

# THE House of Assembly Debates (OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

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## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, January 19, 1993.*

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

### PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker)  
His Honour 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)  
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, J.P., (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., J.P., (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. TULL, Q.C., M.A.  
Miss B. A. MILLER  
Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW  
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)  
Hon. D. W. BOWEN (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)  
Mr. G. W. PAYNE

*Prayers "were led by Fr. Ivan Harewood. Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session. MINUTES*

*Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the Minutes of the meeting of this Honourable Chamber held on 12th January, 1993 have been circulated and I move that they be taken as read and confirmed.*

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

### ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 19 and 20, asked by the Honourable Member for the City, are ready.

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, in moving that the following Standing Orders be suspended - Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 - for the remainder of this sitting, I should also like to state that at some point during the day I will accommodate the other side with Private Members' Business, hopefully.

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

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I have taken the Honourable Member's undertaking as seriously, Sir, as is usually given by a Leader of the House, in the highest tradition.

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

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the order of the day. Order No. 5.

### THE BARBADOS TOURISM AUTHORITY BILL, 1993

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Barbados Tourism Authority Bill, 1993. This Bill would provide for the establishment of the Barbados Tourism Authority, a corporation which will be responsible for the development of tourism in Barbados and the licensing of tourist accommodation. The Bill would repeal and replace the Barbados Board of Tourism Act.

The Bill also provides for the establishment of the Tourism Advisory Council to advise the Minister of Tourism on matters related to tourism.

What I intend to put to this Honourable House today, Sir, is that there is need for a change in the tourism industry; maybe there is need for a change in general, but certainly there is need for a change in our attitudes and our way of life. I think we need to change particularly in our approach to tourism.

It is my view, Mr. Speaker, that when you refuse to change you may end up in chains, and since human beings are custom-made for change, I take great privilege in attempting to convince this Honourable Chamber that there is, indeed, need for change. Inanimate objects like clothes, houses and buildings do not have the ability to change, but they just grow out of style and become unusable. At any time and at any stage we are able to change and, therefore, I would like to give a synopsis, or perhaps a background, to the tourism industry for a few minutes so as to give Honourable Members the drift of where I am going. Mr. Speaker, tourism is the organised travel of people from one place to another and the provision of goods and services that will attract tourists to come to your shores and so tourism, travel and recreation are important to Barbados, not only because of the number of people it serves and the vast human, financial and physical resources it employs, but because of the benefits which they confer on individuals and on society as a whole. 12.30 p.m.

Everyone knows that tourism is a major source of jobs, income and other tax revenue for the Government of Barbados. The expansion of the industry is vital to the growth of the economy. It is a truism that the existing Government's involvement in tourism and related activities needs to be better coordinated with the private sector and with the social partners in order to maximise the benefits of the industry.

I also feel that Government must set the agenda. The 28 members of this august Chamber are the ones who look at the policy which Government puts forward. Whether it is going to be a constructive criticism and agreement or an abstention, the point is that those of us who have gone into the highways and byways in order to be elected, and who have been elected in the House of Assembly, should look at this policy, having taken cognisance of what the social partners have said, not what they have told us to do. So what I am putting forward today is what I believe is the right recipe for the tourism industry.

I wish also to say that over the last decade or so many developing countries have used tourism as a part of their efforts to diversify and expand opportunities for economic development. We have also seen, in the Caribbean, Governments placing major emphasis on the tourism industry which of necessity has become the engine of growth in most of our economies. Within this highly competitive environment, I feel that Barbados must undertake a concentrated effort to improve the quality, attractiveness and uniqueness of its

tourism product and services in order to be competitive and to sustain tourism interest. That is my belief, Sir.

The growth prospects of the Barbados tourism sector must be viewed against the overall trend in international travel\*as well as domestic policies and strategies in order to return to the high levels of tourist arrivals we saw in 1989 when 461 247 long-stay visitors came to these shores and earned us some BDS\$1 billion.To some extent, Mr. Speaker, the prospect for tourism depends on the innovative follow-up promotions and marketing activities as well as the development of competitive tourism products, services and related infrastructural facilities.I feel that I have to say that because I believe it to be true.

follows:

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to promote is 35

1. The Government of Barbados is seeking to provide for an effective means of promoting and marketing Barbados as a destination for tourists on a worldwide basis so as to provide the private sector with a more effective means of involvement in promoting Barbados in its tourism efforts and a forum for removing the obstacles to overall tourism growth in order for Barbados to remain competitive in world tourism or, indeed, in the marketplace.

In other words, Sir, what we are saying is that we need to have the cooperation of the private sector and the social partners.

Some people feel and run away with the idea that because paragraph 30 of the Letter of Intent said that there should be some collaboration between the public and private sector this has not happened before. Successive Governments have had the private sector involved in tourism development. The problem is that, when a Minister has to make a decision whatever decision, he makes you will get people who are prepared not only to criticise, but to do everything possible to make sure that he does not succeed. That is true, Sir. The private sector was involved in the development of tourism in the 70's under the Democratic Labour Party Government and in the 80's under the Barbados Labour Party Government. Even today the Tourism Board of Barbados as it is now constituted has about 95% private sector involvement. There is no doubt about that.

The point is not that there is not private sector involvement but that certain people have not picked the people who are on the Board. That is the crux of the matter. The Member for Christ Church South who in his efforts to do what he thought was right at that time might have invoked the wrath of people who were opposing him. I say so, Sir, because later on I will get to matters such as the Council and objectives of the Board.

Getting back to the policies, Sir:

2. To optimise the contribution of the tourism related industries to the economic prosperity of Barbados.
3. To create the opportunity for and make benefits of tourism and recreation in Barbados accessible to residents of Barbados and to ensure that present and future generations are afforded adequate tourism resources and attractions.
4. To promote quality, integrity and reliability in tourism and tourism related services offered to the visitors of Barbados.
5. To ensure compatibility of tourism and recreation with other national interests in the areas of conservation and environmental protection.
6. To encourage the preservation and use of Barbados' historic and scenic environment to enhance Barbados' appeal as a destination for international tourism.
7. To create, maintain and further inter-sectoral linkages with other productive sectors and with service sectors such as education, culture, sports, health and agriculture.
8. To set out a course of action that is considered appropriate in an effort to move smoothly towards an efficient and viable tourism industry.

12.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, against that background Government wishes to enact the proposed Barbados Tourism Authority Act based on the said policy and to establish the new Barbados Tourism Authority under the legislation to promote Government's objectives in this area. In pursuant of these understandings, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs during the course of his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals on Tuesday, March 31, 1992 made the following statement:

"My Government proposes to bring before Parliament, during the course of the coming financial year, new legislation which will, for the first time in the history of this country, establish in clear and unequivocal terms a national tourism policy.

This legislation will seek to provide the vehicle which will enable Barbados to optimise the contribution of tourism to its economic prosperity. It will also seek to promote quality, integrity and reliability in all travel and tourism related services offered to visitors to Barbados, and will seek to ensure the compatibility of tourism with other national interests in conservation and environmental protection.

The proposed legislation will further seek to re-organise the Board of Tourism by reducing the size of the present Board and making it a more compact and action-oriented executive body to implement national travel and tourism policies under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism.

In addition, a Tourism Advisory Committee will be established to provide representation for tourism and other social, economic and community interests whose cooperation in the development of our tourism product is vital to its future success. This Committee will maintain a continuing dialogue with the streamlined executive Board of travel and tourism."

Section 3 of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning, provides for the establishment of the Barbados Tourism Authority, a corporation which will be responsible for the development of tourism in Barbados and the licensing of tourist accommodation. The Bill will repeal and replace the Barbados Tourism Act. Cap. 342.

The Bill also provides for the establishment of the Tourism Advisory Council which will advise the Minister of Tourism on matters relating to tourism.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I should like to look at the most basic elements of this Bill. They are found in Section 3.

No. 1 is the establishment of the Authority and Board of Directors. This Bill seeks to establish a new tourism and travel Authority to replace the existing Barbados Board of Tourism.

No. 2 is the structure of the Authority, Paragraph 1 of the First Schedule tells that it is proposed that the new Barbados Tourism Authority will have a Board of Directors which will be responsible for the policy and general administration of the Authority. The Board shall consist of the Chief Executive Officer and not less than 5 and not more than 8 other persons appointed by the Minister. In appointing persons to serve on the Board the Minister will have regard to individuals who are experienced in activities connected with tourism and travel, recreation, management including hotel management, marketing, finance, economics, business or international transportation.

No. 3 - the disclosure of directors' interests. Section 7 says that the proposed legislation will require directors of the Board to disclose any interest they may have in a company with which the Authority proposes to make a contract or transact any business.

No. 4 - functions of the Authority. In section 4 there is a very long list of the functions of the Authority. Suffice it to say that under the new Barbados Tourism Authority Act the main function of the Authority shall be the promotion, development and regulation of the tourism industry so as to optimise the contribution of tourism to the economic development of Barbados. In that long list they are quite self-explanatory. I would like to add the question of ancillary services in (f). Ancillary services sometimes give the impression that there is a "we" and "they" attitude, that tourism is hotel and nothing else, but I feel the ancillary services are rather important whether you are talking about vendors, restaurateurs, rent-a-car, or whatever, that should be spelt out a little bit more clearly there. I just wanted to make that intervention.

No. 5 - section 20 tells us of the tourism marketing plan. The Act is fashioned to make it mandatory for the Authority, in cooperation with the Tourism Advisory Council, to adopt an annual update in tourism marketing plans for Barbados' international tourism promotion. That is new, Sir.

No. 6 - Appointments are found under sections 9 and 10. Under this Bill the Authority will have the power to appoint the Chief Executive Officer and a Deputy Chief Executive Officer subject to the approval of the Minister. The Chief Executive Officer of the Authority would then be responsible to the Board of Directors for the execution of its policies and the management of its affairs. Any officers and other employees at the date of the commencement of this Act who are members of the staff of the Barbados Board of Tourism shall, as from that date, comprise the staff of the Authority. This is rather important because there has been a lot said about the new Authority and the present staff. There were many rumours and assertions by people who should know better saying that they fired the whole staff and picked new ones. This gives the lie to that. Those who are working for the Board of Tourism the date this comes into effect will automatically become workers of the Authority.

In addition, when we look at pension rights and transfers, Mr. Speaker, sections 10 and 11 state:

"The Authority may appoint and employ such officers, agents and servants as it considers necessary for the proper carrying into effect of this Act, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as the Minister approves in writing."

No. 7 - the finances of the Authority, section 30. The Bill sets out clearly what should constitute the funds and resources of the Authority and stipulates as well how such funds should be applied. It also makes provision for the keeping of proper accounts and for accounts to be audited. It provides for the accounts to be audited annually and for the Auditor General or other auditors to have access to all information, books, documents, cash and securities of the authority. That is section 13, Sir. 12.50 p.m.

8. In sections 21 and 22 the Annual Report and Estimates. The Estimates were never really written in the law before, Sir, but I think what has happened now is that the Authority will be required, under the Bill, to submit to the Minister, an Annual Report as soon as possible after the end of each year, not later than 5 months from the end of each year containing ~

(1) an account of the performance of the activities and operations of the Authority and an analysis of the performance of the tourism industry during the preceding year, and

(2) an assessment of any marketing and advertising programmes undertaken, and

(3) a statement of the Authority's audited accounts,

(4) the tourism marketing plan.

Those are 4 things written into the law that must happen. Those are sections 18 to 20.

Under section 22, Sir, the Authority will also be required to submit to the Minister for approval, by October in each year, estimates of income receivable by the Authority, its capital expenditure and the total of its recurrent expenditure for the following financial year.

9. The tourism accommodation to be licensed. These provisions are found in sections 23 to 29 and the Bill makes provision for tourist accommodation to be licensed. This is seen as one of the ways in which quality, integrity and reliability in the tourist sector can be promoted. The effective licensing of properties is something that we really need to monitor.

10. The Tourism Advisory Council. Under section 30 of the Act and the Second Schedule to the Act, the Bill makes provision for the appointment of the Tourism Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council will be to advise the Minister in any matter connected with tourism as the Council sees fit or as is referred to it, by the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, paragraph 1 of the First Schedule says that the composition of Council will be as follows:

(a) The Chief Immigration Officer, the Commissioner of Police, and the Environmental Officer, *ex officio*.

(b) A Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and not less than 10 and not more than 14 persons appointed by the Minister. These include a representative of the Barbados Hotel Association, a representative of a registered trade union representing the majority of employees in the tourism industry, a representative of the Airline Association of Barbados Inc., a representative of the National Cultural Foundation and a representative of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, and

(c) such persons as the Minister may consider suitable, taking into account their qualifications and skills related to travel, the tourist industry, national conservation, environmental protection, education and cultural development.

Of course, Sir, section 35 talks about the repeal of the Barbados Board of Tourism Act, Cap. 342. This Bill will repeal the Barbados Board of Tourism Act, Cap. 342 and calls for the amendment of Cap. 383, the Statutory Boards Casual Employees (Pensions) Act and Cap. 384 the Statutory Boards (Pensions) Act. Sir, maybe I had better say a word\* about the Advisory Council. This is not the first advisory council in tourism in Barbados. As I said earlier, the Democratic Labour Party in the seventies had an advisory council. I am not aware how often it met, Sir. I don't know if it met only when the Chairman so desired or what. I do know that around 1985 when the Member for Christ Church South was the Minister of Tourism in Barbados he had an advisory council and also a Board of Tourism. What he did was to reduce the membership of the Board of Tourism and then sought to complement that by having an Advisory Council. But it was not in the law.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: That is not the issue: The issue is this, that when that was done there was a hue and cry throughout the land. It was felt that the Minister was doing the wrong thing. Indeed that was said, and so

the advisory council probably did not have time to meet. I do not think they met. Then the elections of 1986 guaranteed that they did not meet. The point I am making is this, Sir, that one could see what was attempted at that time, but it was criticised in an amazing way.

In 1986, Sir, the then Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, had another idea. He had a broad-based board of 19 members but...

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Whenever the asides are finished, Sir, I will continue. I do not think you will see the day when the Members of the Opposition will get me angry in here. It will not happen.

Sir, I just wish to say that the then Minister had a broad-based board. It included not only those from big hotels, medium hotels and small hotels and all of the technocrats. It also included entertainers and vendors who can be described as small people. I liked that. It had small people on it. Sir, they complained that it was cumbersome. They said it could not work, as indeed the Opposition is telling me now. When I became Minister I looked at it and I reduced it to 14. I had the notion to reduce it to 12. If Jesus had 12 disciples I do not see why I could not have 12 members on the Board. Maybe it should have been 11 because I should have looked for the Judas Iscariot in it. l.OOp.nr.

Sir, the problem was that when you reduced it from 19 to 14, a simple subtraction, that said that at least 5 of them would go. You did not fire people because you waited until the Board had run its course and then you took 14 after you took out five. Forever and a day since then, Sir, those who have been dropped persecute me. I do not know why persecutors must doubt me, but they have done it for 5 long years. They write in the newspapers. They do everything just because of that. If I were to hate people who dropped me off-board, Sir, I would look right in front of me. I will tell you that when the Member for the City was the Minister of Education and I sat on the Board of Management of Combermere, she did not understand the passionate love that we had for that school. Therefore, in our enthusiasm, we thought that the headmaster should retain the house. Sir, I was not a Minister so I would not know how Ministers feel about certain things. The Minister felt that it should all be together. There would be no houses. When we told her that we really did not agree with her, the Minister revoked the appointment of the entire Board. I am not vexed. I still love her. I am not vexed, Sir. I am saying that when I reduced the Board by 5, they persecuted *ad infinitum*. Some Ministers would get rid of a whole Board if they were not doing what the Ministers wanted. I understand that now not to mention my friend, the Member for St. Michael South East.

Sir, I was on his Board and I disagreed with him. We were sending the Director of Sports to Greece on a Saturday and, on that Friday evening at 4 o'clock, the Minister met with us and asked where was he going. I said to Greece. He asked me why is he going. I said because we are trying to get him accustomed to the techniques that are used internationally and he said that he did not think that he should go. I said: "Mr. Minister, if I had to mark you, I would give you 2 out of 10 for that." The Minister looked at me, Sir, and said: "That is true today, but on Monday morning check and see if you can mark me."

Sir, I wish to declare that, at the time, I lived 2 houses away from the Minister and that morning he pulled outside of my door, knocked at my window and said to me, "Wes, I bring this for you." He smiled and I opened it I did not exactly call him my beloved brother. He said, "I told you that you will not really mark me again." Since then, I have been unable to mark him yet he continues...

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: On a point of order, Sir. This to me is not a laughing matter because the Minister has accused me of chasing him away. Mr. Speaker, just to set the record straight. The Minister was in Australia at the time when the Board was to be changed. He did not notify me that he was interested in serving and I took him off the Board.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Why must I notify him that I was interested? I never notified anybody before that I was interested. I am not begging for a job, Sir. I do not understand that. It does not follow, Sir. I understand what the Honourable Member is saying. The Honourable Member is saying that if a cat was born in an oven it is a bread. I do not understand what he is talking about notifying him. I did not have to notify him. I am saying, Sir, that I understand the pressures Ministers go through in selecting Boards and I understand the agony that they suffer as people walk around Barbados just because they are taken off a Board. Let me tell you something. A Minister may put up members for a Board but Cabinet decides who the real members will be and that is the position.

Mr. Speaker, I just attempted to clear the air.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I am getting heckled from my own side. I do not know if you want me to put this to the Chamber or what.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has complained of being interrupted and he just cannot make his contribution in the way he should. I am appealing to Honourable Members to keep quiet according to the rules of the House. Continue, Sir.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I would like to thank you, Sir, but that should not have been necessary given the decorum of this Honourable House. Sir, having mentioned the major elements of the Bill, I would now like to discuss or put out the major differences in the Bill as far as the old Board of Tourism Act is concerned. Perhaps let us look at Page 5, Sir.

(1) The Chief Executive Officer of the new Barbados Tourism Authority will be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Authority.

As it is today, the Director of the Board of Tourism is not a Member of the Board. He is perhaps obviously asked to many Board meetings to advise on certain matters. But this is one fundamental change and in paragraph 1(a) of the First Schedule. The Chief Executive Officer will be, in his or her own right, on the Board of Directors.

(2) The size of the Board of Directors has been reduced from a maximum of 14 to a maximum of 9. That is paragraph 1(b) of the First Schedule.

(3) In Section 30, there is to be established a body to be known as the Tourism Advisory Council which shall advise the Minister on any matter connected to tourism as the Council sees fit or what is referred to it by the Minister.

(4) In Section 20, there is another difference. The Authority shall, after consultation with the Tourism Advisory Council, prepare an annual tourism marketing plan for the conduct of the tourism promotion in Barbados and abroad. The Plan shall serve as a guide for structuring the programme of tourism promotion and visitor service activities for the succeeding year and shall specify the aims of the programme and shall outline the methods to be employed to accomplish those aims.

(5) This has to do with the Estimates in Section 22. The Authority shall, not later than the October 31st of each year, in such form as the Minister directs, submit to the Minister for approval Estimates of the income receivable by the Authority, its capital expenditure and the total of its recurring expenditure, for the following financial year.

Sir, those are 5 major differences between this Bill and the Board of Tourism Act which will become defunct pretty soon. I thought that I would, in introducing the Tourism Bill, point out for the benefit of our esteemed colleagues the main differences, as I see them. 1.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the new legislation is being enacted against the background of the Government's desire to formulate a new national tourism development policy, one which encourages the involvement of the private sector and all of our social partners.

