

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 11, 1993

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at Tuesday, May 11, 1993 at 12.20 p.m.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker)
His Honour T. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., LL.B. (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and Minister for the Civil Service)
Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A.(Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B., (Hons.), (Minister of Health)
Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Works, Communications and Transportation and Leader of the House)
Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)
Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, (Minister of Justice and Public Safety)
Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc.(Econ.)
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.)
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M.
Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education)
Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, G.C.M., B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture)
Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M. (Minister of Tourism and Sports)

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A.
Mr. R. L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert. Ed.
Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.(Hons.) (Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TOLL, Q.C., M.A.
Miss B. A. MILLER
Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. J. O. TUDOR
Mr. D. W. BOWEN (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)
Mr. G. W. PAYNE
Mr. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A., LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session. Minutes of Tuesday, April 27, 1993.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the meeting of this Honourable Chamber held on April 27, 1993, which I am informed have been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 3 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO NOTE THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ASSEMBLY OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARIANS AND TO APPROVE STEPS WHICH ARE IN PROGRESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution that is being considered is as follows:

"WHEREAS the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in Grenada in July 1989 agreed in principle to establish an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians:

AND WHEREAS the third intersectional meeting of Heads of Government in Jamaica in February, 1992 received the agreed text of the Intra-Governmental agreement for the establishment of an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians and welcomed the tabling of the Agreement:

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister of Barbados and the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on behalf of their respective countries signed the said Agreement at the meeting in Jamaica:

AND WHEREAS the Conference of Heads of Government in October, 1992 in Trinidad and Tobago reaffirmed their decision to establish an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians and urged all other Member States of the community to sign and ratify the Agreement:

AND WHEREAS the said Agreement was laid in the House of Assembly on 1st day of December 1992.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Parliament note the Agreement for the establishment of an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians and approve the steps which are in progress for the establishment of the Assembly."

That Resolution, Sir, was laid in this Honourable Chamber late last year and opportunity is now being taken

to commence debate on that Resolution. It had been circulated for a long time and in the possession of Honourable Members. I recognise, Sir, that this is not a matter that is likely to divide the House of Assembly in as much as we are all interested in the integration movement within the Caribbean Community. We are all interested in ensuring that the measures that are being taken to deepen that integration -movement would not only be executive actions but would also involve representatives of the people of the Caribbean region.

Sir, I rise today to introduce this Resolution in the full knowledge that it is a very important Resolution and in the full knowledge also that there should be as full as possible a discussion on these issues. Because the issue of integration within the CARICOM region is not one that is limited or should be reserved only for the Ministers of Government or for high placed civil servants or other bureaucrats. It is a matter that concerns all of the people of the Caribbean. The main purpose for an integration movement is the creation of conditions and can only be the creation of conditions that would lead to the creation of more wealth across the Caribbean, that would lead to an increase in the per capita incomes of the people of the Caribbean, that would lead to more employment opportunities for the people of the Caribbean and that would lead to an improvement in the quality of life of the people of the Caribbean.

We believe that as small entities, Barbados and the other territories of CARICOM, We stand a better chance of providing those goals and objectives for the people of the Caribbean if we work closely together, seek to achieve whatever economies of scale or scope that we are able to achieve and, as a result, we will be able to produce more goods and services for sale among ourselves and also for export to other countries. We hope that out of this we will, therefore, have as an objective the creation of an area in which there is movement of goods and services, in which there are conditions to ensure that no one country benefits unduly from the arrangements and conversely that no one country suffers adversely or too much from the arrangements. So there is a lot of harmonization, there is a lot of understanding and there is a lot of the levelling of the playing fields that have to be taken. These have to be taken on an ongoing basis.

We believe fundamentally also, Sir, that in order to benefit from intervention into the international economy that if we work together we should be able to take advantage of that international economy through greater efficiencies and through greater economies of scale and other advantages, which I do not wish to spell out at this time.

Sir, I believe that one of the greatest inventions by man is the invention of the system of government

known as democracy. I believe, Sir, that that particular form of government enables persons chosen by the large body of citizenry, (the populace, the people), to meet and take decisions that are on behalf of the people and in the interest of the people. I do not believe, Sir, that there is any other form of government which is as pertinent to social and economic development in the interest of all as this one of democracy which might be direct or indirect. In our particular system, Sir, we follow the indirect form of government. Just as in Barbados when we have to take decisions on behalf of the entire country as is the responsibility of us as parliamentarians and as a Government and us as Opposition, we hear the issue put forward. We hear the issue put forward, we discuss it, we debate it and then we come to a consensus and agreement and understanding of these matters. 12.30 p.m.

Sometimes there are differences of viewpoint, sometimes there are differences in principle and at other times there are differences in approaches and processes, but at all times we should be seeking for what is in the public interest and what is in the interest of everybody. That is what we do, and that is what we are doing now. If that is so, as far as the public affairs of Barbados are concerned, it should also be so as far as the affairs of CARICOM are concerned. And so it was, I believe, at the 10th meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Grenada I made the recommendation on behalf of Barbados that the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians should be established. I think that was in 1989, Sir. We are 3 years down the road and any good idea, any great idea, sometimes takes time for everyone to grasp the significance, and the thrust of such an idea.

We have been working very patiently, very quietly and incrementally seeking to bring this idea to fruition. I believe that some 7 countries have signed the Agreement, and the Agreement comes into force on the ratification by 7 members.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of CARICOM and it is our hope that this additional institution to the CARICOM family of institutions can be created in this year so that the Assembly of CARICOM Parliamentarians can come into being in this significant and historic year.

Now, if I may turn, Sir, to the actual contents of the Agreement, Article 1 is the definition clause and there are a number of definitions in there. Article 2 deals with the establishment of the Assembly, and the member states as a result of this Article would establish an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians with the membership, powers and functions as set out in the Agreement.

