for the Barbados Community College in the reorganisation and in revolutionising our educational system. All of that is a fact, Sir. Just as they oppose that, Sir, they are now talking about a cultural institution at Sherbourne and I am sure that in the years to come they will also be eating their words about that particular institution. Sir, they talk about vision and foresight, I do not have to speak in those particular terms. 6.45 p.m.

Anything that this Democratic Labour Party does, anything that I do as Leader of the Democratic Labour Party in accordance with our mandate and in accordance with our philosophy, we will stand up and defend it. We have no apologies to make for it.

In terms of the provision of opportunities for people leaving the secondary level of education, there is a continuing education programme launched by the Ministry of Education. The Minister of Education will give the details of that. I do not run the Ministry of Education. I have left that Ministry. I will tackle him on Finance. That is where I am now, Sir.

When the Honourable Member gets up in this House he gives people the impression as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West indicated that he was the only pure Minister of Finance. He never brought any supplementaries. He himself tried to give the impression that he is the only Minister of Finance who knows anything about finance in this country. I believe he was the shortest serving Minister of Finance in Barbados but he talks the longest, and the most.

There was a salaries settlement on the 1986-1987 salaries revision and there was an agreement reached with the unions. He now claims he has support of a member of the National Union of Public Workers, one of his prospective candidates. He came and advised and determined that no money would be paid out to the workers at that particular time but that they should wait for the new financial year.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. This matter arose in this House before. I indicated that either at the end of January or early February 1987 the Ministry of the

Public Service reached an agreement with the unions. That matter was transmitted to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and reached the Ministry of Finance after the Estimates were completed and already gone for printing on the one hand. Secondly, every effort was being made to pay the statutory bodies by the end of March. They were paid in March. In April those departments that could not complete the arrangement in April like the Ministry of Education, despite the fact that they were given all sorts of overtime, it was in April that they were paid. Several were paid in March as well.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Of course, that was an aside so that would not be in the records. I am sure that kind of language should be avoided in Parliament.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not go down the road of personal attack. I sit and listen to all kinds of things which are said about me and were said about me in this debate here today using all kinds of hifaluting language, devices and literary expressions. I know exactly what was being said and what was intended to be said. When I respond then you get all kinds of jumping up in righteous indignation. I am saying that the Honourable Member refused advice that no payment should be made until the new financial year.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am saying that the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. I represented to the Chairman of the Cabinet of the day and me Leader of the Government that since the Estimates were already printed, and since every single line in the Estimates would have to be changed in order to accommodate the changes in the Estimates that I could not guarantee the reprinting of the Estimates after the middle of February. That is a fact. When you talk about salaries and wages and the time for bringing the Appropriation Bill here within the time span, it could not be done physically.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, if you are talking about the Estimates, the Estimates that you are talking about could only be the Estimates for the succeeding years. That is exactly what I am saying.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order. I want the House to be very clear. I raised the question of the payment of the increases to the civil servants in the Estimates debate of 1987. The then Prime Minister of Barbados said "reserve your strictures for the Minister of Finance and if in the Budget debate he does not show how he is going to cover the wage increase, then you can criticise him". That is the factual record of this matter.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not sure what that said, Sir. You are jogging his memory? The time is not

right for that. He is talking about the Estimates, that you would have to change every line in the Estimates. The only line in the Estimates that you could be changing would be the Estimates for the new year. That is precisely the point I am making. Those Estimates were already prepared. I will just leave that. Do not tangle with me. Let not your heart be troubled.

Apart from the continuing education programme that has been launched by the Ministry of Education, I am sure that I heard the Minister of Education say some time during the course of this day's sitting that there was one skills training centre that was completed, or about to be completed at Sayes Court, that there were two others which were in the programme, one in the North and also one somewhere in the centre of the Island.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have not heard about that one yet. The point is we are trying to provide facilities throughout the country to take care of the continuing education needs of the young people of this country. We have also indicated at times in the past - this still remains our policy - that when the time is ripe the Polytechnic itself would be expanded and the Barbados Community College itself would be expanding. The main argument I am making here, Sir, is that we do not have to wait for some time in the future for somebody of courage to come forward to do this. We are already into the particular programme. 6.55 p.m.

Sir, I do not know that I can add anything to the speeches that have already been made. I merely wished to clear up a few points, because persons may get the impression that because we do not jump up on every occasion and reply to everything that is said that may be adverse, or that may be a distortion, or that may be a downright untruth, that there are no replies to those particular positions. We are not going to allow our position to go by default or to go unanswered, and we are taking steps, as can be seen, in order to deal with all of those issues.

I am fully in support of this particular measure. Sir. I am glad that it is getting the complete support of all sides in this Chamber and I hope that we can get out of this silly season and believing that because within the next six months, or thereabouts, there will be a general election in this country, that that is an occasion for good sense to take leave of persons and that they can say anything and swipe wild and try to bring down or destroy the various institutions of the country.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Prime Minister was talking about the silly season. It was the Honourable Prime Minister who said that some of his own members over there would lose their seats.

He said that earlier this year. He is going to offer some of them a very terrible Christmas. They have him to blame.

RL Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, the Honourable Member knows that I agree with him in a number of matters. If I said so, I admit that was a silly thing to say, because nobody over here is going to lose any seats, it is over there that they are going to lose seats. We are going to Quakers Road, Carringtons Village in St. Michael South Central on Sunday night. It is on the way to the Barbados Community College.

Sir, I am fully in support of this particular Bill and I commend it to this Honourable Chamber.

Thank you.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, we have had a long debate on education today, but I still must take a few minutes to respond to the comments made by some Honourable Members in this second debate. I will try to put the points together and therefore I will respond to the comments and queries from the Honourable Members for St. John, St. Peter, Christ Church East Central and Christ Church West.

Coming out of the contributions of the four Members, it seems to me that what they are really saying is that the sixth form schools should be discouraged. The other area in terms of agriculture at the Community College, there is a plan for its expansion. The certification and accreditation is an ongoing process and that is the topic of continuing discussion with the University of the West Indies, with some continued success. The continuing education that was mentioned is available at the secondary and indeed at the tertiary levels. At the secondary level we launched a pilot programme at St. James Secondary, at Grantley Adams, at Foundation and at Springer Memorial and the whole idea for further expansion within the secondary schools throughout the community, as the community so desires, is being reviewed. In other words, we are running this programme based upon the requirements of members of the community.

The Leader of the Opposition went wide. He obviously was going to answer something, but it would appear to me as though he has had some access to a couple of documents. However, Sir, when he repeated the point about secondary schools, we have always maintained the point that the first phase in the continued expansion, and indeed right up to addressing the sixth form schools, we had to provide the places in secondary schools. It all starts with the secondary school places for all, and this has been the ongoing process long ago when the secondary schools started.

The further expansion of the BCC will always be under consideration. In the first debate today, we spoke of

the expansion which will enhance the various subjects that are being covered at the BCC. There is nothing to say that further expansion may not come to the BCC whereby there are additional campuses. One cannot predict. Before that process is pursued we will have to analyse the whole question of repeats in upper sixth forms, and that is something we have to address, because there are the same complaints about places not being freed up at the bottom. *• We cannot afford, with the success and the money we are spending at the Community College now, to have repeats in the upper sixth. If you are in the lower sixth, you just do not go back there to get a scholarship. If you want to do further studies, go on to the BCC or move on to other places.

Sir, I made an intervention about the windows. I thought it had something to do with an article I read somewhere, so I will not even comment further on that.

With that, Sir, I move that this Bill be read a second time. «*•

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

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair. »
7.05 p.m.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that clause 1 stand part.

The question was put to the Committee that Clause 1 stand part and was agreed to.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that Clause 2 stand part.

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. Haynes were ordered to be expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this kind of thing, striking out every time. I have not heard any thing ever struck out by you from anyone on that side however outrageous it has been. It is always the Members on this side. <».. "•"

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will take his seat.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have a responsibility. I have rights and responsibilities in this matter. I am not going to allow him to usurp. You will have to send me out tonight.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order, please. Is there any other member who wishes to contribute to this debate?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The basic question is that I am not going to tolerate in the Chair any insults from any Honourable Member. I have tried dealing with the remarks that you made.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They are all remarks which are not offensive, which have been spoken in this House and I think that it is an attack on the Opposition of this country for that to happen. If you want to send me out for that, send me out for that. I am not making any mistakes about it.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is... Can I have some order please. The question is that Clause 2 stand part.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put to the Committee and agreed to.

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

On the separate motion of Hon. C. V. WALKER seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Bill was read a third time and passed. 7.15p.m.

ORDER NO. 1: RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF FOUR MILLION, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNITS FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK TO BE UTILISED BY THE INDUSTRIAL CREDIT FUND OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF BARBADOS FOR LENDING TO ENTERPRISES IN THE INDUSTRIAL, AGRO-INDUSTRIAL AND TOURISM SECTORS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, provision of some \$4.2 million ECU'S or approximately Bds. \$10 million is being sought to replenish the resources of the Industrial Credit Fund of the Central Bank. The purpose of this particular loan is being negotiated for allocation to the Central Bank of Barbados. The particular procedures under which this loan is administered is well known to this Honourable Chamber. It is, I believe, the third in the series. I do not propose to go into very many details on this matter at this stage.