The Government reiterates its commitment to the creation and support of strategies which will improve the well-being of all Barbadians. It sees the need for a national tourism policy which will provide the development guidelines for the future expansion of the tourism industry. The foundation of the new policy will involve the close collaboration of all levels of Government and the private sector to ensure its inter-sectoral co-ordination in national tourism planning and implementation, as well as increased participation of the private sector, in tourism development. It hopes that the implementation of its tourism policy will further assist in the overall development of tourism so that Barbados can remain competitive in a world tourism marketplace.

Sir, that is the wish of the Government and we are hoping we will be able to put these measures in place rather soon.

Mr. Speaker, I have been Minister of Tourism for 6 years. From 1981 to 1986 I was the shadow Minister of Tourism, so let us say that, at least for 11 years, I would have paid some very close attention to the industry. There will be one Minister of Tourism and perhaps 27 other Shadow Ministers, since it is an

industry that is the engine of growth in the economy and one of the productive sectors which must be stimulated to have a recovery in the economy of this country. In days or in times of economic slowdown or recession you would be sure that the stimulation of productive sectors is something any sensible Government would seek to do, and so the stimulation of tourism is something to which this Government has really paid great attention. I have had counsel with a myriad number of people, Sir. Sometimes they come from the IMF, the IADB or the World Bank. They all want to see you. If you are a Minister responsible for an industry that is supposed to be the engine of growth, you see them. If they can see the people in Bridgetown and have dinner with them at the Bridgetown Club every day, they can see me if I am the Minister of Tourism so that they can get an educated view of what really is happening in the Ministry. It is as simple as that.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: I say that advisedly, because you all feel all the education in Barbados resides in the portals of Harrison College, but it does not really teach you about the education of life.

I wish to say, Sir, that I have seen the need to speak to all of the social partners and to all those people whom I consider not only to have Barbados' tourism at heart, but who I am sure can make a tangible contribution to the state of the art. I have spoken with the Barbados Hotel Association and we have had counsel with the Barbados Board of Tourism, but believe me, Mr. Speaker, we got the marketing plan of the Barbados Hotel Association about 6 months ago, we got the marketing plan of the Board of Tourism, we convened a meeting of the 2 bodies and met with them. It was chaired by one of their ex-Presidents, but very knowledgeable in tourism marketing, and we got an amalgamation. We got the 2 marketing plans together and we then submitted that plan to the Foreign Exchange Committee, a committee made up of many private sector leaders whose object is to fast track things to get away from the bureaucratic tendencies, they say, of the normal day to day workings in certain offices, under the able chairmanship of the Attorney General.

It is felt that such a body will give yeoman service and will tend to bring together the public and private sectors. We submitted that marketing plan to the Foreign Exchange Committee, so that is why I can stand here today and say to you it is not a matter of being a Minister who knows it all, so they think, issuing directives left, right and centre. Some 300 years ago that was the position in management. A man owned a building, made all the decisions, did not listen to anybody and wanted only a bodyguard at the door, but times have changed whereby you will find in management today an executive director, personnel management, sales management, marketing, product development, all of these at that level making certain inputs so that the managing director can make the decisions. That is what is happening. They do not see Ministers and the Civil Service as having that managerial expertise. They see you as lord and saviour over plebs and therefore you make decisions, rational or irrational. I do not subscribe to that view, Sir, and I think that some education of the masses and inside the portals of Bridgetown and all over there is needed to let them know that the Ministers of Government are capable people and are well schooled in the tenets of management 1.20 p.m.

I say so because I feel that, despite all this, we need to have close cooperation with the social partners. As a result, I always try to get capable men, and this is what this new Tourism Authority will do. It will bring capable men from among us.

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, that was only a comma. I have not finished my statement. I said it will bring capable men and women from among us who will look specifically at the marketing of the product, at product development, training at all levels and at public awareness. Making the point about capable men does not mean that if I say you have 2 capable men in here the rest are not capable. You pick out 2 in much the same way as Moses did. Moses did not understand when he decided that he was going to be the judge and jury over every little incident until Jethro told him that he should pick capable men from around him. You will find it in Exodus. The point is that the same applies today. We will get capable men steeped in the knowledge of tourism marketing, product development and training.

Apart from that, Sir, we will have a Council of other capable people but they will not be looking particularly at the marketing and product development. They will be looking at overall effectiveness and advise the Minister. That is the focus.

So when the Member for Christ Church South in 1985 had a Board and a Council I did not perceive at any stage that only the Board were capable men and women. All I am saying is that we are doing it differently. We need to look at the changing face of tourism. Mr. Speaker, we have to understand the importance of tourism, not only to Barbados but to the Caribbean and, indeed, to the world. It is the most important industry in the world. We have to look at tourism in this light for it plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of this Island of Barbados. It is the major contributor of our foreign exchange earnings. This is a point that must not be gainsaid. It must be taught in schools and everybody must know it. We in Barbados seem to glide over it, but if you were to go to Cancun in Mexico you will find there is a tourism zone. You know when you get there that tourism is the name of the game.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: When one is talking the truth maybe it is so strange to the ear that people get upset. All I am saying is that we must not overlook the fact that the contribution tourism makes to foreign exchange earnings is the lifeblood of the economy.

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, we have to look at a Ministry which will employ about 20 000 people directly and indirectly. We have to look at the type of revenues that we get out of tourism. At the height of our tourism arrivals in 1989, when we had 461 327 people, this country earned \$1 billion in tourism receipts. I know that after a decline of 3.3% in 1990 we earned \$980 million and in 1991 \$920 million. It is not true to say that there were tourism declines for 4 years running.

I know that the Honourable Member for\*the City asked the question in this House and began by asking whether the Minister was aware that tourism has declined for 4 years. I gave her a little time to correct it but the answer is no. It declined for 2 years, 1990 and 1991. Up to the end of November 1992, the decline is 2.7% and December is such an unpredictable month that I would not say that we will cover that. As you know, the decline out of Stockholm is because of the 35% devaluation in the currency and also of the fact that instead of 2 flights out of there for the small hotels in Barbados we were reduced to 1 flight, and then BWIA said that we did not have to take any risks but to fly BWIA. BWIA is now moving out in April so I am not predicting.

I will predict that Paul Gunther is coming out of Germany and will fill our hotels. He is going to extend that. I shall elaborate on that later. I am not predicting because 2 years ago we started to predict and the Gulf War came along. We can say the Gulf War might be here again in November and December because they are still bombing. People are still a little hesitant. If they are bombing Iraq, people might again become inward looking as they have done in the last 2 years. Sir, we have to look at the sectoral linkages.

This is going to take a long time, Sir, because they are going to interrupt me all day and I am not sitting down yet. I have a long way to go. This is occupation of the crease - Lara style. If you do not know how to make runs you occupy the crease. I will occupy the crease in here unless you, Sir, so decree.

Mr. SPEAKER: Standing Orders do not give me that authority.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, we need to look at sectoral linkages carefully. Concerning agriculture, what we need to do is to grow more food and reduce the import bill. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that if we make a billion dollars today out of tourism that half of it sneaks out of this country in imports? We have to stop that. We have to reduce our import bill. I have no land. I cannot grant anything. We have to talk to the farmers so that we will reduce the import bill.

We have to look at the multiplying effect tourism has. There is hardly a job in this country that tourism does not affect. If you are the Governor of the Central Bank your job could be made easier or harder, depending upon how tourism is doing. This is a job for all of us. This is not a DLP job and a BLP opposition. This is a job for all Barbadians, and when you see a true blood Barbadian do things to make sure that that happens those who are suspicious criticise. 1.30 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I would like to move on. The only Peter I am interested in now is Peter, the rock. That is the only Peter I know. You are talking about Peters. I am not particularly focussing on any Peter.

Our problem in Barbados is that we focus on things we do not have. We criticise what we have and then in the final analysis we go out and hope and think about the things we should have had I am not interested in any Peter.

Sir, perhaps we could look at the growth and decline in tourism because people talk about this tourism business as if it is a numbers game, but if it were a numbers game I could easily tell you that visitor arrivals this year, at the end of November, are overall 22 000 up. Do you know why, Sir? It is so because, even though the long stay arrivals would be down, I say 2.7%, the cruise ship arrivals are up about 8%.

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: In most countries they talk about arrivals as a whole and then break them down. In the Bahamas the Prime Minister last year took over the portfolio of Tourism. He pulled off his 3 piece suits and flashy ties where he has always been the epitome of sartorial splendour, and put on a bell boy suit. He went into the bedrooms. He was a luggage man or luggage boy. He was a taximan, leading by example. I am telling you that sort of thing does not always work because if you look and see what has happened in the Bahamas - I am not attributing it to him - I am saying what he did will not necessarily mean that people will go to the Bahamas. Therefore, we saw the cruise liners having to take some of the workers off their ships to alleviate the problem. It is not really a matter of what is the name of a Minister. What is important is the type of work he or she does. We look at names and attach brilliance or incompetence only according to the name, not the actual work done. That is the point.

Sir, I just wish to reflect and tell you that in 1956 only 18 000 people were coming to Barbados. We have seen fantastic growth. So if it goes up 2 000 or goes down 2 000, I do think that at our level we must recognise there are peaks and valleys in everything we do. We need in Barbados, instead of having these peaks and valleys in tourism development, to have a sustained moderate growth. That is my point. I am not interested in peaks and valleys. We have to put a policy in place, a policy that encompasses the entire spectrum of the social partners so that one would not think that tourism is hotel owner, or Ministers. It is our ability to look seriously at the product and develop it. We must look at things like our services, roads, telecommunications and the ability of our people to interact.

When you go to Cancun in Mexico and get into the tourism zone you do not see another Mexican except the ones working in the hotels. Yet they have a quarter million people living in Cancun. Cancun is an island. It is not on the mainland. It is just a little island attached by a bridge. The point is that you do not have the interaction.

In the southern end of Aruba tourism development is full of casinos, giving a lot of franchises to the major hotel plant and they are all in there. In Cancun every major hotel company is in there. There is none missing. But the major ingredient is not there, that is, the interaction of the people.

Now, Barbadians cannot get away from meeting a tourist if they try, unless the tourist turns invisible. You have to see them because our hotel plants are on the South and West coasts. Of necessity we would interact with people. Therefore it is important that our people understand not only the value of tourism but, certainly, what is interaction and what it really means to the welfare of the country. That is the important thing.

You may shout and tell me they have a policy in Cancun and that in Aruba they have a policy but what is it? The policy is just to go there on a semi-desert. They do not have a lot of water so they put in 2 plants then gave licences for casinos in every hotel and presto, you have tourism. They import everything; all the fresh fruit one eats on mornings is very beautiful but it is imported. When we talk about policies, sure you can have a policy. You can put all your pigs in one basket too and then cry if things go bad.

Sir, we have to look at the weaknesses. The signs of weakness appeared in 1982 after the recession of 1980. People ran out of Europe as they would run out now if there is a devaluation. Let us face it, Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons why we went to Europe with such alacrity in 1985 and 1986 was because in October 1987 the American dollar to which our currency is tied fell and Barbados became more affordable to the Europeans, thank God. Barbadians were the first up there. We were first as we are going to be first in many places. You talk of Australia, there too, Japan, there too, Africa, there too and in South America we are going to be the first there. They will follow where we tread. In Europe in 1966 Barbados was perhaps the only name known among the islands, but, Mr. Speaker, check it today.

Sir, the problem we have is this. I am the first Vice-President of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation and was the first Chairman of the Council of Ministers. The problem is that, whereas Barbados cannot qualify for some of the aid I see some of the other countries getting, it really hurts our performance. For instance, we have an office in Frankfurt. We pay for it, Sir. Barbadians pay for the office in Frankfurt. Grenada has

an office in Frankfurt and it is paid by the EEC. There is no place we can go in the world that we would not see the Grenada Tourist Board. The point I am making is, that they can go all over the world and to all of the trade fairs and all of the places where they should be. I admit they must be there, but you know, Sir, whether because in Barbados we are a MDC, or our per capita income is too high, I don't know, but you all will know, you goodly gentlemen and lady, as I will say, that we are unable sometimes to match them because they can get some aid that you would be surprised to know of, Sir... The OECS would get aid out of the pool and then lo and behold you will hear that the OECS, as a body, gets more aid. That is what happens, Sir. It does not only happen in tourism. I suppose it happens in agriculture. I suppose it happens in other areas. So, Sir, that is the position. 1.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to you and through you because I know that you are listening attentively, something that I cannot say for some Members of this House.

*Asides.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Pay no attention to the asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Thank you, Sir. I have always listened to you. I wonder why I stray sometimes. I should listen to you.

I wish to talk about some of the problems, Sir, that...

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: That is not true.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us get it right. This is not a call-in programme. All Members talk about this Honourable Chamber and they < speak about the Chamber always in a dignified way as it should be. The rules of the House provides for the dignity of the House and I am not going to permit this debate to wander off as if it has no moorings or as if the rules of this House have been suspended at that point. I want to be very clear. The Honourable Member has the undisputed right to speak as long as he wants to, whether it be one day, 2 days, 3 days. That is what the Standing Orders say and he is entitled so to speak. I am not accepting any advice from any aside to curtail any Member in his duty; Continue.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Thank you very much, Sir. I have never really had an ambition to talk for 3 days in the House of Assembly, Sir, but since you mention it this might well be the time.

Sir, we were referring to the problems in the industry that plague the industry, problems that not only plague Barbados but Caribbean Islands and worldwide destinations. Only 2 weeks ago there was a report that in Egypt there was a blazing fire and when you looked at it, you know what happened Sir? No safety standards. People cannot get down. It happens all over the world, Sir. We have problems but let us look at the reduced air access. It is ail right to talk about getting people to come to Barbados, but, Sir, the Government of Barbados has been continuously discussing this issue with scheduled airlines and indeed with charter companies. In terms of the charters it is ; matter of money. The bottom line is so important. Do you know, Sir, if we .were to have a discussion with a charter operation and it fails there will be this hue and cry but you know, Sir, if it succeeds you will not hear a murmur.

In 1986, when we went to England with the charters, I heard it from all quarters. You are bringing cheap people in here, cheap tourism! Sir, it is my perception that people with money always look for the cheap way of doing things. Look among you, Sir. Look to your left and you will see rich people. I am saying, Sir, I can afford to observe them because I can only observe them. Nothing in my hands I bring... You can investigate me. I want to change that. I have nothing to take.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: I will discuss that with you at another time because you seem to be in search of spiritual knowledge.

Sir, air access in the United States of America, air access in Europe, air access in Canada and air access in the United Kingdom, I am going to tell you, chapter and verse, what this Government has done. In the

United States of America as Minister of Tourism you report to your Cabinet that things are going well and all of that and then, suddenly, you hear in the twinkling of an eye that Pan Am is no longer flying, that Eastern is no longer flying. You are told at 9.00 o'clock in the morning in New York, about the grandiose plans that American Airlines has for Barbados and Caribbean countries and at 3.00 o'clock the same day you will hear that American Airlines will discontinue its non-stop flight from New York to Barbados. Sir, Ministers know these are facts of life. What do you do? What do you tell the Cabinet? You have no recourse, so you then have to look to see what will happen. One hundred and eighty-one thousand seats when it came to the demise of Pan Am and Eastern, Sir! That is the sum total. It is true that American Airlines are coming out of Miami everyday. It is true they are bringing air buses out of Puerto Rico and it is true that at the end of this month they will bring back the non-stop flight. The mere fact that you are breathing is hopeful. That is not Christian. That is a fact of life. What Christian?

Mr. SPEAKER: Pay no attention to asides.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I will say what I have to say, however long it is. I am saying that when you go to discuss aviation matters with airlines they all look at the bottom line. They do not say that here is a jolly good fellow, so I am going to bring a plane to Barbados. It might be a very small point. It may be that the same plane that would fly from New York or from Orlando to Aititgua will not venture another few miles down the road to Barbados because those extra miles might mean that you will have to overnight and you cannot turn around with the same staff. That is a fact. If you talk with airline owners instead of the supervisors...

Sir, I happen to have the privilege that to go and talk with the airline owners and the managing directors, not the supervisors, so I know. When I said we are victims of our own geography someone said I did not know what I was talking about but maybe they will understand now. I want to say, Sir, that air access is one of our most serious problems, when you realise that out of the United States of America only two international airlines come here, American Airlines and BWIA. You realise, Sir, that if there is a strike at American Airlines tomorrow - God forbid -you will see how adversely it will affect us. We have to be talking continually with everybody. Out of Canada, Sir, it is rumoured BWIA will not come out of Toronto again, Sir. They are making some arrangements with Air Canada but the Managing Director called me yesterday to tell me they are hoping from May to bring a direct flight out of New York to Barbados and then on to Trinidad. Now I hear that American Airlines is coming out from December 1. When it rains it pours and I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, how great is our burden. We negotiate a charter agreement with a charter company. Then the scheduled airlines, as has been done out of Zurich and has been done out of Stockholm say: why take the risks? 1.50 p.m.

Businessmen know this. Why take the risk? We will give you the seats. What happens? The charters pull back, Sir, and we go by BWIA. Now when BWIA pulls out of Stockholm in April, where is Barbados? That is why I am not optimistic in terms of that and that is why we are negotiating with other people. We have to, Sir, because they leave us high and dry. They do not give us a moment's notice and we have to be prepared, like boy scouts, all of the time. These are things over which we have no control.

When I mentioned the Gulf War in 1991, they ignored it. They scorned it, but now I will scorn the scorners because I know that this is 1993. Sir, there is still some periodic bombing in Iraq.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I wish to say that those are some of the things. Mr. Speaker, regarding the recession in the U.S.A., the markets that we are very familiar with and the cities that we really get our tourists from like New York, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Hartford (Connecticut), the Eastern Seaboard, are those where Barbados got their tourists from for a long time. Because we are prudent, we will no longer do that. Four years I have been saying in this Honourable Chamber and all over the world that we have to look at non-traditional areas. I know Atlanta, Cincinnati, the South-East area, Miami and all of those areas where people will come to Barbados in large numbers. We have never tapped sources like Detroit and Minneapolis. Barbados is receiving people from these areas now and they are not doing it because there is a scheduled airline. We are doing it because we have negotiated charters in the ITD. They are the people who did it.

Sir, I am only saying that out of the United Kingdom we have had to depend on British Airways and BWIA, but our major thrust came when we went to charters, air tours and the rest. That is a fact. I will now

say, Sir, what we are doing and the steps that we are taking. Martin Air - We wished last year to bring people from Amsterdam via Manchester to Barbados. We wanted to have that link because we know that when we asked the scheduled airlines to come out of Manchester, they did not. Once you do not do it, there is never any traffic there. In 1986 when we got Air Tours to come out of Manchester, suddenly people appeared like manna from heaven and there were thousands of them walking about Broad Street. Do you know what happened? Then the scheduled airlines came from Gatwick via Manchester to Barbados. When things went wrong with the recession, what do you think happened, Sir? That was foregone. Sir, they pulled it off. Now what are we doing? We are trying to get Martin Air, as I said, to come from Amsterdam via Manchester. Why Manchester? Manchester is a great hub. Those of you who know England, Sir,

will know that you can pick up people from Wales and all of the northern countries. The traffic through Manchester Airport is around 11 million people and 6 million of them are on charters. Sir, we knew that we would be on to a good thing. We could not get it done because of the gymnastics that go on in these businesses. Now we are hoping to go from Amsterdam through Basle to Barbados.

Sir, the question is this. We are going to do that. Do you know why? We are going to do that because we feel we need to get into not necessarily just Holland. When you bring a plane from Holland to Barbados, you are getting people from all of those little towns and cities in Germany. They just go across the border. That is what the situation is, Sir. We are getting LTU.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I will just find a point to stop *pro tempore*. I am not listening to them, Sir, because I am not like them. I am not going to get a perfect landing.

