# THE
# House of Assembly Debates
## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

---

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Monday, March* 08,*1993*

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker) His Honour T. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., LLJB., (Deputy
Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDEFORD, B.A., MA., (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. TATTT, B.A (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B.(Hons.), (Minister of Health)
Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, Ministerof Public Works, Communications and Transportation and Leader of the House)
Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)
Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, (Minister of Justice and Public Safety)
Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M.
Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of Education)
Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, G.C.M., B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture)
Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M., (Minister of Tourism And Sports)
Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A.
Mr. R. L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert. Ed.
Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.(Hons.), (Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.
Miss B. A. MILLER
Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. J. O. TUDOR
Hon. D. W. BOWEN, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)
Mr. G.W.PAYNE
Mr. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A., LL.B.

*Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood* Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday March 2,1993.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I move that the Minutes for the meeting of March 2,1993 which hayp been circulated be taken as read and confirmed.
Hon. B. M. TATTT: I beg to second that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: 1 am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statement for the month of December 1992.

3092

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report on the General Election, 1991.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it is meet that the Standing Orders be suspended. Let me say here that we are starting today consideration of the Estimates and we will continue until Friday. For the record, we will meet at 10 o'clock in the morning on every day except today and on Thursday. On Thursday, we will also meet again at 12 o'clock noon and continue right through, observing the hours permitted us by the Standing Orders. In each case that will be done so that we will get in the amount of time that we are permitted under the Standing Orders to have the consideration of the Estimates.
At this point, I move that Standing Orders Nos. 6,16, 18, 20,42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this sitting.

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

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Equally so, Mr. Speaker, the position taken by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance that the restoration of the 8% cut would be disastrous from a financial point of view would seem to have been a misrepresentation, ORDER NO. 1 - THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1993

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for Finance and in accordance with the law and custom of our Constitution, I rise to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1993. Section 107 of the Constitution of Barbados makes provision for the existence of a Consolidated Fund in and for Barbados into which, subject to the provisions of any law for the time being in force, all revenues of Barbados shall be paid.

I am also required as Minister responsible for Finance, by virtue of section 108, to cause to be prepared, before the end of the current financial year, Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for public services during the succeeding financial year. Those Estimates ihust set out separately the sums for statutory expenditure as well as the sums required for other expenditure proposed to be paid out of the Consolidated Fund. Those Estimates must be laid before the House of Assembly.

I am further required by virtue of section 109, subsection (1) of the Constitution, the provisions of which are repeated under section 6 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Cap. 5 to introduce an Appropriation Bill in the House of Assembly before the start of the next financial year, showing the

estimated aggregate sums, under appropriate Heads for the several services required, which are intended to be spent, other than by way of statutory expenditure, during the new financial year.

The section goes'on to stipulate that the sums voted on by this Honourable Chamber in respect of a financial year constitute the limit and extent of public expenditure for the financial year, that any unexpended balance shall lapse at the end of the year, and that as is necessary, any deficiency in expenditure may be met by supplementary estimates voted on by this Honourable Chamber.
Mr. Speaker, the requirements I have just recounted have been met. It is therefore now a convenient time for me to move that the Appropriation Bill, 1993 be now read a second time, a convenient time too for the House to proceed with the debate on the Barbados Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year, 1993-94 under your direction.

I should add, Sir, that during the course of this debate, I shall be moving as is customary certain amendments to rectify or clarify the purpose, intention, construction or operation of the legislation under consideration.

Additionally, Sir, permit me to repeat what I said around this time last year. All Honourable Members of this House must fully appreciate the fact that debate and approval of the Appropriation Bill and the Barbados Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure represent vital stages in the all important process of government budgeting and financial accounting which are completed by the introduction and approval of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. 12.30 p.m.

* Last year I said that it was my intention in due course to bring these 2 processes closer together so that they could be seen as part of a single process, which is indeed what they really are. I have gone one step of the way in fulfilling ihis intention in as much as the debate on the Appropriation Bill and Estimates for the 1993-94 fiscal year will occupy the time of the House from today Monday, March 8, 1993 to Friday, March 12, 1993 and I propose to deliver the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for 1993 next Monday, March 15, 1993 at 3:00 p.m. I expect the reply will be made on Tuesday March 16 with the debate continuing thereafter and concluding on Wednesday March 17, 1993. Anything I omit to say today will, therefore, most likely be said next week.

I will continue, Sir, to work for further reforms in the annual Budgetary exercise by further integrating the



2 processes without any loss in the debating time currently allocated under our Standing Orders for discussion and approval of these matters.

Mr. Speaker, one week from today, then, I will be presenting to Parliament the 1993 Budgetary Proposals. As is customary, on that occasion, I will give full details about the performance of the Government sector and the economy as a whole during fiscal year 1992/93.

However, I consider it necessary on this occasion to give some general idea of the state of Government's fiscal position during 1992/93, since such background information will provide a better understanding of the framework within which the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1993/94 have been prepared.

During fiscal year 1992/93 the Government, in continuation of its stabilisation and structural reform programme, set itself a number of objectives. Among these were:-

(1) Keeping the fiscal position in balance;
(2) Commencing the reforms to restructure the direct tax system;
(3) Restructuring of the sugar industry and the Barbados National Bank;
(4) Privatisation and divestment of certain statutory corporations and Government assets; and
(5) Development of export strategies in the context of broader collaboration with the private sector.

Parliament approved the Estimates of Revenue of $1 077.9 million and expenditure of $1 247.9 million for the fiscal year under review. During the year, supplementary Resolutions totalling $16.7 million were approved, making an approved total expenditure of $1 264.6 million and an overall deficit of $186.7 million.
During the year, the level of economic activity was much lower than was originally anticipated. In addition, the restructuring of the direct tax system which included the removal of the Stabilisation Tax on companies, the Stabilisation Tax on individuals and a portion of the Transport and Health Levies also affected the revenue performance. In addition, receipts from privatisation were below projections. 'As a result of these developments, the revenue is now expected to be $986.9 million or $99 million less that the original estimate of $1 077.9 million.

Since Government had as one of its objectives a balanced fiscal position, it became necessary to restrict expenditure. Supplementary provisions were granted only when savings could be identified in other areas. Total expenditure is now expected to be $1 128 million or $136.6 million less than was approved by Parliament.

The foregoing information reflects an overall deficit of $141.1 million instead of $186.7 million on the basis of the expenditure which was approved by Parliament.

When the revenue and expenditure data are adjusted on the basis used by the International Monetary Fund, there will be a small projected surplus of $1.6 million as follows: from the total projected revenue of $986.9 million must be deducted the receipts from the Airport of $9.1 million, and from the Printing Office $0.7 million, totalling together $9.8 million. This leaves total projected revenue at $977.1 million.

On the other side, total expenditure is expected to be $1 128 million. When amortisation of $138.4 million is deducted, this results in net expenditure of $989.6 million, from which must be subtracted $12.1 million for the expenses of the Airport and $2 million for the expenses of the Printing Office. This leaves expenditure at $975.5 million.

In spite of the need to restrict expenditure, it was still possible to make provision for increased spending on tourism promotion, retraining programmes by the National Training Board, assistance to the sugar industry, and the schools programme being funded with the assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank.

The restructuring of the sugar industry has started with the establishment of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust and the Barbados Agricultural Management Company. All of the necessary documents have been filed and the Directors have been appointed.The Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust will take over the sugar industry debt from the Barbados National Bank, and has as its sole objective maximising the return on its assets, including any physical assets which are purchased from the Barbados Sugar Industries Ltd.

The Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust will have responsibility for ensuring that the debt is repaid and will also assume responsibility for meeting payments on the sugar bonds which were issued by Barbados Sugar Industries Ltd. and guaranteed by the Government. Once the debt has been repaid, the rationale for the existence of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust will cease and the company will be dissolved. 12.40 p.m.



The Barbados Agricultural Management Company (BAMC) will be charged with the responsibility of engaging management through the international competitive tender process to manage the heavily

indebted plantations and any others which choose to enter into an agreement with the Barbados Agricultural Management Company.

The intention is to lease these plantations and to turn around their financial position in about 12 years. Once that objective has been achieved, the plantations will be returned to their owners.
Collaboration with the private sector in developing a strategy for boosting exports is taking place through the Foreign Exchange Committee and will continue during fiscal year *1993/94.*
The privatisation programme, Sir, is continuing and the latest position is as follows:
Arawak Cement Company Limited:
The sale of the Arawak Cement Company Limited was advertised locally and internationally, and a confidential memorandum on the company was circulated to all interested parties. The deadline for the receipt of proposals from prospective purchasers was in December, 1992. Presentations are now being made by the persons who have made offers to purchase the company and it is expected that the sale will be completed by April 30,1993.

Barbados National Oil Company Limited: The National Petroleum Corporation:
Consultants were engaged to value the assets of these entities and to prepare an information memorandum on them. Six bids have been received and it is expected that a sale can be arranged by June 1993.

Heywoods Holiday Resort:
As was done in the other cases, the assets were valued by consultants and an information memorandum on the property was issued to over SO interested parties. Bids were received by January06. Negotiations are continuing with interested parties.
Insurance Corporation of Barbadosand the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation:

It is anticipated that the transfer of 20 per cent of the shares of these 2 corporations may take place during the course of this year. Preference will be given to .staff members.
The Estimates of Revenue' and Expenditure 1993/94:

The estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 1993/94 make provision for revenue of $1 060.0 million which is some 7.5 per cent higher than what is expected for 1992/93.
Total expenditure is estimated at $1 280.2 million or 13.5 per cent higher than is expected for this fiscal year. The overall deficit is $220.2 million compared with $141.1. million for 1992/93. On ah economic classification basis which helps to measure the impact of the expenditure estimates that breakdown is as follows:

| | 1993-94 | 1992-93 |
|---|---|---|
| | $m | |
| Wages and Salaries | 106.9 | 395.4 |
| National Insurance and Levies | 264.5 | 28.3 |
| Goods and Services | 159.7 | |
| Current Transfers | 186.7 | |
| Interest | . | 3.2 |
| Amortization | 88.4 | |
| Acquisitions | 19.3 | |
| Capital Formation | 27.8 | |
| Capital Transfers | | |
| Capital Lending | | |

$m
368.2
24.6
91.3
228.5
173.3
138.4
3.4
51.0
28.9
20.4

That gives us, Sir, $1 280.2 million for the coming year compared with $1 128 million for the current year.

## Wages and salaries:

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the legislation which reduced the salaries of public employees and staff of statutory corporations comes to an end on March 31,1993. Therefore, effective from April 1, the full 8 per cent will betestored as promised and that is the major reason why the wages costs have increased over those for 1992/93.

This matter has been the source of much discussion during recent months and will be dealt with in more detail next week when I outline the incomes policy which I am convinced should be pursued during the next 2 years as we seek to improve the competitiveness of the economy and to reduce the unacceptably high level of unemployment which we are experiencing.
As would be expected, an increase in the wages bill has led to an increase in the salaries related costs such as National Insurance contributions and levies.

The increase of $15.6 million in goods and services takes into account a projected rate of inflation



of approximately 5.7 per cent and makes provision for increased spending in certain areas which have been depressed for the past 2 years.

Current transfers are expected to rise by $36 million largely because of a grant of $16 million for the sugar industry as part of the rehabilitation programme to which I referred earlier. In addition, there is an increase of $13 million in the transfer to the University as the Government moves to eliminate arrears to that institution. There is an increase of $2 million *for* pensions to former Government employees, while the remainder is spent among the other institutions which receive transfers.
The domestic interest cost of $103.2 million includes provision for the take-over of the sugar industry debt of approximately $239.2 million at the end of February by the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust, and the issuing of bonds by the Government to the Barbados National Bank. This debt is made up as follows: 12.50 p.m.

BSIL (including sugar bonds) Heavily indebted plantations Total of
$137.9 million $1013 million $239.2 million.
Provision is made also for the issuing of bonds to the Barbados National Bank in respect of Letters of Comfort which were issued by the Government to the Barbados National Bank for $96.0 million as follows:

Arawak $10 million Caricargo $75 million CARSICOT $11 million Total of $96 million.

*Aside.*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am just pausing, Sir, to make sure that the figures have been accurately given. When this exercise is completed, Sir, the portfolio of the Barbados National Bank will be free of those non-performing loans and the Management and the Board of the Bank will be expected to carry the restructuring process to the point where that institution will be returned to profitability. It will be the task of the BAMC to do a similar thing for the sugar industry.
The amount which has been provided for amortisation has been determined by the payments which have to be made during the fiscal year. The details of this item are founi in Appendix D to the Estimates. The provision for the capital formation shows an increase of $37 million over 1992-93. This is part of the Government's effort to stimulate the construction sector and provide additional employment opportunities while at the same time improving the road system, environmental infrastructure, educational facilities, industrial estates, health facilities and tourism facilities.
The major areas of capital expenditure are as follows: Agricultural Diversification $2 million

| | |
|---|---|
| Holetown Complex | $2.1 million |
| Second Education and Training Project | $5.1 million |
| Hospitality Institute | $1.8 million |
| Health Services Rationalisation | $3.5 million |
| South Coast Sewage Project | $9.3 million |
| Solid Waste Project Study | $2.5 million |
| West Coast Project Study | $1.3 million |
| Sherbourne Centre | $2 million |
| Coastal Conservation | $6.1 million |
| Highway 2A Project | $5 million |
| Major Roads Overlay Project | $10 million |
| Other Road Rehabilitation Improvement | $21.5 million |
| Airport Development - | $2.6 million |
| Industrial Estates | $5.1 million |
| National Gymnasium | $1.5 million |

The sum of $17.8 million of the capital lending is to be made available *for* the marketing of sugar. A reimbursement of $9.1 million is expected from the sale of sugar and provision is made on the revenue side for this amount

Another way of looking at the total expenditure for 1993-94 is on the basis of a functional classification. This approach helps in the assessment of the aggregate objectives of expenditure in terms of functions, programmes, activities and costs. On this basis, the total expenditure of $1.28 billion is allocated in the following categories: General Public Services $93.7 million, Defence and Security $20 million, Education $216.2 million, Health $174.4 million, Social Security $21.8 million, Housing and Amenities including Co-Operatives, Town Planning and Environmental Sanitation $17.9 million, Other Community and Social Services including Information Services, Libraries, Parks and Beaches, Sports and Culture $20.7 million, Economic Services including Trade, Industry, Agriculture, Roads, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Lands and Surveys and Labour, $341.2 million and Other Purposes including Redemption of Public Debt and Lending - $374.2 million giving a total of $1.28 billion.
1.00 p.m.



Revenue:

Turning next to revenue, Mr. Speaker, the estimated current revenue of $1 060 million is made up as follows for 1993-94. I will also give the figure for 1992-93 for purposes of comparison. These are rounded figures:

Taxes on income and profit - $328.6 million .compared to $269.2 million for 1992-93.
Taxes on property - $57.5 million compared with $67.9 million in the current year.
Taxes on goods and services - $402.8 million compared with $338 million for the current year.
Taxes on international trade - $51.4 million compared with $72 million in the current year.
Other taxes - $85.5 million compared with $82 million for the current year.
Non-tax revenue - $56.8 million compared with $61.5 million for the current year.
Special receipts - $67.1 million compared with $94.4 million *for* the current year. )
Loans and advances - $10.2 million compared with $1.9 million for the current year.
This gives for the financial year 1993-94 revenue of some $1 060 million compared with $986.9 million for the current financial year.

The major changes in the category, "Taxes on Income and Profits" are an increase in Personal Income Tax from $130.4 million in 1992-93 to $208.9 million in 1993-94 and an increase in Corporation Tax from $87.6 million in 1992-93 to $105.5 million in 1993-94.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that when the direct tax system was restructured the objective was to so change the Personal Income Tax system that the revenue lost from abolishing the Stabilisation Tax of $28.2 million on individuals and part of the Health Levy of $6.4 million and Transport Levy of $23 million would be recovered.

In addition, provision has been made for an additional $10 million from an enhanced collection effort by the Inland Revenue Department to ensure that those persons who should be making their contributions but are evading that obligation will be brought within the tax net. Also it is estimated that there will be some reflow to the revenue from the restoration of the 8% wages cut.

In respect to the Corporation Tax, the additional sum is expected from the increase in the rate of tax to 40% and the increased economic activity which is expected during 1993-94.
Property tax:

Whereas the amnesty for persons who owed land tax worked extremely well during 1992-93, it is not expected that that level of arrears will be collected during 1993-94; that is why the estimate for land tax is somewhat lower. In other words, the arrears have been reduced.
Taxes on international trade:

The decline in taxes on international trade is the result of a reduction of the rates under the Common External Tariff which is expected to come into effect from April 1, 1993.
Since it will be virtually impossible to sustain the estimated level of expenditure without recovering the revenue of approximately $22 million which will be lost from the introduction of the Common External Tariff, the overall revenue estimate of $1 060 million assumes that the amount will be recovered in other areas.

During fiscal year 1993-94 it is anticipated that private sector projects along with increased spending by tfie Government on its capital programme will lead to expansion in the construction sector. In addition, an allocation of $29 million has been made to the Board of Tourism or its successor body for promotion. That amount includes a provision of $9 million for additional marketing efforts.
Therefore, it is expected that with the stimulation of the construction sector and with the renewed effort in the tourism sector, there will be increased activity that will lead to an improvement in total output
Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to say much more on these Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. My Ministers will speak under the appropriate Heads on the issues as they relate to their Ministries. I do hope that all Heads will be debated. This is in the public interest.

*Asides.*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDDFORD: Mr. Speaker, it is a good thing I do not hear asides.
I wish however, before closing, to say a few words about crime and related matters. Much public concern has been evoked, and rightly so on this topic.
The 1993-94 Estimates project an expenditure of $47.3 million for Police Services. The breakdown is as follows:

Personal emoluments and related costs - $38.6 million, up from the $35.1 million in the current year;



Goods and Services - $4.6 million, up from the $4 million in the current year;
Transfers to the Regional Police Training Centre -$1.8 million, up from $1.6 million in the current year.

Capital formation - $2.3 million down from $3 million in the current year"" due to the completion of the St Cecilia Barracks at District "A" Police Station compound.

The projected capital expenditure in the 1993-94 Estimates includes provision for the erection of a building to accommodate the Task Force and for the completion of the Mechanical Workshop at District A Police Station. There is also a provision of $900 000 for the purchase of vehicles and $600 000 for plant, furniture and equipment.

In addition, there is a provision of $2 million under the subprogram, Magistrates' Courts, for the continuation of work on the Holetown Police Complex, work on which was restarted in January of this year.

I think, Sir, that it would be generally agreed that these provisions represent an attempt to respond positively to the expressed wish for the allocation of greater resources in this area, especially in light of the tight financial situation in our country, 1.10 p.m.

I therefore expect to see, and all Barbadians expect to see, corresponding value for money from these expenditures.

We should all be aware that in many countries across the globe crime has been increasing at an alarming rate. One developed country reported for the first 6 months of 1990 a 20% increase in murders, a 10% increase in violent crimes and 9% increase in robberies.

The fear of crime has also become a serious problem, affecting an increasing number of households, in spite of the steady growth in costs and numbers of security personnel.

Even here in Barbados, which has been a relatively peaceful and safe country, we have not been able to escape the increased activity of criminal elements. But we cannot and must not allow the incidence of crime to dominate our society. My Government intends to use every means at its disposal to secure a stable and predictably safe environment in which Barbadians and visitors alike can pursue their legitimate activities without the threat of danger, disturbance or injury. I call upon all elements in our society, individuals, households, businesses, groups, communities, neighbourhoods and public entities to cooperate with the Royal Barbados Police Force and other protective services in a drive to rid Barbados of criminal activity. The public welfare must be protected at all cost. Join me in this effort.
With those words, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, 1993, be now read a second time.

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, before I proceed to make my substantive response to the Minister, I think I ought to state the Opposition's position on the question of the integration of the Estimates and the Budget debate. There has been, as you are aware, Sir, some public controversy surrounding the purpose of such an integration. I want to clarify the Opposition's position. We believe this is a matter that ought to be referred to the Standing Orders Committee of Parliament. We have no fundamental objections to the 2 processes being brought closer together. Indeed, the presentation of Budgetary Proposals are at the discretion of the Minister of Finance. If we were ever to reach a stage where the estimated revenue of Government was to equal the estimated expenditure of Government and the Government saw no additional need to vary the rate of taxes there would be no need, indeed, for Budgetary proposals.

The mystification surrounding the Budget that first came in 1961, the presentation of the Budget through a black box has grown; but there is no statutory requirement that a series of budgetary proposals must be presented. What we must have is the presentation of Estimates under the auspices of the Appropriation Bill. That notwithstanding there are rules governing the convention by which the Budget, as understood by the ordinary man, is debated.

All I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, is simply this. The Minister of Finance has a responsibility to coordinate the work of his Cabinet. He cannot, however, determine the procedures applicable in this House. Nor can he unilaterally take decisions binding on the Opposition in relation to the conduct of debates without the Opposition exercising its right to say yea or nay to the changes proposed. To the extent that a year is now being set aside before these things are fully integrated, I am saying let us therefore refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee of the House.
In the Standing Orders of the House reference is made to the manner in which a Budget debate should be handled. Therefore, all the confusion surrounding this matter could be resolved if the issue is sent to the Standing Orders Committee of the House. Having said that, at the same time let me also insist that the question of the appropriate documentation and the timing of the presentation of that documentation which should be laid to support such an extended debate should be dealt with



by the Committee of the House. We on this side feel strongly that the integration of the Estimates and the Budget makes sense only if we have access to the relevant documents in sufficient time to be able to read them simultaneously.

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The docpments being the Estimates, the Auditor-General's Report, the Central Bank Report and the Economic Report. We believe clearly the Opposition must have access to these documents x in sufficient time to be able to sensibly contribute to an amalgamated Budget and Estimates debate. We have, as I said, no fundamental disagreement in principle with the proposal to bring the 2 processes closer together but it has to be properly managed. It has to be discernibly under the control of Parliament and there must be the presentation of sufficient documentation in all forms that will allow the House to discuss these matters intelligently. This will have to be resolved.
As it stands now, Mr. Speaker, this House would not be in a position during the course of one week to deal with the Budget and the Estimates because to this date we have not yet seen the Central Bank Report nor the Economic Report.

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: If they have not seen it I shudder to believe-that a Minister of Finance would prepare a Budget without having the benefit of an Economic Report. But it is, perhaps, symbolic of the disorder that has overtaken the formulation of the economic policy in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thought I would make that point at the very outset that even though we have no difficulty in principle with the bringing of the 2 processes closer together, there are Committees of this House which have been established for the purpose of resolving any difference that may arise in handling these procedural matters and we would want those Committees to be brought into operation during the course of the next year in order to have the matter resolved.
Mr. Speaker, I am not going to let my presentation dwell on the state of the economy nor, indeed, go* too deeply into matters pertaining to the functioning of the economy. This, in many respects, can turn out to be an historic debate because there are a large number of very important issues that have to be resolved during the course of these Estimates. Some of these issues have not at all been addressed nor adverted to by the Minister of Finance in what was, to all intents and purposes, merely a sterile recitation of the summary tables that have been contained in the Estimates.

Now, Sir, the critical issue I want to deal with in my presentation will be of a strictly financial character. This Budget realises the question of Government's incomes policy and the means by which Government intends to give effect to its incomes policy and I will address that matter. The Estimates also raise the question of Government's relationships with the international institutions, its capacity to define and finance a structural adjustment programme. I believe in the course of these Estimates debates that very burning issue has to be dealt with.

The Estimates also, Mr. Speaker, attempt to address the question of the future of the sugar industry and as one of the central matters of public attention this year. I will want, without encroaching upon the prerogatives of our shadow Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, to address some of the issues raised by sugar in these Estimates. 1.20 p.m.

The revenue estimates, Mr. Speaker, bear upon Government's capacity to give effect to tax reform, and I will want in my presentation to discuss the estimates of revenue as contained in the Estimates, Sir, with reference to the way in which they affect Government's capacity to carry out tax reforms. Equally, Sir, I want to touch on Government's proposals for divestment since they represent such a very important part- of Government's projected revenue and finally to touch on Government's debt management strategy. Those, Mr. Speaker, Sir, are the precise financial issues that I see this estimates as raising and which I believe, Sir, the House ought to address directly.
Having said all of that, Mr. Speaker, this year we are in for more of the same. To that extent I believe that any discussion of the Estimates before the House should be conducted with reference to a very objective discussion of the stewardship of the Minister of Finance over the course of the last financial year. As I said, Sir, these Estimates are more of the same sham that passed for financial management last year. The same bungling, Mr. Speaker, that passed for financial management last year is now being carried into these Estimates. Therefore I believe it behoves the House for us to discuss these Estimates by taking stock of the stewardship of the Minister of Finance in the course of the last financial year.

In this capacity, Sir, I have to remind the House that in last year's estimates the Minister of Finance set out to achieve a number of very precise economic goals. First of all, Sir, if you will recall, Government's estimates of expenditure and revenue were all part and parcel, so the Minister-said last year, of an economic strategy to give rise to economic recovery in Barbados and to bring about economic growth of about 1.2 per cent

A*.

3099

As you might recall as well, Mr. Speaker, Government intended to give effect to that strategy of bringing about economic recovery, so the Minister of Finance said last year, by an expansion of Government's capital programme. And Government saw the expansion of its capital programme as a way of complementing private sector expansion leading to increased job creation in this country.

Mr. Speaker, the outturn of Government finances as contained in the estimates for financial year 1992/93, qualify us in the House to say, that far from there being financial stability in this country in public finances as the Government often alleges and far from there being economic stability in this country as Government often boasts, the financial outturn for 1992/93 points directly to grave financial and economic disorder in Barbados. I want to repeat, Sir, that when one takes stock of the outturn for 1992/93, one is brought face to face with rampant widespread economic and financial disorder in this country and I will illustrate what I am trying to say, Sir, very carefully. *

Let us begin with revenue. Last year the Minister of Finance told us that it was anticipated the Government of Barbados was going to realise over $1 077 million in revenue on the strength of a projected recovery in the Barbados economy. This year, Mr. Speaker, he comes back to the House and tells us that Government's revenue has been some $91 million less than was projected at this same time last year So that Government's revenue is almost 10 *per* cent less than was projected at this same time in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a 10 per cent decline in Government's revenue in the context of a fiscal situation where Government, as you know, increased the land tax, came later in the year and increased taxes on gasoline and other commodities, speaks to an economy and is illustrative of an economy that is in fact declining at a faster rate than the Central Bank of this country is prepared to admit. When we take the fact that the Government's revenues are 10 per cent less than projected in combination with the fact that imports in this country have fallen by 18 per cent, I think we are in a position to begin to say that the information now available to Government to the effect that the Barbadian economy has declined by 6 per cent in current prices is in fact accurate information. Government now has access to information that is telling the Government even before you make adjustment for increased prices, at current prices the Barbados economy declined by as much as 6 per cent. So when, Sir, you subtract from that the effects of price increases, in real terms the Barbados economy could have fallen by as much as 10 per cent. And it is borne out by the fact that Government's projection of its revenues are about 10 per cent less than was established at the start of the year and imports are 18 per cent off. We are an im o i intensive economy, Sir, and there is simply no way that an 18 per cent fall in imports in Barbados will cause only a 4 per cent contraction in economic activity. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when one looks at the financial outturn the Government cannot begin to speak in terms of financial stability in this country. There is grave disorder in Government finances and the Minister is promising us more of the same.

I go forward, Sir. The Minister of Finance, last year, also promised that he would have been able, with the assistance of multilateral lending institutions, to mount a capital programme of $175 million which would in and of itself have led to increased job creation in this country.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that rather than being able to undertake a capital programme of $177 million we are now being told that the capital programme for last year, Sir, was no more than in the order of $103 million. So, Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Government's inability to give effect to its capital programmes as proposed last year, is a major contributing factor to the increasing levels of unemployment in this country. And the Minister of Finance should say so because he is again this year promising us more of the same.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that last year the Minister of Finance also laid out a financial strategy by which his overall budget would have been financed. He identified then, and I must remind the House of this, that he would have raised $160 million in foreign loans to finance his capital development programme; most of which would have been taking the form of loans from multilateral lending institutions to finance structural adjustment over which his Ministry would have been presiding. So $160 million of foreign loans, most of them multilateral loans were to be raised. Only $9 million in domestic financing was to be raised to support last year's estimates, on the grounds that the Government of Barbados would have allowed the private sector of this country to have access to any increase in net deposits in the banking system of this country.

What has been the outturn, Sir? Rather than realising $169 million in foreign loans the Minister of Finance has been able only to mount $57 million in foreign loans. And he has not been able, Mr. Speaker, to give effect to any serious structural adjustment in this country. And far from drawing only upon $9 million of domestic financing the Minister of Finance has had to call upon $85 million of domestic financing.

We have already in this House, Sir, drawn attention to the fact that, contrary to everything the Minister set out to achieve last year in relation to the financial strategy, Government's access to domestic credit has risen, whereas the private sector's access to domestic credit, Sir, has declined. 1.30 p.m.

3100

The drastic deterioration in the economic circumstances of this country can now be directly traced back to the character of the financial stewardship that the Minister of Finance practiced last year and the radical departure of his financing plan from what was initially conceived.

There is no financial stability, Mr. Speaker, if one is speaking in terms of financial stability from the point of view of Government's access to foreign and local credit to realistically carry into effect a programme designed to bring about growth and staple employment in this economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not believe that this House has ever been presented with a more disastrous financial stewardship than that over which the Minister of Finance presented last year. To all intense and purposes, a large part of the exercise in these Estimates this year should be designed to correct all of the flaws in financial stewardship that have caused this economy to be as unstable as it is. But I think at the very outset of this debate, Sir, I have to explode this myth that Barbados has a stable financial position. \
The Minister of Finance argues this case only on the grounds that he has managed to bring about a zero deficit. He has not explained to the people of this country all of the steps that he had to take to the disadvantage of the public purse in order to bring that deficit to zero, Mr. Speaker. The notion, therefore, of financial stability is not borne out by the fact that Government's projection of its revenue is 10 per cent off what the initial figure was of $91 million in revenue. Government's capital programme and its capacity to generate jobs has been $70 million less than what Government stipulated at the start of the year. Government's capacity to finance its plans by access to both domestic and foreign credit radically depart from the strategy that Government set itself.

Sir, against that background, I want to begin to deal with some of the key issues that these Estimates raise this year. The first is the question of Government's incomes policy. Sir, when I picked up these Estimates, they say to me that Government's total expenditure, is going to be $1.28 billion and in that expenditure Government is going to restore the 8 per cent Government is going to increase its capital spending from $103 million to $135 million and it is going to increase its purchase of goods and services. Government's revenues are going to increase from $986 million to $1 billion and 60 million. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there is going to be an over $70 million increase in Government's revenues. Even though there is going to be a gap of $220 million, Government has already identified how it is going to close its gap.
Let me explain, Sir. Government says that it is going to have a gap of $220 million and it has already identified that it is going to raise $174 million from foreign sources of which $59 million will be from IADB and $26 million from the World Bank. It says that it is going to raise $46 million from domestic sources and the financing left to be raised is to be zero. The point, therefore, is this. The Government in the next financial year is going to restore the 8 per cent cut, and at the same time it is going to increase Government's purchase of goods and services to meet its operational requirements. It is also going to expand its capital programme by $30 million. Having done all of these things, the Estimates say that it is going to be able to raise all of the financing required to meet its financial obligations. Why is there controversy in the country on the question as to whether or not the Government should restore the 8 per cent? I want to repeat the point, Mr. Speaker. The restoration of the 8 per cent pay cut to the Public Service is part of an overall Government expenditure of $1 billion 280 million. But the Government has already identified, Mr. Speaker, precisely how it is going to pay for all of its expenditures this year. On page 8, financing to be raised is identified as zero.

Mr. Speaker, I am therefore at a total loss as'to precisely why there should be a controversy now over Government's capacity to repay the 8 per cent From a financial point of view, Mr. Speaker, Government's Estimates this year show that from a financial point of view the Government of -Barbados should not have difficulty in restoring the 8 per cent. Let me narrow the point, Mr. Speaker. The projected increase in Government's revenue this year of $70 something million will be more than enough to cover the restoration of the 8 per cent. The increase in Government's intake from income tax this year of $70 million will be

more than enough to cover the $37 million restoration of the 8 per cent.
Mr. Speaker, I therefore want to establish one thing at the outset of this debate. There can be no financial argument based on these Estimates that can stand in the way of the Government's restoration of the 8 per cent. Therefore, if there are other considerations, they have nothing whatsoever to do with the manner in which these things are projected.

*Aside.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am only quoting from Government's statistics as presented at page 8 of the Estimates. It is an issue because we have heard from different sections of the same Government 3 different positions on the question as to whether the 8 per cent cut should be restored or not The public is confused, Mr. Speaker. The trade unions are confused. The private sector is confused. I believe it behoves this House,

3101

Mr. Speaker, in the course of this debate to have this matter clarified once and for all.

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I must seek your protection.
Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure the Honourable Member must be afforded the opportunity to make his contribution without any unnecessary interference. I will give him that assurance. Continue.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, we have had 3 different positions taken by 3 members of Cabinet which have confused the public. We have had a statement attributed to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, that he has not contradicted, to the effect that the restoration of the 8 per cent cut will be disastrous and that it will possibly lead to a devaluation. 1.40 p.m.
He has not contradicted that statement as far as I am aware. We have heard the Minister of Finance say that he is bound by law to restore the 8% pay cut, although he has left open the possibility that after we have restored the 8% pay cut by way of these Estimates sometime after the Estimates has been approved something else may happen. This is a very serious matter because the public is confused.

We have heard the Minister of Health speaking in terms - and I want to be accurate where his contribution is concerned - not of a $2Y_2$% tax as I understand it, but a voluntary across-the-board $2V_2$% cut in the wages by everybody in Barbados presumably on the presumption that the public servants will have their 8% restored first and then they would cut by 2%.

Now, Sir, that is...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. Because information which has been put in the House has been distorted" when published I just wish to establish what I said was $1V_2$ - 2% cut. That is not for you really. It is for anybody who is listening to you.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point I am making is that we have had these 3 alternative positions taken by 3 members of a Cabinet. Now, we have laid before this House Estimates approved by Cabinet in which the restoration of the 8% can be carried out and its restoration will cause Government no financial problem whatsoever. That is the point.

tDbviously, upon the basis of the document the House has before it, there can be no need in Barbados for a voluntary $2Y_2$% wage cut in the public an... private sectors.
In point of fact, the documents show that the financing of the restoration will cause no problem. Equally so, Mr. Speaker...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Especially when it comes from the same side that the Honourable Member is speaking.
because from a financial point of view, Government can restore it without having to raise additional revenue.

The time has come for Government, in a manner in which the Minister of Finance has not done today, to clarify this matter. Therefore, Sir, this debate will be ineffectual unless at the end of the day we have clarification on one essential point. That point is that the public servants are going to have the 8% restored now, whether there will be a further adjustment in the wages of public servants, either in the form as recommended by the Minister of Health or in any other form. Also, to the extent that the Government is saying in these Estimates that there are going to be no financial difficulties, the issue arises as to whether it will use other additional macro-economic changes, whether they be in exchange rate or whatever else after the restoration.

The Minister must speak to this point because he is asking this House to restore the 8%; and we can restore it because he has given us the assurance that no financial problem is going to ensue and no further macro-economic policy changes will have to be made to accommodate the restoration of the 8%. The House must hear the Minister of Finance speak to this matter in order for us to be able sensibly to approve these Estimates.

That leads on to my second point. Last year, the Minister of Finance brought to this House Estimates containing a financing plan which was based on the presumption that the Government would, have access to a large amount of multilateral financing from the World Bank and the IADB to carry into effect a structural adjustment programme. At this stage, Sir, before I even develop that point let me make a point in parenthesis. The Government of Barbados can get 2 types of loans from multilateral institutions. It can get loans to carry out projects; and we have gotten those loans from time immemorial. Once the Government of Barbados can present projects that are feasible and are bankable they will get access to project loans from the multilateral lending institutions. Most of the loans with the IADB are project loans and are based upon the Government of the day presenting to these institutions bankable projects.



On the other hand, these institutions maintain the facility of being able to make available to Government investment loans to bring about changes in the economy, subject to there being a meeting of minds between the institution and the Government on major macro-economic policy matters.

Sir, the Government of Barbados continues to be able to have access to project loans. What is at issue and was at issue in last year's Estimates is the capacity of the Government of Barbados to get access to investment type loans to carry out structural adjustment in this economy. As I said, Sir, we are getting more of the same, and I will explain why.

Last year if you will recall, there was a vote under the Ministry of Finance in the amount of $44 million which was the vote through which Government was going to finance investment in the economy under the auspices of a structural adjustment programme. In support of that vote of $44 million under the Ministry of Finance, we saw in the Estimates of last year very ambitious statements by Government concerning its capacity to draw down funds from these institutions, not for projects, but to undertake structural adjustment When we examine the stewardship of the Minister of Finance, what has become very clear is that the Minister of Finance has not been able last year to draw down one penny from the multilateral institutions to carry out structural adjustment in this .economy. To the extent that that $44 million vote was used last year, it was used, as we know, independently by Government to put $9 million into tourism expenditure - I will deal with that later - and $9 million for sugar. Last year, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Barbados did not have any access to multilateral financing for investment, although the financing plan on page 8 last year based Government's whole financing strategy on its access to multilateral financing from the institutions. This year there is more of the same. But there is 1 very important difference in these Estimates which cast a very dark doubt upon the capacity of the Government of this country to carry out a structural adjustment programme this year. The Government has included financing from multilateral institutions to carry out

structural adjustment because the total financing from foreign sources, from these institutions of $100 million odd is more than the $88 million in projects that are contained in these Estimates.

We have $174 million in foreign financing of which $59 million is a vote from the IADB, $26 million from the World Bank, $18 million from the CDB, $5 million from the European Investment Bank and $5 million from the European Development Fund. When we peruse the Estimates, there is only $88 million in project activity as the Minister himself indicated. However he has included in the Estimates more than $88 million in project financing. So the implication must be that the balance above $88 million has to be to carry out structural adjustment. Indeed, Sir, as you know in any Government project Government is in fact required to put up some of the funds. Let me clarify that point. Government in the Estimates has $88 million in projects to be carried out of which some are like Sherbourne for which you cannot get multilateral financing. I am being generous, Sir.

The point I am making is that the financing plan set out this year by Government indicates that Government expects to have access to funds from those multilateral institutions that go beyond what is required to carry out projects in the country. The balance has to be for carrying out structural adjustment. 1.50p.m.

Now last year, Mr. Speaker, as I said, under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs there was a vote under which the Prime Minister said he was going to distribute funds to the productive sectors for structural adjustment But I would ask the House to go to page 18 of the Estimates where we have a new vote called the Planning and Project Cycle Management; the purpose of which is to cover expenses associated with the implementation of the Planning and Project Cycle components of a Multi-Sectoral Pre-investment Programme which is being partially financed, by the Inter-American Development Bank.
Let me therefore explain what that means. The Government is now only at the pre-investment stage of trying to define a structural adjustment programme for this country. Last year I reminded this House that the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs had at the core of his financing plan, the drawing down of funds to carry out structural adjustment under his Ministry's supervision. But those plans were not realised because there was no structural adjustment programme in place. This year he is coming to the House to ask us to approve for his Ministry a vote of half a million dollars to begin to do pre-investment studies. Then you go to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and you have the same thing again, money being asked of this House to do pre-investment studies which may some time in the future lead to a structural adjustment programme.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious thing because the people of Barbados had been led to believe that we were going through a sensible cycle; that the economy has been stabilised and that we are now at the point of being able to undertake structural adjustment in this country. But these Estimates are telling us that the Government of Barbados is at the point where, as they say, at the point where the tyre hits the tar, it is not ready.



In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that the Government of Barbados knows it is not in a position to draw down any funds for structural adjustment this year because it is only at the pre-investment stage, the financing plan of the Government is based on the notion that the Government is going to have this vast amount of funds from these institutions to do what it knows in its heart cannot be done. This becomes a sham that will bear upon Government's capacity to execute incomes policy from a financing point of view as well. It comes back to the fact that Government can restore the 8% and do the other things it wants to do at ,the same time of a discretionary nature like Sherbourne, and so on, as well as expand its access to goods and services as it wants to do by as much as $30 million, as well as expand its capital programme by $30 million, only if it will have access to the volume of foreign financing as set out in these Estimates. That is a fact. Therefore the question arises as to where does the Government of Barbados stand with these multilateral institutions in regard to its capacity to give effect to a structural adjustment plan this year?

I believe the Minister of Finance should have told this House that the relationship between the Government of Barbados and the multilateral institutions has not only been strained but in many fundamental respects

has broken down. I speak harshly about the Central Bank staff because they have been misleading the people of this country. They know there are 2 sets of targets the Government of Barbados has to meet the quarterly financial targets which have been met and also targets in relation to institutional changes and macro-economic changes which have not been met. As a result of not meeting the second set of targets, the Government of Barbados has not been in a position to draw down monies from the International Monetary Fund since September 1992. The Central Bank has told us that the IMF programme is on track. But they have not yet told the people of Barbados that because of the inability of the Government of Barbados to comply with the policy aspects and the institutional aspects of the programme, the Government's programme with the International Monetary Fund in terms of financial draw-downs has been suspended. One of the outstanding issues has to do with the commitment of the Government of Barbados to give effect to an incomes policy in the manner agreed to between the Minister of Finance and the IMF. I say to this House that the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs cannot be allowed to get away with more of the same. He asked for his 18 months and he has had it. He asked the unions to give him 18 months to get this economy on track and thereafter they could get back the 8%. But he has committed himself to the IMF. I go back to the Prime Minister's statement of September 1991 when he told this House that the incomes policy he had agreed to with the IMF would be a roll back in Government's wages and salaries by 8%. I cannot quote from Hansard but my notes of that debate said, "followed by a wage freeze in the public sector." That is what he said on September 17, 1991, that his incomes policy as it pertained to the public sector, was for a 8% cut in public sector wages and salaries in the first 2 years followed by a wage freeze in the public sector. And the IMF is holding him to his word.

Mr. Speaker, it becomes critical for the Minister of Finance to tell this House where his Cabinet, and he as the coordinator and leader of the Cabinet, stand on the question of the incomes policy. We can agree as Members of Parliament to approve these Estimates on the presumption that what he has so far said is all that will happen, that the 8% will be restored.

However what will be downstream consequences for Barbados? On the presumption, as I have said, that the elements contained in Government's financing plans cannot be realised, since Government does not have a structural adjustment programme to execute although it is saying that it is going to have access to structural adjustment financing, what are Government's options? Are we going to be left to be in the hands of the Honourable Member for St. John or are we going to be left in the hands of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West? In a real sense that is where we are.

This House would be irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, to let the Minister of Finance come to this House knowing there are those outstanding matters that must be addressed, and we do not press him today as part of a decision making process in this country to address this matter. This is one of the key issues raised in this debate.

I am saying, Sir, in these Estimates there is a tremendous flaw to the extent that the Estimates assume that there is going to be a relationship between the Government and those multilateral institutions at a level other than projects. The IADB will be helping the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports to do pre-investment studies. The Government is however not ready yet with a structural adjustment programme. But more to the.point, it is not in a position to satisfy those institutions that it can execute one. Therefore it should not show structural adjustment financing as part of this exercise.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended until 3.00 p.m. today.

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

*The question that the sitting be suspended until 3.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative*

*without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.*
2.00 p.m.
RESUMPTION Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: For the purpose of continuity I just want simply to underscore the point that I have been at pains to make so far and it is simply this. From a purely financial point of view there ought to be no controversy surrounding the restoration of Government's 8% cut. The estimates of expenditure as they stand, Mr. Speaker, show that Government purports to be able to restore the 8% cut as part of a package of increased expenditure, and that it has already identified the financing to pay for this increased wage bill without this year having to be put to the need to increase taxes CM* without, Mr. Speaker, having to do something subsequently by way of making some additional adjustment to wages. And to the extent that this is so, Mr. Speaker, I believe the Government should say so very clearly. But having said that, Sir, the question as to whether Government can move this plan from the paper on which it now stands into practice in my judgment, Sir, depends upon the credibility that one attaches to the elements contained in Government financing plan. The argument from this side is simply this, Mr. Speaker. When we look at the elements of Government's financing plan on page 8, Government's financing $an depends inordinately on Government's capacity to be able to draw funds from multilateral institutions to undertake structural adjustment programmes. The 2 precise difficulties that we have with that, Sir, is that the body of the estimates do not show, from the point of view of expenditure where Government can have access to such programmes, Sir. But equally so that the relationship between the Government and the multilateral lending institution is so strained that at a recent meeting of this same House on the 23rd of February 1993 my notes, Mr. Speaker, Sir, .indicate that the Minister of Finance then said, and I am referring back to my notes, Sir, that there was a possibility of his having to do this year without having access to funds from these multilateral lending institutions. However, Sir, we have this situation on our hands where the estimates themselves however are based on the premise that the Government will only be able to finance the restoration of the 8% cut if it is going to have access to funds from multilateral institutions to an extent that has been even greater than last year. And therefore it becomes necessary for the Government to have to clarify where it really stands on this matter. We cannot deal with the restoration of the 8%, Sir, only from a legal point of view. As a necessity the Minister of Finance is only dealing with it from a legal point of view. Let me explain what why I am saying this, Sir. Existing legislation requires him to have to restore the 8% and to that extent therefore, Sir, he is reflecting it in thfe estimates of expenditure as an increase in expenditure.

But the Minister of Finance knows that there are matters pertaining to this 8% restoration that go beyond just what he has brought to this House by way of law. He knows, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that he has written into an Agreement with the International Monetary Fund that he will not in point of fact be restoring the 8% this year. So that our agreeing to the estimates as they stand, Sir, is in essence our agreeing 'to a sham. And it stands, Mr. Speaker, as clearly as that. Where does the Minister of Finance stand in relation to this matter as a whole? Is he really intending to restore the 8% with no subsequent actions or is he going to give effect to some of the other Undertakings that he has given the International Monetary Fund? In which event, Sir, there will be major changes in his macro-economic policies and, I am saying to this House, he would have an obligation to this House to tell us, Sir, what will be the consequences ensuing from his actions. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that page 8 of these estimates are the key to understanding these Estimates this year.
Sir, I do not believe, for example, that the Government is going to be able to have access to $58 million in financing on the private foreign market. But page 8 would lead us to believe that Government is going to have access to such financing. We are aware that very recently the Government has had to bring to the House a Resolution seeking permission to borrow US$12 million and the only people in the world who were prepared to lend Barbados money on the foreign markets were the international banks that have local branches in Barbados, after the Government, Sir, had searched the world markets for a year for foreign financing. But now the Minister of Finance wants us to agree to a financing plan this year that is based on the presumption that the Government is going to be able to borrow $58 million on the foreign market this year as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this matter becomes very important because last year the House agreed to a financing plan that the Government brought to it that presumed that the Government would have been able to borrow

$160 million abroad. As we now know, Sir, the Government was not able ta borrow more than $55 million abroad. This year the Government's overall capacity to deliver and to make the restoration of the 8% stick depends upon Government being able to possibly borrow $174 million abroad most of it from institutions which do not agree that the Minister of Finance should restore the 8%. So, Sir, this House, last year, in the exercise of its responsibilities gave sanction to the Minister's financing plan as set out at page 8. Given the outturn for last year and given where we know that Government stands with the multilateral institutions. Sir, the Minister just cannot come and present these numbers without speaking seriously to the fundamental issues that lie behind the numbers, Sir.



It is our judgment that the Minister of Finance is seeking to carry us through the same sham that he took us through for the last 18 months. But the public is restive, Sir. The public has given him 18 months because they believed that he was capable of bringing about a recovery 18 months. However his grace period is up. He is now leading the public to believe that he can restore an 8 percent. If he cannot, say so. But the people of Barbados are tired being taken for a ride. And I say to this House that if this Government purports today to appear that it is restoring this 8% and then thereafter it goes and does something else, there will be serious problems in this country. That, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is why this matter is so serious. It is basically why the Minister of Health who is now trying to interrupt my speech, Sir, is having a position that is different from that of his Prime Minister because he understands the gravity of the point.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is saying, Sir, that I am interrupting him from my seat when I was not even looking at him. How could he say that, Sir. He has to withdraw that. It is not fair. I have done nothing. I have not interrupted him. I was not even paying attention at the time.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I said this morning that if the Honourable Member would ask some of his colleagues to do some of the same things he asking me to protect him from I would be grateful. I would be grateful for that. 3.10 p.m.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am always doing that to them, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Speak a little more to them.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Roman times when there was a restless population and the Roman Emperors wanted to quiet the population, they brought on bread and the circus. In this country, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has said only today that he is going to be restoring the 8 per cent. His financing plan is telling this House and he is asking us to agree that he is going to restore the 8 per cent without doing anything else. The fact is, Sir, if the Minister intends to do something else hereinafter, it is going to cause great problems in this country.

Therefore, if the Minister knows that he is only doing this as a legalistic exercise because existing law does not allow him to go other than to restore the 8 per cent in a formalised way but that he is going to do something else subsequently, I believe that he has to move beyond the limit£ of just talking within the narrow confines that he has set for himself and show leadership for the first time. That is the point. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I Ho not believe that the Member for St. Michael West is trying to cause problems in his Government. I do not believe so. I believe that he has spoken on the question of the restoration of the 8 per cent from a genuine concern. Separate and distinct from the legalistic points involved, I generally feel that he has spoken from a genuine concern that there may be additional things that his Cabinet may have to do and that he is trying to find the least costly way of mitigating the damage that might ensue. That is how I see his contribution is to this entire issue. But his intervention in and of itself indicates that in the bowels of the DLP there is a fundamental difference of opinion regarding the capacity of the Government to restore the 8 per cent without subsequent heavy damage having to be imposed on the Barbados economy by the Minister of Finance having to introduce devaluation. These Estimates are about how we are going to deal with that problem. I say to this House that it will be derelict in its responsibilities if we allow the Minister of Finance again to carry us for a ride. I really feel so. As I said, Sir, the Opposition has examined Government's financing plan that calls upon the Government to draw a lot of funds from the very

multilateral institutions which disagree with his approach to the wage restoration. We say that when you put everything together, there is too much left to be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have said as much as I want to say on that particular issue. I want to go on to other matters that have been raised by the Estimates, Sir. I want to deal with Government's estimated revenues which have been presented to this House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year's financial out-turn should be enough for us to agree that this House must take the forecasting of Government's revenue seriously. Government's revenue was $91 million less last year than Government forecasted. That is a very serious problem because the Ministry of Finance historically and generally prefers to use a conservative estimate of revenue rather than an optimistic estimate. The reason is that, quarter by quarter the Ministry of Finance has to tell the Ministries how much they must spend. Its estimate as to how much Ministries must spend is based on its own forecast as to the revenues that it will receive. If the Ministry of Finance is using outlandishly optimistic estimates of revenue, it is by that fact alone going to instigate a process of squandermania that it cannot finance.

Sir, as I said last year, the Government based its estimates and revenue on the presumption that there would be growth. This year the Minister of Finance is telling us again that he expects revenue to grow by $70 million again because he again expects there will be growth in the Barbados economy. I do not know where this growth is going to come from. I say to the House that, if the Minister of Finance is telling us that he is going to be able to realise $70 million additional in revenue, part of which can be used to pay for the wage increase, part of which



can be used to finance the expansion of the capital programme, he has an obligation to tell us from which sectors in the economy this growth is going to arise.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people in this House who believe that forecasting is a form of soothsaying. I do not believe that it is. There was an occasion in Jamaica when I was the Director of Economics and Financial Analysis at the Jamaica Bauxite Institute and the responsibility of my department every year was to forecast the price of aluminum worldwide to be gazetted in a Parliament by April 15th. My department had the responsibility to bring it within one cent per pound and we had to get it to the House by April 15th. That record is outlined in the Jamaica Bauxite Institute Journal, Volume I, 1980 and I want to read this into the records of this House, Sir. In 1975, the JIB's forecast ingot price was 39 cents and the actual price turned out to be 38.92 cents. In 1976, we forecast the price as 42 cents. It turned out to be 42.52 cents. In 1977, we forecast the price would be 51 cents. It turned out to be 51.97 cents. In 1978, we forecast a year in advance that the price would be 53 cents. It turned out to be 53.48 cents and, in 1979, 61.03 cents.
Sir, I do not claim credit for that work. There was a gentleman by the name of Carlton Davis, one of the 2 best public servants I believe in the Caribbean, who gave direction to this. The point is that professional economists differ from the laymen. A professional economist cannot be allowed to draw numbers from a hat particularly when.he has to be advising people on how they must live. When we forecast revenues,, the estimates of revenues that we agree to in this House determine how we are going to tax people in Mile-And-A-Quarter and Ashton Hall and across this country.

I am saying to the Minister that I am not going to take any foolishness from the Minister of State in particular who often comes to this House and talks about forecasting as a form of soothsaying. If they do not have good professional advice in the Ministry of Finance, acquire it. But this House must no longer take decisions that can bear upon how people in this country live upon the basis only of bad forecasting techniques. We then heai* Ministers who must preside better over this process coming to rationalise it, Sir. I had to make my living by giving good forecast I am saying that in the same way I had to make good forecasts in another House, this House is as deserving of that kind of treatment.
Therefore, when I speak to the revenue forecast, it is against the background of the fact that last year part of the financial instability in this country was precisely because Government's revenues were $97 million or 10 per cent less.

Mr. SPEAKER: One little technicality here. Was the Honourable Member saying that he was reading?

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I will make this a document of the House, Mr. Speaker. I do not share the Government's view in relation to the possibility for growth this year and perhaps we will have to deal with that in the Budget. But I want to talk about the Heads that give rise to this massive increase. The Government is forecasting that Corporation Tax is likely to rise from $87 million last year to $105 million this year. Sir, the Government should be in a position to know that the Corporation Tax that will be paid in the next financial year bears a relationship with the performance of the companies in the course of the last financial year and some of them had a financial year that overlapped with this calendar year. The business conditions in Barbados do not warrant, Mr. Speaker, the optimism that the Corporation Tax intake is going to rise by as much as 25 per cent. That is, however, what the Minister of Finance is telling us. There are some companies which are even now reporting that they have recorded losses. 3.20 p.m.
The notion of the Minister bringing to the House a corporation tax estimate...

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR:...they are in decline and, Mr. Speaker, it is a question of judgment I am saying to the House that the Minister's judgment has to be seriously flawed if he can base a lot of his financial strategy on the presumption that corporation tax is going to increase from $87 million last year to $105 million this year. It has to be madness. I would like at the end of the day for it to be realised. The facts to which one has access now would not suggest that this is a realisable target.

In relation to the income tax, Sir, the interesting thing about the projection of the income tax is that income tax is scheduled to rise from $130 million to $208 million. As I said earlier, the projected increase in income tax alone would be enough to pay for the restoration of the 8% pay cut and to pay for the increase in Government's capital programme. Also, if it is realised, it gives the lie to the position that this DLP Government has taken, that it has given with one hand and taken back with the other, but at the end of the day the net yield from its income tax reform is going to be zero. It has said that it will give back stabilisation tax and it will change the tax bands and tax rates, but at the end of the day it is not going to affect people, but will leave them in the same financial position. There is simply no way that Government's take from the income tax will rise by more than 50% in a year and nobody in Barbados will be in a worse tax position. Again, Sir, that has to be madness.

When the direct tax reforms were brought to this House we argued that it was a tax gathering exercise. We heard from the other side that it was going to be neutral



in effect It has said that it will give with one hand, it will take with the other, but that it will give as much as it takes. This year's income tax is scheduled to be more than the income tax of last year, the stabilisation tax on individuals and the transport levy combined. So the effect of the removal of the stabilisation tax and the cutting of the transport levy, as cuts in taxation, do not compensate for the draconian increases the Government of Barbados is going to impose this year by lowering that $15 000 to $13 000 and changing the tax rates. The numbers condemning the stand that Government has so far taken on this issue are borne out in what the Minister of Finance himself has brought to this House.

The Government also expects that the consumption tax this year is to rise, without any tax increase, from $231 million to $291 million, a $60 million increase. The fact is, Sir, as you would appreciate, that in circumstances where the Government maintains in place measures to curb consumption, it is highly unlikely that you can get that kind of increase in consumption tax, except forgone thing. The Government has recently varied the consumption tax on energy products, but it has not properly told this House how much revenue that increase in gasolene and other energy products will yield. Barbados now finds itself ir a position where die price of gasolene is over $7 a gallon and the next nearest price of gasolene anywhere in the Caribbean is about $4,50 a gallon. In Jamaica the equivalent price in Barbados dollar terms is $2.58 a gallon; The only wry in which the consumption tax can

increase fcom $231 million to $291 million is if in point of fact the yield from things like the consumption tax on gasolene is far greater than this Minister has so far told this House.

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: A $30 million restoration of wages cannot lead to an increase of $60 million in the consumption tax. What foolishness is that?
Sir, I do not want to anticipate the Budget, but the composition of Government's indirect taxation, except import duties, suggests that the Government of Barbados this year has no intention whatsoever of seriously changing the structure of its indirect taxation. The tax on luxury goods is in fact, without any increase in the tax rate, to rise from $12 million to $14.6 million.
Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that the most important change which must take place in Barbados now for this economy to have any prospect of recovery is for a change in the indirect tax regime that applies to most of our main productive sectors, in particular tourism. We have to keep repeating this point because it is fundamental, in our view, to recovery. The tourism sector, in particular, is struggling, because what Government regards as luxury goods and hence subject to high rates of consumption tax are inputs for tourism. It has substantially raised the operating expenses of the tourism sector and this is a factor that has over the course of the last few years caused Barbados to be unattractive as a place for investment in the tourism industry.

I believe, therefore, that the Government of Barbados, if it is going to get the economy started again, has to change the nature of the indirect tax regime, particularly for a sector like tourism, it should be told that it has no intention of completely changing the whole structure of the indirect tax.regime because it wants to introduce a VAT, that tourism cannot wait for 2 more years. As you know, Sir, the sector has started this year with very poor results and it needs something concrete doing to it in order to change its fortunes. The point I am making is simply this, that the rest of the economy may have to wait for 2 years for the VAT to be brought and serious indirect taxation reform to be undertaken, but tourism has been in the doldrums from 1989.