I think we are all agreed that it is important that credit should be available to the productive sectors. The sectors to which I am referring include agro-industry, manufacturing, fisheries, tourism, mining, quarrying and enterprises which provide services directly related to them. The objective is to stimulate the economic development and generate some foreign exchange, also to create new employment. These have been the objectives of the National Credit Fund from the time it was established. This is just one in the series of replenishment which are being provided at this time, Sir.

With those few words, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance was very quick in his discussion of the Industrial Credit Fund. One suspects that the Government is not very happy these days to discuss any matter which has the word "credit" included in it.

I suspect that the Government would have been seeing the Central Bank Statistics whereby at the latest count the domestic credit to Government between last December and now has increased from \$263 million to \$419 million whereas month by month the situation is getting worse.

While the credit to Government by the domestic banking system is increasing from \$263 million to \$419 million, credit by the banking system to the private sector has continued to plummet. At the latest count - I am speaking from the Economic and Financial Statistics of October 1980, this shows, of course, that the credit to the private sector fell from \$1.28 million at the end of December to \$1.27 billion by August 1990.

Perhaps, Sir, these are the kinds of trends in the Barbados economy which have caused the private sector to speak with such a lack of confidence in the Government economy because, clearly, if you have a situation in this country where the Government expects the society as a whole to cut and contrive, it clearly must be beyond all conscience to have a situation existing whereby credit to Government can rise by as much as \$156 million given that Government only contributes 15% of economic activity whereas credit to the private sector falls by as much as \$10 million.

In a sense, Sir, this matter has to do with Government's management of the economy. I want to set what is now being contemplated by Government in that broader context. The Industrial Credit Fund has been in existence since 1983. It was one of a series of measures instituted by the Barbados Labour Party despite the Democratic Labour Party propaganda of 1986. It was one of

a series of measures instituted by the Barbados Labour Party in 1983 and in the mid 1980's to provide a wider range of financing mechanisms to the private sector of this country whether in agriculture, manufacturing, agro-processing or tourism to either allow them new avenues for medium and long-term capital, or alternatively to guarantee a credit and provide specialised means of export financing.

The Industrial Credit Fund belonged within that range of instruments including the credit guarantee system for small business, for example, the pre- and post-shipment financing facilities of the Central Bank which served as a financial innovation by which the Barbados Labour Party sought to address the special financing needs of the business sector of this country. It was integral in that context.

It sought in 1983 a facility to provide \$25 million for entities in tourism, manufacturing, agro-processing and agriculture to finance expansion or to set up entirely new facilities. One must make this point for the records because the 1986 Elections was, in many respects, fought and lost by the Barbados Labour Party on the grounds that we had no interest in the private sector but that the Democratic Labour Party was the only party that was interested in the private sector development despite what you all knew then about things like this, the Industrial Credit Fund and all the assistance we were bringing to the private sector, not only by this mechanism but by the special scheme to provide pre- and post-shipment financing for export development for all the schemes that we introduced into the Central Bank of Barbados to rediscount paper for manufacturing, agriculture and tourism. Yet, there was this whole propaganda across Barbados that the Barbados Labour Party was never interested in the development of the private sector.

This Industrial Credit Fund Facility also formed part of those series of initiatives taken in the early 1980's which, including the Housing Credit Fund - I can speak about it with authority because as a civil servant I had to formulate the Housing Credit Fund. When I left the Civil Service I was employed in my only consulting position to get that Housing Credit Fund off the ground which served as a \$20 million facility by which the private sector of Barbados could become involved in providing housing solutions in an area that had never been concerned with the low income class of persons in this country.

There was a holistic approach, if I may use the words of the Honourable Member for St. Michael East towards addressing the financial needs of the respective sections of Barbados around the early 1980's and the Industrial Credit fund came out of that approach.

I want to say that because, as I said earlier, the 1986 Elections - I will not let the Democratic Labour Party forget this - were fought on the grounds that we in the Barbados Labour Party had done nothing at all for the

private sector of this country and that a radical new approach had to be brought to bear to deal with the problems of the private sector. When I see, therefore, the conflict between this Government and the private sector of Barbados now, Sir, I am telling the Democratic Labour Party administration they have been hoisted now on their own petard.

I come back, Sir, to the aspect of the Industrial Credit fund. From time to time when we are looking to replenish these funds, I think we have to draw on the experience of their operations. I believe that the House should feel disappointed with the presentation of the Minister of Finance and Planning because all that is involved here is that the Government is simply just putting more funds in the Industrial Credit Fund without asking itself a number of basic questions.

The Fund has now been in operation for 7 years. Has it been effective in discharging its responsibility as conceived? Has any operational difficulties arisen during the process of its existence? Are any changes in its operations now warranted in the light of the experiences that have been gleaned since 1983? These, perhaps, Sir, are some of the issues to which I want to advert first of all. 7.25 p.m.

The Industrial Credit Fund was conceived as a means of providing financing for the expansion of enterprises in the private sector, or the creation of new ones, on the condition that it would provide financing for projects which have gone through the financing system, whether they be the commercial banks of Barbados, the Barbados Development Bank or any of those financial institutions. In order for a project to attract financing under the Industrial Credit Fund, the businessman who wanted either to expand his enterprise or to create an entirely new enterprise had to carry a project to a financial institution, get the approval of the financial institution and then go to the Credit Fund, which would give him financing up to about 90% of the project.

The experience has been, Sir, that the financial institutions of Barbados have not been anxious to use the resources of the Industrial Credit Fund whenever a situation of excess liquidity has existed in Barbados. When they have been liquid, Sir, they have been prepared just to lend the business community on their own accord, and if you go back from 1984 onwards you will find that in those years when there was excess liquidity in the banking system, although this Fund existed for the specific purpose of allowing the country to finance new investment, the banking system did not use it. These funds have only been utilised by the banking system in particular in circumstances where they themselves have been short of cash, and I am saying that on the basis of experience - because we always have to be flexible in managing this economy - Barbados simply cannot have sitting idle in the

Central Bank funds that can be used to expand capacity or start new enterprises, but that these funds cannot be moved purely because the financial system says that they have money of their own.

The Barbados Labour Party started this programme, Sir, but we have, as I said, always to be alert to think anew. In point of fact, on the basis of experience, the highest purpose of an Industrial Credit Fund might very well be to finance those projects which the banking system says that they do not want to touch, precisely because they might be too risky, given the credit worthy criteria that the commercial banks want to exercise, and that is my point of departure in this debate. Yes, we must put more money into the Industrial Credit Fund, because it has now exhausted the initial amounts that have been put up, but we must also, in my view, Mr. Speaker, change the way in which the Fund itself operates to so guarantee that it does not only provide financing for projects that win the approval of the banking system, but that it should also be a source of financing for that large set of projects in Barbados which can assist in the development of this country, the generation of employment and the generation of foreign exchange, but which do not meet the approval of the banking system, because their criteria of credit worthiness may be too narrow.

We are all familiar, Sir, with the fact that the banking system of Barbados assesses most new projects on the basis of risk, the risk involved to the banking system as distinct from the developmental impact that the new projects can have on the society at large. I am saying, Sir, that perhaps it would be useful for us to have a new look at the scope and the terms of reference of the Industrial Credit Fund, as we are now in the process of putting new funds into it, to make sure that the experience we have gained over the course of the last seven years put us in a position where we end up at the end of the day with a new credit fund that can help Barbados go forward more advantageously than has been the case in the past.

You may say, Sir, that I am criticising the concept set up by the BLP, but we must learn from experience as we go along. Clearly we cannot have an Industrial Credit Fund which only finances industrial or tourism projects or agro-processing projects which meet the credit worthy criteria of the financial institutions in this country outside of the Central Bank. It must have a larger developmental purpose. We must continually review these things, there must be a sense of financial innovation in what we are doing.

If you were to check all of the schemes, Sir, of a developmental character that the Central Bank has been administering since the early 1980s, you will find that there has traditionally been a difficulty experienced in the Central Bank getting these funds to move. There have always been difficulties with the administration of pre- and post-shipment financing because of excessive documentation requirements. A person who wants to export goods has to

comply with all kinds of red tape and the post financing facilities of the Central Bank have not served the purpose entirely for which they were intended. We cannot just ignore that hard and fast industrial experience which is at our disposal. The facilities at the Central Bank that are supposed to provide credit guarantees to the small business men of Barbados have not really served the revolutionary purpose of ensuring that more financing comes to the small business man of this country, and we have to reflect on it, because the intention of a credit guarantee system at the Central Bank was to tell the banking system that traditionally it had not been willing to lend the small business men of Barbados funds, we are going to put in a facility at our Central Bank that guarantees credit, so under the umbrella of a credit guarantee lend more, and we end up with a situation where there is not a lot of additional lending.

Clearly, Sir, the time has come for us to review these things. I am saying, therefore, that I am disappointed that the Minister is virtually implying that we are just going to replenish the Fund without asking ourselves the question why has it taken us seven years to disburse essentially \$25 million? I am sorry, Sir, the Central Bank also makes contributions to the Fund as well.