As far as membership is concerned, the Agreement calls for each member state to have 4 representatives, elected by their Parliaments, or appointed in such manner from their membership as the Parliaments may decide. The representatives are representatives of Parliament. As I said, each member state is entitled to not more than 4 members and each associate member - and there is provision for an associate member, that is, any country which is a party to this Agreement, admitted as an associate member of the Community by the conference - can have not more than 2 representatives. The member states or the associate member states are entitled to appoint alternatives so that if a member cannot go there would be an alternative there.

Article 4 deals with the objectives of the Assembly, and this is very important, Sir, because this sets out the purpose, the objectives of the Assembly. These are that the people of the Community, through their representatives, should be involved in the process of consolidating and strengthening the Community. So this is an attempt to involve the representatives of the people in the business of CARICOM.

Secondly, the objective is to provide opportunities for issues relating to integration to be discussed by the representatives of the people in the member states of CARICOM.

Thirdly, an opportunity would be provided for the people in the Community, through their representatives to make their views known.

Fourthly, Sir, it provides a mechanism for monitoring the policies of the Community, because just as this House of Assembly is a watch dog, as it were, for the actions taken by the Government, so the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians would be a watch dog to monitor the policies of the Community and to see that they are in conformity with the general wishes of the people of the Community.

The Assembly will also provide an opportunity, Sir, for the co-ordination of the foreign policies of member states, in that representatives from across the Community would have a forum within which they can contribute to the co-ordination of the foreign policies of member states of the Caribbean, and this is one of the fundamental objectives of the Caribbean Community Treaty itself, to co-ordinate the foreign policies of member states. This provides a role for the CARICOM Assembly of Parliaments to participate and to contribute in that process.

Another objective, Sir, is to promote greater understanding among member states and associate members for the purpose of realising and safeguarding the ideals and principles of democratic Governments in the Community

and facilitating the economic and social advancement of people. So the Assembly would have a role in helping to safeguard the ideals and principles of democratic government and also promoting the goals of economic and social advancement of the people of the Caribbean.

, Finally, Sir, there is an objective that the Governments of member states of the Community should be encouraged to pursue common policies on economic, social, cultural, scientific and legal matters as come before the Assembly.

These then are the objectives of the Assembly, Sir. We see it is an extension of democratic government and a focussing on a mechanism for associating parliamentarians throughout the CARICOM region on this matter of integration, where the movement is heading, what are the obstacles, and seeking a greater level of communication and a greater level of co-ordination on these matters. 12.40 p.m.

Sir, Article 5 deals with the functions and powers of the Assembly and let me start by saying what the Assembly is not. There will be a difference between that Assembly and this Assembly. Here in this House of Assembly we are able to pass laws. Our constitution enables us to do that. The Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians will not be a legislative body because I do not believe that there is any agreement within CARICOM at this time that it should have legislative powers. What the Assembly will be is a deliberative and a consultative body for discussion of policies, programmes and other matters falling within the Treaty. By virtue of the powers to speak on issues, to discuss issues and by virtue of what should become the influence of the Assembly, it would be able to bring to bear on the decision-making process the concerned and deliberate views of important bodies of persons.

It will be able to make recommendations to the Conference of the Heads of Governments, to the CARICOM Council, to other institutions and associated institutions and to the Secretariat. It will be able to ask for authoritative information and reports so that the discussions and deliberations of the Assembly will be authoritative. It will be able to discuss and make recommendations on any matter within the scope of the objectives of the Community and make recommendations to the Conference of Heads of Government, the Councils and other institutions or associated institutions.

Sir, I believe that that is a maximum agreement that we will be able to get at this stage. It is my hope that further down the road there would be some legislative functions to this Assembly on matters relating to the integration movement. That may come down the road and

certainly it is my hope as an unrepentant regionalist myself. At this time this is what we believe is practicable, that is, that we can meet and discuss and bring to bear through our job honing and through our talking about these issues influence the different mechanisms of the integration movement in coming to decisions that are more appropriate.

I should also make it clear that the Assembly may not have any competence to discuss or adopt any resolution on any matter that is exclusively within the domestic jurisdiction of a member state or associate member of the Community. This is important.

I think it is important to ensure that the Assembly is not used as a mechanism for simply transferring domestic debates into a regional forum.

Asides.

Rt Hon. L. E. S. ANDIFORD: Haiti is a matter that is not exclusively the domestic jurisdiction of any individual member state. What we are talking about is a question... Let me give an example of roads in St. Peter. Such a matter would not be discussed. If roads become a part of a regional programme on an integration basis that would be a part of it.

The question arises how is the distinction made between matters of domestic concern and matters of regional concern. Well, we fall back to the good old device and we place considerable powers and/or authority within the presiding officer and that will be a decision for the presiding officer to make in terms of the treaty. What we are saying is that any question whether any matter is within the competence of the Assembly for the purposes such I have set out shall be decided by the Speaker of the Assembly. Once the Speaker has ruled that this is a domestic matter as good parliamentarians we abide by the "ruling of the Speaker. I am sure in the usual wise manner Speakers would encourage parliamentarians through the usual processes to try to iron out any difficulties that may arise on such matters. But, that is where we are on that one.

As far as meetings are concerned, it is envisaged that the Assembly would meet at least once a year and that if there is a requirement or a need for other meetings then extraordinary meetings or other meetings may be summoned by the Speaker of the Assembly with the concurrence of the majority of the members of the Assembly. Each member state will be responsible for meeting the cost of attendance of representatives and each representative of a member state will have one vote. The representative of an associate member will have the right to speak but not to vote in the Assembly.

It makes provision also for observers to speak but not vote in the Assembly and normally decisions of the Assembly will be by majority vote of the members of the Assembly present and voting. The quorum will be V_3 of the representatives of member states and the meetings of the Assembly will be conducted in public.