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Member for St. Michael East wants to discount all of the work that has been done.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Honourable Member has not spoken yet. I have not heard him.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The Deputy Prime Minister *sotto voce* is of the view that the Minister of Tourism has been a complete failure, because he can show no evidence whatsoever of any progress in tourism between 1982 and 1989.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have not spoken in here. I do not know how on earth I can be of that opinion. How can he read my opinion, Mr. Speaker? I have never spoken anywhere inside of Barbados or outside of Barbados. How can he or anybody else, for that matter, read my opinion? Is he God? He can only be stupid.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no. Just one moment. Opinions are what we express in the Chamber, but statements are what we deal with. If the Honourable Member has an opinion, I have no problem with that, but if he is referring to a statement, then that is a problem.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that he, in my view, is the perfect equivalent of George Bush. He is a perfect Deputy and I have read his lips.
The fact is, Mr. Speaker, and we are not saying this just to create contention, that tourism cannot wait for 2 years for Government to introduce a change in the indirect tax regime. Part of the difficulty of

the sector is that it is wallowing under the imposition of things like the



luxury tax on goods that are used as inputs. Therefore I am pleading with the Government again that even if they have to let the rest of the economy wait for 2 more years, bring a special new deal for tourism. I have a fundamental difficulty with the tax on luxury goods, and the rest of the indirect tax in the projection of the Government, to the extent that they do not show Government's understanding of the need to put in place in Barbados a new regime that can allow our potentially most vibrant sector to regain its vibrancy to this country's advantage. 3.30 p.m.

Now, Sir, on the import duties. I am seeking clarification. Government's estimation of its revenues are made upon the basis of existing law. So the import duties like any other revenue would have to be projected upon the basis of the existing rates as set in law. The Government is, however, protecting import duties to fall from $72 million to $51 million. If the understanding is that this projection reflects Government's giving effect to the CET, then I think Government should say so. Having said so, it should give a greater clarification than the Minister of Finance has given today.

The initial understanding was, as I understood it, was that the new CET was going to reduce import duties by as much as $35 million. So what is reflected here, the drop from $72 million to $51 million if it incorporates Government bringing to bear the new CET, would be reflective of Government giving effect to the CET only in part. The imposition of the Common External Tariff affects the manufacturing sector in particular. As such, if the Government therefore is intending to give effect to the CET in part rather than in whole you will expect therefore that the Minister of Finance would say so.
I raise this point now because this is therefore something the Minister of Finance does not have to introduce by way of Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals next week. Therefore the need for clarification is great because it will define the financial horizons within which a large section of the manufacturing industry in Barbados will have to operate. We need to hear the Minister of Finance speak very distinctly to that particular matter.

I also said that I wanted to speak to the whole question of sugar. The Estimates this year, as I understand them, will make provision for the Government of Barbados to make at least 3 different contributions to the sugar industry under 3 different Heads and in return get repayment from the sugar industry of $9 million. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, this Opposition will support the effort by Government to try to bring to bear a financial solution to the sugar industry. But I want to make in advance a submission to Government that to date a lot of the activity towards reviving the sugar industry in this country has taken the form of reviving the sugar industry of most of the large estates.

A large part of our problem in Barbados, however, is that between 1986 and 1988 most of the small farmers in the sugar industry in Barbados left the industry. They left the industry because the Minister of Finance at the time, who should have brought a price support to this House by December of 1986 did not bring a price support to this House. In point of fact it was left to this Minister of Finance to bring that price support of the 1986 industry in 1988. The fact is that the failure to bring a price support in a timely form on the 1986 crop has led us to this position in Barbados where the sugar industry has dropped to 50 000 tonnes.
In order to build back sugar in Barbados we will have to find a way of exciting again small producers in the fortunes of the industry. I am speaking to this point because our problems in Barbados go beyond financial problems. The self confidence of Barbadians has been shaken by our having to import sugar and sugar of the quality that we have had to import. I believe that our problem is a serious psychological problem and there are a large number of small farmers who if given the right incentive would *join* in the national effort to produce sugar again in this country.

Therefore, the position I am making in advance is that I would like to see the whole question of the reorganisation of the sugar industry addressed not jiist as big estates, to Government and to the BNB, but fundamental restructuring effected that can allow small producers to help us again reach the stage in Barbados where we can fulfil all of our export market requirements as well as to satisfy our local demand for sugar.

Mr. Speaker, I also have noted that Government this year is intending to increase the subvention to the St. Joseph Hospital. This matter will be dealt with by our Shadow Minister of Health. But I want to make a point of general principle. As I recall it, all members of the Democratic Labour Party in 1986, including members of the NDP went to Speightstown and signed a petition calling upon the Government to buy the St. Joseph Hospital. That is a fact.

As I recall it, all members of the DLP, up to 1988-89, supported the use to which the Hospital was going to be put I cannot go in public and speak about what the Public Accounts Committee is doing in relation to investigating the St. Joseph Hospital and I am not going to do it today. I want to make the point before this House today that the matter that the Public Accounts Committee is investigating in relation to the St. Joseph Hospital is expenditure that took place in 1989 and 1990 predominantly when the leader of .the National Democratic Party was the Leader



of the Opposition business in this House and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.
We are bound as members of the Public Accounts Committee not to go before the public and say what we are doing in Committee. But I will not have it said that this Opposition, which has initiated an investigation that we are intending to carry out with respefct for due process and that is what we are doing, will allow anybody who could have acted and refused to act to say that we are not performing in this Parliament I am not going to let that happen to this Barbados Labour Party.

*Asides.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, perhaps the work of the Committee is not going as fast as some people would like. Mr. Speaker, at least this Opposition has brought into existence the workings of the Committee to investigate and we will do it in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this in reference to the Committee?

Mr. O, S. ARTHUR: 1 am talking about a general principle.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I am trying to say is that the contents of the Honourable Member's comments may very well be purporting to say that you are talking from facts that have been released from the Committee which we do not in this House.

*Asides.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am sorry, Sir. I interrupted while you were speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am trying to warn you because I am getting the impression that these contents are within the premise of a Committee set up by the Standing Orders of this House which has not yet been reported to the House. Therefore, comments on that Committee may not very well be in order until that Committee has reported. 3.40 p.m.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I take your point but I have heard it abroad that a section of this House, particularly the Opposition, has abandoned its responsibility in relation to carrying out investigations into expenditure of the St. Joseph Hospital. I am saying that is a misrepresentation of the facts particularly when the same person who is making the accusation was Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee at the same time when the expenditure we are now investigating took place. I very much regret that the

leader of the National Democratic Party has surrounded himself with a collection of political stray dogs.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to say to the Honourable Member that language used in Parliament, especially if you want it to be of good Parliamentary language, must be moderate and temperate. I believe the language used may be a bit excessive for the records of this House.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am trying not to be excessive because I was going to go on to say that even though they are stray dogs some are worse than salmon tot retrievers. But I will not say that It is a serious thing, Sir, because I am bound by the Rules of the House not to go into public to say what is happening with our investigation of the St. Joseph Hospital. But the public is made to believe that we in this House are doing nothing about it and this is being said by that leader who could have done something about it when he was here. It is unfair. I believe the Press has to be more discerning in these matters because this House is being brought into disrepute by those kinds of unwarranted attacks on people in this Parliament

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas was the first person who brought to the public's attention the whole question of CARSICOT. But now we are hearing that we in the Barbados Labour Party allowed those things to happen without doing proper investigations. I am saying all this to make the point that we are very careful in our evaluation of public expenditure.

I am not going into the Estimates Head by Head but I want the House and the Minister of Finance to know that from this side we will be expecting the Government to justify every item of expenditure Ministry by Ministry particularly the increased spending on St. Joseph Hospital, Sherbourne and all of those other kinds of expenditure of which we have doubt.

I will go forward, Sir. The Minister of Finance and Economaic Affairs spoke to the question of divestment. I believe this is going to be an issue this House will have to resolve during this debate. I certainly, while I genuinely subscribe to some of the precepts of divestment do not agree that the Government of Barbados should sell our assets at the Barbados National Oil Company. I find it unconscionable. The Government of Barbados had to purchase the assets presently vested in the National Oil Company and the National Petroleum Company after a trans-national corporation had many years to carry out exploration in this country to prove our reserves. They did nothing about it. They walked out in 1984. We had to go and incur a loan. As a result of our incurring that loan we made investments that have substantially expanded the proven reserves, not only of oil in Barbados, but of natural gas. Nobody was prepared to do that for Barbados.

3110

The Minister cannot just come to this House and tell us blandly that he...

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Do not bring it to this House because the Opposition will not be agreeing at all. Given the history of the development of our energy resources we cannbt agree. We had to be put to all that, trouble beginning in 1984, of taking back the assets which were abandoned by the private sector, and developing them properly in a way the private sector did not. Now that we have developed it properly should we sell it back to the private sector? No.

The question of Heywoods - the Minister was good enough to say that negotiations are continuing. Again, the Barbados Labour Party does not agree that Heywoods should be part of a fire sale sold in the short space of time purely for the purposes of realising revenue. We are reminding the Government that it has just put in a 10-year agreement under which people holding the management contract will be entitled to 3% of the gross operating profit. By the time the Government settles that management agreement we could end

up getting nothing for Heywoods. We are not going to agree to that Eight years of compensation at the rate of 3% of operating gross profit would mean we would get nothing for Heywoods. No way. Heywoods is the kind of investment that the Government, if it is going to sell, should look to involve the Barbadian public in, but not to give it away in the way Government is giving it away. -
The Government is intending to sell 20% of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. Again, more details must be given by the Minister of Finance on this particular matter. But I will remind him again and my notes indicate that he said on February 23, that the $40 million from divestment would also be very much in doubt. I would want, therefore, to know what proportion of his financing plan for the next financial year is predicated on the assumption regarding his access to proceeds from investment The reason being, as you might know, that last year he came to this House and told us to agree to a financing plan under which the Ministry of Finance would raise $40 million from divestment. He is now reporting a year after that he managed only to realise $12 million from divestment If we are to accept his financing plan which will also affect his capacity to restore the 8%, he has to be exact this year regarding the amount we can expect from divestment I also want, Sir, to speak to the question of Government's debt management If you would turn to Appendix D - Statement of Public Debt and Sinking Fund - the Government of Barbados borrows funds under the External Loans Act in the form of bonds. The External Loan Act of Barbados at Cap. 94D, subsection 6 says that if the Government of Barbados raises bonds on the foreign market it has to establish a sinking fund to redeem those bonds.

Now, Sir, in 1987 the former Minister of Finance raised a bond on the Japanese market No sinking fund was established for its redemption with the result that in 1991 the full $60 million had all to be repaid on the same day. There are 2 debentures, one raised in Japan in the amount of $80 million to be redeemed in 1998 and the next raised in London in the amount of $112 million to be redeemed in 2015, both raised by this Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance often comes and regales this House about how he has had to repay other people's debts. The facts are that despite section 6 of Cap. 94D requiring him to create a sinking fund to prepare for these bonds, there are no funds set aside whatsoever in sinking funds to repay the bullet loan he raised in Japan and some part of it he has to start repaying this year. The loan raised on the London market in 1990 has to be repaid in 2015. The result will be that in the year 2015 if this House does not fulfil its responsibility some children, perhaps not yet born, will wake up and find that we left them with a $112 million loan to repay because we failed to comply with the law. I have brought to this House 2 Parliamentary Questions drawing Government's attention to it, Mr. Speaker, and despite the fact that it had been brought to Government's attention, the Minister would-not comply with the law. 3.50 p.m. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House will be failing in its responsibility if it did not insist that this Minister of Finance must comply with the law, and that moneys sufficient, as required by section 6 of Cap. 94D to build up a sinking fund to redeem the bonds raised by our Minister of Finance should be inserted in these estimates so that Barbados will not have to be embarrassed again as it was embarrassed in 1991 when the lack of funds to repay a bond raised by a previous Minister of Finance under the DLP Administration caused us to have to sell out the BET shares in a mad hurry, the BARTEL shares in a mad hurry and was one of the factors which caused the Government to have to enter a programme with the International Monetary»Fund.

Now, Sir, there is a provision in these Estimates for a sinking fund for local debt I want in every year that I am in this House of Assembly hereinafter - and I believe I would be failing in my responsibility not to - to insist that the Government, if it has a bond outstanding, do what the law requires. Errol Barrow brought this legislation to the House because the servicing of a bond is different from an ordinary loan. One pays an ordinary loan out of general revenue on a month by month basis as revenue is available but the servicing of a bond generally requires that you have to pay back the full amount at one go. If year by year



you do not set aside an amount to redeem it when it falls due you will wake up some day and find that you have a large sum of money to pay in one day but you have not complied with proper financial practice and the law of this country. And if therefore *for* 2 years now no moneys have been put in the sinking fund for redemption of foreign bonds and the only bonds now under this Act are bonds raised by the Minister of Finance who has the responsibility for managing this general area, Mr. Speaker, it

cannot continue in this way.

People abroad see these and they make judgements about the seriousness of Government's financial practices. Financial Managers can pick up our Estimates, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and look at Appendix D and would see, Sir, that we have over $200 million in bonds outstanding but no sinking fund to redeem them. And they will say this is a little banana republic to which no person of sound mind should lend. And one has got to ask, Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the people have not in point of fact have been saying exactly the same thing in dealing with these same numbers when for a whole year the Government walked the world trying to get money to borrow and the only people who would lend are banks that have local branches here who felt they had an obligation to come Barbados" assistance at this dine* So that ag-iin, Sir, this House must live up to its responsibility. It has to.
Indeed, Sir, it is a statutory expenditure and it is one of those things that once it appears in the Estimates we cannot even debate. It must be passed forthwith. That is what the law requires, Sir. It is sad that all financial management practices should be brought to a level where now for 2 years you can pick up these estimates... The Minister has a way...

Mr. SPEAKER: No I cannot but I must not allow....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I read his lips, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, part of our economic difficulties is that this Minister of Finance has a very casual and sometimes cavalier approach to dealing with serious matters and the haphazard nature of his approach borders on arrogance. We are speaking of serious matters that bear upon the responsibility of Parliament. And I am seeking, Sir, in my capacity as shadow Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only to help him, but to separate myself from the stricture when the generation of 2015 come to look at what we did and they ask what manner of men we could have been to leave them with this responsibility without complying with the law.
Mr. Speaker, if his conscience is clear about that, then I would remind him of what he said about us last year that he is using his conscience not as his guide but as his accomplice. He will remember the words, Sir, that you were using your conscience not as your guide but as your accomplice. He said that about us last year.

This matter, Sir, is too serious just for us to treat it in that casual way. And if in that $9 million the Government is going to make full provision, not only for making the sinking fund contributions for this year but for those that should have been in there before, then we can talk business because there is a $9 million provision *for* sinking fund. But bring the accounts of this House up to what the law requires.

Those, Mr. Speaker, Sir, are the basic financial issues that I really believe these Estimates raise. In our judgment some of these issues are very, very profound. We believe on this side, Mr. Speaker, that what was contained in the Estimates last year was a sham. The results now show that they were a sham.

We fear that the Minister of Finance, Sir, is asking us unquestioningly to accept the same. The sham of last year, when Government over-estimated its revenues, when Government committed itself to executing a capital programme to create jobs in this country that it could not execute, because fundamentally its financing plan could not be realised, is to be repeated this year.

Barbados has paid too heavy a price for the shams perpetrated by this Minister of Finance. And I would urge upon this House, given the seriousness of the issues that we must now grapple with, that will fundamentally affect, not only how this generation lives, but how future generations of Barbadians will relate to the society, to take these Estimates seriously and to ask this Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to justify what he has put in these Estimates. They are not just things put on paper, Sir. And where we have fundamental misgivings about what it contains, Sir, particularly Government financing plans, that serious answers be given to the concerns that we have raised.

Again, Sir, let me repeat...

Mr. Speaker, we have, as I said, fundamental difficulties with what Government has set out in its financing plan and it is not something to be taken lightly. Government's financing plan depends upon Government being able to draw large sums of money from the multilateral institutions but those institutions do not agree with Government's incomes policy as the Minister is purporting to set it out. So how the Government is going to reconcile the two is what this Estimates is about and I leave the debate, Sir, at that stage.

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

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and*



*the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.* 4.00 p.m.

COMMITTEE

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

HEAD 10 - GOVERNOR-GENERAL - $533 765

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $533 765 for Head 10, Governor-General stand part.

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

*The question that Head 10 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 11 - JUDICIARY - $818 260

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $818 260 for Head 11, Judiciary stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question... the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, there is a belief that you do not debate this Head. I am going to depart from any tradition to that effect I am not going to be long on this Head, Sir. I just want to say that there is a call for more judges. The volume of work in terms of cases filed in the High Court per year would suggest that there could be an increase in judges. In fact, towards the end of last year, I had served on me a writ that was No. 2255 of 1992. But I would caution Government when they are going to appoint additional judges to ensure that the infrastructure is in place. Now with quite indecent haste but for reasons well understood by this Opposition and members of the general public, the Government rushed in October, 1991 to establish a separate Court of Appeal. They established a separate Court of Appeal and appointed judges when the physical accommodation for the judges was far from ready.

Sir, I would counsel that even though Government is considering now the appointment of an additional judge or judges that they plan for that appointment very carefully. For this extra judge to be appointed, there would have to be a separate courtroom and judges chambers. I understand that Government has in mind using the Magistrates Civil Court and transferring the work of the Civil Court to an old school at St.

Matthias. So that the appointment of the new judge would be dependent upon the completion of the St. Matthias Civil Court But that is not the end of the matter and that will take a little time. There is no security in the Civil Court area such as should attend a judge. That is something that is of concern to judges and I would think to the legal profession and the general public at large. For a judge operating in the now Civil Court to get to that Court, he would have to pass through a very insecure area through the main yard downstairs and up the steps. I think that when they are planning for this judge in that Court Government ought to give consideration to ensuring that there is proper security for the judge.

Sir, I have as a matter of duty to raise another matter. There is one judge who through bad health had to retire and has left a number of cases in various states of completion. Some were partly heard and some were fully heard but only awaiting judgment. I have a list which was given to me by the President of the Bar today. There are about 27 on my list, Sir, that are outstanding with this judge. It appears as though there will be no solution to this matter in the sense that the judge will hardly be able to deliver any judgments in these cases. .The practical problem for the Administration of Justice is that some of these cases will probably have to be completely started again at great cost to persons involved and, indeed, at great cost to the concept of justice. Some of these are cases originating in 1985, for example. Some might be 1983 or 1984. If you restart those cases in 1993-94, you are asking witnesses to try to recall incidents that happened 8 or 9 years ago. That cannot augur well for the delivery of justice in Barbados, and I think that sooner or later the Government is going to have to address this matter and see how an intervention can be made by the Attorney General, representing the public interest - it is one of his functions to represent the public interest and intervene on behalf of the public where the interest of the public is concerned - to perhaps meet with the Bar and see if we can come up with a scheme where these cases can be dealt with, and the cost that would normally be involved in pursuing the cases be rationalised rather than having to ask the litigants perhaps to bear the full cost of restarting these cases. 4.10 p.m.

There is a case that can be made out for the State representing the public interest to undertake to bear some reasonable cost in the matter to ensure that the matters are completed. A figure was thrown out this morning that was less than $100 000. Efforts are being made, where it is possible, to try and get some of the matters settled between Counsel, but where that is impossible and we cannot settle, in a few months the thing has to come to a head and a decision made.
I have never liked discussing personalities under this Head, Sir. I see other people do it in the Other Place, but I wish tp say that we have now had a Judge acting



for 3 years. If a Judge can act for 3 years, surely he is worthy of an appointment I am hearing on my left that he has done well, whatever that means. It does not look good from the point of view of the administration of justice, but I go further than the point that if you are good enough to act for 3 years, then presumably you are worthy of appointment.

If that Judge's acting appointment is terminated now, he does not get a cent by way of retiring benefits. He is acting, but if he goes home tomorrow, assuming that his acting appointment came to an end now, after 3 years, that Judge gets no pension benefits. He is not on contract, so he cannot say at the end of the contract period perhaps he will get a 20% gratuity, as is usual. He gets nothing, but he has been acting for 3 years.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What pension? He does not get a judge's pension, whereas it is possible that other people can be appointed as judges and serve for $2V_2$ to 3 years and they will qualify. I do not think that is fair, and if we want to be fair in this country to people who perform public functions, then I think that some consideration should be given to the particular matter I have raised. I am not calling the Judge's name, I think everybody knows whom I am referring to.
Those are my comments, Sir.

*The question that the sum of $818 260 under Head 11*
*- Judiciary - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT - $3 524 934

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3 524 934 for Head 12 – Parliament - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - $2 868 870

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move, that the sum of $2 868 870 for Head 13 - Prime Minister's Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

* Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by making the general statement that an examination of the vote under the Prime Minister's Head would show that
some of his departments are not being subjected to the fiscal discipline which is very necessary if Barbados is to get out of its problems into which the Prime Minister has landed the country.
As usual, he is not leading by the example one would expect from him. In particular, Sir, one would notice that in this department there are some heads in which there have been increases greater than those given in other areas, when one has seen the Prime Minister asking for fiscal discipline to be exercised. For instance, Sir, in the Government Information Service there is an overall increase of 15%. It is doubtful whether that department is now performing any useful function whatsoever. As a matter of fact, Sir, I do not believe that the Head of Department is to be found in the department very often. 4.20 p.m.
It seems as though the Prime Minister has turned the Department, not into a genuine information service department, but a publicity and public relations exercise for himself. Therefore, one queries the necessity to maintain such a Department.

Although it is not insignificant in terms of numbers on the revised Estimates, one notes an overall 41% increase for the Prime Minister's residence. It is not significant in nominal terms, but the percentage is the point I am taking.

In the Defence Force one notices an overall increase of 12%, almost another $2 million is now being given to the Defence Force in circumstances when we know that the question of law and order on the civil side has surfaced very strongly in this country. I am told that an additional 250 policemen will have a recurrent cost of about $4 million. If this $2 million which is now being given to the Defence Force was given to the Police Force instead of on a recurrent basis, we would find that half of the resources which the Police Force are asking for would be available.

What I am going to say about the Defence Force, I am going to say with a great degree of circumspection. One does not want in areas of security to go beyond what might be circumspect for the country. I have very grave concerns about the manner in which some aspects of the Defence Force are being handled.
I want to deal first with the Regiment As you know, Sir, we have had a Barbados Regiment for many years and for the last few years there seems to be a deliberate policy to run down the Regiment or the reservists, as they are called, rather than to rebuild them to their pre-1979 strength. They are being kept numerically short and weak and they are also being kept short of training and equipment. Normally, one would expect a battalion which is really about 4 companies. Now I am told that the overall strength of the reservists or the Regiment is something


like 150 men which is less than even 1 company. When it comes to their training, I am told that the training opportunities for them have become extremely limited.

They are constrained by the re-direction of the training and the equipment to the regular forces. I am not going to give the figures for the regular forces in a debate of this nature although I have noticed in Parliaments in the Commonwealth, in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America these matters are discussed, at least in Committees dealing with matters of defence.
I am concerned that no effort is being made to provide specialised training for officers and NCOs in the Regiment and that the Regiment, even when some training is provided for them, if they wish to appear at the regular training sessions of the regular army, have to do this at the sacrifice of their civilian jobs and time. I believe this is basically wrong and that the Government has to recognise that Barbados can never afford a large standing army and that we will have from time to time to rely on those people who serve in the reserves.They give a lot of their time voluntarily. There are a lot of young men and women who would like to continue to serve in the reserves, but they are not being motivated.
When the opportunity arises that they will have to come to the defence of Barbados or to carry out duties in aid of the civil power -1 hope it will never happen that we have any riots or insurrections - or when they have to come to the assistance of the civil powers in times of national disaster, hurricanes and what not they will not have been properly trained or prepared or in sufficient numerical strength in order to be an effective force.

I believe that this policy which is being followed now is a wrong policy. I do not know whether the Barbados Defence Board which is constituted of the Prime Minister, the Minister, the Attorney General, the Chief of the Defence Force and one other member has paid any regard at all to what is happening with the Regiment If you talk to those remaining few of the Regiment they are very demoralised and very fed up with the position. The Government seems bent merely on concentrating on the limited number of people who are in the regular force.
The Prime Minister will know that 2 years ago the Government had the benefit of a study done by a Colonel of the Canadian Defence Force and the Government which is referred to as the Power Report. It is not the sort of report that is published and made public but it is the sort of report that should have been able to direct and guide the Government in how they approach this issue of the relationship between the regular army and the Regiment.

I do not expect the Government to do what is done in countries which try to keep issues such as this on a non-partisan basis and make the Leader of the Opposition or the person responsible shadowing Defence, as I do, aware of the general outlines of that Report. Some of us have to become aware of it by our normal intelligence and intelligence methods.

I know there is concern in that Report to some of the problems that I am voicing now here in this discussion. I would ask the Government to pay regard to that and how they lode as well at the relationship between the military power of this country and their civil duties.

The Government wanted guidance on this matter and the manner in which the Barbados Defence Force is called out has given many of us cause for concern. I have been the first and my Party has been the first when legitimate to give support to Government in the use of military resources from time to time. One must look at this matter on a long-term basis and put it on a proper legal footing. I saw only 1 order signed by Her Excellency the Governor-General in a general way when the Defence Force was used. The legal research which I have done and which I have asked others to do tells me that the correct position is - and if you read books on military law — that if the Defence Force is going to be used for police duties there must be a distinct request from the Head of the Police Services and there must be distinct orders made at the appropriate time. That is different from cases of emergency where under the Defence Act certain orders and things may be done. I am asking that this matter be clarified. We cannot in Barbados get the wrong way in which we arrange the use of our military forces for civil duties. 4.30 p.m.
Mr. Chairman, I want the position to be clearly understood. There are circumstances in which we will agree and have no difficulty with the use but I think it would be wrong if we formulate into our planning that the military, which must always be a force of surprise most likely in difficult circumstances, become so accepted within the framework of the society that they are not being seen in their correct role and are assuming roles for which they were not normally established and constituted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, if I may illustrate because I am going to come back on this point. Wherever the Defence Force is working alongside the Police Force, I understand the law of Barbados to be that the Police is in charge of anything dealing with arrests, *et cetera,* unless there is an emergency and a particular emergency order published. Now this is a new and novel area to large numbers of people including those of us who administer Government as well as other persons who



may be advising Governments. But we should get it right and be sure that we are doing the right thing in the right time having regard to things we have seen in other countries.
I would say to the Minister in my final word because you told me my 15 minutes is up, that I believe there ought to be proper consultations with the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition on areas such as this -1 am no longer a member of the Privy Council so I suppose I do not have the limitations - but there are certain limitations that normally would be contentious that happens. There are certain areas in which these types of areas need to be clear. I am not speaking on these areas for partisan reasons. I am speaking because I am concerned. I wish to see the long term stability of Barbados maintained in a certain style and fashion. We should make sure we have the relationship between the civil and military power in this country right. You told me my time has run out so I will have to revert under this Head.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one or 2 comments on some of the remarks made by the last speaker in relation to the Police Force and the Defence Force. Every time the Defence Force has been called out to work with the Police Force it has been at the request of the Commissioner of Police. As I understand it, that is what the law is. On each occasion the Police was in charge. The Army understood that. The Police understood it and I understand that. I always move around and that has always been done. Let me say as well too that the joint patrols were accepted by the majority of Barbadians in this country. Up to today the majority of people still believe we should continue with joint patrols. I understand the problems because the Army is not trained in the same way as the Police are trained and therefore the Police have some concerns about the Army working alongside them. But one cannot deny the fact that the joint patrols were of a tremendous success in this country in controlling some of the most serious and violent crimes we had especially when it related to crimes in remote areas, the East Coast, Cherry Tree Hill, Morgan Lewis, Foster Funland, Bath and even the Flower Forest.

I want to clear up something which might create a misunderstanding of what the last Honourable Member had to say and indicate that the Defence Force, when working alongside the Police, are aware of the fact that the Police are in charge.

I just want to say something too about people not joifring the Regiment. By and large our Defence Force and Regiment is made up of males. You will find that in the disciplined services, whether it is the Raiment, the Cadets or Scouts, fewer and fewer young men are joining these organisations. If you were to go to any school you will find that about half of the Cadet Corps now is made up of females although I understand the normal rule is a third. But if the Cadet Corps is supposed to be 90 strong, and you only have 60, and 30 are females, to all intents and purposes it is half although for the establishment it is a third. So although they restrict the number of females yet when you look at the practical situation you will find that sometimes it is more than half.

Sir,. I went to Combermere School some time last week and whereas the youngsters used to rush to get in the Cadet Corps and there was a cut-off point, now only females are going so we are seeing a serious problem affecting our young males. It is something which we must address. I do not think this is the time now to discuss it but we do have to address it.

The same thing relates to the Regiment. We cannot get men to join the Regiment. It is a serious problem. They have other problems in the Regiment as well but one of the problems is not only the fact they do not get men. They have the 4-week camp too but sometimes you have a 4-week camp with 100 men. One would have thought that camp is a place which attracts a lot of people but on parades there are very few people from the Regiment as well.

*Aside.*

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Yes, but it is not attracting people. I do not know if the programme is not attractive enough. I cannot say because that is not within my portfolio but all I am trying to say is that for the disciplined forces, whether Cadets, Scouts, *et cetera,* you will find that our young men are not joining.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to answer some of the statements made by the Honourable Minister of Justice and Public Safety. I do not agree with him that there was a lack of male persons showing interest in joining the Regiment. As a matter of-fact there are only about 20 women in the Regiment itself and the existing numbers are just under 150. That is much less than what we really should have.

Let us assume we have a genuine emergency in this country and you even use your regular Army - I am not going to go into the numbers for obvious reasons - it is my submission to this Committee that we would not be adequately represented because of a lack of manpower and that it is in the interest of Barbados to encourage additional recruitment into the Regiment because they are a pool of people with expertise. They do not cost the Government a lot of money. I believe when they are on parade they



pay $12 for a parade. If they are at regular camps for any length of time like 4 weeks of which the Minister speaks, then in those circumstances they are paid as recruits to the regular Force and at the lowest figures. Those are the facts on that.

It is not a question of people not being interested. For one reason or another, some reasons I am not prepared even in this Committee to talk about, there was a lack of motivation and some discouragement. I believe the Defence Board must look at this problem and deal with it where it exists because it is not in the long-term interest of Barbados to run down a Regiment that has a reputation from the time of the settlement right up to now as being the main force on which we depended for our defence at times.
Whilst I am on that, Sir, I want to say this to the Minister and to the Committee that it is well known that in times when you have to use your military force that they may have to resort to the use of firearms in a significant way. Now musketry training and practice is very limited to the existing regimental people. The Minister will find that they themselves complain about this because most of the ammunition is directed to the regular force. Just as I believe about the Police when they have to bear arms that they must be properly trained for the purpose and retrained, I believe the same goes for the Regiment and one would want to see this being done. 4.40 p.m.

Now, the Member made mention of the fact that requests have come from the Commissioner of Police on each occasion. I am asking, Sir, in the interest of the legal position in this country that if it is necessary to amend both the Police Act and/or the Defence Act that we get the position straight and that the proper orders be passed in the interest of those soldiers, because if a soldier is on regular patrol with the police and it is found that the way in which he has been called out is in any manner defective and he thinks that he is acting within legitimate powers and has to use his arms he might well find that he is afoul of the law on a technical point. And even on those grounds, Sir, I would strongly recommend that one has regard to these matters.

Now, Sir, I want to advert to another item under this Head and this is the defence force sports programme. I raised the matter last year, Sir, and to some extent the Minister in charge of sports believed that this was an attack and he castigated me to some extent.

*Aside.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: No, the Minister in charge of Sports. I believe the Prime Minister may be in charge of

sportsmen but not in charge of sports. But he castigated me on this programme, Sir. But the attitude coming through is that it is not clear as to what exactly is the role of these young men and these young women. I believe I am correct in saying they are now in their third year. It is unclear to some of us where that programme is going. I believe about 20 of them are in boxing. There are about 2 football courses. I believe about 3 of the young ladies have gone abroad on scholarships. I do not believe they got any assistance from even the Defence Force or the National Sports Council in assisting them in going abroad in this way.
Once again I have to warn the Government of duplication. We are voting some $800 000 under this Head for this purpose. They paid a small stipend, Sir. But it seems to me that we should really integrate the proper sports programme with the National Sports Council. And I want to say, Sir, that to use the money in the way that it is being used is probably not the best way that we can make use of the talent of the young people or of the moneys which we have got available.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of time constraints I am not going to go further into the area of information. I would deal with information a little bit later, with particular reference to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, and the policy which the Minister has adumbrated here for that Corporation, when I come under Economic Affairs.

I only want to say this, Sir, that the Broadcasting Authority has really not been performing its functions in the manner in which one expects the Broadcasting Authority to perform those functions. I certainly do not agree with the manner in which the Prime Minister has placed strictures on the media but I believe the way in which he placed the strictures on the media when last he spoke to them is his general position.
I believe we should strengthen the Broadcasting Authority to be a proper watchdog of the public in so far as the media is concerned so that we can get fairness in reporting and in dealing with matters. I said I would wait until Income to CBC to talk in greater detail about that aspect of the matter.
In relation to the Government Information Service I believe that the Government now has to define the role of that service. I have already criticised the service for the sometimes partisan releases that it has issued on matter that would better be handled by the political party in power. It cannot be used for personal attacks and responses and I believe that it has been misused in that regard. I hope, Sir, we can get the Government Information Service back into performing its proper role.



Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St George South.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am expressing again today, Sir, my concerns about the Government's attitude with respect to severance payments. I am speaking under the operation of the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme. I understand, Sir, that there are over 3 000 outstanding severance payments claims and I tried in vain to discover whereabouts in these estimates....

*Asides.*

Mr. L. R. TULL: I will come back, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 13 stand part. The Honourable Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to make a few observations. First of all, Sir, in respect of Defence and Security, as the Minister has said and as far as I recall, in most instances and certainly on all of the recent occasions, we have followed the law in terms of the deployment of the Defence Force, and we intend to follow the law in that particular regard.

I do not think I need to say anything more about that. But, wherever and whenever there is a request, and it is deemed that the circumstances merit the deployment of the Defence Force, we will speedily take the decision in the interest of the preservation of law and order.
Our policy is to strengthen the Defence Force and all of the elements of that Force; and from time to time, the Defence Board takes appropriate decisions in respect of the Defence Force and the elements that constitute that Force.

On a regular basis there are proposals for training for the Defence Force; and out of the sums that are appropriated, and out of the provisions made by friendly governments, a regular process of training is maintained for the Defence Force. 4.50 p.m.

The Defence Force Sports Programme is directed towards the building up of a youthful body of sportsmen who are dedicated to training in their respective disciplines; and already at the national level, those persons are making a significant contribution.

As far as the Government Information Service is concerned, I certainly reject any suggestion that the Service is used in a partisan way. In all of the areas for which the Service has responsibility, with limited resources and inadequate equipment, both in radio, television and in all of thfe other areas, it has sought to meet its obligations. The suggestion or rather the allegation by the Leader of the Opposition certainly does not get any approbation from me.

The Government Information Service is indeed in the area of public relations. There are some officers in there who are Public Relations Officers and perform that function. To get up and say that the Service is performing more like a Public Relations Agency, I think, is really begging the question.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a pointrof order, Sir. I am saying that they are performing more like a public relations exercise in a partisan manner. If the Prime Minister wants me to get it clear, then propaganda, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It may be propaganda in the purest and etymological form of the word, in terms of the putting forward of information. That is what the Service exists to do.
Sir, I think a few bits of information will set out the matter quite clearly. In terms of radio, the Service continues to research, prepare, record and produce programmes on all AM radio stations and periodically on others. It does documentaries, interviews and discussions. It produces something called a "Matter of Interest" which continues to hold the attention of listeners. It does programmes not only in the area of Government activities, but it also does work for voluntary organisations such as the Cancer Society, the Diabetic Association, *et cetera.* It airs "Opportunity Calls" and makes spot announcements.
It is a very hard working radio section just as the Press section is very hard working. They issued some 780 Press releases covering all of the Ministries, and quite a cross-section of programmes and releases on Anti-Crime Measures, the Barbados Youth Service, Coastal Conservation, Environmental Health, Retraining of Retrenched Workers, South Coast and West Coast Sewage Project, Agricultural Diversification and the Livestock Industry.

I could also go through the list in terms of television. Over 206 television programmes were broadcast in 1992 including 19 messages. It was not the Prime Minister's Office that led in the number of programmes. There were some 36 programmes in the Ministry of Health. Most programmes emanated from the Ministry of Health, followed by the Ministry of Agriculture with some 28 programmes. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs had 19 programmes. There were 24 programmes broadcast for the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, and 19 for the Ministry of Labour. There were 17 from the Ministry of Education, and 15 from Community Development and Culture.
I am giving this information, Sir, because of the comments of the Leader of the Opposition. I listened



very carefully to what he had to say, Sir, and I will respond in areas where it is necessary. I am giving him full information as necessary and, if he wants more information, just as he is inviting me to consult with him, he can consult with me. He can be sure to get a very courteous response. I have told him that I will always take care of him. When they are not treating you too well, I will take care of you.
Sir, I really wish to reject any suggestions of partisanship on the part of the Government Information Service; and I would indicate to the Leader that, if he has evidence of it, he can discuss that matter with me and I will certainly examine the matter.

With those words, I beg to move that this Head stands part,
*The question that Head 13 stands part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE - $3 403 532

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15 for the sum of $3 403 532 stand part of the Schedule. That includes the Cabinet Secretariat and Constitutional and Statutory Authorities.
Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I second that, Sir. 5.00p.m.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there are various Subheads under this Head and in addition to the general management of the Cabinet there is the question of Government hospitality, Conferences and Delegations, Electoral and Boundaries Commission and National Insurance. I intend certainly to speak on 2 of them in some detail, but before I get on to those I want to make the point that looking at the estimate under Operating Expenses, the revised estimate for Conferences and Delegations there must be some error there, because I recall during the year there was a supplementary for over $120 000 in order to allow the Government to attend further conferences.

We have already in this House made reference to what we consider to be the necessity for the Government to cut back on areas such as this if it could not pay the workers, but could afford to have Ministers flying to Australia and elsewhere. I am not going to belabour that point, except to deal with the whole area of National Insurance.

Earlier in this Session, Sir, some weeks ago I made reference to the necessity for the country to feel that its National Insurance funds were secure and that one of the worst things that could happen is that when people reached the age of 65 and were looking forward to a pension, they felt that the burden being cast on the Fund was such as to undermine the security of those funds. Cap. 46 of the Laws of Barbados, which deals with the National Insurance Department, places an obligation on the Government whenever the funds are in deficiency in order to come to Parliament to make up those funds. Likewise, the legislation dealing with severance payment casts a similar obligation on the Government when there is a deficiency in the funds to pass the necessary Resolution before this Committee, and before the House, to ensure that persons who are entitled have access to sufficient funds.

Our information, Mr. Chairman, is that there are over some 3 000 cases of workers who have had their claims for severance processed, but they cannot get any money from the Severance Fund. In 1991 there were over 18 000 claims being made for unemployment and other benefits from the various funds. That figure has increased and I would expect that this year it should be closer to 20 000. We know that between October and December 1992, as compared with October to December 1991, unemployment has increased to the extent that it is now in excess of 25%, somewhere on Government's figures 25.1%, so there are more and more people either being severed or being thrown on the market out there without much to do. It is a tragedy* that the Government has not seen fit in these Estimates to make adequate provision to pay those persons who have been severed by Government Statutory Boards and otherwise by companies that have gone into liquidation and bankruptcy so that they could be paid their money promptly.

Earlier in this debate the Honourable Member for St. Peter made reference to the fact that the Government is collecting some additional $70 million this year in income tax alone. At least he is forecasting that. All the Government has to come to do is to move in $10 million under this Head in order to pay all of those people who are in line waiting for their severance payment, and the Opposition is calling on the Government and offering to give the Government its support for moving in $10 million to pay all of those workers out there, some of whom have been waiting for 18 months and 2 years without getting their severance pay to which they are entitled. In many cases these poor people are suffering because Government Statutory Boards have severed them. Here we are voting in Parliament voting increases under some Heads and forgetting the plight of the poor and the down-trodden in the community, people who have given of their best and in some cases contributed their money to the very funds and now we find that they are having to wait. I want to know the reasons why the Government cannot deal with this problem of the insufficiency of funds to ensure that the funds under the Severance Payment...

*Aside.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I am making the allegation, Sir, since I am hearing a voice from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North...

3119

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot hear a voice from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Well, I have read his lips, Sir. I should not read his lips, because they do not say what they ought to say, but in reading his lips I want to say to him and to the Committee that cases have been processed before the Severance Payments Board in which no money is available. The Honourable Member is saying that the Board should asks that. It is the responsibility of Members of Parliament, it is the responsibility of the Minister...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member just give way? I am going to hold a very firm line on this response to asides, because you are putting matters into the debate that are not actually in the debate.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I must ask you to save me from the Honourable Member's asides first, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask for order across the Committee. 5.10 p.m.

Mr. H. deB. Forde: The position is that it is the responsibility of the Minister under whose portfolio some of these Boards have severed the people, well knowing that the Boards under them have not had the funds to pay the people. It is the responsibility of the Minister - it should not even be left to the Opposition - to bring the proper Resolutions before this House to deal with the matter in Parliament so as to ensure that the money is available to pay the severed workers who have not received their pay.
I make bold to say that the Severance Payments Fund does not have in the resources to pay the number of people who are waiting legitimately for severance payments. I am making that allegation. I am saying that there are also other cases standing in line in order to be properly processed. We cannot in conscience go through with a debate of the Estimates without adverting to what are obviously very deserving cases. If there was any care on the part of Government one would expect that part of that revenue that the Minister says they are collecting would have been distributed to those unfortunate people who are out of work, many of them out of resources and who because of no act on their part tonight are unable to make ends meet and look after their families and their duties to themselves and to their families as a whole.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order?

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I would like to make a couple of comments on the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. WHen we set up the Electoral and Boundaries Commission our aim was to get this Commission to work properly and to work on a regular basis. The best time for it to perform its work is well ahead of an election so that nobody can then abuse the process.
Now, Sir, there have been very few meetings of this Commission since 1991. A new Acting Chief Electoral Officer has been appointed to the Commission. I want to deal with that. I believe that the time has come when the Electoral and Boundaries Commission should have its own staff and appoint its own staff, and the person in charge must not see themselves as a civil servant, not answerable to the Board but probably being answerable to a Minister.

Now, Sir, things have not been going as they ought to on that Board. Only today the Minister with responsibility for the subject, the Prime Minister, laid the Electoral Boundaries Commission Report of the last election. The election took place in 1991, and do you know how that Report came to be laid, Sir? I am going to put it into the annals of this House. Members of the Opposition asked for copies of the Report and I wrote a letter and I had a letter written back to me from the Chief Electoral Officer Ag. saying that we would have to buy the Report, that it is not his responsibility, that you pay $60 for it from the Government Printery. In fact, this was followed by a letter from the Chairman.

*Asides.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: He knew exactly whom he was dealing with. I took the matter up and the Chairman wrote saying that that matter is not handled by them, it is handled by the Clerk of Parliament who has to ask for a copy. The truth is that the document had not been laid.

When you have a position and you have an Electoral Officer who does not even know his functions... He does not know his function and that is the position. I am saying that what one needs to do is to try to put the Electoral and Boundaries Commission beyond the realm of politics by letting them have their own staff to deal with the matters.

The matter was only laid today and I will take up another matter. We have moved into the age of technology and, therefore, it is a standard form matter in most democracies, even in places that are not democracies but are now moving to become democracies, to make available to the political parties and others the diskette which carries the electoral information relating to the election. That is standard form. In the long run, it is cheaper once you have made your master diskette. It is cheaper than giving and publishing and sending out the information printed.

There is some feeling within the administrative side of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission that there is something wrong in making that diskette available to those genuine people who want it - Members of Parliament, people who are seeking to run for Parliament etc. I am raising the matter because I believe it is a matter that if it is



necessary to amend the Regulations under the Representation of the People Act, as has been done in England, in Canada and other democratic countries, the Minister responsible must seek from the Electoral and Boundaries Commission their guidance on this matter and get the legislation amended to deal with it We cannot have the mechanics of the electoral process as a matter of controversy between us.
The other matter I want to raise is settling this issue of access to publicity during electoral times. I have a Resolution before Parliament -1 am not going to anticipate that Resolution - dealing with the whole question of broadcast of debates and under that I will use the question of the times for political parties.
I raised the Resolution in this House last time. We have to settle the issue of political parties having equal access to the media during the time of the elections. We cannot believe that Barbados is going to be a modern democracy with access to the media limited according to the number of people that you have in a House. That is basically wrong. As a matter of fact, I have pulled out the Democratic Labour Party manifesto in which the Democratic Labour Party in 1981 committed itself to giving equal time to all of the parties for electoral broadcasts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time has expired.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I believe that the time has come in the interest of freedom that that matter should be addressed and attended to. I will be back, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: I wish to say a few words under the Head of National Insurance. I want again to say it is a matter of great regret that the workers' representatives are not in the House of Assembly when we are dealing with an important matter of this kind. I have drawn this to the attention of Parliament before. I have come across what I regard as a great injustice taking place in the method of paying for industrial injuries and other benefits under national insurance regulations in Barbados. In many respects, the injustice is so great that I feel that -I have said it before - that we are now in a worst position than we were when we had Workmen's Compensation. The position is that the Regulations have been amended to say that your benefits are paid upon the basis of your last but one-quarter when the injury occurred. The effect of that, both in the agricultural industry and the tourist industry is devastating because if one is injured in the early part of the year during crop season, it means that the earnings base is in the period of time, the August and September quarter, when earnings are at the worst so that the people are being deprived. 5.20 p.m.

I have drawn this to the attention of this House before. I was one of those who practised in Barbados at the time when we used to have Workmen's Compensation. The basis for compensation at that particular period of time was the average of the last 52 weeks' earnings. It is worse in the tourist industry because that is at the time of lay-offs. I actually came across a case recently where people got nothing at all because they were laid off at that particular period of time. When you looked at it they had paid over 40 contributions and got nothing at all. These Regulations have been changed somewhere in the 1980s.
Now, Sir, I sat in this House not so long ago and I heard a trade union representative say quite openly on the floor of the House that he does not believe in the dole. But I am not one of those. I believe in social security and the dole is an integral part of social security as far as I am concerned because in our case it is contributory. You are paying here for your benefits. It is a very serious thing. It seems to me that there is so much confusion in this country at the present moment in relation to this area that we should have a special committee comprising Members of both sides of the House to look at this matter.

I want to say that had it not been for the Social Security Schemes that are in existence in Barbados* we could well have had riots in this country arising from hardship which was the inevitable and predictable result of the programme that the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs introduced in this country under the guise of structural adjustment It was the $19 million that was paid out in social security benefits that helped us. That is why I strongly support the call that has been made by the Leader of the Opposition for the Government to introduce by way of amendment to the Estimates a sum of money to ensure that Severance Payment benefits are payable.

The other point I want to mention in here is to correct the distortion that was attempted in this House by an Honourable Member who is not here now, one of the trade union representatives, about the attitude of the Barbados Labour Party in respect of Unemployment Insurance. When we introduced Unemployment Insurance and brought to this House an amendment to the law to ensure that there would be some synchronisation between severance pay and Unemployment Insurance the Honourable Members in this House from the trade union movement objected most strenuously. I invited them in my capacity as Prime Minister to come and meet me because it was obvious to me that they were basically ignorant about the position and we had a discussion. At that meeting I was so confident of the ground we were on that I invited the trade union bosses at the time, the "Kayaki" king and others, to get the ILO to nominate any expert that he wanted to look into the Schemes and synchronise them. It was as a result of that invitation that there was a report made here.

I find it strange that we on this side could now be accused, of introducing reforms in this area without



thought. It is totally untrue. The problem is that the Government had the Pelikanos Report for over 3 years before they introduced the reforms so that is the position. But it does not matter to me because, as I understood it, at the time when you had your Severance Payment legislation you did not have Unemployment legislation at that time. Once you introduced Unemployment legislation it was inevitable that you had to harritonise the 2. When we tried to introduce it we faced obstruction and now the record is to be distorted and say that we did not plan for it when in truth and in fact we planned for it and faced that obstruction. We must put the record straight That is why I say when we are dealing with these important matters I would expect the representatives of the workers to be here because I do not want to distort the position. I want the facts to come out.

The other point I want to make is this. Again I want to say that I regard it as very unfair to the contributors to the National Insurance Scheme that there are a large mass of self-employed people in Barbados who do not contribute to it We had a distinct policy with respect to the award of benefits and pensions and the policy was that as time went along the differential between contributory and non-contributory pension should be widened because people should understand that if they wish a decent pension when they reach a certain age they should contribute to it whether they are self-employed or not What we must do is to give an incentive to people to be contributory. I could understand when you first threw all of the burden of the non-contributory pensions on to the National Insurance Scheme that

the differential should not have been too wide but it should be widened as time goes along.

I go to the transport industry. I would like to know, for instance, how many of these jumpers you have around here that are creating chaos in the transport industry how many of them pay National Insurance. It is a very serious thing. We need to have a distinct and definite programme to bring self-employed people and people who ought to be paying National Insurance on to the National Insurance because it is unfair for people who have to contribute both in their capacities as employers and employees to this Scheme which should be the pride of us all.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am a great believer in social security and in the National Insurance Scheme.

. *Aside.* Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order?

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: The Honourable Member was one*of the obstructionists we had at the time when we were trying to bring in a new level of social security in unemployment insurance that he was one of those who sat there and tried to obstruct us when we did the harmonisation. I do not mind the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in this respect. He was one of them. He was one of the chief cooks and bottle washers in obstructing us at that time.

The basic position is, Sir, that I feel at this time the well recognised defects in our Scheme should be put on the table and remedied. This should not be a matter of party politics. This is a real national scheme and we have to see that the contributions, incentives and injustices are there.
I want to repeat, Sir, I really feel that those Regulations are causing so much hardship to the particular types of people who are injured at that period of time of their greatest earnings should be remedied.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has just said that the Social Security Scheme has headed off riots because, were the Scheme not in place with all the massive layoffs in the country at this time, there might have been riots. I will go a little further and say that he should not write that off yet because the Members of the Government are obviously out of touch with what is happening with the workers who were laid off in this country. 5.30 p.m.
There is a great deal of resentment in Barbados among people who have lost their jobs about the insensitivity of the Government in dealing with it. It is very easy for the Government to trivialise important matters like this. We have a situation, Mr. Chairman, Sir, where people's retirement benefits have been slashed by Government and where the representatives of the workers have been fairly silent on these matters.

We are in a situation, Sir, where for the first time in 50 years of Government, that the workers perceive the Government as the enemy. Nowhere in a so-called social democratic country could the Government be riding roughshod over the rights of the workers in as cavalier a fashion as this Government, and things remain the way they are. I don't believe, Sir, that if the Government refuses to do some of the things that they should, we are going to remain in the situation as we are now.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West says there are over 3 000 people who are waiting for severance payments. Three thousand people waiting for severance payments are a lot of people, Mr. Chairman. And for the Government to bring these Estimates and to have ourselves regaled with a long dissertation by the Minister of Finance earlier today, without addressing this very human concern of money for people who are laid off in the last 18 months or so, is as I said, a sure sign of the increasing insensitivity by the Government.

As I have said in the past, and I say again, Sir, it is also symptomatic of a growing lack of will on the part of the Government because they must have known, when they entered the programme with the International Monetary Fund, that there would have been a large number of layoffs and therefore there should have been planning *for* today when we have these particular difficulties.
The very composition of the Government, Sir - look at them, Mr. Chairman. The very composition of the Government suggests that they would have some concern for the workers. But this is the worst anti-worker Government in this country in 5 decades.

You see, Mr. Chairman, the Ministers, as I said, could be frivolous about it because their pensions are secure and they do not have a thing to worry about. But they easily tamper with the social security benefits of the mass of workers across this country and think it is something to make sport about. There are countries all over the world where tampering with the social security benefits of workers cause chaos in the society, and where Governments are brought down as a result of this kind of action, Sir.

*Aside.*

Mr. L. R. TOLL: You see, that is the way they see it. I want to know at what time the Minister of Finance will come out with some provision if it is to be a true reflection. If this document is to mean anything, I want to know if the Minister of Finance has any intention, during the course of these Estimates, to move in.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The asides are very loud.

Mr. L. R. TOLL: Mr. Chairman, that is the trouble, Sir. Every time they are getting licks they cannot take it, particularly the Honourable Member for St. Michael West

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member would give way, Sir. I was merely making the point that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Honourable Member for St. George South are 2 retirees who could really go home and give 2 younger people the job.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know how the Honourable Member could have been making that point when this would have been his first intervention in the debate.

Mr. L. R. TOLL: I was asking Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether the Minister of Finance can intimate to the House what plans the Government has for voting money in Parliament for the provision of severance payments for the workers in view of the fact that the severance payments fund cannot now accommodate all the claims that are outstanding.

I want to say finaHy, Sir, that the National Insurance Board has in recent times been putting a number of people in court for not making their national insurance contributions and in my view rightly so, Sir. All of us have got to pull our weight and it is not fair that some people should not be paying while others have to pay. So I have no quarrel with that. I think it is a little bit unfair that while the Government is at the moment hustling people into the law courts that the Government by its own actions seems eminently suited to have a similar kind of action taken against it. I am hoping, Sir, that when eventually the workers who have been disadvantaged by the state of the Severance Payments Fund finally get their moneys that the Government will pay them interest on the money they owe them, not as a favour but in accordance with the Act.

I see the Attorney General watching. I hope he advises them that they must pay the workers, who have been disadvantaged for this long period, interest on the money that is owed to them by the Severance Fund, Sir.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I really did not intend getting in this debate but some Honourable Memibers on the other side are so sanctimonious in their criticism of the Government for delays in the payments of severance and talk about this side being an anti-worker government and all of that. Honourable Members are behaving as if, during the time when they held office, there were not considerable delays in payments of severance.

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes, of course. Take your minds back to the...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am saying...

Hon. M. A. KING: I am not saying there is justification...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to tolerate the cross talk during this Committee.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that there is any justification whatsoever for delay in the payment of severance, but I am just drawing attention to the fact that certainly when the Elite and the Rocklyn Bus Companies went out of existence and the Transport Board took over the routes there was a considerable number of workers....

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: Of course they were paid. But when and how? I represented a number of those workers and I believe that only last year one of the workers eventually got payment. Matters went on appeal and



appeal and appeal all over the place. They won eventually. The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that Honourable Members say that it is the duty of the Minister to go and check that the workers are being paid. 5.40 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: If the Statutory Boards do not have the monies, then you should go and do something about it.

The position was in relation to companies like Elite and Rocklyn where there was a clear situation where the workers were entitled to receive their severance payments. Yet, in every case, every single one of them had to file claim with the Severance Payments Tribunal and go for a hearing before the Tribunal for the Tribunal to make the awards and eventually for the Severance Fund to make the payments. The Severance Payments Tribunals could not hear all at one time and it took time for the cases to be all heard and for the workers to be all paid. You will remember, Mr. Chairman, that there were from time to time occasions when Resolutions had to be brought to Parliament to replenish the Fund for the payment to the workers. In the years after 1981 after the IMF Programme when so many workers were laid off and severed, we had a long list of them.

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: The point is that a lot of them had to go before the Severance Payments Tribunal as well in order to get their awards. The payments to those workers took years. We are not talking about months. We are talking about the workers receiving their monies.

*Aside.*
Hon. M. A. KING: It is the same thing. Your complaint was about workers receiving what they are entitled to.
If you are talking about the people receiving the money they are entitled to for severance payment, I am saying that in the 1980's a considerable number of years passed before workers received their payments to which they were entitled.

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: You were in Government in 1981.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I recognise that Honourable Members are in breach of the rules.

Hon. M. A. KING: I just raise these issues, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that it is not a situation which we like to see. I am saying that these things do happen and Honourable Members on the other side should not incite the public.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member just give way? Just a minute. I have an observation to make and it is that Honourable Members seem not to understand that Standing Order 33(6) has not been suspended neither is 42(a) suspended. You should familiarise yourselves with them or I shall have to invoke the Standing Orders. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I was only making the point that Honourable Members should not really by their, language and incite riots, because that is what is happening. I want to conclude on this point. Regarding those workers who are entitled to severance pay, we have made a commitment that they will receive their severance pay and it is only a matter of time before they will get it. Thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister of Health stops talking, I will address the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is a very bad premise on which to begin your intervention because I have given the Honourable Member for St. Thomas permission to speak. I am only hearing the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I cannot stop myself from hearing the Honourable Minister of Health, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please do not put in the debate that he is speaking because he is not.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is interfering with my concentration, Sir.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us have order please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The way that this debate has now gone it is surprising that Members on the Government benches are reacting in this rather trivial way in this debate. I thought that those who went to the church yesterday with the man from the IADB whose photograph I saw on the front page today holding hands with the Prime Minister would have heard the sermon by Canon Dr. Lett. I heard snippits of the sermon on my radio at least 3 times yesterday during intervals of cricket. The priest was concerned, Sir, and made an appeal to all parliamentarians, and that includes all of us in here, to be more conscious of our responsibilities particularly to the poor and

oppressed people. That was headlines on the news yesterday evening and it made the front page this morning. We are here trying to debate matters which are at the heart of the existence of the former workers in this country and the attitude that one is getting from the other side is to make fun about it. I want to dissociate myself from that attitude. What the Honourable Member for St. George South has said by way of warning must not again be taken lightly. The Honourable Members on that side who were in Government when the Prime Minister went to Zimbabwe in 1991 must know the power of 15,000 Bajans marching through Broad Street. If you think that if it happens like that again and people just will sit down and have some Coke or soft drinks, you are wrong. The days for that kind of thing are over. The next one will be more meaningful. That is all that I am saying.

Sir, those of us who have to be about our people's business on a regular basis and those of us in Parliament who are not afraid to go into our constituencies are met daily with circumstances of the most abject suffering. I left here just after I spoke in the debate on the Judiciary to go up to NASSCO to get my car before the garage closed. On my way to NASSCO walking up River Road, three people begged me for money. This was the first time for a long time that I walked up that road. That is true. It is a daily occurrence to have people beg for money. There was a time when you could say in Barbados that there were 2 or 3 regulars that you would see every month who would want $5.00. Now it is not so. There are genuine cases of people whom you would least expect that have been severely disadvantaged by the policies of this Government. There are whole families who have been thrown out of work and cannot contribute to any National Insurance Scheme. They cannot even get their severance pay and we are here making sport about it. I am not going along with that. You...