The point is that year after year after year if you read the Central Bank Reports very carefully, they point always to the problem of disbursement and in particular problems of disbursement associated with the reluctance of the banking system of Barbados to use funds such as these if they can do otherwise. I am saying that I would be glad to hear a broader discourse from the Minister of Finance as regards any new approaches being contemplated by his administration in relation to new directions for the Industrial Credit Fund. 7.35 p.m.

On the last occasion, Sir, when the House spoke on this matter in the Estimates debate of 1987, I remember, then, that the Minister of Finance at the time, the Member for St. Michael South Central, was even then drawing reference to certain difficulties being experienced in getting the funds disbursed and he cited the fact that he was thinking about having a larger proportion of these funds disbursed, for example, for the purposes of purchasing of taxis because the fund, Sir, as I must tell the House, accommodates not only loans to Tourism but also accommodates loans to any ancillary services that support Tourism. It was in that context, Sir, that the Member for St. Michael South Central and the former Minister of Finance was saying that he would have been interested in seeing a larger proportion of the Industrial Credit Fund go into that purpose and I made a contribution, then, to the effect, Sir, that I would like to see a larger proportion of the Industrial Credit Fund go into the projects designed to facilitate the growth of research and development in Barbados - quality control and those kinds of activities that could help build

our export sectors, but precisely, the kinds of activities that the private banks may say that are too risky for them to want to deal with.

I want to say, this, Sir, perhaps the time must come when we make a distinction between the discount facilities of the Central Bank and its management of development funds. The Central Bank, Sir, has the facility to discount paper, to make loans available to sectors such as agriculture, tourism and manufacturing through the operation of its discount facilities. But that is separate, Sir, from its management of development funds such as the ICF. I really believe now, Sir, that given the benefit of operational experience, that development funds belong in the Development Bank. Let the Central Bank, if it so wishes, manage discount facilities but funds like the Industrial Credit Fund which are intended, Sir, to provide medium and long term capital for the acquisition of fixed assets to assist in the expansion of plants or to facilitate the creation of new enterprises, Sir, are entirely of a developmental character and I believe that it will strengthen the Development Bank of Barbados if resources such as this could be located in the Development Bank. I strongly believe so, Sir. It will not compromise the role of the Central Bank in being able to provide assistance as required.

I trust the House is understanding the technicalities of what I am saying, Sir, that the Central Bank in any case has the capacity to extend credit not just to Government but to any sector of the Barbados economy. In point of fact, that sector of the Barbados economy that has utilised Central Bank credit most of all is the agricultural sector. A lot of the credit extended to sugar has been by way of the discount facilities operated by the Central Bank. But, I now believe, Sir, that we cannot in a time when it is necessary for Barbados to recapitalize its economy, have an Industrial Credit Fund in this country, sitting on resources, disbursing them too slowly on the grounds that the projects that really ought to be coming to the Industrial Credit Fund are not really coming largely because they do not meet the provisions of the financial institution.

I am aware, Sir, of course, that the Barbados Development Bank itself is in a position to submit projects to the ICF but the largest proportion of the projects that go to the Fund are those that originate from the commercial banks and therefore, Sir, while I am in support of the desire on the part of the Government to put more financial resources into these funds, I would want to respectfully submit that we cannot any longer allow the rate of disbursement of these funds to depend only on the liquidity position of the commercial banks of Barbados. Too important a developmental imperative attends us here, Sir. The role of the ICF should be broadened to allow it not only to finance the purchase of fixed assets, provide working capital or technical assistance but if you are going to talk about industrial development, you cannot build an industrial

sector, Sir, in Barbados any more unless you are going to be talking about technological investment as well and the financing of high risk research and development projects that can help develop new products, that can develop new processes to improve quality control are legitimate issues and activities that should engage the attention of the Industrial Credit Fund.

My own personal position is that these kinds of developmental things ought to be put in the Development Bank. You will notice that this is a consistent theme I have been exploring because early in this year when there was a surreptitious initiative on the part of the Democratic Labour Party to fracture the financing of small businesses in this country, I argued the case, then, Sir, that I would hate to see the day when the Ministry of Trade became a financial institution for small businesses. If you have the Development Bank established for that purpose, build it up as the institution from a developmental point of view that ** attends to small businesses. We already now have the Development Bank of Barbados catering to the industrial class, the agro-processors, the tourist people, people in mining and quarrying and persons particularly in the transport sector who provide ancillary services to the tourism industry and on those grounds, Sir, it would seem to me that there is a strong logic for us to wonder if in the future whether this should not be something to take out of the Central Bank and let the BDB administer. I have said » that this whole question of the replenishment of the Industrial Credit Fund touches on larger issues pertaining to the economy, in particular. Government's overall management of the economy. One is glad that the Government is trying to channel \$10 million Bds into these various sectors.

I have been making a point, Mr. Speaker, in recent speeches, a new point if I may say so for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. John, that Barbados has been living on past accomplishments and what I meant by that, * Sir, is that it has been a long time since any major investment has taken place in Barbados in any of our substantial productive sectors, meaning that there has been a long time since you have heard of any major new factory established in Barbados, or any major new hotel established in this country, Sir. Or, it has been a long time since you have heard of anybody in agriculture in this country making any substantial investment in any part of agriculture. The implication, therefore, Sir, is except CARSICOT which has €, not been an investment, but has been a way of just sending™ \$25 million down through the drain. Because I must inform the House, Sir, that the debt of the ADC to the BNB is now up in the limit of \$15 million and a lot of that is related to activities undertaken by the Agricultural Development Corporation in support of the misadventure that we now know to be CARSICOT. ^

The point I am now making, is that it is clear that the rate of growth in the last few years has been a rate of

growth generated on investments made in the late seventies and the early 1980s. But, Barbados desperately needs a bout of major investment in its key productive sectors and the question therefore the House must ask itself is, useful as this \$10 million might be, does it really go a long way in addressing the needs of capital formation in the Barbadian society? The Rt. Honourable Prime Minister recently in his response to the private sector, without doing the necessary research, in my view misrepresented and misinterpreted what has been happening to capital formation in Barbados. 7.45 p.m.

Because although it is true, Mr. Speaker, that there has been an increase in capital formation, meaning gross investment in Barbados. Capital formation of gross formation as defined for national accounts purposes is made up of private inactivity including land development, public building activity, acquisition of new plant and equipment and inventory. When you analyse the increase, when you go beyond change in the aggregate, yes, it has grown by \$119 million. The largest proportion of that increase has not been in the expansion of plant and equipment particularly for the productive sectors, but clearly in private building activity.

We welcome it, Sir. We welcome the fact that Barbadians, until the credit squeeze, have now started to hold a lot of their new investments in the form of private and housing development. We will not be able to sustain housing construction in this country unless there is a commensurate expansion of the unproductive sectors. Hence, what the Prime Minister should be dealing with is not just the change in the aggregate but the composition and recognise that he has a problem to the extent that if gross investment has only increased by \$119 million and \$113 million of it has occurred in private housing construction and land development, that there has only been minuscule investment taking place in the non-housing part of the productive economy. Therefore, that is the context in which we must set this debate. What is the magnitude of the investment that will be required in those non-housing parts of the productive economy to carry Barbados forward? How significant is this \$10 million given the magnitude of the problems that we have to address?

I want to say, Sir, that this \$10 million will help a few companies replace plant. It will help some companies establish small plants but it will not launch Barbados on a bout of growth of the order or magnitude that will make a substantial difference to this country's development prospects.

Secondly, Sir, the time has come when we have to add to the Industrial Credit Fund two new important funds that my party leader spoke of at our recent annual conference that you will need as well a specific export development fund and a research development fund. These are matters the Barbados Labour Party addressed in its recent annual

conference that if you were to analyse what is happening in our export sectors, our problem is not the lack of orders.

A lot of Barbados' manufacturers, Hampden, for example, even DaSilva's operations did not come from a lack of orders. The simple problem was that the orders were orders too large for them to fill given the fact that their skill of operation was geared basically to the domestic market and they could not scale up production to fill large orders given the institutionalised small scale.

Barbados simply must have a fund designed to assist persons who are genuinely interested in exports and exports *per se* to be able to draw large sums in order to finance capital expansion in circumstances where they have received large orders or are likely to receive large orders, or to create new capacities where new markets are being penetrated. We lack that now. It is going to make a decisive difference as regards the question as to whether Barbados goes forward as an export economy or not. We need an export development fund.

I am telling the House as part of the resources that Barbados has identified with the Inter-American Development Bank, we have to relate to the multilateral institutions differently than we did in the past. In the past we related to them in a manner that allowed them to assist in developing infrastructure. Barbados in the process of moving to a new phase in development must now put in place financial mechanism not to finance the creation of new infrastructure but that can create new capacity and replace existing complete capacity in key sectors of the economy. We do not have that facility and hence the flexibility.

I am saying that a lot of the funding that we should get from multilateral institutions at present and in the future should not just be for infrastructure. I feel that Barbados' infrastructure is relatively sound. We must be telling the multilateral institutions that we have a strong infrastructure and we now want to put on that a strong production capacity that is also relevant and competitive for the purposes of export production. If you are going to give us \$200 million let us earmark at least \$75 million of that to go into an export development fund.