Sir, it is envisaged that subject to the necessary arrangements being made that the meetings of the CARICOM Assembly of Community Parliamentarians could be held back to back with meetings of the regional CPA. So that the cost of those members who would wish to use the same persons or to appoint or choose the same persons to attend the CPA and attend the CARICOM Assembly of Parliamentarians will have that opportunity to do so. That would depend on whether the arrangement can be made within the 2 bodies. That will be a mechanism available to member states in order to reduce any cost of the meetings of the Assembly. As far as Organisation and Management are concerned, Sir, these are dealt with in Article 7. The Clerk of Parliament of the host country will be Clerk of the Assembly. A senior official of the CARICOM Secretariat will assist in coordinating the work of the Assembly and in liaising with the principal organs and institutions as far as the deliberations of the Assembly are concerned. The host country will provide the administrative and secretarial services for the meetings. 12,50 p.m.

Member States are required to fulfil their obligations under the Agreement. They are enjoined to pursue measures which support the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement.

The Agreement is open for signature by any Member State of the community listed in the Annex to the Agreement. The Agreement shall be subject to ratification by signatory Member States in accordance with the procedures and practices of the respective CQuntries.

The Instruments of Ratification are to be deposited with the Secretary-General who shall transmit certified copies to the Government of each Member State. Barbados intends to ratify this Agreement as soon as possible. We are hoping that as soon as this debate is concluded, and on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados, I will ratify that particular Agreement for Barbados on behalf of the Government of Barbados.

The Agreement will enter into force on the 30th day after the date of the deposit of the seventh Instrument of Ratification by a Member State in accordance with Article 10 of the Agreement. We need 7 Instruments of Ratification for the Agreement to come into force.

I think, Sir, those are the principal matters relating to the Meeting. The Heads of Government have agreed that

certainly the first meeting of this Assembly of Parliamentarians should be held in Barbados. As I indicated earlier in my address, this will be hopefully, if there are enough ratifying signatures some time later this year. This depends on the pace at which developments take place.

Let me indicate again that the Agreement was signed in Jamaica by myself as Prime Minister of Barbados and by the President of Guyana. We have signatures of other Governments. We are hoping that all Governments will sign this in time for the meeting to take place but that is a matter within the sovereign domain of each country.

I think with those words, Mr. Speaker, I have given a fairly exhaustive introduction of this particular subject. As I said, we are all committed in Barbados to the development of the Integration Movement. Other Integration Movements have seen the desirability of having the representatives of the people associated with decision making in the Integration Movements. Perhaps, the outstanding example of this is the Parliament of the European Communities. Some of them have actually visited Barbados. We believe this is a step in the right direction. There are many steps to be taken.

The Integration Movement is not a perfect Movement. We are always seeking to make it better. There are always matters in which there may be differences but we have, as a country, to play our part in helping to make it better and try to obtain as broad a consensus on matters relating to integration always on the premise of that fundamental belief that the Movement is desirable for the further development and growth of Barbados and the people of Barbados, and to fulfil the historic and economic aspirations of the people of the Caribbean.

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

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I believe this is the first occasion upon which the Prime Minister has sought to give a broader and more precise-definition of an initiative he has initiated as far back as 1989. To the extent that we are hearing about the precise purposes of the proposed Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians for the first time, I would want to enjoin upon Government to allow the fullest possible debate of this particular matter in the House. The Opposition would want to study all aspects of the revelations made today by the Prime Minister in relation to this important matter.

Sir, the question of the development of the Regional Integration Movement in the Caribbean is a matter on which there has been a broad convergence of support

between political parties in the region but it does not stop us from analysing any proposed institutional developments with reference to their own particular logic. While we broadly support the objective of deepening the Integration Movement in the Caribbean and widening the scope for involvement of persons in decision making in the Integration Movement, this, particular Initiative as an institutional initiative, has to be carefully examined in the context of the way in which CARICOM has, from an institutional point of view, functioned to date.

Sir, the Prime Minister is proposing to have himself associated with the formation of an Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians which will not have any legislative powers. It will not have any executive powers. It will not have any decision making powers. To all intents and purposes Caribbean politicians will come together and talk to each other and they will talk to each other with a view to making recommendations on decisions before the Heads of Governments of the region. They will talk to each other on matters that are of a broad Caribbean interest.

The facts, Mr. Speaker, are that within the Caribbean, the institutions that already exist have established for themselves a reputation of being outstandingly inefficient precisely because they have not been able, through the dint of their effort, to advance the Regional Integration Movement. In particular, the Heads of Government Conferences of CARICOM have now seem to become forums that allow head of Governments every year to meet without the decisions taken at those Heads of Governments Conference significantly affecting the livelihoods of the Caribbean people.

Across the Caribbean, Sir, there is, in my view, a general perception that the institutions of CARICOM serve merely as a framework within which politicians come together and talk without empowering themselves in a significant way to really make decisions that can substantially affect the way in which the people of the Caribbean live.

My own difficulty with the proposed Initiative, Sir, is that at the end of the day if we create an additional institution in the region that allows Caribbean politicians to come together to talk without having the authority to make laws and without having any executive authority. All we are going to be doing is adding an additional talk-shop on an institutional structure that is generally viewed in the region as being very ineffective. 1.00 p.m.

The danger therefore in proceeding with the formation of this institution is precisely that the whole political process in the region, the esteem of Caribbean politicians can be brought into disrepute if Caribbean politicians are

now to be exposed to the involvement in a talk shop which again meets to discuss things, recommend things and, at the end of the day, nothing happens.

This institution that the Prime Minister is proposing, in my view, is neither fish nor fowl. That is my honest assessment of it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fear the disrepute that politicians can be brought into when you put them in a situation where they are not seen to be exercising power, exercising an executive authority. The notion therefore of bringing Caribbean politicians to deliberate, to recommend but at the end of the day to do nothing is going to add to the disrepute that is already now enjoyed by the Heads of Government Conference where Prime Ministers come together to deliberate, they make decisions and then nothing happens.