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Clearly, that remark will have to be withdrawn. If it is not withdrawn, I will have it struck from the records. 5.50 p.m.

*Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In 1991 under this Government that is so pro-worker and so caring there were 18 209 unemployment claims received. Do you know how much they were only at November, 1992? 19 000. Now contrast that with what the Honourable Attorney General was trying to make us believe that when the Barbados Labour Party was in power there was this world of claims not being paid. I would invite him to look at page 45 of "the Yellow Book" and you will see that in 1982 there were 1 228 claims.

Hon. M. A. KING: On a point of order, I have not been speaking of unemployment benefits payments. I spoke only of severance payments.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is all on one page and I read differently from him. I read from left to right. On this side is unemployment benefits and on the right hand side is severance and I have not got there yet. So he is very previous. No wonder his staff call him "PC Broomes". Look at him and you will understand.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Receipts total $2 248 000. Benefits $743 000. Balance $1 255 000 and coming back to the unemployment benefits the figures will show that when we went out of office that Fund had $40 million.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Two months ago I said to myself when I read the newspaper one morning that they have at last got their come-uppance. Sir, you have heard me in here since 1986 warning the workers' unions of this country to decide which interests they were promoting whether the interests of their members or the interests of their political affiliate. I went out on a limb in 1987 in an attack on the unions on what I perceived was a dereliction in their responsibility to the working class of this country. I sat in here and saw them vote in favour of all the punitive measures imposed by the Minister of Finance to do damage to the working class. So when I saw in the newspaper a few months ago that some of the leading members of the Union would forego salary for some weeks this year, I said things are so bad at the union that the union leaders who gave support to the very policies that have denuded thousands of Barbadians of their manhood now have been hoisted on their own petard. It is a disgusting state of affairs we have in this country. If you believe that those people the 10 000 public workers and 8 000 private sector workers who have gone home in the last 2 years under this Government are happy, you have another thought coming. Those people are completely broken, disillusioned and desperate, in some cases.

If the Democratic Labour Party believes that they will forget them when the next election comes around they have another thought coming.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member to conclude in 2 minutes.

3125

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I want to make an appeal to the Government to approach this question of the replenishment of the Severance Payments Fund as a matter of urgency. The record will show that I have done a number of cases within the last few weeks at the National Insurance building in Collymore Rock at the new offices there. Yes we are going to make the same point. Sparrow said this year, "the more, the merrier".

Sir, in each case that we got a decision of the tribunal it was an award in favour of the worker. Do you know what the employer replied? He cannot pay. The Severance Fund, once the employer cannot pay, has to find the money and then collect from the bankrupt employer. That is a tremendous delay. Even though I believe the Severance Payments Fund as .a matter of policy will pay the worker even before they have completed the process of trying to collect from the bankrupt employer, I believe that the wait is too long. The last case that I did we got a judgment on Friday and that case was filed in August 1991. Now, Sir, 18 months later on he only got a paper award. When he is going to collect nobody knows.
I remember in September 1987, soon after the Prime Minister took over as Minister of Finance, he made a statement in which he explained to the public that he would be coming to the House to raise money to replenish the Severance Payments Fund. The Unemployment Benefits Scheme was under pressure at the time and as soon as the House reconvened in Autumn of 1987 money was voted to replenish the Fund.
I do not know whether the Prime Minister is hoping to tell the workers of this country that there is something in the Budget next week and is therefore keeping quiet. If he has no plan to address it in the Budget then I think that today he ought to give some indication to the thousands of displaced workers and their families as to when they can expect the Fund will be in a state to pay the build up of arrears of awards that have been made within the last few years. I think that is the least he can do if it is not a budgetary matter. If it is a budgetary matter, I understand. If it is not, I would have thought that in his planning he might have addressed this and might have some idea in his head as to when this matter can be addressed satisfactorily. 6.00 p.m.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am not winding up, Sir. I am just giving some information which might help the Committee in coming to a determination on this matter. I would like basically to refute again one allegation, and it is that the Government is uncaring.

*Aside.*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is an opinion, and I am responding to that opinion. I know you would

not
think very much of the opinion, given the source from which it has come, but that is another matter altogether.
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. I understand the innuendo but the Prime Minister was not in his seat. I said I supported what the Honourable Member
for St. George South said.
•*
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, let me refute the allegation, opinion, or charge, however it is styled. This Government has taken every step possible to deal with the situation in respect of severance. Let me give some figures first of all.

At the end of December 1992, the Severance Payment Fund's balance was some $3 363 479.81. Contribution income for 1992 was $8.86 million. Total rebates and employees' payments for 1992 amounted to $5.87 million. The financial position of the Fund, however remains precarious. At the end of 1992 there were over 600 uncompleted cases before the Tribunals and some 2 100 yet to be considered. All of those matters, along with the claims for rebates, represent a contingent liability on the Fund at the end of December of approximately $25.2 million.

In addition, the indebtedness to the Consolidated Fund at the end of December 1992 was some $12.8 million. The moratorium granted in April 1991 on repayment of the interest and principal comes to an end in March, this month, 1993. There is nothing to hide! I am giving the facts! You have asked for it and you were making comments. I am telling you what the position is.

In terms of the number of claims outstanding, most of these claims will be settled between now and July of this year. First of all, those persons who were laid off in 1991 or thereabouts, got their first payment (those were the casual workers and general workers) in December, 1992. They will get the remainder of their payment, I believe, during this month. That will cause a substantial reduction in the number of claims which the Fund has to deal with.

Secondly, the sugar workers will receive their payment at the end of this month. There was an announcement to that particular effect. Thirdly, arrangements for the payment of transport workers have already been announced, with a payment to be made in March and a further payment soon thereafter, at the end of June. When these claims are settled, most of the claims before the Fund and its related operations will drop out of the numbers I have just given you.



*Aside.*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am dealing with the entire situation. The claims before the Board and the Fund will be substantially reduced as a result of these arrangements. There are 3 Tribunals working 4 days a week in order to speed up the process.

Now I referred to an amount of money that was provided out of the Consolidated Fund and which has also built up interest without repayment of principal. 6.10 p.m.

I am advised that only last week or the week before some correspondence from the Board was received on this matter and we are now looking at it in terms of a further postponement of repayment of principal, a moratorium on interest, and so on. I hope that if or when we have to come to Parliament to deal with this matter, we will get the same ready response that the Leader of the Opposition has gone on record as indicating. He is saying if we came with a move-in now, it will get the support. I do not want to misquote

him; so I hope that when we come to settle these' matters or deal with them, we will get that kind of support.

I believe, on 2 occasions, I have in this Honourable Chamber heard some impression being given that, in order to solve financial problems, all I have to do, as Minister of Finance, or all the Government has to do, is to come to the House and ask for a supplementary. Now that is very simplistic. But I hope that impression is not being created.

Mr. Chairman, I have not heard, and I do not know, that the Member who has just spoken on this particular matter has actually said so. So! I have not really heard him!
But I really, Sir, firstly want to stress that the impression being given that there is a problem and nothing is being done about the problem, is far from the truth. We are dealing with most of the issues within the context of a very tight financial situation. And secondly, I would like to add to the words by the Member for Christ Church West Central to the effect that it is certainly not appropriate, not becoming of Members of this Chamber, or anyone in Barbados for that matter, to be speaking in terms which could be easily misinterpreted as some kind of encouragement for people to take action that would'bring them in confrontation with the law. I certainly hope that we will not hear that kind of statement any more. It is a time to be responsible.

So, Sir, I think with those words the situation should be clarified. The numbers waiting for their claims to be processed are getting the urgent attention of the National Insurance Office, and they will certainly be processed with as much speed as possible. But let us understand there is a
machinery and a mechanism for dealing with these matters, and by law there are tribunals and there is a staff that deals with these matters. These matters have to take their course. We hope this will be speeded up and concluded very soon.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I am gtyd that the Prime Minister who is also Minister of Finance has got up and thrown some light on the questions raised by Members on this side. As I listen to him I realise there are some other questions that need to be asked and I hope that the Prime Minister will address them.

I heard the Prime Minister and I am going to recap. He said that the Government workers were paid from the employment levy and claims are being processed. The remainder of the workers will be paid. He also alluded to the sugar workers and said that settlement is in the making as far as their severance is concerned. He talked about the Transport Board workers and he also mentioned that^that settlement is in the making. But I am concerned since the Prime Minister went on to say that these claims are substantially reduced.
I am aware, looking at the Estimates that the level of subsidies which used to be given to statutory bodies to enable them to pay directly to severed workers has been reduced and this year we notice that for one particular corporation the subsidy is no longer there. My question to the Minister of Finance, therefore, is whether he has included a sum of money in anticipation of workers who will obviously be laid off and workers whom he has said in the past, clearly by his Ministerial statement, will be severed.

I am not drawing any conclusions. I am saying this is what the Prime Minister has said. It is obvious that Transport Board workers will be severed. According to his last statement to this House, Transport Board workers will be severed and I am going to go as far as to say 250 of them will go home. At least 200 drivers will go home within the next couple of weeks or months. There are 348 drivers and you have 75 buses. You are going to employ 100 drivers, therefore 200 will be going home. The question I am asking now is whether the Minister of Finance has provided for these severed workers - what provision is being made to take care of that and how soon?

Mr. Chairman, we had problems in the past with the workers who were not told precisely when they were going to get their money. I am asking up front now because I want to reduce the conflict and confusion in this country. I know the Prime Minister has been able to set it out, he has the information. The question of severing workers at the Transport Board is no longer a question mark.

Everybody knows it is going to happen. All I want to know at this early stage is whether the Prime Minister is in a position to say how soon. He has said how soon the other workers are going to be paid. That is all I want to know and I think that is a reasonable question. Mr. Chairman, I take this question of severance and unemployment benefits very seriously. People out there have committed themselves to bank loans to assist them with furniture, to assist them with their children's education, medical bills, mortgages and the purchase of land to enable them to survive. They have been severed. They still have the bank loan and mortgage to pay. 6.20 p.m.

Therefore, when it comes to severance, shocking as it has been, where people are not given notice which would allow them to make some arrangement with the bank, I want to know how the Government thinks in terms of these people. I am going to say this: Waiting for a year to receive severance payment or any benefits that these people are entitled is doing them an injustice. It is unfair to them.

1 am calling on the Government, whether the Prime Minister likes the word "uncaring" or not, to show that you care about the people by paying them as speedily as possible. I am calling on the Government to do that. I am saying that 6 months is too long because it only takes 3 months for the bank to call in your mortgage. You miss 1, 2 and 3 payments and the bank has your property up for sale. Most of these people cannot afford that. Regarding the question of retraining them, they cannot be trained within 3 months to get another job. Some of the people are unemployable, Mr. Chairman. The training cannot do them any good.

2

Sir, I am concerned about that element because of the number of people who have been severed and in some cases, Mr. Chairman, father and mother have been put on the bread-line. That is what makes it so painful. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas talking about people asking him for money. I am sure all of us know of this, but some people on the other side do not realise what is happening. I do not know where they live. It is a very-serious thing. I know of one woman who lives in my constituency. I did not want to say this. But she is waiting on her unemployment benefit and, because of the time it has taken her, she turned to me and said that she will have to go on the street You know what that means. She must now go and prostitute herself in order to make money to pay the rent because she lives in the Pine. She is called upon by the National Housing Corporation to pay her rent. That is the sort of story I heard. I am saying that I have a duty to say this if people do not understand what is going on out there. Women are now turning to prostitution because some of them have not received their monies. I am saying that is how serious it is.

Mr. Chairman, all I am saying is that every effort should be made to put these people in funds. When the Severance Fund and Unemployment Benefit Scheme were established, they were set up with this understanding to cushion the impact in serious economic times. We know that and that is why I am calling on the Government to see how best it can expedite the system in getting funds into the hands of severed workers. I want to suggest that when the Barbados Labour Party was in Government and recognised that it had several claims that it appointed additional tribunals. That would help to handle the cases. Just as you are asking for additional judges to handle a backlog of cases, I am just putting the case for the severed workers. There is a backlog of cases out there and all you have got to do, and I hope the Prime Minister does not think this is a tedious thing - is to appoint additional Severance Tribunals so that these case can be handled as speedily as possible. I want to say this because sometimes people call it explosive language when you tell people about the tension out there in the society. We had better understand that there is tension out there. The people are very annoyed because of a lot of things they see in the system.

Sir, I have heard the Chairman of the National Insurance Board on record saying that there would not

be any preferential treatment. All I am saying is that there are lots of cases and I know as a result they would like time to be heard. If funds are in the Severance Fund and the Unemployment Benefit Fund, then I see no reason why it should take so long. The information can be obtained from the employer. If the information is not obtained *or* sent in as quickly as mandated by the law, I think that every effort should be made to expedite the claims a* ^ pay the people. That would help to reduce the tension DI which I speak. It is money. People want to survive.

How can we really sit down and deal with a subject like this and do not understand the human element? It is all right talking about claims. Yes, I can understand that. I can wait. But how many people out there can wait? Most of us in here can wait. There are people who are living hand io mouth, day to day and minute to minute who cannot find money to buy a chicken on Sunday. They are waiting for this severance money. I know that I think that we have to be more serious.
Sir, I am asking the Government to be more serious about this. This is nothing to toy with. The law says that. The reduction of it is bad enough. Be that as it may, I can understand the present economic situation. I will go along with that What worries me is the pressure on those poor people who have got mortgages to pay and who are living in Government houses. Pressure is brought to bear on them. Bailiffs are embarrassing them by moving in on them and carrying their furniture away. At the same time, they are entitled to severance money or unemployment benefits. They cannot tell the bailiff to hold on that they are getting money from the Severance Fund. Let us understand



that. How can one go out there with a letter saying "you owe me"? The Government is not accustomed to giving notes and stating what they owe. If you owe someone, you cannot go and ask the Permanent Secretary, Minister or the Prime Minister for a letter to take to a bank. They are not interested in that. I want the Government to pay the debt because those people are suffering. I will tell you how they are suffering. They suffer because interest has accrued on the loans and the mortgages. The people have lost their credit rating and in some cases they cannot go back to a bank to borrow money.
Sir, I know there are some cases where Government can holdstrain on other bills for people. But I am just asking you to understand that most of these people fall into this category of having to go to the Severance Fund. These people can least afford to miss a week's wage and jobs are not out there. Let us understand that jobs are not out there. When I hear the call from a trade unionist that we must shorten the Severance Fund benefits...it is all right when times are good. But times are bad now and every penny counts. I hope that call will not come again especially in these times.

Sir, we have got to understand what we are dealing with. The human element is what I am concerned about. There are poor people from NCC, the bus drivers and so on. I am talking about those people. As I said* the training is not there to go around. I am just asking the Government to treat this matter with seriousness. This is no laughing matter. This side over here is making points no matter how it is interpreted by the other side. The reality is that this is a very sensitive area and people are being hurt. There is a lot of social dislocation especially among the families. Let us look at it in this light. I hope that Government understands clearly now and that the point has been brought home to Government in dealing with this particular matter,

Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDDFORD: I am speaking to the question raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East of speeding up the process. I did explain to the Committee before, and I repeat it, that there are now 3 tribunals working 4 days a week to speed up the process, and no one is taking this matter lightly. The Board and the staff that have responsibility for these matters are processing the claims as expeditiously as possible within the framework of the laws and regulations governing the operations. 6.30 p.m.

In respect of the other question asked in relation to workers who may be severed, I do not know how I am to deal with hypothetical questions. But the Honourable Member knows that there is a procedure for dealing with these matters, that the workers should apply to their employer first of all, and then they may

go to the Fund.

The matters are being dealt with.
Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I take the point about the procedure. I have heard that before/Mr. Chairman, but what I want the Prime Minister to understand is that it is evident that the money which is supposed to pay these severed workers by the employer is not provided for, and therefore they must come to. It is a must now situation, and I want to know if you have the money in there. That is what I am asking.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the Prime Minister's reply has added confusion to this matter, it has not clarified any matter. Let us get a few things straight There are some severance cases that are contested, because they are disputed as to whether they are severed or not. There are tribunals dealing with those matters. There are several other hundreds of severance cases in which there is no contest of any nature whatsoever. It is absolutely clear that those persons have been severed and in many cases the employers are not able to pay them. Those facts are known. The sole issue is their entitlement, how much they are entitled to, and even that is not in dispute. Those are clear.

My indictment of the Government is that in the clear cases that are available no payment has been made to these people for a long time. I have now heard from the Government that there is a contingent liability of $25.2 million in the position-where the Fund has less than $3 million available to it. That is a clear case that the Fund is deficient and it is unable to pay the claims. We get to the position of Section 27 of the Severance Payments Act, Cap. 355A, which says this:

"Any temporary insufficiency in the assets of the Fund to meet the liabilities of the Fund under this Act shall be met from such sums as Parliament may advance for the purpose."
My indictment of the Minister is that he has a duty, if he is managing his department, to monitor these matters and to come before Parliament timely in order to make up the Fund. I am not mincing words on this matter and I am not going to be fobbed off. The point is, I expect that the National Insurance Board is reporting monthly to the Minister on these matters. I do not expect Government to allow over 3 000 claims to build up and then to hear from the Minister that only last week he got some sort of submission from the Board. He could only have had 2 submissions from the Board. Either a submission in order to reschedule the $10 million loan we voted here in Parliament, or what I would have expected from a caring set of people, a submission that the Board be put in further funds in time for the Estimates in order that people could get what they are entitled to.

The Minister is mistaken if he confuses the genuine claims under the Severance Payments Act with the



position of the civil servants who were severed and who do not come under this Act at all. They come under the Employment Levy Act, but they must not be confused. Even when they are settled, the number of workers in line waiting for their money is going to be several hundred, as I said. Time is of the essence in this matter.

Sir, we can go through figures, but basically at the end of the day we are dealing with human suffering. They are individuals who have no money in order to buy food, some of them to pay rent, to send their children to school and to look after the necessities of life, including people who are ill. That is why when the allegation of lack of caring is made, it is made in that context of this House dealing with those sorts of situation. We must all be deeply conscious of it, otherwise we are going to become irrelevant as politicians. When the Honourable Member for St. George South spoke, he was speaking within that context and in that manner. We must always be able to respond promptly to genuine human need, particularly where part of that need is created by our own acts, by the manner in which we have contracted the economy to put people out of work, people with talent, and to throw them, as I said last week, on the garbage heap. We have run the country in such a way tonight...

*Aside.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: When I say "we" I mean the Government. The Government has run the country in such a way tonight that we have this number of people that are in this need.
I am saying to the Prime Minister, yes, the Opposition is willing to support a Resolution to make the funds available. The Prime Minister says that he is in a tight situation, but this is an area in which you can borrow for this Fund. I see we are coming in here to give power to other Statutory Boards, like the Toujism Investment Board, to borrow. Surely this is a need that we must answer, and if we have to go back to it again the Opposition will go back to It again, because we believe it is fundamental that we keep civil order in this country and that we do not give anyone - the Prime Minister knows I am choosing my words very carefully - the excuse for disturbing the peace and order of the country.
I really wish we could get this one straight, because there.are rumblings of which Honourable Members have spoken.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think I will now give the final response to this. I am giving Honourable Members an opportunity, if they wish to speak further on this issue, to do so. That done, I am just making it clear that this is the final response I am making.

Sir, I would like to give the Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. George South, the Member for St. Michael South East, and the Member for St. Thomas, my very good friend, and all Members who have spoken on this matter the assurance that we will seek to resolve the issues in a way that is sustainable. We just cannot take steps that would make the situation worse, we have to do it in a sustainable manner. 6.40 p.m.

I am very grateful for the assurance of the Leader of the Opposition that when we come for action on this matter by Parliament in the interest of social stability and in the interests of relieving the genuine problems that exist that we will get a speedy and positive determination of this particular issue.
I have given that assurance and certainly we look forward to the cooperation...

*Asides.*

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, the Member for St. George South is seeking to establish a position for himself as the conscience of the underprivileged and he speaks in a populist kind of way. Those are the words but I do hope. It is time in this society now and in the period hereafter that we build up a consensus of things we should be doing and that we do not make impossible demands.
With that, Sir, I beg to move that this Head 15 stand part.

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

*The question was put ar*d resolved in the affirmative without division,*

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE - (AMENDED) $4 307 471

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman I beg to move that Head 16 - Ministry of the Civil Service in the sum of $4 307 471 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there i$ no doubt that events of the past 2 years have left the majority of civil servants in this country demoralised by the actions of the Government in the manner in which it has cut a vote for money as well as sent a large number of their fellow workers into retirement and placed them out of work.

Earlier in this debate, the Honourable Member for St. Peter raised a very fundamental matter to which we must revert in this Committee. It is that the Government by its Estimates are clearly saying that it can afford to pay

back the 8%. I want to state up front that we are not part and parcel of any movement to cut the wages of the civil servants further. The Honourable Member asks if I support the restoration of the 8%...
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, now. No. I cannot do that because following that situation then you can build a speech on that. It is not permissible.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The position is absolutely clear. We were against the cut in the first place and made our position absolutely clear there was no need for a cut in the first place. Hence we took the clear position in this House that the civil servants need not have been put through the problems they have had to face, not for $37 million. I recommended then and told the Prime Minister that he would not in 18 months going to be able to get the country to the stage that he said that he could get it back on a growth path. Everything we have said on this has been quite clear. We paid a tremendous price in human suffering for the difficulties that have come before us.

We now have to find a way of remotivating the civil service. It is going to be a very difficult task and it is complicated and made worse by some of the very steps being taken towards the service in many other respects.

Let me say, Sir, that I am - I cannot say confused. Some of the temporary appointments made to the Civil Service have not been in the. best interests of the Service. Let me take 2 of the appointments made and are affecting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There is 1 appointment in which the gentleman does not understand the Civil Services rules. He does not understand the discipline that when he is in the Civil Service, he does not have a duty to be running his mouth all over the place and speaking on every Ministry as though he is the Minister. He is interfering in other Departments of Government. He is like a loose cannon. Although he might have political clout, in my view, he is badly suited to have been any temporary appointment. Now he is followed by another Ambassador at Large and Trade Commissioner.

So we will find ourselves with 2 people being paid at the level of almost Permanent Secretary whose only qualification are that both of them at some stage or the other have run businesses into bankruptcy. I cannot understand for the life of me how we can continue to demoralise the Civil Service in this way by making temporary appointments of this nature.

I can only say that the only reason must be purely political. I am concerned that this should happen because it is being talked about and the genuine officers that have
the ability to promote trade and jtb do other things for the Government are not being given the opportunity to deal with it

How can an ambassador at large be at one moment interfering with the Ministry of Culture? At a next moment he is speaking in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the next moment he is speaking in the Ministry dealing with matters of copyright. The next moment he is dealing with the matters of financial services. He wants firing out of the. Ministry. If I were the Minister I would not stand for that. That is demoralising to the civil servants.

One has to be very careful with these temporary appointments. What is hurtful too, is that good top quality civil servants have had to go home and see these fellows brought in and given plum jobs in circumstances that they should not have been brought in. The only reason could be for political reasons. If we are going to politicise the Civil Service in this way, we will end up eventually undermining one of the strong planks by which Barbados has been able in the past to attain the reputation deservedly of being one of the best run countries.

If there is one thing that is important, it is that we should have an impartial civil service who understands the rules, who are retrained for the task ahead. We have to invest very heavily in human resources and in improving those human resources to use these human resources to increase the efficiency and to .bring about the good management that Barbados needs at this time. 6.50 p.m.

I am saying to the Minister that he must watch the manner in which appointments are being made. I believe a case can be now made out as well for some report to come to this House from time to time from the Public Service Commission. I have not seen the Report of the Public Service Commission. There have been many persons who have been in the zone of appointment and sometimes one wonders how the juggling has been made that A has been preferred over B and you are hearing these rumblings. If the legislation needs to be amended that we can debate these matters without interfering with the independence of the Commission I believe that type of amendment should be made and brought before this House in time.
Let me say, Sir, that we have no intention of going down the road being suggested by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I do not want to anticipate next week's debate in this House but I can let the Minister know now that it is a mistake to assume that other persons outside of the Service have not themselves also had their standards of wages as well as their standards of living cut. The contraction of the economy has resulted in affecting the pay packets of several people outside of the Civil Service as a whole.

3131

It is a mistake to assume that the effect has only been limited to members in the Civil Service in general. We will have another opportunity to debate this matter during the current year. I just want at this stage to speak in a general way about the problems that have been caused to the Civil Service.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join in this debate on Head 16 to raise one specific question and to raise a comment on Sub-programme 02. Now the Government, I believe through the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, stated what is its position regarding the restoration of the 8% cut. But I also think that Government's policy also affected the payment of increments.
The Minister of Finance, as I understand it, has not yet addressed that question of what is going to be Government's - I am not being mischievous because it is a legal matter as well. I believe the legislation which was introduced giving effect to the 8% cut also suspended increments. Whereas the restoration of the 8% cut was to be restored at the end of March, increments were to be restored in September. That is my recollection of the situation. The Government can correct me if I am wrong. I am saying we have heard what is the Government's position in relation to the restoration of the 8% cut. I have not heard what is the position in relation to the restoration of the increments. Consequentially, I have not heard if there are additional financial implications which would stem from the restoration of increments that would affect the execution of these Estimates. Therefore I rise on this particular matter to raise that precise question. What really. J | is the policy regarding the restoration of increments which | [is something that legally has to be undertaken byfj September?
Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has on more than one occasion quite often gone on record as stating that one of the repercussions of the Barbados 1982 IMF Programme was that we designated retraining of public servants. Against all of the facts, the Government said that we set back the Public Service of Barbados by treating cuts in training as one of the areas that should have been executed with a view to bringing about a fiscal balance. Now, Sir, before this House now, and before this Committee at this time, is the provision that the amount for training of public servants in technical areas that contribute their contribution to economic, social and cultural development should be reduced from the amount of $630 000 which is the actual expenditure in 1990-91 to $324 000 last year to $100 000 in the year to come. I would find it difficult to support this particular adventure on the part of Government.
[5]1 do not really believe that seeking to economise at this time on the Training vote is going to substantially improve Government's financial position but it is going to substantially, in my view, reduce Government's capacity to implement investment programmes of the kind that are necessary to bring Barbados out of its present morass. I therefore could not knowingly vote in this House to do what it is intended at Head 16, Sub-programme 02 to cut $267 000 from the Training vote of $367 000. In essence, what the Government is planning to do is absolutely destroying the Government's Training'•programme and making it difficult for the Government to develop the kind of expertise through its own efforts as would improve efficiency in the Public Service of Barbados. This is a retrograde.step. When one considers, Sir, that these are Estimates in which we are being asked to vote money for Sherbourne and the St. Joseph Hospital it really cannot be that we must now economise on training.

Across the world there is now the growing understanding that training and retraining is as critical to the development of enterprises, whether public or private, as financial management or the exercise of purely technical functions. If the Government could reconsider this particular Head I really believe it would be making a substantial contribution to the improvement of efficiency and equally so giving itself a chance to go about carrying out structural adjustment in our economy. I believe, Sir, in particular that places like the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs where a tremendous burden is going to be placed on persons to become innovative, forecasting the economy better and putting in place new types of macro economic and other policies, will require a higher level of training than has been the case in the past.

I believe also, Mr. Chairman, that we are seeing the need for retraining in areas such as the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce where new institutions requiring the conduct of new functions that have been put in place, therefore this particular course of action on which the House is asked to embark on I think in itself is self defeating. If the Minister could respond and explain clearly what are the kinds of considerations which have caused him to believe that we must economise on this particular matter I would be very grateful.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I will respond to this matter. I have listened carefully to what the Honourable Member for St. Peter has said. Training is indeed an area in which we would not wish to do the cuts. I will certainly keep this vote under review. If there is ever a window of opportunity for increasing the provision, and bringing into play other agencies as well to assist in the broad training programme, I will certainly do so. I have a particular proposal in mind which may even broaden the net for those who may be in need of such training as the Honourable Member for St. Peter has referred to. But I will talk to him privately on this particular matter. 7.00 p.m.



I would like to say that the sentiments expressed here are, I think, well directed, and I certainly appreciate that they are in keeping with our own thinking. As soon as the opportunity arises, we will certainly try to look at this in as positive a manner as possible.

On the question of increments, Sir, I did indicate at the start of this debate that what I do not say today may be said next week. So I think this question may fall under that particular *rubric.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 16 as amended stand...

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by the Hon. B. M. TAUT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now suspended until 8.05 p.m. today, Sir.

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

*The question was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.*

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee

of Supply. To that it shall revert.

*Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.*
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Resumed)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make some general observations about the condition of the civil service. I believe the members of the Government would appreciate that the morale of the civil service is very low, caused chiefly by the enforced pay cut, the denial of increments and a certain disillusionment with methods particularly of promotion and recognition of one's worth for promotion purposes.

I will start first at the level of the Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries. Of late it appears that the criteria by which these very senior officers gain promotion has become blurred and it is known that there is political input at a very high level prior to the appointment to some of these senior posts. And in the nature of things, information leaks out from Government Departments so that when a political figure writes on a file of a person who is in line for promotion at a very high level "Let Mr. So and So wait" it gets back to the person because there are other civil servants dealing with this file who do not like that, who know it is unfair and walk out and talk about it and can give you the date, the number of the page with the Miftute Number at the top.

I am not concerned about disclosing those matters today. But I am saying that that kind of behaviour leads to a loss of confidence in the political process by people who ultimately have to assist whichever party is in Government in the decision-making process. We are weakening the quality of persons in the service because sooner or later people get fed up and do not produce or they leave. 8.10 p.m. Now Members on the other side know of. those incidents to which I refer. I am not being contentious and I am not going to expand on that

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFQRD: I am on a point of order, Sir. I do not know of any comments in a file relating to appointments. I want to make it clear that I am unaware of the comments to which the Honourable Member is. referring. I want to make it clear less it be thought that I have written such thing on a file. I have responsibility for this Head, Sir, and I want it to be absolutely clear.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, there is a feeling also that undue attention is being given to persons let us say from the Northern parishes. That does not include St. Thomas. For the purposes of this discussion, it does not include St Thomas. For example, the person who is on his way shortly to Canada as Counsel General does not come from SL Thomas. There are other strange happenings in the Civil Service. The Prime Minister has in his office now 2 additional people. One is from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a kind of Special Adviser on matters of foreign affairs. I wonder what is the need for this person. I understand the reason to have another lady in the Ministry of Economic Affairs. I am not too worried about that. Regarding the officer from Foreign Affairs who is performing a special duty, I wonder if that is the most efficacious thing to do. Having regard to the seniority of the Attorney General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I would have thought that if the Prime Minister wished to be advised on foreign affairs matters which might bear peripherally on him that he would consult the Minister. The lady is from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and she is well able to advise her substantive Minister who could then advise the Prime Minister. It is causing talk. That is



how the Opposition knows these things. It is causing talk in the Public Service. People do not like it and they are guessing why has it been done since it has never been done before. I am only drawing these things to the Prime Minister's attention so that he can reply and, if necessary, if he obviously has a very good reason, let him state it.

Sir, we are still faced even in 1993 after both parties to my certain knowledge in the last 17 years that I have been in Parliament with this problem. We have both complained about the position with acting appointments. We still have today people who are temporarily appointed after 12 years' continuous service. I spoke of acting appointments today in respect of a judge. But I am saying in the ordinary Civil Service there are people in there with 10 years who are not appointed. It cannot be right that in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for example, there is a stenographer who has been there between 10 to 12 years temporary, acknowledged by all in the Ministry to be the best person and the most competent officer in that Ministry, performing that duty and she is still temporary. She has to endure seeing a person who is a lot younger come into the Ministry and be appointed above her and who has not put in the years service in the Public Service.

Now these are anomalies. I am not saying that these are matters which a Minister necessarily is aware of in his day-to-day work because a lot of us do not get involved as Ministers in personnel matters What I am submitting is that when these matters are drawn to Government's attention without appearing or without trying to take away from the functions of the Public Service Commission, the Minister responsible for the Civil Service has a duty to investigate these matters to see if they are cases of genuine hardship or a genuine oversight where the person has been forgotten or whatever. Try to straighten out the problem. The Minister may not have known of the problem before and I do not expect him necessarily to know. I am saying that once it has been drawn to your attention then I think the Minister has the responsibility to see that the matter is cleared up. Those are the points that I wanted to make, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I will now just reply to the debate. During the dinner recess, I have had opportunity to reflect on the point raised by the Honourable Member for St. Peter in respect of training. I certainly had formed the impression from his speech that there was a reduction in the vote for training, and I did indicate a certain acceptance and sympathy of the point being made by the Member. When I however turned to Head 16, Operating Expenses on page 12, Sub-programme and Object No. 212, the Operating Expenses have actually increased by $37 000.1 am not saying that is much or not, tyit the point was made that there was a reduction in the amount provided. Rather than a reduction, there is an increase of $37 000.1 will admit that we would wish to be in a position to provide even more resources. Within our limited situation, we are seeking to maintain and increase the training funds for the administration of training awards, for facilitating special training overseas, and for grants or loans to individuals to assist them in defraying expenses while pursuing courses of study and training.

Let me respond to the few* and I almost said rambling thoughts, Sir, of the Member for St Thomas. But I think there was some method in the way in which the Member for St. Thomas presented his particular comments on the Civil Service. Let me say that being from the North is not d criterion for or against any individual in the Public Service, to the best of my knowledge. But you know, Sir, I really do not deal with those matters. The important consideration is whether the person is qualified by training or. experience, *or* a combination of both, for posts and if the Member has a particular concern on either of those grounds, I am certainly willing to discuss it with him and hear what his particular concern is. 8.20p.m.

In terms of an officer in the Prime Minister's Office, on secondment from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this is to facilitate the very consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that was referred to. On a daily basis, as the Member for Christ Church South will be able to tell you, there is correspondence and matters relating to foreign affairs which come into the Prime Minister's Office, which call for consultation, collaboration, not only with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but with a number of other Ministries, and in my own judgment that process of consultation and collaboration would be enhanced by the presence of someone dealing with that particular issue. That is how I see it. It does not in any way derogate from the role and position of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

As you will see, Sir, I have just done a consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, so there is really no change in that particular relationship. But other people will do it in their own way. I am not, and have never been, afraid of trying something new. The Member for St. Peter is always talking about being creative. In fact, in this very debate he has been speaking about training for that kind of creativity.

I am trying to recall if there was any other point made by the Honourable Member. I would just like to say generally that it is my information, I am advised, that the Public Service Commission, which is responsible for appointments, has been very busy over the last couple of weeks, and perhaps before, Sir, interviewing a whole range of persons, as part of its responsibilities for appointments in the Public Service. In their own time, they will certainly come up with their decisions.

As far as the question of actual appointments of acting persons are concerned, I believe when the record

3134

is examined, it will be seen that we have created more posts to seek to ease this particular problem, and to transform those who may be holding temporary or similar positions into holders of permanent positions, certainly under my administration. We are also preparing another Civil Establishment Order in that particular area which should also bring some ease in the situation the Honourable Member is referring to.

*The question that the sum of $4 307 471 under Head 16 - Ministry of the Civil Service - as amended - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 17 - OMBUDSMAN - $ 31 599

Rt. Hon. L. E. S ANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 17 for the sum of $31 599 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 18 - AUDIT - $301 621

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 18 for the sum of $301 621 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. -GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in the 22 odd years I have been in this House I have only once heard a debate on this Head being done comprehensively. I intend this evening, however, to reverse the trend of not debating the Head of the Auditor General and I want to begin speaking from the perspective of Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

That Committee has a responsibility to report to this House on the Auditor General's accounts as they come before us. It is a reflection, in my view, on the Select Committees of the House that between 1971 and to date there has only been one report from the Public Accounts Committee to the House relating to the Auditor General's Reports. It is not because the Auditor General has not reported regularly, it is because the committee system, in my view, has not been working properly in Barbados for a long time. If we are to give timely consideration to these very valuable reports, Parliament will have to examine the need for staff to attend to these matters so that we can have regular meetings of

the Committee and get the reports before the House.

Sir, the last Auditor General's Report for the year ended 31st March, 1992 was made to the Speaker in the month of January. That was in accordance with the law. Those Reports do not get to me, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, or to any members of the Committee until they have been laid in the House, and the Report was laid in this House at the last sitting. Prior to the Report being laid, there were extracts in the Press and a few misguided people, or one in particular, took the opportunity to take pot shots, for whatever reason he might feel, at the Committee and in particular at its Chairman. I have already said in this House I have some common sense, I managed to have had the ability to pass a degree and I find it difficult to compete with people who buy their degrees and are now authorities on everything under the sun. I just want to make it absolutely clear that the Public Accounts Committee can only consider the Auditor General's Report once that Report comes to our hands. 8.30 p.m.

What is more, we cannot discuss the proceedings of the Committee in public until such time as we have made official reports to this House. I have stated that the Committee has been meeting consistently since last year and we have given consideration to the Reports of the Auditor General for the past 5 years relating to the Ministry of Health. We will be concluding consideration of those reports for 5 years relating to the Ministry of Health and then we will move into the other Ministries. We will report to this House.

However, Sir, I want to deal specifically now, even before this Report goes before the Public Accounts Committee with the 1992 Report of the Auditor General. It is a very serious indictment of the manner in which the Government has conducted its business. In particular, it is a severe indictment of the Minister of Finance, the Rt. Honourable Member for St. Michael South. Let me cite some of the major breaches of statutory requirements reported on by the Auditor General. I am reading from his Report at page 2, section 1.5:

"Several breaches of statutory requirements were observed and comments will be made on them in the appropriate sections of this Report."

He says:
"However, special mention is being made of some of them below".
Section 1.7 Statutory Personal Emoluments were shown separately in the Estimates but amounts required to meet other statutory payments were either not properly identified or omitted completely."
Earlier tonight, the Honourable Member made mention. of the necessity to put funds in the Sinking



Fund to service 2 particular loans. That comes to mind when I see this sort of comment. Even worse than this is the comment made at section 1.12 on page 3.

"The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment and Validation) Act, 1990-39 authorised borrowing by means of temporary advances up to a limit of 17.5% of the current revenue as estimated in the Annual Estimates. The limit was exceeded on several occasions throughout the year."
When one takes into account the further comment at page 10, Section 2.13:

"The amount of $212 700 000 liability to the Central Bank represents temporary advances outstanding and exceeds the statutory limits by $41 625 155."

I have read this, Sir, because what the Auditor General has confirmed is the criticism which we have been levelling at this Government for the past year and more, its ability to breach the laws of Barbados and in this case to breach the Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment and Validation) Act, 1990 and the complicity of the Central Bank in allowing the Minister throughout the past year 1992 to exceed the limit

set by law and the Minister's failure to remedy the position or to give any proper explanation.
If the Government continues as it did before to breach the law, then what example is the Government itself setting for the average citizen? I have commented on this matter because between 1989 and 1991, particularly 1991, the Government printed money to finance itself without having the foreign reserve balances to justify its excesses. The Prime Minister was able to boast about how well we had it in this country.

*Asides.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: We never had it so good in 1991. I interpreted his words that we were in "bountiful Barbados", breaking all sorts of records. What really were the records that we were breaking was the breaking of the law by printing money to finance the Government to win an election. That is virtually what is happening. The Auditor General has again pointed it out and this House has to take note.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The Honourable Member is accusing this side or myself of breaking the law to win an election. I am saying that that is not only imputing improper motives, it is stating quite openly that an action has been taken which certainly is contrary to the practices of this Honourable Chamber. I am saying, Sir, that he is imputing improper motives to ^e and that is
contrary to the Standing Orders and I would ask the Honourable Member graciously to withdraw that imputation.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I have never heard that winning an election is imputing improper...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE:... but if the Honourable Member feels it is an improper thing to win the election...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not let us skirt around the issue. The issue is that, as I understand it, something corrupt was done to win an election.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am saying that the Government broke the law...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And in breaking the law?

Mr. H. deB. FORDE:... by printing money in the Central Bank.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All right. Just let me put the matter straight. I would be very happy if the Honourable Member would rephrase that.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I will rephrase it. I am saying that the Government broke the law by printing money in excess of its legitimate overdraft limit of the Central Bank when the Government ought to have known that it was in breach of the law in doing this and it did it consistently and, in the circumstances, the Government was able to finance matters in order to go into an election. That is what I am saying, if the Honourable Member is happier with that. That has been part of the economic woes of this country. It is documented now in the Central Bank Report for all to see. It cannot be a mere allegation of the Opposition as they were making it appear. 8.40 p.m.

I am saying that if the Minister continues to permit this to happen that we will end up in the position that Barbados will keep going down the slope of economic disaster.

A fourth point made in the Auditor-General's Report and which we have to comment on is that warrants were not being issued for all statutory expenses. There were also several instances where payments were made in excess of amounts authorised by warrants. This is a very bad financial practice. That is at paragraph 1.14 of the Auditor-General's Report. This is now not coming from the Opposition. It is documented. It is an examination of the Government's accounts. The manner in which the accounts are maintained is a matter for the Prime Minister, the person with responsibility for this Ministry.

Finally it is his responsibility and if 1 was the Minister of Finance and I got this tremendous criticism about the way in which my administration is being run, 1 would have no choice but to take this seriously and offer the Prime Minister my resignation as Minister of Finance.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in 2 . minutes.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I would have to take that seriously, Sir. As we go on through and through this Report we find being documented every minute instances of breaches of the Financial Administration and Audit Act and of the other provisions which we have put in place to ensure proper financial accountability that must occur. I am going to recommend to Honourable Members of this House that we very seriously read the recommendations made by the Auditor-General for improving the manner in which we do business in Barbados and in particular how we maintain the accounts of this country.
The Auditor-General has also made some very positive recommendations that call for action on behalf of the Government so that he can do value for money audits, examine and report on the economical, efficient and accepted use of resources of this country. This is a matter we have raised with him and I am glad to see the recommendation is here.

The Auditor-General, in my view, has some independence under the Constitution but he needs to have greater independence. I am going to invite the Government to follow the procedure as happens in the House of Commons, in Trinidad and in other Commonwealth jurisdictions and bring a separate Bill before this House giving the Auditor-General control over his staff and adequate resources to deal with the problems that come before him.

At paragraph 1.24, for instance, he makes the telling point that the central accounts of Government are almost fully computerised and some departments are developing in-house accounting in management systems. But his office is ill-equipped to review the audit systems because they have to do it now almost manually.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: So that he is out of date. When I look at the vote under the Auditor-General I note that no provision is made for that. I will have to come back to the Head as you said my time has expired.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a few short comments at this stage. First of all the Leader of the Opposition is indicating that the Report of the Auditor-General has just for the year – I think he said 1992 - come to his hand. He could therefore not have dealt with it before. He intends to bring it before the Public Accounts Committee. At least that is what I understood him to say.
The Public Accounts Committee is a Select Committee of this House, and it has powers to send for persons, papers and records. It can therefore conduct its business in the way it sees best. I really do not understand why the Public Accounts Committee does not get down to its own business, and examine the Report in the manner which it sees best. I would think it is somewhat premature for statements to be made before the Committee itself has given consideration to the Report. That is my personal judgment. I therefore would think that the Chairman of that particular Committee, who is the Leader of the Opposition, could send for the persons, papers and for whoever keeps whatever it is that he is concerned about in order to deal with these matters. I think we have to take things step by step and stage by stage. It is always a very sound way in which to proceed.

I would counsel the Chairman .of the Committee to approach this matter with all deliberate and due process tf he so desires. So I am not really going into the substance of the Report. He just obtained a copy of the Report. I believe he may have got a copy before I got one. Clearly there would be little time to date to study this Report, examine the recommendations, look at the statements or the breaches referred to, or whatever. We, certainly as a Government or Cabinet, have not been able to give that kind of examination to the Report. So let us not start making accusations in here, and laying all kinds of charges.

I am certainly not going on any counter charges at this stage. I think I will just let the matter rest for now because there seems to be a tendency for us to try to shoot off on these matters, and speak on them before we have given due consideration to them. I think that caution in how we proceed is still the best way of dealing with such matters.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a few contributions to the debate coming out of the Auditor-General's Report. One would be to make the obvious point that the time has come when some of the financial limits set in the Financial Administration and Audit Act, particularly pertaining to the award of contracts above a certain size has to be revised.

The Financial Administration and Audit Act set limits about 20 years ago regarding the contracts that public administrators can award without going to tender or inviting tenders. 8.50 p.m.

A lot of those regulations need to be revised, not with a view to changing the purpose they were intended to



serve but to bring the limits within line with what the information suggests would be reasonable limits.
I also want to say, Mr. Chairman, that the time might have come for us to review the entire working of the Committee system of the House. I believe the work of a Public Accounts Committee should not only be to review things after they have taken place and then seek to correct them because we have obviously found that that system is quite cumbersome and it has not worked well. But a Public Accounts Committee, in my view, Mr. Chairman, should also perform a useful purpose up front as well. I know in certain countries where the Public Accounts Committee served the purpose that this Committee is now serving; that Estimates are referred to a specific committee of the House with a view to having those Estimates looked at very seriously from a financial point of view before the matters are referred to the House.

The whole committee system of Parliament has not functioned well. Indeed the Public Accounts Committee might be the only committee in Parliament that is now functioning and functioning with any regularity. I believe, Sir, that the life of Parliament can be very much enriched if we were to take some time off to consider what kind of committee system would best allow us to get into our deliberations, expertise and advice on serious matters in much the same way that, for example, the American Parliamentary System is enriched by having brought before their parliamentary deliberations from time to time, expert advice through committees to deal with serious matters.

I think we have inherited a system, Mr. Chairman, that is now turning out to be too static, it is archaic, it is cumbersome to administer and we must no longer believe that we have to be bound by a system that is not functional merely because it has been there for a long period of time.

I say that in partial defence of the Public Accounts Committee because the Public Accounts Committee has been difficult to make work. One has to summon public officers, has to reconcile the time of the public officers with the Members of Parliament. But more to the point a lot of the information that is being investigated very often cannot be located and located quickly. So that I am anxious myself to see the Auditor-General's Report but I believe the House will be better served if we were to look to set up a special committee to review the Financial Administration and Audit Act with a view to having it reformed.
I would like to see included in the Financial Administration and Audit Act very clear regulations set out regarding what Government should do when it wants to dispose itself of properties other than land and to have that whole Act reformed with a view to changing the limits that now apply in relation to the awarding of contracts. Some of them, Sir, are really ridiculous But IT*" so, Sir, we have to rethink the role of the Public Accounts Committee in general and find a way of making the committee system a useful aspect of our parliamentary life rather than what it is, something which is very archaic and serves no other purpose than from time to time to give persons, who want to malign Members of Parliament, particularly for things that they could themselves have done and failed to do.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I also want to continue the debate by adverting to some of the other positive

recommendations in this report. The Auditor-General makes the point that within his own department there is the lack of trained accountants and he states that his department's efficiency could be improved by the appointment of at least 3 qualified accountants. I am asking the Minister with responsibility for the subject, what provisions, if any, are being made to make the qualified staff available in order to raise the standard of accounting and auditing in the public service as a whole. This is a very important recommendation and it is one that I must ask that early consideration should be given to and that the change recommended by the Auditor-General should be made.

There is also, Sir, a recommendation which the Honourable Member for St. Peter has adverted to for possibly raising the money limit for the award of contracts without inviting tenders. The figure was fixed at $5 000 in 1971 and a long time has gone and this has not been changed. There are 3 levels and the lowest level is $5 000 and then $25 000 for some contracts by tender. So I am suggesting, Sir, it is a recommendation that is validly made and there must be early consideration given to that.
The Honourable Member for St. Peter has on several occasions raised the issue of the disposal of Government assets other than real estate. If we are disposing of real estate by the Government a Resolution has to be brought before the House. But to enable us to deal with the sale of Government shares or other Government property then we are not necessarily dealing with the matter properly unless we have some control in the Financial and Audit Act. I get concerned about these matters particularly where Government is going into a divestment programme and where statutory boards from time to time dispose assets without any proper accountability being given to the House, and where the Auditor-General himself does not always have the staff or the time to call for the audit of the accounts of some statutory boards.
Whilst I am on that point, Sir, I want to raise a matter that I have previously raised in this House and it relates to the power of the Public Accounts Committee to examine the accounts of statutory boards in circumstances where we feel there has been misuse of government funds.

Now, the interpretation which has been given to us is that we have to wait until a report is made to the



House before we can deal with the matter. I am concerned about this because in one particular case we have been waiting to get a report of the Board set up by the St. Joseph Hospital Act in order to be able to deal adequately with the problems of the expenditure of Government funds by the Board of the St. Joseph Hospital and by the Ministry, which although there was a Board set up, the Ministry purported to continue to use the funds and run the funds as agents for the Board. And then we are going to be confronted with the position that we cannot carry out an enquiry in full because the report is not laid.

The Committee has no power to make the Board send a report to the Minister. The Minister should have the power to fire the Board if the Report does not come to him. The Committee has not even got the power to make the Minister lay the report and therefore it is frustration of the system and of the Member's time if we are going to be faced with legislation of that nature where we cannot then report in a proper manner to the House on whether or not public funds have been properly used in accordance with the Laws of Barbados. 9.00 p.m.

These are some of the frustrations that are confronting us as we set about trying to get the Committee to function properly and to assist the Auditor-General in accordance with the laws of Barbados.
Before I finish addressing this matter, I am also going to speak about those people outside who are knowledgeable on every subject.- There is one who hosted a call-in programme and who is no longer on that programme. He knows everything, Sir, and he is an authority on everything. I have not been the only Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. All leaders of the Opposition before me have been Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. The last Leader of the Opposition, the one before me, never got the Committee to function at all. All of the mouthings that I now hear from him and from his minions and also those who write in the newspapers in defence of him, too, surprise me. They have been slack in managing and looking after these matters and can only find time now to set up people in order to attack the present Committee. In my view, this is a Committee that has begun to function most efficiently of all of the Committees that I have sat on in this House.

Sir, I want to make the position clear. We do get cooperation from this Auditor-General and from the past Auditor-General. Some of the ideas that have come into the Report have been made by members on the Committee on how to improve the keeping of Government Public Accounts, how to give greater independence to the Auditor-General and how to ensure that the Auditor-General has his own staff. The Committee itself functions in a non-partisan way in order to get the best out of the account. It has ideas on how to look for corruption if it exists anywhere and how to deal adequately with the problems of the accounts of Barbados. One can only do this in an objective manner if the unwarranted vicious criticism that one is getting from frustrated malcontents would be directed where it ought to be directed instead of in the direction of this present Public Accounts Committee and its Chairman. Sir, I want to assure the Auditor-General and the House that we will continue to press on with our work.

Although the Prime Minister said that he does not want to answer some of the matters in this Report, there are some things that we should be serious about. For instance, we have some accounts that the Government has been making payments on behalf of other administrations. Obviously, they are Caribbean administrations. I can mention one particular country. They now owe us $1 134 357 for over 20 years. We should really try to account in order to correct this type of fund that is due to us. We also have money owed to us by International Sea Foods Limited of $1.3 million.

Those are matters that we cannot allow to remain arid obviously we take the recommendation and write them off. There is no point carrying them in the book. But that has a political history of its own where it spells out some of the disasters of the Democratic Labour Party Government between 1971 and 1976. At least we would like to bring them to an end. The Prime Minister has not said that he has not studied it yet, Sir. But look at paragraph 237 and he will see part of his haunting history of the Democratic Labour Party between 1971 and 1976 where monies are still owed to the Government by 2 companies that we had to set up the Dufus Commission to enquire into, Sir.

Sir, I hope that in the future when the Auditor-General's Report is laid that the Auditor's Report will be taken seriously by Members of the House. I do not agree with the Prime Minister that it is necessary to await the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Auditor-General's Report before dealing with this matter in the House. I believe that every Member is entitled to look at this Report and consider it seriously. More specifically, I am recommending to the Prime Minister that this should be enforced reading for himself for a start and for every member of his Department if we are to cut out the waste and the improprieties that are occurring in the financial accounts of Barbados in the various Ministries, Departments and Statutory Boards in this island.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I am going to wind up, Sir. I hope that when next year we come to this Head that I will be in a position as I have been here in making critical comments to come and say that I have seen



some improvements that have arisen in the keeping of the accounts of the public of this country.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I would have hoped that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in his submission would have indicated to the House the kind of support that he gets from the Members of the Government side, particularly from me. I certainly take the view that public accounts is a matter that should not cross political lines. It seems clear to me that there is a tradition over the years whereby there has been a blatant lack of respect for the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. I certainly do endorse almost all of the comments that were expressed by Members on the other side and I express a similar concern about those areas where vouchers and breaches on contract should not-occur. It is very difficult to function on the Committee with an Act that is in fact out of date.

Sir, I would hate the House to go away with the impression that it is only in this present period that

this practice has been going on. Indeed, from my research, it is a practice that has been going on for over 20 years. I think we should review the Financial Rules. It would be a good thing for the country if public officers who are responsible for the dispensing of funds appropriated by Parliament are made aware that they can be summoned before the Committee for failure to comply with the Regulations. I take a very serious view of public accounts. I have always given the support to the Members on that side and the other members of the Committee on this side intend to cooperate. At no time will we be involved in any hiding or covering up for anybody. 9.10 p.m.

I think it is a Committee which should be very well respected and I certainly intend to co-operate fully with the Members from the other side who are on the Committee. I want to make that part of the record.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDBFORD: Sir, I wish, in making the concluding speech on this particular Head to express appreciation for the serious approach Members have adopted to this particular Head. I am conscious that what has been said, has been said in the interest of improving the probity of the public financial system, particularly in relation to the role of the Public Accounts Committee, this Honourable Chamber, the role and function of the Auditor-General, and other related roles.
I would like again to stress that this matter should be handled with all deliberate and due consideration. In my view, the Public Accounts Committee can examine the Report, if the Committee so desires, and then they can proceed as they see fit after that Any comments that are madQ by the Committee, the Government will respond to. But let us be clear. We have a Report, and I stress the powers of the Committee to send for persons and papers. Those are the powers given to the Committee. Each Ministry and Department has an Accounting Officer. The Accounting Officer may have an observation or view on some of the matters raised in the Report Indeed, who is to know whether some of them may say that some of the comments made in the Report may not be accurate? You do not know what is the reaction of the Accounting Officers who have responsibility for these things. So let us not rush to judgment, but give all deliberate consideration, give due consideration to these matters. I think we will make progress in a way that will improve our system, if we proceed in this way.

With those words, Sir, I believe we can go to the vote on this matter.

*The question that the sum of $301 621 under Head 18 - Audit - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I now move that this sitting be suspended until 10 o'clock in the morning, tomorrow, March 9, 1993.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that, Sir.
*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly*. 9.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it should revert.

*Mr. SPEAKER left the chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.*

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (RESUMED)
Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

**HEAD 19 - (AMENDED) - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS – $79 046 168**

Rt Hon. L. E. SANDBFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 for the sum of $79 046 168 stand part of the Schedule.

3140

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

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in his introductory remarks to the second reading of this Bill the Minister of Finance made reference to certain state enterprises which he indicated the Government intended to divest during the current financial year. Two of those enterprises are the Arawak Cement Co. Ltd. and the Barbados National Oil Company Ltd. Indeed, the Minister went so far as to give possible dates for completion of the divestment process in relation to the Barbados National Oil Company, the National Petroleum Corporation and ^the Arawak Cement Co. Ltd. He volunteered very little information, understandably, about the course the negotiations on these enterprises is taking at this time.
There are, of course, some fundamental differences between the Government and ourselves on the approach to the whole issue of privatisation. It is true the Government has retained the services of 2 accounting firms, Ernst and Young, and Peat Marwick in order to advise the Government on putting up some sort of document which is now being given to potential investors. This came after the Opposition for some years has been asking for the setting up of an office of privatisation. This came too after the stringent criticism the Opposition made about the way in which some of the most valuable shares owned by the public of Barbados were divested. I refer in particular to shares in Barbados Mills Ltd., Barbados External Communications Ltd. and the Telephone Company. I still contend that the Government lost a golden opportunity in the sale of those shares to maximise the amount of return to get the true market value of those shares. It also lost a golden opportunity to have permitted Barbadians, particularly those overseas, to have participated in the divestment exercise.

Now, Sir, when we come to the Barbados National Oil Company and the National Petroleum Corporation, there are much wider considerations which I contend should guide the Government in the exercise of divestment. There is no doubt a strong case can be made out for a Caribbean policy on energy. We should be seeing the exercise in terms of joint venture with Trinidad and Tobago in particular which is the major oil producer and seller within the Caribbean community, and to a lesser extent with Venezuela. There is also a great opportunity for our own citizens to participate in this field in an area whefe, as was said yesterday, Mobil Oil Company showed scant regard for the self interest of this country some years ago which forced the Government of the Barbados Labour Party at the time to acquire its interest in the area. Sir, there is a further contradiction in Government's policy on energy. In one breath Government is going to divest 2 corporations that are basically making money, particularly the National Petroleum Corporation, and at the same time for whatever reason Government maintains a monopoly in the supply of petroleum products other than in a limited area, I believe, of aviation fuel, to the benefit of a private operator whose contribution to Barbados has been very doubtful over the years and who has made tremendous profits out of selling petroleum products within Barbados.

I have previously asked the Government about the Mobil Oil Agreement. That Agreement came to an end over 2 years ago and it is my understanding that negotiations have been going on, apparently spasmodically, with the Mobil Oil Company. What has happened is that there seems to be no settled policy to what the Government is going to do in this field. In the meantime, however, because of the Mobil monopoly, petroleum products have been increased from time to time in Barbados to give Mobil a

guaranteed 20% return, I am told, on the plant used in Barbados. I do not accept the Government's contention that the terms of the former existing contract obligated the Government to give Mobil a renewal. It had an obligation to negotiate but there was no obligation to give Mobil an extension of the oil lease. Some years ago, prior to the election, I pointed out that on then existing prices, if the Mobil Agreement had been terminated, it would have caused the taxpayers of the country US$5 million less in the cost of petroleum products. Today Barbados is selling gasolene at $7 per gallon higher than in any other of our CARICOM countries and in countries which allow the market to determine the price at which fuel is sold within their own countries. Now, one of the Government's reasons for getting rid of state enterprises is because under the IMF Agreement it says it must allow increased competition to apply. Why isn't the similar rule being insisted on in relation to our petroleum needs. The Government is in possession of submissions made from competing oil companies showing the Government that the Government can have petroleum products brought into Barbados at a lesser price, selling at a lesser price, with an increase in the standard of gasoline and leaded gas that we would get, and at the same time there would be no fall out in any net loss of jobs. 10.10 a.m.