I am also of the view that you cannot in Barbados today build an industrial sector without a technological base. The industrial sector of the past has relied on fiscal stimulus for its viability and its existence. The Government has sought to put that in a context that is, perhaps, derogatory that there are mendicants, and so on. Our industrial sector in Barbados exists today largely as a result of the ability of the Government to say, "I am going to give you import duty relief, construction duty relief or I am going to give you a tax holiday."

We have to move to the stage where part and parcel of our industrial experience is based upon the ability of the Barbadian people to produce new products or new processes. This requires that there must be a research and development fund that has built in it an element of contingency financing because research and development is a high risk area. You really must have a research and development fund in which recognising the risks, in technological development that if the technological project that you finance leads to a new project or process to repay but if however, as is the case with a lot of research and development activity the project does not lead to a new product or new process, that you treat it as a grant. This is the way in which many countries have financed their research and development.

These are the things that the Barbados Labour Party believe will make the difference in the future. It is in our Manifesto. You will notice that we are talking in those terms. We have to move Barbados from the stage where activity takes place only because of tax incentives to the point where activity takes place because it is human capital thinking, innovating and that there are financing innovations that when a man is thinking and innovating it will tell him "this is the resource to back you." Unless we are thinking in that way, we will continue to live on past accomplishments.

I am saying, therefore, that in the context of the situation that now exists, one is not surprised that there is an impasse between the private sector and the Government because this Government, in my view, does not understand the first aspect about what Government should be about. My father once told me that good judgement comes from experience and experience comes from bad judgement. You always have to be reviewing and reviewing even that which you yourself have set in place. I am speaking on an initiative which was started by the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, the House has to be disappointed that in a matter as critical as this we must expect, even though it is late in the day, that the Minister must speak in a more forthcoming way. 7.55 p.m.

Even though the Barbados Labour Party set up the Industrial Credit Fund, I recognise that the rate of disbursement was slow, it depended too much on the banking system, and we must correct that I recognise as well that the scope of the Fund was useful in helping some companies to set up and expand, but an Industrial Credit Fund by its very nature cannot only be limited to the acquisition of fixed assets, working capital and technical assistance, but there are other things that an industrial sector does involving quality control in technological experimentation and obviously an Industrial Credit Fund must capture the full concern of the industrial sector. Experience therefore should tell us that modifications are

now required to make the Industrial Credit Fund more impactful on the operation of the Barbados economy.

Before I leave this debate let me say that I am not surprised that the Government - and I really must get in this argument — is lacking a sense of innovation in its approach to economic matters. I recently warned the Minister of Finance that a lot of the mistakes that his administration is making were not because of his nature, but because of a person that he had, at the Ministry of Finance who did not enjoy the respect or support of his peers. He is a Senator in the Other Place, a cautious man making very wild financial decisions this year. It is really not the Member for St. Michael South, who is a cautious man basically, but financial decisions of this nature bear no relationship to him.

I also want to say to the House that the Industrial Credit Fund has been administered by the Central Bank, and I have no confidence whatsoever in the judgment of a certain Director of the Central Bank, who is now emerging, unfortunately, as one of the main spokesmen on economic affairs in this country. I was very serious last week, Sir, when I made the statement that I do not ordinarily attack that gentleman - I like him personally - but I was very serious last week when I heard a supposedly serious person venturing into the arena of wanting to discuss people's income tax returns in public. The law of Barbados protects the privacy of the individual taxpayer in relation to the submission of income tax returns, and neither the Commissioner, nor any of his staff, nor the Minister of Finance nor members of the Appeal Board should be operating outside the bounds of the law - section 51, Sir, if I must be more specific - which requires that in all things they are required to maintain secrecy and not in any respect to disclose any information pertaining to anyone's income taxes to anyone.

What was so distressing, Sir, and I must say so on the Floor of this House, is that he made a statement about certain prominent politicians who had assisted persons in making income tax returns and had submitted false information to the Department. I want to tell the House that I have brought this matter very forcibly to the attention of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, because I have been approached by a member of my constituency, a person selling vegetables from the back of a car after losing a job following the closure of Mirimar, to assist him in bringing himself right in the face of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. He had not paid taxes or submitted returns for a number of years. The person does not know the first thing about accounts, was not keeping very good accounts, Mr. Speaker, and I tried as best as I could to reconstitute his accounts on the basis of what he had, and I have brought him up to date before the Department of Inland Revenue, but they challenged his income for 1988. I say it is an infringement of that person's right to privacy for Mr.

Alleyne now to be talking about his income tax returns, because all he has tried to do is to comply with the law.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure you know...

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: A Senator in the Other Place.

Mr. SPEAKER: ...my ruling on that.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: It has me very upset, because this person whom I have been assisting...

Mr. SPEAKER: I may also say it is not parliamentary to reflect on the conduct of a person from the Other Place as well.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I do not have to call the person's name, Sir, but I am telling the House that the person from the Other Place when he talks about prominent politicians helping people submit income tax returns is referring to me. Also, when he makes the allegation that false information was submitted, it has simply to do with the fact that this is one of these small men that the DLP is always talking about, a man selling vegetables from the back of his car, and who is not skilled in the business of constructing accounts and tried as best he could to comply with the Income Tax Act. I am sure that he paid income tax in 1988 and 1989. I can tell the House as well, Sir, that he is now in a position where I have trained him and his assistant, because they are members of my constituency, to start keeping records of what they sell, who they purchase from, and everything that they buy and sell now they are recording in a systematic fashion so that he should never again be in breach of the law. Yet we have this person who is not supposed to know about people's income taxes, and even if he were supposed to know about them would be under the bounds of duty not to talk about them in public, trying to make an issue to embarrass prominent politicians in Barbados. I say, Sir, it is unconscionable.

I will tell the Government that the more he speaks the more he discredits the Democratic Labour Party, because the public will not easily forget that in 1986 he was one of those persons who put out a booklet that he now finds it desirable to condemn. I have a paper that I will make public in due course called "Some Neglected Issues in Wage Negotiations in Barbados" where the whole thesis and tenure of his argument was to establish that wage restraint in Barbados is irrelevant. But as I said earlier, whenever I hear him speak I do not only check for his economic analysis, I check for the phases of the moon, because he is here today and gone tomorrow.

I am telling the Minister of Finance that if there is one thing he must not allow him to do, it is to appear as if the Democratic Labour Party has given him the authority to invade the sanctity of people's income tax returns. This is not to justify persons not paying their taxes or making their

returns, but we do not ever want to have a situation in Barbados where what is the most private set of information submitted by an individual to Government comes under a precedent where a person, for political purposes, begins to talk about them in public. No Minister of Finance in the past, even if he had known anything about anybody's income tax, had ever spoken about it in public, because even the Minister of Finance is not supposed to know anything about a person's income tax. 8.05 p.m.

I am offended, Sir, that that Senator not only knows about people's income tax return but he feels that he has the authority and that he has the impunity in this country to come and talk about people's income tax returns. It is going too far. It has gone too far and when I have called upon the Minister of Finance to clear the air on this matter, Sir, it is precisely because we are setting a dangerous precedent. You may know what your limits are. We know what your limits are. We respect the fact too that you as Minister of Finance know what your limits are. I don't believe that you would ever talk about a person's income tax and I feel, Sir, not to the Minister of Finance... We know. I didn't say believe. I said we know that you would never be talking about anybody's income tax or implying anything about anybody's income tax in public. No previous Minister of Finance has ever done that because they knew what their limits were and we must never for the sake of Barbados, allow a precedent to be established in this country where someone because of the privilege of high public office believes that what is not within the province of a Minister of Finance and a Prime Minister of this country fall within their authority. That is why I spoke.

I have spoken and I want the House to know that I regard the matter with such seriousness that I have told the Commissioner of Inland Revenue that I was a public politician who assisted a person in submitting tax returns. I signed it and dated it when I signed it, because that is how I operate. It was not for pay, not as an accountant, but Sir, I also told him the name of the person and the name of the officer that was attending to the matter, Sir, and I have asked him to use his good offices to ensure that the person on whose behalf I was operating, that his rights in the matter are not infringed. It should not be discussed in public and that is all I am saying on this matter, Sir, but the general point is that the person from the other place believes that he now has this latitude to attack other people on economic issues with impunity and in the most carping and disgraceful way, Sir. He said some things about me at Haynesville. I have been accused by the Democratic Labour Party of giving one speech and I have given one speech, Sir, if only because I am consistent in all that I have said. A person who gives one speech can only be accused of being consistent. I have never deviated and will never deviate from what my training and my experience tell me are the proper precepts of managing an economy. So the DLP can always accuse me of giving one speech, but that person is

here today, he is gone tomorrow and I have warned him that this is going to be a stormy election and in any storm, small crafts should keep close to port.