Sir, I respectfully request that I be allowed to stop here even in mid-sentence to allow us to go to lunch.

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is 2 o'clock. I beg to move that the House do now suspend until 3.00 p.m. this day, Sir.

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

*The question that this sitting be now suspended until 3.00 p.m. this day 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. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, it is customary after lunch to take fresh guard and proceed with all the fortitude, aplomb and application one can muster. Now that we are reconvening, I wish to continue from where I left off before we went to lunch. As I recall, Sir, we were on recession in the major markets. I will move away from that because I believe I made the point that economic slowdown in countries from where our tourists come will harm us.

I wish to move on to the transformation of the industry itself. There was a time, Sir, when Englishmen, who were quite rich or well to do, would come to Barbados for 5 or 4 months in the winter. That would mean that we were a land of plenty in the winter and in the summer our workers in the hotel industry would have to look for other jobs, for instance, like going to Canada to pick fruit or vegetables and things like that, a little carpentry here and there, but having moderate sustained growth and arrivals in the 430 000 to 460 000 region, it is obvious that you need to look at the transformation of the industry itself. Instead of getting arrivals mainly in the winter, we became then an all year round destination providing work for many all year round. That in itself is a transformation.

Sir, in other countries we have also seen a transformation. For instance, in the United States of America you find that sometimes they are inward looking. More and more Americans are encouraged to see the sights in America, which means that instead of travelling to the Caribbean they would do something they had never done before, go to Disney land or to Mississippi where the tourism resorts have been developed in 25 months.

Eight years ago Cancun was a barren island, nothing to speak about there. Today it probably has a

population of 250 000 people and 23 000 beds. This is the changing pace of tourism we have to deal with. Therefore it is necessary for us to change and meet the needs of the guests who come here. We need to cater to their discriminating tastes and whether it is mature tourism, eco tourism, sports tourism or health tourism it does not matter, we have somehow to deal with that so that the people who come here are totally satisfied.

The days of sea, sand and sun are not all over but are not necessarily only what the people want I understand and I know that for 80% of the people who come here our beaches and our marine life would be No. 1, but if that is the only thing you have we are not the only place in the world which has 3 000 hours of sunshine a year. You can get sunshine in the Mediterranean, in Cancun and in Santo Domingo. The point I am making is that some of these destinations, these peso based destinations, are rather cheap to go to. They have beautiful hotels, but when you exchange the American dollar or the Barbadian dollar you get a lot of money. I changed U.S.\$100 in Cancun and I had a suitcase full of money. I could not believe it. The same thing happens if you go to Korea.

What I am trying to say is this. We have to be very careful. The workers in the hotels get U.S. \$5 a day, and coming closer to home, Sir, the hoteliers in Negril, Jamaica, would charge U.S. \$200 a day but are still only paying J.\$80 a week. When you realise that the Barbadian dollar is equivalent to J.\$14, you see what I mean. When the hoteliers in this country pay wages, the wages are going to be respectable wages, so that our standard of living is something that our workers must have. The same is not true in other places, so your labour costs and operating costs will be high. Therefore, those internal factors may well go against us, because the first thing it does is to -make us uncompetitive. People will feel that they can go somewhere else with sun, sand and sea for less money. Therefore, we need to have all Barbadians recognising the necessity to look at tourism as a very serious industry and to pull their weight in terms of getting repeat visitors. If you can get a repeat visitor rate of about 40%, it would mean you would not have to spend millions of dollars advertising.

Sir, we were in a little trouble about June last year. The figures at that time showed a 6 or 7% decline. Crop-Over will bring many people, 36 000 people came in July and still we were 2% down on the year before. I am saying that 20 years ago July would have been one of those months where we had nobody, now in July, at the height of summer, we get more people than we get in December. It has been that way in the last few years, so it shows the need for us to look at our festivals and things like that. I need to say that the uncompetitiveness which was brought about by our high operational costs is something we have to look at. We need to ensure that when a visitor comes here we give value for money. It is all right to say this, but we must put it into practice. We have to have the necessary training to make sure that people understand what the position is. 3.15 p.m.

We have to look at these perceived high costs. Our diversity in the tourist industry allows us to attract all those people who come to Barbados by Concorde. I would respectfully submit that Barbados is the only destination in the Caribbean to which Concorde flies to. We must be proud of that, Sir. Two Saturdays ago there were 3 at the airport. I know St. Lucia is trying to get one now. What it does prove is that whereas St. Lucia is very good at the low end of the market Barbados is tops at the upper end. That is a fact. We are getting Concorde when they do not even travel to some of the sophisticated metropolitan cities. As a matter of fact, New York and Washington are 2 that spring to mind.

The maturity of the destination is important. Tourists are looking for something different, even those who have been here 20 or 30 times. I met a gentleman and his wife recently who have visited here 78 times. At the Board of Tourism we have a policy that when you come here 25 times we give you good, good service. You are member of an elite club.

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: In any case if I came to Barbados as an unmarried tourist of 25 years my taste at that stage, even if I am married and at liberty, would be a lot different to that of a man who has been back 35 times and is now at the age of 65. At 25 they want to play cricket, football and go to the night clubs and things like that. At 65, I do not know what you do. I have 10 years to go to reach that but, whenever I do, I will have such great peace of mind which I look forward to. I am saying that people are looking for something different, different things to do in a mature destination. Therefore we have to look at that. We have to cater to their discriminating taste. We have to put things in place that when people are matured they would still be able to come and enjoy themselves. Perhaps if they are 65 they would not like to stay in a hotel where the noise from next door is annoying them at 10 o'clock

because at 10 o'clock they would want to sleep whereas the youngsters are then going out.

Sir, we have to look at tourism fatigue. That is a hotel plant in need of upgrading. This Government has a proud record in terms of its help to the tourism sector through the Hotel Aids Act. Only last week, the Prime Minister in delivering his address in this Chamber, gave relief to the hoteliers in things such as toiletries. Maybe you will not think that is a lot but only 3 months ago there was a list of items approved by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs for duty-free concessions under the hotel refurbishment programme.

Sir, it starts with 1 and goes right down to 95. There are 95 items for which we gave relief. For example, stoves and ovens, salamanders, grills, steam kettles, microwave ovens, pastry ovens, convection ovens, deep fat fryers, commercial refrigerators, commercial freezers, extractor fans, dishwashers, stainless steel work tables, dish washing racks, blenders, mixers, ice machines, kitchen tools, *et cetera*.

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: ...shampoo machines, pillow cases, mattress pads, blankets, bedspreads, air conditioners, window units, console tanks, central controls, ceiling fans, towel rails, soap dishes, mini bars, t.v. sets, lampshades, towels and bath mats and water heaters.

Sir, this Government gave those 95 concessions. The hoteliers have been pleading for some waiver on these things for a long time. Successive years after 1986 this Government has given great relief to the hotel sector. Sometimes when others did not get, they got. So I think our record is a proud one in terms of giving relief through the Hotel Aids Act to hoteliers. I have not heard anyone comment on the fact that we have just given waivers for some items to the hotel industry. I have heard a lot of talk about gasoline but I do not hear any talk at all about the waivers we have given.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that there is a need for new tourism. It does not matter which party is in power. It has nothing to do with ideology enunciated by the Democratic Labour Party as opposed to that of the Barbados Labour Party. It has to do with what is happening with the changing fortunes of world travel.

I sit on many committees. Two months ago in London, I represented the West Indies at the World Travel Organisation at which the great industry people from all countries met with government officials. I was the only West Indian there. It was noteworthy that they were saying that governments were taking too much in taxes from the industry. I explained to them that that might be all right in America and in other developed societies but in small open economies dependent almost entirely on tourism and with no other industries, we must of necessity take it from what we have. They saw the point. They wrote and thanked me for my most erudite contribution.

There are things we have to do and we must do them with all alacrity. There is a need for a new tourism which is flexible, sustainable and quality oriented. We are not cheap, Sir. We must have high quality. We must let people know when they come to us they will get total satisfaction. 3.25 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: All Ministers who claim they do not like civil servants to write anything for them, well... The brightest people in Barbados are the civil servants so if they write anything for me it is all right with me. The point is not what anybody writes. It is how well you are able to deliver the goods, as it were. We need, Mr. Speaker, to go beyond the sun, sand and sea. We have to cater to a more mature, experienced and environmentally conscious, value conscious, more demanding, health conscious concerns. We have to do that, total satisfaction. Satisfaction guaranteed. That is the name of the game. We need to improve our attitude to visitors. I am not saying we must have a mediant attitude but we can be civil. We c<sup>^</sup>n deal with people on a one and one basis that will encourage them to recognise this is one of the preferred and, in fact, the best destination in the Caribbean and, perhaps, the world. We can make it like that. We need then to show them that. We need to make it very clear in their minds that is the position. We need to reduce incidence of harassment and crime against our visitors and, indeed, we need to reduce incidence of harassment and crime against Barbadians. This Government has taken steps to alleviate this problem. This has been articulated over and over again so I need not do anymore than to state or restate that.

We need a reduction of the private/public sector conflicts and build a consensus among the social partners. This is one of the most important ones. I have no problem with the private sector. Indeed, having worked in the private sector for over 22 years I know fully well what the position is. Therefore I feel there is a need to move away from the conflicts. I honestly believe there is a need to move away from all of the animosity

and recognise that hatred and bitterness is only a wasted emotion. That is what we have to look at. We need to stretch out a hand that is willing and we need to have some reciprocation. You cannot clap with one hand. They must not feel that Ministers, civil servants and the Government at large are a bunch of neophytes who know absolutely nothing about how to organise anything properly. That is not the preserve of the private sector. But we need of necessity to come together with them and move tourism forward. That is why I am recommending this change to the Tourism Authority because I feel it will of necessity move us into a situation where we can have marketing oriented people and people who know something about product development, research and institutional strengthening. I will get to that later, or I had better stay there now. There are many people out there who feel that institutional strengthening is employing a director, or one or 2 persons. We do not see it that way. I will elaborate on that.

I have told you, Sir, the things we need to do. I am not focussing on the negatives. I am going to focus on the positive. As a consequence, I will now talk about the things we have going for-us. We have a lot going for us in Barbados. It is only when we are here we hear so many negative things. We read the papers and we see so many negative things on the front pages every day that we feel we are in a land of iniquity. You go to Canada and people ask what is happening to our beautiful place. We need to get away from that. We need not pretend we are nice people. We have to let people know we are nice persons so we have a lot going for us. The sea, sand and serenity, that is beautiful. I said that 80% of the people who come here come just for that and our marine life. They like that. The hospitality and the friendship of our people, the interaction it brings about is something that is good for us. How else could it be when every hotel in this country is no more than 50 yards from the road? Go down the west coast. There are some of them I have never been into. They look so desolate and so far removed from me that as a boy I felt I was an alien in that place. Now because I am Minister I am not going to push up my chest and walk in there and hear people say, "the Minister comes".

I am saying wherever you go in Barbados, on the south coast or the west coast, you will find there is some interaction. The beaches are free in Barbados. In most of those places I go, Grand Canary, Cancun, the whole lot, they like the beaches but they can afford to walk night and day because I do not see anybody else but the tourists on the beach. We have to decide whether we want that or whether we want to control monitoring of the beaches. The minute we do not believe that is true we are only fooling ourselves. Again I am not going to let my feelings be clouded because I am a member of one political party. I am going to speak freely because I am a Barbadian. That is what I would want for any party. I do not care who is in power. I want that to happen for Barbados that we can be categorised as a place where people can go. They can walk freely on the beaches. They can go into any rum shop. They can go anywhere. They can go and ask anybody where to go and they will tell them and not say it is not their business. That is hospitality and friendliness, a stable, political and economic climate.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Whatever the pundits may say, we have had successive Governments which have been stable. We in this country have witnessed the demise of 2 Prime Ministers within 2 years. In many developed countries, that would have shackled them, In this country we came out of the mire and we were able to let people appreciate us for our maturity. We must not believe that our political stability is not an asset. It is a glorious asset like our equitable climate. We are not up and down. Our geographic areas...

*Aside,*

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am going to get through this, Sir, in the name of the Lord. I need not say it again. Let the record so speak because they will say we did not know, so that is why I am saying that our diverse, geographical areas and contrasting coastlines, are things people like. We do not appreciate it. We do not appreciate the sea. When last have you been in the sea? People travel miles to go in it. We have the Scotland District, Sir, as opposed to the flat plains of Barbados, the Atlantic rugged coast of Bathsheba as it is contrasted with the rain shadow area of the west coast There are great contrasts in Barbados which people find exhilarating. That exhilaration lifts them profoundly. The variety of visitor accommodation - I have touched on that; before but I need only to say that you can spend \$1 000 a night at Sandy Lane or you can spend \$50 a night at Miss Maitland and satisfaction is guaranteed both places. 3.35 p.m.

That is what we need. A fine infrastructure. I am talking about the things that we in Barbados have and we seem to let it go through the window. We seem not to care. It is all right with a fine infrastructure. Let me

tell you something, Mr. Speaker. That South Coast up there, Sir, from St. Lawrence Church, where I sang in the choir for many years, right back to Maxwell Coast Road in the constituency of Christ Church South... The representative for Christ Church South must be very glad that I do not run up there.

Sir, let me tell you, the only hotel in that area in the fifties was the St. Lawrence Hotel. Most of those buildings that are now hotels were formerly houses. The Manager of Graeme Hall, Mr. Clarke, used to live in what is now Southern Palms. Bresmay is the house that the illustrious son of the soil, Sir Gary Sobers and the ex-member for St. Michael South East, used to live in. I am trying to make the point, Mr. Speaker, that on the entire south coast there used to be houses. Where After Dark is now, Sir, Michael Lang the BBC broadcaster, was born there. It is a historical fact. We have to look at tourism in that area therefore not as something that was planned, that is the point I am making. So do not tell me that Cancun was a desert-like place where people went in, bulldozers went in, and great hoteliers came in under franchise and put down and mapped out a tourism zone and then nobody lived on the island but now  $\frac{1}{4}$  million people are living there to work in the industry. Say that, but do not try to score points like that.

So we are a little better off on the West Coast where we have actually built a few hotels but still some of those old hotels, like Tamarind Cove, for instance, only 2 years ago they spent over \$20 million at least converting the old and making it into something really nice. Sandy Lane spent about \$20 million to \$30 million moving away from the old palatial thing and they have gone modern. Yes, that is true, Sir. So we have to look at our fine infrastructure.

We also have a well developed network of visitor attractions. The eighth wonder of the world, Sir, may well be described as Harrison Cave. It is more attractive and pleasant to go to than the whispering galleries or the leaning tower of Pisa or any of the rest that I have seen, Sir. It is a beautiful attraction. Looking at our coastline, Sir, by submarine, is a joy to behold and the houses that the National Trust has restored, they are beautiful, like the Sir Grantley Adams' house, magnificent. I have never been there because I was brought up in the Grazettes area and those of us from that area know that it would be sacrilegious to think that you could enter into that gate.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Well that is it. If I had gone in the gate you would say that I was stealing the mangoes, when I might have gone to get a little knowledge. It is true. Those of us from villages know what we used to do in villages. Those of us from villages that now live in the plains and have completely eradicated from our minds what boys from villages do would not understand that statement.

I have no doubt about the great contribution that Grantley Adams made to the political history of this country but you cannot tell me who lived in Black Rock where I could go and where I could not go. That is the position and I will go further.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: The Honourable Member knows that if I had gone to Maxwell he would not have a seat in this House. I am not contentious. Anything that I have said is not meant to be contentious. I have been speaking for 3 hours and one little statement you are quibbling about. Quibble about the issues. I have made one point in 3 hours and you have replied to Budget after Budget and have not made a half point yet. I am telling you, don't interfere with me.

Sir, we need therefore to look very seriously at it. I am going to tell you about the policy. You all say that I do not have a tourism policy.

*Asides.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I will ask them to refrain but I just want to make the point that this Minister does not really get involved in those things. Recommendations are made. I don't get involved. The game is the same but the players are different.

Sir, the policy. I want to deal with the policy. I have had consultation with the social partners and after using my experience as the tourism Minister for six years and five years as the shadow Minister, and having had counsel with nearly every reputable or knowledgeable tourism expert and administrator in this

region and having been asked to give advice in the highest councils of tourism, I can tell you that we are not doing it on our own, we have had consultations with all of the social partners. Small hoteliers, large hoteliers, owners of medium sized hotels, the University of the West Indies, the Barbados Hotel Association, the Tourism Development Corporation, the Central Bank, the vendors, the restaurateurs, people who let taxis, people from the taxi association, taxi drivers themselves, consultants, members of the staff of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, the IDB and the Chamber of Commerce, those are some of the social partners that I have been in serious consultation with. 3.45 p.m.

We are of the view, Sir, that there is no point waging war on one another. What we really need is a consensus. We need to understand the viewpoints of other people and try to come together using this new legislation to better enhance the product. Sir, we met for 2 days and we had a look at the need for this new vision and strategy in the tourism sector not only in Barbados. But I am telling you, Sir, that Barbados will lead and the others will follow as usual. They have always done. They do not go into any great analysis of the situation. They just say that Barbados did it and we will go ahead. The main objectives are restructuring, institutional training, modernisation, customer responsiveness and business effectiveness which must be our primary focus now into the year 2000. We will deal with it

Sir, accordingly, our objectives in the key strategic area will be first of all in tourism's strategies and policies which will be into institutional strengthening and to build a sustainable tourism product. That is one.

(2) to secure the widest possible participation by nationals in the industry. This will include everybody,

(3) to build quality tourism,

(4) to develop tourism as an engine of wealth creation for all Barbadians.

We will look, Sir, to another area of marketing. The first thing, Sir, will be to reverse the decline of visitor arrivals as the first step towards realising the positive growth in numbers. This is what we will have to do. That is one.

(2) to penetrate the existing markets and expand into the non-traditional areas. Sir, we have been doing this for 2 or 3 years but we will continue to do that. Only last year we spent \$4.5 million on the advertising campaign in the United States. I got a lot of lashes for it, Sir, but yet we still get lashes if we do not do it. So we will do it and see what will happen. What is happening is that people are seeing the advertisement and they are saying that Barbados is highly visible in the market place. It is expensive to get into the market place, but we have been there.

(3) to build up and solidify our repeat visitor factor. I have mentioned that before,

(4) to improve the competitive of the total on-island product and, last but by no means least,

(5) to modernize and upgrade the institutions of human resources in the marketing of Barbados.

Sir, as far as marketing is concerned, those are the things that we will have to do. However, as I have said in this august Chamber sometime ago, you may market as much as you like, you may spend as many dollars as you like, you may go to North America, Continental Europe and Africa and wherever you would like. But after you do all of those things, Sir, and your product is not right, you are still wrong. That is it. I said that. I said that, if you do all those things even if your product is right and even if your marketing strategies are right and people come here and they find that harassment and molestation are the orders of the day, we are still wrong. They wrote in the papers that I was frightening Bajans. I do not know how to win. I am not fighting with anybody. I am saying what is true.

Therefore, Sir, we have to look at the physical hotel product. These are the things that we will do. We will develop an assessment on the precise improvement needs of the industry, quantifying resource needs and setting a timetable.

(2) We will undertake industry-wide refurbishment to improve quality and to respond to new market segments.

(3) We will review and overhaul the system of incentives to accelerate new investments.

Sir, those are areas in 3 of the segments. I shall continue.

(4) Attractions and sports.