This proposed Assembly of Caribbean parliamentarians, in my view, therefore suffers from that basic defect. If politicians are going to come together, they have to come together to act, they have to come together to exercise power and if we are not speaking of our coming together for those kinds of purposes, we are going* to be wasting time.

When I say therefore that this is neither fish nor fowl, this institution will not have the authority of a Caribbean Parliament and it will be no stronger than a meeting of the Caribbean branch of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Because we already have institutions in the' region where Parliamentarians can come together, deliberate, make recommendations and talk about common issues.

I have great misgivings, I have that fundamental misgiving about the particular institution. I say that, Mr. Speaker, not with a view to saying that we on this side do not want to see the integration movement deepen. We want to see the integration movement become effective and begin to touch the lives of the Caribbean people in an effective manner. This institution has to be judged by reference to that standard. In what precise way can it, as an institution, make the integration movement more effective and in what precise ways will it touch the lives of the Caribbean people for the better?

I do not believe that the Prime Minister's dissertation has, in any respect, established that this institution will make CARICOM even more effective because it will not be doing anything that the Heads of Government Conference is not now doing but it will be doing those same things in a less authoritative way. The issues that it will -be concerning itself with are not issues that, in many respects, are fundamental to the well-being or quality of life of the people of the region.

Let us, Mr. Speaker, Sir, pause before we create another talk shop in the Caribbean and make sure that any new institution that is created in the region is an institution that can correct many of the very glaring deficiencies that now exist in relation to regional decision-making in the Caribbean.

I would love to see the day, Mr. Speaker, when the Caribbean leaders can move, with boldness, to establish a Caribbean Parliament. I really believe that the European Integration Movement has had the force that it has had and has made the progress that it has made because there has been the foresight in Europe that if you are going to have Members of Parliament coming together that it must be within the context of a situation where Members of Parliament have power. If we can set that as a goal for ourselves, I will support it. But I do not support politicians coming together in circumstances where they are void of power. It is on that basis that I have great difficulty with giving support to the proposal as it presently stands.

I also have to say that this proposal also gives us the opportunity to discuss, in a broad way, how the workings of the regional integration movement can be better advanced. I want to say that it is not only important at this juncture to put in place systems that can build relationships between Caribbean politicians. But if the Regional Integration Movement is to advance it might be even more important to put in place systems that can build relationships between Caribbean people.

The problem with the Caribbean Integration Movement today, in my view, is that it has been a movement that has been superimposed on a region without there being enough facility for the people of the region rather than the Parliamentarians to be involved in the process. The most important thing that must happen in the Caribbean for integration to evolve is that the Caribbean people must get to know each other. More than half of the Caribbean people have never yet seen or visited a Caribbean country because travelling in the Caribbean is difficult, expensive and it is, in many respects, easier for persons to come from outside the region and get to know the region than it is for people within the region to get to know the region.

We cannot build integration in the region upon the basis of insularity and insular mistrust on the part of each other. Indeed the most urgent thing that must take place in the Caribbean now, Sir, is that we must have the confidence to allow the people of the region to move freely and to move easily and to move cheaply from island to island. I believe this is a *sine qua non* of the development of the regional movement today. It is a *sine qua non* precisely because the Caribbean people as a whole have not seen themselves being involved in the building of the

Regional Integration Movement. They have seen it largely as an exercise left to Heads of Governments or to Ministers or to regional bureaucrats. And until such time as they are brought directly into the process, Mr. Speaker, it is my judgement that the Regional Integration Movement is going to be always in jeopardy.

I would therefore love to see more effort given, not so much to building more relationships between Caribbean politicians, because there are relationships already through the CPA, through attendance at regional conferences, through attendance at international conferences and the like. But the effort that must be made now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is to build a relationship between the Caribbean people and to allow the Caribbean people, in essence, to feel as one by being able to travel easily as I said, cheaply and freely within this region.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we speak in terms of Europe 1992. The European people committed themselves to the philosophy but also to the pragmatic action that by the end of 1992 Europe was to be one area in which all European people could move freely and easily throughout the entire European Community. So that Europe is to become a country without borders.

I believe we have to bring the Caribbean to that same kind of stage of development. Caribbean development has been held back, by too many irrational prejudices. For example, there has been the feeling that Caribbean people should not have been allowed to move freely from country to country and our capital should not have been allowed to move freely in the Caribbean because capital was going to leave the lesser developed countries and come to the more developed countries and skilled labour was going to leave the lesser developed countries and come to the more developed countries. And a lot of foolish, irrational prejudices have held back the process of Caribbean integration. The time has come, Sir, for those prejudices to be removed as constraints to the effective building of the integration movement in the region. 1.10 p.m.

We have indeed, Mr. Speaker, seen the day come in the Caribbean where rather than capital leaving the lesser developed countries and coming to Barbados as feared, capital may well be going from Barbados to the Lesser Developed countries. We have now reached the stage in the Caribbean, Mr. Speaker where rather than labour leaving the lesser developed countries and flooding Barbados, that the opposite may also be in the process of happening. It is those kinds of considerations that prompt me to say that in terms of relative priorities, building stronger relationship between Caribbean politicians is not as important, in my view right now, as a means of strengthening the

regional integration movement as building relationships between Caribbean people.

I would also use the opportunity to also add that there are many outstanding issues of a purely economic character that must be addressed if any new institutional arrangement in the Caribbean can be sold. The Caribbean people, have lost faith in the workings of the integration movement because in too many respects its workings are too abstract in the day to day lives or do not sufficiently touch their lives to be effective.

This is also true in the economic sphere where too much of the work of CARICOM has nothing to do with the way in which the ordinary people in the Caribbean live.