So, Sir, I believe that I have covered most of the issues. I have tried constructively to engage Government as regards the future of the Industrial Credit Fund. The burden of my contribution is that more can be made of it, but we will not make the most of it if we allow what comes to the fund to be determined on what is credit worthy in the eyes of the commercial banking system. That we need also to pick up particularly the projects which the commercial banks say are not credit worthy and find a safe financial haven for them. If this facility is going to have a beneficial impact on Barbados in the future, Sir, I would urge the Government not just to replenish the fund which now needs replenishing but to look again at its scope and its terms of reference and even contemplate moving it to the true development institution of Barbados. I am obliged to you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Honourable Member for St. Peter made an excellent speech and certainly has put the issues in perspective. While it is true, Sir, that I have actually campaigned against him in St. Peter in support of one fine lady, for she is a lady, and I would understand why I took that position. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West felt very strongly that she is a lady too and you will note, Sir, that one has to make comments on the way in which the lady was treated in recent times. That will not detract from my indicating to the House, of course, that he has made a good speech but the Honourable Minister of Finance is not particularly concerned at the moment with the operations of the Industrial Credit Fund or the factors which influence the rate of disbursements from that Fund. What he is obsessed with is getting \$10 million in foreign exchange into Barbados and he will rake and scrape foreign exchange from any source, bearing in the mind, the disastrous situation which exists at the moment in respect of the foreign reserves of Barbados and the appalling situation at the Central Bank.

My information, is, Sir, that the net position at the Central Bank was minus \$53 million in the red, not so long ago, with almost all its lines exhausted and that the Government has been continuing to draw down what little is cashable of its securities. I think the published data indicates last August or whenever it was, that it was in the red at the end of the month and the securities were being sold off and that process has continued unabatedly. So, from that point of view, where clearly the Honourable Minister of Finance is looking for a balance of payments support and a foreign reserves prop or a little boost in the foreign reserves, I have no difficulty in supporting this Resolution at all from the impact on our gross position. Let it be clear that one of the reasons why this is here tonight and one of the reasons why we will remain here until this is passed and one of the reasons I am quite sure it will

probably be going to the other place tomorrow, is because of the urgency of getting some funds in and in the case of the ICF, of course, once the funds are available as the ICF since they are not related to individual projects, then they could be readily drawn down. I hope, Sir, that Barclays Bank having been given a mandate to raise some money in the Eurodollar market... I hope that this issue is going well and perhaps the Honourable Prime Minister could inform the House of the kind of progress that is being made. Don't ^, be afraid. I will support you in it. I know what is important and what is not I know that it is important to indicate what the position is. I also know it is important to give support in the appropriate way.

Now, on the question, Sir, of the person who broke all the rules in the financial structure of this country in disclosing or threatening to disclose the individual tax returns of persons. I believe, Sir, that this House has to deal with matters of Jihat nature. It is, very important because that Industrial Credit Fund is, located in the Central Bank and j* that person is a Director of the Central Bank. The borrowers .fTjOrn these funds, will ,be going to the Central Bank and I think that these matters really have to be dealt with. I know that, the Ho/iourabteMember for St. Miqhael South, the Rt. Hon. jPrime Minister... Let me tell you something, Sir, about him. Some people forgive, some people forget. The Rt. Hqnourable,Prime Minister may forgive temporarily but he does not forget and... 8.15p.m., »

I think the same Director of the Central Bank who is temporarily forgiven should always bear in mind that he is not forgotten. I only wish that I had taken your advice in certain matters because I am sure that neither the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister nor the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would ever forgive the conduct of that person in the 1970's or forget the conduct of that person. I am sure that in due course he will be a major embarrassment to the Government of Barbados. Make no mistake about that. **

When someone can go down to Haynesville and say that I asked him to, come and join me when the facts are that after I resigned as Minister of Finance in July 1987, I never saw that individual until November 1987 when he burst into my clinic like a madman and Brought to me a letter which he told me he was taking to the Prime Minister of this country relating to, the ^ National Insurance Board and threatening to resign. Itold him that he should not bring this matter, to my attention because I was no longer a Minister — of Finance in Barbados. ;

The next time I heard that individual was in a radio programme where he was lambasting me. He was lambasting me up to November 1987. By February 1988 he was lambasting me on a radio programme. I never spoke to him since then. This National Democratic Party was not formed until a year after I last spoke to that individual. I am

sure one is dealing with a peculiar kind of lunacy that can result in statements of that nature, hence the reference to the moon in determination of certain things. These things are serious because when people have responsibilities of this nature, when they are dealing with persons prominent in the political life of Barbados, I believe that they should not go out making statements of that nature.

I think I fully agree with the views of the Honourable Member for St. Peter that the Fund has not been utilised effectively and the constraints were the pre-conditions in terms of utilisation of the Fund in that there was always a need to have the virtual approval of a certain cooperation of the commercial banks in being able to draw down on the money.

Sir, I know of several projects. For example, I know of a cultural project where every effort was made for the export of flowers to Brussels where every effort was made to get access to this Fund and the money could not be obtained. That happened when I was Minister of Finance and beyond.

I know of someone who was interested in getting financing for an expansion of a dairy herd, just the mechanics of it, and they could not get it done. This operates right through the whole thing. I think basically it is because the Central Bank really would regard this as a kind of peripheral activity and not a central activity. The Central Bank is not geared for that kind of development.

The other point I want to make is that I recall back in 1987...

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I wish to draw to your attention, Sir, Rule 28, 10 (a) and (b) which refers to references in debates to the character and conduct of any person in his official capacity. It goes on to state that prior notice should be delivered to the Speaker of any reference to the character or conduct of any person in his official capacity.

Before making my further point, Sir, I would wish to know if prior notice had been given to you, Sir, because there have been some very clear and pointed references and names called of a person of the Other Place. There have been allegations or downright charges that that person has been in breach of the Income Tax Act as well as some other instances. I believe that unless these things are done within the framework of the Rules I would wish to ask that all of those references should be struck from the records. I would wish to make that submission. I would wish your ruling on these matters. These are very serious accusations that are being made.

Mr. SPEAKER: Clearly based on the Rules of the House, it is evident that the reference is to Members of the Other Place and even of this House in their personal

capacity while being I presume, a Member of the House, but if they operate outside on that basis, then it is difficult for me to deal with the matter, since the matter does not reflect on something that the Member had said in the Other Place which has been challenged in this place.

I believe that the Honourable Members should be cautious in this respect in dealing with a matter like that when it is difficult for the Chair to determine whether the matters relate to what is said in the Other Place or outside of that place. I think the best caution in that matter would be to avoid all reference to that particular individual since it would be very difficult to determine whether you were speaking of the person in respect of what they were dealing with in the Other Place or not.

I would think the ruling clearly demonstrates that if you are dealing in that manner, you have to be very clear that you are not dealing with it in the light as a Member of the Other Place. I have no measurement to determine whether that is so or not. As a result of that, I think the closest ruling to that would be to avoid implicating that person. As a result of that, I think I would uphold the Prime Minister's argument that any reference in that respect that would reflect in that way should be withdrawn from the records.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am making a general ruling.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, there are two problems I have here. First of all, the Rules of the House indicate that if a Member feels there is a breach of the House's rules he should rise immediately. That occupied a portion of my speech a long time ago. That is the first thing.

Secondly, to the best of my knowledge I have called nobody's name. Therefore, I do not have to comply with any Rule to give you any names before hand. I would think that if there is a request for a withdrawal then I would humbly request that I have a transcript of my speech before proceeding because I am not quite sure what I am being asked to do.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I am saying is, I said if the reference was clearly that, then I would ask that it be withdrawn from the record but since I have no indication as to whether the statements you are making were either made in the House or otherwise, I am asking that that kind of procedure cease. I have difficulty in determining that

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, if I may continue. There can be no doubt that the point made that the best use has not been made of the Industrial Credit Fund because of the difficulties in disbursement and because of the ranges between

commercial bank practices and the fact that the Central Bank is not geared to this area of development of lending.

One very important aspect of the National Democratic Party policy programme is the establishment of a venture capital company. It formed part of the Budgetary Proposals which I presented to this Parliament in 1987. Such a company will go a long way in providing what is vitally needed for small businesses in Barbados and businesses who have to undergo the kind of risk assessment which disqualifies them from traditional financing in Barbados. 8.25 p.m.

I recall, Sir, that the establishment of that venture capital company had reached the point where a commitment on the part of the Government for \$5 million was already made, and I think that advance negotiations had been undertaken to locate another \$20 million, a total of \$25 million, to get the venture capital company started. I believe that the existence of such a company providing the financial support...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member would like an example. Let us say the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, after he loses his seat, wants to set up a small fishing business in St. Lucy, and let us say he requires \$100,000 in order to do this. Let us say he only has \$10,000 but the banks can only lend him \$70,000. He has a gap. The gap he has is between the equity he can put into that company and the amount he can borrow commercially. What the venture capital company will do now is to come in and say it will provide \$30 000 million as equity, but he would have the option of repurchasing that. Therefore the venture capital would also bring along with it management accounting and a whole other range of skills. Having launched that company then, they will be able to pull back that money and recycle it.

Venture capital activity is one which is well known throughout the world. That would address one of the major needs of small businesses and businesses operating in the export sector of Barbados, where they can access equity capital on a basis that would not erode or interfere with their long term ownership of the project. It is a very vital area of financing that is needed for the development of this country. Unless that is done, you will have all sorts of difficulties.

I believe that if one went to the European Investment Bank or the FIV, or even the Central Bank, which I gather from time to time has put money into the Industrial Credit Fund, whoever has put money or is likely in the future to put money into the Industrial Credit Fund, then certainly the scope of utilisation of those funds could be agreed on between the Government and the lender to include some contribution to the operations of a venture capital company.