We will improve the marketing of attractions. We have got the infrastructure in place, Sir. They are all over Barbados. We have got the gymnasium. That is one.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Rumour again! Sir, if I had the time, I would go through the bookings.

(2) We will increase revenue penetration by maximizing earning opportunities on attractions.

(3) We will identify new opportunities for development and become the centre in the Caribbean for world class sporting events.

Sir, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that we can become the centre for world events. Only last week the windsurfing competition in Silver Sands won worldwide acclaim. In every surfing magazine in the world Barbados is known. What people do not know is that in Barbados we have a consistently high surf. At the world championship in France, the waves were rather light and yet Bajans did reasonably well. The consistency of our surf here is better than anywhere else in the world. Call names. The surf at Malibu is okay also the surf at Marabou. These are surfing centres worldwide and I have not even mentioned Hawaii yet. Do you know that beach just at the north end? Well, that is the one. Do you know St. Catherine?

Sir, we need to look at these situations and target increasingly the sport vacation segment so that we can expand out of season training for clubs and colleges. With the facilities and the weather that we have here, we can afford to encourage many people to come here. The English Olympic team trained here before the Olympics right there at the pool in Wildey. That is what they did.

Sir, the other segment is human resources. This is what we aim to do. We aim to conduct a comprehensive assessment of human resources need. We need to look at that. We need to develop an industry plan for training and development. That is number 2.

(3) The creation of meaningful rewards and recognition schemes for workers. I will be in that, Sir.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: I do not know if it is in the BLP Manifesto. But if it was, it is a good point. The point is that if it was, that it is a good point. Bravo to you.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: This is it. You have not done it.

(4) Accelerate the introduction of main stream tourism education in schools.

Sir, one day I was at the St. Lawrence School - I lived in St. Lawrence as a boy - and I told the hoteliers in that area that they should adopt a school. I have never got credit for it neither do I want it, but I shall mention it nonetheless. I suggested that all of those people in the tourist belt should come to St. Lawrence School. Look, get some boy and girl to go to Divi just up the road. Let them go in the gardens, let them go by the pool or wherever they can. You will find that if you can get 3 of them interested in the tourist industry that will be good. Our problem is that we grew up with a mentality where tourism is for those people out there but not for us. We never knew that you could do marketing, product development and sales at the University in these areas. They were alien. You had to go overseas to do that. You could not do that at Cave Hill. That is what we came up with. Now it is common knowledge that there is not a hotel or restaurant in Barbados that have not adopted a school. Brian Cheeseman just adopted St. Stephens in my constituency, Sir. I had the privilege of going down there to endorse him.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: It is not going to help me. I do not need any help except if it comes from above. I do not want any help from you. I have no cases in Court. 3.55p.m.

(5) Develop a broader education awareness programme to create a positive attitude and support for tourism among the host population. Sir, I think this is a marvellous idea and as far as the human resources are concerned, those are points we need to look at.

Cruise tourism is another segment. I will not be long now, Sir. I wish to say that over half of the cruise ship berths in the world are in the Caribbean area. We are a superb destination, we are the best cruise ship destination in the entire world. It is a sad commentary that the West Indian Commission never even mentioned it. I forgive them for that. Maybe they do not know how important it is. Right now we are in serious negotiations with the cruise ship people. There is a trend of thought in the hotel industry that the cruise ships do not pay any taxes, they do not have a lot of overheads, they come in and go and there is a big controversy about that. Our view is that we will have cruise ship passengers in here as short-term visitors, hoping to woo them enough to make them into long-term visitors.

Sir, there are so many people who come here for 5 or 10 hours and come back thereafter with their families because they enjoyed those 10 hours. They now have megaships, ships bringing 2 500 people here, like the Monarch of the Sea, but there are some problems. The bigger they are the more equipped they are with their own water sports, but people still like to get off. The other day I met a lady in Australia who told me she did not come to Barbados, she went to Martinique and St. Lucia because she was on a French ship. She will now, of course. That is what you need to do.

We need to convert a critical portion of these cruise ship passengers to long stay visitors and to establish Barbados as a leading duty free centre. That is one of the things that will bring people like the Japanese here, hardly anything else. A few golf courses, duty free shopping and touring. People in Barbados criticised the Government for the 5 tour buses, but their tour buses are not like those we have here, not only are they upstairs but they are very luxurious. That is the sort of comfort to which the Japanese are accustomed. I am saying that we need to develop this whole situation of cruise tourism.

The next segment is heritage tourism. I will concede that the National Trust has done a magnificent job. They now have a passport which they will give to visitors, who will get a reduction on visits to various places of interest, particularly the renovated homes and homes of architectural value, including the Jewish Synagogue. We feel we have to enrich the visitors' experience through exposure to the total Barbadian cultural heritage environment. We have to create greater awareness among nationals and tourists alike of the content and value of our natural and cultural heritage and we have to conserve and utilise the assets of our cultural heritage in a sustainable manner. Those are the things we will be looking at.

I have alluded to crime and harassment, Sir and we need to be continuously looking at it. It is not going to go away overnight nor will it ever go away totally. People will sin and therefore we have to have mechanisms in place which can adequately cater for these things. We must rebuild the image of Barbados as a safe and friendly destination.

2. To secure the necessary legislative and justice systems improvements, put in place an adequate and effective framework for improvement.
3. Educate host population on tourism and its importance to enlist positive support.
4. Educate tourists regarding prevention.

That is something that is important. Tourists have this propensity to do things that they will not do at home. They will not leave a door or window open, they will not walk around displaying their money around their waists, but sometimes they do it on vacation because they feel this is the ultimate peace, this is what we have paid our money to do, so we can relax. I saw a gentleman in Cancun the other day, an American guy, a young boy, who came off with no shirt at all and no shoes. Sir, he would not do that at home, but he feels he is on vacation, so we have to have laws which will make people very important.

The next one, Sir, is air access and I have dealt with that.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: The Government's policy in relation to air access. Do not ask me about BWIA, the Minister for International Transport will deal with you and that, it is not under my purview so I will not usurp his authority in trying to deal with what is their policy on BWIA. Let the Minister talk to you. You asked me about tourism policy and I am enunciating it.

1. Strengthen our relationships with existing carriers serving the destination.
2. Continue efforts to attract additional scheduled services out of our key markets.
3. Encourage charter services from markets where scheduled services are not available with an aim to expand the scheduled operations.

That is exactly what I was talking about. When we were discussing with Condor, which is a scion of Lufthansa, and we got them to the point where they were going to send a charter out here, people having a recognised charter like -Condor, they were willing to come. Then BWIA said we would not have to look for the risk, they would give us the seats. You can have 80 seats. The operators said that they would go with that. The Government did not have to put up any money, but if BWIA pulls out, down the drain it'll go. So this is what we have to continue doing in terms of air access. It is not easy. We have to expand the use of the Grantley Adams International Airport as a regional hub for the Southern Caribbean such as Puerto Rico and Miami are for South America. 4.05 p.m.

Sir, last and by no means least, the sectoral linkage development. We need to increase the local content of inputs to the industry and reduce leakage of foreign exchange earnings. I alluded to that earlier, Sir. It has to do with paying for imports. As we get a billion dollars in earnings we pay half a billion in imports. We

have to deal with that somehow. We need to increase the consumption of domestic food products and the use of locally produced goods in the tourist sector. One that comes to mind is instant yam. We used to have instant yam here. We do not seem to produce enough in order to help us reduce the import bill. This is a clearly enunciated policy. We also need to increase the demand for support services.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of institutional training, it does not necessarily refer to 2 or 3 jobs. For instance, institutional training in the Ministry of Tourism. First of all, we can strengthen the Research Department. You have to do research and get development officers. In the tourism industry we are endeavouring to have regional tourism officers, one in North America and the other in Europe. That is the strengthening we will do. We will also deploy staff in the major markets of the United States of America, Canada and Europe. Mr. Speaker, all that I have said this morning and after lunch has to do with our approach to new tourism in a meaningful way that will allow our social partners to interact with us and to have a communality of interests so that we can work hand in hand for the development and enhancement of the tourism product. We feel that through this Act we\* will be able to have people on the Board who are expert in marketing and product development, training and tourism awareness.

Sir, that is a far cry from those who feel that we should vote \$12 million for tourism promotion and marketing and give it to the private sector with no accountability whatsoever just because they are experts. I say no. There is not a Minister in here today or an ex-Minister who would seek to do that. You cannot take the public money and give it out and say go ahead and market Barbados without accounting to anybody.

What we will do is to take the public money and put it where people who are believed to be experts in marketing and product development will market Barbados working hand in hand with the technical staff of the Board of Tourism, liaising with the Barbados Hotel Association, TDC and the social partners within the framework of this legislation. Having done that, Sir, we will be able to improve as in the days of old, even if you go back to 1985. There will be a Tourism Council made up of other social partners who will be able to advise the Minister and work hand in hand on tourism policies which would augur well for the industry and, as a consequence, augur well for the economy of this country.

That is all that I need to say, Sir. I need not go into any of the other things but to say it is my hope that we will get the support of all Members of this House on this legislation. I hope that we will be able to use this innovative piece of legislation to the betterment of the people of Barbados which will help us to utilise the talents of the people who are desirous to help us. I feel that this is the position that we are at. If you knock it, you are knocking the combined wisdom of all the technocrats, social partners and every single person in the know, in tourism, who have tourism at heart.

Sir, the choice is not mine. I have already made up my mind that this piece of legislation when implemented and put to the test will do good things for Barbados. I am convinced about that. I was going to sit down, Sir, but I will just say in conclusion that along with this we have to look to the new markets. Anybody can say anything about a Minister or the Government or the Opposition and it will get great prominence in the newspapers, lock, stock and barrel but if the Minister replies by way of press conference or whatever it will get 2 little paragraphs and the real substance of what is said might be lost. People continue to persecute you because they feel that they have insufficient evidence. Not that it was not given. It is simply because it was not reported.

We need to look for new markets whether anybody in Barbados believes that or not. It is true as the sun rises in the East and will set in the West that we have to continue to look for new markets. We have to look for niche markets and to sports tourism as one of the bulwarks of Barbadian tourism. We have to look at group incentive travel even as opposed to family incentive travel. We have to see what the trends are. I am saying that this legislation will go a long way towards helping those in authority in the Government, the workers in the Board of Tourism, the members of the Hotel Association, the institutions like TTC - I say that because in many countries you find that the private sector is asked to give real money for their development. It is only a fallacy when people believe that half of the promotion money of the Barbados Government we go and negotiate with belongs to the private sector. People feel that. 4.15 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Talk about Australia? Okay, but let me make this point first. I am saying it is a fallacy to believe that the promotion money is cut in half. I say "No." In Jamaica they are negotiating with the private sector to pay half of the promotion dollars. In Jamaica, one man, the manager and owner of Sandals spent U.S. \$12 million in promoting Sandals. I will say this. The 33 000 tour operators in the United States

of America every one of them have an item about Sandals on their tables. That is a lot of money to spend. One of these days tourism in this country will get the type of money which will make this Island visible in all the segments. We will be visible. Tour operators will know about us. Travel agents will know about us. Familiarisation tours will be arranged in Barbados that tourists will come from the 4 corners of the earth. They will come from Australia as they did, 25 of them in September this year. Yet we hear that only 12 people come from Australia a year.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: For fear that Honourable Members would not have heard what I said, I want to tell you that when the Barbados Labour Party was in power from 1981 to 1986 the least amount of Australians that came to these shores was 378. It went up to 500 under your regime. Those things could happen and you do not know. If I can find it, Sir, with your indulgence I will let Honourable Members know.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: I have it, Sir. I am always armed. It was not 369 in 1980. That was 1985. In 1982 there were 778, 1986 - 369. You were only in power for half of the year. That is the amount of Australians coming. What started this whole thing is when one man said that if you multiply the arrivals by 10 you would only get 100, the implication being that you only had 10 people coming. I am saying that between 1981 and 1991, 6 000 Australians came here. I would not have to make any other point. I noticed in the papers, no less a person than Mr. Ned Turney wanted to know if I watched cricket. That is No 1. Let me reply to him. Sir, would you believe that in that magnificent innings from Lara which was spread over 15 hours, I think, I only saw 2 hours? Even with an innings of that great brilliance my duty was not to go and watch cricket. I do not even watch cricket in Barbados. I have said already in the papers if I wanted to watch cricket I would ask for a month's leave from Parliament, go up there and watch it every day. I would work there and then get U.S. \$5 000 \* speech, or even \$3 000 or \$4 000. My idea was really to work for Barbados.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: What other markets? I do not agree. The point is the markets you know, you may feel it is profitable but I know the markets we have to look at. That is why I am mentioning that you have to look for new markets. If I had gone to Japan, there would have been no problem because there is no cricket in Japan. I wish to state categorically that one of the reasons for going to Australia during the cricket time was something that was intentional. I am not getting away from it because you had to piggy-back on the 2 Test matches. What is more, it was great to see the West Indies team supporting Barbados down to the end. It was great to see what a great influence one could have on the performance of seasoned professionals.

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: If my redemption<sup>^</sup> in that manner, well, let it be. That is okay with me. But, Sir, I was just making the point about the arrivals for the year that I have. I do not have to use them because I do not believe it is a numbers game. I have already said that.

Sir, I just wish to end, although it is controversial, on the point that we have of necessity to deal with those markets we intend to penetrate. We have to deal with them now. We have to know what they are like. We are not like the Japanese so we have to deal with them in that manner. We have to look at all these market segments and deal with them. All I have said today, all this enunciation, is purely to sensitise your minds to the fact that tourism will stand the test of time. If we deal with tourism properly, if we do it through this legislation and we allow it to work bringing the social partners in, I think our success will be assured. It is only left for me to say that I hope the Honourable Members of this Chamber would see it in that light, that it is a new dawn, an awakening.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: I wish to go in peace, Sir. I do not wish to get in any argument. This legislation, when you couple it with a renewed effort in the market-place and also the collaboration with the social partners, and the cooperation of every Barbadian...

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL:... and the cooperation among the staff... I agree with you. As a personnel trained man I agree with you even though I know you do not know much about personnel matters but you know about the law. I am agreeing with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South when he says we must look at the staff. Staffing is one of the areas in personnel management that is very important. We must have the appraisal of our staff and the utter satisfaction which would give them that desire to do their best not only for the Barbados Tourism Authority, not only for our social partners, but indeed, for the Island of Barbados. I therefore, Sir, have great pleasure in recommending this innovative piece of legislation to this Honourable House and hope the comments it will bring from both sides of the House would be educational and used to further advance our claim.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: This is only a note that if I had got into trouble would have put me on path but since I have not been in trouble for the last 4 hours I can discard it. We hope these things will come to pass and this Act will in future years allow many Barbadians to recognise the significance of this piece of legislation which allows the private sector and the social partners to work hand in hand in a non-contentious way with the Government of Barbados as we move forward into the 21st Century with a tourism product which is super fine and, indeed, with all the support of the people of Barbados. 4.25 p.m.

I wish to say that we encourage tourists to come to Barbados but even though we encourage the short stay ones to come so that we can encourage them to come back as long stay, we want the ones like the Australians, whose length of stay is between 15 and 18 days and who in 1991 spent \$12 billion Barbados in the tourist industry. So, Sir, having said all of that, I would just like to move the second reading of this Bill Sir.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this has been a quite remarkable experience for the Honourable Minister of Tourism. A little short of four hours he has treated this House to a marathon - like performance, wide ranging and unstructured, characterised by great repetition and by misplaced levity too. In the midst of it he succeeded in sending the Press to sleep and running his own colleagues from his side from the Parliament. I think that is quite remarkable indeed.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that we have to remind ourselves what was our starting point because by the time that the Honourable Minister was finished I think all those who were within his hearing might have forgotten that this Bill, before Parliament, really is about dismantling the Barbados Tourism Board, the old Board of Tourism as set out in Cap. 342 of the Laws of Barbados and replacing it with a new body called The Barbados Tourism Authority.

Now, I think the first requirement in this debate, Mr. Speaker, is to be serious and not to indulge in any misplaced levity such as we have been treated to by the Honourable Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not so sure what the Honourable Member is saying. We must be serious and I did not hear the last two words.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: It is perhaps a good thing and I will proceed, Mr. Speaker. And so I think we need to begin by reminding ourselves that tourism is the most important economic activity in the country. It is our biggest foreign exchange earner. In 1989, as the Minister reminded us, it earned some \$1 billion. It is a large contributor to the coffers of the Government by way of tax, direct and indirect and according to some estimates both direct tourism and tourism through the ancillary services, indirect tourism, account for some 20 000 Barbadians at work. It is believed too that if we are to be lifted out of the present log-jam in which the economy finds itself, if we are to jump start this economy that it is to tourism that we must look to do that job. For all those reasons therefore this is a very important debate and I can assure you, Mr.

Speaker, that you can rely on the Opposition to speak to the matters connected to tourism with considerable seriousness and level-headedness too,

Now, some 35 years ago, the Barbados Labour Party when in office way back in 1958 established the Board of Tourism as it has come to be known. Over time, as tourism emerged as the major sector of the Barbadian economy, the Board of Tourism emerged, like the IDC, like the Central Bank, as a premier para-statal in this country. We may quarrel about its performance from time to time because its performance has, in part, been the function of the quality of the staff, particularly at the top, the quality of the Ministerial directives and directions given to tourism and one or two other factors. Generally speaking The Board of Tourism has been the premier organisation in this country for 35 years and may be said to have served this country well. If therefore, the Minister, as he is proposing to do today, wants to dismantle that structure, in effect to bury it in a most undignified way, and to replace it with a new body called the Barbados Tourism Authority, I think his first duty, Mr. Speaker, is to establish in a convincing way the rationale for the destruction and dismantling of that structure. It would be irresponsible of any Government and of any Minister to be just moving around as we seem to be witnessing these days and dismantling premier para-statal institutions for no particular reason other than that there is need for change.

I have sat and listened for nearly 4 hours as indeed you and all other members have done, Mr. Speaker.

All that the Minister has told us with respect to the justification for dismantling a premier para-statal in the country is that in life you have to change and if you do not change you end up in change. Some young poet may have given him those words but they make no sense in the context of serious business such as destroying an institution and just replacing it with one with a new name.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have to ask ourselves, and I think that we are entitled to demand some convincing justification for this change. Why is it that an institution that has served us well, we are all of a sudden just dismantling and replacing with a new body for no other reason than in life you have to change and if you do not change you end up in change?

Now, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this is no more the absence of convincing justification than political distraction on the part of the Government here today and possibly too, political deception, because they are conveying the impression, through this debate, to the public of Barbados, that somehow major new initiatives of substance are being taken in the tourism sector. As we go on to examine the provisions of the Bill we will recognise that in large measure, I am talking of over 95 per cent, it contains nothing new and does not add to the functions of the Tourist Board as set out in Chapter 342 of the Laws of Barbados.