As a matter of fact when the Democratic Labour Party re-won the Government in 1986 one of the first things the then Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Barrow, asked for was a study from the oil companies. That study has been made available to the Government I have had possession of the study. I have seen it, so I am not speaking through my hat The Government asked for consideration of if they had to move Mobil from where it was what would happen, whether there was going to be a new oil farm somewhere else and they were



given 3 scenarios to look at. At the end of the day the point was made that there would have been no net loss in jobs by the removal and the discontinuation of the Mobil monopoly, that petroleum prices would come down in Barbados and furthermore the Government will have the benefit of all of that area in order to develop a proper convention centre and a genuine area for tourism.

It is a plus to bring the Mobil Agreement to an end. I have heard nothing from any Minister of Government justifying why the Government is tied to Mobil, particularly in the context in which we are now talking about trade liberalisation and trying to allow competitiveness within the market area.
I want to say this: that when we have sold both the National Petroleum Corporation and the BNOC the Mobil monopoly will most likely be complete. And we are offered an ideal opportunity here to rationalise our energy resources and how we approach the whole issue of the supply of energy to us.
I must ask the Government too in its reply to tell us whether they still need Mobil after they have sold BNOC. I do not know what are the considerations that are applied. Or, is the Government's sole aim here in getting some money to answer the question of foreign reserves? That is what we have to ask.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I have to remind the Committee as well, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that during our tenure of time to maximise the use of the national resources in petroleum and in gas and in oil, we encouraged the setting up of a joint venture in the liquid petroleum gas products between Canadians - of whom one of the major shareholders is a Barbadian born person who went to school with myself -and ourselves. We are now, I believe, supplying at least 30 per cent if not higher of our LPG needs. Now that is the type of development that one would welcome and would like to see happening in Barbados in this field. Not leaving Mobil in a monopolistic position in a context of where the Government's overall thrust is towards liberalisation. And for some reason the Government refuses to give certainly to the House, certainly to the country, and certainly to the Opposition any reasonable explanation or information concerning its dealings with Mobil.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am in a position where in this Estimates, under Head 19, Sub-programme 01 - Loans and Advances, I now see that the Government is going to be making further loans to the BNOC

Limited during this financial year and I am wondering what is the need for that. I know it is capital, Sir. But what is the need for that and how long this need is expected to go on.

I have realised that there is additional drilling of at least one well, if not a second well, occurring just in the Windsor/Edgecumbe area and I want to know how long is this need going to go on and whether these matters are being taken into consideration in the negotiations that are going on with the 3 persons who have made offers.

The Government should also be aware that there are other West Indians who are interested, unfortunately the time limit set in relation to the sale of these assets has proved short for some persons. There are at least other West Indians from neighbouring Caribbean countries who have also expressed an interest, if the offers are not considered closed, in order to make a wider offer.

Sir, my time has expired but I would want, if necessary, to come back under this Head to speak about some of the other state enterprises to which loans and advances are going to be made.

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

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever one listens to the contributions of the Leader of the Opposition the impression is sought to be given that the Government has absolutely no inkling of how to go about the policy of privatising assets, that we do not understand anything about energy policy in Barbados, that he has had the benefit of all of these Reports and studies and all of these brilliant people who provide all of this information to him and he is so knowledgeable and worthy of listening to. It is really an attempt to misrepresent what the Government has stated as its objectives, both in respect of privatisation and the energy policy. That must be made clear because anybody listening to the view points expressed by the Opposition over time would feel that the Government has not set out, for the benefit of the public of Barbados the process it would be using and the way in which it would be privatising assets.
I must say I was somewhat surprised to hear the view point expressed in these Estimates that the Opposition-was concerned about the sale of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited, because the Government announced its intention to sell these assets from as far back as 1991 and I do not recall on any single occasion, between 1991 and now, Mr. Chairman, in which the Opposition expressed any concern about the sale of Barbados National Oil Company Limited. But I wish to say that our view is that Barbadians are entitled to express concern about the sale of any public asset. That is their responsibility as intelligent citizens and it is the duty of the Government therefore to put



in place mechanisms which are -1 do not want to use the word transparent because apparently that seems to have offensive connotations because the origin of it apparently cannot be traced in Barbadian folklore so I will use the word "clear" - and of sufficient integrity as to stand up to scrutiny. The Government has announced this process and some of the matters tangential to the process are now being worked on by way of legislation, for example, the establishment of a public investment fund to which the proceeds of privatisation will be placed. Even before the Honourable Member for St. Peter mentioned it the legislation was already being drafted by the Attorney General. This is symptomatic of the Opposition's response to issues of this sort But let me deal specifically with the 2 assets which the Honourable Member for Christ Church West had raised. With respect to Arawak Cement Plant, there have been 3 offers and the persons who made those offers recently met to defend or elaborate on the offers. Government has given them time to revise those offers. The offers come from international, regional and local sources. I do not think that it is any secret. I know that in legal and other circles it is reasonably well known the parties who are interested in the purchase of Arawak and it seems as though a large number also know the terms. 10.20 a.m.

Now the Arawak Cement Plant Memorandum was issued and it was advertised widely domestically, regionally and also in the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and in another trade journal which would be circulated among industrialists and persons involved in the production of cement and cement

bi-products. It had quite wide coverage and the dissemination of the Memorandum was considerable. In other words, a large number of persons requested the Memorandum and looked at it.
The Prime Minister has already outlined the completion date for Arawak and it is not true to say that very little information is being disseminated on the process. The Memorandum is available at the Office of Privatisation. Any citizen can request it and I know that members of the Opposition have requested copies of the Memorandum and the Office of Privatisation has also gone to the extent of furnishing the Leader of the Opposition with a copy of the Memorandum of Information for each of the assets so far made available for privatisation. L am certain that the one for Hey woods was sent. The prospectus for the sale of shares in Pine Hill Dairy was very widely disseminated both in Barbados and overseas.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am sorry. But I do know that the policy is that a copy will be sent because it is a public asset. It is nothing anybody is concealing and the point must be made clearly in this debate and for the public to know that there has been no attempt in terms of the process that we have put in place to conceal anything. There are certain people who seem to get some kind of satisfaction out of aping everything that Jamaica does. Therefore, they write in the newspaper inspired by persons who are familiar with the Jamaica model that you are supposed to set up a Spepial Committee of Parliament. You .are supposed to put the Leader of the Opposition on some committee and you are supposed to do all of these things that apparently the Jamaicans have done. Even though that is so, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition in Jamaica recently said that as far as he is concerned the privatisation process will come to a complete halt if he is elected as Prime Minister because the process is contaminated. The same process that journalists in Barbados at the instigation of others are saying that we should follow is a process which, in that country, is being described as being contaminated. I am saying no process is perfect.

The methodology which Government is using to privatise these assets is reasonable and fair. I am saying that in respect of all of the assets privatised so far except for the Barbados Mills shares and the Barbados External Telecommunications shares the Memorandum has been widely available. In respect to the Barbados National Oil Company and the National Petroleum Corporation, the Memorandum was also made widely available. As the Prime Minister has indicated, there are 6 bids and the dates for completion were also indicated in the process of his presentation. The Government retained private accounting firms to assist it in the process of privatisation and these firms have prepared their Memorandum and the valuations are open for scrutiny.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West wishes to take credit for the process, but I think that the public is well aware that the Government had in trend many of the features of this privatisation programme before. Even if that were not the case, and even if it is true that the argument advanced by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West that the Government is under some kind of institutional hammer, it has in fact been the history of privatisation programmes that the persons who have helped to'put in the administrative infrastructure in all of the countries which give effect to privatisation have been the international institutions. In most of the countries in which a privatisation programme exists, they have provided the technical assistance for the actual structure which Governments adopt in their privatisation process. I am saying that, even if it were correct to say that the Government was under the hammer of the international institutions, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is obviously not aware that the institutions themselves have done considerable work, as I understand it, throughout the world in putting in the administrative framework for privatisation.



There are cases in which the assets being divested have had bids for them from members of staff and

also local financing institutions. This is something that Government has to look at in the course of its negotiations for the sale of any of the assets. It is a tribute, particularly in the case of the Barbados National Oil Company, that most of the companies that have visited have been surprised about the technical capability of the Barbados National Oil Company which is so advanced. They have been able to drill oil in Barbados in conditions that are not exactly traditional. They have used local expertise in the development of their drilling strategies particularly local petroleum engineers. Because of that, most of the persons who have expressed an interest in the company have felt that it is almost a *sine qua non* of the purchase that they retain the expertise which is available at the Barbados National Oil Company Limited and the National Petroleum Corporation.

Now the question seems to be appearing from the corner. Why sell it? That is a valid question if one only views privatisation from the context of selling assets to raise money. You would always say why sell it If you view it only from the point of view that you sell inefficient assets, you would always take ;he viewpoint of why sell it. If an asset is performing well, there is no reason why Government alone should be the owner of it Thai is probably all the more reason why a wider cross-section of Barbadians should have an opportunity to participate in Che ownership of it and why you can expand the ownership base of the institution. The issue of why sell it is because the Government has committed itself, as no doubt some members of the Opposition would also commit themselves, to the spread of economic democracy which would give other citizens of this country the opportunity to share in assets which are productive, profitable and successful. The fact that an organisation is successful is probably one of the most compelling reasons why it should be privatised and why others should have an opportunity to share by investing in these assets.

We have heard speeches in here by the Honourable Member for St. Peter time and time again about new ownership patterns in Barbados and about moving Barbadians away from the concept that all they should own in life is a house and they should be investing. To invest in assets that are profitable, the question is asked, if it is successful why sell it. I am saying that successful institutions are the institutions that are going to get the process of privatisation moving. If you off load assets all the time which are not performing well, then the public is going to show no interest in the process of privatisation. In fact, what most people have recognised in a privatisation programme in most countries is, Mr. Chairman, that once you put a good asset on the market that excites participation, you can move from there. 10.30 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am going to get back to the issue of energy, but I want to deal in particular with the assets which are being sold by the process of privatisation.
The conclusion of a sale in respect of Heywoods Holiday Resort is anticipated and the Cabinet will shortly be taking some kind of decision in respect of that Over 50 copies ofthe Memorandum of Information were distributed and the Government received offers in respect of Heywoods. It has to be understood that the market for hotel property is very depressed - and this is one of the points that has been made - in addition to which, strangely enough, many of the larger hotel chains are making over 70% of their operating profits, not from the hotel services, but from gambling, and they are only investing in terms of large investments in countries which can offer them the option of some form of casino gambling. Let us face it. Without that we are looking at putting a property on the market, in a situation of a depressed real estate market, where one of the major features that inspire investment is absent. Therefore we have to look at the issue of the sale of Heywoods from that perspective and determine whether we are going to accept the offers that have been made.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief. I have heard in this debate, from the Honourable Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, that the Government said it was selling BNOC since 1991.1 wish to say up front, because I do not want to be accused of agreeing to something and not agreeing afterwards. The first time the Government mentioned it was selling

BNOC or ICB was in May last year. I am going to put the facts as they are, because I have heard today most of the policies enunciated by the Democratic Labour Party being thrown through the window.

Let me start first, Mr. Chairman, with the BNOC and the ICB business. I am going back to the Letter of Intent of October, 1991. This is what it said, these are the assets that were enunciated to be sold: "Documentation for the sale of other assets is expected to be completed by end-January 1992. The assets under consideration include: the Arawak Cement Plant, Caribbean Airways, Caricargo, and the Pine Hill Dairy."
Not a single word in this about ICB or BNOC.
I move now to the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance's speech, the Budget debate of March 31 last year, speaking about privatisation. Nowhere in this document do you see anything about BNOC or ICB. In



fact, it mentioned the BET shares and the Bartel shares, which it said were being sold for the repayment of the Japanese Yen Bond loan. But what is more fundamental, Mr. Chairman, is that I have been a member of the Democratic Labour Party and a supporter all my life. Hie Democratic Labour Party believed in certain things. In 1991 the Manifesto of this Democratic Labour Party was pointing out, because there was a constant call in this country to privatise, why you could not privatise willy nilly.

I am going to read certain parts of this document to show where now the Democratic Labour Party is unravelling, turning upside down everything Errol Barrow stood for. We were trying to point out why you cannot sell assets willy nilly, Mr. Chairman. It says here: "But the government sector carries out the inescapable important economic functions of regulating the economy and society,..." That was one of the reasons why the Government retained things like the Insurance Corporation in order to regulate the system. That was the reason why it kept certain places like Heywoods and Hilton, so that it could regulate the hotel sector. That was the reason why the Government needs to retain some sort of assets in order to regulate the system. These were the points we were making here as to why the Government should hold certain things.

I am going on further. This is the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party.
"At another level services such as TRANSPORT, if left entirely to private initiative, are likely to result in inadequate provision on long haul and sparsely populated routes, consequently impacting adversely upon the development of a balanced residential and industrial landscape."
We were pointing out why we could not just go down the road privatising the Transport Board. I am going further.
"The DLP is aware of the strengths and weaknesses of private sector exclusive control of activities vital to the social and economic development of Barbados."
Are you telling me that after I agreed with that I would sit here and say I agree to sell BNOC? The only natural resource you have, a little oil? We do not have any other natural resources and I am to agree that we should sell the oil we have? People have to understand that one has to have some sort of commitment to one's country and to policies laid down.
I have nothing against privatisation, Mr. Chairman. If it means that you are privatising for reasons where you feel the private sector will be better able to manage than the private sector, or for many other reasons, if you feel that the public sector officers are being utilised in areas that they need not be, then you privatise and you keep them in the private sector. 10.40 a.m.
I am never going to agree to privatise anything purely to get revenue and 'this is what is being done. I am not going to get into whether the people of Barbados were told what was happening or not. I did not know what was happening and quite a few people in Barbados only knew after letters came out in the newspapers as to what was taking place.

In the speech, Mr. Chairman, of the Honourable Member for St. John on privatisation given on November 10,1992, the Honourable Member set out about 10 reasons for privatisation. He said the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, in a recent address to the private sector, stated that the privatisation programme will seek to achieve the following objectives and named about 10 objectives.

Now, Mr. Chairman, all over the world countries privatise for various reasons. In Thailand it was done for revenue. In other places it was done for other reasons. Here all 10'or 12 reasons for privatisation were set out as a reason for Barbados privatising. But people forgot that the Minister of Finance in Washington was bemoaning the fact that he did not get the privatisation moving because, as he said, the money was needed for revenue.

You only have to go back to the March 31, 1992 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals to prove that this is so because $40 million was to come in by privatisation. So no one needs to fool anybody about the truth of what is happening. It is strictly a matter of looking for revenue. I am not going to agree to sell the assets of Barbados looking strictly for revenue.
I am going to come back in this debate. I just want to set the record straight that I did not agree at any time to selling the oil company or the ICB. At no time, in my lifetime, did I agree to that. Mr. Chairman, I will be back.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Mr. Chairman, this Head was obliged to provoke debate that has so far taken place. The Government has consistently been inconsistent in its programme in relation to privatisation. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South who is far more familiar with the workings of the Government than I could ever be has just demonstrated quite clearly one aspect of inconsistency.
I also well recall that you agreed on a Transport Board- policy which you have jettisoned now.

*Aside.*

3145

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, I want to keep a very straight ship. Those last comments if made to the Chair are inconsistent and untrue and therefore will be struck from the records.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: I did not make them to the Chair. I made them to the noise that quacked in here while I was speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, you should know that you should address the Chair at all time.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Now, Sir, the basic position is that this Government went on record as saying that it was not going to privatise CBC. Those words fell from the mouth of the Prime Minister himself, that he was not going to privatise CBC. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has consistently pointed out in here that in order to privatise something like CBC and other statutory corporations that a radical restructuring of their method of ownership would have to take place and that it was advisable for that to take place if you are not going to give away your assets, prior to your offer of the entity.

Similarly, Heywoods is ft statutory corporation \vhich has a structure which does not lend itself to privatisation in a situation in which the mass of Barbadians can bid for and hold shares as part and parcel of the capital structure. Yet$_t$ Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister of State, the Member for St. John, is going to come in here and say that the reason why they are privatising is to allow Barbadians to participate in the ownership, as part of economic democracy when, in truth and in fact, the mechanism that they are using to effect the sale of these presupposes that you sell the whole entity

to foreigners.

That is the position. You are selling the entity to foreign people and you know very well that the reason why you have these corporations in existence in a small country like Barbados is because they were trail-blazing to a large extent and Barbadians themselves were not able particularly at the private sector level to gather the amount of capital that was necessary for these matters.
It is sheer incompetence on the part of the Government when it puts forward one position when, in truth and in fact, it knows that is not true.

We must go further on this privatisation. We must debate it because we are now trying to implement a policy in this little Barbados which came from the United Kingdom, particularly in the era known as Thatcherism, and from the United States of America at the time of Reagan. I am trying to point out all the time that in those very countries which were the source of the policy, there are grave and serious doubts today on whether the policy should be adopted wholesale.

We are now in an era in which an evaluation of the devastating consequences of those policies is now taking place. In the United Kingdom itself it has been found that privatisation as a whole has not been that successful and that mechanisms had to be put in place to ensure that where you have a monopoly provider of goods and services which hitherto were owned by the State and have now been transferred to the private sector that you have to put in control mechanisms to ensure that there is fair trading. This is an important thing that the Government is advocating to effect policy and at the same time it is not putting in place mechanisms that are needed to ensure that when it transfers them from the public sector to the private sector that it is not going to have exploitation.

On the question of energy, this is most important. One of the scandals that we have in Barbados is a situation in relation to the *de facto* monopoly that is enjoyed by MOBIL in its capacity as a provider of fuel in Barbados. This House has never been told officially that the Government of the Democratic Labour Party in September 1986 - and the source of my information is none other than the Minister of State who in a public statement over the radio informed the public that the Democratic Labour Party Cabinet in September 1986 agreed with the monopoly company known as MOBIL Oil that it would permit it to charge.,,

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Let me make the point clearly about what I said. I am rising on a point of order. What I said publicly was that the then Minister of Finance. I never said any Democratic Labour Party Cabinet. Those were the words that I used. 10.50 a.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind what the Honourable Member says. I understood the Honourable Member to say that the Democratic Labour Party Cabinet agreed that the monopoly company known as Mobil Oil Barbados Ltd. would be allowed to earn in its activity in Barbados a rate of return of not less than 15% on its capital employed in Barbados in 1986. The earnings are no longer in the vicinity of 20%. What are you talking about? There is no mechanism for periodic review as you have with a Public Utilities Board or things of that kind.

The point that illustrates the matter I am telling you about is that recently in the United Kingdom there was a full review of the impact of privatisation on what they call monopoly entities. They pointed out that the law needs to be amended to ensure that there is a continuous review of the activities of these companies because they substitute management which is controlled and appointed by the State into private enterprise management by selling it, the sole objective of that management is the maximisation of returns.



This situation with Mobil is very serious because the economy of Barbados is stagnant It is receding.

Irrefutable evidence is in existence now. It is dead. It is such a phenomenon that this dead thing is going backwards. That is what you have done to this economy. This dead entity is going back so you have a new definition of "dead" as far as the Democratic Labour Party has created a new definition of "dead".

The basic position is that in the last 3 years the economy has been receding. Last year 1992, it went .back by 10% in real terms and a great pan of that fall is unprecedented in the history of Barbados since adult suffrage. That is one of your claims to fame. We are uncompetitive to a large extent due to the policies of the Democratic Labour Party. The energy policy is one of them. You are saddling Barbados with fuel which is an essential input in any economic activity whether it is production, retail, tourism, whatever, with a cost which is unnecessarily burdensome and you must answer for that. You are forcing people to have to pay for energy at an unreasonable price and you are doing it by your agreement' with Mobil on the one hand, and you reinforce it by your taxation policy when you increase your Consumption Tax. You must have an answer to this. You must be exposed on it.
Now, Sir, everyone knows that within the Caribbean, and wider Caribbean, because we must think now in terms of Venezuela, -Mexico and other countries that have collaborated in this respect - an energy policy must be looked at in Barbados in this context. In Venezuela and Mexico the agency you deal with is not the private sector. You deal with a Government sector agency. What foolishness are you telling me here? You are going to allow this important aspect of Government policy in the future to be determined by shareholders who are citizens of the United States of America to a large extent in Mobil and whoever is the successor organisation that you deal with that subsequently gains control of the National Petroleum Corporation in Barbados? That is utter foolishness.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We must get to the bottom of this. You must be able to tell all of these people who are making these demands on you, whom you have to accept and you seem to feel you have no freedom to tell these people "Look, we are in a unique position in this respect. We understand that these corporations should not be a charge on the Treasury". After all if you were not so stupid to abolish the public sector monitoring unit that was created in 1986 you would have been on top of all of this. You let Grey Jesus and others persuade you that you had to abolish a unit which was designed to promote efficiency within the public sector. We are here now in a position in which the whole community has to pay for this folly.

Now, Sir, I want an assurance from the Government that they will put in place mechanisms to ensure that these monopoly institutions are subject to public scrutiny. That is one of the lessons you must learn, if you have any sense in your head from the experience of countries that have privatised monopoly organisations. I know there is nothing we can do to stop you from selling these things. You have to sell them. You have been told you have to do it and like little school boys you will have to obey the orders of your masters.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I will just respond to a few things in relation to the privatisation of the Barbados National Oil Company Ltd. and I will shortly move off the issue of privatisation. I want to make the point that the Government is aware that in selling the assets of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited and the National Petroleum Corporation that there is a need for updated legislation to replace the Petroleum Winning Operation Act. The Government has sought technical assistance from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation which is now going through the existing legislation and giving us some ideas about comparable legislation in Commonwealth countries in relation to the petroleum sector. So it is not true to suggest that the assets are being privatised without having regard to the very important need for updating legislation.
We are all too well aware of the fact that you could have an operator come to Barbados, rape the oil

fields and leave. That is one of the greatest fears the Government has had since it assumed responsibility for the National Oil Company. There are ways you can avoid that. There are systems you can put in place, particularly when you have the technology where you can avoid that.
Now, I also want to make this point very clearly because it appears to me that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South does not understand the process by which people make bids in respect of Government's assets. Before they make the bid they very often consult with Government whether it wants local participation so the foolishness that is being said that you can only sell Heywoods as a property to one purchaser is simply not correct. 11.00a.m.

Many of the purchasers come and say to us, we will buy 65 per cent and we will offer 35 per cent to Barbadians over a 10-year period. Some will come and say we are.going to put together a consortium of Barbadian



and Overseas interests to purchase. So it is not any situation where one faceless individual sends you a fax message that he is purchasing the hotel for $20 million. There are on-going discussions which involve Government saying to the purchaser, these are the kinds of things that we want to do. The Government of Barbados does not wish to sell Arawak Cement Plant to shut it down. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago does not care less whether it shuts down or not because as far as they are concerned their principal objective, which would be ours if we owned a cement plant in Trinidad, is to get some money out of deal, close their eyes and walk away from the cement plant, particularly where the Trinidad Government is right now very anxious to boost its revenue. But in terms of Barbados our interests are to ensure that the plant continues its operations, that the expertise that is presently functioning in the Arawak Cement Plant continues to function there, that it continues to employ Barbadians, that if possible it can source energy supplies at cheaper rates than under its present arrangement where it must purchase through Mobil, and that it will reopen the kiln. These are objectives that we have. So nobody who suggests that the Government is operating on the basis of some kind of fire sale is being reasonable and I wish to reiterate that point very clearly that there is a process in place, we have advice and assistance and we understand what we are doing. Let me make the point very clearly, Mr. Speaker, and it is amazing because one of the first documents I saw when I went to work in the Ministry of Finance was a report from financiers - I think the name was Samuel Montague - in relation to the sale of Heywoods Hotel. Now that report was prepared in 1986. The then Prime Minister of Barbados was the Right Honourable E. W. Barrow. Samuel Montague was being considered to carry out part of the privatisation programme that the then Democratic Labour Party Government had indicated in its 1986 Manifesto that it was interested in doing.
The point is this, Mr. Speaker, that anybody who suggests that this Government has suddenly embarked upon some kind of fire sale and privatisation programme without considering it over a long period of time is being, in my view* unreasonable. Privatisation is not a new issue and I can produce the Samuel Montague Report. It is not a confidential document with any secrecy. That is why the former Leader of the Opposition said that this Government had better not sell Heywoods for less than $100 million because the then Prime Minister had an offer of $100 million for it. Well, if he was not considering selling it I do not know the basis on which the offer of $100 million would be coming forward.

I only want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the point is this.
Government executed a Letter of Intent in which it set out its policy in relation to public enterprises. In that Letter of Intent it identified specifically - and the Honourable
Member for St. Philip South is correct - the Arawak Cement Plant, Caribbean Airways, Caricargo and the Pine Hill Dairy. However, with respect, Mr. Chairman, paragraph 16 of the Letter of Intent makes it very clear that the Programme in the public enterprise sector was going to continue and that enterprises would be classified into 3 categories:
*

"(a) those where benefits could be derived from foreign or local private sector participation or from complete divestiture;
(b) those that could become commercially viable after rehabilitation or restructuring exercise;
(c) those that should be closed because there is no real prospect of commercial viability and their operations cannot be justified by social consideration."
And it goes on very clearly, Mr. Speaker, to say -
"Based on this assessment, under the second phase which is to start in 1992/93, a number of enterprises will be prepared and offered for sale; rehabilitation or restructuring plans will be specified and implemented for others; and operations of enterprises identified for closure halted and their assets sold."

The schedule was subsequently established. So there was never any doubt that the Government was embarking on a privatisation programme.

Now the assets of privatisation can only constitute one thing, Mr. Speaker, aiid that is revenue. If you sell a public asset the money you get can only be revenue so anybody who makes the point that it is only a revenue raising exercise is, in my view, not making a point. It is how you apply that revenue and I am saying that based on the projections of the Government for 1992/93 albeit that those projections have not met their full realisation, if those funds had been available they would have contributed to ai capital works programme. They could have contributed to
i an expanded operation of Government which would have [created jobs and which would have produced some i improvement in economic activity. That is the issue, how you apply The assets, not whether it is a revenue "raising exerciser ornotBecause any time you sell a public assef you are raising revenue unless you get nothing for it or unless it is worth nothing. So we should move on from those kinds of very basic points and get to the substance of the issue.

On the issue of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation the objective is to sell some of the assets to the staff. Now, let me make the point very clearly. The Government has asked the Board of the Caribbean

3148

Broadcasting Corporation to determine how that divestment will be carried out and obviously lawyers will advise them on the way in which the corporation should be configured whether it will sell shares or whether it will sell assets. So anybody who asks a question, how you are going to sell shares in the statutory corporation, could not be serious. There are lawyers on this side who realise that statutory corporations do not have shares. That is self-evident you do not have to ask a question like that. Do you think you could tell me that? Let us be reasonable. Mr. Chairman, this is the kind of argumentation v hich seeks to give the impression to the public that we dc not know what we are doing. Now, I have never....

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No*, Honourable Members in this Committee must understjid that the Standing Orders governing the behaviour jf Members not addressing the Chair are still in force, :tey have not been suspended and I am not going to tolerate that kind of behaviour. It is unbecoming. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Hon. D, /. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, let me make the yviat that there are many ways to divest assets. You ca$^{r}$< ^ell the asset as an asset, which is the physical strucv.es, the land, and things like that or you can incorporate the statutory entity into a company and sell ^ares. Those are givens. We understand that. There is only one way you can get private sector involvement so that any suggestion that the Government is saying that it is selling shares in a statutory corporation as a statutory corporation seems to me to be absurd. Now, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, the Cabinet only within the last 6 or 7 months decided about selling shares in the ICB and as I said the programme is an ongoing programme. Those shares would be

made available to Barbadians. There is no wholesale divestiture of ICB as an asset. There is no present intention to sell 51 per cent shares in ICB to anybody. It is an intention to give the workers in ICB and credit unions and other Barbadians an opportunity to share in a successful resource. I cannot understand why it is there is such resistance to an attempt to make profitable and successful resources available to people and this is the problem that I have. I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that it has something to do with the fact, tis I indicated before, the persons who established those entities feel some remorse when they see them being dismantled. That is reasonable. I do not argue against that. There are public servants who, for example, had a hand in the establishment of ICB who have expressed some concerns about its sale. Because they saw it as playing a role and they feel that if you privatise it that it will diminish that role. However, if you keep the purpose in mind, it is possible to have some limited privatisation of those assets and give other Barbadians a chance to own resources and to share in them.

11.10a.m.

Sir, I want to speak briefly on the matter of Mobil. Let me make a hypothetical point Probably one of the most valuable assets which could be placed in the hands of Barbadians is a public company, just like Public Utilities and so on, which would be a marketing company or a petroleum product importation and marketing company. That is something hopefully in my life time that I would like to see. However, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West seems to think that the Government could walk away from the Mobil contract just like that. Legal opinion has contradicted that and the Government acts on that legal advise. It is not fair of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West because he has a different legal opinion. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West said that the Government could have avoided the continuation of the Mobil agreement.

I am saying that the legal advice that the Government received was that the option was exercisable because they had given notice 6 months before termination date and the Government agreed to continue the agreement subject to the negotiation of some terms. We are presently negotiating those terms and the Mobil -agreement ends in the year 2000. We know that. We have to look at creating options in the interim. We have to determine whether the Mobil Refinery at the level of subsidy at which they are operating should continue in Barbados. We have to look at if the operation is efficient. But most of all we have to look at the issue of return of 15 per cent after tax.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir, if the Minister will give way. I wish the Minister would not say that the 15 per cent is only after tax, but it is on debts that are owed to Mobil. That is one of the terms of the assets in which they are getting a return of debts owed to them by the distributors. It is a scandal.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Maybe I have assumed that the Honourable Member said 15 per cent after tax. Sorry.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member specifically from that chair used the words the agreement that the Government has with Mobil is 15 per cent after tax. That was his statement, not mine. Let us be clear on that He cannot now make a statement which happens to be the truth and try to contradict it by a statement which is untrue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is made.



Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The words that I used were the issue of 15 per cent after tax. Before I could finish, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West interrupted me. I was merely going on to say that he is wrong. He is now telling me that he did not say that. However, the present agreement has a provision for 15 per cent after tax. The members of the Barbados Labour Party Cabinet had come up with some* formula where the rate of return would range from, I think, 10 per cent to as high as 13 per cent before tax. That is what the Cabinet in 1985 under the chairmanship of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South agreed to. It was subsequently varied and the agreement itself, contrary to the impression which the Leader of the Opposition gave, was actually amended. Now prior to that, Mr. Chairman, a flexible

arrangement used to obtain where the then Minister of Energy, as it appears to me, used to tell Mobil that you will get this *or* you will get that over X or Y period.

When we increased the consumption taxes last year, those consumption taxes on petroleum products were increased to make up for a shortfall of about $9 million in arrears which had built up since 1986 when the 15 per cent - before that was introduced. I am saying that the issue of the rate return has to be looked at carefully and it is one of the issues that is under present negotiation involving Mobil and the Government Other issues like depreciation, the issue of capital employed and the issue as to whether the Barbados Government is going *to* permit any further capital development on that site, 1 am talking about in the future between now and the termination of the agreement. These are things that determination has to be made on and they will be dealt with in the course of the coming months, Mr. Chairman.

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

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, important though this debate on privatisation is, you would forgive me not entering into it at this point because there is a Private Member's Resolution before the House dealing precisely with this issue. I propose to speak to the issue when we get back to the Private Member's Resolution. What I want to talk about at this point has to do with the Insurance Corporation of Barbados and the fact that we have warning now from all of the insurance companies that our house insurance policy premium will be going up by at least 100 per cent. That has led to my certain knowledge, Mr. Chairman, to a situation in the country where large numbers of persons, particularly those who are unemployed and the elderly both in urban and rural Barbados, will now be unable to cover their property with house insurance.

'Sir, this is a very serious situation. In the past, we have had far too many house fires and far too many situations in the country where people have been without house cover. As a result in the event of a house fire or other sources of loss, they have been totally without any compensation. This is an area of property insurance where insurance companies have made super profits. It arises from the fact, Mr. Chairman, of the experience of the last century that, although you have your house covered in the event of fire for the replacement value, the reality is that in the event Of a hurricane or flood you *are* unlikely to lose more than your roof and your windows. So that when you have a $300 000 cover, in truth and in fact, the sensible or reasonable cover could very well be $60 000 for the cost of replacing roof and windows for example. Nevertheless, you are expected to provide cover and, that is the practice, for the total value of the house when the reality is that in very rare instances will you lose that whole house in the event of a hurricane or a flood. That is the area where super profits are made by insurance companies.

Now the Government has no control more than moral suasion in relation to private insurance companies. But where the Government has control is certainly in relation to its insurance company, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. My point, Mr. Chairman, is that the Government should use the Insurance Corporation of Barbados to ensure that there is a special regime in relation to house insurance for chattel houses in particular, and particularly in dealing with people under a certain income and for the elderly. My suggestion is that we ought not allow this situation to continue without Government's intervention. Government should put some pressure on private insurance companies in relation to chattel houses and the Government should use its own insurance company to ensure that there is some special deal in relation to them. I think that is particularly important and the Government should address their minds to that particular situation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to turn to the debate in relation to the issue of the sale of both Heywoods and the National Petroleum Corporation. The Minister claimed, when he spoke, that the Government had the intention of making available shares in Heywoods to local persons. 11.20a.m.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I never indicated that. I merely said that in the process of making bids some of the persons had asked of Government whether it wished to include share offers to Barbadians, and some of them were going to include share offers over a fixed period to

Barbadians. That is all I said.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Let me say then that the persons who are making bids have more foresight and conscience than the Government has shown in its

3150
offering process, and policies, because I am going to read from page 41 of the document dated December 1992 put out from the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the title of that document?

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: This is what it says, Sir. I believe it has been made a document of the House. Otherwise I will lay it "The Government of Barbados wishes to sell Heywoods as a going concern. The preferred .option is for a complete and immediate sale of the hotel.

The Government of Barbados is prepared to consider a lease/purchase agreement, provided that a substantial pan of the proceeds is paid at the beginning of the lease/purchase. Priority will be given to proposals where the proceeds are paid in a freely convertible currency.

A proposal which provides for local investors to own a minority interest, say 20%, in the hotel would be welcome. However, local participation is not a condition for the sale.
The Government of Barbados is prepared to retain a minority interest in the hotel if the local private sector is not able to take up such an interest if offered at this time, or if the purchaser cannot meet the full purchase price.

In the event that the Government takes such an offer, its policy is to divest this interest as quickly as possible to the private sector, especially employees and local social and economic organisations. There are no plans to reserve shares in the hotel for Barbadian nationals, employees of the company or other parties."

It goes further.

"The Government is prepared to give up its rights to the current assets of the hotel and does not undertake to assume responsibility for the hotel's current liabilities on or after the sale."
I am making the charge, Sir, that the Government had no contemplation of having any employees or others own any shares in Heywoods, and that the Government's privatisation, economic enfranchisement or democracy plan is a sham, as it always has been. That is the problem we have with the Government. It goes further.

"The Government does not expect to finance of subsidise any further investment or operation on or after the sale of the hotel, and furthermore, the Government or Barbados will not place specific restrictions on the new owners in respect of their hiring, remuneration and purchasing policies."
It is an open sesame, Sir. That is the point we have been making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Member will just hold a minute, I had asked for the tide of the document in the first place, and I would like to be assured that it is a document of the House, or that it be made a document of the House.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, that is not a problem. This can be made a document of the House at any time, Sir.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not need any guidance in this matter. I just asked for information and I want

the information.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the document is the Government of Barbados - Heywoods Hotel - Information Memorandum issued by the Office of Privatisation, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs - December 1992. I would expect, Sir, that as a member of the party you would have read this and would have had some very serious objections to it

Those of us who believe that the wider Barbadian public, particularly the black people, should own part of the assets of Barbados, have been insisting on widening ownership conditions in this country. One of the fundamental differences within the Barbados Labour Party is that we object when assets of this nature are being siphoned off for what, obviously on page 41, is purely revenue earning and foreign exchange positions without giving consideration to the long-term stratification and cohesiveness of the Barbadian community. That is the major point we have been making here, Sir, that if there is a case for divestment of Government enterprises, then they must be divested in such a way that eventually Barbadians will not feel that they are foreigners in their own country. We have hammered this. I started to talk about the policy of economic enfranchisement several years ago. It was then picked up by a few people from Cave Hill and misrepresented, but it is important that we emphasise it.

I want to come back to Mobil, Sir, because I really do not accept the Minister's very limited reply on the Mobil issue. I want to take the Minister up on Point 1, Sir. This Government has the habit of getting up, whenever the Government has made a decision, and dissociating themselves, those who remain now of the Democratic Labour Party, from that position. I will give you



an example, the $15 000 tax rebate. I have been in here to hear the very Prime Minister and other say that is a policy of the former Minister of Finance, it had nothing to do with them. They do not accept collective responsibility. Look at the debates on this. I have been in here today to hear the Minister of State say that the increase...

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

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have .some order, please?

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to the point of order from the Member for St. Michael West

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member, Sir, stated, as I understood him, that the Government has a habit of getting up and dissociating itself from Democratic Labour Party policies. He then cited the $15 000 tax. Since I am a member of the Democratic Labour Party Government, since I was a member of that Government with the $15 000, unless the Honourable Member is able to show that I categorically denied or dissociated myself from any policy of the Democratic Labour Party, I think the Honourable Member cannot get up and put in the record an indication of duplicity on my part, and I object to that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just before the Honourable Member continues, I want to draw to the attention of Honourable Members, and as a reminder to them, that Standing Order 40(2)(a) reads thus:
"The Speaker or the Chairman shall order any Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of the day's sitting."
Anyone found in contravention of Standing Order 33, I shall have little difficulty in using that Standing Order. I have heard many of them disassociating themselves from the tax proposals that came down to this House by the Democratic Labour Party when the full effect was felt on the economy of this country. They

labelled them as "Haynes' policy". 11.30a.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is misleading the Committee. When the then Leader of the Opposition was sitting in the Opposition and sought to give an impression that more was known than was actually known we told him that they were his policies. That is not moving away and the Honourable Member is not going to get up in here and give any impression.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I have had a debate in this House on collective responsibility before. They are like chameleons. They change their colours on these matters. Take the Honourable Member for St. John. He is going to give the impression that the decision taken to increase the MOBIL rate of returns to 15% after tax is a decision taken by the then Minister of Finance and the Cabinet is not to be blamed.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, there was no attempt to give that impression. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South sought to quote me. He subsequently said that it was an impression. I did not correct him on the impression. He can have any impression he wants. When he was quoting me I madt it very clear that I never said the Cabinet. I do not kn<jw what the Cabinet agreed or did not agree to. I saw what the Minister himself signed. That is all and I made that petition very clear.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I am saying that \\ was a Cabinet decision that bound every member of ihe then Cabinet to increase the rates of returns of MOB[1]^. They did it well knowing that MOBIL was fleecing ths people of this country and getting high prices for energy. TiV was a Cabinet decision.
I will tell you, Sir, what is bad about this matte:

. *Asides.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: They are all In it - the NDV and DLP. It is all part and parcel of the same coin. What is bad about it is if a distributor owes MOBIL a debt let us assume that one of the distributors owes MOBIL $ J 50 000. When MOBIL is calculating its assets it includes frat and charges the 15% on that. That is the first time I kncv in accounting terms that anybody can get a rate of return v that way. I have never seen anything like it. This Government sits down and allows that to happen.

That is why we say very clearly that MOBIL monopoly should not have been renewed on the basis on which the Government has renewed it. All that agreement required was that you negotiate with them and you could negotiate in good faith but the Government's terms would have been terms that would never have been met in the way in which MOBIL wants them. I say, Sir, it is a great tragedy for Barbadians that we have found ourselves caught in a high energy cost situation ricocheting right through the economy whether it is in tourism travel or whatnot and making us uncompetitive in the manner in which we are uncompetitive.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

3152

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I want to say that that has contributed to the bad position we have found ourselves in relation to both the manufacturing sector, one of the concomitants, and also in relation to the tourism sector. Unless the Government is able to reverse its negotiating stance, the country is going to continue to pay an exorbitant and unreasonable price for the energy policies being pursued by this Government.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, let me say up front that I have never disassociated myself fronKthe $15 000 tax free. I believe I could not have been included in that matter. I still believe that there was nothing inherently wrong with the $15 000 tax free. If there was anything that was wrong, it was, in my view, that a lot of concessions were given in addition to the $15 000 which would have nullified any gain that you would have got by giving the $15 000 tax free. One must realise that despite the $15 000 tax free that revenue that year and the following year did increase but the other

concessions obviously nullified any increase in revenue that you would have got. But I will not go into that now. I do not believe that there should be any further taxation *on* the people of this country now, whether it is 1%, 2% or 0%.

Mr. Speaker, let me (teal with the divestment issue again. I am not going to be long this time. I would not wish the impression going abroad that I am against divestment or privatisation which forms part of the divestment exercise. I do not wish it to go abroad either that I have at any time said that the late Errol Barrow or the Democratic Labour Party was against privatisation. I have said and I quoted from the manifesto that we stated our views on divestment and we even mentioned... I recall in 1986 the late Rt. Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Barrow, was stating those assets that he would like to see divested - Arawak, Caricargo, Caribbean Airways and that crowd. So the point I am making is that I have never been against privatisation. I am against privatisation solely for revenue purposes.
I have no intention of getting into any argument with any person whether it is over here or over there. I cannot really take the statement that because all privatisation gets revenue therefore you cannot use the argument that you are privatising only for revenue. That is so simplistic. It is like saying that if I had a car and I am going to sell the car, I can sell the car to buy a truck or I can sell the car to buy a bigger one but that is the same thing as if I had to sell the car because I wanted money to pay debts. Mr. Chairman, let me just say. I have a document here right from the horse's mouth. It is entitled No. 4 The Reform of State-owned Enterprises. Lessons from World Bank Lending written by Mary Shirley, Country Economics Department, World Bank. I am going to make it a document of this House. You do not want to hear the information, Mr. Chairman? 11.40a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Standing Orders are very clear on what you can read from.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I called out the name of the document already and it is Chapter 6 - Divestiture of State-Owned Enterprises. As I said, it is right from the horse's mouth. In here they were setting out the reasons for divestment or privatisation which forms part. One of the reasons given here is the upsurge in interest of divestiture in the developed world, most notably in Britain, has caused other countries to believe that they should divest. That was one reason given.

The second reason it says is that there is a sense in some countries that the State sector has become too large and therefore they want to shed some of the burden off the state sector. That is a laudable exercise.

The third reason they gave is: "the hope of divestiture will lead to more innovative management which will see unfolding opportunity more quickly and seize it more aggressively[1]' because what I was trying to say is that the Government lands to act in a very slow manner. Therefore in the private sector if you see opportunities you grab them quickly - another laudable reason for divestiture.

Another one it gave "increased popular participation in the ownership of national assets is an important consideration in some countries". It quoted that was the consideration in Chile.
Finally, it also said some Governments see privatisation as a way to raise revenues and it is a fact. I have stated my views already.

The last reason they gave here: "Divestiture is important as a way to reduce fiscal and credit pressures by getting rid of unprofitable state owned enterprises through liquidation or assets". So they have set out here the reasons why you privatise,

Mr. Chairman, as I said, I have no argument privatising certain assets of Government if they fall under some of the reasons given here. If the only reason to privatise assets is the raising of revenue to pay debt or to close a deficit then I am against that. I have always been of the view, and this is what I have heard all my years in association with the Democratic Labour Party, that when the Government owns anything it is owned by the 250 000 or 255 000 people who now make up this island of Barbados, that

if the Government owns it then

3153

everybody owns it. If it is true that if the Government owns anything the entire population owns it, I find it difficult to understand how if you sell it to maybe 20 or 30 people that you could be widening ownership. It does not sound logical to me. Either the first statement that if the Government owns it it is owned by everybody in the country is wrong or to come and tell me if you sell it to 20 or maybe one person because all one person lias to do if he has enough money, is to get 6 people in Barbados to go up front and buy it.

The reason why I am against privatisation on these grounds is that it runs counter to what I have always believed in. How do we mesh privatising, or selling off the Barbados National Oil Company and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados with just buying Harrison's No. 1 and saying that you are buying it on behalf of the people? How do you get the 2 things to work? You bought Harrison's No. 1 two years ago? You are putting the Barbados National Bank in it? When you bought it you said you were buying it on behalf of the people but when you sold BNOC you said you were selling it on behalf of the people too. It is illogical. Let me just say this. You said it was on behalf of the people because it was owned by the people but the people knew very little about the sale of it.

*Asides.*

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr, Chairman, I do not want to belabour the point I think what has happened is fhis. Obviously, there are certain conditions that were put on Government. I believe the Government could have and should have come to the people of this country and say A, B, C, D, E. These are the conditions. But do not come after you have set out your views explicitly in this document about privatisation because pressure has been put on you to get rid of certain assets and give the people of Barbados the impression that it is now Government's policy. That is what I am against. It has never been the policy of the Democratic Labour Party.

If there is pressure being put on you to do certain things, you cannot just come and in one day turn every thing upside down. Whether you are running a country or not you must have some fundamental idea of what you want or where you want to go. If a lending institution is going to come to you and put certain conditions on you, you should be man enough or knowledgeable enough to point out to the lending institution you will be able to do A, B, C and E but D will cause some social dislocation in this country and you do not want that, nor I, so we cannot do D.

The IMF is not a group of people who would not listen. They listen and Barbados is a peculiar country. That is why I have never forgotten the late Prime Minister sitting down - because a lot of people like to quote and say how the Prime Minister told them this and that I never do it I know that the late E. W. Barrow sat down in a house with me in the Crane and told me "Blackie, when you are Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in Barbados, you cannot be communist, socialist, capitalist, nothing. You have to be a pragmatist because Barbados is a peculiar country and it needs peculiar solutions." Therefore no outside institution can know better how-Barbados is to be run than the people who live in Barbados. You have to tell them. If you cannot tell them put people on the negotiation team who can tell them about this country and you will see a lot of advancement being made instead of just sitting down and agreeing with everything you are told to do. That is my position.

Thank you

.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, the more I listen to this debate on privatisation and the contribution from Honourable Members from that side the more confused I am. I think I represent the public at large. This is very serious. The perception out there is that the Government is in economic

difficulty and one of the reasons for its divestment policy is to raise some money to help the struggling economy.

The public feels convinced also that there were conditions laid down by the IMF and that Government should go in the way it is going, that is, divesting some of its corporations and statutory bodies. But I am hearing another argument introduced in here today. As I said, it is so inconsistent The inconsistency has me confused. I am hearing on the one hand the Government is going to offer shares to workers at CBC - some 20% shares will be made available for them to purchase and I am hearing on the other hand that there are proposals to sell Hey woods and the Cement Plant But as I see this confusion I am at a loss to understand Government's real policy. If it is going to sell to give workers, as the Honourable Member for St. John said, an opportunity to share in the national cake -that is his argument. I quite clearly understood him to have said that But that lends now to some other confusion. I would like to know how on the one hand you could be so clear as to what you are going to do for CBC and how the workers there are going to have an opportunity to own 20 per cent when at the same time you have a state enterprise, called the Transport Board, the workers represented by the arm of the Barbados Workers' Union, put a proposal to the Government to purchase some of the assets to benefit the workers of this country and up to this time nothing has been told them. There has been no reply whatsoever. I cannot understand this. Not even the courtesy was extended to the Barbados Workers' Union to know up to this point in time. I will go on record as saying that I see the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central sitting there. He knows what I am talking about The common courtesy was not extended to the workers. 11.50a.m.

3154

I am going to say something today. I have no hope at all in this talk about divesting and giving workers a pan. You prove to me if the Workers Union had put up since last year, *over 6* months, a proposal to purchase the Transport Board that is going to be divested and they did not reply to them and treated them with such contempt you mean to tell me the workers at CBC are so ignorant or . foolish as to think the Government is serious about giving them a chance to share. I want to know where they will get the money from. That is the question posed by the Barbados Workers' Union, they have to scout now to get money to purchase. Where will the CBC staff get the money from? What foolishness am I hearing? This is a joke. They are making laughing sport at people. You are going to lay them off and then sell to them? The CBC does not make money and you are encouraging people to invest in something that has not been making money that the Government has to prop up every year with subsidies? Everybody should know and common sense will teach us that if you are going to pan with it that Government is prepared to withdraw its subsidy and CBC cannot make money. I will tell the workers at CBC, do not be misled. Do not fall for that. That probably is a catch to make you feel secure and secure your loyalty, politically.

Let me tell you, common sense is not your side if you fall for that It is not going to be accomplished and you must not be fooled by that I am going to say this, I am not happy with that statement coming from anybody at all from that side. You just prove to me that you are serious about worker participation - workers in Barbados having a piece of the national cake to share in the profits of them. If you want to prove that I want to hear as early as today. When the Minister gets up on the floor of this House I want him to say that a decision has been taken at long last to give the Barbados Workers' Union Cooperatives Society, representing the workers of the Transport Board, an opportunity to purchase those buses. You are going to divest them but I am hearing nothing at all. Everything is in limbo. Nothing from the.Minister of Transport as to when they are going to divest. It is clear there is no money for them to exist so you are going to sell. The message is clear. There is no money *for* Transport Board but at the same time you are not frank with the people. I have lost all confidence in this talk about workers.

The workers of this country have been taken for a ride in this exercise. Do not use them in this debate.

It is too serious. It is alright for narrow political gain to mouth off policy but be serious about it I suppose you might tell the civil servants next time they will get a share in the Government. You want to fool the hotel workers too and you want to fool CBC. You are fooling Transport Board and you want to fool the public servants now. I do not want this to happen. Let us be serious about it ICB, yes. It makes money. I have not heard anyone from the Government side say they are giving the civil servants the opportunity to buy. I am not hearing that at all. The Cement plant I have not heard them say the workers will get a chance to buy it. It is a strange thing. They are going to divest the cement plant but not one thing has been said by the Members on that side as to how the workers are going to participate. They are workers too. What special thing is this for CBC? Is it because they will be promoting the Government? I am going to warn them to keep out of this foolishness, do not be tricked.

Mr. Chairman, we have to be quite clear. I would like the Government to set out quite clearly to the public what is the reason for selling off these enterprises. I want that to be quite clear. As a Member of Parliament I am getting mixed signals and if you are asking people to understand what is going on in this country, especially in these times, it must be clear but nothing is clear to the public of Barbados and that is why there is confusion and such resistance to policies as pursued by the present administration. Things are going to get worse if they do not take stock.

So, Mr. Chairman, I rose to get that position quite clear. I want some answers because I am concerned. Worker participation, give them an opportunity, but some of them out there are unable to buy. .You know what beats me? Why did you wait until this time. These are harsh economic times for a Government to tell them about buying when they cannot get money. Where will they get the money from to buy? You do not buy with buttons. Money is hard to come by if you are going to buy shares. Everybody should know that It takes hard cash and if you do not have the hard cash you have to go to a bank or some financial institution to borrow money and even that is tight I do not know of any rich people at CBC. My understanding is that we need to do some serious amendments to the law in order to permit the sale to these workers. I want to see that spelt out Send a memo down to the staff and let them understand. Let them get legal advice as to how to go about it. Put the machinery in train. Come in here and make the amendments to the law. Do that and then tell the people. Let me hear you say now how soon you propose to make these changes. Do not talk about it and then next year this time you come in here and say you did *not have a chance. The Attorney-General's Chambers will have to be working all like now to put the legislation in place. I want to hear from the Government, after having mooted this around for some months now the divestment in CBC and having given the staff an opportunity to purchase, how far is the progress. Give me an update on how far you have done those changes or made some amendments or recommendations, whether the paper has gone to Cabinet for approval or if the AG's Chambers have worked on it. I know it will take some time before ydu can implement it but set the people at ease. Let them know what time frame you are looking at 12.00 noon.

3155

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, these are things that we have to be very clear about. As I have said, I have been hearing a lot of talk and nice language. When you translate it into reality, you are making mockery of people. I think the time has come when we have to stand up like men and tell the truth and explain to the public of Barbados.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I will just wrap up with a few words. Let me make the point finally because perhaps it has come home to me after the presentation by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. It will take a long time for Barbadians, as it has in many other countries in the world which have had privatisation programmes longer than ours, to become excited and to become investment conscious in the way that Government desires. A few years ago in Barbados we had a big debate about the

Barbados Mutual and that began a process in relation to private investment which sought to excite people's imagination about the possibility, not only in having more say in assets which they own but also about more opportunities f:r owning assets. This programme should really be *m* extension of that debate. Regrettably, privatisation is not viewed in &at context and it is a pity. The sooner we view it from the point of view of making assets available to Barbadians and the sooner that we streamline the operation such that that is the major objective, then I Aink that privatisation will be an exciting opportunity foi our citizens. I want to make the point that for us to really jump start that we have to have an attractive asset on the market and I think that the shares in Insurance Corporation of Barbados are an attractive asset which Barbadians should hold.

Now the issue of CBC is somewhat different. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East asked where the workers will get the money from. I assume that you would advise them not to invest in CBC. Are you saying that? Is the Honourable Member then saying that he would have difficulty to advise them to invest in CBC assuming that it is not profitable?

The credit union movement in Barbados has substantial holdings. Most of those holdings are used for persons to purchase houses, cars and this kind of thing< We have now to work on getting the credit unions involved in purchasing assets which are productive assets. That includes shares in public corporations, shares through the Stock Exchange and lending their members money to purchase shares on the Stock Exchange. This is the direction that we must go in. I always thought that was wha't Members of the Opposition were clamoring for when they said that they wish to see more economic enfranchisement, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West calls it Here is an opportunity to make that creative jump or quantum leap and one gets the impression that cold water is being poured on the efforts of Government to create a share owning class in Barbados. If I were making an investment on an objective basis on an asset that had a bright and secure future in an area where the investment was guaranteed a rate of return, it would be in telecommunications and it would be in CBC. Regrettably, the shares may not be offered to me and I am not an employee of CBC. But of all the assets that are being made available, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is the one that I would be most likely to consider if I were an investor.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You want to get a foothold in the door. You do not necessarily need to own it and this is the mistake that we make. But people are walking around saying that, if you do not have 51 per cent ownership, you do not have control. Therefore, the Corporation can do as it likes. There are companies in Barbados in which no one individual owns 51 per cent of the shares and in which none of the people really exercise any control. The control is by blood relations and long hereditary and other characteristics to which most of us here are aliens. That is the point. Now let us not fool ourselves about that in terms of investment in Barbados today.

Sir, let me also make the point that, if the assets that Government owns are owned by 250,000 Barbadians, I am one of those 250,000 people. I am saying that I am also entitled as a citizen, as is any other citizen out there, to say whether their taxes should be involved in propping up institutions which are not making a profit and which are not being run efficiently that can possibly be better run by private sector interest or, alternatively, could be better run if I had the opportunity to have some investment in them. I am entitled to say that. Whether one agrees or not, the point is that I am opposed to privatisation which puts assets in the hands of monopolies. I have always been opposed to that. I have always said it in here and that is the Government's view. This is no different to what the Government's view has been on this: that the objective of it is to have as wide a share-owning class in Barbados as possible. However, there are assets that you cannot sell that way. Let us face it. That is the point that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South should have made.

The reality is that there are some assets that you may have to sell on the understanding that the purchaser will make shares available later. There are also some assets that no Barbadians will buy. Only somebody from outside of Barbados would be risky enough to purchase them. Let us face it. They may purchase them because they can

invest capital in the re-development of that particular enterprise. That capital may not be available domestically and, therefore, they are investing on the basis that they are going to restructure the entity. There is not that kind of capital available in many cases on the domestic market. That is the point. We know that privatisation is being reviewed in England. That is no big thing though. Some of the assets there that have been privatised have been no better off for the privatisation. But the point is that that does not mean we should close our eyes to the many possibilities that exist in relation to privatisation in Barbados.

The point relating to the sale of Hey woods is the final point I want to make. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West seems to suggest that the Memorandum is framed in such a way as to exclude participation by Barbadians.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is the suggestion that I got, but he is unable to say that it actually excludes it. The point is that the Memorandum says that Government will not force one position over another. That does not mean there are not creative options within that For example, the Government did not specify in relation to Arawak Cement Plant that the workers should have an interest. But every single one of the persons who bid, and I do not wish to reveal anything at this time being under wraps, acknowledges that investment by the workers is desirable. 12.10 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Precisely. Well, then, I do not have to say anything else. I wish you would pass on that information to the person who sits one from you and help him to understand that in reality this is what is happening in relation to the purchase of assets throughout the Third World. As a result of that, Mr. Chairman, I cannot think that there are any other issues, except the point made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West about Mobil and the definition of "capital employee". "Capital employee" does not include debts from private companies, it only includes debts due from Statutory Corporations. That is the way it is being computed. The Government has clauses within the Agreement, as you know, to monitor the way the Agreement with Mobil functions, to monitor the capital employees, to carry out audits. All of that has been part of the ongoing process with Mobil.

I We have already indicated the areas that are up for Discussion and I know that a reduction of the 15% after tax Is something that needs considerable negotiation, along; with 2 or 3 other issues under the Agreement, and I am hoping, Mr. Chairman, that the Cabinet will be able to agree to something with Mobil in the coming weeks.

With those few-words, Sir, I beg to move that Head 19, as amended, stand part.
*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:*

*The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:*

*AYES:* Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Hon. B. M. TAITT, Hon. M. A. KING, Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, Hon. W. W. HALL, Hon. C. V. WALKER, Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, Hon. D. W. BOWEN, Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN, Mr. J. O. TUDOR and His Hon. T. C. ESTWICK - 13
*NOES:* Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. L. R. TULL, Miss B. A. MILLER, Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, Mr.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES - AS AMENDED – $21 378 983

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, I move that Head 25 in the sum of $21 378 983 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, one of the functions of the Estimates is not merely for Government to indicate in what way or ways money will be spent and allocated, but also one way of looking at the Estimates is to ascertain where the priorities of a Government lie. We are saying that the exercise of the Estimates debate is one that requires all Members of this Honourable House to look closely to see where Government's priorities lie.