Again, Sir, I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Peter that one of the major missing areas in the Barbados economy has been new investment. I was amused when the Honourable Member for St. Michael South equated investment with gross capital formation, not recognising that gross capital formation relates almost principally to the kind of things that the Government does, in knocking down Nelson, or pushing Nelson to one side, or *.. putting in a road here and that kind of thing, and a few physical structures like housing in the private sector and so on. That is gross capital formation, that is not the same thing as investment in the country. The two are not necessarily the same. Gross capital formation, as defined in our statistics, is not the same thing as attracting new investment.

The important thing, Sir, is that we have to find ways and means of getting new investment going in Barbados. First of all, we have to establish the appropriate climate » which would permit Barbadians to invest in Barbados; the appropriate fiscal environment, the appropriate monetary environment and the appropriate social environment, and certainly the kind of signals that I see being sent out from the platform of the Democratic Labour Party will in no way encourage investment by Barbadians in Barbados. You had better remember this, that money follows money, and when X and Y stop investing, Z will stop investing too. Unless you establish a climate in this country where Barbadians are «, prepared to invest in Barbados, you are not going to get anybody from outside to invest in Barbados.

Again and again I have pointed out, Sir, that you can pass all the legislation you like in here, you can have the most attractive people in the Ministry of Finance and in the Central Bank, but when a potential investor comes to Barbados and he goes to the IDC officials, to the Ministry of Finance and to the Central Bank and there are all smiles, that is fine. But when he goes elsewhere in Barbados, when he goes to his hotel or elsewhere and has lunch, and he «* starts hearing about the problems and he detects a lack of confidence by the private sector, then you have a problem.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You had better take these things seriously. The most important thing relating to investment in a country is the question of confidence. That is why I am saying similarly you will never ever be able to get the small ^ business man to have confidence in himself, in his class and * in his group unless the appropriate support mechanisms are put in place to make sure that there is a high level of continuing success among such people. A venture capital company would be the kind of operation that will go a long way in dealing with this.

If you look at most of the major failures in Barbados among small business men, you will find that the fundamental problem is the fact that they have a situation

where the debt burden on the company is such that it cannot meet its day to day obligations and service the debt at the same time. The only way you can change that is for them to have some money to put into those companies or to have an institution in the country which is prepared to put equity alongside their equity with an option for them to repurchase. All the marketing facilities that you put in place, all the assistance you give for export would be completely useless unless that basic corporate financial stability exists within the company.

I know this from my personal experience. Years ago I was involved in a furniture company, which has been successful.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was very lucky, I nearly lost my shirt. I have had experience operating as a small manufacturer in Barbados a small company, but a successful company, a company which I believe raised its gross sales in a couple of years from \$40,000 to almost \$3 million. 8.35 p.m.

A company that employed probably about 60 people continuously for 10 years, but I never made a cent and the reason for that is, Sir, that one could never attract the equity that you needed. You could never get the equity and the result was that over a ten-year period all your profit would have gone in bank interest if you had attracted more equity financing when the problems arose. That company, Sir, has been taken over by another company, I think, but that company probably exported over \$20 million in furniture in a ten-year period.

If you go right through the Eastern Caribbean, all the rattan furniture you see down there, that rattan was in fact manufactured here. The Trinidad agents owed these places and they never got a cent. Gross sales of \$20 million but the point is this, Sir, I recall going to the United Kingdom, and this is where this could be important and I obtained an order but the order was for 10 million pounds in furniture in three months. You couldn't start for a variety of reasons - you don't have the money to raise the raw material, you can't expand, you can't do a whole lot of things like that. And, this is why you need that venture capital intervention if the small man is going to be helped and all the talk about 'I am for the small businessman. I am for the small man.' Unless you put those things in place you will never get anywhere and that venture capital company is absolutely critical.

What the Honourable Member for St. Peter spoke about, a good idea, an export development fund. That is fine but you have to look at that area of corporate strengthening and I believe that the Industrial Credit Fund by snii-^{IKL} TM M,ith thf. lenders should be able to

attract funds for this kind of purpose, that is participatory equity financing in appropriate quarters.

Now, Sir, there is another area where I think this kind of financing could be of value and I talk now, Sir, of what usually comes under the terms of the microbusiness, the very small businessman. The guy, whether he be beach vendor or whether he is selling hot dogs or whatever he is doing, that guy if only he can get a bit of equity financing then he would be able, to make a success of that project. I see no reason whatsoever why small loans of \$5,000, \$10,000 could not be made available to people. Sure, it is going to carry a certain risk, Sir, but if you succeed in two out of three and those two out of three end up employing six people then you have made a major dent. You will then be employing eight people but only have one failure.

Let me give you an example of what I mean, Sir. A lady called this morning. She had called two days ago. She ran a successful business. She was burgled twice and most of her stock was taken out. She is unable to get a loan from the commercial banks now. She is unable to get started again in business. Now, here is a lady who has a good track record, who feeds her family but no access to any financing. I am saying that that is the kind of person who tomorrow morning should be able to go to some public financial institution and get five or ten thousand dollars to get started again.

I know, Sir, that there are a lot of young men in my constituency with good ideas but they do not have a cent to get started. I am not saying that everyone is going to be successful but what I am saying is that if you spread \$1 million or \$2 million, \$10 million to start off businesses across Barbados that you would end up down the road with serious young businessmen making a contribution to the economy and employing people and you would be surprised to see the number of people who are employed by small businessmen.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much. I tell you this Sir, in relation to capital deployment, it is well known that it is the small business area that has the highest number of employees per dollar deployed in capital, because when you enlarge, because of the economies of scale, you can reduce the number of persons involved in a given activity whereas the small businessman has to duplicate this all along. Ten small businessmen would employ more people than one large business covering the same operation and that is the area that we need to focus in and you cannot succeed unless you have a venture capital company in Barbados or some other institution performing a similar function. Thank you Sir.

SUSPENSION

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 9.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 8.45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING Mr. DEPUTY

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, anyone with interest in the development of Barbados in general and, in particular, in the development of these very important sectors like the industrial, tourism and agricultural sectors, should not find any difficulty in supporting the placing of these funds in the Industrial Credit Fund. So, Sir, being one of those people I have no difficulty in so doing.

I must, having said that, indicate that like the Honourable Member for St. Peter, I have some concerns.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: We are both decent people. That is another thing we have in common. We try to tell the truth.

To get on to more serious things, Sir, I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Peter that we can ill afford to have these funds lying around or not getting them moved in a direction where they would have a positive effect on the sectors that we intend for.

Now, Sir, the Export Grant and Incentive Scheme of the Central Bank to which the Honourable Member for St. Peter alluded in his contribution is one which, to all intents and purposes, is the kind of scheme that would tangibly assist in the development of exports from Barbados and also in the earning of the badly needed foreign exchange.

One of the problems we have with that Scheme...

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Sir, it is nice we can have a little fun in between especially living in these very trying times. I am sure you would agree. If you are not having fun, Sir, I can assist you in indicating how you could.

Seriously, a major problem with that Export Grant and Incentive Scheme is the way that it operates. It is very, very

cumbersome. I have indicated as part of a group who met with the Governor of the Central Bank, Dr. King, that if we are going to see that system work, as most of us - I am very careful in saying most of us because there are persons in this society who are not that interested in seeing the manufacturing sector develop and the export sector develop. Get that clear. Another time and another place I will deal with that.

I indicated to the Governor of the Central Bank at the time that he needs to remove some of the bureaucratic nonsense that one has to go through to access that Scheme and a lot of the red tape has to be removed if you are going to (i) encourage people to get involved in the Scheme in their own enlightened self-interest and (ii) if the Scheme is going to be able to play the kind of role that was envisaged when it was put in place.

Another very important point that was raised and has been continually raised by the very Central Bank is the level of co-operation they are getting from the commercial banks with regards to this Scheme, again another very good reason why we should pay heed to some of what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said. I will get to that a little later about who should administer this Scheme. The level of co-operation, as I was saying, Sir, is very low in terms of the expediting of this finance with regards to the commercial banks. ,

One of the problems that the commercial banks seem to encounter and the problem is being then transferred to the recipients, persons involved in exporting, is that they will not view the guarantees as any serious collateral. When you apply to a commercial bank to use this Export Guarantee Scheme they look at your overall indebtedness to them to see whether the collateral you have now with them has enough left over to cover the difference between the amount that the Central Bank would guarantee, which is as much as 80% and what they have to be exposed for which is only 20%. As far as they are concerned, they want to be exposed for nothing.

I am not here to say how the commercial banks should do their business. I am saying let us not be fooled that they are in any relationship with either the Government, the Central Bank or even the manufacturers in terms of trying to assist in the improvements of exports from this country. Get that clear.

I think then, Sir, that this is where I have to really agree with the Honourable Member in his suggestion that you may want to seriously look at putting the Scheme under the auspices of the Development Bank. I am one of those persons who have gone on record time and time again calling for some rationalisation of the Barbados Development Bank, the Industrial Development Corporation and the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation.

I believe that this aspect of assistance for exports needs to be removed from the Central Bank. The Central Bank is treating the Export Grant and Incentive Scheme as some kind of sideline. This is not part of their serious business. One only has to look at what has happened since the meetings - there has only been one meeting with the Governor - with the complaints that were made by most of the manufacturers *vis-a-vis* the assistance or lack thereof they have been getting through that Scheme.