Hon. W. W. HALL: I am the only person who has spoken, Sir. I take great objection to the Member accusing me of deception and I am asking that he withdraw that, Sir. He may say whatever he wants to say about me or the Democratic Labour Party but when it comes to deception or my integrity, he or nobody out there, or anywhere in Barbados could say that about me, Sir. I don't like this deception business that he is coming on with.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has risen on a point of order and he has stated in his point of order that he takes as inference from the Honourable Member's comment of the Government as deceptive, that he himself is the very person to whom the Honourable Member is casting that reflection. Now, if the Honourable Member is satisfied that such is not the case then no point of order arises.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I was never commenting on the speech itself. I have had other things to say about the speech. I am talking about the initiative on the part of the Democratic Labour Party Government. The Honourable Member can rest assured I have never had to question his integrity, certainly not in relation to this matter. So I was not dealing with the speech, Mr. Speaker, I was dealing with the initiative on the part of the Democratic Labour Party Government. But, I will not be pushed off, Mr. Speaker, or put off by any interruptions on the part of any member of the Government. Important points are being made, if I may say so, and have to be made if we are serious in this country. It is about time that the Barbados Labour Party parts company with the Democratic Labour Party in terms of the path on which they carry this country and in terms of the lighthearted manner in which we are approaching the crisis which the country is facing. I am going to speak very seriously, as indeed all honourable members on this side will speak, with respect to this matter.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we look back at the old Tourism Board, the one that we are about to dismantle, to bury, we will see that at section 8 of the Act the duties of the Board of Tourism are set out and almost everything, 8(a) to 8(m) and almost everything mentioned as the duties of this Board, the Barbados

Tourism Authority, they are repeated in clauses 4(a) to 4(k) of the Bill, to promote, assist and facilitate the efficient development of the industry. Indeed clause 4(a) in the new proposed Bill is the same thing as it is in the old Board of Tourism Act. Going through section by section, to design, encourage and implement suitable marketing strategies, that was in the old Board and it is in the new Authority as proposed. To enhance the provision of adequate and suitable air and sea passenger transport services, in the old Board also in the new proposed Bill. To provide and encourage the establishment of amenities and facilities necessary for the proper enjoyment of Barbados as a tourist destination, in the new proposed Authority and in the old Board. To design and advise on suitable educational programmes designed to stimulate interest in and understanding of the tourism industry, in the old Board and in the new Authority. So that in terms of the functions of the Board they are the same, no departure, as set out in the proposed Bill.

Now the Minister identifies 5 new departures in this Bill and I think it is important to address them because in so far as they might have been necessary, and we don't agree that they were necessary. All that was needed was to amend the legislation establishing the Board of Tourism to make statutory provision for these changes. For example, he regards the Chief Executive, sitting on the Board, as a major new departure that will somehow lead to the reality that the Chief Executive Officer sits on the Board and remains the principal adviser to the Board. The new Executive Officer is a member of the Board as provided for by statute. There is no revolution in that. There is nothing new. There is nothing radical. There is nothing significant to that extent, even if the Minister felt that it was necessary to make statutory provision or that all that was necessary would be to come to Parliament by way of amendment.

He puts great store on the fact that an advisory council is being established. In fairness to the Minister it must be conceded that he was good enough to acknowledge that long ago. In the 1970s, when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was Minister responsible for Tourism he recognised that it was unwieldy, and perhaps inefficient too, to have a Board of 14 and perhaps more members, with all the interest connected to tourism, represented thereon. He argued then for a small and efficient Board and for the many interests connected to the industry to be represented on an advisory council. 4.40 p.m.

There was a lot of resistance to the idea then. So that all we are having now is an old idea not even being renamed but being brought back to the fore as though for some reason it is convenient now for the idea to flower. I say this, Mr. Speaker. Unless the council is given a specific mandate, no general mandate such as to advise the Minister on tourism matters, its function will be useless and it will cease to meet with regularity and to perform with efficiency in a way that the informal council did in the past. The Minister must not believe that by the establishment in a formal way of a council that he has done anything to advance the cause of tourism or to solve any of the difficulties and the problems besetting the industry. The real problem is the way the Honourable Member for St. Michael West can affect institutions that he puts his hands on. He particularly expanded the numbers on the Board. I believe at one point they went as far as 19. Now what useful function will it serve to have 19 members on the Tourist Board? That is what was done in the time of that Honourable Minister and it is now being recognised that it is necessary to have a smaller and more efficient board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, it was not necessary to bring a new bill, to dismantle the old structure and replace it with a new authority in order to do that. The Minister simply had to revoke some appointments and ensure that the Board not be more than 7 or 9. So that here again there was no need for a new bill and the dismantling of the old structure.

The Minister mentioned other points as new and of great significance. He said that estimates have got to be submitted to him by September of every year. It seems to me that a policy directive was enough to ensure that. That could have been done without coming to Parliament. But I would have thought that would be routine. That happens from year to year regardless who was in power because in preparation for the Estimates of Expenditure that come before the House in March the parastatals we normally have to submit to the Ministry estimates by the end of September. There is nothing new at all about that and all of us who are familiar with the operations of Government wonder who are the Minister's advisers. There is nothing new at all about that.

Mr. Speaker, there is no convincing explanation as to why we have to dismantle the old authority and come with a new authority today to do the very same thing which the Board of Tourism was set up to do. But there is an important new departure which has been ignored by the Minister. I think that in order to fully appreciate the point that I am now proceeding to make we have to step back some 40 years or thereabouts when parastatals came on stream in a big way in this country. The whole theory of the statutory corporation was that it was supposed to be a body separated from the Central Government Departments so as to ensure efficiency, flexibility and speed of operating. The important thing about those statutory corporations, more

recently called parastatals, is that they were not responsible for their own policy. They had a large area of freedom of operation but the policy parameters had to be set by the Minister. The parastatals were answerable to the Minister and the Minister was in turn answerable to Parliament and through Parliament to the people of the country. That was the theory and, indeed, the practice with respect to parastatals. When we examined the provisions of this Bill before the House, we recognised that policy is now the responsibility of this new and dangerous parastatal animal in the structure of Government in Barbados which will be called the Barbados Tourism Authority. In order to emphasize the point that I am making, Mr. Speaker, I need to step back and refer to the Barbados Board of Tourism Act, Chapter 342 and the point I seek to make is made at Section 16 of that Act which states: "The Minister may after consultation with the Chairman or in the event of the Chairman being absent, the Deputy Chairman, give to the Board directions of a general character as to the policy to be followed in the exercise and performance of its functions in relation to matters appearing to him to concern the public's interest and the Board shall give effect to any such directions."

The Board has a duty to carry out the policy of the Minister. That is how it should be. Now all of a sudden in this new arrangement proposed at Clause 5 of the Bill there is established a Board of Directors of the Authority which is responsible for the policy and general administration of the Authority. There is no mention in this Bill of the Minister retaining any policy responsibility. The equivalent of Section 16 in Chapter 342 is not repeated or re-echoed in this Bill. At Section 12, Sir, of the Board of Tourism Act, it is again emphasized that the Minister is responsible for policy. I quote: "The Board may with the approval of the Minister make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Act and, in particular, providing for the measures and methods to be adopted for improving the basis of the tourist industry in Barbados and in controlling and eliminating undesirable factors that may effect it, i.e. the registration and classification of hotels, apartments, guest houses and other types of tourist accommodations catering primarily to tourists according to the standard of amenities provided and the registration of restaurants catering primarily for tourists and the classification and ratings of such restaurants according to the standard of cuisine or amenities provided."

The point that I seek to make here, Mr. Speaker, is that both at Section 16 and at Section 12, it is clearly emphasised that the Minister is responsible for policy. That has important implications for accountability, because it means that when something goes wrong there, when the people of Barbados or Her Majesty's loyal Opposition are concerned about maladministration there of any sort, we question the Minister. The Minister is constitutionally responsible, but in this new and dangerous parastatal animal in the structure of Government in Barbados there is no mention made of the Minister being responsible for policy. 4.50 p.m. To that extent my suspicion is confirmed that this is an imposition and a dictate of the International Monetary Fund and of all the world agencies that have become the recent colonisers of this country, because it smacks of the self-executing authorities of continental Europe, the sort of thing you will have in the civil law systems of continental Europe. That is perhaps the reason why the Minister, not given to stating any untruths, was prepared to be silent on the question of the rationale and to deal with a lot of other areas relating to tourism. It is difficult to justify it, it is a dictate from the International Monetary Fund and/or of the World Bank, it is a senseless imposition on the people of this country and no self-respecting Minister of Tourism, or of Government, would settle for any such framework.

I will serve notice now on my Leader that were I ever to be Minister of Tourism I could not operate within this structure, because I would be robbed of all policy responsibility. In fact, it raises the question of what is the use now of the Minister of Tourism. In bringing in your uncritical way this measure to Parliament, have you not made the case for your obsolescence and retirement? That is the point. It is all right, Mr. Minister, to read uncritically, but if you had applied your critical judgment you would have recognised that this could do nothing for the role of Minister of Tourism, for the dignity of your office that you should be here bringing to Parliament a Bill that in truth and in fact takes away responsibility for policy<sup>^</sup> from the Minister and puts it in this amorphous body called the Tourism Authority. What in effect they have done to you, Mr. Minister - and you ought to be explicitly aware of the extent to which you have been reduced - is to give you an interfering role, which constitutes a backward step.

One of the things about parastatal is that we want to ensure as much as possible that they have a large area of independence of operation with the Minister still controlling, particularly at the policy area, but all that they have said here is your specific role, Mr. Minister - and I am glad you are following this matter very seriously indeed - because you will wake up tomorrow, unless there are amendments made, to find that you have been robbed of your authority, to ensure that you are responsible for the appointment of every maid and messenger upward, because a very specific power has been given to you in relation to the area of

appointments.

The position of the past, Mr. Speaker, particularly of the recent past, the last 15 years, in this country, the Minister would be responsible for the appointment, as he ought to be, of the Chief Executive and his Deputy. Thereafter, the Board would proceed to make other appointments, but beyond a certain salary level they would ask the Minister for what in most instances was only formal approval. That is what was reflected in the whole IDC Act, the whole Board of Tourism Act. The position here, in clause 10, which I will read, is as follows:

"10. (1) Subject to subsection (3), the Authority may appoint and employ such officers, agents and servants as it considers necessary for the proper carrying into effect of this Act, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as the Minister approves in writing,

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), "no" - and I emphasize \*no' - "post shall be established and no salary in excess of such sum as the Minister may determine and notify in writing to the Authority shall be assigned to any post, without the prior approval of the Minister."

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is reduced to an interfering role at the level of regulating and authorising the appointments from messenger and maid up. Again, no self-respecting Minister wants that sort of power.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: You have mentioned a particular person who has the ability to corrupt institutions in that respect. I am not dealing with that, I am seriously speaking of the Minister of Tourism and saying that as a self-respecting Minister he does not want to be involved in that sort of thing.

Hon. W. W. HALL: On a point of order, Sir. He says he is talking about the Minister of Tourism. I wish to have some clarity in the matter, that the honourable member is not really referring to me. Let me get it in the record, because he is talking about the Minister of Tourism and he is replying to an aside which is not recorded in here.

Mr. SPEAKER: No one can reply to an aside, because it is not part of the record. There is no aside to be taken. The only thing the honourable member can do is to be sure that he is not the member to whom any offensive language may have been used in reference to that Minister. That is about the nearest you can come to it. If the honourable member wants to ask the member speaking, to be clear enough as not to be mistaken as to the comments made, that is a fair request, but the honourable member cannot go beyond the point.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I am respectfully suggesting that I need that assurance, because the mention of corruption when he was talking about no self-respecting Minister, I would get the impression that 20 years from now you will find someone reading Hansard would get the impression that the member might have been referring to me, which I know he would never do, but I still need for clarity to have that assurance.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The Minister is understandably concerned about his role in history, his standing in history. I can understand that and I can give him the assurance that I was very careful in my language and that I explicitly exempted him from the remarks which I made.

Mr. SPEAKER: That raised the other question. That implies that you are making reference to an honourable member in this Chamber.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I was very careful, Sir, to so couch...

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, I take the point that there is no reference to any member in the Chamber. 5.00 p.m.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, we are at the point where we observe the Minister has 1 or 2 marginal powers which are retained from the old Act but the Minister has been robbed of the substance of ministerial responsibility under this Bill, which is to give directions on policy to the parastatals falling under the Ministry.

I think it is an important and very serious omission. It means we have a new animal in the governmental structure of Barbados accountable to no one and cannot be controlled by the Minister himself. That cannot be the intention of any serious government. It is not something that we on this side will tolerate or can

tolerate.

I think it must be conceded that I have accurately described the position and so I will not tarry on that particular point except to say that the only thing new about this Bill is really when we are dealing with substance. The name is not even a matter of substance. There is nothing new about this new structure except the name. The market place that has been accustomed to the Barbados Board of Tourism will now hear about a new creature called the Barbados Tourism Authority. That is the sort of change that the Minister is persuading us is necessary if we are not to end up in chains.

Having dealt with that part of the proposed Bill and the structure, I think we need to turn to tourism itself in terms of its difficulties and the challenges and priorities facing the industry. Some of the matters to which I will allude have been touched upon by the Minister but in not such a manner as to persuade this House or indeed convince the public that he appreciates the seriousness of the particular issues which I will identify in a minute and the necessity for bold, new initiatives.

We have been told a lot about the enunciation of policy. We have been told nothing about the implementation of new policy. For 3 years, the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister told us that he would do nothing in tourism, agriculture and manufacturing because he was waiting on high-powered reports that were due at any time. I believe it is the hour of report on tourism that is now being handed in well after a year due. I am pleading with the Minister to get on with the business of governing the country and taking initiatives. If it turns out that we are going astray we make mid-term corrections.

My experience in government and in life is that you have to act. There are very few instances in which it is prudent not to act. If it turns out that you are off course, you make a mid-term correction. We have wasted many years in this country waiting on a report on manufacturing, waiting on reports on tourism, waiting on reports on sugar when in truth and in fact, the authors of those reports come and tap the wisdom, the experience and the judgment of fellow Barbadians and then write up the report. They rarely tell you anything that you, taking your work seriously, do not know.

The time for enunciation has long since passed. What we need of the Government and the Ministry of Tourism is the implementation of new policy. The Barbados tourist industry has reached the point where major new initiatives are needed. We have come to the end of a phase and we need an injection of new energy, new imagination, new dynamics, new momentum. The time has come for implementation and not any longer for enunciation. In that respect the Minister may be seen as having indulged in a wasted exercise today talking yet again about enunciation of policy when we need implementation of policy.

Now, we can deal with this matter both in terms of internal difficulties and in terms of external difficulties. I want to spend a little time dealing with some of the internal difficulties and problems affecting Barbados' tourism. It is a fact that for the last 15 years or more we have not attracted any new investment in Barbados' tourism on the part of major international chains in the sense of chains coming into the island, putting up their own money and building new plants. There is a good reason for that.

With the exception of a few tourist plants in Barbados, the Barbados tourist industry is uneconomic.

It does not give a viable return on the investment. That is a very serious point. There are many reasons why that is so. It has to do with the cost structure of the industry and the high taxation which all impact on the return on investment

A major new challenge facing the industry is to create a package of incentives that will ensure that Barbados can attract new investment and so stimulate tourism as an engine of growth. It makes no sense talking about it as an engine of growth unless you can get new investment, particularly foreign investment, although there is real scope here for local investment too so as to make sure that we have new developments, new facilities and new plants in the sector.

Major destinations have been alluded to by the Minister. In Santo Domingo, Aruba, Cancun in Mexico and even the north coast of Jamaica there has been a lot of investment. In Cuba as well, as the Minister reminds me sotto voce. They have all had new investments so that people can go to new plants 5 years and under and sometimes pay no more than US\$20 or US\$25 a night. Given human nature as we know it, people will be attracted to these new destinations at those very competitive rates.

We in Barbados have been lagging behind. The importance of attracting the new chains and new plants is that the major chains are their own marketing agents. The Hilton does its own marketing for Barbados through its international marketing network. The same is done in relation to Sandy Lane and Marriotts. We need in Barbados 3 or 4 new plants owned and operated by major chains in the business around the world. There is a second problem at the domestic level which has been inadequately addressed by the

Government. It has to do with the fact that the plants in Barbados are for the most part 15 to 25 years old. It follows, therefore, that they are worn. They need to be modernised. They need to be upgraded. They need to be refurbished. Given the cycles in tourism which have been the experience in the last 15 years or more in Barbados where you have two comfortable seasons or so, using the season as an index of measurement, not bearing in mind the debt burden they are carrying over from season to season, you will have high occupancies for 2 seasons and then you will go into decline for 3 seasons. The industry in Barbados is heavily indebted. The plants are for the most part worn and exhausted. They need an injection of capital to modernise, upgrade and refurbish them. It means, therefore, that given the financial help for the state of the industry, the hoteliers need to have access to a reasonable, if not a cheap source, of long-term funding so they can modernise and upgrade their plants. 5.10 p.m.

The concessions given in relation to toiletries and other materials a few days ago will not seriously address that problem. The additional sacrifice which has to be made in the way they have been operating is that the hoteliers have to put up the money first and get the concessions repaid after. It is true some hoteliers have cash flow and they have access to money but a lot of them have neither cash flow nor access to money. To that extent they have not been able to make use and take advantage of those concessions. But they are modest at the end of the day.

What is needed, Mr. Speaker, is access to a major new fund of money at concessionary rates of interest over a long period. The reality is we have to live with the plants we have. All we can do is upgrade and modernise them and in that respect make ourselves physically attractive as some of the plants in the newer destinations. That is a major challenge. It is a major problem. The Minister has not addressed it in those terms and the Government has done nothing in its 6 years in office to get to the root of that particular difficulty.

Mr. Speaker, there are other problems in relation to the local market. It has to do with high Government taxation. It is related to the earlier problem of Barbados being an uneconomic location in terms of the investment of money in tourism. The returns on money happen to be very low. One of the reasons why that is so is because Government has been taking too much from the industry by way of taxation. The Honourable Minister mentioned that at some conference in London recently that point was made by several people from the North Atlantic and elsewhere in the world with respect to the industry. It is certainly very relevant in relation to Barbados.

In terms of operating items on a day-to-day basis I am told the tax ranges from 50% to 100% and there are several areas of operation where the tax is 100%. That has resulted in the Barbados destination being too high priced at a time when there are other destinations. We must not fool ourselves that we are the only destination that is promoting and attracting international tourism. As part of Government addressing the problems facing the industry in a serious way, it must seek to reduce its taxation on the industry.

*Asides.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I look to you, Mr. Speaker, to protect me as you always do. A heckler has joined our...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: We must ensure, Mr. Speaker, that the Government's take from the industry is reduced. We need imagination. We need new thinking in order to achieve that. That is what we are calling for on the part of the Government.

There is another problem, Mr. Speaker, and some of them have been mentioned, like poor attitudes on the part of the workers and those involved in the industry in Barbados. We have had the problem of harassment and violence mentioned. I just want to spend a minute or two dealing with the question of harassment and violence. Barbados has had over the past considerable reliance on repeat visitors. Even the Honourable Minister who has just taken his seat would concede that. Repeat visitors form a large part of the tourist arrivals from year to year in Barbados. You would be surprised, Mr. Speaker, at the amount of people who have come to Barbados 5 to 20 times in the course of their travelling life as visitors seeking recreation and pleasure.

The importance of the repeat visitors is that they are the informative marketers of the country. They are not paid but they go back to their work place, visit their friends and families, and tell them "If you are ever

thinking of a memorable holiday, go to Barbados. It has been my experience, 3,4 or 5 times." Much of our tourism has been built on the repeat visitors. It is widely believed, and I accept it, that one of the effects of the violence and harassment of late is that our repeat business has been adversely affected. The evidence at this point, as far as I am aware, is only anecdotal because I do not think any study has been done. It is an area where, perhaps, the Ministry or the Board need to investigate to see if they can measure it. The anecdotal evidence is very strong indeed that repeat business in Barbados has been seriously affected by the incidence of violence and harassment which has plagued the Barbadian social scene in recent years.