If one were to closely scrutinise the Estimates allocated under Head 25 - Ministry of Agriculture - one is left to conclude that clearly agriculture is no longer a priority for this Government. If one were to examine page 12 of the Estimates, one will realise that the Barbados Labour Party Government over a 5-year period always paid very close attention to agricultural infrastructure, peaking in the year 1986-87 when some $20 309 566 had been

3157

allocated to agriculture. If we look closely at what has been happening to agriculture in the last 3 years undo: this regime, we will note that the capital monies allocated to agriculture for the last 3 years have been undergoing diminution. Indeed, Sir, this year the Honourable Minister will tell you that after some $29 million or so had been allocated to agriculture last year the cut of $8 million has been made in a situation where we over here can only conclude that the Devil's work is at play and they intend to emasculate agriculture in this country.

What is particularly painful and frightful is that we were told in this House that for 18 months, commencing in October 1991, we were going to have a stabilisation programme, and, then as the 18 months close in March 1993 we would have a structural adjustment programme. The figures in the Estimates are telling us that clearly, based on the huge capital cut which this Government has imposed on agriculture, agriculture is not intended to play any meaningful role whatever when the structural adjustment programme supposedly begins under this regime in 22 days' time.

I am saying that where the Government has given this House and this Committee an undertaking that after seeking IMF help, it would then after 18 months come with a structural adjustment programme, one responsibility of this Government was to isolate the productive sectors for special treatment 12,20 p.m.

There is a great divide between that side and this side over the years on the question of the management and harnessing of the productive sectors. As far back as 1988-89, Honourable Members on this side were able to tell the public and this Honourable House that in any situation where you are managing an economy certain care must be taken of the productive sectors, especially the principal ones like manufacturing, tourism, construction and agriculture. In any scenario where a mere $21 million could be allocated to a sector, as important as agriculture ought to be, we must wonder to what degree does the Government intend to permit agriculture to play any meaningful role in the so-called

structural adjustment programme which that side claims that they are bringing here shortly. Indeed one is also left to wonder how could any Minister sit down in a Cabinet or Estimates Committee and permit his colleagues to reduce him and his portfolio to that of some little puerile... Unable to assert himself and demand of them that they give him an opportunity to let his Ministry be run the way it ought to be.

- Two things stand out among several. There are several problems with the Estimates insofar as they relate to the Ministry of Agriculture. We see a whopping reduction on subsidies usually granted to fanners and to the Agricultural Development Corporation and the BMC, a whopping reduction on the subsidies being given to farmers and we also see a whopping reduction in capital allocation.
-

First, Sir, subsidies. I am accusing the Minister of Agriculture of being unable to appreciate the importance of agriculture in economic development I am further accusing him of allowing the subsidies to be reduced because he does not understand what particular role subsidies play to fanners who are particularly prone to a lot of vagaries, a lot of risks and a lot of concerns. In Israel, Japan and in other countries which have had successful agricultural sectors governments are not afraid to subsidise farmers so as to help to reduce the burden of their costs and to guarantee them some return on their investments.

I want the Honourable Minister of Agriculture to appreciate that the purpose of subsidies is to offer support and encouragement and morale to farmers.

*Asides.*

*Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. James North were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. SPEAKER.*

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: The point I am making, Sir, is that governments are wont to offer subsidies to farmers.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: The Honourable Member is making a speech that is more akin to a second reading speech. My understanding of the rules requires that, if in Committee, the Honourable Members must relate to specific items of expenditure. If the Honourable Member wanted to make a second reading speech he ought to have done that during second reading.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, I am saying that with any close reading of these Estimates, when we look at the difference between the $29 million allocated last year and the $21 million allocated this year and we see the difference of $8 million, we realise that this $8 million represents a reduction in the allocation to the Ministry. Then we read into the $8 million where precisely the cuts have been made. I am saying the cuts have been made largely in subsidies, in capital grants that the Ministry normally is given.

I am happy to look at it this way for the general education of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West who usually has difficulty understanding things that little teenagers can do.



We are also concerned, and we want the Minister to explain where under Personal Emoluments, non-statutory personal emoluments at page 27 we are seeing a reduction from $191 219 to $178 742. In the

absence of the Minister's explanation, we have concluded that the Ministry of Agriculture is going to be required to do some laying off. We are also asking the Minister to explain to us precisely why enormous allocations at page 31 from $6 940 to $148 359 for other personal emotyments for a cotton project.
On the one hand, what we are getting is a reduction in non-statutory personal emoluments in some areas of the Ministry of Agriculture and in other areas we are seeing an enormous increase, especially for cotton. We want the Minister to tell us why this huge allocation to temporary cotton staff.
We are also curious on this side to know what did the Government expect to earn from cotton as a source of employment and as a source of foreign exchange and what the level of investment in cotton has been for the last 2 or 3 years, especially, since a short while ago this country lost $11 million through a thing called CARSICOT.

We also have to ask the Government whether in circumstances where the figures at page 28 under 623 - Structures clearly indicate that there will be no special development projects coming on stream this year. I see nothing allocated there for Structures and this is under the Special Development Projects. I would want the Minister to tell this Honourable Committee why there are no new special development programmes especially since this is the time when structural adjustment is about to take place.
I would also like to ask the Minister whether it is a fact that since 1987 money has been voted on the Floor of this House for the abattoir and since 1977 a supplementary. I believe the Honourable Member for St. Philip South knows of this. Why is it in this year's Estimates there is no clear indication as to what will be spent in this coming financial year on the abattoir?

Sir, I will have to make 2 or 3 more interventions but, before I conclude on this one, I also want to enquire of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, what of the Tent Bay Project? I see from the Estimates a decrease in the allocation for the Tent Bay Project and at this time I want to remind Honourable Members of this Committee that some 5 or 6 weeks ago in this very place this Committee approved a soft loan from the European Economic Community for the Greenland Project and we were told at that time that the Greenland Project was a project aimed at fostering livestock development in this country. We were told about a line of credit and yet in these Estimates, a mere 6 weeks after we were told about this Greenland Project that was supposed to boost livestock farming and diversify agriculture - we on this side are totally convinced based on what we see or do not see in the Estimates -nothing has been allocated *foe* this coming final year for the Greenland Project. 12.30 p.m.

We are also curious about the Three Houses Spring Water Project which I believe again the Honourable Member for St Philip North who would have preceded the current Minister in the Ministry would be aware of.

Before I close on this one - I am coming back to it 2 or 3 more times -1 just want to find out what emphasis will the Government be placing on the Barbados Marketing Corporation in the coming financial year especially in view of the fact that under the urging of the IMF there has been a suggestion to amalgamate the 2.

I will also, Sir, be speaking on the Agricultural Development Corporation. But I want the Minister if he so desires, and he should, to answer the questions which have just been raised and explain to us in a great way why it is that in a situation where agriculture is a productive sector, where it is an employer, and where it can contribute to* the Gross Domestic Product, where if properly managed it can earn foreign exchange, that there is such a substantial cut of $i8 million in the current Estimates.

In view of the cut we-over here are left to conclude that clearly since the Government may have committed itself to a diminution of capital works it did not sufficiently appreciate agriculture and in the same way it decreased the capital works for several other Heads it has gone on to give agriculture a decrease in a situation where our thinking out here suggests that agriculture should never be reduced to a mere "Cinderella" but should be given its proper place in the economy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, as I conclude, in any situation where the capital allocation to

agriculture is reduced, it means that a severe blow is done to your agricultural infrastructure. It would therefore mean that in a structural adjustment situation it would take a very long time in the future to restore agriculture. We fear that agriculture's role in the economy this year is probably likely to decrease to a point where its position in the national income would go down to an undesirably low level.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. James North in his introductory remarks which were highlighted by exuberance and hyperbole if not totally«...

*Asides.*

3159

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: The Honourable Member raised a number of questions which I intend to deal with. Now, clearly the most pressing, and understandably so, question which I have to answer relates to the cut in allocation. Let me start by saying that as Minister of Finance I am not particularly worried about the cut..

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: The mistake, Mr. Chairman, has no bearing on any aspirations of mine. It is a genuine mistake.

As Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries I believe that the Ministry's plan to undertake agricultural development for the 1993-94 financial year would be based on the optimum allocation and use of scarce resources. The resources are scarce but through efficient handling of these resources I am saying that a number of....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. I have made it abundantly clear that all Honourable Members must be accorded the right to speak without interruption and ! am not going to tolerate it Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: I am quite capable of handling myself, Mr. Chairman, but thanks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not in Committee.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, in order to operate with a reduced budget it is going to be necessary to streamline a number of the agencies which fall under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. The pending merger of the BMC and the ADC to which the Honourable Member alluded is one such case in point where there is going to be streamlining in order to effect a more effective and efficient delivery of the agricultural services to the farmers in particular and to the country in general.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let me deal with a number of specific questions which the member raised. I start at the bottom and come up. I will deal with the question of cotton. These are the facts. Let me state in terms of a policy statement that the Government remains committed to the cultivation of cotton. There is no doubt about that. I have said that several times and I will continue to say it until the Honourable Members on the other side start to believe me.

For this year, Mr. Chairman, we had 350 acres which were planted under cotton. Of that, 140 acres were planted by private farmers. CCII planted 70 acres. BADC planted 115 acres and the Ministry of Agriculture planted 7 acres.

We expect a yield of 1 200 pounds of seed cotton per acre. As a matter of fact, I am told that the first shipment left yesterday for Japan. So in terms of our thrust in cotton cultivation we remain committed to the cultivation.

It is our projection that over time in the foreseeable future we would have at lest 4 000 acres *under* cotton cultivation because we recognise the valuable foreign exchange which could be earned from cotton. We recognise that in the past, and for obvious reasons which I would not go into now, we have had difficulty in confining the planter class to plant cotton. There wore obvious reasons for not planting cotton. But we would not be deflected from our commitment to the growth of cotton. We are projecting that in the future 4 000 acres would be an adequate amount for the growing of cotton.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: If I just gave you the estimated yield for 350 acres of cotton which was 1 200 pounds per acre, it is easy to work out what would be the yield on 4000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It seems to me that some Honourable Members are tired of sitting in this Committee. 12.40 p.m.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: In any event, Mr. Chairman, the Member for the City has by and large helped me by raising the question of yield because the extensive research which the Ministry continues to carry out I am sure would ensure that the yield for the future would be more than the 1 200 pounds per acre which we received this year. Therefore in your computation I am suggesting that you probably factor in 10 per cent for increased yield.

With respect to the question of the project at Tent Bay it is well on stream. The old slipway has been removed and a contract has been awarded in the 1992/93 Estimates for a sum of $358 000 which sum would go a long way in effecting the work which is expected to be done at Tent Bay. What needs to be done now is the erection of lockers and other amenities which the fishermen have been requesting and which we have agreed that we would grant to them.

The Three Houses irrigation project again that is very much on stream and that is expected to be finalised in this financial year.

The Greenland livestock project. Again the repair work to the accommodation at Greenland will start in the new financial year. The Honourable Member will appreciate that there are a number of areas to the Greenland project and as he quite rightly states it is



aimed and geared primarily at increasing the production of beef and to a lesser extent, mutton. To a large extent we are almost self-sufficient in both mutton and pork production in Barbados. The EDF loan would commence, on the one hand, repairs to existing buildings and would also erect, Mr. Chairman, new buildings to deal with the beef project which we have planned.

These are the comments I would want to raise by way of response to the opening statement of the Member for St. James North. There are some points which he raised with respect to personal emoluments which I would have to check, but before the debate is over, rest assured I will address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister made a statement just now that the planter

class, as he said, refused to plant cotton and that research in the Ministry indicates that in Barbados we should have approximately 4 000 acres of cotton.

I want to draw to the attention of this Honourable House a number of facts in relation to cotton. There will not be any great upsurge in activity in this area until the integrity of the Government institution dealing with cotton is improved. There is no confidence at all in the predecessor organisation to the present one that Government appointed as being the principal instrument of furthering cotton development in Barbados. Carsicot was an abysmal failure and I want to say this, Sir, as one who believes that there is a fole for Government to play in developing an instrument to carry on economic activity I think that we should all agree in here that were we examples of fraud, deceit, corruption on the part of anything that Government creates and is associated with it that we should have a full scale investigation so that the people involved are locked up. It is public money. It has to be accounted for.

Carsicot is deserving of the most thorough and rigorous investigation so that all the perpetrators of the fraud and stealing of the Government money that took place should be landed up in Glendairy Prison. You cannot have a situation in which the public feels generally that Carsicot was nothing but an instrument of deception, fraud and corruption and the Government is covering it up by not taking action.
Now, Sir, what is even worse is that people who were associated with that organisation, with all the incompetence - even if not fraud and corruption - that was associated with that have been now transferred to the successor body and paid as much as $12 000, $10 000 and now $7 000 a month. It is a national scandal what you have inflicted upon the public of Barbados. Nobody who was associated in a managerial capacity with Carsicot should have been employed by Government in a succession application. It stinks, Sir. Check them.

I want to say this, Sir. As far as the statement that people have refused to plant cotton, I want to say on the floor of this House that I have facts that the seed that was supplied to private farmers for this crop was bad seed. I have those facts. And what is more ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is on a point of order.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: The same or similar seed that was provided to the farmers is the similar seed that is at Spencers, that is at Fairy Valley, that has produced a higher yield than in previous years.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Sir, it is not the same seed because what you did was that you kept the good seed for yourself and you supplied the bad seed to the farmers.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman that statement clearly imputes improper motives, not only on my behalf, but certainly on behalf of the entire Ministry of Agriculture and I am asking that it be struck from the record. I want a ruling, Mr. Chairman. 12.50 p.m.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has raised a point of objection and has asked for a ruling. My consideration is that the comment was not specific to a Member of Parliament. However, I would caution the Honourable Member for Christ Church South to choose his language a little more discreetly.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, I will take your advise. But when I see fraud, when I see corruption or when I see incompetence in any Department of Government, my understanding of the constitutional system under which we operate is that at Estimates time it is the duty of Members on this side to bring that matter to the attention of the Minister. When the Minister fails to act in the future, we will then say that not only is he constitutionally responsible but he is in complicity. I am only telling the Minister that it is his duty as a new Minister in that Department to investigate the stables very carefully and understand that they want cleaning. They definitely want cleaning.

You have people who are in a prominent position in relation to cotton and nobody has any confidence in

their integrity. What is more, they are paid an exaggerated amount of money for the job that they are doing.

3161

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, you formed that as a private company and the Government owns most of the shares or all of the shares. That is a very serious thing. I also caution you to do not accept all of the advice that you get It is a fact of life that seed was supplied to farmers this year which was bad seed. It did not germinate and this is not the first year that has happened. It is also a fact that your seed management from year to year is bad. That is a fact. You must accept the fact that careful management has to take place in respect of seed and that, when people apply for seed, you must not plant seed on your plantation first for the best and then supply them with the residue because the residue is often very poor. That is what you must do. You cannot come in here and make a general statement that people refused to plant cotton when, in truth and in fact, they planted it but it did not germinate. What is more, a claim is now being made from those farmers for money in respect to the seed. They will not get a cent from some people because they will want to take you to Court because you have supplied goods which are unfit for the purpose for which it was intended. That is a fact. Sir, the second point is that in my constituency or near my constituency this cotton is grown and I want to find out very clearly what is the Government's policy in relation to the land that it owns. There is something that we have been endeavouring for a long period of time to get across and it is this. Government, as the biggest land owner, can help to provide in Barbados an institution known as a long term tenant farmer where he can bring the skills of farming without being burdened with the cost of land. What is the Government's policy in relation to leasing land that it has in its possession which is now lying fallow and is a nuisance to their surrounding neighbours because they have a lot of cow-itch in some of them and a lot of other undesirable growth? We want to know. Certainly, Sir, this is the context in which I am mentioning it. It is a known fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the ADC have been areas in which a large number of lay-offs have taken place. I would have thought that at the time when these lay-offs were taking place that the Government would have offered to some of the people who previously worked there the opportunity to lease some of die land. I want to know what is the position with respect to that. I want to know that, Sir. I know that there are others here who have absolutely no interest in this area.

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

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member for Christ Church South completed his speech?
*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Before I seek the suspension of this sitting, I am asking Your Honour to revert to part of the Notices on the Order Paper so that I can give notice of certain matters to be dealt with.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is seeking permission to revert to Notices on the Order Paper. If there is no objection, then leave is granted.

## NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I give notice, Sir, of a Resolution to grant the sum of $2 700 000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1992-93 as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1992-93, No. 7.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question, No. 65 is ready.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am not proposing to do it today, Sir, maybe sometime subsequently. So that when it is circulated, Honourable Members will see it. This is Transport, Head 42.

SUSPENSION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: At this point, I move that the sitting be suspended until 2.05 p.m. today.
Hon. B. M. TATTT: I beg to second that, Sir.

*The question that this sitting be now suspended until 2.05 p.m was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.* 1.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it should revert.

*Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply , Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

3162

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, before we took the luncheon adjournment the Honourable Member for Christ Church South raised a number of pertinent points to which I want to respond, especially that relating to the Government's land lease policy.

Mr. Chairman, the Government as far back as 1991, during the spate of layoffs, enunciated a land lease policy whereby laid off workers were invited to express an interest in farming. The Ministry of Agriculture established a committee which has been looking at applications on an ongoing basis, and I must state that we have had a fairly overwhelming response, although I am not seized with information to convince me that most of the responses came from laid off workers, but generally from members of the public.
We have made some allocations, especially in the Scotland District, to the over the hill project. The main problem with speedier or more expeditious allocations has been the unavailability of tractors to prepare the land. We have even had a number of cases where the land was prepared but the recipients did not take up the land and it fell back into a state of grass and so on, and we had to make it ready for cultivation again. That is the Government's policy. I must warn, though, that contrary to popular belief, and indeed when I was a member of the back bench I held that view, that the ADC has a lot of land which is lying idle, but this is not true. A lot of the land is privately owned, it has not been vested in ADC and some of the land might be in the hands of the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Therefore, apart from the few plantations, 2 of which would be going over to the Agricultural Management Company, it is not true to say that we have this abundance of land and that it is idle.

We have had disappointing fortunes with respect to the land at the Springhall Land Lease Scheme. I will come back to that, but I thought I would set the record straight in respect of the Government's policy. There was also the contentious issue of the inferior seeds. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that it is not true to say that the farmers were given inferior seeds. What happened was that we had in the Ministry of Agriculture to use the method of acid delinting because certain pests were prevalent, and we advised the farmers on the best possible time to plant the seeds after they were given to them, but they did not heed the advice. I do not want to seem to be belabouring the point that the farmers do not always take the advice of the Ministry, because I must say that since I have become Minister of Agriculture I have struck a fairly good and cordial working relationship with the farmers. It is a fact, it must be said that not often the advice of the technocrats in the Ministry of Agriculture is taken. This was one of those cases, but that is water under the

bridge. The Ministry plans to air condition the seed store at Coverley, and hopefully that problem will not arise in the future.

It was also drawn to my attention, Mr. Chairman, that I said we were self-sufficient in mutton. This is far from the truth. We are self-sufficient in fresh pork, although we import pork for pork products and hams. I promised that I would respond to a number of Questions raised by the Honourable Member for St. James North.

With respect to the EDF project at Greenland, the reason why an amount of over $1 million, which is a grant, is not shown in the Estimates is that it would not be disbursed in the usual way as with the World Bank project, but it would be disbursed directly by the EDF who would have a project manager on stream. The grant component is not included in the Estimates under the Ministry of Agriculture.
The Honourable Member also queried the cut in subsidies. I want to draw to his attention that an amount of $35 000 for spraying equipment and $25 000 for tractor cultivation are both now shown in Grants to Individuals, since they are really in actual fact grants as opposed to subsidies in the strictest sense of the word.

The Honourable Member also raised the question why there were no new development projects coming on stream in the financial year. If he turns to page 28 of the Estimates he will see that there is a fall in the allocation, since a number of World Bank financing projects for agricultural development have been completed. For example, credit promotion, accounting, consultancy, export marketing facility and agro-processing. These have all come to a conclusion.

Finally, the question raised in respect of Other Personal Emoluments on page 31, where there is a change from $6 940 to $148 359. This is a change from Capital to Current. Although it reflects an overall reduction, this reduction would take the form of no hiring of substitutes and the cutting out of overtime. It certainly would not involve any layoffs.

I thought, Mr. Chairman, that I should clarify those matters rather than let them bunch on me, because I suspect there are other queries to come.

Thank you. 2.20 p.m.

3163

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture is seeking to clarify some of the issues raised before lunch. He might have given the impression that efficient use is being made of the Government estates. I wish to take issue with that. I think it can be illustrated by reference to the output in 1986 and the run-up to 1986: We produced 45 000 tonnes of sugar cane from the Government's estates in 1980. A year or 2 ago, we were producing 7 000. From 45 000 tonnes to 7 000.1 think that decline illustrates the extent to which you are not getting efficient use of the Government's estates. That figure continues to decline.

In 1986, too, Bath made a profit out of vegetable production. Those 2 facts illustrate the extent to which those plantations were efficiently cultivated then. It is a fact that the Belle has been allowed to go into serious disrepair. Also other plantations in St. Philip and elsewhere in the country. I am referring to Fairy Valley, Spencers, Bath and the one at the top of St. Philip - River really needs very serious irrigation, if we are to make any serious hand of it.

That leads me to the question to ask the Minister. What has become of the ideas with respect to the harnessing of the water from 3 Houses River. We had plans to tap the water resources there. In recent times we have not heard anything about that.

Let me get back to cotton because I think it is important. A lot of valid points have been made, but I still think that there is another side to the cotton story that needs to be given. I believe we made a

fundamental error in Barbados after 1986 when we attempted to run before we crept. As soon as the Democratic Labour Party came into office there was grand talk consistent with the grand standing that is their style. "Let us set up cotton mills. Let us set up a processing factory and all the rest." The truth is that we had not got back to upwards even of 500 acres of cotton production in Barbados. We had not mastered the basics in production up until 1986. For many years we were out of cotton and yet we were talking as early as 1986 of a factory for the production and the weaving of cotton produce and the processing of raw cotton.

The result of our being out of cotton for many years is that we in Barbados have virtually lost the cotton culture. By that, I mean the knowledge of the techniques of growing cotton successfully. There are not a lot of people in Barbados who know about cotton. So that all of this grand talk that we can put 4 000 acres under cotton production is idle talk. It has no realistic basis at all because the knowledge of cotton production is not as widespread as it used to be. We have to get our basics in place before we talk about production on that scale.

In terms of getting our basics in $r^{1}$->ee $_{we}$ need to return to the issue of seed production. W~ ^<*e suffering not only in cotton production but also in peanuts production because we have to import the seed. We often get seed that is not of the very best quality. Jimmy Carter only sends us seed from Georgia when he does not want it or he is finished using it for his own purposes.

The Israelis had undertaken to help us in seed production technology and no sooner thai? we left office in 1986 they got rid of the Israelis and we lost the opportunity to gain know-how and expertise in the area of seed production technology as it relates to peanuts and also to cotton.
I wish to make another perhaps more fundamental point. It is this. You cannot talk of non-sugar production in Barbados unless you talk about sugar and as long as sugar continues to be in the state of decline that it is in, you cannot have success in any other area of non-sugar production, because of the symbiotic relationship between sugar and non-sugar. It is significant that in 1963-67 when we had the highest production of sugar in the country between 183 000 and 189 000 tonnes that we also had at that time 6 000 to 7 000 acres under non-sugar production.

The more sugar you produce, the more health you have in your sugar production, the more viable it is, the more you can have successful non-sugar. So it is idle to talk of a serious revival of cotton or of non-sugar generally unless you are prepared to return sugar to a high and successful production. That is very important.

A lot has happened in the last few years that has tended to destroy confidence in the industry and the faith of Barbadians in sugar. I do not want to go back to CARSICOT because CARSiCOT has done significant psychological damage to the people involved in cotton.

Over and above that, the price is not attractive. I do not know what explanation the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, who is no longer Minister of Agriculture, has for what took place after I left. It is a fact that when Suzuki on behalf of the Japanese came to Barbados and I knew what was the worldwide demand for the long-thread cotton we produce in Barbados, that high quality cotton -long staple, I indicated, knowing the demand and the price that it was fetching that Barbadian farmers had to get BDSS9.00 per pound or US$4.50.

When I told Suzuki that I was not prepared to yield and I disclosed what I knew about the profit in the industry and what our cotton could fetch on the markets of the world, he considered and gave us US$4.50 per pound. The negotiations for the renewal of the contract should have taken place before the 1986 election. Unfortunately, it did not, and within weeks of our leaving office that price was virtually cut in half. I believe it is somewhere between BDSS3.00 and BDSS3.50 now.

That is not an economic price. It is not the sort of price that can encourage and serve as an incentive for Barbadian farmers to produce cotton. I think that the Minister has a lot to do if he is to restore confidence. Above all, he must not give the Barbadian public the impression that we can somehow realise 4 000 acres of cotton production in this country when, in truth and in fact, we cannot. Among the first things that he must do is to make sure that he negotiates a contract that is sensible and offers the farmers an attractive return with the Japanese or whoever else are prepared to take the cotton off our hands.
The second thing that he must do is start talking realistically. You have inherited a lot of grand talk from Richie Haiynes and others, abandon that. Let us get our basics in place for cotton production and let us recognise too that because of the damage that cotton does to. the soil in terms of erosion that you cannot really be talking about viable cotton production in Barbados unless it is being rotated with sugar.
It seems to me that our first realistic target should be 1 150 acres rather than this grand talk about 4 000 acres. Before you start talking about the long-term future, let us talk about the immediate future and the medium term. When you begin to put things in that perspective people can recognise that you are realistic and speaking as though you have your feet on the ground rather than as if you are air-borne and then you begin to attract attention.

Above all - and I would wish to come back to deal seriously with sugar. I am sure we are bound to get to that soon - make sure that the knowledge and the techniques of successful cotton production are widely spread and that people can produce the cotton before we start talking about a cotton weaving establishment in Barbados and all the rest of grand talk that Richie Haynes and the Democratic Labour Party introduced into this country in 1986. 2.30 p.m.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I want to start this contribution by agreeing with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South 100% and I will tell you why I agree with him. The part I am agreeing with is that until such time that we are able in this country to look at an organisation that is administering cotton and look at it outside of any background of doubts in our minds about lack of integrity and goodwill, the cotton project would never be taken away from the emotionalism.

Let me also agree, as I have said on the occasion, historical to me that I more than anybody else in this country would love or want to see whoever is responsible for any wrongdoing associated with the cotton development in Barbados punished appropriately.

*Aside.*

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: We did that. As I said I made it crystal clear. I repeat that until such time as we are able to dispassionately discuss the potential of cotton outside of the innuendos, or background hints, or any lingering doubts of any fraud or wrongdoing by anybody for it we are going to have it so I hope, like anybody else, that we would have that.

Let me get back and take up the Honourable Member for St Joseph and follow up the sequence because I think it is necessary for this House to understand the sequence. It is true that when the Honourable Member for St. Joseph was Minister of Agriculture there was a revival of the cotton industry primarily by a Mr. Suzuki. We had reached the stage where Mr. Suzuki had agreed to pay US $4.50 a pound. After the 1985 election not knowing how places like Barbados are administered under the Westminster model, as soon as Mr. Suzuki heard there was a change in Government he came down and thought there were no records on it and immediately offered US $1.80 per pound. When it was brought to my attention, I immediately sent and told Mr. Suzuki that was not the agreement because* it was specifically stated in the agreement that the price had to be negotiated and could only be changed upwards. The position was that he came and put an argument that because of that he could not offer more than US $2.40 per pound. That started the whole procedure of marketing the cotton becoming open because the Ministry told him very specifically we were not taking less than US $4.50 per pound and if he could not pay that price my instruction was to keep the cotton in there until whenever we found some other person.

In the meantime all kinds of people started to call, the Italians, Canadian, English and people out of Europe. They all came down to Barbados with one objective, to buy the cotton. They gradually worked the price up

from US $2.40 to US $3.20 a pound. I then asked to have a very detailed look at the whole area. We invited a firm called Tutu which was one of the people that quoted, to have a look at the potential of the cotton industry in Barbados. The idea then came from Tutu that we should look at least at some limited processing. Even if we did not go right through to the finished product we should look at some limited processing of it even if we took it to yarn. If we had taken it to yarn it would have been easy to put in knitting because those expensive parts for knitting were quite good.

It was about that time that a firm which eventually came that caused Barbados so much grief. They put the proposal that they would work with the Barbados Government towards a total processing of the cotton. When we looked at the economics of the cotton we realised that moving from raw cotton where they were paying us

3165

about Bds. $9 per pound of lint to the finished product, there was almost an increase of value added of nearly 900%. Therefore, the thought was then that we should try to get some of this value added in Barbados. Discussions were then started. At that time the Japanese became involved and the firm of Scothall became involved.

Mr. Chairman, the Westminster model dictates that in ministerial Government the Minister must take responsibility for whatever happens in his Ministry. But there is a problem. You have to decide where policy finishes and implementation starts. Sometimes you are blamed if you follow the policy too far into implementation that you are meddling in the implementation of it. At that time, naive as I was, I thought my problem was to take it up to a policy, decision and then it be left for implementation of that policy decision.

Now, I agree with you that that policy decision has some flaws. The flaws which I agree with you at that time were that the primary production should have been concentrated on. All the indicators were at that time that the farmers were back on the ball. Yields were relatively high. What happened was that the germ plasm for cotton was then still in Antigua. They held the germ plasm and were therefore responsible for providing the seeds for Barbados. I thought it was a dangerous thing because Antigua was not actually in cotton production and they were not taking good care of the germ plasm. Therefore, in association with the consultants they agreed they would assist us in producing our own seed. Therefore the germ plasm was moved from Antigua to Barbados. We brought in a specialist who worked with our agronomist and from that time we started to produce our own seeds. Our seeds are now produced locally but I will get back to that later.

We discovered that when the seeds were coming out of Antigua, because Antigua did not have a direct interest in the production of cotton they started paying very little attention to the actual production of seeds. There was a year when Antigua sent a set of seeds to us that really should have been intended for animal feed. That year we had a disastrous crop because there was no germination of the seed. We felt then that having got over the seed problem that we were well on the way towards moving up.
The projection, as you said, where the 4 000 acres came from was arrived at because it was decided because of the erosion problem with cotton that you should not plant on any land with more than a 5 degree slope. When we calculated it in connection with BSIL and Dr. Hudson, the available land in Barbados under a 5 degree slope we discovered there would have been about 6 000 acres of land with less than a 5 degree slope and gi^n the problem for rotation, you could have gradually v ^?<ed up to a maximum of 4 000 acres of cotton. It is against that background that the projections were made. At this stage you could have then introduced a purpose designed plant to do the spinning.

I must confess, as the Honourable Member said, that the culture of cotton production had not been fully accepted because cotton is a little more difficult clop than cane in that even from the production of the seeds into the growing of the seeds and the preparation of the soil you have a problem. If the soil is not properly prepared and you have a root structure, even if the seeds are planted too low, you have a problem with germination.

Sir, I must say that going hand and hand with that, we must admit the fact that (i) because there was a subsidy attached to sugar cane, and (ii) because the Barbadian farmers were very familiar with sugar cane, there was naturally a first interest in maximising sugar cane production. And because the Barbadian farmers were very familiar with sugar cane too that there was naturally a first interest in maximising their sugar cane production. As well as maximising the sugar production they were also very keen in rotation of yams and potatoes only. Therefore having decided on that policy it became almost mandatory if we were going to develop the culture, if we were going to use the acreage, that the Government plantations are the ones that take the slack up. It is not quite fair then to come back and compare the production of canes in 1986 when it was a policy then of growing sugar canes and it is back now to the point where you have a clear policy decision that because you realise the potential and the tremendous potential in a cotton industry and because you realise that the local farmers at that time needed the encouragement that you need to work out all the bugs, you need to get the culture back, you need to get the whole seed production up. You need to get the agronomy of the crop up, that the Government had to make a conscious decision that they would so take the lead and that decision was made. The rest, Mr. Chairman, is history. 2.40 p.m.
It is unfortunate that those well intentioned positions by Government for the cotton industry got caught up in the lot of the most unfortunate incidences in Barbados that it has eroded the belief and the confidence of the Barbadian farmers in cotton as a crop and therefore we cannot talk of cotton dispassionately before we get the intervention of Carsicot.

Mr. Chairman, I want to finish as I started by saying, I too like the Member for Christ Church South hope very soon that we would have in Barbados an organisation or a structure dealing with cotton that would allow us, dispassionately, to look at cotton and its potential because of the trust and faith in the persons or organisation



administering that cotton in Barbados to allow the tremendous potential of cotton as a crop to take off. I hope, Mr. Chairman that that time is not too far distant. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I took careful note that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North said that he agreed entirely with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Member *"for* Christ Church South, you will recall, said that the flirtation with Carsicot was a massive waste of $11 million and we have a Member on the other side saying he is agreeing with that, Sir.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I started by saying, Mr. Chairman, that I agreed with the Member for Christ Church South 100 per cent in the areas that I hoped that the administration of the cotton industry in Barbados would be in the hands of persons that all the farmers in Barbados would be comfortable with, that would allow the industry to take its rightful place among sugar cane in Barbados.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, I do not know on what the Honourable Member rose, but he did not say so in his speech. Sir, at page 31 of .this year's estimates there is reference to the production of flowers. I believe that this will be the production of orchids, anthuriums, ginger lilies and so on.
Now, while it is true that the Barbados Labour Party welcomes any policy by which the proper exploitation of flowers can be achieved we are in considerable doubt as to whether it would make the maximum out of the proposals to produce flowers in view of the fact that currently arrangements are such that those who can produce flowers to a commercial degree are very few in number. Our advisers and our consultants are of the view that we cannot develop export oriented horticulture to any meaningful extent except you achieve a capital injection of between $160 000 and $200 000. The question therefore is, in what ways would the Government be prepared to assist that particular subsector to get off the ground by offering the requisite financial assistance. Right now in the absence

of any direct governmental assistance to that subsector it is highly probably that that area of horticulture would be the sacred preserve of a very privileged few with no realistic, chance of small farmers who lack capital being involved in that.

I would like the Honourable Minister to tell this Committee, Sir, what plans the Government has for really boosting that subsector in'a situation where I believe some S or 6 years ago it became obvious that there was some demand overseas for orchids, anthuriums and ginger lilies and in a situation where this country is in desperate need of foreign exchange whatever you can get, Sir, from exporting products would be welcome.

But, Sir, I took note that my learned, distinguished colleague, the Honourable Member for St Joseph said that some psychological damage has occurred in Barbados in respect of cotton. And there are indeed, Sir, a lot of grave doubts about cotton, especially because of that particular institution which we heard earlier today had allowed this country to part company with $11 million. But in addition to that particular concern that we have over here is this question: Even though it might be true that no Minister at this time might be able in precise language to tell us exactly what yield 4 000 acres of cotton will bring, we want to know what the projected foreign exchange earnings from cotton would be? I would want the Honourable Minister to tell this House what the projected anticipated earnings in foreign exchange for the cotton industry would bring. We have grave doubts.

We believe that even though the Government is rather anxious to diversify the sources out of which foreign exchange can be earned we are rather skeptical especially in a situation where both the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and the Honourable Member for St Joseph mentioned that it is highly probable that cotton production, as we know it now, cannot be produced to an optimum because of the problem with insufficient yield through soil slippage and soil erosion.

I believe the Honourable Member for St. Philip mentioned Dr. Hudson's recommendations in these areas. I would want the Minister of Agriculture to tell this House, notwithstanding anything that may have been said by the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, to what degree has the Ministry undertaken research on the concept of minimum tillage. It is a technical concept. I am assured that some technocrats from the Ministry are in the precincts of the House and I am told that this notion of minimum tillage is the recommended idea for Barbados, that it is the one way by which soil erosion may be arrested and production enhanced. And it is different from what the Honourable Member for St Philip had suggested. Minimum tillage is a technical term, it does not mean producing to a minimum. It is a concept which the uninitiated might not fully appreciate. It is a very special concept as the Honourable Member for St. John appreciates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. 2.50 p.m.

3167

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: As I indicated earlier, one member sitting here today talked about the question of psychological damage, Sir. Indeed, if a measure of psychological damage has been inflicted to a degree that really alarms, Sir, it is the psychological damage that we have seen in Barbados over the question of this Government's handling of the sugar industry. Sir, even before anybody in Barbados thought about export/import with Guatemala, we saw some years ago a dangerous trend setting in where Barbados started to import molasses. I believe the importation of molasses in Barbados preceded the importation of sugar. Barbadians do not understand how a culture with 3SO years experience in the production of a given commodity can suddenly become a net importer when the Government owns IS estates and that the total amount of land available to ADC has been conveyed to them. We are wondering of the 13 ADC estates owned and controlled by the Government with so much land lying idle whether the Government realises that in clear circumstances where the public is responding with alarm at the importation of Guatemalan sugar and where some

sources close to the action are indicating that in a few instances when the Guatemalan sugar comes in residue pure that the stewards at the BMC may very well be responsible.

Sir, I want the Honourable Minister to indicate to this Honourable House if that is so. There are serious allegations that sometimes the Guatemalan sugar may not be that bad but that the storage at the BMC is often responsible for bag fuzz, stuff, all sorts *of* sediments and possibly rodents entering the sugar. I want the Honourable Minister to tell this House whether that is so or not so.

Getting back on the question of sugar, Sir, it is our considered view that for Barbados ever to have a viable sugar industry again Barbados must increase its sugar production by at least a further 40,000 tonnes with the view, Sir, of making sugar available for our local consumption to use and with the view, too, of maximising the total export earnings that we can get out of sugar. I want the Honourable Minister of Agriculture to indicate to this Committee what direct plans the Government of Barbados has in respect of bringing idle lands owned by the Cro\vn back into the production of sugar. It makes no sense in saying that once sugar is produced that it must be for foreign exchange and, when we import from Guatemala, we import at such a low price that they really do not suffer that badly or lose that badly. At any rate, the market price to the consumer of Guatemalan sugar is never as low as the unit cost that is exported at port, Sir.

Sir, I want the Honourable Minister to indicate what plans this Government has for resuscitating the sugar industry to a degree where the sugar industry cannot only expdrt the sugar under its obligations to the European Economic Community but where there will be sugar available to Barbadian consumers.

Sir, I heard the Right Honourable Prime Minister indicate yesterday that two agencies have come into existence to aid sugar, Sir. I understand that sometime in the foreseeable future the Caribbean Development Bank is going to be offering this Government $18 million. I want to know what purpose that it will be put to and I also want to know, Mr. Chairman, whether it is true that of the $18 million provided by Government to sugar farmers that the farmers themselves must pay back $9 million to the Government. Because another injection of $9 million in the sugar industry down the road is not enough to bring sugar to the type of viability that we in this party would want in the interest of Barbados, Sir. These are some questions which I will invite the Minister to answer, of course, after due consultation as soon as he can.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not have to consult to answer some of the ludicrous...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now I do not want any cross-interruptions. It is not fair.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, some of the insinuations that the Honourable Member for St. James North made are really ludicrous. For the member to ask a question like this: What plans does the Government has for increasing sugar outputs in the future? He would really have to be living on Mars on March 9, 1993 to ask a question like that. We have over and over again discussed in this Honourable Chamber of an Agricultural Management Company and the Agricultural Management Trust which is part of the overall restructuring. How are you going to get the output without restructuring? The Honourable Member is labouring under the misconception that these plantations belong to Government. The Belle and River Plantations are going to be passed on to the Agricultural Management Company and those persons will become part of the overall pool.
Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister is obviously still talking as he was before the break this morning when he did not know his head from his feet

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, the records of the House would show that I said that on several occasions since the restructuring started. If the Honourable Member as shadow Minister of Agriculture had understood his role, he would have been seized with this information because I have

spoken on this already. He continues to give the impression that the Government has these idle lands. Where are the idle lands? As I said, I am beginning to build up a relationship with these people, but it must be said, Mr. Chairman, that the sugar industry has been manipulated over time, and the Government cannot take any blame



for that. I have asked a question already in here and it has not been answered, but why did the factories stop producing the fancy molasses which was equivalent to 6 000 tonnes of sugar? We had a ready export to Canada for it. The impression is given in this Honourable House all the time that the Government owns the plantations, that sugar is a public sector activity, that the production of sugar cane and sugar is a public sector activity, when it is riot. That has to be said. 3.00 p.m.
I was hoping to give other Honourable Members a chance before I intervened again, but I had to get up to clear the air on this. I know the Honourable Member well. He is the type of person who has the habit of saying something often enough to convince himself. Once he says that often enough, and I give it time to germinate, he is going to begin to believe it, so I had no alternative than to come and clarify it.

Mr. Chairman, there ate a number of points which the Honourable Member for St. Joseph made, which I take in good faith. His contribution was worthwhile. I accept the fact that there is an inextricable link between cotton and sugar, and therefore they would have a relationship to the extent that when sugar is booming non-sugar would be expected to do well also. It must be said that with the restructuring of the sugar industry we expect an increase in the output of non-sugar, but it must also be said that non-sugar has been performing. As a matter of fact, in the last 5 years nen-sugar agriculture has increased its output by 30%. It is also true to say that it contributes twice as much to the GDP as the sugar industry does. This must be said.

With respect to the flower project, this is another area in which the Honourable Member for St James North floundered. The whole, thrust towards the cut flower industry was started by the Barbados Labour Party. After it lost direction, this party took it up and gave it a new focus and a new direction. It is clear from the intervention of the Honourable Member that he does not understand what is going on. I go as far as saying that the Ministry of Finance has given substantial assistance up to now to this industry and there is also a ready market for the industry. Therefore, one at a glance can see the contribution it could make to the earning of foreign exchange.

With respect to the importation of sugar, again I have to say what I said already. I do not intend to repeat everything I have said. One must recall that there is a Parliamentary Question, to which I should shortly be responding, in which the Honourable Member raised a number of questions, but I could not let this opportunity slip without pointing out that the matter of dumping of sugar related, as the Member quite rightly hinted, to a question of storage. The sugar was received and passed by the health authorities. The 1 250 bags which up to recently were dumped, and which represent less than 1% of the total, because 128 433 bags were received, were dumped as a result of storage facilities. I grant you that, but the point has been made, Mr. Chairman, by the political anachronism who has been masquerading as Leader of the NDP, that the sugar is dirty from the source, but that has to be clarified. I take this opportunity to say that any dumping relates to storage and not to problems originating at the point of origin.

These are the matters. There are other points I have to make relating to the Estimates, but as the afternoon progresses I will intervene.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I rose not to do anything but to deal with the issue as it relates to the sugar. The Honourable Member, in the course of his presentation, left an impression, at least with me, that he was saying that the sugar is constantly dirty and that this sugar, from what he said, is

detrimental to the health of the population of Barbados.

I just wish to put on the record, so that there should be no question whatsoever, at the Port of Bridgetown there is a cadre of health inspectors. These are highly trained individuals that have functipned irrespective of which' Government is in office. They inspect all foodstuff that comes through the Port, irrespective of whatever it is. We as a people have to rely on them because as happens in all countries the citizenry must be able to rely on the professional integrity and professional aptitude and responsiveness of the people who are placed there. 3.10p.m.

When it comes through the Port - I wish to believe, because in the final analysis the mere fact that I am the Minister and we have some people down there, I am in no different position *vis-a-vis* other Honourable Members and the public at large when it comes to the use of food which comes through the Port I wish to believe, therefore, in the integrity of the professional people who are there and I just wish to say for the record that my constant information suggests that there has been no diminution in either the aptitude, the interest or the professionalism of the people who function at the Port. Therefore, when food comes through the Port and it is not considered by that inspectorate to be good enough for distribution in Barbados it is marked for condemnation.

•There has been a suggestion that though it is condemned it could be used again. The methodology that is used is that when an item is condemned it is



either marked or they pour diesel oil and other contaminants on it to ensure that it cannot be used again. They store it and subsequently it is dumped at sea.

After the sugar, as it is a food item - and I remind Honourable Members that not many years ago that whole containers of corned beef were dumped - they dump corned beef. They dump anything. They do not have any ministerial direction and Honourable Members on that side know that is how it works. There is no ministerial direction on how they operate so it is infinitely wrong for us to leave any impression that somehow there is some bad sugar slipping through the Port I get very upset about that, not whether the Guatemala sugar is or is not clean. I am not getting involved in that. What I am concerned with is the professional integrity of those persons whose responsibility it is to guard the fitness of food for consumption for the people of Barbados. If we constantly go on to say or leave an impression that the thing is "coming through the Port" then we are casting aspersions on their professional integrity. I have a duty to protect it I have checked and double checked it The Chief Medical Officer continues to report that there has been no change.
Now, when food conies through the Port..,

Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. *Tte* Minister has gone to great length to set up a straw man to knock it down. Nobody has made that accusation that the Public Health inspectors are negligent Nobody has suggested that The question has to do with the quantity of sub-standard sugar which comes to Barbados at all.

We know the Public Health Officers are there for our protection. What concerns us is the large quantity of every single shipment that turns out to be unfit for human consumption and which has to be dumped and fed to animals and some of it is so bad that it cannot even be fed to animals.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: This is part of the issue. My information is that there are no abnormal levels of sugar coming through the Port that has been sent for condemnation. What has happened in fact is that they have stored it

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What is normal? The normal in terms of percentage of the amount of any food coming in here. The Honourable Members obviously know more about it All I am saying is that when the sugar comes through the Port the amount that is assigned for condemnation and dumping is not immediately dumped but it is stored until they have a sufficient quantity stored. Hence when the large quantity was taken out to sea it was a culmination of all that had been condemned through many shipments. It was in fact publicised as though a substantial number had been dumped.

The Honourable Member always knows everything. She must know what gets dumped. She must have the figures. Let her put them on the Table. I am not getting involved in that.

I am saying that the integrity of the officers has been impugned by a number of persons both in and outside of this House. The Honourable Member who spoke left that impression and the second thing he spoke about he said was that the storage at the BMC was subject to infestation by rodents. The BMC has not stored any sugar and where they store the sugar in St. Philip it was inspected and such difficulty as there was was corrected. That is my information.

So to give the impression that rodents are constantly infecting the sugar that comes into Barbados is wrong. I will not have it The sugar that is used from Guatemala may have, I heard somebody say, bag fuzz - ash. The ash content notwithstanding the samples that were carried by that indefatigable public campaigner of dead issues...

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M- TATTT:... who managed to tell the public that he had carried a specific sample of sugar to a specific tester who was able to give him a specific result, I do not know and no one knows what happened with that sugar before it went to be tested. I am not prepared to make any statement about that Suffice it to say that we have also had similar tests done at the Barbados National Standards Institution and also by the Government laboratories and they have all continued to report ash levels were not abnormal. The ash levels in fact are the same standards that are the Jamaican standards which are the CARICOM standards for ash in sugar. In other words the standards have been acceptable.

If I were the Opposition I, no doubt, would have joined in any condemnation on any call-in programme or whatever which sought to suggest that the importation of sugar was resulting in the destruction of the community. Because I am in the Government, I have a duty to bring the facts to bear when I know them. It is clear to me that this sugar issue has been blown out of proportion.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Furthermore, I think the Honourable Member who raised the question of fancy molasses, why fancy molasses is not being produced in Baibados, that it is a trite question. Fancy molasses is



not being produced in Barbados because it has not been produced in Barbados.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Is the Honourable Minister answering his own Minister? Is he not listening to the debate? I tell you, it is "Mouter Brown" come in here and say anything. Your own Minister is the one who talked about fancy molasses, not on this side.
Hon. B. M. TATTT: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has demonstrated time and time again that when he gets up from his slumber he does not know what is going on. The Honourable Member

for St. James North raised the question of fancy molasses. I know he responded. The Honourable Member knows that 3 judges sit on an Appeal Court and all 3 give a separate opinion. Is the Honourable Member telling me that I do not have an opinion on fancy molasses?

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAUT: The Honourable Member who raised the question of fancy molasses sought to give the impression that the Government had made some decision to stop producing fancy molasses. Fancy molasses was stopped from being produced in high numbers during the time of the Barbados Labour Party, when the Honourable Member for St Joseph was Minister of Agriculture. He, himself, had an opportunity to stop the factory at St. Philip from going out of operation. The decision to put it out of production was made during their time.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The asides are far too long.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Barbados Labour Party went and put together, according to Richie Haynes, the second rate factory and then comes in this House and brings a neophyte...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: ... and says he is a shadow Minister of Agriculture to come in here talking about the failure to produce fancy molasses. When the Honourable Member said the importation of fancy molasses is some problem. The importation of fancy molasses has increased because there has been an increased production of'mm. The manufacture of rum for export has quadrupled and as a result it was necessary to bring fancy molasses from wherever it could be had. It is economically desirable to import fancy molasses to produce rum to re-export the fancy molasses in processed form in rum. The Honourable Member must know therefore that it is economically beneficial and to bring a youngster who really is not seised... 3.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:'The Honourable Member will not refer to an Honourable Member.....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw "youngster" in relation to anybody on the other side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Further, the Honourable Member should conclude in 2 'minutes.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: ...to bring a neophyte in here to discuss fancy molasses in those terms when Honourable Members should know that it is economically beneficial to import the molasses and produce rum is really unbelievable. To think that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas could then get up and start to give the impression that he understands what is going on is incredible.
Mr. Chairman, I got up to deal with the question of the Guatemalan sugar. I hope the Guatemalan sugar will be laid to rest and that no other Honourable Member will seek during the debate on agriculture to give the impression that the officers at the Port are not doing their duty.
I am grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAtf: The Honourable Member for St. Tfiomas. But before he proceeds, it is my perception that a lot of latitude has been enjoyed in so far as speeches have been made in Committee. I would really like us to come closer to the procedure that is to be followed in Committee of Supply.
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will not dwell on the nasty sugar, Sir. Over a year ago I brought in this House of Assembly 2 packets of the nasty sugar. I was the first who brought them in here so I do not want to hear anything...

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Where I got them from? They came from Guatemala.
Sir, I want to address a number of questions to the Minister under this Head. I am going to do it, perhaps, by page reference. Opposite page 41 in the Note I see there is support for the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation of $2.1 million. There is also in the public domain some rumour that the ADC and the BMC are to merge. Both of these agencies are under the purview of this Minister. I would like the Minister to explain to the House how he envisages the amalgamation of these 2 bodies, when will be the amalgamation and if it is necessary for this amount of money to be voted given the amalgamation of the 2 .corporations. That is question No. 1, Sir.

3171

Question No. 2 relates to arrangements for repairs of vehicles - Technical Workshop and Other Services. There was a time when the repair work ...

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Opposite page 38. The vehicles of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries at one time used to be given out to private contract for repair. It appears now they are setting up their own technical workshop in-house to do the repairs. I want to know what is the rationale that has caused this change in policy. Perhaps, the Minister would be good enough to tell us how much was paid to private contractors by the Ministry in the last financial year for the repair of vehicles.
Sir, I also see opposite page 34 a reference to a note. There is an error in the Note that might have to be amended. It says "622 - Provides for acquisition of land at Three Houses." There is no 622 in the Subprogramme and Object No. column. I want to know what land is being acquired at Three Houses because 623 says "provides for Three Houses Spring Development.[11]1 want to know what Government is planning by way of development in the Three Houses Spring area, if this is a short-term development, medium-term or long-term and the cost involved in this development

There Is also at Object No. 626 on the same page a provision for consultancy at Three Houses. I do not know what that means. I would like some explanation given of this Three Houses consultancy. I did not know we had a doctor up there now.

Sir, coming closer to St. Thomas opposite page 28 there is provision for the execution of works at Consett and Skeetes Bay and the new Abattoir facilities. It must be well over 18 months that we voted for the acquisition of lands at St. Thomas east of the new landfill for the establishment of a new abattoir that had been promised for many years. Recently we have heard nothing by way of information from Government as to the plans for the development of the Abattoir. Is construction envisaged to start in the new financial year?

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, perhaps it is not necessary to ask the Minister that question because my friends on this side have pointed out that under 623, in fact, there is no money given for the Abattoir facilities at Consett and Skeetes Bay but such money as is allocated in respect of the Abattoir at Skeetes Bay and Consett relates to advertising. The Minister would have to explain to us hdw he is going to advertise these projects. Does this advertisement relate to the contractual arrangement, the tender notices and so on?

Surely, Sir, having regard to the date of the acquisition of the lands for the new Abattoir the time is

going to come when Government must tell us, and I speak on behalf of the people of St. Thomas who would be directly affected, what are the plans for the development of the Abattoir facility at Vaucluse. I notice, opposite page 31, Sir, Item 626 - Professional Services, provision is made for consultancy on cut flowers production-and the processing of aloes. I want to submit to the House, Sir, that it appears that aloes production can be a highly profitable enterprise for agriculturalist. I am told that in Dominica there are now vast acres given over exclusively to aloes production for the French market. I am assured from the other side that what I am saying is true. That is my information. It seems to me that in Barbados we have ample scope and land for the development of aloes in a substantial way by way of diversification of the agricultural industry. 3.30 p.m.

Now, I would like to hear from the Minister what are Government's plans, assuming that aloes is crop that can be grown commercially in Barbados, that has the potential for foreign exchange earnings, and what plans Government has to stimulate aloes production in this way.

I remember some years ago 2 men from Texas came here and were brought home to me one night. They were very interested in the development of aloes and they went to the Ministry and they were sent away with short order and they turned off their interest in Barbados. That was about 5 to 6 years ago. This provision for consultancy in aloes production seems to me to have exciting possibilities for Barbados and I really would like to hear from the Minister what initial studies the Ministry has done that is now perhaps convincing them that it is an area that is worthy of the investment of substantial funds.

We know that there are little people out there trying to make a dollar to keep body and soul together who ply the beaches with aloes. We know that there are a lot of people who come to Barbados as tourists who think that the aloes plant has a number of good medicinal properties. If this is a plant which we can grow *I* would want to give it my wholehearted support. In fact I would like to hear a comparison, *or* if the Ministry has done any comparison between aloes production and cotton production for example. But having regard to the Dominica experience I counsel Government that this is an area that is worth looking into for future development,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Peter.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to speak with reference to Program 1 of Head 25 which concerns itself with the general direction and coordination of policy in the Ministry of Agriculture.



You might recall, Mr. Chairman, that within this session a Parliamentary Question was raised concerning the Ministry of Agriculture's administration of an incentive scheme. The answer was given by the Minister of Finance that the administration of that scheme cost the Treasury $69 million, which bore absolutely no relationship to the value of agricultural imports into this country. That is a fact. There was the very clear undertaking given on that occasion that the circumstances surrounding that obvious piece of corruption in the Ministry of Agriculture would have been investigated and that this House would have been apprised, Mr. Chairman, of the results of it.

Indeed, Sir, so rampant was the corruption and maladministration in the Ministry of Agriculture that that incentive scheme that was introduced in the Budget of 1989 had to be halted. That incentive.scheme was one under which a large number of people across Barbados imported all kinds of things and treated them as agricultural commodities with the compliance of people in the Ministry of Agriculture. A thorough investigation was promised to this House and I am calling for the Minister in the course of giving an account of the general management and coordination of services at the Ministry of Agriculture to tell us what that investigation has led towards.

I make that point, Mr. Chairman, to say this. There is no Ministry in Barbados that is more inefficiently administered and in which one has found evidence of more obvious corruption than in the Ministry of Agriculture. And to that maladministration and corruption have now been added the element of incompetence and inexperience because we had the alarming situation today when the Minister believed that merely because a programme is funded by an EDF grant, the expenditure itself does not have to be reflected in the Estimates. So we have had corruption in the past, Mr. Chairman. We have had maladministration in the past at the Ministry of Agriculture and we now have the element of inexperience and possibly ignorance being added to those heavy burdens that the sector must carry.

I have heard all of the discussion in this House concerning sugar but you will look through the Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and you will not find, Mr. Chairman, any subvention being allocated to the sugar industry, any loan being given to the sugar industry, through the votes of the Ministry of Agriculture. All of those votes and subventions, Sir, are located in the Ministry of Finance; and it raises a direct policy issue that this House has to address.
I believe, Sir, that the Government has absolute by no confidence in the manner in which the affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture has been administered for the last 5 or 6 six years and they have absolutely no confidence, Mr. Chairman, that the present Minister of Agriculture will be able to bring knowledge, expertise or competence to bear in dealing with the fundamental problems that have to be addressed now in agriculture. To that extent, Sir, we find a situation, for example, where the Minister of Agriculture has a category called Loans of $1 million to Agency and that is a loan to go through the Central Bank to small farmers. But the loans to the sugar industry, Sir, are not to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture but by the Ministry of Finance.

I have heard the Minister of Finance grand-standing in this particular debate. But obviously, Mr. Chairman, there is a need, in relation to the administration of sugar policy, for that policy not to be executed as a purely financial relationship between the Ministry of Finance and the BNB but for agricultural inputs to be made into it The exclusion of the Ministry of Agriculture from being able to administer any vote in relation to sugar is a dangerous thing precisely because we cannot now only have financial solutions to the sugar industry problem, Sir, we also have to have agricultural solutions to the problems.

You will k&w, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that in recent times all of the public discourse on the sugar industry has been dealt with by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. It is a dangerous thing, Sir, precisely because of something that he said yesterday. If we are going resuscitate sugar in Barbados it cannot only be done by taking the BNB off the hook but it also has to be done by concerted efforts to bring back small farmers into the sugar industry.

In the past I have known of situations where there has been a sugar adviser in the Ministry of Finance. It was the case under the Barbados Labour Party; but that was not to the exclusion of a role for the Minister of Agriculture in the manner in which he seems to have been excluded of late. All of the policies articulated by this Government on agriculture and sugar in particular are emanating, not from the Minister of Agriculture who comes to this House to tell people about who are neophytes and what statements are ludicrous, but from the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. And perhaps, Mr. Chairman, we might, in this debate have to nationalise him and get him to understand that he has a role to play in articulation and the development policy too. 3.40 pan.

*Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter were ordered to be withdrawn and struck from the record by*Mr. CHAIRMAN.*

3173

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: The consumers of Barbados are being made to pay a very heavy price in this

particular matter. The Democratic Labour Party wants to use whatever form of parliamentary maneuvering not to deal with the issue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Except that I want Honourable Members to recognise that Standing Orders are here to be observed. Just before the Honourable Member for St. Thomas made his intervention I had asked Honourable Members to come closer to the procedure in the Committee of Supply. Let me just refresh your memory because I think you should know the Standing Orders. Standing Order 66(7) states: "On the motion that the sum of X dollars for Head stand part, the debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided and not deal with the details of expenditure."