One has to look at the fact that you pay an insurance premium. In the case of the company I represent we paid an insurance premium for as long as the Scheme existed, over 10 years I believe the Scheme has been in place, and in that 10-year period you make one claim in the case of the Bahamas where we were misguided by the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation in selling to the Bahamas after a mission there. The persons who you were selling to were persons who were highly recommended by the Export Promotion Corporation, so that you felt that the risk was fairly minimal. They were approved by the Central Banks in terms of their ability to pay, you ship to the Bahamas, something goes wrong and there were three or four companies who got stuck with their goods in the Port in the Bahamas, never sold. They had to make claims. Then we had tremendous difficulties in getting past the General Manager of the Export Grant and Guarantee Scheme at the Central Bank because, as happens often even in the private sector insurance companies, when the time comes to pay up a claim is when you have all the difficulties in the world. They are very happy at taking your premiums. I do not see why a Scheme like that which is supposed to be there to assist in development and the key word is "development" should behave like that

The Central Bank Governor was made aware of these problems. As far as I am concerned, nothing of any significance has been done. When one applies for pre-shipment financing these days, it takes anywhere from 1 week to 10 or 12 days just to get the approval back to your bank. By the time you add that to the fact that one has to order certain packaging material because Barbados really does not produce any packaging materials like glass bottles, that takes you probably another 2 weeks. Then you have to ship it to the person in Britain who would have wanted it in a month, now it is getting there in 6 weeks.

I do not need to tell anybody in here we have serious competition coming from our neighbours as far away as Jamaica. You only have to make a slip with a lot of these people in the extra-regional countries and they are very quick at cancelling the order or switching to another supplier. 9.45 p.m.

These are some of the harsh realities. That is why the people who administer a scheme like this must be sensitive enough and understand enough about exporting to know

that to expedite these matters is a matter, of survival for most companies. I suggest that we move that over to the Barbados Development Bank, a bank which I might add, in fairness to them, which is much more sensitive. I would say that in recent years the whole attitude of the Barbados Development Bank to the manufacturer in Barbados has changed significantly. I do not know, nor do I care, who is to take the credit for it, it is a step in the right direction. When the Honourable Prime Minister said *sotto voce* before that there is possibly some venture capital financing, or some equity taking going on in terms of loans, that is true. To some extent some of that is happening right now with the Development Bank and there is no need for me to come in here and tell you it is not true, because you can find out tomorrow. All we are saying is that they have to go that one step further and assist in providing some sort of management assistance, because it is sometimes more dangerous to give a fellow who is drowning some more money to further choke on without some assistance in how to manage that same money.

I believe too, Sir, that the Barbados National Bank should be mandated to carry export accounts, because as I explained before, the foreign commercial banks are not that willing to be as co-operative, but I believe that the Barbados National Bank being a Barbadian owned commercial bank, should be sensitive enough and should have a policy that runs parallel to the Government's stated policy about exporting. If I am to believe that the Governor of the Central Bank and the Honourable Prime Minister are serious when they continue to call - occasionally the Honourable Minister of Trade will say a little something, because as Minister of Trade he has to say something, but we do not hear from him too often - for increasing exports, the Prime Minister must also show he is serious by putting in place mechanisms and institutions that he has more control over. I know that he cannot control what Barclays Bank is going to do, but he has more say in what the Barbados National Bank is going to do.

Before you get people jumping up and shouting that I want them to give away the old people's money to a bunch of manufacturers to throw it away, I am not saying that, I am saying that the failure rate will be small. I am saying that if you read the report on the 20 manufacturers, although a certain gentleman from the University of the West Indies, in whom I have very little confidence, was involved in putting it together, you will see that the biggest problem with a lot of them is that they need that working capital component and managerial assistance. Most of these manufacturers who become export manufacturers were either craftsmen who developed into manufacturers, or persons running cottage industries which grew, they rented an IDC building, the industries continued to grow and suddenly they were manufacturers with about 20 people working for them and they still had not been able to acquire any more managerial skills. That is where they ran into trouble, because they did not understand that working

capital is not loose cash with which you can buy a car. You have to help these people to help themselves.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West knows fully what I am talking about, because I believe he has tried in his own way to assist many of these people. I gather that the failure rate was high, but he did try. I believe that the scheme, as it is presently set up, does not really give the kind of tangible assistance to the sector, whether it be agro-industrial or any other sector of industry but the export sector; they do not give the kind of assistance that is needed if you are going to realise the goals that you have set for these export manufacturers.

There is another question I would like to ask, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Has the Government considered how we are going to have these funds impact on the development of agro-industry? While I am on that, here we are in a situation where there is a Government initiated agro-processing plant operating in Christ Church. The plant is still in its infancy, it has not got off the ground to creep, never mind to walk. I know they will be making a few products which I think they should not get into, but that is another issue. Suffice it to say that this plant is a good example of what could happen. I remember when I was on that side discussing it with the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and I agreed with him that there are some things Government will have to initiate, because some areas in the private sector are either too spineless or they do not like to risk their money, or whatever the reason, but they do not get into a lot of these things which in the long run will have deeper implications as far as the development of Barbados is concerned. If you have a successful agro-industrial sector, the linkages will dictate that you will have some measure of success in the farm sector.

I have no difficulty in supporting something like that, although there are some people who believe that they create some kind of competition for the company I work for. That is not true, however, they will have to get up to my quality first before they can compete with me.

Aside.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Not tomato ketchup alone, but tomato ketchup is one. I have given up trying to deal with any Government about tomato ketchup. I went through two Ministers of Trade in the former administration and I did not even bother to start with this one. You have right now coming into Barbados tomato ketchup coming from Trinidad, which is primarily corn starch, being sold here at a price that is even cheaper than we can make it for in Barbados, even if we put in all the corn starch they are putting in. You have a National Standards Institution that says we will put a standard for ketchup which is equal to some of the better standards in the world, like the codex alimentaria, and anything else adulterated, like the one from Trinidad or even the one I make, will be called something

else but you cannot call it tomato ketchup. In other words, the standards would be such that you adhere to this standard and you can call it tomato ketchup. If you make something else you can call it tomato sauce or what you like. Do you know that a very prominent business man in Bridgetown, an importer of this ketchup, made it clear that it will never see the light of day? He said he would continue to import from Trinidad. Do you know he was right? Do you know the standard has been sent back stating that it is too high and will have to be looked at again? Check it out. I am sure the Honourable Minister of Agriculture knows about this. 9.55 p.m.

That is the position today. Now what is this businessman in Bridgetown doing? Playing for time. Because they have just bought another plant and they are going to manufacture the same tomato ketchup, they are playing for enough time so that they can get their own. Then "a very good friend", and I say that in parenthesis of the Honourable Minister of Health is also putting up his own plant in St. Philip.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health is known to have a lot of friends. I don't know if you are suggesting something because he is the man's friend.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: I raised that point, Sir, to say this. One of the intentions of that agro-processing plant... I am not making a case for myself because whether I make ketchup is neither here nor there. It is not a big seller for me. One of the intentions - and you correct me if I am wrong. I will give way. One of the intentions of the agro-processing plant was to come to the point where they could produce a high quality product that they could even look at exporting beyond the Caribbean. In other words, to make it at a standard that they can ship it anywhere in the world. Now, Sir, if you erode their domestic base where they can't even get off the ground by allowing what I call dumping. If you want me to get technical you can check and see if the fair market price in Trinidad is different from the one they settle for in Barbados. I call it dumping where Trinidad can sell a ketchup here. You have to examine whether it is a fact or not that the manufacturer in Trinidad is paying less consumption taxes and stamp duties or whatever things we pay, whether or not we are starting off equal. These are the things we need to examine because my information is that as long as they are... As far as my information goes, let me put it this way, the fellow in Trinidad making the ketchup is not paying the same kind of levies and taxes and duties as we are in Barbados. We cannot even consider shipping our ketchup to Trinidad because if we can't even compete with him in the land here and we make it here in Barbados I don't see we will get too far with him going to Trinidad. This is something you will need to examine.

You see, once we start talking about putting funds like this kind of money into the Industrial Credit Fund and you don't have much of an industry left by the time all of these

different things that I mentioned wipe it out. You don't need an ICF anymore. There won't be any industry to fund. I believe too that when you examine institutions like the agro-processing plant and even to some extent the one we have, we have always tried and this plant that is going up at Fairy Valley is doing the same thing. We have always tried to deepen the process to the extent that you can see the real linkages. A lot of these other operators are coming in here, bringing concentrated product, reconstituting it and putting it in a can, putting on a lid and getting the same benefits. It doesn't cost them anything in research in development. It is all done. They are buying a technology that is there for anybody to take. Whenever they sell a Barbados cherry juice that is made with cherry concentrate from Brazil, what benefit is that to us? They are only putting in water and some local value, that is bare labour. It benefits us more when the agro-processing plant is going to go into research and development as far as producing a cherry pulp is concerned from Barbados cherries, where then you can really encourage farmers to farm cherries on a commercial basis. These are things that we need to look at I am not going to spend the rest of the time I have dealing with that alone. But these are things that we need to address if you are really serious about development.