To that extent, Sir, I repeat a point which I made only a few weeks ago in debate that Government must ensure, as a top priority, that Barbados remains a safe and secure place, not only for those of us who live here, but also for all those who visit our shores from time to time. It is the first requirement of Government. It is the first order of business, maintaining law and order here, peace and security. When we think of the probably economic consequences of not ensuring that the place is safe and secure, we recognise the importance of the Government addressing that responsibility. It is very important indeed that our repeat visitors are able to say, "Yes, there have been a few incidences but our experience is that the place is still safe and I am still recommending that you go down next year or later this year," as the case may be. We have a duty to protect that part of our market, the repeat visitor. We cannot do it if we allow the incidence of lawlessness and violence to get out of control. 5.20 p.m.

Now I want to turn to some of the problems confronting us in respect of the external. Although I want to be fair and to recognise that we have had recession in some of our major source markets, I want also to make very emphatically the point that the decline in the U. S.

market, for example, preceded the onset of the recent recession. We were beginning to have problems in the U.S. market some 6 years ago.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am trying to indicate and I am glad that the Minister is paying close attention. This is a very important point that I am making. Even though I am conceding that we have had recession in major source markets, it is also true that there is harsh evidence of a fall-off in arrivals from the U.S. market before the onset of the recession. Therefore, it follows that we have got to ask ourselves apart from the recession - what are our problems in the U. S. market and why were we not getting our share in the past and why that growth trend was not continuing? That is the question we have got to address in that market.

Sir, I do not think that the Minister has sufficiently informed us with respect to the new strategy of marketing as it relates to that prime market. It is not only the cities of the Eastern Seaboard that are important. There is a thing called the Sun Belt. I think the cities in the Sun Belt are also very important and the cities that you have mentioned which I need not repeat. We need a total strategy with a most sophisticated package in relation to the United States market. Now that I am on that, Sir, I ought to mention the Canadian market because there was a time some 12 years or so ago when Canada was actually the premier market. Much of that business came out of Montreal and Quebec. I am not sure why, Mr. Speaker - and I do not think that the Minister has addressed that - we have lost so substantially the Quebec market. The evidence is that they continue to travel.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I think that the Minister and the country ought to be concerned with why 12 or 15 years ago Canada was our number one supplier of visitors and that in the last 7 years or thereabouts there has been a dramatic decline in the Canadian market. I can see that the Canadian economy has been ailing for a long time; but the evidence is that the residents of Montreal continue to travel in great numbers and that they are for the most part attracted to the lower end of the market. Barbados has the lower end of the market facilities too. Why is it that we have not been able to continue to attract the visitors from Montreal and Quebec in the way that we did in the past?

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that although in general terms the Minister is right that we must promote Barbados as a centre of international tourism, he also must be more sophisticated and less naive and recognise that we cannot invest seriously in all of the countries in the world in terms of expecting them to come to Barbados. There are certain obvious patterns. Our tourism is developed in such a way that we can rely on countries with which we have long standing trading patterns and historical and cultural connections to come. That explains to a large extent why in the early days of our tourism we were able to attract people

in large numbers from the United Kingdom, Canada and America. But we have to prioritise our emphases, if I may put it that way, on marketing. It seems to me to have been a colossal waste of money and a serious mis-appreciation of the priorities of our marketing for the Minister really to be repeating with such conviction that he was right to have explored the Australian market. It is a colossal waste of money and a serious mis-appreciation of the priorities of marketing. That money should have been seriously applied to our German market, because in Continental Europe it is still the market of the greatest potential for us here in Barbados.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The member asked *sotto voce* how are they going to come. There are also packages that are being developed for travel out of Germany, and Germany is the market in Continental Europe that we should try to focus on. It is a waste of taxpayers money to have spent money on Australia.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I do not expect you to agree with me.

*Aside.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member cannot introduce his remarks in such terms.

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, he has never been to Australia. He does not know anything about Australia. All I am saying is that access by air to Barbados coming out of Germany is a colossal problem. So there is no point in putting money in Germany.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Sir, he told us that about 10 years ago 300 visitors used to come and now we are approaching something like 1,000 visitors a year. In the context of about 400 thousand visitors, what is the significance of that? If we cannot promote seriously tourism from all parts of the world, is that a priority? How can it become a priority? It must be regarded as a serious error of judgment and a waste of taxpayers money for the Minister to have invested in the Australian market.

Hon. W. W. HALL: On a point of elucidation, Sir, to let him know. Two years ago, Sir, we went to Italy where we were getting just 1,000 or 2 000 people here. We had never been to Milan and Rome or anything like that before and now in 1992 we had 10 000 Italians who came here. You would never know when you go to a new market if they will come or not.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, this is not a guessing game. There was always much more potential in the Italian market than there is in the Australian market. I believe that he has learned his lesson and that we are unlikely to see such an adventure for a long time. I have no doubt that he will go on a private visit but, in terms of going on a Government team to Australia to promote tourism, I do not think that we are likely to see that sort of adventure for a long time. To that extent, Sir, there is no need for me to elaborate any further on that particular matter and I note that the Minister is very relieved.

*Aside.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. May I have some order please? Continue.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: There is an important point which I think we need to address. I am not too sure what precisely is the answer and that is why creative, new and imaginative ways must be found to address this particular point. But the majority of our recent competitors are operating with devalued currencies. When we come to Aruba, Cancun and Jamaica, you are talking for the most part about countries that are operating with devalued currencies. It gives them an advantage which we in Barbados refer - 2 to 1 with U.S. currency - cannot handle.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Sir, at this point I make no case for devaluation. All I am saying is that we need to understand the market and fashion the policy.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I cannot hear myself, Mr. Speaker. I think that should be a matter of concern to you,

Mr. SPEAKER: Sure it is and I take very strong objection to members really interrupting another member when he is speaking. I do not think that I will allow members to shout across the Chamber any more. I can assure you that you will now speak without interruption.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I accept your assurances. I always do, Mr. Speaker. The point that I am making is that the reality of the market place is seen in the large number of our competitors. The Minister himself alluded to this in passing when he mentioned the Jamaican dollar being 14 dollars to the Barbados dollar and the sort of money that you get when you exchange U.S.\$100.00 in Cancun. It means, therefore, that our competitors are offering possibly a service comparable to ours in quality but certainly much cheaper to the visitor. To the extent that that is the reality of the market place, we must somehow in our resourcefulness and in our imagination find a new policy which acknowledges that our competitors are operating in a devalued market but at the same time allows us to compensate for that. Perhaps that is related to a reduction of the taxation both direct and indirect Perhaps it is related to a lot of other things. All that I say, Mr. Speaker, is that on my feet at this point I am not in a position to propose the answer. But it is the sort of issue that we need to play with in the hope that we can come up with a policy that somehow compensates and allow us to retain and improve our market share in the face of that sort of competition. I think that is very important It is the sort of issue that we have ducked in this country for a long time and, as soon as you talk about it and before you are even finished, you are met with shouts as indeed I have been met with from the Honourable Member for St. Michael West

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am recommending no such thing, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member in the course of his statement said that he was greeted with shouts from the Member of St. Michael West. I have not spoken. I would not have been able to make shouts. The Honourable Member surely must withdraw that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Neither have I heard any shouts nor can I vouch that such things will be placed in the records of the House.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I take it that there was some mishearing on my part, Mr. Speaker, and I am happy to withdraw the word "shout". That means, as you recognise, Mr. Speaker, that they were not always conducting themselves with restraint. Perhaps if they were, I would not have misheard. Mr. Speaker, many Honourable Members on this side are anxious to make their contributions and perhaps I need to make just one or two other points. I have quite a few heire but it is getting late and others want to speak. The important connection which we must not overlook, Mr. Speaker...

*Aside.*

Mr. SPEAKER: I still think the Chamber is a bit noisy. I will ask the Honourable Member to hold a while until we get a bit more quiet.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The important connection which we must not overlook has to do with tourism and air transport policy and that is very important. The Minister ran away from addressing the

issue with any seriousness on the understandable ground that he is not responsible for a transport policy. 5.35 p.m.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am hearing a *sotto voce* remark that .he is not responsible for tourism policy either. I believe that, but the point I am making here, Mr. Speaker...

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think it is fair to say something which the Chair has not really perceived as such, and then implicate a member. If the Honourable Member had said these things without saying "the Minister", then I could probably leave it as it is. But if you implicate the Minister with a statement that he has not made, aside or otherwise, then it is not a fair comment. I think the Honourable Member should be fair on that

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I did not think it was an implication as such. If I had felt so I might not have said it, because it might not have been fair, but I do not think it was an implication. The point I make, Mr. Speaker, is that in this drive to go forward and improve our market share and increase our numbers of tourist arrivals, we must have a flexible and sound air transport policy. If we stimulate people in the market-place to come to Barbados and in the end there are no physical means of their getting here, no aeroplanes at their disposal, no charters or scheduled flights, it means that that interest and ambition would have been dashed and in the end we would have failed, so it is very important that we have a flexible, sound, overlapping almost, air transport policy. Sometimes in the same market-place you may have to get 2 or 3 carriers interested in you, because 2 or 3 of them may drop out overnight without any notice to the countries but with sudden and significant loss to the country's revenue and to the country's tourist sector.

Part of the reason, Mr. Speaker, why we have not been attracting scheduled airlines to Barbados - and this is only one factor - has to do with the cost of operating in Barbados. Sometime ago in the course of a debate on civil aviation matters I made the point that our incentive policy must go as far as a new package for airlines to come into Barbados. There are several factors in relation to airlines coming to Barbados, but we must make the cost of operating here, among other things, as attractive as we can. I would be happy if the Honourable Minister could be heard on that matter, because the Minister of Tourism will act in vain if in the end we are not able to get people to Barbados, either by way of scheduled flights or charters. Though I concede that this is not an easy time in air transport, there have been several mergers, several bankruptcies, certainly considerable debt burden which the airlines are carrying as a result of the policy of deregulation in the United States market several years ago, in the days of President Carter. We have to do our best and our best may include the Government itself taking some initiative.

I am not satisfied that any convincing case has been made why the Government could not have continued operating Caribbean Airways as it used to operate in the past, because \$6 million or \$8 million a year by way of subsidy was not too much to pay to penetrate the continental European market and secure the arrival here of 50 000 or 60 000 a year. I know that in the present climate of privatisation and the dismantling of Government units that it is not fashionable to speak in those terms, but one of the points made last week by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, as he addressed the issue of privatisation, was that we have to be careful not to rule out completely a role for the State, particularly in strengthening our position in areas where we have manifest weakness and where it is important for the Government to take some initiative. If as part of the price we are paying, part of the support we are giving to tourism, we have to put \$6 million or \$8 million in an airline by way of subsidy, it seems to me that would be a reasonable and acceptable incentive and level of support which we are giving to the industry.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to be very important for the air transport policy to complement the marketing policies of the Ministry of Tourism so as to ensure that our numbers, which have fallen, and the Minister was careful to tell you that we went to 461.2 thousand in 1989, which was the high point, but he omitted to mention that by 1991 we were down to 394 222 and that the figures over the last year, I believe, they are not all available as yet, but up to the first 7 months we are continuing to show a significant decline. We need to continue to target 500 000.

*Aside,*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Once we have the sewerage systems in place on the west coast and the south coast, and we can continue to attract new investment in terms of plant in the tourism sector, we should continue to target for late in the 1990's 500 000. I believe it is a viable target which we should set ourselves and that in terms of the requirements of our economy now, and with the performance of manufacturing and sugar, we would be well advised to try to realise that sort of target, provided there is an improvement in the international economies in the next five years. That is not to suggest that we should limit ourselves; all I was indicating there is that that would be the next major milestone in terms of visitor arrivals.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give way at this point, but I want to conclude where I began, by submitting that the Bill before this House is unnecessary, that no convincing case - no case at all - has been made out as to why it is necessary to bury the existing Tourist Board in the most undignified way and replace it with a new creature called the Tourism Authority. I submit further, Mr. Speaker, that we need to amend in Committee stage the Bill before us, because it takes away policy responsibility from the Minister. 5.45 p.m.

I do not think that was intended but that is the result. If we were to allow it to go through it means that we would have a new parastatal animal in the structure of our governmental system, totally unaccountable. It cannot be a typographical error.

*Asides.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I submit further that major new initiatives are needed in tourism, that the Minister has only been at the level of enunciation of policy and we need to talk about policy implementation and above all I would like to urge the Minister to treat his responsibility seriously and not with the levity with which he has treated it today.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Sir, it would be impossible for a Bill of this type and importance to come before the House and only one member of the Opposition respond^ especially after we were treated to the marathon speech of the Minister of Tourism, I want to elaborate on a few other areas by way of buttressing the very telling points that the Honourable Shadow Minister of Tourism made.

The second and the most important point that I wish to start with is the fact that we must never forget some part of our problems in relation to the tourist industry originate with the policies that have been pursued by the Democratic Labour Party. There is no doubt that the disastrous period of stewardship of the Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, is still affecting the performance in Barbados.

»Mr. Speaker, it is a fact. I want to remind Honourable Members of the fact that a large part of the origin of the matter was the appointment of a board of 19 members by the Honourable Member. There is absolutely no doubt that chaos was brought to the decision-making process in the tourism authority. Any person who can appoint a board of 20 to execute any policy clearly lacks an appreciation of the decision-making process and of human nature.

Secondly, there is no doubt that in that period mistakes of a very serious order were made. In 1987 and 1988 another disastrous mistake was made during the \* Honourable Member's regime in which they resurrected a decrepit, worn-out group of people as their advisors in New York. Everyone knew that the public relations advisor and the advertising agency in the United States had long passed their best. They were given the benefit of a very objective evaluation. They were found wanting and their services were dispensed with. The Honourable Member resurrected them and brought them back on the Board.

If we want to know the disastrous consequences of that it can be found in a report of the Board of Tourism in 1991. I quote. This is a document of the House. Page 5 under Advertising:

"In June 1990, Grey Entertainment & Media were appointed as advertising agents for Barbados in the United States of America. That company replaced Van Brunt Company Limited.

The first order of business was the development of a consumer print media campaign, television commercial, sweepstake incentive promotion and trade campaign."

Now Sir, when we remember that Van Brunt in the previous year - I do not know whether the Honourable Member is denying that he re-appointed Van Brunt - ...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. On a point of order, Sir, I am not denying that at all. I did not appoint them. I was the Minister when they were appointed. I do not deny it. I will deal with that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The point I am making was that in our opinion on this side that was a retrograde step.

*Asides*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The basic point is that serious mistakes were made in the United States of America. Barbados was able to weather the impact of the currency disturbance caused by the strength of the U.S. dollar in the 1980's by concentrating, as a deliberate policy, on marketing in the United States of America because it was recognised that with the fixed parity of the Barbados dollar to the United States dollar that we could not suffer from the impact of currency fluctuations.

If you look at the statistics, you will see that that is one of the things we have learnt in our tourism marketing - that currency fluctuations is a very serious thing and that you have to hedge against it. If you look at the position you will see that from 1983 onwards when the concentration took place - I am quoting from December 1992, Central Bank Economic and Financial Statistics -between 1983 when 113 000 visitors came from the United States. By 1984, 140 000 came. By 1985, 148 000 came, by 1986, 166 000 and by 1987, 175 000. Now watch the decline. This is the point that we are making over here. The decline of visitors from the United States of America does not originate with any recession.

*Asides.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: In 1989, 154 000, in 1990, 143 000 and in 1991, 119 000. The only consolation that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has is that disaster though he be, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is a greater one.

Let us be serious. Barbados has problems which are not entirely due to external factors. That is a problem that I would have hoped that the Honourable Minister would address. He addressed part of it in relation to harassment, the quality of service and in relation to a number of other factors that we have here.

Now, Sir, the taxation policies of the Government. The domestic taxation policy is another very important point. One of the significant points that was made in here from 1986 was that the shift from direct taxation to indirect taxation and the giving up to the rich and the better off in the community of over \$100 million and the effect of trying to neutralise that by increasing the indirect taxes in the form of stamp duties and increased consumption taxes would raise the general level of cost in Barbados. Since the tourism industry was serviced to a large extent by imports it was pointed out that it would have a devastating effect on the costs and you therefore would be delivering a double blow. You have Barbados having a very large disadvantage in the form of the uncompetitive rate of our dollar and then you are domestically increasing the cost of inputs. 5.55 p.m.

Therefore, when we say that is another problem that was created by the policies of Government, we would expect that should be answered by the Government. What is more, even recently while on the one hand the Government has reversed itself and has given some more concessions in relation to the imports- of inputs after everybody had pointed out the disastrous consequences, yet by the very policies they have just introduced as a fiscal measure, they are devastating in other areas of tourism in Barbados, namely, the ground transportation area.

There is absolutely no doubt that the increase in the price of gasoline and diesel will have an effect on the cost of operation of taxi drivers and ground tour operators. I do not mind what any Honourable Member in here says. The increase in the cost of gasoline and diesel will cause the ground tour operators in Barbados who provide transportation for visitors who come here and go on Island tours, or who rent cars, to bear the impact of that.

Once again, a domestic policy decision of the Democratic Labour Party will have consequences upon our competitive position. That is a fact.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not on a political platform. The position is exceedingly clear. After all, Mr. Speaker, in here and out of here, we repeatedly tried to drum it into the heads of those who are responsible for Government policy that they were wrong in relation to manufacturing. It took them 2 years. What is

hurtful is the fact that thousands of people, over 6 000, were unable to eat at night because of the fact that 6 000 people lost their jobs before Honourable Members woke up on that side. You know what that is? That is a devastating blow to people. I want to know what kind of conscience and feeling the Honourable Members on that side have. You sat around here. You knew. You were told. You were warned. You were begged. You were beseeched and still you were so heartless to continue that policy for 2 years. I just hope on this occasion they will take the warning and understand that when they raise the cost of an input such as gasoline and diesel it is going to have an effect.

Now, there are other problems too, Sir. Unfortunately, they also relate to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West's Ministry because the environment and the provision of garbage services in this country are equally deplorable. It is a real fact. One of the things that is very disturbing to tourists when they come to a country is the experience of a country not caring about its environment to the extent that allows its garbage disposal system to run into a state of decrepitude. There is no doubt that the Sanitation Services Authority has reached its lowest ebb. I hope the Honourable Minister will be able to give this House an assurance, not that it would be worth anything, but at least he would tell us that Government, as a matter of policy, is going to make sure that the garbage services reach the standard which we in Barbados hitherto became accustomed to. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is very disappointed in the fact that he has to answer questions. He, like many of us, would be getting complaints about this. I want to also emphasise, Sir, that we on this side are very disappointed in the fact that it has taken so long to implement and bring to fruition that scheme in relation to the development of the sewage schemes in Barbados. There is absolutely no reason why the South Coast Sewage Scheme should not by now be well on its way to implementation. That Scheme had reached an advanced stage as long ago as 1986 and I cannot understand what has happened. It is a very serious thing. We know there is a long gestation period with projects.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The truth of the matter is that the Inter-American Development Bank seems to have lost confidence in the Government. I am not saying the Minister, but the Government. The position is they have put almost like a stop order on that project.

We need to have a reduction in the cost of hotel operation in Barbados arising from the need for hotels on the sea coast to pump and pump at great cost. We need to have a reduction in the foul smells. If you go around St. Lawrence Gap at certain times of the year when the wind is blowing in a certain direction, there cannot be any mistake that there is a peculiar smell which can only be attributed to the fact that operations are taking place in the sewage schemes in that area. Everybody knows that is an environmental problem which has to be dealt with.

On the west coast there is the same position. People know about it. I hope the Honourable Minister of Health would correct it because there is something creeping in now. Every now and again you will hear a suggestion where people are saying that the waters of Barbados in these areas are unsafe. My understanding of the position is that we have not reached that stage. Therefore, I would hope that swift and remedial action takes place immediately to see that we do not reach that stage.