The time has come, Sir, when, as I said, rather than setting up another talk shop the Caribbean Heads of Government must give deliberate focus to making the economic machinery of CARICOM work. In this respect, I have again to cite the need for there to be some sense of harmony in CARICOM on the whole question of exchange rates,

I know of no integration movement, Mr. Speaker, that can work in which there is provision for free trade, a common protectionist policy, without at the same time having a sense of harmony on the question of exchange rates. Free trade and a common protectionist policy allow all Caribbean products used in any Caribbean country to enjoy the same status of a product produced by another country in its home territory. But in order for this to work properly there must be a fundamental agreement on the variation of exchange rates.

To the extent, Sir, that matters like these are not being addressed by the Caribbean decision makers, the Caribbean Integration Movement has faltered and faltered very substantially. I would urge the Government, as I urged it recently, in the light of developments in places like Jamaica and Trinidad, to put the whole question of deepening of the economic processes and particularly matters like exchange rates harmony, on the front burner of its considerations in its dealings with its respective Heads of Government.

Now, Sir, if I may turn more precisely to some of the issues that were raised by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that this agreement required ratification by seven members in order for the ratification to be put into effect. Now, I do not believe that there is any secret to the fact that the establishment of an assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians has not enjoyed wide nor enthusiastic support across the region as a whole.

While the Prime Minister, Sir, has had this proposal on the road since 1989, I really believe that he owes it to

the House, as part of his effort to sell it, to tell us whether in fact some of the deep seated disinclination on the part of other Caribbean countries to support another talk shop in the region has been broken down, and whether in fact, any progress has been made towards realising the seven ratifications in the House of Parliament of the respective Caribbean Countries so as to bring this particular matter, Sir, into existence.

Mr. Speaker, I want that matter addressed for a very precise reason. One of the difficulties in this region as well is that it takes too long for things to happen. This initiative has been on the road since 1989. This is 1993 and people of the region will lose confidence in the workings of the integration movement if we take an inordinately long time to make simple things happen.

Sir, we have had, for example, the experience with the CARICOM enterprises regime where I believe, and I speak subject to correction. I am not even sure that the regime has been fully carried into operation although it has been around and about the region for a long period of time, awaiting ratification by Parliaments such as this.

In this particular instance, Mr. Speaker, if in point of fact the Government of Barbados knows that this agreement is not going to enjoy the support and hence the ratification of substantial parts of the region, it may well be that despite the investment of prestige in it by the Prime Minister of the country, we seek not to bring the regional integration movement into further disrepute by having this dead issue excite the curiosity of Parliaments across the region. And for that reason, it is very important that the Prime Minister tell us exactly what is the status of this proposed agreement in the region as a whole. Is he lobbying to sell it? Has he lobbied to sell it because it is his initiative and in what respect, Sir, has the initial disinclination on the part of many people in the region to support it changed?

I think, Sir, the House is entitled to an exposition on that particular matter. Sir, the Prime Minister made it very clear that 7 votes are necessary but only 2 so far, as far as I know, have been secured. This is a matter, Sir, however that the Opposition would want to look at in greater depth. Nobody can conscientiously argue against any well thought out or well conceived proposal to deepen the integration movement in the region or to make the institutions in the region more effective and more beneficially affect the livelihood of the people of the region.

This institution, Sir, has to be judged purely by reference to those standards, without reference to any other emotional issue.

It would be my submission to the House, Sir, that based upon what has been said today that this

institution, as a deliberative body and as a consultative body, Sir, is not going to affect the objectives of improving decision making in the region. It could, on the other extreme, bring Caribbean politicians into further disrepute by associating us collectively with a talk shop that is devoid of any executive responsibility of any power and I would have, therefore, to express my deep reservations with the initiative as presently conceived.

I suspect as well that my colleagues also would want to express their deep reservations about being part of an initiative that could expose the region and, regional politicians to even greater disrepute than we are presently exposed to. I am obliged to you.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to speak on this particular issue. I believe it is important that we in the Caribbean recognise that the polity of our individual countries and the region as a whole is a very important area of our development. The quality of our politics and the structures that we establish will impact on the region as a whole. I note, Sir, that the separate groups in the Caribbean have been striving to come together and centralize over the years. Labor, for instance, has the Caribbean Congress and that has been in place since about 1926 when the first British Guyana and West Indian Labour Congress came into being. Although it has been transformed over the years, there is a triennial congress where the labour leaders in the Caribbean get together and debate matters of relevance to them and establish action plans in order to further the interest of labour. Indeed, it was out of the formation of the Labour Congress that the idea of Caribbean integration came from a Caribbean perspective when the 1926 Congress was held in Guyana led by Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow. 1.20 p.m.

In 1947, the Standing Close Association Committee was established leading into the Montego Bay Conference. As you know, these were the precursors to the actual Federation which came into being but did not last for a very long time. But labour understood the need for coming together at a regional level where trade unionists, and many were politicians at the same time, were planning for the region.

Again, Sir, the business people of our region have formed the CAIC, Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce. They have their own congress, not as significant as the group of 7 meeting in Europe but certainly they plan in terms of how they perceive the economic developments. The hoteliers have their congress as a part of the business element. I wonder why parliamentarians will find it difficult to establish a structure where they can discuss important issues relating to the

Caribbean politics, because certainly nobody else can speak for them. I want to say that anyone who understands the operations of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would know that this organisation cannot even remotely be considered as suitable by the same purposes that an Assembly of Parliamentarians could serve.