For years, I have asked for proper funding for research and development in the area of exports and that is why when the Honourable Member for Christ Church West made that call recently, when I think, as the Honourable Prime Minister mentioned he had vision, I was pleased to hear him endorse my call for this kind of positive and necessary facility. We all get up and talk about niche marketing and it sounds nice and important and then we do not have the kind of research to tell us where these niches are and what niches we should pursue. Some of the niches we are talking about are very large. We can't even start to deal with them. Do you know, Sir, that in most cases if a manufacturer in Barbados has to supply one chain in the U.S.A. with furniture... Let's say Sears Roebuck decide they are going to buy one type of furniture from here. They have thousands of stores. I was present in 1978 at the Trade Fair of the Americas in Miami where a buyer from Sears Roebuck came to the late John Hampden and said: "I like this suite you have here." It was a Danish style mahogany suite. He said: "Can you give it to me knocked-down?" Hampden said, "yes." He said: "Well we would be interested." He picked out his card and Hampden said: "Come here and sit down with me Miller. I want you to hear what is going on here." The man said that he wanted only for one region in the USA 10 suites of this furniture knocked-down for 1500 stores. Hampden's reply to the man was "even if I get Kirton and all the other boys in Barbados to come together with me and try to make this, we can't supply even the first order."

So, that was only one niche. Anybody who has resided in the U.S.A. will know that Sears Roebuck is not somewhere that you buy the most expensive of things. It is

a reasonable priced place. So that is a niche for lower middle class America for instance, but it is too big a niche. We may want to look at a niche that says that there is a certain kind of consumer. You may want to target the yuppies in Connecticut for a certain style of furniture because they live up to the Joneses. They all want the same thing; they all drive BMWs and so. But that bears out my point that unless we have the proper kind of serious research, unless you have an institution that will carry out that kind of research to tell you where you should be targeting, we can talk about niche marketing until we drop dead. As the old people will say until the cows come home and not get anywhere.

Furthermore, you go to the next step which is the development arm of these things which then tells you how to develop these niches. I am now working on an idea and I can't say too much about it, because it is in an infancy stage. I don't want to talk too much about it yet because if it works it is going to be fairly innovative and I believe that several Barbadians will benefit from it. I wouldn't get any political gains so we don't have to worry about that part. I am working with a group now on an idea that I have had for several years and this happens to deal with a presence in the market place, a physical presence in the market place of the target market. I remember about ten years ago, a colleague of mine from Trinidad and I gave this idea to Grace Kennedy in Jamaica. He got paid for it. I didn't get any of the money because he sold them the idea on paper but I was just talking. They used a guinea pig operation in Miami and it was extremely successful to the extent that Grace Kennedy now sells for several other manufacturers in Jamaica. They then went on to just do a xerox of the same operation in Miami, in Toronto and in London. Now, you had consultants here, a bunch of jokers from some where in England - whose interest will they serve? - who came down here and said to us, we can't set up anything so.

I could tell you about several other countries that have it working, but they say we can't do it. I can do it and I am getting people to put in some money in it too and I will come and say to you - you see, the consultants were wrong. It depends on where you are targeting. If you are going to try to sell to the whole U.S.A., or to Sears Roebuck, for argument's sake, you can't do it. We are not Japan, but you could sell to the independent grocers in the South Eastern United States or you could sell to the Mom and Pop stores in the South Eastern United States or you may sell to the Seven Elevens in California alone a single product and this is where the research and development arm of our institutions should target. And this is why I continue to say and I get concerned when you put money in these things that we don't particularly know where these people are going with this money. I am always very concerned about EPC that they can boast every year that they have money left over and all I can find is a bunch of people in EPC travelling all over the place all the time. Every time we

go to a trade mission, they have more EPC people than they have exporters.

You will probably recall, Sir, you were in Vancouver when there was an exposition going on at the time. There were several EPC people there, I believe seven might be the right number, that might have been the magic number. They do a lot of shopping. I believe, Sir, that the venture capital corporation that was talked about today is long overdue. When the persons in this community like my friend the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central continues to talk about development for small black business people, he has to understand that most of the small export manufacturers are just that, small black business people. Check it out. Most of us who are in trouble for money are like you and I. In other words, you have to start putting your money where your mouth is. It is all right going in there. When you talk about poor black people they want a house and they want a good job. When you are talking about small business and export business, they need venture capital. You need to build on what you have started in development. 10.05 p.m.

I do not know if you are responsible for starting it but if you were, I give you the credit but whoever it was that did it I give them credit for what they started in the Development Bank. The Development Bank is playing a role now where they are saying that if they look at your business and you do not have the collateral, or your balance sheet does not look pretty enough that you can raise the collateral, they take some in equity. That is a positive step. That is a step in the direction of the venture capital corporation.

That is all we are saying basically. That is all I understand the Honourable Member for St. Peter to be saying. All he is saying is to take something like the Export Credit and Guarantee Scheme out of the hands of the Central Bank. They are not interested in that. That is a side line. Give it to the Barbados Development Bank. I prefer the Barbados Development Bank, not the EPC or any of them. It is the only serious institution in terms of the industrial development of Barbados at this time. It is the only one you can take seriously.

I would suggest that as long as we get on this kind of track where you start focussing on where we want to take this kind of development, we need not talk a lot. We just need to put the things in place and let the black people, the Indians or whoever who are going to benefit carry on. They will benefit based on the group that you target.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a short intervention. I think I must make it. I have heard a lot said about trade and the small businessman. I

want to remind Honourable Members that a few weeks ago in this Chamber I made the comment that Barbados is now the rapporteur for intra-ACP Trade. I deliberately made a document of this House the initial report that I sent to the Joint Assembly of the ACP and EEC.

I say this because last week I was absent because we had a working committee on the ACP/EEC Trade. I would j* have hoped that we would have taken this opportunity so that I would have some feedback from the Members on the other side as to their views on the opinions expressed in that document.

Mr. P. J. M. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe the Honourable Member knows that I have given him my assurance that if I could see the document and study it - I do not mean looking at it cursorily - I will give him my opinion because I was involved in what is known as South/South Trade/Intra-ACP Trade at the private sector * level about 6 or 7 years ago. I like that sort of thing so I have no problem with that.

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker-, what I am saying is I deliberately made it a document of the House because I want to make the point that last week when I was on a working group of Intra/ACP Trade a delegate from Jamaica who is part of the working group made the comment that the report is skewed towards the African .«, countries.

Let me say that the ACP is made up of 68 African, Caribbean and Pacific, and 12 European countries. Of the 68 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries approximately 50 of those countries are African countries. I thought that coming from a fellow Caribbean country it was not a very complimentary thing to say since a Caribbean person was a rapporteur in the group. If you have a group that is made up of about 50 African countries and the rest Caribbean and Pacific Countries it is difficult not to represent the views of * the African community.

What I want to say is if you read that report, you will see that there are positive benefits in there for Barbados. The interesting thing is that we will be able to get funding from the European Parliament. I want to get this in the records of Parliament because I hope that when the final report comes out, I do not hear people on the other side saying that they were not aware of the report, that they did „, not know what was contained in the report and that I did not canvass the view of opposition parties. I want to make that very clear. The document is a document of this House of Assembly and anyone who is interested in reading and making comments on that document is free to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to make that point. I hope that in the near future I would hear some comments, criticisms, additions, etc. of what is detailed in that document.

Thank you.

RL Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, just very briefly. I think this debate has been a very constructive debate. I am indebted to all Honourable Members who have spoken for their comments. I will take the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown seriously for once, just for this occasion. He said I really do not need to talk. All I need to do is to do. That is exactly what I have been doing and that is what I will do on this particular occasion.

I will not say very much more, Sir, except to point out that this Government has a studied approach to these problems. The Honourable Member for St. Peter says I am a very cautious person. In some respects I think I would endorse that. I am very cautious in these matters that I am dealing with. That is why we have either commissioned or are awaiting studies in the various areas of the productive sectors.

In almost every area we have either received a study or we have others commissioned which are due shortly. We are going to study these before making any major change in policy or any adaptation of existing schemes. I will make sure that when we take the steps it is based on a carefully researched position arising out of authoritative studies. I understand some of them may be called jokers but that is a different kind of study. I believe the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown was referring to this. That is why we have come with simply a replenishment of the existing scheme. When we have given study to all of the recommendations which may affect areas in which the scheme is supposed to operate, any expansion of that scheme, we would be able to do so on the basis of a careful analysis and an appreciation of the recommendations or options that one may have.

With those few remarks I again commend this measure to the Honourable House.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business. I move that Question Time be taken now, Sir. 10.15p.m.

QUESTION TIME Mr.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 86.

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Reply to Question No. 86 be laid.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no objections, the Reply to Question No. 86 will be laid.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I think, Sir, that that is about as much that we can do reasonably this day. Before I seek the adjournment, I should like to express our appreciation to the staff, especially the Reporters, for once again extending themselves beyond what has come to be the traditional time. I should like to record our sincere thanks for that devotion to duty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, November 20, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I put the question, I would like to join the Honourable Acting Leader of the House in the sentiments to the staff of Parliament and the other persons who have co-operated today, particularly at this late hour.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 20, 1990 at 12.00 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 10.20p.m.

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