We have a lot of competition in the area. Let there be no doubt in Honourable Members' mind. In this competition, even within the Caribbean, for the tourist dollar, many people with their great public relations consultants and others will spread rumours about investigations in order to advance their own destination. That is a very serious thing. We have to do everything in our power domestically to ensure there is not material available for other people to exploit to our disadvantage. Therefore, this question of the environment is intimately connected with the development of our tourism.

I am not going to rub any salt in the wounds opened up by the telling blows the Honourable Member for St. Joseph put upon that colossal waste of time, energy and money in respect of the Honourable Minister's trip to Australia. The position is very clear, Sir. Europe is an area that is demanding particular attention. Whether we like it or not our hope and salvation for out of season, that is, in the summer, lies in our capacity to exploit the European desire for long holiday destinations and we have made great progress. I will say this, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central saved this country from another disastrous decision of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West who said he was going to close the office in Germany. The first thing the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central did when he came in was to say, stop that foolishness I am going to continue the office for Germany in Barbados. That is a fact. That would have been very devastating. I will say that for him. I am always very willing to give Jack

his jacket. 6.05 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, Sir, I am not accustomed telling lies and I am not telling any now. The basic position is that a policy decision was taken that Germany was to be closed.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House because the policy decision that was made was that the people who were stealing the moneys through Caribbean Airways in Germany should not be allowed to continue stealing the money and therefore we should shut down that aspect of the operation.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, that is totally untrue and incorrect. The policy decision was taken that the office in Germany which represented Barbados was to be closed and the Barbadian who was there would be transferred to another place and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central was able to nip that irresponsible decision in the bud.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. I state categorically that no decision was made of the order which he speaks. The decision had to do with the amount of expenditure by Caribbean Airways' representative in Germany. It had nothing to do with the manner in which he is speaking.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, the office of the Board of Tourism and the office of Caribbean Airways were two separate and distinct things. The Honourable Member must not mislead this Honourable House. It was the Democratic Labour Party that wanted to revert to the position where Barbados would be represented by an agency in Germany as opposed to a separate and distinct office which was created by the Barbados Labour Party because we were dissatisfied with the level of service granted by the agency which seemed to have great connections with the Democratic Labour Party and, if I may say so, some staff of the Tourist Board. So that we abolished that and the Honourable Member's administration recreated it. I know the facts very well. The facts are very clear. The office of Barbados representative in Germany was created in our regime. We even got the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to second an officer as Honorary Consul... Listen, do not let me have to talk these facts. The basic position is very clear. The point is that Europe is an area that we believe has great potential.

The last point I want to make is the question of air transportation. There is an intimate connection between tourism...

*Aside.*

*Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. Speaker.*

Hon. H. B. SL JOHN: I want to make it abundantly clear that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, during his tenure, sanctioned the revival of the idea that Barbados was to be represented by an agency in Germany and the decision was taken that the office of the Barbados representative in Germany was to cease and that we were to go back to the old arrangement. Caribbean Airways representation was something completely different because Caribbean Airways was a company under the Companies Act and it was entitled to have its own agency. So it is nothing to do with the official government agency representing the interest of tourism in Barbados. I repeat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism took the decision to appoint a Consul General with the sanction of the German Government and an officer was seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be appointed and he had an assistant in the form of a tourism officer and that tourism officer is still in Germany now. The Honourable Member wanted to abolish the post and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, thank God, on that occasion did not make an error and he decided to overrule the proposition put forward by the Honourable Member and that is the position.

Now, Sir, tourism is very intimately connected with aviation and I just want to throw out this point. Barbados is very dependent upon air services provided by BWIA. There cannot be any doubt about that. The Government cannot continue to shirk its responsibility or to fail to recognise that our dependence upon

an airline which is in serious financial condition can have serious consequences for our tourism development. There is no question about that. If BWIA, for whatever reason tomorrow morning, was not able to provide service from the points that it provides now, I say, without any fear of contradiction, that it would have disastrous consequences for all tourist arrivals. That is a fact of life and that is a matter that has to be addressed. I am not saying in what manner it is to be addressed. What I am saying is that I am surprised, in a 4V<sub>2</sub> hour speech by the Honourable Minister of Tourism, that he was able to ignore the reality of the fact that to date there is a great possibility that some arrangements may arise with respect to services that we have now and we do not know what those arrangements are. These are serious problems. When we look at tourism as a whole we all recognise our dependence upon the industry. We must recognise that part of the reasons for our failure are external, part are internal, and what we must do is have a free, fair and frank analysis of the factors involved and we must formulate policies to ensure that in so far as they are attributable to our domestic policies that we can correct them because it lies within our policy. 6.15 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the wonderful things about the sporting world is that if there had not been a record of what had passed is that those who hear it as it is spoken at the time that it is spoken could become confused, "discombobulated" and even find themselves relating to stated facts that had not occurred. It is necessary when Honourable Members like the Honourable Member who has just sat down speak about matters and the Honourable Member is not always as he has been today... Usually he brings a sense of wisdom to what is going on; but today, Sir, he feels bound to defend his position in fear that someone might attack his position as Minister of Tourism. If I had been Minister of Tourism and I had been replaced by Aaron Truss, I would feel the same way.

*Aside.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, I think that I will uphold that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am not accusing the Honourable Member of anything.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but we are saying names should not be called unless one has made...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw Aaron Truss, Sir. He should be withdrawn anyhow, Sir. If I had been replaced by him, I would feel the same way.

Mr. Speaker, the history of this country is not determined by the words spoken in a given debate. The history of this country is history and it is well known by all of those who have an interest in this subject that the Honourable Member was a disaster and, in a letter which he wrote to the Honourable Member's favourite appointment as Director of Tourism, a letter which forms part of the records of this House, the Prime Minister of the day spoke about the devastation in tourism being worse than a hurricane. Now my time does not permit me to repeat that which has been in this House before. Suffice it to say that when the Democratic Labour Party assumed the Government in 1986, among the darkest aspects of its economic and, to some extent, its social life was the level to which tourism had sunk. The Honourable Member had been one of the high priests in the hierarchy of the administration of tourism in the country. I find it unbelievable that the Honourable Member could stand up in this House today and with imagined impunity discuss tourism in Barbados during the period immediately succeeding the Democratic Labour Party's coming to office.

Sir, if there is a single light in tourism development in the 1980's, it would be the period when the Democratic Labour Party assumed office in this country and took the reigns especially with regard to the turn around in tourism. It is regarded in every aspect of the Caribbean and beyond as one of the administrative miracles that we were able within a remarkably short time to turn around the fortunes of tourism in this country. It is not a secret and I think, Sir, it is the epitome of shamelessness for any Honourable Member, and least of all that Honourable Member, to be able to get up and give the impression that somehow some debacle had occurred when, in fact, quite the opposite was the case.

Mr. Speaker, if I am not careful, I will be led into responding to each of the scurrilous and specious charges which the Honourable Member made. Sir, I would rather discuss tourism as a fundamental aspect of life in this community. I will first deal with the philosophical divide between the Honourable Member and myself on the question of the development of tourism. I make no apology for the position

that I have taken based on 20 years of experience in the field. That is a position which I hold and will hold until someone can bring some evidence and/or information to cause me to change my mind that tourism is a people industry. Tourism is an industry that requires the sinews of every single individual who believes that he or she has a stake in the tourism product

I believe, Sir, that tourism requires every single individual in the country, but more particularly those who are the focal points in the various aspects of tourism, to feel that they have a stake in the industry. The appointment of a board that is comprised of a large number representing the various sectors of tourism was the main aspect of the restoration of tourism in this country in 1986. Mr. Speaker, it was necessary then to include all of those who had felt rejected and left out by a policy of the Barbados Labour Party, manifested especially in 1984 and 1985, which believed that tourism was something that could be run by a small executive board. It is a fallacy to believe that tourism within a country is something that is akin to the decisions made in the executive rooms of a large corporation. It simply is not so. What is required of a country the size of Barbados especially, or cities like New York City or London, if tourism is to be successful is that as many aspects or facets of the society as possible should feel that they are part of the tourism development process. The tourism industry is a people industry, Sir.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am discussing my own philosophical view of how it should be done based on my experience. My own concepts, Sir, have proved to be successful and, therefore, I believe that I have a right to discuss them in that context. Regarding the Honourable Member's strictures about the 19, he does not even understand that even the great Master when he came recognised that he would need 12 disciples to assist him. Then those 12 appointed apostles carried the message and that is why 2000 years later the message is so strong. One of the fundamental problems about tourism is that the people in Barbados have started to feel that they are not part of this programme.

*Aside*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Minister for Tourism is better able to represent that aspect of religion than I am at this time. Therefore, Sir, I will not dwell on the concept of the 19 except to say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating and the Honourable Member is invited to look at the statistics. In fact, the whole Honourable House and all of Barbados can be invited to look at the record and they will confirm.

Sir, I will take the issue about Australia at this point. There are some people in this country who know everything about everything. If there is anyone, Sir, who could induce Australians to consider Barbados as a destination, it is the Honourable Member who now holds the portfolio of Minister of Tourism. 6.25 p.m.

I believe that if almost any other Honourable Member held that portfolio at the moment and had attempted to do what the Honourable Member did, the criticisms might be valid, but in the context of the peculiar circumstances where the Honourable Member is the Minister of Tourism is manifestly a proposition that has to be important in the context of even what the member for St. Joseph said about aiming for 500 000. Mr. Speaker, tourism requires imagination, aplomb and a certain amount of willingness to bite the bullet. When the cost is analysed and when one examines the concept which the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central manifested, I support the concept that there are a number of Australians who travel from Australia to London, to Paris, to Frankfurt, to Japan...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member might be facetious about this, but the Australians who travel to the United States via Europe return to Australia. They are not hand to mouth beggars, they are part of the high quality tourism which those same Honourable Members, when we had brought Airtours into Barbados, said we must go for in - the high up-market portion of the tourism market. Mr. Speaker, if a Minister of Tourism is not bold, he will not succeed. A Minister of Tourism is in many ways unlike any other Minister. The Minister of Tourism must be willing to go where angels

fear to tread. Yes, the Minister is in fact a kind of entrepreneur, he is an entrepreneur for the whole country. That is something that is missing. The entrepreneurial and adventurous spirit that is necessary for success is constantly missing in the public sector, but the private sector people feel, for example, that it is all right for people to leave and go from St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Grenada to China - not the Republic of China, but the other China - Taiwan. It was all right for the Honourable Member when he was Minister of Tourism and Industry to go to the Koreans. It has to be recognised that a Minister of Tourism from Barbados will have to go to China. Honourable Members have gone to China for no apparent reason.

*Aside*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Not out of the Treasury, they say. They utter the magic words, what I call the Joan Benjaminism, the Treasury. This is a kind of knee jerk reaction where you say Treasury and people start saying: "Lord, have mercy!" Mr. Speaker, I am putting it to Your Honour and to this Honourable House that if Barbados is to be successful in its programme of tourism, it must be willing to take chances.

Now, Sir, there is a class of people in Australia, albeit a relatively small sector of the total population - I think the population is about 17 million - that travels to London, and these are the people who travel by the Concorde, they are persons who travel first class. These are people who go to London, then to Los Angeles and then to Australia. These are the people that can be found in what is called in Barbados the elegant hotels. The Honourable Member will in due course give evidence of the kinds of costs which were involved, but I have heard him in a press conference and I have heard him before indicating that American Airlines was responsible for a substantial part of the cost of the visit...

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I cannot say the Honourable Members are mad, I can say they are performing their duties as Opposition members. If they say it is not right, I do not know how it could not be right for American Airlines to pay for the Honourable Member to go and induce business to come that will be coming in American Airlines' planes. Even the Honourable Member for Christ Church South cannot and will not say that it is bad, because the Honourable Member understands these things. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is a neophyte in these matters and can be excused if he takes positions that are not understood by those who understand the industry. In due course he will get to understand, but I bet the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, Chairman of a travel agency, will not fall prey to the foolishness which suggests that Honourable Members should not go to the four corners of the earth to get travellers here. It cannot be that we must restrict ourselves to Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

I wish to say that had I the international status which the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central had and I were Minister of Tourism, I would too, at least ten times, because there is a fallacy which needs to be exploded... It is a fallacy in this country that a Minister of Tourism can sit at his desk and get people to come to Barbados, that people are out there waiting for some call so they will come to Barbados. If the Minister and those who are responsible for tourism do not get up off their fannies and go and promote, then we are going to continue to be a company of people who can be likened unto the Bourbons.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, a Bishop said we were like Bourbons and I must say I never thought I would live to see the day when the Opposition would join that list of people who can be likened unto Bourbons, least of all the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South has made a contribution to life in this country, but tourism is not one of the areas in which it can be said that he has made that contribution.

I will go on to make the point, Sir, that the present Bill will make some changes that will assist in the growth and development of tourism, but, Mr. Speaker, in the final analysis it really does not matter what

kind of structure we have for tourism in Barbados. What matters for a country of this size is the quality of people we have functioning in tourism in Barbados. What this Bill seeks to do is to streamline and to reduce to a large extent the difficulties which have been identified over time, but in the final analysis it is the attitude of the people who function who will determine to a large extent what kind of quality tourism we have.

I wish to deal then, Sir, with the quality of plant which people find when they come to Barbados. The Honourable Member dwelt on this for a little while and I was really disappointed to hear the Honourable Member for Christ Church South discuss the sewerage plant in the terms in which he did. I did not and do not expect the Honourable Member to trivialise the difficulties which he must have known, having served at the levels he did, in trying to raise sums which we eventually have successfully raised, Sir, in excess of U.S. \$70 million for the establishment of a sewerage plant on the south coast and the west coast of Barbados. 6.35 p.m.

I am disappointed that the Honourable Member thought, in a moment of weakness, to trivialise that. The Honourable Member suggested that he had laid the groundwork for it some time ago. I would not even seek to take that away from the Barbados Labour Party because the Government of this country in the last 25 years have worked in succession building on each other's efforts to ensure that at the fundamental level this country has a high quality of life.

The Honourable Member knows that when we are dealing with the international community that we are not always in the driver's seat. The reason why the South Coast project has taken relatively long to come on stream is simple. There were people in the Inter-American Development Bank who believed a certain kind of system was sufficient for Barbados.

The Minister responsible for Health and the Cabinet of Barbados did not believe that we should have a system that fell any shorter in its quality than that which is available in the developed countries of the world. So the negotiations went on until Barbados had reached the stage where it had received and had confirmed that the sewerage project and the sewerage plant would be at the level commensurate to what is acceptable to all Barbadians.

The IADB technicians, for example, wanted to have open ponds in Barbados. I have always felt and would have died in the belief that to have open ponds on the South Coast in St. Lawrence for the ozonation in Graeme Hall... The Honourable Member for Christ Church South would have been the first person to write one of those interminable letters which he likes to if there had been open ponds. This Minister insisted that the project would cost an additional \$3 million but we did not wish anything lower than what he had seen at Bilkington in the South of England. Therefore, we had to fight with the Inter-American Development Bank. I am very proud of the fact that what we have eventually agreed upon is something that the Barbados Labour Party itself would be proud of just as when we had originally put in the first sewerage project in Barbados in the City.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It does not matter who opens it. What is important is that when it is opened it has to be at the level, standing and quality that is acceptable to both sides of the House.

The work is scheduled. If one is looking at the newspapers one would see that the advertisements have already begun, the tenders are already going out, the pre-qualifications are being done and the project is already on its way.

One of the other things that we insisted on which the Inter-American Development Bank did not wish us to have is a "no dig" methodology for the construction. This would be new to Barbados. "No dig" means that Highway 7 which has already been paved would not be disrupted by digging it up but we will apply the same high quality modern technology which applies in Britain and Germany where they will be able to do the trenching without opening the surface of the road where the land is soft enough to benefit from no dig. This, too, was fought by the Inter-American Development Bank which said that "no dig" was not something acceptable or desirable for Barbados.

I am happy to say to this Honourable House that all of those matters have been successfully concluded.

There was no stop order by the Inter-American Development Bank. If there was in fact a stop order it would have been by the Government of Barbados in which we were saying to the Inter-American Development Bank nothing short of the best is good enough for Barbados. I am proud of the fact, Sir. The Barbados Labour Party in its column this week can feel free to write that they are proud of the fact too that we have nothing but the best in the South Coast.

We have arranged that, unlike the last occasion when we did not have the experience, we would now insist that those persons who are to be hooked up to the sewerage project will be hooked up as the construction is going on so that by the time the switch is thrown all of the required numbers on the South coast will in fact have already been hooked up. I am sure the Honourable Member for Christ Church West will appreciate that in fact whenever the project is finished that most or all of the entities on the South coast are hooked up. In that area around the Garrison where there is the greatest concentration of people in Barbados the Inter-American Development Bank, again in the context of reducing the cost of the project, suggested that we should leave out the people in the general area of the Garrison and the Bay Land and Hart's Gap and Christ Church West generally. We said, "no way!"

We are hooking up immediately and we are going to ensure that we will never have the problem which the Barbados Labour Party left behind when we left them to implement the Bridgetown Sewerage Project and they managed to confuse it. Anyhow, Sir, unlike the Honourable Member for Christ Church South I will not go on a political platform.

The other thing we have been able to confirm with the sewerage project is that we have money at the same time for the pre-feasibility studies for the West Coast. Instead of having the hiatus which occurred between the Bridgetown Sewerage and the South Coast Sewerage we are going to have the West Coast following almost immediately on the completion of the South Coast.

Sir, this obviously is a plus for the total development. When the total project has been completed we would have sewered the South Coast and the West Coast, Bridgetown having been already sewered, the only thing left would be for us to consider what we have already started to turn our attention to which is the sewerage of areas around the Belle and the inland St. Michael areas. This would release a substantial portion of land if we can get it sewered for development and housing purposes. This is the direction in which we are going.

*Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. Speaker.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I hope, Sir, that the Honourable Member will be much more careful in his presentation on the next occasion and not try to win cheap, political points.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Honourable Member could do better than that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I withdraw that. 6.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Because Parliamentary language always keeps within moderation.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: At this level one does not wish to go into the standards of certain Honourable Members.

The Honourable Member as he was closing touched on Germany. When I became Minister responsible for tourism there were certain practices brought to my attention in Germany by the representation of Barbados at the time. The Honourable Member seemed to have been mixed up with that Government's appointment of honorary officers. I was not, in fact, discussing that at all.