If you understand the Constitution of the CPA and if you understand its operations and procedures, you would know that it is exactly what it is supposed to be a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It is not a Caribbean body. There is a Caribbean branch that looks at certain issues, but its structure again is such that when you belong to that body you speak as an individual parliamentarian. That has to be very, very clear. You do not carry any particular party mandate or any Governmental mandate when you go to that particular association. You can call it a talk shop if you want to, but I think that it is more than that. Yes, it is a talk shop but I do not even want to discount what some people may consider a talk shop. The University is a massive talk shop. It is a talk shop that ends up with certification and diplomas. Some people who came out with 3 or 4 diplomas out of the talk shop will give a lot of relevance to the diplomas they have and so on. I think that we have to get accustomed to going into talk shops and coming out of talk shops without certificates or diplomas but recognising the very fundamental importance of being in a talk shop. If you want to call this a talk shop, this is partly a talk shop also. The Parliament of our land is partly a talk shop. But the term should not be used in a pejorative way to discuss institutions where in fact we are not formalized institutions for giving certificates and so on. In fact, the level of debate, discussion and articulation can be very important for those who take part in these particular exercises and can be very useful for persons outside once the debates are made available to them.

There are people in Barbados who have to get copies of the Parliamentary Debates and who want to get copies of what the Honourable Member for St Peter said on a number of areas and a lot of other Members of Parliament because they see it as more than a talk shop. When we are addressing issues of fundamental importance, businessmen will be reading the Official Gazette. You better believe that. Anybody who has an active life in the community understands the importance of reading the Gazettes as they come out of here to hear the different points of view on any issue as it relates to their own particular consideration. Do not think that we run a talk shop in here and all we do is talk to get a little praise of what we say coming out in the newspaper. Because most people who make the decisions will not be relying on that. Some will but some will be calling for the actual debates in order to follow what the thinking of the parliamentarians in our country is to help them determine policy.

Sir, I wish first of all to disabuse anybody's mind that the idea of a talk shop means that you are into negatives although that is the connotation that is being put. I think perhaps the Honourable Member for St. Peter meant more than that. I am sure that he meant more than that. He wants effective use to be put to any debates or any information that comes out of the discussion and the talk and so on. That is a concern. I believe, Sir, that there are enough models available of translating the information that is generated in Parliaments into action. According to the recommendation that I see here, the Assembly of Parliamentarians will be able to make recommendations to a number of bodies. Now if you want to be negative, clearly you can say that these recommendations might just become items that are discarded. If you want to be even more negative, you can say that recommendations which are already made to the Heads when they meet that all are not implemented. But I know the Honourable Member for St. Peter is too astute not to recognize that sometimes, when people claim that the actions that should be taken by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean are delayed in implementation, many people say that they are too late in doing these things. He is wise enough if he is speaking from a particular point of view to advise how difficult it is to implement policies of a macro-economic nature when there might not be consensus across all of the territories and when each territory has its own agenda or its own action plan. He will sometimes smirk when he hears some person making these pejorative comments about how come CARICOM country has not done all of these things in a particular period of time. I am sure he is aware that it is much more complex than that, although we in the Caribbean have this anxiety complex about quick fixes, things being done tomorrow. Even in our own country we have structural measures to introduce and I can hear the Honourable Member for St. Peter saying that there are certain things that have not been done and, therefore, the IMF might be a little anxious or nervous and they are pressing. But he knows too that even within a country, because you have entrenched differences when you are introducing measures that are extremely complex...

Aside.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: You are speaking from a position where you do not belong to any organisation like the union or anything else. You are speaking only for the Member for St. Peter. You do not have any executive authority in your party. You do not have any executive authority at the University, but speak as a tutor. At this point in time, you are all talk. Quite frankly, nowadays you are not even talking so much. You are mumbling. You are sitting there interrupting people all of the time. You are worth far more than that. But the truth is, Sir, that sometimes we can mislead people into believing that complex changes can be handled in a very short period of

time. In fact, when you go in for social engineering on a fairly big scale, you have to tread carefully. 1.30 p.m.

The question of an Assembly of Caribbean parliamentarians at this time, as far as I am concerned, is about getting the institution in place and carefully nurturing its development over time, understanding very, very clearly that there are going to be difficulties in the -pathway in terms of where you want to carry the particular institution. If there is one thing we have to learn from the Europeans, and others, is that sometimes you have to plant a seed and you have to keep watering it, even when the environment for growth seems extremely hostile and antagonistic. You have to water that seed and after years you will see it delivering the fruit that you want to reap.

If you look at the European Parliament and the stage to which it has evolved, within the context of an integrated Europe, and the discussions over Maastricht, and the fact that Europe seems to be grinding, maybe slowly, but inevitably into a political entity that will dominate this world in the future, you have to understand the*importance of patience. When the Europeans talked in terms of the Assembly of that European Parliament, there would have been a lot of doubts about releasing national sovereignty to a particular Parliament.

There are countries in Europe that had no special relations or special feelings one to the other, but they are now into a European Parliament together. I am talking about the peoples of Europe. Were the peoples of Europe involved in the initial thinking in terms of a European Parliament? Now you are having a number of referenda in order to make significant decisions, and perhaps that is a strategy that we have to develop within the Caribbean, the use of referenda. We have used them once or twice, not with any great success, on the issue of Federation and you remember the Jamaica example. Perhaps that was a matter of timing, a matter of thinking. Perhaps that was a stratagem by the Jamaicans that was introduced on purpose, but my thinking on this is that it is inevitable. If we are talking about integration, it is inevitable that the area of political integration has to surface.

When I addressed the issue of the West Indian Commission, I said then, and I will repeat, one of the major failings of that particular group of distinguished persons - and I am certainly not going to question their distinction or their qualities - was that political integration was put on the back burner. I think I have the support of the Leader of the Opposition on this one, that political integration must be put on the agenda for the Caribbean. It •has to be. As long as you are talking about a Caribbean, as long as you are talking integration, inevitably you have to talk political integration. Let us not deny that. The

question is the timing. It might be very unpopular at this time to moot that idea. I think that is what my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, reminded me at the time. It might be an ideal, but given the practicalities of where we are, he was suggesting that perhaps the Commission did not want to put that in because they only put things in that seemed on track and stop the track from spreading.