It does not give the latitude therefore.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not asking for latitude. There is a programme called Sub-programme 1 and I was very careful in my introduction to tell you that *I* was intervening in this debate to speak precisely to Sub-programme 1 which concerns direction and policy formulation.*I* am speaking in reference to the direction and policy formulation of the Ministry of Agriculture. I am not asking for your Mtitude, Sir. I am, therefore, entirely within my rights as a member to the extent that it appears as an expenditure in these Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is sick that we can have persons here saying that the consumers, who have absolutely no confidence whatsoever in the sugar being imported into this country, should raise no objection against the quality of the sugar because that may compromise our relationship with the ACP countries. ACP countries have a right to expect their citizens to consume sugar of the highest quality. I have not heard from the Democratic Labour Party benches condemnation of a statement of profound ignorance from one of its members; that our consumers must not quarrel about the quality of a product that is essential to the maintenance of the quality of their health because it will affect how somebody in Africa or the Far East feels about Barbados. I submit that the Democratic Labour Party seems to me that it has a vested interest in this matter, in defending foolishness and defending the large amount of profit from the freighting of the sugar. I hear persons on the other side who are saying that no profits are being made from the freighting of the sugar and the transportation of the sugar into this country. If you can advise me that no person close to the Democratic Labour Party is involved in any aspect of the transportation and freighting, I will stand corrected in this House.

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: We have to stop playing the fool with serious matters.

*Aside.*
•*
Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not saying, Mr. Chairman, that any one individual is involved. But I am saying that persons close to the Democratic Labour Party are profiting.

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I have not given you names. Therefore, I would be in breach. I have not given the Chairman any names.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to bring some sense of order back to this Committee. I have given a warning so far that I intend to carry out the punishment under Standing Order No. 46.1 am very serious about that. 3.50 p.m.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not, in accordance with the Rules of the House, given

you in advance any names, but at the right time...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, with due respect, if the Honourable Member will give way....
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two Honourable Members are on their feet.
Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member has given way, Sir. The Honourable Member has raised an important issue and I believe that this Committee has sufficient interest in getting at the truth of what he is saying that we could ignore for the time being any Rule that does not allow him to call any names. For example, I wish him to say who owns the truck, who hired the person and all of those things. Put it on the Table, Sir. Let him put it up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I am not going to be able to allow that.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, my response to that is that when the Ministry of Agriculture brings the report of its investigation into that $69 million of incentive abuse, I will be prepared then to give the full picture and to say who was also involved in the sugar abuse as well.

Mr. Chairman, the time really has come for Barbados to put back its sugar and agriculture into a sustainable position. But the Ministry of Agriculture is perceived



as being involved in too much corruption and maladministration for the farming community to have any confidence in the direction of Government policy. Therefore, we need to have investigations carried out into every aspect of the maladministration of the Ministry of Agriculture....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: ...including the administration of that incentive scheme, including CARSICOT, including the sugar deal and a whole range of other things that have now caused this Ministry to be the worst run Ministry in Barbados.

That is my intervention on the whole question of policy and direction in this Ministry. It has lost its way, but it is too important to the future of Barbados for us to allow it to continue to be a lost child. I have intervened in this capacity, Sir, because there is a shroud covering this matter, and it has to be stripped away for agriculture to move forward.

The additional point I want to make is this. The Ministry of Agriculture is not by way of these Estimates involved in managing any of the funds for sugar. That is a serious situation, because we hear the Minister grandstanding about his plans for his Ministry, but the facts are that all those funds are in the Ministry of Finance. We have known in the past that sugar advisors had been located in the Ministry of Finance, but there was a clearly defined relationship between the 2 Ministries when that was the case. In discussing Direction and Policy Formulation I therefore have a responsibility to ask, to the extent that all the sugar funds are not under the direction of this Minister, but under the Minister of Finance, what precise relationships are going to be worked out to make sure that the sugar policy in the final analysis is a sugar policy rather than just simply a financial policy to take the Barbados National Bank off the hook?
That is my contribution to the debate for the time being.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise, like the speaker before me, to speak under this Subprogram 01: Direction and Policy Formulation. I look at the explanatory notes in the Estimates, at page 27, Program Statement. "The Proposed expenditure under this program will enable the Ministry to continue initiation and review of agricultural policy affecting all programs and projects of the Ministry and its related departments."

The Guatemala sugar, Sir. I am concerned that Barbadian consumers for too long now have been subsidising what the Honourable Member for St Peter quite properly, in my opinion, described as

corruption, this whole business of the importation of sugar. I have said it already in this Honourable House, but I want it as a matter of record in this debate. How does the Government, by itself or through any of its Departments, and more particularly through its Marketing Corporation, find itself doing business with a company known as P.S. International?

Mr. Chairman, P.S. International's principals found themselves on criminal charges before the Grand Jury in the United States of America, District Court, the eastern district of Louisiana. A man called Melvin C. Fields was the President of Process Supply Company Inc., otherwise known as P.S. International of Indianapolis, Indiana, which was a commodity wholesaler of sugar and other food commodities. There is another company - now listen to the strategy of it, Sir - Overseas Trading and Shipping Limited, otherwise known as Overseas Trading, which was an inactive shipping company in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. A third company, Overseas Shipping Company (Puerto Rico) Inc., was a shipping company in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which acted as a shipping agent for Overseas Trading; that is the inactive company in Tortola. Both the United States Customs Service and Department of Agriculture were authorised by law to regulate the importation of r w sugar and the subsequent exportation of the refined product At the time when this was before the court the world market price of sugar was between U.S. $12 and $15 per 100 Ib. bag cheaper than the average price in the United States supported market There is a term called drawback, known in Barbados in a certain context, but in the United States in this context, drawback was a term used to define a refund under the jurisdiction of the United States Treasury Department, which allowed United States sugar refinery exporting refined sugar to file for and receive any Customs duties paid by them in connection with the importation of raw sugar into the United States. Once imported, the raw sugar would be refined by the refineries. When exporting this refined sugar, these companies could then file for a 99% refund of their import .duties, thereby allowing them to sell the exported sugar cheaper than sugar sold for domestic consumption, the difference being made up by the amount of drawback.:

The agricultural re-export programme was a programme under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture in the United States of America, which provided for duty free importation of raw sugar in the United States for the purpose of refining and exportation. Now, Mr. Chairman, under the auspices of the United States Customs drawback programme and the agricultural re-export programme, this Melvin C. Fields purchased sugar at export prices from Colonial Sugars Inc., a sugar refinery located in Louisiana, with corporate offices located in Mobile, Alabama, doing business throughout the United States, and here is what they did. It is called the



Scheme. Beginning in or about January of 1984 and continuing through December of that year, in the eastern district of Louisiana and elsewhere, this man Melvin C. Fields, who is the chief principal in P.S. International unlawfully, knowingly and wilfully devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain property from Colonial by means of false and fraudulent pretences, representations and promises. 4.00 p.m.

The object of this scheme, Sir, was for PROCESS SUPPLY or PS to purchase export sugar from Colonial at the low world market price and then to covertly sell this export sugar to the United States domestic market for a gross profit of approximately US$3 million. These are the people we are doing business with. These people were not found guilty of fraud in this Court; they pleaded guilty. These are the people who when investigated said it is true that they are exporting this Guatemala sugar dealing exclusively with the BMC.

But there is a Miami connection. This sugar comes to Barbados through Miami. There is a Barbados company called Sea Freight Agencies Barbados Limited. The address is James Fort Building, Hincks Street, Bridgetown, telephone no. 429-9688. Is there anything else you want to know?

*Asides.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: Now, this is Barbados company No. 2753. It was incorporated in August of

1982. It was a company formed by an attorney called Arden Clarke. Its registered office was at Pickwick Gap, St Michael. The agent was and still is the agent for this company Dosty Weekes Customs Broker Limited. There was a change in directors in this company in 1988 and the Minister of Agriculture in a statement which did nothing to clear the air quoted to us a huge sum of money - $1.5 million, that was earned for freight in connection with the importation of the Guatemala sugar by this Barbados company, Sea Freight Agencies Limited.
Nobody in the shipping business in Barbados today can understand how Sea Freight Agencies Limited could have earned $1.5 million.

*Asides.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: You go to the Corporate Registry like I did, pay the $10 and you do your research and you will find out who the directors are.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has to recognise that she has to address the Cha

Miss B. A. MILLER: I am addressing you, Sir.
There is another company, Sir, called KTNK Limited. The letters represent the names of children. There is no special significance except as to whose children they are. KTNK Trade Corporation Company. Barbados Company No. 5004, importation of goods and materials, wholesaling and retailing. This is a company with its "registered office situated at Ruby, in the parish of St. Philip. There are a lot of St. Philip connections.

I am inviting the Minister to enquire into the role that KTNK plays in respect of this movement of Guatemala sugar. The sugar comes here filthy. Huge quantities of it, tonnes of it have to be disposed of because it is not fit for human consumption. It is full of ash. I am not talking about what goes for testing. They are not going to send that. That is obviously so nasty and so impregnated. This is no trade-in. It cannot even be fed to animals. It has to be washed down the drain.

What is sent to the lab for testing is what appears to be clean and even some of that has been found to be unfit. I am talking about huge quantities, tonnes of it which is black with ash.

*Asides.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: This St. Philip company, I want the Minister to do his investigation and tell us in Barbados what role this company plays in the movement of the Guatemala sugar. I also want to know what role a trucking company known as Maynard Trucking plays in the movement of this Guatemala company - that is also a Barbados/St. Philip registered company as well. They all have these St. Philip connections.

*Asides.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: Any Member who wants to know must do like me. Go to the Corporate Registry, pay the money and get the searches done. It-is not enough to have this information. It is to know what the connection is, to know why...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let's have some order.

Miss B. A. MILLER: ... high levelled persons from outside of Barbados find themselves in Barbados investigating the *bona fides* of all kinds of people and connections to do with this business of the importation of Guatemala sugar.

*Asides.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: The FBI has done its investigations in the United States of America. All of these things the Minister... Stop picking your nails and listen to what I am saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No. No. You will have to withdraw that

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, these are important and I really want the Minister to give them his full attention. I have promised him I am going to speak to him privately.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot put it in the record the Minister is picking his nails.

Miss B. A. MILLER: But that is what he was doing at the time. He comes and sits too close to him all of the time. He eats his and you are picking yours now.
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would hate to think that Barbados would find itself falling into even further public and international disrepute on account of these dealings. The Barbados Marketing Corporation really must put everything above board on the table so that we can know what the truth is behind all of this. It is alleged that people are making private fortunes out of this. What that means is that the consumer is subsidising those private fortunes and it is not fair to a country where we produce sugar.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member should give us better information. If they are Labour Party people say so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. The Honourable Member to conclude in two minutes.

Miss B. A. MILLER: I am deeply concerned, Sir. Now, we are on sugar I am further concerned to learn that P.S. International is now seeking to move into other food commodities. Not only in respect of Barbados alone but other Caribbean territories as well.

I made this statement already in an earlier debate. By the next morning, messages were sent to me, Sir. I hope nobody even thinks to threaten me. Messages were sent to me that these principals in the United States wanted to know who I was and how they could find a way to serve a writ on me. It ruffled a lot of feathers and not only here in Barbados. Wherever else in the Caribbean International is doing business, presumably fraudulent business, they all want to know what it was that I said in the House of Assembly. I have said it even more explicitly today and I have no doubt that the fax machines will be flying before I sit down and that by tomorrow morning I will be getting messages again.

I am calling upon th6 Minister of Agriculture to give us an undertaking that the importation of sugar from Guatemala will cease.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time has expired.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON; Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with some points on one particular approach in this particular debate which has come from the Honourable Member for SL Peter. I do not know what plot he sought to hatch. I would not accuse him of a nefarious plot, Mr. Chairman, because you would not allow it and it is not the kind of accusation that I would throw at him anyway.

I should make the point very clear that there is nothing that he says in this debate or publicly that is going to throw any cold water on the effort of reform in the sugar sector, nor will it dampen the enthusiasm which the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture together have shown for the restructuring of the sector. 4.10 p.m.

I want to begin, Mr. Chairman, by saying that contrary to the impression given by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the sugar sector in Barbados is not exclusively an agronomic problem or a problem relating to issues like production levels. It is a severe financial problem the implications of which, if the Government

were to close its eyes, could cause the financial collapse of one of the premier banking institutions .in the country. That has to be very clearly understood.
The Honourable Member for St. Peter seems to be suggesting that because some of the votes in relation to financing of the sugar industry come under the Ministry of Finance, that there is some kind of usurpation of policy. I would like to find out who negotiated the sugar price support in 1985.

- *Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You say it is you. It is the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to the best of my knowledge. I know the Honourable Member for St. Peter cannot deny that up to when he was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance they have always collaborated very closely on matters relating to the sugar sector. I know the Honourable Member's expertise as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs was heavily relied upon to advise in relation to the price support and the profitability of the sugar industry. Now that is not to say that he was not a good Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries just as it would be foolish of him to suggest that because the Ministry -of Finance and Economic Affairs deals with



financing in the sugar industry that anything is wrong with the present Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. That argument falls flat because I know of his own contributions in 1985 to the sugar sector. People would leave this Chamber with the impression that there has been some attempt at usurpation in the Ministry of Finance.

I want to make this point for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. James North because this is important and it relates to financing in the sugar sector. The Government is devoting about $55 million in resources to the sugar sector this year $9 million of which is reimbursable.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It is under various sections - current transfers about $16 million, the CDB loan comes to about Bds. $9 - $10 million and $18 million in lending. They come to about $44 million to the sugar industry. What I was doing was adding in the reimbursable portion. Of that amount $9 million is reimbursable and will be paid to the Government on the sale of sugar. Presently there is in place some kind of levy arrangement. That money goes into some kind of fund. The point is that financing for the sugar sector right now has been done through a discount line from the Central Bank to the Barbados National Bank. Part of it is reimbursable on the sale of sugar and then, I think, Government makes up the shortfall. So it has never really been a matter which the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, *per se* has dealt with.

The former Minister cannot argue with me on this point. Financing in the sugar sector has always essentially been a matter facilitated through the arrangement with the BNB, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. It has always been dealt with at that level. There should be no impression given that there is any diminution of authority.

The matter relating to the trends in agriculture, the work of the Agricultural Management Company, the terms of reference of the persons who are going to be dealing with the management of the indebted estates, issues relating to production targets, purchase of equipment and capital development of the sector are matters that relate to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and have nothing whatsoever to do with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs except in terms of financing and perhaps some input on the cost/benefit of certain investments over the next few years.

\ want to say to the people of Barbados that they should watch very carefully this particular trend that is taking place in the sugar industry. They T> entitled to follow very closely the fortunes of the industry because this is a sizeable investment by the taxpayers of this country in the sugar sector. The point has to be made very clearly that this is not any attempt to bail out people who themselves have mashed up the sugar

industry. There are people who like to point fingers at Governments and there are some Oppositions who when they are in Opposition point fingers at die then Government. This goes on. ButVe know where the endemic problems in the sugar industry lie.
The restructuring of the sugar sector is not an attempt to absolve those persons who have used economic resources inefficiently, squandered them and then at every cross and turn look to the Government for succour and support. This is not propping up of the sugar sector. The reforms to be put in place will have to make the sector more dynamic and sustainable, if not they will simply fail because I will not be here or anywhere else, whether in this House or outside, 12 years from now begging anybody to support me in any effort to continue to provide financing for the sugar sector on the basis of business as usual or on the basis that it cannot be self sustaining, has inefficient levels of production, or on the kind of management that is presently in place. I am not talking about the management the Government is putting in place. But some of the other problems the sector has faced - the ownership patterns to some extent - too but that is not an issue that needs to detain the House now.

The point is there is going to be considerable investment in the sector. This investment will be predicated on the kinds of choices which the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries' input will be suggested over the year. No suggestion should be made anywhere by anybody who is reasonable and sensible and understands how Government functions and their own role in politics that there is any division of opinion between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on the restructuring of the sugar industry. We are *ad idem* and moving smoothly and swiftly towards the reforms that are necessary.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, you would expect reform to be slowly. I read a Senator who is a member of the Opposition saying that she has heard talk about restructuring in the sugar industry for a couple of months now. You could not restructure the Barbados sugar industry in a week, if not the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would have done it. He certainly has that talent if nothing else or the Honourable Member for St. Peter. You are talking about the restructuring, in a sense, of a way of life and economic activity that will become entrenched and tangled up in so many other kinds of commercial interests. Restructuring is not going to be an overnight sensation



nor is it going to be achieved in a short period of time in which people anticipate success. But we have to work towards it and keep our eyes fixed on the ultimate goals in the sugar industry. I believe if we are all committed to this goal that we will succeed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I too wish to address issues that may be regarded as falling generally under the heading of Policy Direction and Formulation. I want to use as my starting point comments made by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in the course of his contribution when he said 2 things that one has to be living in Mars, not Barbados, not to know that there is a policy on the future of sugar. When he attempted to give us the specifics he said we have announced an agricultural management company as though policy in sugar for the future is synonymous with that. Secondly, when he said do not blame us for what is happening in the sugar industry because we do not own the lands in the sugar industry. Much as he has complimented me in the course of his contribution, I must not allow that to inhibit me from being critical of his naivety. 4.20 p.m.

The real truth is, Mr. Chairman, that for a host of reasons Government has a very important role in sugar in Barbados and has more than moral authority in the industry. Government is largely concerned with its marketing of sugar. That gives it an important say in the industry and in addition to that, the Government, through the Barbados National Bank has emerged as the principal financier of the sugar industry.
There was a time, Mr. Chairman, when Barclays Bank and the other commercial banks in Bridgetown, in the heyday of the sugar industry when it was a very profitable industry used to undertake the responsibility

of lending to the industry. Barclays Bank has, over the years, off loaded that responsibility and it has fallen largely into the lap of the Barbados National Bank. The result is that because of Government's marketing role in the industry and because too of its financial responsibility the Government has a major say in the direction of sugar production in Barbados.

Now when an industry could decline by 120 per cent, Mr. Chairman, from 111 000 tonnes of actual sugar produced in 1986 to 45 000 tonnes this year, a reduction of 120 per cent...

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am using the figure of 45 000. The Government cannot avoid its responsibility and it is to blame for that decline, that dramatic decline of sugar production in Barbados. I am not saying that there is not a role for those who grow the sugar and the private sector, but the Government has an important and a decisive role in the industry and when the Government could allow that to happen the Government must bear high responsibility. It is the result of the failure to announce serious policy direction and to make sure that those policy directions are followed. Now, what I want to suggest to the Minister is this, that over and above telling us that an agricultural management company which is supposed to be a land management company has been established, we want to know in relation to sugar, what is going to be the production target which we are going to be aiming at over the next few years. That is an important question.

*Aside.*

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: It is not in the public domain. Nobody remembers it or seems to know it because in the last 10 years...

Hon. B. M. TATTT: I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two Honourable Members are on their feet. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West has risen on a point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is saying that the numbers for the production of sugar have not been made known. It is not in the public domain. The Minister of Finance in his budgetary statement last year identified the production target of 75 000 to 90 000 tonnes of sugar. He has articulated it over and over again. It is not fair to say it is not in the public domain.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: That seems to be a moving target, the Honourable Member for the City has reminded us.

Mr. Chairman, it is important if we are going to be serious about reviving sugar in Barbados and there are all sorts of reasons which we have dwelt on and elaborated upon in this House why we ought to maintain sugar as one of the props of our economy, and that the target should be known. And there should be measures taken to ensure that the target is as much as possible realised.
The facts are, Mr. Chairman, that we need to be 57 000 tonnes for the European Economic Community, we need about 15 000 tonnes for our own domestic



consumption and we need in addition about 5 000 tonnes for the U.S. market It seems to me that we should always have a surplus, not only to be able to accommodate any shortfalls in the EEC by other producers, but in the event of there being a good price on the world market, that we can take advantage of that.

In the last 12 years the target has fallen from 150 000 tonnes down to 75 000 and this year perhaps we will realise 45 000 tonnes. It is in the light of that sort of history that I really want to know what is the target. I do not regard 75 000 to 90 000 even if it has been indicated earlier, as the sort of definite target that we should be talking about. There is a big difference between 75 000 tonnes and 90 000 tonnes.

I have said repeatedly that in my view 30 000 acres of land should be devoted to sugar in Barbados. We are right now under that, the reason being that even if we are targeting 75 000 tonnes, given that the rainfall pattern in Barbados can vary upwards of 30 per cent you cannot rely on 25 000 acres to produce 75 000 tonnes on the basis of 3 tonnes per acre because in any one year because of the rainfall situation you could be 33 $V_3$ per cent down. So you have to target 90 000 tonnes to 100 000 tonnes if you realistically want to realise 75 000 tonnes of sugar.

But more **is** involved, Mr. Chairman, than the production target We want to know how many factories are going to remain in production and where these factories are going to be, because, Mr. Chairman, in the last 30 years the sugar industry in Barbados has been over studied. We began with the Farley Commission in 1963 or thereabouts when the Democratic Labour Party first came to office. We followed that up by the McGregor Report. We followed that up by the Landel Mills Study. That was followed up by the Booker Tate Study and the Booker Tate study which is the most recent and the one that is in the public domain called for the closure of Portvale - madness in my view. The closure too of Bulkeley and the concentration at Andrews located in a corner of Barbados where the road system cannot support the movement of sugar there and where the water situation does not allow us to use Andrews alone as a viable factory for all Barbados.

So that in the light of that most recent study we are entitled to ask the Booker Tate study what is the Government's position not only with respect to production target but to the number of acres that will be put under cultivation to sugar? What are they going to do in relation to the number of factories that will remain in operation? What* are they going to do about the financial problem facing the sugar industry? Because if as indicated considerable sums of money are going to be given to the sugar industry that money has got to make sure that the heavy debt burden is taken off BNB and that sugar portfolio is made viable at the BNB.

It means that the money will only be going to pay back the Barbados National Bank, when what is needed is serious preparation of the land for mechanical reaping. What is needed is the modernisation and upgrading of the factories some of which have boilers, for example, that go back to 1901 and 1937. Bulkeley has 2 boilers, one is as old as 1901 and the other 1936/37. So you are dealing with plant and equipment that need to be modernised, replaced and upgraded.

You are dealing with lands in the sugar industry that need to be prepared for mechanisation. You are dealing with an industry - and this is part of its depression - that in the last 10 years has seen small fanner production move from 9 000 acres to 2 000 acres in 1991/92. What are you going to do about the re-integration of the small farmer into sugar production? What are you going to do about the modernisation of the plant and equipment? Where is the money going to come from for the reform of the land and preparing for mechanical reaping where you find the average age of the worker in the sugar plantation is something approaching 60. These are the sorts of questions including what is your land use policy. Are you going to continue unregulated speculation as has been the practice of the Democratic Labour Party in relation to arable and productive lands in Barbados? Where are we going to draw the line? Are we still going to have plantations like Cottage being available for housing development where to get a foundation you have to go 20 feet down into the soil? Are we going to see the sugar lands in Barbados being cut up when already we have enough house spots available in Barbados and given to the speculators unregulated? Unless we have answers to all those sorts of questions, we do not begin to talk about a sugar policy. 4.30 p.m.

Sir, the Government cannot get away by indicating that they are the owners of the bulk of the sugar estates or because they have now announced that they have a management company that they now have a sugar policy. Much more is needed and I hope that the Honourable Minister will be able to tell us what are the elements of that sugar policy. What is the new level of sugar production so that all Barbados will know that Government is no longer committed to the no cane blade speech.
Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, before the Honourable Member gets up to move the break, I am saying that I rose during the time the Honourable Member was speaking and I sought to give him some information because I did not have it to hand. But I do not understand how the



Honourable Member can make a speech of the kind he just made leaving the impression, as he said, that this is not in the public domain. This is a Development Plan. If a person who was in a bus-stand Cabinet had made that kind of statement, you could forgive them. But when a responsible former Cabinet Minister who has been Minister of Agriculture and who is a Member of this House and, therefore, a Member of this Committee who must have access to the Development Plan can get up in all sincerity and make the kind of statement, Sir, about the Development Plan where the information is at page 158, well I cannot help him. On Page 158, Sir, under Agriculture, it says: "There are approximately 22 250 acres of arable land and in excess of 70 000 of this area is currently allocated to the production of sugar with the stabilisation of sugar production between 90 000 and 100 000 tonnes of sugar. Land now reserved for the cultivation of sugar cane production will be available for other agricultural purposes." On page 159, it states that "Government's policy of agricultural diversification provides for the continuation of sugar cane. Government has commissioned a study of the agricultural sector which should provide recommendations concerning the optimum side of the sugar sub-sector and the most appropriate crop rotation and enterprise mix with the view of improving farm incomes. At this time, however, Government considers that an annual production of 90 000 to 100 000 tonnes of sugar should be the goal."

How can the Honourable Member come in here and say that there is no goal? How can the Honourable Member give the impression that this has never been spoken anywhere and that he has never heard it and it is not in the
public place?

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I think the Honourable Member has said that the Minister has given figures which are different. I think he should be man enough to tell the public that and this Committee.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, when I got up, I spoke off of the top of my head. I said that the Prime Minister had said 75 000 to 90 000 tonnes. That is what I said. The Honourable Member said that it was a moving target and I went for the book. I am not grandstanding, Sir. You cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time. I went for the book. I went for the Development Plan 1988-93.- The Honourable Member is saying that nobody is going back. What he wants us to do is to go by a former Minister of Agriculture who presided on the destruction of agriculture. He presided over it and he hastened it, Sir. When it was in tatters and the people chased them away, this Government has tried to see if it can restructure agriculture. Do not come in here holier than thou. He is dressed very well today, Sir. Now he cannot come in here behaving as though he is speaking with so much expertise. He cannot remember anything according to him, Sir. He comes in here saying that it must be in the public place. The Honourable Member should read and pay attention to his own strictures on how you are to get information. If the Development Plan is not regarded by anybody, what is the Honourable Member calling for us to do then? There will be a new Development Plan for 1993. It is being processed now. The Honourable Member cannot be like his colleague who is sitting at the end of the row who has not had Governmental experience. Therefore, the Honourable Member is guilty of the worst kind of debating techniques in a Chamber such as this. If that Honourable Member who has had the experience as a Minister...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He was Minister of Agriculture. He got up in here and he spoke with authority. Do not ask me what it has to do with agriculture. It has to do with calling on a Minister of Agriculture who has been trying to correct the errors made by the Barbados Labour Party. He is calling on him to set targets that have already been set and to establish goals. I do not understand, Sir. I do not like to get into this kind of debate. The Honourable Member knows...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT:- He is seeking to set an agricultural policy. The Honourable Member holds himself as an expert.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member really is not addressing the point. We are on agriculture. The Honourable Member is speaking of targets that were set 5 years ago, all of which have been broken. The Government has not acheived any of those targets. Instead, it has gone into reverse. If the Honourable Member really wants to make a contribution, I suggest that he either addresses that issue or we get on with the debate.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it is that kind of holier than thou input...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just ruled that that was not a point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You would wish me to sit down. When the Honourable Member was standing up and grandstanding - it is true that no Honourable Member over there was listening to him. So I can appreciate why they may not appreciate why I am responding. But I listened carefully to him because the Honourable Member by the tone of voice might lead those who had not remembered



that this issue was a closed issue to believe that there is some new policy which has been laid down. Mr. Chairman, I will remind you that he said that he hoped there would be no more cane blade speech. Mr Chairman, the cane blade speech was a matter that has been festered by members on the other side when, in fact, the position of sugar has been clearly articulated by the Democratic Labour Party Government. I have no doubt that the Minister of Agriculture will deal with them. In fact, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph started off by seeking to perpetuate an untruth when he said that production was down to 45 000 tonnes when even the worst estimate now put the sugar cane crop at 50 000 tonnes. The only person in Barbados who does not know this is the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. He wishes to provoke me that it will not be 45 000 tonnes. Far from its being 45 000 tonnes, it is 55 000 tonnes.
Miss. B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Minister cannot describe the Honourable Member for St. Joseph with improper motives that he wished that the crop would be less than 50 000 tonnes. I wish a ruling on that, Sir. 4.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: !f *?ie Member requests a ruling, I would rule it Is not

Miss B. A, MILLER: It is not improper? So this is a precedent now for the future. Thank you.
*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am moving the suspension of the sitting for about 20 minutes. I move that the sitting be suspended until 5.05 p.m.
Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the*

*sitting accordingly.*

**RESUMPTION**

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it should revert.

* *Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATIIWAITE in the Chair.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I find it necessary to express a few comments on this Head - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. There are a few comments I should like to address regarding the cotton industry, the sugar industry, the land programme which I have been advocating for some time, and I should like to express a few views on the fishing industry.

I think, Sir, it is fairly clear to us that the cotton industry will be a very vital part of the future of the agricultural industry in Barbados. It is indeed unfortunate that there was a situation that developed within the industry which provoked the confidence of those involved, to the extent that the industry has not been able to satisfy its potential. I would certainly urge that the key players involved support the Government in its drive to ensure that the cotton industry is a meaningful one to this society. I think it should be done with the clear understanding that the success of it will have a significant impact on our ability to meet our balance of payments.

Similarly, I think it is clear to all of us that the sugar \ :.. iustry has gone through a serious backlash of j -ire imstances, which are known to all of us here, and in all ! fairness to the Ministry I think we have to accept several i of t.'ie arguments that have been advanced from the other side with regard to the resuscitation of the sugar industry. It is clear to me that whereas the private sector controlled and was mainly responsible for the demise of the industry, it is definitely Government's role at this stage, in light of the indebtedness of the industry to the Barbados National Bank, to ensure and to protect the future of the industry on behalf of all Barbadians.

I think it is indeed sad, Mr. Chairman, that we are today in here arguing about Guatemalan sugar, whether it is clean or dirty, or who did or did not import it. I certainly was a little offended by some of the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, because I know of no involvement, certainly by any Member on this side, in any questionable behaviour regarding the importation of sugar. I am concerned that when those kinds of comments are made they are designed specifically to undermine the confidence of the industry to the advantage of I do not know who. At the end of the day the people of Barbados will be the major losers for irresponsible comments that are made in a serious debate about the agricultural industry. I really would hope that those kinds of comments are held in abeyance, because I think we have to be magnanimous in this country at this stage where the survival of the industry must not be undermined by irresponsible comments by people who should know better. I am very concerned about that.



Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member accused the Honourable Member for St. Peter twice of making irresponsible statements. I think in the context of this debate, Sir, that it is out of order and ought to be withdrawn.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe the Honourable Member would wish to rephrase it.
Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member suggested that there were members attached to this side of the House who were involved in the importation of Guatemalan sugar. I know of no one on this side who is involved in any such behaviour that is improper, and I think that any comments made regarding a situation where an alternative situation had to be put in place, if you had a situation where nothing was done, that would be another catastrophe. I went on to say that it was sad that we had to be debating the importation of Guatemalan sugar, because I take the argument from the other side that we should at this

time be focussing on moving the level of production to where we are able to satisfy the export quotas, as well as to satisfy the local demand.

*Aside.*

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I understand that and I empathise with the fact that there had been difficulties with it I am just saying that we need to take positive decisions at this stage and not get involved in irresponsible behaviour.

Mr. Chairman, I should like at this time to indicate to this Honourable House that some time during 1991 I had advanced an argument for the leasing of land to small farmers, or individuals who would be able to get involved in small livestock farming or vegetable farming. It has been a long time, but I would like to report that the present Minister of Agriculture and his technical people have done a good job in trying to progress that proposal, to the extent that they are now in the process of allocating land to small fanners on a very reasonable basis. The terms are around $100 per acre per year and a number of people are being facilitated in that regard.

I would like to say, however, that there are a number of concerns for me. One of the requirements of livestock farming has to do with the fact that the individuals who are allocated land have to find some capital to fence areas and to purchase sheep and cows, and I see no reason why these individuals could not be given some kind of subsidy or some provision where they are able to go to the National Bank or one of the commercial banks where they could be given some kind of venture capital to get them on the road.
I heard comments today that we are almost self-sufficient in pork, beef and mutton.

*Aside.*

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I was surprised at the comment. That is why I was raising it, because my understanding is that we still import a large number of lamb racks for the hotel industry as well as for the local market I think we are self-sufficient in poik, so I was a little concerned about that comment.
Mr. Chairman, finally I would like to express a few comments with regard to the fishing industry in Barbados. I am of the view that we will probably in the near future have to look at fishing as it relates to the small entrepreneurs who presently go out on day boats or ice boats. There are a number of problems, including the non-availability of cold storage facilities at the new complex in the marketplace. I think that is creating a problem for the industry and its ability to accumulate the quantity that would be necessary for a meaningful export drive in fishing. I think that this country is missing a very good opportunity to collectively focus a lot of the catches into one area where it is properly processed and stored, and then the excess product is re-exported to the Canadian, the American and the European markets. There is a lot of potential for it.

I am involved ir fishing and I get a lot of requests on a daily basis sometimes on a weekly basis from people who are interested in importing Caribbean fish into those markets. 5.20 p.m.
I would like, Mr. Chairman, to express my thanks to the Minister for having assisted me in progressing that project. I certainly look forward to the Minister assisting me with several other people. I hope he will look at the question of venture capital or assist by giving reference letters or whatsoever is needed to the commercial banks so that we will be able to assist those small individuals in some meaningful manner.
With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I would like to support the Head.

Mr. "R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to the attention of the Committee page 37 of this year's Estimates under Head 25 - Agriculture in respect of subsidies under subhead Fisheries Management and Development. I notice that in the revised Estimates for the year 1992-93 there has been an allocation of $15 000 and that this coming financial year it has been reduced to zero dollars. I am therefore interpreting that, Sir, to mean that in respect of a subsidy to farmers that it has been reduced from $15 000 to zero. Therefore, I am calling on Government to explain to this Honourable Committee why and for what reasons has the subsidy to fishermen been reduced. *

In addition, based on the interpretation of the Estimates that we have before us on fishing, it would also seem that as though the extension services to fishermen has been reduced. Subprogram 611 - Maintenance of Property which was in the last financial year zero and for this financial year zero as well. It therefore leaves us to indicate that if there was no money allocated for maintenance of property in the last financial year and in this financial year as well that we are free to interpret that to mean that in respect of the maintenance of structures which are in the fisheries subsector that no money will be forthcoming for overall maintenance and no fresh money will be coming to assist in that area.

In addition,, Sir, under 623: Structures there is a diminution from $375 000 to $95 000. We are curious as to what is the import of that particular diminution. We fear that any reduction of that magnitude would suggest that the actual capital work programme for fisheries would be down against the background of the concerns of fishermen that some jetties, walls and markets are badly in need of repair. In circumstances too, where the fishermen at Oistins complain that they have been suffering from severe ice shortage. In circumstances where we feel that with the coming on stream of the new project at the Harbour Road that Government must have some policy by which in circumstances where fishermen go out to sea and bring back deep-sea fish on their ice boats that there must be some scenario in which at port there are proper facilities for the preservation of the fish.

Apart from that, Sir, there are a few things that I want clarified in respect of the last intervention made by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. I had made certain comments about the overall need to engage the sugar industry with more attention than it was before and I got the impression that the Minister misinterpreted me when he suggested that I was of the view that a lot of private plantations out there were under the control of Government. I never indicated to this Committee that there were plantations outside of the public sector which were under the direct control of Government. I never indicated to the Committee that the Government was directly responsible for any plight that the plantations faced and there was also a comment that the Honourable Minister made that I seem to have been of the view that sugar agriculture is a public sector activity. I never said so, Sir.

I never indicated that the responsibility for the production of sugar is entirely a public sector activity. I am well aware that most of the sugar is clearly produced on private plantations. Of course, I was drawing to the Committee's attention the fact that where Government is responsible for the management of the business environment and the agricultural environment they were clearly asking Government to look favourably on the sugar industry.

Any question that I raised would have been as to what exact acreage held by the IDC was in sugar and what acreage was idle that could be exploited. Those were my concerns in my last intervention. The Minister seemed to have taken exception to the fact that I *did* in fact make a contribution on cut flowers. I never mentioned anything about cut flowers being a failure under this Administration. I merely suggested concerning flowers and horticulture is that we needed to expand the base of ownership of firms that were producing exotic flowers and that there was a clear need for Government to consider seriously helping those who are not now involved in the business. The Minister put a different interpretation upon what I had to say.

In respect of certain comments made by the Honourable Minister of Health who is the Member for St. Michael West. He was careful to demonstrate to this Committee that his vocabulary is adequate and large when he called me a "neophyte". It is not for me to respond to being called "neophyte". The current thrust of politics permits me to ignore certain things but, if at the rate at which the Government is going it continues to perform or malperform, I am sure that sooner or later several other neophytes will join Honourable Members on this side, not as Opposition, but clearly as Government in the foreseeable future. I want to point out to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West that at no point did I come out and make any broadside against his side over molasses. I merely said that a measure of psychological damage has been done to Barbadians who have been the target of expecting production of molasses and sugar for over 300 years. I did not deliver myself in the same way that the Minister understood me to say. I never at any point went on to brand or lambaste the very able medical personnel who are involved in health and who do examinations of certain things at the Port.

I therefore wanted to clarify those issues, Sir. Before I close, I would like the Minister to tell us about what plans there are for giving assurances to the fishermen, in particular at Oistin, over their problems with ice, what plans there are for the rehabilitation of the jetty at Oistin and what plans there are for the refurbishment of existing markets and such like.

Basically, Sir, as I conclude my contribution to this particular Head these are the concerns at this point. If perchance I mentioned anything in my previous intervention against which Honourable Members took



objection, I am sure that from the tone and quality of my contribution I was entirely misunderstood. I am not apologising for what I said but what I am saying is that Members on that side should really have interpreted these things in the manner in which they were presented.

Thank you very much, Sir. I am deeply obliged to you.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I must intervene in this debate in respect of the Head: Marketing Facilities and my intervention is prompted to a large extent by the facMhat it is in this area of Governmental activity that we see the Government's indifference and contempt of small businessmen.
I remember that there was an elaborate programme devised for the rehabilitation of markets, particularly the Cheapside Market. That programme was worked on at a Planning and Priorities Committee as long ago as 1985-86 which approved some plans for the rehabilitation of the market at Cheapside and in addition instructions were given for the rehabilitation and integration at the market at Fairchild Street into the new bus stand complex.

Here it is, after a considerable period of time, certainly over 5 years, we still have the position in which small people who make their living by selling vegetables and other items have to operate under the most deplorable conditions and yet this Government will say that it is not anti-worker. This is more and more evidence, if you need it. You just have to look at the policy in relation to markets. If the Public Health authorities were not merciful to these people they would not be allowed to operate. The butchers who have to operate under the conditions at Cheapside and Fairchild Street really and truly should not be allowed to operate, but we on this side are thankful for the fact that the Public Health authorities are so merciful to them. That brings me on to the question of Oistins. 5.30 p.m.

It has really been a scandal to see how that facility has been allowed to deteriorate. Some work is being done now. It is now possible when you are buying fish at night once again to see the fish you are buying. Some new lights have been put in. There is also some evidence that repairs would be done to the lighting along the jetty. Whaf I am profoundly dissatisfied about is the ice facilities. I really cannot fathom the pretensions of Government in relation to its encouragement of the private sector.
The Honourable Member for St. John is famous now for making statements that they want the private sector to do this and that. I know for a fact that on more than one occasion advertisements appeared in the newspapers inviting tenders for the supply of ice, to the vendors in the market to allow them to comply with the Public Health laws. I hope people appreciate it is dangerous to the public's health if you do not have sufficient ice so that the vendors who sell fish can continue to keep the fish which is brought ashore from the boats already iced, and up to now no tender has been awarded.

*Certain remarks made by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the records.*

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not going to let it be struck from the record. I want the Honourable Minister to tell us why it is that after public money was expended in advertising for tenders for the provision of ice machines and there were a number of responses to those tenders the Government did not award a tender. This is shocking. There is again evidence of the kind of indifference and neglect the Government has

become famous for now.

The important thing is, again on behalf of my constituents, I have to thank the Public Health Officers for their mercy because if you look at the conditions at the market the people are selling iced fish, having bought it from an iceboat and there is an inadequate amount of facilities. Recently they have brought a little machine up there. They have allowed somebody from the private sector to put a little machine there that has helped because whereas before there was no ice there is a little ice now. We are not going to allow this to continue because we are operating on very dangerous ground when we obviously neglect this important area.

Now, we also have the question in that market of the sheer lack of materials to sanitise the area. There is an elaborate drainage system that was installed. It was installed upon the basis that periodically there would be a flushing of the drains. You have the problem where those drains have to be flushed either at low tide or trucks have to be brought in as part of the process of cleaning the drains. Enough money is never available to do that. In consequence, sometimes the area has a distinct odour -once again more evidence of neglect and sheer indifference. I call it wickedness. It is wickedness on the part of the Government that the supervision and the provision of money was not there to see that these things are done. It does not matter to me that the Government may think it is spiting the people in that area.

I want the Government to know that facility is so well known now that people from all over Barbados go there. If anybody in Barbados wishes to have a good bargain

3185

for fish they go to Oistins. That is a fact. That is well known. They go all hours of the night. When you feel you are spiting a particular area you are, in fact, venting your spite on a large part of the population of Barbados. It should really stop. There is no reason at all why those facilities should be in their present condition. There is an area of land available. There are private sector people who are willing to make the investment. They are even willing to make investment of such a magnitude as to even put up ice facilities that would permit boats in Oistins to receive ice after having been blown into the ice hold. Now you hear this Government talk about trying to encourage efficiency and competitiveness in the Barbadian economy. Boats have to leave Oistins and go to town and waste fuel going to town to get ice. They waste time in going to town. They have to h^ve town time. And sometimes, in the height of the fishing season, when the fish are running, when a fisherman wants to come in, get a turn around and go back out for fish, they have to waste as much as 7 days waiting for ice in Bridgetown. It is a fact. 5.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I really feel, Sir, this should be the last occasion that anybody in here has to talk about this inconvenience. It is 6 years now that even the strongest supporters of the Democratic Labour Party, men and women, are so fed up with it that they even have to take to the media and try and persuade the couple-headed ignoramuses who happen to control that area of Government activities.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of matters to which I would want to refer. I will start with the questions raised by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph who is not in his seat but again this is a matter which, since taking up the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture, I have raised in this Honourable Chamber and indeed elsewhere in the public domain, and it relates to the question of Government's land use policy.

I will take this opportunity one more time, Mr. Chairman, to reiterate that Government in its development plan has declared that an amount of 45 000 acres of land should be reserved for sugar, cotton and other exportable root crops and the projected target in terms of sugar output is 19 000 tonnes. I want to set that record straight once and for all.

I think it was a bit unfair for the Honourable Member to over simplify the point I made about the establishment of the agricultural management company as though I was suggesting that with just the

establishment of the company
that would be the be all and the end all to the matter of reaching the target which we projected for the future.
There are certain matters which the Honourable Member for the City alluded to which I am utterly incapable of responding to. Suffice it to say the Honourable Member has asked for an undertaking that the importation of sugar from Guatemala would cease at the expiration of the present contract which is towards the end of this month.

What I can say is that negotiations with Guysuco of Guyana are in an advanced stage and the only hiccup is the problem of the inability of Guysuco to provide the 3 300 tonnes of straw sugar for the ensuing year. I can therefore give the guarantee that the 6 700 tonnes of regular brown sugar would be provided by Guysuco of Guyana but it is also clear to me, at this stage, that we are going to have to go out again to international tender for the provision of the 3 300 tonnes of straw sugar and it most likely would mean, without jumping the gun, Mr. Chairman, that the source could very well be Central America, whether it is Santo Domingo or wherever but the point is that we are unable to source the straw sugar from the Caribbean.

The point has to be made once and for all with respect to the Guatemala sugar and when I respond to the Parliamentary Question from the Honourable Member for St. James North in a couple of weeks I will try to put that to rest. But the point has to be made that prior to the importation of sugar from Guatemala, efforts were made to source the sugar from either Guyana or Trinidad but those efforts proved futile and that point must be made. So it was not a matter of going directly to Guatemala. We had no say in the actual source and therefore, from my perspective anyway, the full story will be laid bare when I respond to the Parliamentary Question.

There are a number of other matters which I have to respond to. I could probably respond to the Honourable Member for St. Peter who raised the question of the EDF Grant not being shown in the Estimates, My information is that the expenditure relating to loans and grants are usually included in the Estimates. However, in keeping with EDF regulations there are direct disbursement procedures for their grants and that is why they are not shown in this year's estimates.
All the aspersions that the Honourable Member cast at my inexperience will not help me to say any more on this matter. That is the position on it. I take heed to your caution about inexperience because I well recognise where the Honourable Member's inexperience landed him in 1972 and what happened to the Jamaican economy as a result of that but I am not going to say any more on that issue, Mr. Chairman.

5.50 p.m.

3186

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Members for St James North and Christ Church South raised the question of the facilities at Oistins and Cheapside and general fishing facilities. If I may deal with the question of Tent Bay and the reason for the drop on Page 37 under Structures, Item 623 as the Honourable Member alluded to from $415 000 to $95 000, the point must be made that extensive work has been carried out at Tent Bay and in other areas. Even with respect to the jetty at Oistins, I am sure the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would see that work is on the way for the repairs of the jetty there. At present, they are preparing the jetty there. The lighting has been addressed and it is just attending to the problem of preparing the slips. A contract has been awarded for $130 000. I hope the Honourable Member is listening because, as usual, he will come back next week and ask the same question. New facilities will be done at Oistins. We are also in the process of preparing the ice machines in the sum of $17 *600* which has been awarded.

We have also taken decision to grant a concession to a private sector firm to provide ice at the Oistins Fishing Complex. It is nothing mind-boggling and I am constrained to get so deeply involved in this matter, but it has to be said. The present concessionaire at Oistins for the provision of ice is a person who is on record as having lambasted this side of the House. The point is made that when this contract was awarded we did not look at personalities. Several persons on the outside asked me if I had taken leave of my senses

and if I understood who was getting the award. It must be said unless the wrong impression may be given. Therefore, although the contract is an interim contract, I am sure when the long-term contract is started that we in the Ministry of Agriculture, and by extension Government, will proceed with the same element of objectivity. That is how we have operated before and that is how we will continue to operate in the future. Mr. Chairman, the concessionaire must be exposed for what he is.
Sir, the final point. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South needs to correctly advise the fishing - •eople. The people at the fishing port waited for 7 days because they are refusing to buy the ice from Oistins. They are losing out and this has to be said.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to be able to advise them properly. I would'like to tell them where they can buy ice other than in Bridgetown. Tell me where the boat people can buy the ice. I am not too old to learn.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Chairman, in respect of the other fishing facilities, I have said before that there are plans in the Estimates for an amount to upgrade and maintain the fishing port at Bridgetown. We also realise the difficulties experienced' by the fishing people in Speightstown although several of them have moved to the Six Men's area. We in the Ministry are addressing that problem and, generally speaking, I believe that during the 1993-94 financial year almost if not all of the problems faced by the fishing people whether in Oistins, Bridgetown or in Tent Bay will be adequately addressed.
I do not think there are any other matters that I have omitted that I need to address with respect to the subsidies. The Honourable Member must recall the change in the Consumption Tax Act of that subsidy to the fishermen which was being abused anyhow, because most of the boats use diesel. It was supposed to be a subsidy for the fishermen. It was being abused and we had no alternative but to withdraw it. We did so through the amendment to the Consumption Tax Act. That is reflected in the figure that is shown in the Estimates.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that I have been able to answer the questions raised on the other side. I, therefore, move that this Head do now pass.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I only rise to say this. A few hours ago, I intervened for 12 minutes and took the Minister through a number of pages of these Estimates. I asked him to give specific information about these things that I raised. The Minister got so many verbal lashes today his head is confused or hot. He has sat down in the belief that he has answered everything, but let me remind him, Sir. I want to know about the amalgamation between the Agricultural Development Corporation and the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Money is provided for the ADC in these Estimates. I want to know about the arrangements for the repair of vehicles belonging to the Ministry. Are they setting up a new workshop? What has become of the previous arrangements where the vehicles were given out to private contracts? I asked how much money was paid under the private contractual arrangements previously. I asked about the Three Houses Spring Development on page 34 of the Estimates. What are you doing there? I asked about the aloes project. Is Barbados going to diversify now into aloes? I see provision in these Estimates of some money for aloes. I asked about the abattoir in St. Thomas. 6.00 p.m.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have the answers to those questions. It is just that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was either the first or an earlier speaker on this last set of questions and I inadvertently omitted them. I suspected there was something left out.
With respect to the merger of the BMC and ADC, it is going to be the subject of a Cabinet discussion this week and therefore I am not prepared to go any further into



the details. I have stated clearly that there is going to be the merger and within the shortest possible time we will make the necessary public announcement about the merger, and of course the merger itself will have to be subject to parliamentary approval.

With respect to the repairs to the vehicles at the workshop, nothing has really changed. What has

happened is that the workshop at Graeme Hall continues to carry out minor repairs and the major repairs are still contracted out. It is as straightforward as that.

With respect to the acquisition of the land at Three Houses, as you know we are embarking on the irrigation project and the land is to build a pooling pond. The Ministry of Housing is presently carrying out certain survey work. The pooling pond is to enhance the flow of water and the irrigation possibilities in the area.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas asked if the abattoir was coming on stream in this financial year. The answer is no. What has happened is that an allocation of $500 000 has been made for certain technical studies, drawings and so on, and we sre hoping that the EIB loan will be finalised dimng the 1993-94 financial year and that the work will commence as early as 1994-95.
The final question related to aloes. We in the Ministry are carrying out experimental work at the Home Agricultural Station, where at least 3/4 of an acre is planted in aloes, and we have allocated a sum for consultancy, which will tell us which direction to go in respect of the future of aloes in our overall agricultural development plan.

I hope I have answered the questions.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: There is not much to say on the abattoir. As I said, in 1993-94 we hope to finalise consultancy work and commence in 1994-95.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, some aspects of the work of the Ministry of Agriculture border on the protection of the environment. In particular, the work of the Ministry in the Scotland District, in relation to land and water use and in relation to plant protection is all critical to the national effort to protect the environment. The Government, on the face of it, at Rio by ode, in poem, in poetry and prose, has gone on record as professing an interest in protecting the environment and we are also encouraged to see environmental protection matters as requiring a holistic approach, stretching across various Ministries and Departments, to matters of that kind.

Sir, it would be irresponsible - to use the word which was used earlier - of this Committee if we were not to recognise that these Estimates reflect the fact that although the Government of Barbados on the surface professes this strong commitment to the protection and enhancement of the environment, to the extent that this can be effected through aspects of the Ministry of Agriculture, there are fairly considerable cuts in those votes that would enable the Ministry of Agriculture to give effect to an agricultural environmental policy. In particular, Sir, the proposed vote for the Scotland District Development is to be cut by almost $- million this year. Having regard to the state of the Scotland District, Sir, one must begin immediately to wonder as to the wisdom of that vote.
Proposed expenditure on land and water use protection in its totality is to be cut from $668 000 to $361 000 and there is a proposed cut in plant protection from $920000 to $849000. Viewed from a purely financial point of view, these Estimates clearly reflect the fact that there is absolutely no reconciliation between the DLP's commitment to the protection of the environment and its willingness to commit resources to match its mouth. Since the Minister is so voluble in so many other matters, Sir, I really have to call on him to explain as succinctly as he can what could be kinds of consideration that could explain the difference between the high profile of the policy statement that has been issued from his Ministry in relation to the protection of the environment and the low level of funding that we are now asked to commit ourselves to by way of these Estimates. 6.10 p.m.

I am not going to respond to his provocation in relation to my working in Jamaica, except to say that he even got the date wrong. I was not employed by the Government of Jamaica in 1972. I am not going on this occasion to respond in the way that I want really to respond to those persons on the other

side who accuse me of mashing up Jamaica. I will warn him, Sir, that he will hear my proper response on that matter when next I hear it from him.

*The question that the sum of $21 378 983 under Head* 25 - *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY $31 823 729
*Head 28 was called.*

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Head 28, Ministry of Justice and public Safety has responsibility for the Police, Prisons, Fire Service, administration of



the Ports, the Registrar of Corporate Affairs, Immigration and CERO among other matters.
We had a lot of discussions on this Ministry during the last year and I do not propose to be too long in my introductory remarks. Therefore, I just want to make some comments on some specific areas. The capital expenditure for this Ministry for 1993-94 is $6 418 340, a reduction of $950 000 over last year which is a reduction due to the fact that last year we had $1 million for St Cecilia and that is no longer here. In essence that is what it is about Under Legal Registration Services, there is not much I want to say about that.
Under Administration of Justice, subhead 4,1 would like to indicate that there is an intention to have a 6th judge. The Chief Justice also acts as a judge for the Supreme Court and the intention is to use the existing Magistrate's Civil Court to house an additional judge. When the St. Matthias building is renovated the Civil Court the Domestic and Juvenile Courts will move to St. Matthias. Therefore that will create room for the 5th Judge.

It should also assist with the overcrowding at the Magistrates' Courts. I would anticipate some of the comments about the Magistrates' Courts and the Registry as far as accommodation and the recent problems with health are concerned and I would want to say that work is progressing on both buildings. The problem stemmed from the fact that there were pigeons living in the roof and the droppings created problems for the staff. As I understand it, the roofs have been cleaned and the ceilings have been repaired so, hopefully, no pigeons will be there in haste again. The buildings are being painted inside. They had industrial cleaning already and hopefully that will assist any problems they (the staff) might have had.
I would like to say that these buildings are old and it would seem as though all these old buildings are creating problems for staff. I am not sure what we have to do about that.

Subhead 5, Police Services. There has been some question about the numbers in the Police Force. In the Police Force, at the present moment, the establishment is 1 250. Sometime ago they were short by 33 and I believe a course to bring it up to the established amount is in progress at the Police Training Centre. In addition to that we have 60 special constables and hopefully another 40 will go in April or May in order to have a complement of 100 as they asked for.

In terms of accommodation for the Police Force we have requested from the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the Barbados National Bank's old Headquarters at the
comer of Lucas Street and James Street. I believe that in another couple of weeks we will get the okay and that will be used for the command headquarters for the Police Force and then we will have to repair the existing Police Headquarters because it is in a very dilapidated state. We have to repair that to meet the demands of those who are occupying that building.

The Holetown Complex is going on and there is $2 million plus in the Estimates for that building. It will not be completed this financial year I daresay it will run over to the next financial year. We have already sent out tenders for the building of the mechanical workshop and that should start before the end of this financial year and continue into the next financial year.

I believe that with the recent injuries suffered by police officers that Members will want to know something

about insurance for the police and medical expenses. I am awaiting a proposal from the Police Association re their suggestion about insurance. But I would like to add that this Government, as with previous Governments, has always met the medical costs for police officers and in tfie one case where a police officer lost his life the damages were equivalent to what he would have had if it had gone through an insurance company. I am waiting for the proposal before I make any more comment on that
I guess that the next area on which Members might want to make comment is probably the Prison Service because that has been in the news of late. One of the problems we are facing there is just numbers. It fluctuates between 560 to 580 males and 15 to 17 females.

As I mentioned already although there is a need *for* an increase in staff at the Prison that we are looking at alternatives to imprisonment and until that comes about, to my mind, it would be pointless trying to increase the staff and then find that that staff would have to be trained for somewhere else. In the period of transition the prison officers will be asked to hold tight until that matter is resolved.

I would say that those who are working in the Prison Service are doing an excellent job and so far we do not see too many problems. As in any other prison, we would expect that from time to time men might want to plan or plot to escape. That is normal and natural in prisons, but all the alleged attempts have been foiled by the vigilance of the prison officers so that even before there can be talk of implementation of a plot they have been foiled.

6.20 p.m.

We are having a slight problem with the Industrial School as far as the females are concerned. It is strange in some respects that the males are reducing in numbers.



The building was constructed to accommodate some 100 males and now we have 44 whereas the female section was built to accommodate 12 and there are probably 35 on average at the Girls Industrial School.

Before I move from the Prisons I think I should mention that we are embarking upon a prison farm which seems to be a very exciting prbject with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and FAO. The model prison farm will be located between Lower Estate which has 21.5 acres and the Belle with 28.5 acres, a total of 50 acres altogether. The idea is that all the cows, sheep, goats and pigs will be transferred to Lower Estate. We will also have acres of canes, fruit and vegetables. The only comment I want to make on the Immigration Department is that our Chief Immigration Officer has just retired. The Deputy Immigration Officer has a year to go and I think the Ministry of the Civil Service needs to identify someone to succeed these 2 officers who have worked in that Department for a very long time so that the efficiency of the Department should be maintained.
Mr. Chairman, with those [v]*5ry brief remarks, I move that Head 28 stand part.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I regret that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries was out of his seat when the Minister of Justice and Public Safety moved this Head. If he had remained he would have learnt the proper way to introduce the Head to give the House some idea of what his Ministry is doing.

This Ministry, Sir, has been under very intense scrutiny during the past financial year. A few weeks ago we had a long 3 or 4 hour debate on this Ministry. Many of the issues that would normally be ventilated at the time of the Appropriation Bill were discussed on that occasion. This is by way of indicating that the Opposition is not going to be long this year on this Ministry.

*Aside.*

„ Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Why do you not make "Mouta Brown" shut up, Sir? I am trying to be restrained.
, *Asides.*

, *Mr.* CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I was saying that in addition to the fact that we have several debates on this Ministry during the last year, a few weeks ago the Commissioner of Police asked for a meeting with the Opposition. Certain Members of the Opposition met with him and 9 of his officers in the Opposition Office. We had an excellent meeting, free from any rancour and acrimony and characterised by the exchange of a lot of good sense and ideas. That meeting was useful because the Commissioner has been able to head off, t>y that meeting, criticism which he would otherwise have attracted had he not had the meeting. Last year's debate is an example of that. It was a good exercise in public relations on the part of the Police and the Opposition in one or 2 areas was better informed than we could have imagined.

In particular, Sir, I want to state the position of the Opposition Labour Party in relation to the equipping and manning of the Royal Barbados Police Force. It had always been our view that unless a case had been cogently made out for increased manpower in the Police Force, a case based by statistical evidence, then the call for increased manpower from the Commissioner was tending to sound hollow over all the years through both administrations.