In Frankfurt we had a level of representation which was (a) costly, and (b) problematic. I do not believe the circumstances require me to go into it in great detail. Suffice it to say that from a policy point of view it became necessary for us to review entirely the circumstances. When the link between Caribbean Airways operation within the offices at London, and Caribbean Airways operation within the offices in Frankfurt, it became crystal clear that a network of infelicity was in operation. It became important that we excise it from the body politic and it was done. I need go no further.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It was as grand as that. I hope Honourable Members would not wish me to go into any greater detail. Suffice it to say I did what I thought to be prudent on the advice of the technical people who were called upon by me to examine the issue. On a visit to Frankfurt representation was made at that time by some aspects of the representation there that we should not close the office in its entirety. That consideration was, in fact, taken. Indeed, Sir, anyone who is as familiar, as I know the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is, with the circumstances in Germany would know that closing an office in

Germany in the context of the German requirements for social representation of the employee, could not have occurred easily or swiftly. The Honourable Member knows therefore that any attempt to cast aspersions on the accountability of the Minister at the time is nothing more than a political frothing at the mouth.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not understand the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, Sir. The Honourable Member has no objection but the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is here telling me something which I refuse to hear. Suffice it to say, Sir, that all is well in Germany or continues to be well. Honourable Members attacked tourism by this side. Honourable Members raised questions and I heard Honourable Members saying that you cannot judge tourism by numbers. I live to hear them now saying that 500 000 is the target. When the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central's stewardship was under attack because the tourism numbers had started to decline, Honourable Members on the other side were in their hey day. The writers who represent their point of view, especially the one who is a perennial loser in St. Michael South Central, they continued in those days...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member's time has expired. Just finish off.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: They continued to attack the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central. Now that the numbers have shown a movement upward I think the least the Honourable Members on the other side could do is give the Honourable Member the credit. He had to take the blows when the numbers were down. Now the numbers have started to rise I think it is only reasonable Honourable Members should recognise that his policies are beginning to demonstrate once again the success of tourism on this side of the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the debate back to basics and get away from the sewage scheme because this Bill before the Chamber is, in the Prime Minister's judgment, a major piece of legislation, a major achievement in his Government's efforts to tackle the deep-seated problems in the economy. I am quoting from his Ministerial Statement last week. He identified as one of 6 achievements the laying in Parliament of the Barbados Tourism Authority Bill to establish new arrangements for the development of tourism in Barbados. What we really have is a statement to the public that this piece of legislation represents a fundamental break with the past and presages and portends new exciting ways for the future in tourism. If we were so simplistic and uncritical to believe that, then I think the Prime Minister would have succeeded in deluding us into a state of blissful ignorance. When this Bill is examined and dissected for what it is worth, it is only a bad attempt to amend existing legislation. But it represents a very sinister attempt by the Cabinet of Barbados to neutralise...

Mr. SPEAKER: Now...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You want me to withdraw "sinister," Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Because the Cabinet of Barbados are members of this House.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. I withdraw the word "sinister". But it represents a decision by the Cabinet of Barbados to denude a Minister in the Cabinet of all policy-making power that is really vested in him as a member of the Cabinet under section 64 of the Constitution.

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order, Sir. Let me just assure the Honourable Member...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Let me talk first and then assure me.

Hon. M. A. KING: No, No. I do not want you to continue to mislead innocently. There has been an omission in that regard. During the course of the Committee stage of this Bill we will move for an inclusion in relation to the powers of the Minister to give directions to the Board in the usual fashion.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I wish to support in its entirety the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph because...

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will not be brow beaten as an attempt was made in, 1986 when we identified the taxation of vegetables. I was assured then that a typewriter had failed to put in the correct figures. It was a typographical error and the person who rose to his feet -at that time he had a lot of credibility - was no less a person than the now Prime Minister. 6.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not so sure we can go further into that debate in view of the fact that on a point of order, which is a legitimate correction as I understand it, the Honourable Member has risen to state that the point which was pursued before and the one which is now the subject will be corrected later on in the proceedings. Now if we cannot at this point in time accept that point of order as a legitimate point of order then we need not take points of order. So I am suggesting to the Honourable Member since that point of order has been accepted then the Honourable Member...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But, Mr. Speaker, I understand your ruling. I do not accept that because a Minister says we will deal with something in Committee and it has not been spelt out because there was an omission

You are trying to anticipate my speech, the Honourable Attorney General is trying to anticipate my speech...

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not. The Honourable Member has spoken. A point of order is a correction. It is a serious interruption in the debate.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But I am not allowed to make the point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but what I am saying is that it is quite different from a point of explanation or elucidation. The point the Honourable Member made is a point of order which has the validity in itself to say that that is what the House has been given, not the Honourable Member, but the House has been given that as a correction and I accept that. If it was a point of elucidation or explanation then the point you are making I suppose I would properly have allowed it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I don't follow what you are saying, Sir. We have nothing before the House. I was explaining to the House that for the first time in the history of statutory corporations, parastatals, quangoes, whatever you call them. For the first time we have a situation where the Minister responsible for the quango is not given any power to lay down general policy guidelines.

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order. I indicated, Mr. Speaker, that there was an omission in the draft legislation and the omission has been corrected but it has not been put in because we cannot move amendments at this stage. It is formulated and reads as follows:

"The Minister may, after consultation with the Chairman, give the Authority directions of a general nature in respect of the policy to be followed by the Authority in the performance of its functions under this Act and the Authority shall comply with the direction".

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I understand, but I wish to say that I do not accept that there was any omission and the Government should be big enough to say that were it not for the Honourable Member for St. Joseph's speech today this would never have happened. This Bill went to Cabinet and 13 Cabinet Members passed it and recommended it to come to Parliament in the state that it came.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. I now rise on a point of order and the Member for St. Thomas is imputing improper motives and actions to the Members of the Cabinet of which I am the Chairman. I do not know how he would know what happens in the Cabinet of Barbados. He is not a Member of that Cabinet Even when he was a member of the Cabinet certain things were done that he did not know about.

Sir, my point of order is that to indicate that something happened which did not happen is a breach of our standing orders because it is imputing motives to the Members of the Cabinet, all of them. We are saying that did not happen. The Cabinet never approved that particular clause that you are talking about.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Prime Minister had no right jumping up, Sir. I never imputed any improper motives to the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not imputing anything, no more than interpreting the rules as I understand them. If an Honourable Member gets up on a point of order and makes a correction the House accepts it as a correction. A point of order says what it really means, that something has gone wrong and therefore that point of order is correcting it. That is the purpose of a point of order. Therefore what I am saying to the Honourable Member is that the only thing that could arise out of that is that the Honourable Minister is lying to the House in his point of order and I cannot accept that the Honourable Member is lying to the House at this stage because I do not have the relevant information so to do. The Honourable Member can say that he does not accept that he believes it is a genuine error. That is what he is open to. But not to refute the point that the Honourable Member says it was an omission on the part and he pledged that assurance to the House by a point of order that it will be corrected.  
Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg you, ' Sir, listen to me,

*Asides.*

Mr. SPEAKER: I am listening to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. These are matters that need to be

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In my capacity as Acting...

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but I am listening to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas at this point in time. A point of order has arisen and it has not been settled. What we are discussing is a point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not impute any improper motives to the Prime Minister and Cabinet. I accused the Prime Minister and the Cabinet also, all 14 or 19 of them, of incompetence, inefficiency, carelessness and dereliction of duty. That is what I did. I accused them of that.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the point of order: I was not dealing with that point of order. I was dealing with a point of order raised by the Honourable Member. Before we can get on to any other point of order we have to get clearly that I am saying that if the Honourable Member, on a point of order, has corrected something which he considers a breach of the Rules of the House then the Chair by right is to accept what the Honourable Member says is such. Now, if we are going to debate the point of order still and my ruling then we are no where. I am saying to the Honourable Member if he is saying that he does *not* believe that to be true, I do not think I can...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, I accept that they want to amend. No problem. We will even accept the amendment. But what I am saying, Sir, is that this omission that you have been told of, the Minister responsible spoke for 4 hours in here today and never drew to the House's attention that there was an omission which would require an amendment at a later stage. 7.05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I discussion on this matter.  
am not permitting anymore It is settled.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Honourable Member does not intend to finish in 5 minutes and, therefore, I beg to move...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it has been agreed by the substantive Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition that after my speech we will adjourn. Once again the Minister of Health in a hurry

to jump in and he does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Minister of Health is not in the Chair.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member really is imputing improper motives.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two Honourable Members are on their feet. I have concluded the matter in respect of the Standing Orders. If the Honourable Member is prepared to continue his speech, do so. From what I understand, there is an arrangement and I accept that arrangement.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, he has told you of the arrangement I am acting Leader. He cannot tell you what the arrangement is. He cannot tell Your Honour, with respect, what the arrangement is. He further suggested that I would know, which casts an aspersion on the Leader who had never told me. The Leader told me that if he does not say anything that is controversial and clearly, Sir, to impute improper motives might be controversial. I am trying to find out if he continues much beyond 7 o'clock and whether he intends for us to go to dinner. The adjournment is not dependent on whether we will go to dinner. We will go to dinner and then have the adjournment after he has finished.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition has concurred with the Member and, as far as it goes from the view of the Chair, there will have to be some agreement between both sides and I accept from the Leader of the Opposition that such is the case. Such being the case, the Honourable Member can proceed along the normal procedures for closing and timing off and so on. The Honourable Member for St Thomas...

*Aside.*

Mr. SPEAKER: I need no advice.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that for once the speeches on this side have made connection with the minds of the Honourable Members on the other side and that for once they understand that what we say on this side is intended to be treated seriously and it is to be taken seriously. I cannot believe that all who spoke on that and all who authorised introduction of this Bill, Sir, could have failed to see that the structure of this Bill is as follows: A Tourism Advisory Council of various people - Chief Immigration Officer, Commissioner of Police and somebody called an Environmental Officer, whoever he or she is, Chairman and Deputy plus 10 to 14 other persons whose function is advisory to the Minister under Section 30.

The second animal, I think it was called today, is the Barbados Tourism Authority of a Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer plus 5 to 8 other persons. That one is funded by Parliament and really, as I have been able to glean, Sir, it carries out the old functions of the Tourist Board and 1 or 2 others including licensing functions. But the two together, the Council and the Tourism Authority, are mandated by the Bill to prepare a marketing plan. The Authority reports to the Minister who is ultimately responsible to Parliament and the Advisory Council advises the Minister. Everything comes from the Council and the Authority down.

As we have been accustomed ever since we have had statutory boards and corporations, at least the area of general policy was reserved for the Minister and he would feed down the policy to the statutory board.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Garbage from Mangrove Pond, Sir! The garbage from Mangrove Pond is about to pollute the atmosphere in this Honourable Chamber through the effluvia of the Honourable Minister of Health, Sir. Now here in the Bill is the Minister given responsibility to justify the existence of a Minister of Tourism. That is why we have to ask the question whether this was a deliberate shift, because the Prime Minister last week said that this is such an important piece of legislation to establish new arrangements for the development of tourism in Barbados. This is one of 6 wonderful strokes that his Government has played since 1981. I want to know if we are to expect in the future with the establishment of any parastatals a

circumstance where the Minister responsible for that parastatal will no longer have responsibility for policy. I just want to know. I am told now that it was an omission which was not sighted by the whole of the Cabinet and even the Minister himself. He did not realise that he does not have any power until it was pointed out to him today.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point order, Sir. The Honourable Member is suggesting that he was told that something has emerged which was not observed by the Cabinet. No one told the Honourable Member that. An omission does not mean that the Cabinet did not see it.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It was in the original draft. When the Attorney General gave his certificate that it was fit for introduction into Parliament, it was not there. So exclude the others from the stigma of incompetence and just say that the Attorney General is to blame. His shoulders are broad, Sir. Having got that out of the way, Sir, I am being assured that something will be done to bring this back on the track of good administration. Apart from that fundamental omission, there is nothing new or earth-shaking.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not want to listen to that nonsense. I heard the Minister say earlier today that the private sector said that he had too much power. If the private sector says that he has too much power, you are going to demote a Minister who has the ultimate responsibility? Are you going to make policy or not? Is the private sector going to make the policy or are you going to have a Minister who is responsible for the policy-making?

You see we have it now. *Sotto voce* I have learned just now that because the private sector said that the Minister had too much power they were prepared to wipe it out.

*Aside.*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You must have learned it from Bromley.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I learned it from you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two Honourable Members are on their feet.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Sir. Again the member is misleading the House when he indicates that the Cabinet was simply accepting what was being proposed by the private sector. 7.15 p.m. I have not said any such thing, Sir. I have only risen on 2 points of order, this is the second time. I have not said anything. The point the member is making has no foundation in fact. The proposal, as formulated in the draft that has been circulated, was considered by the Cabinet and the Cabinet agreed that it should not be formulated in that way, that it should follow the proposals in the other statutory models, but there are certain sections in this country who believe that the Minister of Tourism has too much power over anything and that it should be removed. I would hope that the member would cease blaming the Cabinet for a decision and accept the position as set out.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not permitting any undue and extraneous discussion on this matter. I am asking Honourable Members to do what I say. Be to the point.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, for what it is worth, let the Honourable Prime Minister explain the amount of influence that was exerted by the private sector in relation to the Bill. That is now recorded in Hansard.

I have said there has been nothing fundamental about this piece of legislation, except for the omission, and I return to that. The purpose of this legislation is really to organise the jobs in the Tourism Authority, Tourist Board, whatever you call it. Everybody in Barbados is now aware that there has been a power straggle in the Tourist Board for leadership of the Tourist Board. This is about jobs, this foolish Bill here is

about jobs and even now somebody is being marshalled for chief work, Chief Executive Officer. She has some experience in the field and manoeuvres are being made under the aegis of this to send the present Chairman of the Tourist Board to Canada as a Consul General and to bring the gentleman from Canada as Chief Personnel Officer in the Personnel Administration Department.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is entirely out of place and that should be struck from the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two Honourable Members are on their feet. Will one sit?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member made the statement (a) that the Bill was brought to the House in order to give somebody a job, and (b) that there is somebody coming to fill something. That is surely casting aspersions and imputing improper motives. To suggest that the Government would go through the elaborate process of formulating a Bill to bring it to the House of Assembly so persons can get a particular job, as the Honourable Member said, surely that is an improper motive.

Mr. SPEAKER: When language is used as it is used it is not in the best interest to make a ruling as such. The language used does not in itself point its finger in a way, firstly, to any member in this Chamber. That is the ultimate responsibility of the Chair, to protect the Honourable Members in this House. It does not in any way convey that to me. The second one is that it is so vaguely said that it is not covered by any Standing Order that can amply demonstrate what the Honourable Member raised on a point of order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was coming to clause 9 before the Acting Leader interrupted me, Sir. It says: "9. (1) The Authority shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint a Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer."

I am submitting to this Honourable House that certain jockeying is taking place for those 2 posts and that somebody is being marshalled, I said - I used that word advisedly - for the Chief Executive job. How can I impute motives to the Minister? I know the Minister would not be in that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to draw to Honourable Members' attention that asides do not reach me. They are not part of the record and therefore I can only deal with it when it becomes part of the record.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. The Government categorically denies that it is marshalling, "simmonsing" or doing anything in terms of any appointment to this particular Bill.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have not said that there is anything improper, I said there will be transfers. What is wrong with that? People are transferred from department to department all the time, and if somebody in Canada is being transferred to the Chief Personnel Officer's job, and somebody from the Tourist Board is going to fill that job, somebody called Salt Fish, what is wrong with that? I just say that all of this paper really has at its core the purport and intent to organise the management of what is now the Tourist Board into something called a Tourism Authority and thereby to dash the expectations of some of the existing employees in the Tourist Board. All I would say is that in the shenanigans I hope that the appointors bear in mind historical experiences of persons who could be appointees, bear in mind service rendered over years, loyalty and dedicated service rendered by certain people over the last 10 years. You cannot call names in here, Sir, but I hope that some equity will prevail. Long service need not be the criterion, but I said rendered good and valuable service. You know I cannot make out a case for anybody, Sir, I am only consoling my side that I am setting down the parameters, the criteria that should guide the appointors. 7.25 p.m.

I do not know whom the applicants are. I was using the word "marshall" in the sense of a verb, not even a proper noun.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this new Tourism Authority will be more successful in helping Government and the Minister devise policies which will assist in the reduction and control of crime. The 2 factors that will militate against our achievement of the goals we set for tourism are crime and an untidy and shabby environment. I said that in here already about 2 or 3 weeks ago.

I do not know how the Council will function. I don't believe the Minister has any idea how the Tourism Advisory Council will function. We listened for 4 hours today and he did not bring a word as to how he

envisions this Council<sup>1</sup> will function. I note that it has on it the Chief Immigration Officer and the Commissioner of Police and I hope that they will be able to devise within that Council, since it is advisory to the Minister, some strategies aimed at controlling the level of crime in this country. Otherwise the statistics that appear on page 77 of the Central Bank Economic and Financial Statistics for December 1992 will be even worse.

i think it is about time that these are recorded in Hansard. One other member today touched on them cursorily but I do not think the point has been made with any sufficient vigour. Our contention is that the market in the U.S.A. was on the decline from 1987-88 and that Government appeared not to have targeted that market for any remedial strategies to cause those numbers to go back up. These are the figures:

From the United States of America

|        |    |         |         |
|--------|----|---------|---------|
| 1987   | \$ | 175 000 |         |
| 1988   |    | 170 000 | -1989   |
| 2904   |    |         | 154 000 |
| 1990   |    |         |         |
| 1991   |    |         |         |
| 143000 |    |         | 119000  |

A steady decline, pre-Gulf War, post-Gulf War. Pre-recession, post-recession.

There was some phenomenon taking place in that market that was causing the figures to decline. All we are saying from this side is that Government does not appear to have paid... From time to time some of us on this side use that yellow book, Sir. We seldom see members on the Government side paying any regard to it. If you study the figures in the various areas for which members have responsibility, there is a lot of information that can be gleaned. If the Tourist Board were paying attention it would have been clear, that this has been a steady trend over the last 5 years.

We are now asking that statistical information be used as the basis for informing new strategies and helping with the planning to target the U.S.A.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would find it difficult to support a Bill which is in essence a rehash of existing legislation badly put together, a Bill that has no philosophy that makes any sense, a Bill that will add to the expense of Government. Both authorities are to be paid. The Tourism Authority and the Tourism Advisory Council which has all these people. You have to pay them fees. You have to pay the people in the Tourism Authority which is really the Tourist Board by another name.

At this time we do not see the necessity of having a Tourism Authority of 10 people and then another Tourism Advisory Council of possibly 16 people.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have not even read your own legislation? I must point out everything to them? Sir, I am not drawing to the Honourable Minister of Health's attention where it says...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member says that we are going to pay the Council. I challenge the Honourable Member to read the legislation where it states categorically that the Council is going to be paid.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, it is in the Schedule. Regulation 16 on the second schedule, page 4, clause 16:

"The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and other members of the Council are entitled to such remuneration and allowances as the Minister determines."

Are you telling me that these people are going to function and the Minister is not going to determine what is their remuneration and what are their allowances? It is done all the time in statutory boards. You are not going to get anybody to serve.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has come to the end of his time. I have given him enough overtime.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is why I talk about dereliction of duty, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already said the time of the Honourable Member has expired.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, it is 7.33 p.m. and in spite of the efforts of the Honourable Member we have come to the end of today's sitting, I suggest.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, my understanding is that this matter will be concluded next Tuesday and thereon an undertaking has been given that the Honourable Members on that side will have Private Members' Business.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Leader of the House and I discussed the fact that since this Bill has taken most of the day we would agree to start the item of Private Members' Business No. 4 on the paper after the conclusion of this matter next Tuesday. That is absolutely clear to this side. 7.35 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: In those circumstances, Sir, I beg to move that the House...

Mr. SPEAKER: No, No. Our procedure is a little bit mixed because the second reading is still in progress. The Honourable Member will have to ask that further consideration of this Bill be postponed and then move into the adjournment.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Subject to the behaviour of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, that is what I propose to do.

Sir, I beg to move that further consideration of this Bill be now postponed.

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

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I beg to move that the House be now adjourned until Tuesday, January 26, 1993 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

*The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, January 26, 1993 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 7.38 p.m.*

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## **SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE**

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**FORDE, Mr. H. deB. (Christ Church West)**

**GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St Michael North)**

**HALL, Hon. W. W. (St. Michael West Central)**

**KING, Hon. M. A. (Christ Church West Central)**

**SANDIFORD, Rt. Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South)**

**SIMMONS, Mr. D. A. C. (St. Thomas)**

**ST. JOHN, Mr. H. B. (Christ Church South)**

**TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West)**