Clearly there are different views you can have on these matters. Because a problem today appears not to have the acceptance of certain groups, do you then put it away? I speak from a position where I believe that if I get up this morning and outside is cloudy and wet and rain is falling, it does not bother me. I do not say I am not going to work because the environment is wet, cloudy, misty and whatever else, because inside me I can create my own sunshine. Therefore, because the environment is not supportive, I create my own environment, and I go to work and work as though outside the sun is shining brightly. I am saying that if you are a true integrationist and if you believe in Caribbean integration, and you understand the inevitable path that has to be trod, you cannot look at the environment outside, because people are becoming anti-political and anti this and that, and say because of that we must move off the path that we understand. If you stand for the principle of Caribbean integration, an attempt inevitably that will mean political coming together, you have to start moving in that direction. You keep looking at the environment of course, but you have also to be able to manage that environment. That is vitally important. You have to be able to mould the environment you want. Otherwise, clearly, you will not be able to move from an of concern into an area of influence.

This is what is important here. All of us understand that you have to have political federation. That is an area of concern, but we cannot get it into an area of influence. We cannot get anything done about it, because we are not taking the steps to do so. I am saying that this is a first step. This is a vitally important first step and those who will wish to take a positive approach to life and things in life will not start out by seeing the things that cannot be done, by looking at it as if it is going to be a talk shop or not, by looking at the negatives, but will accentuate the positives. You will say we have to do this, and then you will say that these are the steps we will take in that direction.

We will accept that there has to be a gradual process, we will accept that in the initial stages you might be more talk shop than anything else - to use the term that has been used - but if you are talking about evolving down the road, then there is no good cricketer I am aware of in Barbados who did not start off playing bat and ball, that did not get

some practice before becoming a club cricketer, a national cricketer and then a West Indian cricketer. In the same way you have to start off your Caribbean Assembly of Parliamentarians, and all of a sudden Jamaican parliamentarians get to understand Barbadian ones, Guyanese ones *et cetera*, discussing the issues in the region and gradually, because of their engineering, you find that the concept becomes stronger and then you might move from recommendations into a stronger instrument that will be fused and developed over the period.

What is the reluctance among parliamentarians to understand first of all their status within the Caribbean? That they are the leaders of the polity? They are not on the same level as those persons who are leading the bureaucracies, the Civil Servants and so on, who have their own meetings. They are not on the same level as the Trade Unionists, that is a different group of people. They are not on the same level as the business people, that is different, and where do the parliamentarians meet? They meet in Parliament and there must therefore be an Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians. Let the ideologies mix, let the parties mix, as diverse as they are, but let them come together in their own forum, which is a Parliament, and discuss the issues of the country. Let the body of information that they put out be used, let people read them, let them go into the schools, let the school children hear what Caribbean people, when they meet, say about issues that relate to them. Give our young would-be parliamentarians another level to which they can aspire, that after they move off the national level they can go to the regional level of parliamentary life and development. Do not let them feel that the end all and be all is getting into a national Parliament, let there be an ambition to go on to a regional Parliament.

I support very strongly the concept of an Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians and I believe that is an institution that has a tremendous amount of potential in the future - I will grant that it has to be in the future - for bringing greater unity to the region in which we live, a region to which we have a certain amount of commitment. I recognise that there will be difficulties along the way and I think the contribution from the Member for St. Peter was in the direction of looking at the difficulties. I think that is always a fundamental and very vital job. We have to look at those suggestions that come from the negative side of the table. 1.40 p.m.

I wish, Sir, to end my contribution by looking at what I consider to be the positives. It seems to me that if the Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians is properly structured that it will give the opportunity for the people through their representatives to speak at the level of

the Caribbean Parliament. Once representatives understand their basic roles, that is, meeting with the people who elect them from time to time in order to find out what they want then the question of representing the people should not be a difficult one. I would hope that even as we come in here in this particular Parliament that even though the people *per se* are not sitting down/here that we understand that we are representing them, even though we are not here under any delegate status.

I hear Members crying out because they are saying . that the people we represent are hurting. The fact is that we understand that in representation we go back to people on a continuing basis. I do not know if there are any parliamentarians in here who are guilty of not doing that, who do not understand very clearly that the people cannot come into this Parliament, but knowing that they are the embodiment of the same people that they are representing. So I do not see why the people would not be represented within a Caribbean Parliament. I would hope that whoever gets a chance to be elected to go there from whichever territory will understand that they have a mandate first of all to go and talk to the people they are representing. They should get the various diverse views that there will be.

Even so, I am hoping that there will be a direct place for bodies like the trade union movement and the non-governmental organisations and so on to sit in a separate chamber, if necessary, in order to make their input. In fact, if you look at the structure of the EEC there are committees which are known as Social and Economic Committees on which labour and other bodies are represented and decisions coming out of those Committees then go to the European Parliament. I always say, quite frankly, we need not reinvent the wheel each time. If you see a good example operating successfully, there is no reason why we cannot borrow that example and modify it to our own circumstances.

That is room for the people of the Caribbean to be * involved indirectly through the representatives who are going to the Parliament as politicians and then directly through the different non-governmental organisations.

I think it really is going to be a very exciting day. Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, apart from my political involvement I come from the trade union movement, and it is really a good experience when trade unionists from all over the Caribbean sit and discuss issues. Twice in recent times I have been with groupings of trade unionists. A body of 20 people, Caribbean labour educators, looking at the changing industrial environment in the Caribbean and coming up with teaching strategies to meet them, met in Guyana. Here you had all these trade union leaders and it was a good feeling to learn what is happening in Trinidad and in Guyana and all those other territories.

This morning was a meeting of a committee that is looking at environmental matters in the Caribbean to get a common policy as it relates to the environment. We are happy that in Barbados we have several environmental associations. We have the Caribbean Conservation Association, the Barbados Environmental Society and many other groupings. I was told that those groupings do not exist in Guyana and I think Guyana definitely needs an environmental association, or Trinidad or other countries where you have an *ad hoc* grouping that whenever there is a crisis a grouping comes up and then it disappears again. Where you have an opportunity as trade unionists to look at matters in a very broad way and deliberate on them you have a feeling that you are in the Caribbean.