I must say that at the meeting we had with the Commissioner he was able to demonstrate that particularly in regard to the increase in cruise ship passengers on 2 day; a week, the resources of the Royal Barbados Police Force are stretched to the limit. Now that is a phenomenon that many of us on both sides had not adequately, or at all, taken into account. I want to be frank about that. I like to be straightforward and honest. It is something I had never realised the impact that activity, though it was having a positive effect in terms of tourist revenues, was having a negative effect in terms of stretching the Royal Barbados Police Force to the limit. As I said, the Commissioner was able to convince us that particular activity in the last few years, having regard to the dramatic increase in cruise ship passengers, was the main catalyst that was precipitating this need for additional personnel. The position of the Barbados Labour Party as of March 1993 is that we are satisfied that an increase in the numbers of the Royal Barbados Police Force is merited on the evidence that has been shown to us. Now,...

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You want me to say that? Let me say it then. I will satisfy the Minister of Education. He wants me to say that I am converted. But I have only been converted after seeing the evidence. For 5, 6 years I have been asking for the evidence and we never got it. We only got it recently and I believe that the same evidence has been shared by the Commissioner with the other 2 political parties. 6.30 p.m.

3190

*Asides.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, we have now been convinced that there is a need for an increase in numbers. Now what is the optimum number is a question again, that the Ministry and the police will have to work out, having regard to logistical requirements of the Force and a reasonable increase in the vicinity of 100 persons or slightly over that - 130 or 140 - perhaps is merited, given the present numbers of 1 250 and given the involvement of special constables now and the decision to amalgamate them in the stream of

things. Some increase, perhaps of 150, might be merited.

What we have to complain about though is the fact that we have always recognised a need for additional equipment and it seems that Government has been tardy in the provision of adequate equipment for the Force. I am not going into all of the complaints that I recite every 3 months in here when we have a debate. Some stations do not have more than one vehicle available to them at night and that sort of thing.

The Prime Minister mentioned yesterday that there is $900 000 for additional vehicles and equipment but that is what he gave last year. And there is $2.1 million for the construction of Holetown Complex. The problem with police vehicles obviously, as most members will appreciate, they work so hard that they dp not last as long as ordinary vehicles so there is a rapid turn over of vehicles therefore there has to be a conscious effort on the part of Government to keep replenishing it by putting in the money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Chairman is asking you to keep quiet. The Chairman looked at him and begged him to keep quiet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member address the Chair?

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the point I am coming to is this. With a smaller establishment they are giving'the Defence Force an increase of $2 million and you are only giving the Police $900 000 and we recognise that the immediate problem is the effectiveness of the Police Force adequate to control the crime situation in Barbados. Really there is nothing much for the Defence Force to do. They have a lot of external things but the problem is internal -the problem of civil control. I think you have to look, with the Prime Minister, at the proper deployment of these resources to the areas which most need them.
In our submission, the Police Force qualifies ahead of the Defence Force for any substantial input of funds in the next couple of years. So we have got to get to grips with the crime problem. I have been arguing in here time after time that perhaps crime more than anything else is the one social phenomenon that would be restrictive of our ability as a country to maximise our earnings from tourism. Control that, have a properly kept environment and you could invite people to Barbados. Those are the two areas that we have to look at. Even if we are in a position of structural disorientation, disarray, whatever, the country has to go on.
We know that we have to earn money. The quickest way to earn foreign exchange is through tourism. Not through manufacturing, that is dead. Not through agriculture that is dying. But the two things that will prevent our maximising the tourist sector are crime and a stinking environment such as we have been developing.

Look in the country and see what is happening. Bush overgrown, runaway, in St. Andrew, in St Thomas, St. Joseph. I am not going to say that that condition will endear itself to the criminal element. There is a view about that. What I am saying is that it is off putting for a tourist to come here having been told that Barbados is kept like a garden. That is nr longer true when you look in the country and there are certain - basic things that we have to attend to even though we are in these tight times and those are 2. The problem of course is that with the massive retrenchment in the public sector, particularly The Ministry of Transport and Works, all the workers who would have been there to clean the roads and make sure that the country areas, the gutters and so on, were kept tidy, they have gone home. I do not know if you can use any of the prisoners. In England the good prisoners are called the stars. I do not know if we have any stars up here at all who can be used to help clean up the environment Certainly when I was Attorney General I was able to get a few of them sometimes to go and clean the church yards and cemeteries. They did a good job. That is another area that you can look at, under strict supervision. They are healthy and strong.

Mr. Chairman: The Member has one minute.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: One minute, Sir? I have a lot more to say although I said I was not going to delay the Committee. Sir, by way of introduction because I will come back to it and develop it, we have been arguing for some institution, short of prison for first offenders and for people who are not guilty of very serious crimes and who are within a certain age range, let us say for the sake of argument 17 to 23 or 24. I

wish to throw it out to Government because there was a place in St. Philip, Carrington Cable and Wireless Station, which I do

3191
not think we can any longer get, which I had wanted Government to acquire for a rehabilitation centre for young people but I believe on the market now is Presentation College and we should look at that with a view to its acquisition for some social rehabilitative process. I am not going to tell Government what to do. You know your priorities but I think the property should be acquired before it is allowed to fall into disuse and to become dilapidated so that we can make a hand of it. Yes set it up near Gall Hill by the Honourable Member for St. John.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Just to respond to one or 2 matters mentioned by the Member for St. Thomas, I am glad to see that he has changed his views slightly about the police operations. When the Commissioner of Police approached me about talking to other political parties I readily agreed because I thought it was the right approach and a lot of the criticisms levelled at the Police would have been put to an end by those meetings and I am glad to see...

*Aside.*

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I understand you are on the outside but I am not sure of where, I think that rather than criticise the police and* If the Member for St. Thomas had written the Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner of Police would have met with you before. But it was die other way around where he invited himself to meet with you. Anyhow, *I* am glad that the meeting has come about and that you understand the situation with the Police Force now. Obviously, with the increase in cruise ships, I guess we have about 6,000 people here a week. On Wednesday alone, one ship brings in 2,500. With that amount of traffic, it obviously will have a great impact on the police resources.

6.40 p.m.

Sir, what we have found in the Police Force is that a lot of police time is taken up with dealing with domestic matters. Once upon a time the police did not have all of those problems to handle, but they have to do that now. With the breakdown of the communities, the police have found themselves with a Community Police Force, Juvenile Liaison Scheme and the Juvenile Educational Scheme as well. All of this calls for more and more policemen. In looking at this realistically at this present time, the Police Force would do easily with 200 more policemen. That is my suggestion and what I am aiming at. I would like the police to get 100 more this year and another 100 next year.
The Member for St. Thomas also mentioned the question of equipment as related to vehicles. What we have dorie recently in regards to the workshop is planned for a new workshop for this financial year to be finished in the next financial year. We should be able to service our police
vehicles better than they are presently serviced because it will be a custom made workshop. What we are looking at now for the Police Force is how to purchase our vehicles. Rather than purchase all at the same time, we are spacing them so that servicing can be done properly as well. We are trying to buy 2 types of vehicles rather than buying various models of vehicles. It will mean that the stocking of spare parts will be better handled *el cetera* and that should assist us as well. I am hoping that the availability of vehicles for stations will be better.

The Member for St. Thomas also mentioned the question of crime being a problem, but he did not mention drugs. Let me say this to you. I believe that most of our crimes stem from the fact that a lot of youngsters are involved in hard drugs. Unless we as a country decide to deal with that severely, and I will mention the Singapore model, we are fooling ourselves. Do you know their model? Check it out.

*Aside.*

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: If you import a trafficable amount of hard drugs, it is a capital offence. We cannot play with drugs. It is destroying our whole society.

*Aside.*
Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I am serious about it. I do not see any short cut to it. I hope that I will get the support of the Opposition. But we have got to be very serious about this. We cannot hope to reduce the incidence of violent crime in this country unless we stop the importation of vast sums of drugs in this country.

*Aside.*

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: You put the sign at the airport and seaport. You tell them what is going to happen. Leave it here. If you are caught over that line with it, you will know the consequences.
As far as young offenders and ,first offenders are concerned under a certain age, my view is and it is something that we are looking at, that there should be an institution where there will be discipline training for 6 or 12 weeks. They will be going to an institution where they will be assessed. On the basis of their assessment, then one will determine what is the best period of time to discipline the person. Most of them need discipline training which would include values, education and family counselling because that would have to be part and parcel of the whole thing for the young people. If they do not have that and go back to the same environment, they will go back to square one. Anything you do in this type of programme it would have to involve the entire family. That is what I



am looking at as well. I hope you understand what I am saying and I think that is the way to go. You assess them. If they have a problem with drugs or social upbringing, you would deal with the underlying problems facing them and usually it goes back to the family. The type of family counselling I am talking about you might be able to save some of the other siblings too. You will deal with the entire family and that is what we are looking at.

As far as Presentation College is concerned, I have had a look at Presentation College. There is a problem at Presentation College. It has a problem with sewage from the time it was built and that is a serious problem. I think they are asking $3 million for it But I think they have a serious problem with sewage. I am not quite sure why it was always like that but that will create a problem. The point is taken. We need an institution where young people can go and we can use it in conjunction with the services provided by the Ministry responsible for Youth at the naval base. My view is that they will not be there for a long period. You go in for a short period. You do your discipline training. You give yourself self esteem and self confidence and you come out. It is a sort of out-reach programme anyhow. I am not talking about drug treatment or drug rehabilitation. I am talking about young offenders for discipline training. When they come out, they will do community service *et cetera* so they can get back into the main stream of things.

Sir, I think that I will give way now to the Member.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think that it is necessary for us to place in the record the respect that must be given to the Police Force for the manner in which they have been trying to combat the crime situation in Barbados. I think the Honourable Member for St. Thomas alluded to the fact that for Barbados to survive and certainly for its economy to survive in the future it would be based primarily on a very stable environment not necessarily physically but socially. That is why I have always been concerned about irresponsible comments being made by responsible people in a society because they tend to make mischief within the society which creates problem indirectly for the police. I would like to place on record, Mr. Chairman, the satisfaction that I have for the Police Force in combating crime. I relate that to the results of recent polls that have been conducted within the tourism industry as a

result of joint police and army patrols where to the extent that only 6 per cent of the visitors now canvassed are indicating that they are not being harassed *et cetera* on the beaches. I think they should be applauded for having created that kind of environment for us. I am aware that that success has been communicated to all of the markets which Barbados traditionally draws its tourists from and the feedback is very positive. The market is responding to that news and I think it should be part of the record of this House. 6.50 p.m.

There are a few comments I would like to urge public support for and I think some support must be given to the Police with regard to the patrols on the highways in Barbados. I am very saddened, Mr. Chairman, at the loss of 3 *or* 4 of my very close friends. Only this afternoon another one was buried as a result of an accident on the highway, and I am sure that Honourable Members on both sides of this House-have had some association with somebody who has been killed on the highways-of Barbados. Even though we are aware that people are dying on the highways, there is still a large number of drivers who refuse to conform with good driving habits, defensive driving, and are putting other people's lives at risk daily. I was wondering if some mechanism could not be put in place, like in some countries where they have camera patrols at strategic points, or they have vigilante groups who actually stalk the highways.

If you notice, Mr. Chairman, whenever there is a police vehicle visible on the highway, the traffic tends to be very organised and everybody is driving in an orderly manner. On some highways in the United States and Europe there are camera patrols that screen the highway, they are able to detect cars that are defaulting, that are speeding, on a consistent basis, all day, and I believe that the public themselves should make it a point of reporting irresponsible drivers on the highway, because it is a very painful thing to lose friends through a stupid act of irresponsible driving. I hope we will be able to have more patrols on the highway as far as that is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I must express my concern at the highlighting of crime in the newspapers and glorifying criminals. I think the point must be made that we recognise the newspapers have a role to play, but I have been involved in the marketing of Barbados for a number of years in every single market Barbados services and we are constantly reminded of the focus that crime has in the newspapers. I really am shocked at the detail which is given on wanted people and on certain cases in the Press, before the Police have a chance to apprehend people. You hear that they are here or there, and I am speaking of the prisoners who had broken out of prison and the newspapers used to carry print outs about their likely whereabouts. This is the kind of professional journalism which interferes. We must say it over and over again, even though they have a right to indicate to the public that a crime has been committed, that there is definitely too much front page focus as far as that is concerned. I certainly believe that it makes a mockery of police work.
I think the police are doing their job in a professional manner/There is only one comment I would make in that regard, however. I am aware of some cases where some of my constituents have reported to me that they have



had situations of police brutality, where they have indicated to me that they have suffered severe lashes. I would urge the Police Force to avoid police brutality, because I think we must be able to use skillful means of detecting information. We really must, in a civilised society, try to avoid it. Sometimes it is denied in the law courts, but I believe it might happen from time to time. I would urge that some deliberate care is taken to ensure that we do not have cases where there is excessive police brutality.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to place on the record of this House my general satisfaction and I am sure that goes for all Honourable Members on this side, and I believe on that side too, that they are generally satisfied and they would urge from time to time their support for the police in controlling

crime, because it is necessary for us to maintain a very stable, social environment.

Thank you.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am interested, Sir, in the reforms the Honourable Members for St. Thomas and St. James South spoke about in relation to the need for an institution for first ol'sncfcus aid for people who are not guilty of serious o^^c*:c. * [r].*ni* dso interested in the point raised by the Honourable Member for St. James South dealing with the of drugs.
I understood thai the Government was going to use part of the compound of the St. Joseph Hospital for a new type of drug rehabilitation unit. I am not too clear in my mind as to whether at the present moment the Psychiatric Hospital encourages magistrates and others to send people there. I know there are different theories among those responsible for running the Psychiatric Hospital as to whether that is the proper institution to be used for the reception of young people who have been condemned by the courts to imprisonment. It is causing a great deal of concern about this obvious division of opinion, because there are some doctors who work there, as I understand it, who say that no person should be sent there and they will not be looking after people who are sent there.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know it might not be quite true. That is the very point. I want to know the truth. There is a division of opinion out there, so we must have a policy on it in view of the seriousness of the problem that we have to deal with. The Commissioner of Police, many other people and an enquiry into the causative factors of drug related crime in Barbados today is a very important part of it, but we must have a policy. Are we going to use the St. foseph Hospital, or part of the compound of the St. Joseph Hospital? Are we going to use the Psychiatric Hospital? Ae we going to have a completely different place? We would like to know. I am going to stop so that I can hear the answers.

7.00 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, this matter which has been raised by the Honourable Member is a very serious one. I think he mixed up two aspects of it but I think the point is sufficiently important * First of all, let me establish that it is intended and, indeed, there are in-patients in the St. Joseph Hospital at the moment. As I understand it, there are either 1 or 3 live-in patients in the Rehabilitation Unit at the St. Joseph Hospital. So that is on its way.

In the Psychiatric Hospital, drug rehabilitation is still going on, and it is intended that that programme will continue because there has been a dramatic rise in the number of alcoholics, drug offenders and cocaine and other drug abusers. However, there is a problem related to the forensic aspects of mental rehabilitation which come for those patients who go to what is called the "A" Ward. These are persons who are remanded to the Psychiatric Hospital, many of whom have mental disorders. They are sent to the Psychiatric Hospital and, after they have been dealt with at the Psychiatric Hospital, a report goes back to the; Magistrate. It is the follow up of those persons that is creating a problem and raising questions among the psychiatric doctors.

Now, Sir, the number of patients requiring nursing care or follow up at the end of December 1992 - and these are for remand patients only -: In-patients requiring follow up up to December 1992 were 84, 259 out-patients for a total of 342.

That is a lot of people needing follow up care. The outpatients are subdivided as follows:
Those visited or treated at home - 28 Those visited or treated in prison - 45 Those seen at ward conferences - 83 Those defaulting for 2 months or over 103.
That means that there are a total of 259. These out-patients include some who are dangerous or

potentially dangerous.

It shows that 156 out of 259 out-patients receive treatment on a regular basis and 103 do not. There is cause for concern. Part of the problem is that when the doctor at the Psychiatric Hospital refers the patient back to the Courts, the disposition of the patient is not in the hands



of the doctor but in the hands of the Magistrate and/or judicial officer. Sometimes that person may be determined by the doctor that he should be incarcerated either in prison or in a psychiatric place, but a Magistrate might decide to put that person back on the streets. That is part of the problem to which the Honourable Member is referring.

Sir, with all due respect, I would like to ask Honourable Members not to let us try to deal with this in *5* minutes. I promise to raise the matter either when we are doing Health or a continuation of this because it is a very serious matter. One of the problems that we have to face is that 20% of the people in prison at the moment have mental disorders.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: All of them might, but I am talking about the 20% who are diagnosed as having mental disorders. These are issues which I think we have to discuss dispassionately. These are not matters that require so much a political solution as a national solution.
I would like to discuss them in a Hide more detail.

*The question that the sum of $31 823 729 under Head 28 - Ministry of Justice and Public Safety - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. Chairman reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have spoken to Honourable Members on the other side and there is no objection to our doing the Supplementary of which notice has been given today at this time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is seeking permission to deal with an Order he has placed today. If there is no objection, leave is granted.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I would like to explain that there is no objection provided of course that when we reach Ministry of Transport we will not be precluded from raising some of these issues.

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.*

## COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

## RESOLUTION TO MOVE $2 700 000 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 1992-93, NO. 7

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this amount stand part, I think it is important that I give the House some indication as to the necessity for this particular Resolution.

The Cabinet has taken a decision some time ago to be responsible for liabilities of the Transport Board at

the end of March, 1992. In doing so, Sir, we have spent over $24 million in settling outstanding debts to the Inland Revenue Department to the National Insurance Department and MOBIL Oil Barbados Limited as well as satisfying a Court Order in respect of a case that arose out of a fire that was caused in St. Peter in Speightstown when a bus caught fire and other businesses were razed.
There are outstanding liabilities of the Transport Board in excess of $2.648 million. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs indicated that in order to give its approval for these funds to be made available we would have to identify what they call savings to the same amount within the Ministry. That has been done. 7.10p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: They are not savings. They are not to be spent That is why I said "what they call savings". That is why I put it that way. They are not really savings.

Sir, the amount owed, as I said, is close to $2.7 million. The creditors owed read just like a "who's who". There is Acme, the "Advocate", Alleyne Arthur & Co. Ltd., Berger, £van Mandeville, about $500 000, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, McEnearney - there is a whole long list. It is about 4 pages of creditors including 1C A and the name of one David Simmons. I am not sure who that David Simmons might be. I think it is important, Sir, that these people be paid their monies. For this reason we are seeking the approval of this House so that these monies can be made available in order to pay these myriad creditors of the Transport Board.

I .move that this Resolution do now pass.

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



Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty agreeing to this Resolution. I just want to make one point at this time that contrary to what the public was made to believe that the only outstanding indebtedness of the Transport Board as stated by the Chairman of the Board was $1.7 million, this proves this is not the case. It came out even in today's newspaper. I just want the Minister to understand this sort of thing must stop where you have Chairmen of Boards making statements that are totally incorrect, false and misleading the Minister, the Government and the public at large. This should not be condoned. The true indebtedness of any corporation should be disclosed and no attempt by any Chairman to hide the true figures should be condoned by the Government at this particular time. It does not spell well for this country and good administration.

I just want to make another point What is particularly bad about the whole issue is that the Leader of the Opposition made a statement on the floor of this Chamber and it was disputed by the present Chairman. It proves one or 2 things that the Chairman has rushed making false statements refuting whet the Leader of the Opposition was saying and/or it also confirms that the Leader of the Opposition was totally correct

All I am saying is that I do hope that when the changes come about we would not see such persons heading these bodies because it shows some degree of irresponsibility. It is very unworthy of people. I would say a bit more when we come to the Estimates. But as I said, we on this side understand the Minister's and Government's position. People have been waiting for money to pay bills. I know some of the people owe other people and I know the pressure that is being put on them. I think we need to understand. I would hope the point is taken. I do not think this is what is expected of us in public life not when a Chairman goes on record issuing a statement of the Board criticising the Leader of the Opposition or Members from this side when in fact he knows what we were saying is absolutely true. I think he owes this House an apology for that and the Minister in particular.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I did not read the comments attributed to the Chairman of the Transport Board in the same way as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. I have them here before me. What the Chairman said was that the Board was indebted to the National Insurance Department in the sum of $1.7 million. But he did not say that they were all the debts of the Transport Board. He also said there were monies owing exceeding that amount of money from a Government agency alone so if that money was paid by the Government agency the Transport Board would be able to settle that particular indebtedness.

He said again that the Government settled outstanding debts of the Transport Board to the NIS, Inland Revenue and Mobil in the sum of $26.6 million. I have not read it that way and I read it again a few minutes ago as the Honourable Member was speaking. I do take the point of the comments made but I do not get the impression that this was the only debt owing by the Transport Board. It could not have been the only debt If that were the only debt owing by the Transport Board as a fact the Transport Board would be a glorious Board. We would be very well run.
Again, the other point I must make is that I do not know this is a response to anything said by any Member on the other side. That is not stated.

*Aside.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I really do not know what the full statement is.

*The question that Head 42 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I rise to ask that my vote be recorded as an abstention. I believe my name was mentioned as being a beneficiary or such...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No. He said "one David Simmons".
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I have clients who I have claimed money for from the Transport Board so let it be absolutely safe.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let tie vote for the Honourable Member for St. Thomas be recorded as having abstained.

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

*On the separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.*

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time. Question No. 65. Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: To ask the Minister of Health:

1. Will the Minister please state the range of services presently being provided and/or planned by the St. Joseph Hospital and the fees and other charges
2.



being levied *of* proposed to be levied by the Hospital for the said services?

2. Will the Minister please state whether the Hospital is now providing or intends to provide services primarily and/or exclusively for the benefit of the people of the northern parishes, namely St. Peter, St. Lucy, St Andrew, St James, St. Joseph and St. Thomas and, further, the nature of such services and the terms under which the residents of the said parishes will have access to any such services? 7.20 p.m.
Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 65 is as follows:-
1. (a) The range of services presently being provided by the St. Joseph Hospital are consulting services in adult medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, Monday, Wednesday and' Friday, 12 noon to 4.30 p.m. Drug Rehabilitation.

(b) Planned services include acute care services, an Accident and emergency Department, and Emergency Ambulance Service.

(c) -Fees for services are -
Consulting services: $60.00 per first visit and $40.00 per subsequent visit
Day Care Surgery - $300.00 per patient with general anesthesia.
- $250.00 per patient with local anesthesia. Surgery for in-patients.
- $300.00 for major surgery
- $150.00 for minor surgery

Drug Rehabilitation Unit - $1 200.00 per 4-week treatment
Cycle for out-patient. $150.00 a day or $4 500.00 per 4-week treatment cycle for in-patients.
Daily fees for acute care in-patients - $150.00 daily for Barbadian residents and $300.00 for non-residents.

2. (a) The St Joseph Hospital caters to patients from the entire country but the present clientele reside almost exclusively in the Northern parishes, namely, St Peter, St. Lucy, St Andrew, St. James, St Joseph and St Thomas.

(b) All services provided by the hospital are available to patients residing in the Northern parishes.

(c) All patients referred through the Maurice Byer Polyclinic receive services free of cost, while patients referred by private practitioners pay the appropriate fees for services rendered.

Mr. SPEAKER: Supplementaries.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Will the Minister please state what will be the staff complement of the Hospital and how long they have been employed at the Hospital?

Hon. B. M. TATTT: I am unable to give specific figures because the numbers are changing everyday but my understanding is that 3 consultants have been appointed, including a Chief of Staff, in Obstetrics and Gynecolbgy, in general surgery and in medicine. There is a hospital Administrator. Do you want the entire complement or the medical staff? There is a Director of Nursing Services, a Deputy Director who is also Director of the Drug Rehabilitation Unit There is a Senior Nursing Officer and I think there are by now 8 nursing positions that have been filled.

In the Drug Rehabilitation Unit all of the staff - I cannot remember the numbers, Mr. Speaker, but the Drug Rehabilitation Unit is being staffed by the persons who staff the in-house Drug Rehabilitation Unit in the first instance at the Psychiatric Hospital. They have been transferred on secondment to the St. Joseph Hospital and the Director of the Drug Rehabilitation Unit is a Consultant Psychiatrist who also works at the Psychiatric Hospital.

To the best of my knowledge there are some ancillary staffing persons including an executive

housekeeper, a steward, and then some ancillary staff people who are functioning in the Hospital. The anesthetic services are provided by the Consultant Anesthesiologist from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other staff. There are a number of persons with associate relationship with the Hospital who have been functioning or will function, including a Consultant Plastic Surgeon.
I believe the latest potential doctor will be a sports medicine specialist consultant

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: In light of the information provided by the Minister to the effect that the



services provided by the Hospital are intended to service the entire country, will the Minister agree that it as a very gross misrepresentation on the part of his party to have caused ...

Mr. SPEAKER: That cannot be a supplementary question.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR:... to have caused the impression to have gone abroad that the Hospital was intended to be a hospital for the North.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not allow that.

Miss B. A. MILLER: I would like to as a supplementary, Sir. I want to know exactly how many beds. I heard just now there were 8 nurses. That does not tell me anything about the nurse/patient ratio. I cannot believe there are 8 nurses servicing 100 beds. I also want to know the complement of beds given over to private as opposed to those which will remain public beds.

Hon. B. M. TAI1T: The hospital is being brought on stream as is the usual practice for hospitals of this kind and the ratios which are being queried now have not been worked out specifically because the number of in-patients is comparatively low and the hospital is in the process of recruiting the staff. However it is intended, in the first instance, to have a ratio of approximately 70 to private and 30 to public.

Miss B. A. MILLER: All I want to know, Sir, is if the patient ratio is better than at the QEH.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is difficult to answer that question at this point. I give the Honourable Member the assurance however that during the discussion of the Estimates I will be able to give more specific detail. It is a hospital that is expected to earn its way,

Mr. SPEAKER: End of supplementaries. End of question time.

## SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that this sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the sitting accordingly at 7.30 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

•*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply has resumed.

HEAD 29 - MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ($869 771)

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, in moving this Head, briefly that the appropriation indicated of $869 771 stand part of the Schedule, may I just take the opportunity to indicate that the work of the Attorney General's Department, as indicated, is concerned largely with advising Government on legal matters. There is a lot of work going on in law reform and law revision at this time. If I may just say a quick word about the law revision exercise, that is, the Laws of Barbados and Subsidiary Legislation. The subsidiary legislation has been published yp to 1986. Subsidiary Legislation up to December 1991 which will come out in the form of LRO 1993 is presently with the Government printery so that when the printing of ihat subsidiary legislation is completed the subsidiary legislation of Barbados will be updated to December 1991.

In relation to the Laws of Barbados, the current volumes of the laws have been published up to 1990 in LRO 1991 and the revised laws up to 1992 are currently with the Printery. Those should come out this year in the form of LRO 1993. So that will bring the Law Revision exercise substantially up to date.
In relation to the law reform being presently undertaken by the Ministry, work is continuing on the reform of the criminal law which was started during the course of the last year. We have set up an *ad hoc* committee in the Ministry on which the Chief Parliamentary Counsel sits, the Law Revision Officer, a number of members of staff of the University of the West Indies who very kindly consented to tend their assistance in the Law Reform exercise.

This Committee is presently engaged in considering a new Magistrates' Courts Act. We want to revise the Magistrates' court legislation entirely and among other things provide for embracing in the new Magistrates' Courts Act, all the procedures and provisions governing Magistrates. So that legislation like the Petty Debt Act which would have indicated the jurisdiction of the Magistrate in the civil area, will now be included in a comprehensive Magistrates' Courts Bill which will completely set out the Magistrates jurisdiction and procedure to be followed, and matters of that kind.



We will also take the opportunity of course perhaps to upgrade the level of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates in civil matters. I think it is now at $2 500, that being the limit of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates in civil cases, except for those specialised areas for example like wrongful dismissal cases. We will take the opportunity to upgrade the Magistrates general jurisdiction to perhaps somewhere in the vicinity of $5 000.

Opportunity will be taken perhaps to upgrade the maximum level of penalties which may be imposed by the Magistrates and the occasion will be taken to deal with the problem which surfaces from time to time where legitimate complaints are made about persons who commit a lot of offences, are found guilty of a lot of offences at the Magistrates' Courts level, convicted there and can only be sentenced to a maximum I believe of some 2 years or so. So an opportunity will be taken to review all of these unsatisfactory elements of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates. Provision of course will also be made for persons who may wish to plead guilty to serious offences in the Magistrates' Courts with provision for the Magistrate to send the matter on to the High Court for sentencing where the offence may warrant a sentence higher than a Magistrate may be able to impose. So that all these matters will form part of the comprehensive reform in the Magistrates' Courts Bill.

The Committee is about half way through the fairly substantial draft which has already been done and we expect that the review exercise will be completed, let us say, in another month or so, so that within 2 to 3 months that Magistrates' Courts Bill, after Cabinet approval, should be before Parliament.
I may indicate as well that we have invited the Bar Association to serve on that Committee, revising the Act as well. The Chief Magistrate serves on the Committee as well as an Ex Magistrate and other members of the Bar. So that we try to get as wide a cross-section of comment and opinion as possible on that important bit of legislation.

Immediately after the Committee has considered the new Magistrates' Courts Bill, we propose to consider a draft Bail Bill which already is in existence as a draft. The Magistrates' Courts Act which we are now considering does make some cross references to the Bail Act and 'that hopefully will be concluded shortly after we have concluded the revision of the Magistrates' Courts Act.

In other areas of law revision which should come before the House during the course of the year which the department is currently working on are included -1 would not spend much time on that them, I will just mention them - a new Fisheries Bill which will provide for the systematic development, conservation and management of the fishing industry and this is going to repeal the existing Fishing Industry Act and the Fisheries Regulation Act. There will be a new Shipping Act A substantial draft has been done to regulate shipping and to deal with the problems of oil pollution in the waters around us. A draft Consumer Protection Act has just been completed. The Companies Act is being revised as well and an Insolvency Bill is in an advanced stage of preparation. In relation to the amended Companies Act and the Insolvency Bill the work in this area is being largely assisted by the Caribbean Law Institute who are preparing a model draft for the region and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of the Caribbean Law Institute in assisting in the law reform exercise throughout the region.

There is also a Consumer Protection Act, which I mentioned before, which is substantially drafted. All of these bits of legislation should before parliament during the course of this calendar year.
May I also state, Mr. Chairman, that there is Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, a draft of which has been completed and subject to the approval of Cabinet it will be brought before the House in the fullness of time.

10.10 a.m.

Now the Estimates themselves, Mr. Chairman, show an increase of approximately $308 834 which is the reflection of the provision made for the restoration of the Statutory Personal Emoluments. Provision is made also for the rental of office accommodation of the Chambers in the Sir Frank Walcott Building. The provision includes water, electricity and park cleaning. You will note that as a consequence the utilities have been substantially reduced to take into account the moving.

Mr. Chairman, that briefly is a bird's eye view, so to speak, of the work which the Ministry will be engaged in over the coming year. If there are any questions anyone wishes to raise, I will be only too happy to deal with them, bearing in mind that I had a limited time to introduce this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to delay the Committee and will not be very long on this Head. But there are some points that I wish to make. I am pleased to hear that the Law Revision exercise is ongoing and in a short while we will have the Laws of Barbados in these blue volumes which we have here updated to 1991-92. It is very important that we should get these laws updated. In this day of computerization, I say to the Minister that if his Department is properly computerized it may be possible during the course of the year to have an ongoing update so that the changes can be promptly made. If you sfibscribe to publications from overseas, you will notice that twice or 3 times a year with loose-leaf volumes the update material is sent to you. There is no reason why



in Barbados we should not be able to use the new technology to keep our laws up-to-date.
Sir, there are some fundamental decisions that have to be made in relation to other Acts on the Statute Book of Barbados. We still have legislation going back to the early 19th century and in some cases beyond under

which we have not made rules. I would strongly urge the Minister to instruct the Law Revision Commissioner to make an assessment of all those Bills that reprovide for rules and regulations and ensure that they are made. This Parliament has currently passed Bills which require subsidiary rules and regulations to give effect to these Bills and we have not followed up on the matter.
Sir, the Minister has given us a list of Bills that are being updated. In relation to the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, a revision is long overdue. In fact, when I left the Ministry, the present Law Revision Commissioner was working on such a Bill. It has taken a long time to get the matter before this Parliament I am pleased to hear that the revised Bill is likely to be in this House before the end of the year. I hope that at the same time the Rules will be brought down; both relating to the criminal and civil jurisdiction.
Now the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act is again a Draft Bill that I left in the Ministry, when we had the assistance of Mr. Maini. I believe it is important that all of the criminal legislation that was in draft stage arising out of the Law Revision Project funded by the British Government that that legislation should be brought before us. That includes the Bail Act of which the Honourable Member speaks. I would like to offer some advice on the Bail Act. From what I remember, we were trying to follow the British Bail Act. I would say to the Minister that having regard to the provisions of our written Constitution that the best precedent for us to follow is the Canadian Bail Act. Canada has been able to adjust its Bail Act to take account of the fundamental provisions in its Charter of Rights. We may well have to look again at that Bail Act. The English Bail Act does not necessarily accord with all of the fundamental provisions of the Constitution of Barbados.

Sir, the time has also come for the country to look again at the need for fundamental constitutional changes. It is necessary for us to do three major things. One is to set up a broad-based bi-partisan national Commission to revise the Constitution, having regard to our experience over the lasj 26 years. There are still provisions of the Constitution that discriminate against women. There are some provisions of the Constitution that have provided difficulties of construction for the Courts. We must tighten up those provisions relating to the accountability of the Executive. At the same time we must bear in mind the need to achieve efficiency in the management of our affairs.

Constitutional change is not an issue that should divide the parties at this time. There are certain broad changes that most of us would embrace §nd welcome. This brings to mind immediately, for instance, the necessity to give magistrates through constitutional amendment the same or a similar degree of independence as we give to our judges. Indeed, there is also the need to improve the independence of the judges by giving back the added constitutional protection which they formerly had.

Now the Minister has spoken about various other Bills, particularly of a commercial nature, such as the amendment to the Companies Act and the Insolvency Bill which are now being worked on in his Department. In this regard, he has had the benefit of the assistance of the Caribbean Law Institute. Both my learned friend and colleague, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and I have worked on some of these Bills. I worked on the Insolvency Bill. In fact, we are having a meeting in a couple of weeks and my friend from Christ Church South has worked on the Companies Bill and its amendment.

We are also working on reforming the Insurance legislation to bring model Bill which takes into account the special problems confronting the Caribbean. It is important that we should harmonise as early as possible all of the laws that affect the Common Market movement as we move towards a single market. This will be a tremendous exercise. Since Barbados has taken on responsibility for moving rapidly towards a single market, then I believe that the Attorney General's Office should take the initiative now and set up a broad-based committee involving manufacturing and the private sector, the Bar, Members of Parliament with an interest and various other groups to identify the number of changes that will be necessary if we are to harmonise the trade laws within the Caribbean. In Europe there were almost 300 legal instruments that had to be drafted before the Single Market could be proclaimed. We are inviting the Government to move rapidly on this, because it can contribute to an increase in trade, and in the process to an increase in the growth of our Gross Domestic Product and, what is the ultimate goal, an increase in jobs and an increase in the standard of living of Barbadians. 10.20 a.m.

Sir, the Government has to examine the necessary international conventions that are impacting on us and our laws and become parties to those conventions, whether they deal with copyright, the recognition of

wills, the recognition of foreign custody orders that affect children. There is a vast amount of work still to be done in this area.

3200

Mr. Chairman, when I left the Department there was a draft Limitation Bill and there was also a draft law for the reform of the laws of libel, slander and defamation. We must not forget that we still have to widen the scope of freedom in this country and give the media an opportunity to carry out their job in defending freedom by removing some of the harshness that exists in our old libel Acts, which date back to well over 100 years ago.

The Crown is now a major player in commercial activity. It is therefore an anachronism to have a Limitation Bill which states that after a year you cannot, sue the Crown, except with leave of the Crown. When I was Attorney General I took a policy decision that the Crown will not rely on statutes of limitation by way of a defence. I am not sure that is being followed now, but the Crown and Statutory Boards are in a favoured position in circumstances where they are now indulging in commercial enterprises. I believe that the Public Authorities Act and the common law provisions on limitation of actions us should be changed. Members of the public may be surprised to hear that the law that tells us how many years we can sue if we got knocked down on the road by a Government vehicle is a law passed in 1623 in the reign of James I. It is as archaic as that I therefore would urge the Minister to dust off the draft Limitation Bill which I left and instruct the Law Commissioner to give it priority. That is one of the urgent matters.
I am not going to delay the Committee much longer, Sir, except to advert to the fact that in my view the Attorney General's Office is today the biggest law firm in Barbados. It has more staff than any of the private sector law firms.

*Aside.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Bodies, I am told, Sir. Despite that, I believe that a strong case can be made for outside assistance. The Attorney General should not be afraid to obtain the best legal advice, across party lines, too, in order that the Crown can have the best advice on the very recondite and difficult problems that are surfacing before the Law Court and which involve the Crown. I take note that in places like Trinidad, Jamaica and elsewhere this is done. I regret very much that Statutory Boards now believe that they can only employ lawyers if the lawyers belong to the political party in office. I know it has happened and fortunately some of us try to break it. I do not believe that party affiliation should be the test I believe that the Crown should have access to the best legal advice, and it must take it wherever it is available.
I can assure the Honourable Member, who is gesticulating, that I am not asking for any job. I like working against the Crown now, Sir. When I was Attorney General I used to go down and work for them.

*Aside.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I have not seen the Honourable Member for St. John practising, Sir. I do not know what he is bothered by. I see him attending to his portfolio.
Let me say, Sir, that it is necessary for us to have proper staff in these Departments. I notice there is only a small vote on this. We want to get on to other Heads, Sir, but I finally make a plea for the continual updating of the Laws of Barbados, including our fundamental law, and I want to revert to the third thing about the Constitution I omitted to mention in my opening remarks.
It is necessary for us to repatriate our Constitution. Our Constitution is still an Order-In-Council made by the British Privy Council. This Parliament of Barbados should pass a new Bill made by the Parliament and people of Barbados. After the Cox Commission Report Mr. Errol Chase had commenced some work on this. Unfortunately, the work has not been continued. Those who carp

outside, from a position of strong ignorance, and criticise those of us who have had the responsibility for being Her Majesty's principal law officers - the Honourable Member for St. George South, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and now the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central - as though we sat down in the Departments over the last 20 years and did nothing, particularly from some of these new-found persons who know everything, one in particular on the call-in programmes, in their blissful ignorance of the law...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Let me finish the sentence, Sir. In his blissful ignorance of the law he does not recognise that each one of us had earned our degrees by study and did not have his privilege of buying a degree, yet he believes that he is more knowledgeable than we are about all of these matters.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

. Mr. H. deB. FORDE: We have neither the reverend to our names nor the doctorate, because we could not afford to buy them, Sir.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to add a few comments in areas unrelated to those already raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I want to refer specifically to 4 areas which fall under the aegis of the Ministry of the Attorney General.
The first is under the Director of ?ublic Prosecutions and there is no doubt at all that there is a tremendous



delay in the matters going through the criminal courts in Bridgetown. There are a number of reasons for that. One is the shortage of prosecutors in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. There are still a number of new problems arising, chief among them being the extension of the Assizes which has come about in the past 2 years or so, so that the prosecutors are stretched out normally in the past over one month, but now they are moving well into the second month, and most times towards the end of the second month.

We also have the problem of paper committals which are not working. I am suggesting to the Attorney General that the Director of Public Prosecutions' Department renew dialogue with the members of the Bar, through the Bar Association, to see to what extent the system of paper committals is working, how practical it is and what new decisions can be made for a better working of the system. 10.30 a.m.
The staff of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions have been stretched out, not only because of the extension of the Assizes but because Government is very busy these days putting people before the Court. The Governmenl is now prosecuting large numbers for national insurance and income tax defaults. The prosecutors are from the Office and are spending a great amount of time in the Magistrate's Court, which is unusual, prosecuting for defaults.

We have an additional problem. We love gun play in Barbados. The police themselves are involved nowadays in the use of firearms in the execution of their duty. The result is that we have an increasing number of deaths in Barbados that require inquests - inquiry by the coroner. A number of matters coming under the aegis of the coroners of Barbados are multiplying at a tremendous rate so that a lot of time that was devoted by magistrates to the hearing of criminal and civil matters before their Courts is now being devoted to coroners' inquests. So we have a number of "problems that fairly cry out for a re-opening of a dialogue with the Bar, those who practise on a daily basis, to highlight a number of those problems to bring to the attention of the Attorney General to see whether we can do something to resolve them.
There are additional problems that affect tremendously the delay in the cases that go through the Courts. It is allied to the tremendous number of cases sent down in any one magistrate's court on a particular day. It is not unusual to find 40 cases sent down to one court for ' one day. With the best efforts in the world and the greatest efficiency that can be devised, at the end of that day 75% of those matters will have to be

adjourned.

The question of delay is important in this sense. In criminal matters and quite often serious criminal matters, felonies, as distinct from misdemeanours, take 3 years and sometimes as much as 4 years before they are finally heard and adjudicated before the Law Courts. A number of things are the result. Witnesses quite often leave the jurisdiction, some die, evidence gets lost and something that is inevitable, the freshness of the incident in the minds of the witnesses obviously pale over a period of 3 or 4 years and therefore it affects the strength of a case that was put by the prosecution against people charged for these offences. In short, the beneficiaries of the delay in those cases are usually the accused, not the victims and not the witnesses.

We have additional problems in these long delays and these many adjournments, with witnesses - victims and witnesses, appearing before the Court on numerous occasions over a long period of time. They have to stand around and wait usually in the Court's yard for a few hours before matters are adjourned. By the time they have gone through that exercise on a number of occasions they get quite fed up and they drop out. It is therefore a tactic of defence lawyers to assist that period of delay in the hope that just those factors will come into play - people get fed up and do not turn up, witnesses die, leave the jurisdiction, evidence gets lost. This tactic is used by defence lawyers to see if it can work for the benefit of their clients. These are a number of problems that we have to look at and I hope the Attorney General will take my warning seriously and start a new dialogue not only with the Bar Association because quite often a number of the members and officers of the Bar Association are people who are not in the Courts on a daily basis. Therefore, although they represent the 300-odd members of the Association they have very little practical experience of the difficulties that confront the Courts, the practitioners and the public on a daily basis. I want also to mention something about the jurisdiction of the magistrates. The Attorney General in his opening statement made reference to the fact that they were considering enlarging the jurisdiction of the magistrates. At the moment, Sir, the civil jurisdiction of the magistrates is relatively modest, much too low. -Even with a very low jurisdiction in civil matters there is still a heavy load on the magistracy. We have a top-heavy judicial system. We have 8 judges in Barbados and 8 magistrates but the 8 magistrates are required to do at least 5 times as much work as the 8 judges. The Attorney General no doubt will agree with me. But the Government has very recently come for an additional judge to the establishment even though the judges have far less work to do than the magistrates.

I understand that Government proposes to remove the Magistrate's Civil Court and the Juvenile Court from Bridgetown to St. Matthias. I believe that the intentions of the Government in that regard are to provide a



smoother running of the Magistrates* Courts but I believe the effect will be the exact opposite. The Courts, in a very large measure, are denied the speed at which they operate because of the non-attendance of a counsel. If the Courts are centralised in Bridgetown, the counsel can move from one Court to another with great ease. If you move the domestic and civil jurisdictions to St. Matthias, it will be extremely difficult for a busy counsel to be moving between Bridgetown and St. Matthias and the other rural jurisdictions. I do not believe although the intention of the Government in this regard is good that it will produce the result that is intended.

Two further points, Sir, in relation to Legal Aid and in relation to the settlement of claims arising out of negligence by Government officers and their agents.The Legal Aid system is not working very well for 2 reasons. One is that most attorneys do not put their names down to work in Legal Aid, which I think is most unfortunate. I believe that senior lawyers should, as part of their duties, make some contribution to this society by allowing their services to be used for little or next to nothing for a number of poor people across this country. 10.40 a.m.

I believe that lawyers, and indeed senior lawyers, should see it as part of their duty to make some contribution to this society by allowing their services to be used for little or next to nothing, that is the Legal Aid system, to a number of poor people across this country.

In affiliation and paternity matters there are very few women who have to go before the Courts who have the slightest inkling of what they are supposed to do when they get into the Courts. I think it is really a serious dereliction of duty, a duty owed in this community for senior and experienced lawyers to allow themselves on a few occasions during a calendar year to give some assistance to those in the community who cannot afford to pay fees.

In relation to the other point about claims made against the Government, I see under the Subprogramme 1 there is reference to the settlement of claims of negligent damage on the part of Government Departments and employees. I have searched in vain, however, to find the money that would meet those claims. I know that the money is not usually placed in the Estimates for the Department of the Attorney General. I believe they are usually placed in the Cabinet Office vote. Is not it?

*Aside.*

Mr. L. R. TULL: ... in Contingencies for settlement of claims for negligence. But I have looked through Cabinet Office, and the Attorney General's Office and I have not seen figures that represent the quantum of claims which are submitted for payment during a calendar year. I think we have to take this very seriously.

There are a number of people who, for example, walk the streets of Barbados and are injured due to the negligent driving of Government employees, Government trucks and so on. We also have an increasing number of people who are being injured in Government buildings because of the growing decrepitude of Government buildings. The -vast majority of these people, unfortunately, are people of limited means. While they are incapacitated for weeks arid sometimes months, and finally claims are submitted to the Attorney General's Chambers and there are settlements in the sense that the lawyers in the Attorney General's Chambers have agreed on liability and the amount of money that[f]mid be paid, quite often these people have to wait one * nd 2 years before they can get their money. I believ^ ae Government should show its seriousness about looking after these people. If I am wrong, Mr. Chairman, I wish someone on the Government side would point out to me where in the Estimates is proper provision made for the payment of settlement of claims by the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Hon. D. J. R THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by noting, sirce it is seldom recognised in the course of debate particula iy on matters relating to crime - we are not dealing with crime now - the considerable work that has been done by the Attorney General's Office and the Attorney General himself in bringing some modern criminal and other ancillary legislation on the statute books of Barbados. In fact, whenever he demits office he certainly would have a very fine record of criminal law reform of which he and the Government can feel justly proud. The leadership in relation to the passage of legislation of this sort is critical and as the Honourable Member for St. George South would know, it takes a very active and intellectually strong Attorney General to bring legislation of this sort forward in the volumes in which the Honourable Attorney General has done.
I remember the Honourable Member for St. Thomas some years ago judging the law reform programme of Government by the thickness of the annual laws that came out. Evsry year they put out the Laws that have been passed and I remember one year the Honourable Member for St. Thomas noting that the laws in that year had not passed the first notch in his finger and he was very concerned about the work of the Attorney General's Department. I wish to say that the Attorney General's Department has in recent times done considerable work. While many Barbadians feel concerned about the situation in relation to crime and are constantly calling for reform of the law, it perhaps points to the fact that it is not only, or exclusively, or simply reform of the law that is necessary but it points very directly at the administration of justice in Barbados as a whole. The points which the Honourable

Member for St George South has raised in this particular regard are important I still hold to the view that judges, magistrates and other public officials involved in the administration of justice draw taxpayers money as salaries and must be as accountable for their responsibilities to the pubic of Barbados as I am or as any other person charged with a public duty is, subject, of course, to whatever elements of protection they enjoy under the Constitution. Very often we are not zealous enough in requiring of persons who have these public responsibilities that they justify their roles in the society. Government has to dip into its coffers from time to time to pay legal costs for erroneous decisions which are sometimes made by public officials whether in the law courts or otherwise, but more importantly, Government has recently been paying considerable amounts of money for costs in relation to matters which are, in my view, exclusively related to dereliction of duty. That is the point I wish to make very clear.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Failure to write reasons by magistrates has caused the taxpayers of Barbados to pay twice because they are paying the Magistrates a salary when the month comes and then they are paying costs for lawyers when the High Court of Barbados makes an order that the complainant is entitled to costs because the Magistrate has failed to write the reasons for his decision. This is a very serious matter. I am a taxpayer and I feel for other citizens of this country who are taxpayers. It is, in my view, a matter that requires scrutiny. Now, I have no power, as a Member of the Cabinet to enquire into, and would never exercise any such power even if I had it, to enquire into the conduct of judges or magistrates on the Bench. They are free from any interference from me or any Member of the Cabinet That must be made entirely clear so that if they do not carry out their functions properly, there is nothing I can do or the Minister of Health, or the Attorney General, or the Prime Minister to make them carry out those functions. The only recourse I have is to Parliament to make it clear that I am not happy when I have to agree to the appropriation of funds, whether through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs Contingency Vote, or any other vote, to pay costs for attorneys who have gotten judgements for their clients as a result of failure of magistrates to write reasons for their decision. Now that is a very serious matter for which an explanation cannot come from the Attorney General, I am sure. It would have to come from other sources in time to come.
10.50 a.m.

I have always been of the view and I understood the Honourable Member for St George South to be coming closer to that view that the Magistrates' Courts in Barbados should be centralised.

*Aside.*

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not sure you were making that point Oh, I did not know this. I am glad to hear that

The cost of having a Magistrate's Court at District "C", at District "F", Belleplaine, Speightstown cannot be justified. I think Oistins is okay and Holetown is okay, but I think the cost of running Magistrates' Courts in those other jurisdictions cannot be justified. For example it is more difficult for a person living in Sherbourne, St John to get to District "C" court than it is for him to come to Bridgetown. Invariably he has to take a bus to Bridgetown and then another bus to District "C". It is probably more difficult for a person living in some parts of St Andrew to get to a District Court in Belleplaine than it is for him to come to Bridgetown. On that basis alone it must be more cost effective to centralise the courts, particularly the small ones in Bridgetown.
A Magistrate is employed, presumably, all day, maybe twice a week in Belleplaine, in Horse Hill and at District "C" and that person could probably do more work in Bridgetown with more convenience to the persons who are appearing, more convenience for the lawyers for whom travelling to those district

courts is also costly and more convenient in terms of the administrative costs of running the courts - the clerks and other officers who are necessary. So I support the view that the Magistrates' Courts should be centralised. Barbados is small enough to have 3 locations adequately spread for Magistrates' Courts so that we can reduce costs.
The third and final point I want to make relates to the speech of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on the issue of the repatriation of the Constitution. It may sound to you, Mr. Chairman, and to me, like a big issue but I can assure you it is not an issue of any major consequence that should detain either the Attorney General or this Chamber. The Honourable Member is really struggling with shadows and not ^substance. The Constitution as a whole, in Barbados, is in need of review and it seems to me that the repatriation ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is on a point of order.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member must realise that the first point that I made was the need for substantive change in the constitution in the light of 26 years and secondly, the Honourable Member should recall that I am not the only one voicing the need for repatriation. The former leader of his party, the then Right Honourable Errol Barrow, also agreed with the need for it.



Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Your understanding of what Errol Barrow said and mine is different He wanted it repatriated from Washington in 1982. That is what he wanted. He did not want the Order in Council repealed and replaced by domestic legislation. He was calling for a repatriation of the Barbados Constitution from the Headquarters of the U.S. Treasury. That was my understanding.Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member has just strengthened my hand, because even taking that interpretation I hope he will advise his Minister to repatriate it now out of the hands of the IMF.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I did not know it was the IMF that was the sole concern in 1982. I understood the then Leader of the Opposition to be saying that it was the White House and the U.S. Treasury that it wanted repatriating from, that it had been delivered to the President of the United States on a silver platter and was locked up in some safe never to be returned.

Now that is my understanding but anyway the repatriation point has little validity unless it is related to some more comprehensive constitutional reform. Issues in Barbados seem to have a 9-day wonder stamina. We had the Constitutional motion relating to the Reduction of Emoluments legislation and other constitutional motions relating to the use of the cat-o-nine tails and so on. All of a sudden everybody was on the radio talking about reform of the constitution. Lawyers who obviously had never read the Constitution before, even those trained by t)r. Francis Alexis, were suddenly saying that they did not realise that Barbados had a savings law clause and that they never realised that colonial laws still had effect in Barbados. I could not believe hearing that from people who sat next to or near to me or preceded me at Cave Hill. But there was all of a sudden a big debate about the Constitution and it has fizzled out, Mr. Chairman.

I think perhaps, if this Chamber has to keep that momentum going and encourage people to make contribution on substantive issues of constitutional reform then we should do it. But repatriation is not, in my view, a big issue unless it goes hand in hand with reforms which are over time, deemed to be desirable. There are many features of the Barbados Constitution which one would assume - including the issue of the monarchy and so on -which need some urgent attention and we should seek to give momentum to that exercise. Thank you, 'Mr. Chairman.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I wish to join, first of all, with my colleagues who offered congratulations to the Attorney General. I believe the Attorney General's work is not as fully appreciated in Barbados, especially in the last few years, because there may have been so much attention being paid to the results of increased crime that persons have not recognised that in fact the Attorney General has taken the lead in some fundamental reforms in Barbados.

I think that the legislation which has been brought here and which now forms part of our laws on drug trafficking et cetera is some of the most far reaching legislation which calls for some fundamental changes in the way in which we approach the administration of law in this country. I think it took a lot of courage. I hope it will not be long before we have the Offences Against the Person Act on the statute books because there are a number of shibboleths which still remain in the old Offences Against the Person Act... Honourable Members on the other side are saying we are praising up the Attorney General. It is all right, Sir, I don't think they mean it pejoratively but...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The only thing is that it is not in my recollection of having heard anything. 11.00a.m. I can see from his forehead what he is thinking, Sir. The truth is, Sir, that when the Attorney General's stewardship is assessed it cannot be assessed in isolation. Clearly, what has gone before, especially in the area of law, is always important to what is happening now. One is only saying at this point that it calls for a tremendous amount of courage to bring finally the legislation and have it done. It calls also for a tremendous amount of work on the part of the individual Attorneys General in many cases in the past as in this case. Much of the work has to be done on an almost personal basis if it is to move at the speed that is required. That is not always appreciated or indeed understood by some members of the public.
I have to agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West that there has been a perpetuation of a certain level of ignorance that has been solidified by persons who perhaps ought to know better but whom I do not think know any better. They get on call-in programmes as moderators and give their mouths quite a lot of liberty. Recently, I heard a distinguished Reverend Father who was saying...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I cannot call any names. He must be distinguished because he is regarded so by those who receive communion from him. He was saying that Ministers must do more and the Attorney General should do more and going on *ad infinitum.* The truth is that many of the people who talk about the Constitution do not seem to understand our kind of Constitution and how it is supposed to work. I was explaining to somebody the other day that a Requisition to Incur Expenditure used to be a warrant that Ministers would sign. I think that during



the time of the Labour Party's Administration they decided that even in that they did not want to get involved. As a result, although Ministers are responsible for the vote and the appropriation from Parliament and they are responsible to Parliament, in truth they are not involved in the day-to-day administration of the funds which have been voted by Parliament That is not to resile from the responsibility but it is to make clear the actual fact of how the thing works.

To come back to the Attorney General's Chambers and the vote. I just wish to disagree - because I believe that when we are discussing these matters to do with law that we are not required to have any stereotype or party position on these matters - I wish to disagree with my colleague, the Member for St. John, on this question of the decentralization of the magistracy. I disagree fundamentally with any concept of centralising the Magistrates' Courts. The Magistrates' Courts do not exist in my opinion for the lawyers. They exist for the people. In the same way we discuss decentralising the health services, social services and the other services, we have to decentralise the law services. The law services are no different from any other services. Therefore, we should put Courts wherever the people are.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, I have no difficulty with that. We should have a polyclinic on one side, a Court on the other and you could put a fire station or whatever else. This country is small enough and neat enough that we can rationalise our services.

Having said that, the administration of the Courts must be such that, if a magistrate is aware that a

lawyer has a case somewhere else, he is required to give adjournments. One of the things that I find remarkable in this country is that it does not seem to be clear in the minds of the people who write in the newspapers that the administration of justice is within the purview of examination by the people. An adjournment is not something that you get as sufferance. It is something that a person who is before the Court is entitled to. Once the adjournment is being asked on proper grounds and once the lawyer is seeking that adjournment on grounds that are reasonable, that person is entitled to an adjournment. As a matter of fact and as the Honourable Members who spend some time in administrative law know, it is not only one adjournment or two adjournments but it is as many adjournments as are necessary for justice to be done. I do not get too up tight about the fact that a lawyer may have a case in Bridgetown and then one in St. Matthias. Right now \hey have cases in Speightstown. So St. Matthias might bring the cases a little closer than the Court in Oistins. For what it is worth, I can appreciate that having so many locations in such a small country can also pose a problem. That is one of the reasons why I believe the Attorney General had identified a fantastic location at the comer of Country Road and Whitepark Road for the Hall of Justice. I have no doubt that as the economic situation changes some administration will be able to bring to bear this particular piece of work that will allow a streamlining of the physical aspects of the delivery of justice.
I am not sure if we ought to get into the business of comparing the work of the magistracy and the work of the judges. I think that we have to be extremely careful not to quantify the work in such a way as to lead to any feeling that X number of magistrates are equal to Y number of judges. I think that the matters which judges have to deal with are much more intricate and all things being equal require much more qualitative work. For that reason, I do not know if we can discuss their work only in terms of how many cases they have. What I believe ought to happen is what I have said for as long as I have been in the House, certainly since 1980, that the judges have to be put on the same basis as judges in other advanced jurisdictions. They must be given the technical assistance that makes for a swift dispensation of justice. A judge who has to "butt about" the library looking for his own preliminary cases is a judge who is being overpaid at that time. A judge should not have to be going into the library and spending two and three hours to do routine research which could be done by somebody for whom it would be exciting and beneficial.

I have no doubt that the principle will be accepted. But I look forward to the day when I will hear, and it does not matter who does it, that we have clerking in Barbados and that young, bright lawyers who leave their pupilage or by whatever name called will go and work with a good judge for a year or two or not more than three and sharpen their analytical skills while observing the real work of the Courts as opposed to the academic arena of the law faculties. When that happens, Judges will have no excuses for failure to submit their decisions. Furthermore, the whole question of what the Honourable Member raised earlier, about cases not having come to a conclusion because of some unfortunate circumstances or the-retirement of a Judge - all of these matters will be more easily dealt with if our system were brought closer to the 20th century. 11.10a.m.