What happens in terms of the polity? In terms of the polity, the Heads of Government will meet at the very top level. Then you will get Foreign Ministers meeting or Labour Ministers meeting but in fact the politicians as such are not involved. In many cases, what happens at those meetings is that the information is not filtered down and only those persons who go in their own capacity are aware. I have always felt quite frankly that reports coming out of CARICOM conferences at whatever level should be laid in this particular Chamber for debate. That has always been something I have felt strongly about. There should be reports coming out of these meetings which should be laid in this Parliament for national debate. I think that is one of the weaknesses of the system. You will find people going to those esoteric areas of foreign affairs or trade or whatever else and they have reports and sometimes you see a little bit in the newspaper but as a parliamentarian we do not have access to those reports. We have little idea of what is happening at that regional level.

I believe now that perhaps in the Assembly of Caribbean Parliamentarians all those reports will have to come before that particular body and that room will be made to debate them. So it is not only the Ministers and persons responsible for the policy making at that level but those who have to interface with the importance of these particular things. When we come into Parliament we have in order to represent the people well to have access to information. On the Front Bench you are happy that to some extent that information is there but all of us are parliamentarians. I believe that information should be made available.

I believe that the benefits from this particular body far outweigh any difficulties that one can associate with it. As I see it, the difficulties will be just that you will be spending some more money. I think some money will have to be spent on this body coming from the different national purses and treasuries and I have heard some comment already that since we are into structural adjustment where are you going to find money now for politicians to talk.

That is the kind of expression you are going to get furnished from certain sources. We are into structural adjustment so how can you now set up a body just for parliamentarians to talk?

One has to understand that there are certain fundamental things and parliamentarians exist in the realm of decision making, ideas generation and knowledge, skills. I would defy and I would dare any parliamentarian in this Assembly now to dispute that no matter how many degrees they have from an academic body that since they have been members of Parliament their education has not grown in quantum leaps. I would defy any parliamentarian here to tell me that they have not been re-educated by coming into Parliament.

One of my colleagues tells me the best thing you learn when you come in Parliament and you are a professional is how you lose money because coming in here and talking as a parliamentarian you are losing good business out there as a lawyer or whatever. It is one good way to learn how to lose money... Do you think it stops these professionals who have a sense of service from coming in here? Do you think that when the Honourable Leader of the Opposition desires to become the Prime Minister do you think we do not know how much good money he will be losing? Do you think that stops him from desiring to become the Prime Minister? Because he is led by a sense of service.

We are not talking about the Honourable Member for St. George South. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South I believe cannot be here for a reason. He cannot be here and there. So they know how to lose money. That is something they take for granted. You come into Parliament and become something called a politician and after that people think you are making money when some of them are losing their shirts but they know what they have to do.

I make the point that I believe Parliament is an education for most people. Those older heads, again the persons who sit opposite here, the Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, distinguished academics in their own right. I dare them to tell me that their association with Parliament has not educated them even more so than their Master's Degrees in political integration. You can have a Master's in the integration movement but this Parliament will educate you even wider and broader. I am saying that we need to recognise what this education is. Coming in here is a very important experience and if you are changing the playing field from this level to another, I think that can only be good for all of us who are parliamentarians to get that opportunity of a larger playing field and to understand that we cannot be talking about economic integration nor

integration in terms of trade and other matters without thinking about political integration. Even those who are drafting this will say that they have no intention really of going the route of federation or political integration. I feel very strongly that is where we have to go. I feel strongly that if this might help, even though it might not be an oven intention, to take us there, maybe when all of us have gone out of the Chamber already and would have passed on elsewhere, that a good job would have been done in sensitising our people of the need to go in this direction. 1.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in supporting this Resolution. Thank you very much.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of matters that came to attention after we had embarked on Government Business, matters of which we should have been giving...

Mr. SPEAKER: Where are we now? We are still in the process of the Resolution. I have not put it neither have I asked other Members if they want to...

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am about to adjourn for lunch. Before we adjourn for lunch.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not understand that was the reason why.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: To stan another speech now, Sir, at this late time would only be a 5 minute contribution. What I am about to say is thai a number of matters came of which notice should be given. They were too late to be given at the appropriate time. I am seeking leave of Your Honour to have those matters dealt with now. I am asking to revert to the Order of Business so that those matters can be attended to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member is seeking leave of the House to revert to business that was not presented at the time when the item was called. If there is no objection then leave would be granted for such purposes.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1993.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am com landed to lay the following:-

Instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 79th Session held in Geneva in June, 1992.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

The Fisheries Bill, 1993.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN the Fisheries Bill 1993 was read a first time.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I give notice, Mr. Speaker, that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 32, asked by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, is ready.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. -2.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, at the time of the Suspension I did indicate that, on Resumption, we would resume consideration of that matter which had been

under consideration prior to the luncheon interval. However, Sir, in discussion with Members of both sides of the House, I thought it advisable that we should suspend further consideration of this particular matter. It does not have to be formally put.

I beg to move that further consideration on this matter be suspended. ^

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that further consideration of Order No. 3 be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. ^

QUESTION TIME Hon. P. M.

GREAVES: Question Time, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Time. Question No. 12. The Honourable Member for St Andrew is not in his place. The general instruction is that it be laid on the Table. **

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 32 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that concludes matters which the Government would want to have considered today, Sir. In the absence of any other matters, I will move that the sitting be adjourned until Tuesday the 25th day of May, 1993 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly at 3.07 p.m.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

**ARTHUR, Mr. O. S. (St. Peter) GREAVES, Hon.
P. M. (St. Michael North) MORRIS, Mr. R. L.
(Christ Church East Central) SANDIFORD, Rt.
Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South)**