I declare an interest in this, Sir, but I have a very strong feeling that it is taking too long for a lawyer to be able to practise in the courts. Five years is too much time and money for a developing country. I do not mind what the Attorneys General of the region say, I do not mind how long it takes them, 5 years in the life of a young person is all right in terms of time, but one of those years should be spent almost exclusively learning how to practise.



In the days when solicitors in Barbados used to learn how to practise law by apprenticeship, we used to have solicitors who paid special attention to the nuts and bolts of the law. Today throughout the region we have a number of young lawyers who, many years after they have been qualified, do not know how to plead. Mr. Chairman, I am talking about a technical term, because I do not wish it to go abroad that I say there are lawyers who are incompetent. There may be some of those, but that is not what I am discussing, I am saying that unless you have the opportunity to work next to a person who has gone through the mill, it takes a long time and sometimes there are victims along the way suffering because a person did not have

the opportunity to learn certain aspects of the law.

I am satisfied, Sir, all that having been said, that the Attorney General has been a good Attorney General not only in the sense of the legislation he has brought, but he has in fact been appearing in the courts, and that is good for the system. Although there are many people who believe that the Attorney General gets "put in court", (there are some old people in the country who believe that the Attorney General is a very bad fellow, because every time they turn around they hear somebody has the Attorney General in court,) I think they should explain the system, that the only person who can be sued in court for the Government is the Attorney General. I am told that this circumstance was assisted by some distinguished Honourable Members who brought it to the attention of people in a certain constituency that the Attorney General is a bad fellow, because the people always have him in court!

I think it is good for the system that the Attorney General has been going down to court, and more particularly, Sir, he has been winning. That is even better and I hope he will continue his winning ways. We look forward with interest to how he is going to deal with certain matters now before him, but no doubt he will talk to us, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I just want to make a few general points which have spawned themselves out of the last contribution.

The first one, Sir, is in respect of the legislation that has been brought particularly in the last 2 years reforming the criminal law. I think anyone who has an appreciation of the concept and the operation of Government will appreciate that as Governments change a lot of policies are left behind and it is a continuum, it is for the incoming Government to determine whether they will carry on some of the work that has been in preparation by the outgoing Government.

In that regard the Criminal Law Act, the Offences Against the Person Act, the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act which is to' come, the Bail Act which is to come, the Theft Act, certainly those to my certain knowledge were prepared in draft when I was in the Ministry. I found that my predecessor, the Honourable Member for St. George South, had had work done on them and the Committee under the now Mr. Justice Errol Chase, which was responsible for law reform, had all these matters in draft, they were referred to me from time to time and work was done on them. When I left in 1986 there wasr a body of legislation, including all of these recent criminal law Acts that have come down, which was there. There was an Evidence Act, which was also left, and a Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, and there was a Sale of Goods or Consumer Protection Act which had been done by Mr. Ryan, which is still to come. There was a Defamation Act, about which the Press keep talking about every time they have an Annual General Meeting, which was left up there.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There was one done by Miss Bannister, Chief Parliamentary Counsel.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, if the Honourable Member will give way, the need for reform was seen and I got the British Government to send down a Mr. Mayne and the UNDP to send down Mr. Jim Ryan, and together with Mr. Errol Chase we set up a unit. Most of that basic legislation was formulated and left, including the Defamation Act.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is really petty to be getting into this. It is a little bit childish. That is why I am saying it is a continuum and must be seen as such. It was left there, people picked it up and in another 18 months when this Government is thrown out we will find. . . .

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: When they all qualify for pensions is the time when they will be going. When certain people qualify for pension is the time when the Government is ready to collapse, not before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I would like to know is where does that find scope. Let us get back to the Head under discussion.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We will find some legislation which they had in the mill and we will deal with it then.

*Astdes.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order?

3207

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I want to take up the Honourable Minister of Health, on a more serious note, on the question of legal education. I have gone on record in agreeing with the Minister of Health that the 5 years which are now required of a person to qualify as a lawyer in our system, having regard to our conditions, are too long. In August 1985 at a meeting of the Council of Legal Education in Antigua, I had the authority of the then Cabinet to say that we were not prepared to support the 2-year academic course beyond 1987 for all kinds of reasons. The cost of legal education is too high throughout the region. Secondly, I think there needs to be some standardisation in the programmes that are taught at the Hugh Wooding School and the Norman Manley School. 11.20a.m.

I found, for example, because I have students every year, that those in Jamaica were doing something called Law of Associations and those in Trinidad were not doing it. I do not think that is right. I think if they are all going to be given a Council of Legal Education Certificate, the course work should be the same. The teaching will vary from place to place, but the course work should be the same and there should be no real advantage as to whether you study in Jamaica or in Trinidad.

At the moment, I have to confess that my information and experience and observation is that you get a far better deal in Jamaica than in Trinidad, even though Trinidad is improving, and I want to compliment them, at the Hugh Wooding School, for the efforts that are being made pursuant to all the criticisms they have had to improve the quality of service offered there.

I think, Sir, that in our contemporary Caribbean and, indeed, for the foreseeable future, an 18-months course is perhaps all that is needed to turn out adequately qualified, competent practitioners. After you finish the practical course in Trinidad or in Jamaica and when you finish your degree at Cave Hill, you had 3 years of academic training in which you would have covered a variety of legal courses, about 14. You looked at 14 different types of substantive law. You want to engraft on that student now the procedural aspects of law, how to make the substantial law come alive. It seems to me that if you start the course in the September immediately after academic qualifications of LL.B and you teach these subjects - civil procedure, criminal procedure, evidence and conveyancing that that provides you with the basis for all yc \ need.

If you qualify as a practitioner and you have a case on patents and you feel that you are competent to deal with it, go and read something on patents. The Law Schools canriot hope to fill in academic courses to supplement the Cave Hill teaching by teaching revenue law, landlord and tenant law and so on. It is also not ess itial to teach for examination purposes principles of accounts, office management, as they call it, forensic medicine and ethics. There should be instruction given in these particular areas by way of seminars or workshops where the basic principles can be explained. I would make it compulsory to attend these courses. You would not get your legal education certificate unless you have attended these courses but you do not have to write exams in them.

I think that if you do that, you can get through your course work from September to the following May, do the examination in June, results are out in July, and from July to December you can do practical attachments and start practice the next January. You pay your practice fee in January and you start. The person to whom you are assigned will have to give a report to the Law School on performance and it will always be subject to satisfactory completion of period of in-service training. But, that is a detail as to

how we work it out. What I am saying is that those basic courses are all you really need to be able to get off the ground as a practitioner. Time can be usefully spent if you do not have these compulsory fringe courses in giving practical experience in drafting. Teach statements of claims and pleadings and let people have practice at drafting statements of claim and defences and counter claims and so on. That can be done. It used to be done when all the old lawyers of the Caribbean whom we admire were students under the English system. They would not have had the benefit of the kind of close teaching and instruction that we can offer our students. So I really think that the Government must continue to campaign - I am assuming that perhaps what the Minister of Health says has found favour with his colleagues and if it has to have a reduction in that course and introduce more meaningful courses in a more intensive way for the future.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I am winding up the debate on this occasion. Let me first begin by thanking Honourable Members on both sides for the very valuable comments which have been made during the course of this debate. There are a number of areas on which I need not dwell because there seems to be substantial bi-partisan agreement in relation to them.

We are not divided on the last point made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in relation to the length of the course for the professional training at the Law School. In fact, our position is the same. Recently at the Council of Legal Education I have taken up the issue, as a result of which, the Council has set up 2 committees to look at the whole programme of training in the law schools and this committee is expected to meet and report by the September meeting of the Council of Legal Education with a view to the Council taking some positive action on this matter.

3208

A number of Attorneys General feel very strongly the other way as well. There is a strong cleavage in the Council of Legal Education and I think you need to look back to the setting up of the Council of Legal Education and the law schools in the first place to recognise that the whole setting up of the Faculty and the Law School was, to some extent, the result of a political compromise. There are vested interests which tend to support strongly the existence of the current programmes as they are.
The University itself is going through a process of re-examination of the course content and we hope that sooner rather than later all this will come to a conclusion.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West made a number of points, all of which I obviously cannot address in this short period of time, but he made some reference to removing the laws which would discriminate against women in the Constitution. Perhaps I should indicate at this early stage that coming on the agenda shortly will be a bit of legislation relating to an amendment to the Constitution which is designed to remove as far as possible all the discrimination against women which still exist in the Constitution.

11.30a.m.

The immediate matter prompting the drafting of this legislation arose out of a very unsatisfactory situation we discovered where the offspring of a woman who was in the Foreign Service born abroad while she was serving in the diplomatic service her child could not be registered as a citizen of Barbados by birth. The Registrar indicated that under the laws, as they stood, the child could not be registered as a Barbadian born citizen. We thought that was unfair and unreasonable and we have immediately taken steps to amend the law in that regard. In doing that we have taken the opportunity to look at some of the other areas in the Constitution that, discriminate against women and to seek to deal with them as well.

One of the Honourable Members on the Opposition made some reference to computerising the work of the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. That is a matter which is presently receiving our urgent attention. One of the things we want to do is to ensure that there is compatibility in the equipment between the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, the Government Printery and Parliament so that would facilitate getting the laws and the subsidiary legislation done with the minimum of effort and work.
Whilst I am speaking about computerising the work of the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, let me indicate too that we are continuing to look at this problem of providing computer aided transcription

service in the Courts because this would speed up the work of the Courts quite considerably. Recently the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Costa Rico sponsored a seminar on the Administration of Justice in San Jose. The whole purpose of the seminar was to acquaint Latin American and Caribbean countries with the interest which institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and other institutions in the region were begirtning to have in financing projects in the administration of justice because they have recognised that for too long they have tended not to treat the administration of justice as being an essential element of the whole process of development. But the Banks and other institutions in this area have now come fully on board with recognising that the administration of justice is critical to the whole process of the development in our region and have begun to sensitise Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to the interest which they now have in funding projects in this area. We are looking at computer aided transcription services and training of the appropriate staff to man the system.

The Inter-American Development Bank has drawn our attention to the fact that they have done support for infrastructure and have a large infrastructure programme which was financed in Venezuela in relation to the administration of justice.

We in Barbados tend to scream often about the fact that judges and magistrates 'have to write evidence in longhand and it takes up a lot of time, which is true. All I am saying is that when the computer aided transcription system comes on board when you speak the spoken word it is immediately recorded. If you are really up-to-date and modern, it can be transcribed almost immediately thereafter. When you do that I think the lawyers are going to have to be very much on board so that when they are in Court on their feet they will have to think faster. They will not have the luxury of waiting until judges write down the answer to a question to work out the next question or the way forward.

It is obviously going to call for the lawyers to be fully equipped to handle their cases. It would be a very good thing for administration of justice. You could perhaps short circuit it. Some or part of the process of reform could be, perhaps, doing a whole lot more work in written form, a lot more written presentation of arguments and leaving a lot of the rest to be added orally. This would apply more to Appeal Courts than to first instance Courts.

The Honourable Member for St. George South spoke of some of the difficulties in the administration of justice particularly in the Magistrate's Court. I am not going to spend too much time on this at the moment. He spoke of the shortage of prosecutors and the Office of the Director of Prosecutions, the extension of the Assizes calling for a commitment of more time and effort on the part of



the prosecutors and the fact that paper committals were not working as adequately as they ought to be. He called for a renewal of dialogue with members of the Bar on the system.

The proper working of paper committals is going to depend, to a large extent, on the cooperation of the Bar, the prosecutors and the Courts. If there is no cooperation and coordination of effort on all sides obviously the system is not going to work properly. There is a feeling abroad that some lawyers do not like the system of paper committals because they want the written evidence taken at the Magistrate's Court They prefer to go through the whole lengthy process of cross-examination of witnesses and so on with a view to getting on the record the possibility of getting contradictions when the trials take place at the Assizes. We need the cooperation and collaboration of the Bar, the Bench and the prosecutors with a view to getting this system of paper committals effectively functional. A part of the problem of the Courts and the delays in the administration of justice of course relate to the fact that there are too many adjournments in my view, of cases, adjournments occasioned sometimes by the non-attendance of lawyers or by the unreadiness of prosecutors.

I remember the former Chief Justice used to make comments that he is not going to tolerate trial by adjournments. I think more judicial officers need to insist on the more speedy conclusion of cases and avoid the many adjournments which tend to occur. There will be occasions where adjournments will be

necessary but on many occasions adjournments have taken place simply because the parties were not prepared. That is not the best excuse for an adjournment.

I would not spend time on the issue of centralising the Magistrate's Court. It is not a view with which I agree. I believe in the more general principle that the Court should be taken to the people. What we need to do perhaps is to rationalise the system of courts rather than talk in terms of centralisation. There are some centres of population which have a critical mass of people where it will be necessary that the Courts should be. I do not think I need to dwell on that because there is no major difficulty on that, in my judgement. 11.40a.m.

I am not going to have time, Mr. Chairman. You indicated to me that I had only 2 minutes some time ago.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You want some more time?

Hon. M. A. KING: No. I think I have said as much as I need to say on this occasion. I am sure the occasion will arise where additional comments can be made. But let me just conclude by making the point that the substantial reform that has taken place in the criminal law and that is continuing to take place is part of our continuing efforts in the Ministry, not only in relation to the criminal law, but in relation to all other aspects of reform of our laws. I do not want to get into any sterile arguments as to who did what and who did what when.

Somebody made the point that legislation is a continuing effort. The law is not a static force it is dynamic and living. Even although legislation may have been drafted 10 years ago, the laws change, situations change, the laws have to be adjusted, developments have to be made, and we have to bear that always in mind. Sometimes you may have had a draft to a law 10 years ago which when presented today may not necessarily have the same complexion.

But bearing in mind that in many cases too a lot of our laws are patterned on laws of other countries, it is no major thing getting a draft before you. The critical part of the problem has to be in managing that draft, having the manpower to deal with it and to finalise the draft to make it adaptable and suitable to the needs of our country in the current age.

So that I conclude with the assurance that the work of law reform will continue and we will make every effort to get as much of the reform legislation to Parliament as soon as possible in the course of the current year. Thank you, Sir.

*The question that the sum of $869 711 under Head 29 -Ministry of the Attorney General stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION $116 971 850 (AS AMENDED)

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, this Committee is being asked to approve the funds for policy formulation for the Ministry of Education as it relates to and extends into training, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as in the area of special services.

Mr. Chairman, let me start off by saying that education is being attacked, maybe rightfully so, by indiscipline, the society and this extends to the schools, by a lack of interest in the rules and the law and regulations, indeed by members of society which also relates to some of the parents involved.
And thirdly, but what might be very important and what is very important due to the lack of funds. Now unfortunately or fortunately the Minister does not spend the funds.



Mr. Chairman, we hear that some parents were saying, and this relates to discipline, that they cannot discipline their children and you hear the children saying that the adults only talk and they do not know the laws and the regulations, that they themselves know more about the laws and the regulations than the

parents do and they know how to deal with these specific matters whether it be in the school, on the street or wherever they may be.
Parents make noises, Mr. Chairman, we know in terms of the policies of the Ministry, in terms of the policies of education, about things like suspension, expulsions and operations of Boards in general. Of course this has led to much discussion about the other area, the area of security.
The public and the media are calling almost daily and must be reminded from time to time about the laws and the regulations. It is rather unfortunate, Mr. Chairman, that we have dealt with such matters in this Honourable House and in the public domain and yet we have found that many parents, many so-called responsible people are not aware of the rules and regulations and the laws as they relate to education, the running of Boards of Management, *et cetera.*

This has prompted us in the Ministry, Mr. Chairman, to produce and distribute a document. It is yet to be judged to what extent it has had a great impact because we wonder from time to time if people take time out to read the document. We issued a document which is distributed called Education Legislation where we have highlighted all of the points as they relate to the policies of education, to the functions of Boards, pay for the responsibilities of the Boards, parents and what have you.

We still doubt very much, Mr. Chairman, whether this is being read by the public. I would like to just point out a few of the critical areas as they relate to the policy of education that we find there is this misunderstanding.

When we talk in terms of the discipline in schools, Mr. Chairman, the Education Act and Regulations with which we dealt in this Honourable Chamber gives wide authority to Principals and Boards, contrary to the general comments we hear all the time. All the time, Mr. Chairman, we hear that it is vested in Jemmotts Lane.' And I want to say that we did it in here. We expended it in here. Because we in our discussions in this Honourable Chamber, Mr. Chairman, stated that good discipline is the main responsibility of Principals and staff of each school with the Ministry giving overall support. And schools currently have the responsibility for corporal punishment. That is under Regulation 18(j) in the same document which was distributed to the public. They have the responsibility, Mr. Chairman, for suspension. Again, Regulation 29 amended by this Honourable House. They have the responsibility for expulsion by Boards. It is no longer to seek approval of the Minister. The parents right to appeal, however, is there under Regulation 29. Those are just a few, Mr. Chairman, of the points that are constantly discussed in this society and to which we need to have parents, especially parents, pay more attention.

11.50a.m.

To continue, Mr. Chairman. There is much discussion in the media about matters relating to teachers. Indeed, we even hear teachers who are either members of or on the periphery of the unions which are supposed to be the regulators of matters pertaining to teachers making errant comments about the teaching profession itself and also relating to the same regulations to which I early made reference. Again, Mr. Chairman, we have provided a document so the teachers, too, can understand personnel management in the teaching service so they can also understand what are their responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, it is against this background that I would like to make some comments on these Estimates. The first area is General Management and Co-ordination Service. Basically, Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to spend much time on this because this area deals with the staffing and operations of the Ministry which for all practical purposes are outside the purview of the rules and control of anyone within the-Ministry. The second area has to do with the Project Implementation Unit and the provision being sought is for the Project Office and Project Unit which supervise the implementation of the projects within the Ministry of Education and those financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. The next areas, and I will lump them together, are pre-primary, primary and composite education. For the benefit of Members of the Committee, Mr. Chairman, we have not seen the continued decline in numbers as was predicted. As the models are utilised within the system, there is not the drastic decline within the system. There is, however, a decline but not to the extent which was anticipated within the last 10 years. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, in the age group of 5 to 16, we will find that there are some 26,407 students and, in the age group 3 to 5 years, we have an additional 11,217 students in the system giving a total of

37,624. In the pre-primary area, Mr. Chairman, we have as is known or what is commonly called in Barbados "nursery schools" by the general public - Erdiston, Government Hill and Eden Lodge. We hope to add in the not too distant an additional one in the St. Michael area and to be more specific in the St. Stephens area. More on that later as I make some comments on primary. Concerning the pre-primary schools, in the pre-priitiary schools we have continued to make provision for the 3 to 5 years to be admitted into the primary schools where there is adequate room and facilities.

3211

Sir, to move more specifically to the primary area, there are currently 89 primary schools and we have under construction as part of the IADB agreement under the second project a school soon to be opened at St Stephens, one at Hillaby - Turners Hall, Farmers and one merger of the St Boniface and Black Bess. All three will be opened in 1993. Now let me say at this point, Mr. Chairman, that I believe during the last few years as we completed the construction of certain schools we set about to give names to these schools which had some significance to members of the particular community. I am one who believe, Mr. Chairman, that honour should be given to people while they are alive. After all, we give people knighthood while they are alive and all sorts of honours. Let me say that it is the intention and I already have the approval of the Cabinet and the authority of the individual involved to name the amalgamated St Boniface-Black Bess School the Gordon Greenidge Primary School. He is from Black Bess.

Sir, let me just say that we have just signed a loan with the Inter-American Development Bank for some Bds.$22.6 million dollars for the amalgamation of 8 more primary schools, I think that at some point I might have mentioned i? in here before. But those who might not have been here before, we are proposing to amalgamate the St Clements Boys and Girls School in St Lucy, All Saints Boys and Girls School, St. Christopher Boys and Girls School and the Beulah and Holy Trinity Schools in St. Philip. St Clements Boys and St. Clements Girls will be located on a new site and the Beulah and Holy Trinity Schools will also be located on a new site. The All Saints amalgamation will be done at the All Saints Girls School and the Saint Christopher Boys and Girls will be amalgamated on a site at the St. Christopher Boys School.

*Aside.*

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I am not supposed to hear Asides. Let me state at this point, Mr. Chairman, that it was the intention to amalgamate an additional 16 schools. But in these times and with the limited finance granted, it is not convenient - it is not kosher, as they say - for the Ministry of Education to attempt that amalgamation within this time frame. However, they are a part of the schedule and will be addressed in the future.

12.00 noon

Mr. Chairman, I want to address a few matters, while I am here on Primary, relating to teachers. I will address the teachers in Primary at this point and the teachers in Secondary when I discuss Secondary. We hear a lot of talk about dismissing teachers and, unfortunately, some of us in fliis Honourable Chamber, who should know better, from time to time give credibility to these comments. In 1993, starting with the first term, which normally starts in September of any given year, there are currently requests from close to 600 teachers for a term's leave. Let me say, first of all, that term's leave means that it will start some time near the end of June, which is at the end of the second term, over the long holiday and they will return in January, just about 6 months' holiday.

Let me give the background. Those who are not aware of the policy and the agreements we have, should know that teachers are entitled to a term's leave after the first 15. years. In other words, after you have been teaching for 15 years you are entitled to a term's leave. You are again entitled to a term's leave every 5 years thereafter. Out of that number requested, Mr. Chairman, we have decided

that we can only permit 255 to go off on this term's leave, from June to January. We have to ask ourselves, however, what will we do to replace those 255. Bearing in mind they are off on a term's leave, and the public moreso than this Committee must be totally aware that we have to pay them while they are on a term's leave, we will then have to bring on 255 substitute teachers for that term. So we will have to pay the 255 substitute teachers while we are paying the 255 who are off.
What I am concerned about, Mr. Chairman, and I can predict that it will happen in January, 1994, there will be those who will say that the Ministry of Education has terminated 255 teachers. When the regular teachers come back and the 255 substitutes are no longer required, we will hear...

*Aside.*

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I will not even pay any attention to that lopsided logic, but what I am doing is stating a fact. We know it may be politic at that time to say it, depending on the source. However, this brings me now, Mr. Chairman, to those who may continue also to make the strife and negative comments, as I said earlier, those who should know better. Some of these people are programme hosts, some are just regulator commentators and there are a few politicians, but it must be remembered that the substitutes are taken on for a specific period.

Let me now deal with another area which has even a greater point value now as we hear more and more about the problems within the transportation area, more specifically the Ministry of Transport We have heard of a promised commitment of school buses, but I believe that we should also use this opportunity to pay more attention to the whole question of the catchment area, so that we do not find ourselves continuing to transport children from St. John to St Michael, then to Belleplaine or wherever, or from Christ Church to St Michael, to Coleridge & Parry, when within the area there are schools. That is in the secondary area.



I will say more too, Mr. Chairman. In every district we have primary schools. I spoke earlier of the plan by both Governments to upgrade the plants and I believe it behoves us to encourage the parents to utilise the plants within their area. Too many times have we had complaints, indeed we have had a situation where one parent went and took a principal by the collar to say "I can look through the window at my school and I cannot get my child here in this school in St. Michael." I believe that is one area we have to deal with and we will be dealing with it in the Secondary area as well in the same area of catchment

Mr. Chairman, we also have to address the changes being proposed at the tertiary level by the committee established by the Council at the University of the West Indies, and I will have some more to say about that when I speak again.

Let me say, however, in this first pass, we also have to look at the whole question of reform of the whole educational system. A year ago I advised this Honourable Chamber about the formation of NACE. They have now been meeting and I will have more to say about the NACE Committee. 12.10p.m.

The whole question of reform over and above the problems we have in transportation, the problems we have in this period where we need to look more at what you do rather than what -you learn in order to eke out a living we have to make sure that the services are provided within the system whereby the students can acquire the knowledge and the technical expertise which will enhance their capabilities in their performance within the general public or better put within the job environment in the future.

Mr. Chairman, along that line I would like to make a few points and I will elaborate later. We have as I said appointed the National Advisory Committee on Education and its composition is such that we have representation from the University, from the primary schools, the secondary schools, the private primary schools the private secondary schools, the Parent Teachers Association and we have representation from the general public. They have all been working on proposals for the reform of the educational system. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I, myself, have put in several hours over the years trying to address this particular

area. There have been several consultancies and indeed as part of other consultancies paid for by the international agencies there have been sections pertaining to the reform of the educational system. It is not just Barbados alone that is looking at the reform of the educational system. Several submissions have been made by individuals from the academic community, the commercial and business community and all of these have been analysed and it is expected that a final report will be coming from NACE in the very near future.

I would like to say this, however, they all have a common theme. That theme which permeates the whole report and through all of the reports say that there should be no more Common Entrance Examination at 11. Mr. Chairman, I intend to follow on those recommendations in due course there will be 3 fora around the country to discuss the matter. However, I must say there is a second part. The second part is that we should look at the total system in terms of crating a base of education at the first 3 years, 11-14. All the students up to that level should have a base education. At that stage you will take the examination and move into the areas of academic, business and commercial studies and enhancing the technical studies and I believe we should use this opportunity when we use it to bring more of a linkage of the secondary with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

Mr. Chairman, I will stop at this point. I therefore move that Head 34 as amended stand part.

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

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, There is only one thing I would like to comment on in response to what the Honourable Minister of Education has said and it is more or less a caution with respect to the naming of schools. While I have no quarrel with the naming of the school Gordon Greenidge Primary School I would however hope that in future the Honourable Minister will consult not only the parliamentary representative for the area but those people who have been involved in education in the respective areas. I would hate to think being a product of a little known elementary school in the sense of people who are here from that school. I am speaking of St. Silas and there has been recently an amalgamation but I would certainly hale to think that a name was given to that school and I did not have the opportunity and certainly...

*Aside.*

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I am not dealing with St. Silas School. I am dealing with Black Bess, St. Boniface.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: If the Honourable Member listened to me very carefully, all I am hoping is that when he comes to deal with a school like St. Silas that he will not go ahead and name it after some person because he might name it after himself. I would hope that he consults the parliamentary representative and certainly the people from the area involved in education so that a suitable name would be given to that school.



I would feel very saddened if I woke up one morning and I heard that the St. Silas school was named the Cyril Walker Primary School. I would also like to caution him...

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I have to say unfortunately...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point have you risen?

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member has already discussed that with me privately and it should not be brought into the domain as part of the discussion. I really do not appreciate that.

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

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman I would like to get on with the debate. It is not true to say that this

matter has been discussed privately. I had no discussion with the Honourable Member relative to the debate.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did rule that was not a point of order so do not let us have a debate on that.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: This is the way that side has been doing business and I think we must put a stop to it at some particular point in time. I guess we will come to the question of the Common Entrance at some time but I would also like to caution the Honourable Minister of Education with respect to his comments about the Common Entrance examination.

I am not so sure - I do not know whom he has consulted - that what he has said relative to the abolition of the Common Entrance examination represents the views of the educators and other persons connected with educational administration in this country and I would like to caution him before he makes statements like that.

The objective of any policy on education ought to include the comprehensive system of education so as to ensure that all children are given the opportunity to learn the basics of life. We on this side have always tried to ensure that all our children get the best possible education at the minimum cost. This Administration has always thrived on the myth that they introduced free secondary education. Last year we saw a number of cuts under this Head. This year those cuts are continuing and one can only say that what they have been doing is dismantling the free secondary education which was grounded in the earlier policies of an earlier Barbados Labour Party Administration. 12.20 p.m.

* If it is one thing I believe the structural adjustment programme and the accompanying harsh economic times must have taught Honourable Members on that side is that
one should not try to deceive our young people with any myths that would come back to haunt them at some future time. I am speaking in a general way, Mr. Chairman.

It is interesting to note, Sir, that at the beginning of this debate the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in his opening remarks^ singled out crime as one of the areas in which this administration is very interested in. I think when he was speaking about the Police Services he did mention the figure of $47.1 million which was allocated to that particular area. While we believe this is commendable we feel that if more interest is shown by the Government in educating our young people to meet the challenges of today's world, at least it would minimise our attention to crime.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that education is too important to our national development to be treated like other Heads of Government expenditure. In a sense I am wondering whether or not the Honourable Member who just spoke, and who happens to be the Minister of Education, had any input in these cuts. We note an almost total silence by the Honourable Minister of Education, certainly within the past year, in many areas affecting educational administration in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal specifically with Erdiston. I notice in his presentation the Minister of Education did not mention anything about Erdiston. Maybe he knows why. I just want to deal briefly with Subprogramme 1 - General Management and Coordination Services. The Honourable Minister of Education did mention in his presentation that when we see a few people have to go home we do not come and say that a certain number of persons have been laid off in the teaching staff. Maybe he was making a case. I was hoping he would have built it up but at least he sat down without actually building it up.
We notice under "Other Personal Emoluments" a figure of $6 484 last year for the Approved Estimates. That figure was also the figure for the Revised Estimates. This year we see a figure of $400427. Now, it is only reasonable to assume that if you are adding on the 8% this year that the figure with respect to "Other Personal Emoluments" including the temporary staff should increase. So I do not know what the Honourable Minister was trying to say. But I would like to find out from him, taking into consideration that this trend is repeated throughout all the Heads under the Ministry of Education - Tertiary, Pre-Primary, Secondary, that is, a decrease in "Other Personal Emoluments" exactly how many people will be going home.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order and elucidation as well. Just in case we do not

discuss Statutory Emoluments...
3214
*Aside.*

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Let me finish my point. "Statutory Emoluments" deal with the payment of teachers and Government servants. "Other Statutory Emoluments" is a different area.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I need respond to that As I was saying, I think the Honourable Minister owes it to us to tell us exactly how many people will be going home at the Primary, Secondary and other tertiary institutions in this country. Unless, he can give us a good explanation, and certainly there is no other explanation looking at the Estimates I have before me, that could explain this particular cut other than a number of teachers will be sent home.
I think the Honourable Minister, especially in these harsh times when in a few days we expect some harsher measures, I think if he wants to be honest he should tell us now.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I will tell him
now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. I want to make it abundantly clear that there are specific rules of interruption or intervention. We really cannot conduct the Committee in this fashion.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that the Honourable Minister is dishonest because I know he is an honest man. If he wants us to leave in here knowing that he has maintained his reputation, I think he should tell us exactly how many teachers will be going home. That is all we are asking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have a little difficulty though because I have to interpret what you are saying. If you are saying that if he does not tell you how many teachers are going home that he will not retain his reputation then something is wrong.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I need no assistance in this regard. I am just cautioning the Honourable Member that he must be very careful in the way he makes his statements because I have to interpret them if I am to rule on them.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I will abide by your ruling but I am not aware you are cautioning me for something like that. Remember that I was speaking on the silence of the Honourable Member with respect to certain areas of educational administration. I heard from that side when the Honourable Member was speaking that he is an honest man. I believe he is an honest man and he will give
us the figures at least before we are finished with this Head.

Mr. Chairman, we note under General Management and Coordinating Services - New Ministry Headquarters $1.7 million in the Revised Estimates last year under this Head. Certainly, I*was hoping - I do not remember - an explanation might have been given in respect of this item but from my recollection, I may be wrong and the Honourable Minister could correct me if I am wrong because that is what he is there for, but I do not recall seeing any work being done at the new Ministry Headquarters during this year so I could only assume that this figure for $1.7 million is in respect of arrears of outstanding expenses which were due to the contractors or what have you. What is worse is that in this year's Estimates not a single cent is placed at the disposal for the resumption of work on the new Ministry Headquarters. I would have thought that the Honourable Member would have addressed this point when he got up. I think it was only yesterday when one of the other Ministers was introducing a Head that somebody made the comment to the relevant Minister that it would be good that before you do the Head there could be some introduction and some explanation as to what is contained therein. The Honourable Member got up for 15 minutes and I am at a loss as to what he has explained because certainly this is one of the areas that- perhaps he should have said something. And I would like to hear him tell us what is the position with respect to the new Ministry Headquarters. Certainly I would not like to see it become another monument like Sherboume, St. Thomas

Secondary School, the Polyclinics and so on. Erdiston College. 12.30 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Erdiston College. It is going to be difficult for me to conclude in 2 minutes so I will come back again Mr. Chairman. Certainly I would have thought that with the uncertainty surrounding Erdiston College I would have hoped that the Honourable Member would have taken the opportunity to deal with Erdiston College at this important point in time. I say this because the tutors at Erdiston College are right now under a spell. They are disillusioned. Some of them have had to seek medical advice. There is an area of uncertainty and last year we had 23 second-year students at Erdiston. No new teachers were taken on last year, Mr. Chairman, and you have a staff of 30 people at Erdiston. When I say 30 people I am including all the staff - the ground staff, the secretarial staff, watchmen, the Audio Visual staff. There are 16 staff members. My understanding is that by June this year there will be no students at Erdiston and all tutors at Erdiston know about the future of Erdiston is what they have



been reading in the newspapers. There has been a silence on the part of the Ministry of Education, especially at a time when a study has been commissioned by the World Bank to determine the future or the closure of Erdiston and tutors are being asked to answer questionnaires like little children. Do you want to be amalgamated to the UWI or the Community College?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time has expired.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, but I will be back.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions to ask. I do not want to get into debate on the general policy of education in this country. It will take a longer debate than this. There are a number of questions that I would want the Minister to answer for me. If I may deal first of all with the point raised by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, in respect of Erdiston College, I have some questions that trouble me.

I notice throughout the Estimates that there have been a number of cuts and despite the submission by the Honourable Minister of Education that teachers would not be sent home, I am a little doubtful about that but they have been sent already. Hundreds of teachers have been sent home already. The Minister need not get up while I am speaking to refute anything I say, he can say all when I sit down.

The figures here, before I deal with Erdiston, reflect that. If you look at page 58 in the Estimates you will find that in the primary and composite schools in 1991 they were spending $11 422 301 for other statutory emoluments and that figure has dropped to $7 883 698. Last year it was $9.6 million. So if you look at 1991 figures and then look at 1992 and 1993 you will see that if the 8% is restored to the revised Estimates from 1992/93 but look at the figures for 1993/94 simple arithmetic suggests that there is a tremendous cut in the salaries for teachers in primary and composite schools in this Island, but I will move off that.
In Erdiston, I understand, like the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, that now that more than 95 per cent a year of the teachers in the primary, secondary schools in Barbados are trained at Erdiston College has a lot of spare capacity but you would have thought that the Minister of Education who has been in and around the Ministry for the last 7 years - although I understand there is generous interference in his Ministry by the former Minister of Education who sits in the top chair here - you will know that with 7 years around there would have been some planning for the day when you will have 95% of the teachers in the school trained, and you would have been able to come out with something now as to what to do with Erdiston College.

The fact that the Ministry of Education , apparently, has not come up with a plan which they have published to all and sundry, like myself, to let us know what is going on. I suggest that they are not ready. I have another problem in relation to Erdiston and training of teachers in Barbados. I am making a charge against the Ministry of Education of * incompetence in relation to expenditure for training of teachers in

this country. When the money was flowing, when the water was flowing out of the pipe they had 4 training programmes for teachers in this country.
My recollection and I could be corrected if I am wrong is that they was training for teachers at Erdiston College, at the Community College and at least 2 programmes at the University of West Indies - the Faculty of Education, in-service training. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, there was a programme for B.A. or B.Sc. in Educational Management and Administration. So there were, at least, 4 or 5 programmes for the training of teachers in this country.

I understand that in more recent times they have added on another layer of training because they are now training in the Ministry of Education. Now, pray tell us, how can the Ministry be cutting money for payment of teachers? Every time you look in the papers they do not have money to repair the toilets in the schools they are over-flowing. They do not have money to repair the roofs because the roofs of many primary schools in Barbados are collapsing. They do not have money to repair the floors because there are a lot of holes in a number of floors in primary schools in this country. The Ministry may find they have to put money in place to pay the parents of those children, when those children get injured in a number of primary schools in this country. But they do not have money for this. At a time when parents across this country are not working, times are hard and people are struggling to get something to eat, the Ministry reintroduces payment for school meals. But they are spending money in a multiplication of training programmes for teachers in Barbados and the Ministry has not even come up with a way of streamlining that to save money.

I do not know if the Ministry is afraid of the University of the West Indies. There are classes at the University of the West Indies in some parts of the Education Faculty where there are only 2 or 3 students. Can the Ministry safely, in these time, when really savage cuts are enforced, continue to have this whole set of training programmes, with hardly anybody, in some cases, attending classes? These Estimates do not paint a good picture as to how things are managed in the Ministry of Education and I am sorry to say that. I worked in there and, therefore, I have a natural affection for the



Ministry, But I am concerned when I see amongst all the talk that we heard in the introduction of this measure. There was nothing to address the problems that move towards the elimination of waste in the system. I think that the training is one that needs to be addressed. As I said, I make a charge against the Ministry that it has failed in that important area. 12.40 p.m.

While I am on training, Sir, because these 15 minutes go very quickly, how can the Government in 1993 with all that has happened in the last 18 months continue to have a system where training of teachers and their credits at the Erdiston Teachers College cannot be transferred to the University of the West Indies if they continue to study in education? You cannot transfer those credits. I understand too and the Minister can put me right that you cannot transfer the credits that you get in education at the Community College to the University of the West Indies nor indeed can you transfer the credits from Erdiston Teaching College to the Community College. If someone has to go to Erdiston Teaching College because that is the first thing available and if subsequently goes to the Community College because of how things flow and then goes to Cave Hill, Faculty of Education, it means that no credits are transferred through the system. That is the kind of thing that you have to tell me when you are cutting money left, right and centre in this system. That is what we are witnessing.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make one little point relating to something the Minister said. He talked about catchment area for schools and by necessary implication he is talking about zoning. He also talked about public transportation and a new study on the Common Entrance Examination. He did mention that there were some recommendations but I was not listening very closely at the time. So I do not know whose recommendations. But I believe he may have said a committee or somebody. I am told it is the National Advisory Council on Education that made recommendations on the Common Entrance Examination. The Minister said that he intended to follow through on those recommendations. The Minister is spinning top in mud. I will put it another way. He is re-inventing the wheel because the Democratic Labour Party in the early 1970's set up a committee under Dr. Leonard Shorey with representatives of a wide cross-section of

the community to do a study on the Common Entrance Examination and for the transfer of children from primary to secondary schools. There was a lot of debate on it. The report is still in the Ministry of Education. If they do not have their copy, ask me for one and I will give them one. But now 20 years later when money is tight, they allow Shorey's Report to stay down in the Ministry catching dust and they have come up with another group of people called NACE to make recommendations for transfer from primary to secondary schools.

Sir, I am willing to say that there is nothing new between the early 1970's and now to effect policy in relation to the transfer of children from primary to secondary schools. The Minister may very well say, if he gets a note from his advisors, that there are more Government secondary schools than there were in the early 1970's. But my counter to that is that it does not matter whether there were more Government schools or fewer Government schools because the children who were not going to Government secondary schools were going to private secondary schools. So that by the middle of the 1970's there were enough school places for secondary school children in Barbados whether it was Government sector or private sector. What is new? Why is there a need for a new report and what is this group involved in the esoteric that only NACE could come up with is going to say in 1993 that was not said all through the 1970's and 1980's? I am challenging the Minister to stop titillating the fortunes of the people of Barbados. When I say titillate, that is a euphemism, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. L. R. TULL: It is already 2 minutes, Sir. All right, Sir. Why I say that you should not be titillating the people of the country with this foolishness intending to follow through with the recommendations of transfer because you have told them that already. Three Manifestos of the Democratic Labour Party have said that they would abolish the Common Entrance Examination. I am like the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I believe that the Minister is an honourable and honest man. Otherwise, he could not be my Member of Parliament. I understand that he is an honourable and honest man but the Minister of Education, in my submission, is being misled and confused by people, many on his side, who feel that the best way to deal with a number of these problems in education is to keep talking something all the time. If you talk enough, you fool people that you are doing something. I have seen nothing, Sir, coming out of the Ministry of Education over the last seven years to suggest to me that there is any new direction in the Ministry of Education and that they have now worked out a new *modus operandi* in relation to all of the new problems that are afflicting Barbados during that period. In other words, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Education in my submission is at a standstill. It is doing nothing new. It has come up with nothing in these Estimates to suggest that it has any new focus. On the contrary, Sir, all I see is a cut in many Heads of expenditure in the Ministry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should cut your intervention.



Mr. L. R. TULL: My time is up, Sir. I will speak again.

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

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to get off this subject of Erdiston because, if we repeat the whole lot of proper policy on the part of this administration on Erdiston over and over again, at least it has something good in it for our children and for our grandchildren. When you look at the amount of crime you have in this country at this particular point in time, I do not think you could just ignore an institution like Erdiston just like that without coming up with, some concrete reasons as to why you should actually do away with Erdiston. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that this administration has a plan to close down Erdiston. 12.50 p.m.

*Aside.*

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North cannot tell me what I believe.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North has not spoken. I will ask you therefore to ignore what you may perceive as asides and continue with your debate.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: You have asked me to ignore the Honourable Member for St. Michael North?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have asked you to ignore the asides and address the Chair.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, what he does not realise is that I have not yet spoken. I do not understand what is wrong with him.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That aside is very loud and I cannot say I have not heard it.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, we want to know what is Government's policy with respect to Erdiston. We must look at Erdiston and its history in order to understand why we are concerned about it. Erdiston is an institution which, since 1948, has been responsible for the training of primary school teachers, and quite recently for secondary schpol teachers as well, and the high regard in which it has been held by its graduates is due in no small measure to its highly professional and dedicated staff. Its graduates can be found at all levels of the system.
It may be argued, Mr. Chairman, that all the teachers in the primary system are trained, but it still has a role to play. The college, like any other organisation, needs to be reorganised, programmes expanded to suit the needs of teachers and students alike. At this time in our history when there is so much crime, delinquency, truancy, there has been a total breakdown of family life, of morals and of social values, Erdiston can play a role fn alleviating these problems and in coming up with suitable courses in these areas.

Retraining or retooling could be short and organised on a more school based approach, with day release programmes where necessary. Along with that, Mr. Chairman, there is an urgent need for remedial education with a thrust in language arts and mathematics. It could be used as a resource centre whereby all the teaching aids in the various subjects could be stored so that the student will be better able to understand the subject matter and that the teacher will be able to bring his concepts across to the student.

Communication. We believe that the survival of Erdiston to a great extent has a lot to do with the communication between teachers, head teachers and Erdiston. We believe that this communication has already started. My understanding is that a professional development programme has recently been instituted by the tutors at Erdiston College. I do not know whether or not the tutors at Erdiston, in their professionalism and with the interest of this country at heart, realising the likely mistake that might be made by this administration, decided to take things into their own hands. They have now started what they refer to as a professional development programme, which was started after they themselves did a needs-assessments survey, whereby tutors from the school go out to the primary schools and offer professional assistance and guidance in areas like language arts, science, mathematics and the social sciences.

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.* 1.00p.m.



**RESUMPTION**

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply, to that it should revert

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying before the suspension when we were dealing with the question of Erdiston, I was making the point that before any decision is taken on Erdiston that one needs to have a sense of the history of this institution, the contribution it has made over the years and not only that fact, but one should take into consideration the present times we are in. I was also dealing with the professional development programme. The staff, as I said, is involved in giving professional guidance and assistance in subject areas like the language arts, science, mathematics and social studies. It is a programme which has been well received by all the teachers in the system .This is further evidence that Erdiston has a role to play in our educational system.

I have already mentioned the problem relating to the low staff morale, the fact that no new teachers were taken on in September. If you look at the Estimates, you will notice that, notwithstanding the fact that there is need for repairs to the building, no money has been provided for refurbishment and this has been so since 1991 when $200 000 was allocated but none was spent that year. All of these things when combined with the World Bank Study to which I alluded and which was strengthened by the Honourable Member for St. George South and the other factors that are outlined are good reasons why the staff at Erdiston need to be concerned.

I want to get back to this World Bank study. I believe that this Administration has nothing to do with persons who have been selected for these studies. I believe the person who has been selected is an expert in this field. One should not forget the slight competition between the Community College, Erdiston, the University and in a sense the in-service programme. This particular person is connected to the in-service programme and I would hope that the element of survival does not in any way influence any decision on Erdiston.

With respect to Erdiston, I would like to state that a degree course at the University of the West Indies should be no substitute for the teaching and practice of education as done at a properly constituted Erdiston which can play an important role in helping to bring discipline back to our school, our streets and to the society as a whole.

I have dealt with Erdiston and I do hope that the Honourable Minister would see the wisdom in being very cautious and in studying all the important factors before any decision is made on Erdiston College because it has a role to play and I think he owes it to this society, this community and the teaching fraternity to let us know at this point in time. I want to hear the Honourable Minister state in no uncertain terms that Government has no intention whatsoever of closing down Erdiston because that is the feeling out there and it is creating some uncertainty.

With respect to Subprogram 02, on page 57, we note that there is a cut of $261 000 under Other Local Training and this relates to the funds being allocated to training in home economics, industrial arts, mental retardation, arts and craft and music. We would have thought at this point in time that there would be greater emphasis in these areas and maybe the Minister, when he responds, could let us know exactly why it was necessary to make these cuts.

I alluded earlier to the fact that under Personal Emoluments - I am dealing with the primary and pre-primary schools - that it would seem as though it is the intention of this Administration to send home temporary teachers. Maybe the Honourable Minister will be kind enough to let us know the amount of trained teachers in the system that have gone home, those that are expected to return, those that are expected to be replaced and those who are expected to go out-on short leave after those that went home have returned.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I shall heed the request of the Honourable Member for St. Andrew to be cautious. In so doing, first let me state that I have the same document from which he is reading. He is reading from a document of the Ministry of Education.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am not reading from any document.

. Hon. C. V. WALKER; I am stating that the information given by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew in some peculiar way coincides with that of the Ministry of Education. Note, I said I would be cautious because .there is a Report from the Chairman of the Board dealing with Erdiston and secondly, there is a report submitted by the Principal to the Minister in 1992 and the third report, which has a similarity, whether it is a report or wherever it comes from, of the report sent by the staff of Erdiston College. Following that, there were discussions with the staff of the Ministry of Education dealing with this particular subject. 2.10 p.m.

The other document reference in terms of the study, Mr. Chairman, I have in my hand a report submitted



today to the Ministry of Education. It is dated March 5, 1993 but it was submitted to the Ministry 1993.03.10 and he is referring to it, Sir. I will say no more on that. It is a compliment

However, Sir, I want to tie in now the information from the Honourable Member for St Andrew with a part of the presentation I intended to make on the University of the West Indies. About a year ago - this would coincide with the time when we were dealing with these discussions pertaining to Erdiston College - the University of the West Indies appointed a committee to look at the whole question of the percentage of economic costs to be paid by students across the territories. We held discussions, as I participated on behalf of the Government of Barbados, and it was at that time there was much discussion here in Barbados. Indeed I think there was a half day strike or something to that extent at the Campus here in Barbados.
At a meeting with other Governments, which at this point will remain nameless, but I will have to make references to other Governments later on, though because of their involvement in something called "cess" which we do not have, they were planning to move right away into this new 15% of economic cost to be paid by students. I recognised at that point that nothing really would happen that fast within that structure at the University. To compound that when you had to relate to all the Governments throughout the territory. It was my opinion then, Sir, and it still is now, and I gave the Committee the assurance that Barbados will continue with our payment of the economic cost, which is common knowledge here in Barbados, until such

time as the University comes to a decision. To this day the University has not yet come to a decision. The next meeting is on April 16. That is rather crucial right now because at the last meeting we said we would utilise the period within this coming triennium to come up with any decision based upon the percentage factor that would have been imposed by the Committee of the University.

The Government of Trinidad was saying they would have "completed theirs and be ready by the end of this month. Only last week I was made to understand that they cannot get the assurance from their insurance companies and private companies in the area to support the loan portion for the students. The Government of Jamaica was saying that it was their intention to have completed their surveys and negotiations with private companies by April 4. .Alas, we know that circumstances last night will definitely have an impact on them because right now there will be elections in a couple of days in Jamaica and I do not foresee any culmination of that decision to meet the April 16 meeting.

Mr. Chairman, it was because of the uncertainties of the future of programmes at the University, the unknown of what contribution we would decide on at the end of the triennium and because we did not know what the total dollar requirement would be when right now this year we are in a position where they are asking for quite a bit more than we could offer, we thought that Erdiston would have been in a position to take over some of the tertiary training for this country, Barbados.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, just 2 Fridays ago I attended a function of the staff of Erdiston College at which point I gave the assurance that because of all the negotiations and the reports we had to look at that we did not foresee any closure of Erdiston College. Added to that, with the uncertainty of what would happen with the University, because I am convinced that the University of the West Indies will have to cut back some of their programmes because I do not foresee them getting all the funds and we will have to continue with our work, then today, Sir, as I said, I only received the report which was commissioned. Therefore, that is why there appears to be this uncertainty, as far as the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is concerned, about Erdiston College.

Mr. Chairman, let me say a few other things during my period here. In my earlier presentation I did mention...

*Aside.*

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I will say again that there are no plans for any teachers to be dismissed. The problem you may see in terms of figures under the Non-Statutory Emoluments if you will recall, as a Member of this Committee, we dealt with and I announced in here the appointment of teachers who were temporary but who are no# permanent. If they are now permanent they are under the statutory payment and not the non statutory payment.

Mr. Chairman, I will answer my neighbour, the Honourable Member for St. George South the next time around. I did not reach the question of the Community College and the Hospitality Institute. There are plans for a unit, the Hospitality Institute, with a grant coming from the EDF which will involve on-the-job training, a small hotel for training, to replace the unit we now have at Marine House. We all know there are problems with the structural building there. We will be working on this in a very short period.
Also, Mr. Chairman, I want to touch a bit on some of the queries asked by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and a few references by the Honourable Member for St. George South. In the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. George South, we have just established a school for Special Education, a new unit with 50 children at Ellerton, St. George. We had registration of 470



children under the Special Education Programme but we only had the capacity for 300. We established a unit in St. George to handle special education, just one of the requirements of the community, so that we do not ignore the students who have that particular requirement.

In the area of the curriculum, Mr. Chairman, much has been said. There have been many queries. The

whole curricula programme has undergone a serious expansion, maybe too much, in subject areas. There has been a focus on remedial education as raised by the Member for St. Andrew. 2.20 p.m.
Mr. Chairman, family life education as raised by the Member for St. Andrew has been introduced at 8 schools - St. Michael's, St. Lucy Secondary School, Garrison Secondary, St. Leonards Boys Secondary, Parkinson Secondary, Springer Memorial, Ellerslie Secondary, and St. George Secondary. There has also been the work experience programme, Mr. Chairman, whereby the students are given the on-going experience in selective business places. There is also the whole question of information technology. We have now reached the point, finally, after 7 years where all the secondary schools now have a network, which network has the capacity to built up to 64 terminals based upon the central system. They do not all now have ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Thank you, Sir. They do not all now have 64 terminals but the capacity and the capability is there. It will bring them into the whole world and bureau of technology. As we know, many of the students who are in those programmes are already gaining employment in the data entry business within this society.

Mr. Chairman, I have answered the Erdiston College and I will only in this contribution state that when I come back again I will have to develop further the area of the Barbados Community College, because there was a query by the Honourable Member for St. George South and the linkage of its training with the University of the West Indies and I will attempt to show how there is a natural tie in, in the study being done for Erdiston, as it relates *vis-a-vis* to the University and the uncertain future by the other territories. I am obliged, Sir.

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

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, the Minister spent a lot of time talking about Erdiston and teachers and the like but I want to raise the question of the institution, the buildings, the structures. There was a time when they used to take classes outside under the trees and conduct teaching. That was when, in most cases, there was insufficient room or the school was leaking or something was wrong. It seems to me that the Ministry will soon be adopting that policy once again because there are a number of schools that are crying out for repairs, and serious repairs at that, and I would hope that the Minister understands that this is a very important area which he must address.

During the last year we have had lots of complaints from several schools. Most of these complaints were reported in the news media and the reports which were made by an organisation representing the Parent Teachers Association did not spell well for education. It was established beyond any doubt that there was neglect as far as repairs to the schools was concerned. And that, more than anything else has been a problem to the parents. Parents went as far, in one case, as to go to the school and actually close it down. I want the Minister to understand that I am not happy with this situation neither is the public of Barbados. It all sprang from the fact that Government, in its maintenance programme, has. forgotten that it has a responsibility to have the schools in a proper state of repair. And I am saying this to you, it is so serious that the Government could get up one morning and find itself faced with a serious law suit, costing millions of dollars because of a building collapsing and causing injury to the children and the Ministry and the Government of Barbados will be in serious trouble. I am going to call on the Minister to ask for additional funds because there has been a reduction in the funds. Things were bad last year, yet you have come in here this year, and you are asking for fewer funds. I would only call this total madness. Whoever approved this cut could only have taken leave of their senses.

Something has got to be wrong. You are asking teachers, parents and children to go to school in unsafe buildings. Some buildings are badly in need of repairs. I am not going to cite those that have already been reported. *lam* going to tell the Minister at the Wilkie Cumberbatch School there is a need for termite treatment. Do you know what that means. I will tell you what it means. It means ...

*Asides.*

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: This is a serious matter because you have just undertaken some minor repairs with the help of the PTA and I want to go on record as congratulating them and all other parent teachers' associations that have been assisting in the repairs or raising funds for the repair of schools. Now I want to put that on the record. The Minister should get up and compliment them too.
But sometimes it is a little bit worse. You are repairing a building that is termite infested and in



some cases the material that you are using to do the repairs is not treated material. And you know what is happening, the termites are still there. They are still alive and they eat the material that was used as replacement. So there is another problem. It means that maintenance for next year could increase because you have not taken preventive measures. I am asking the Minister to understand what is meant by preventive measures or to ask somebody in the Ministry if he does not know. I do not understand this. How are you putting children in there? What are you teaching the children in school? You are teaching them in some cases, carpentry and what not, but you do not understand, children are not going to see the termites. Go to the Western side of the Wilkie Cumberbatch school and you will see what I am telling you. There is a nest there. There is a tree a couple of metres away and it comes right over and the termites are there. But you have just repaired the centre part of it. That is serious.
I am asking the officials of the Ministry who are listening to take note and insist that some of the money that is voted for this year is spent towards getting some treatment at that particular school. My constituents deserve better. Do not let me have to block up the area for it, because it is worst than the PTA. I have come to the Minister of Education and put my protest

That goes for the asbestos too. Do not treat it lightly. Quite a number of schools that were built in the fifties and the sixties have asbestos roofs. I am not going into which roofs. I know. I am in the business. Do not tackle me with this. I am saying that wherever there are asbestos roofs, studies have said that it poses a threat to health. For instance, people who have asthma, it affects them. People who live in the Housing Area in the Pineland and other areas have suffered and doctors have produced reports.

I am not one who will talk about taking off the roof at St. Leonards and so on. I am not going down that road. I have a little more common sense. What I want you to understand is that asbestos ... If you do not want to think about the schools, I want you to ask for the reports of the National Housing Corporation and other houses, not schools", that doctors have reported on the health of people, and Housing has at some time or other taken the appropriate action in moving the people or having the roofs ceiled. 2.30 p.m.

We think that it is a political football and the Government thinks that the Opposition is trying to score political mileage. I am going to tell you that even in residences people have been complaining and doctors have made reports. So take this subject as a serious one and wherever possible please treat this subject as a serious one and address it. That is what I am asking the Minister to do. But the Estimates do not reflect that you are serious about
that. There are schools that have broken down toilets and even at new schools we have problems. I am going to tell the Minister because there are some things you have to tell the technicians. The toilet bowls that are used from North America tend to break down more regularly. For God's sake, I am asking the Government to look at the sorts of materials that are used. Look at them and see some of the outlets. If you want proper ones, use Armitage or some other thing from Europe. I am telling you that. It is all right for the suppliers to say that you have to replace, but I want you to understand that you have to watch the repair cost

Sir, people will come and replace a toilet bowl or urinal but look at the quality. They do not stand up in most cases. The plumbing is faulty and it is time that we understand lots of money can be saved to keep a teacher or two or to pay people money. There are some rip-off contractors, too, who give you substandard work with substandard material. They dump it on the Ministry. I want your Ministry to be aware of that and do not treat this subject lightly because it poses danger to the children. A roof can collapse. Sometimes you go into a school and you see the roof suspended and ready to collapse. Are you asking teachers or the Chief Education Officer and your officials in the Ministry of Education to go into that school to endanger their lives? Start thinking seriously. Those people have a job to do and they have responsibilities and a family. I am only asking the Minister to pay some very serious attention to that. Get that done and I am satisfied.

The other question is that we are treating this too lightly. I have heard the report from the Head Teacher of Parkinson School in which she reported at the last Speech Day a couple of weeks ago tliat the school was broken into several times. I know that someone will get up in defence and say that you cannot control that. I will tell you what you can do. You can reduce it. Let me say this. There was a time at the Parkinson School prior to 1976 when the school was broken into very often and steps were taken by the then headmaster to have proper security. As a result, vandalism was reduced. The school was allowed to be used by community groups and that assisted in reducing the crime. I am going to say this. I want-the Minister once again to look at the policy of having the schools being used by community groups. Some schools are not being permitted to be used by responsible community groups. That can help a great deal in reducing it. One must not cut short the question of the security of the school. You have removed the watchman. Sometimes you do not see a watchman around the schools. You are trying to save money in one place and then people are causing damage. You are penny-wise and pound-foolish. I want the Minister to ask the people in the Ministry what is meant by that. When you see these cuts, understand exactly what you are doing. You are trying to save a few bucks in reducing the estimates but at the same time there are certain services


in certain areas that you do not cut. I want the Minister to understand that.
Sir, let me say this. You are duty bound at Estimates time to stand up and argue and put up a good case. I believe that if a Minister is worth his salt he will convince any Finance Minister at Estimates that what he wants should be moved into the Estimates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: On the question of the unions, I see a reduction in the subvention to these institutions. I only want to say one thing. I would have like to see Members who have the interest of the workers make a contribution on this. When the Barbados Labour Party was in power and it reduced the subvention, hell broke loose. Last year when the Estimates reflected an increase to these institutions there was all satisfaction and praise for the Government.

Sir, I want to hear during the course of this debate the voices of the unions or those who say they represent the unions what they have to say about the reduced vote in the magnitude of some $300,000.1 want them to speak on this because maybe it reflects on how the Government thinks about the unions. Last year they performed so poorly that they gave them what they were worth and they reduced the contribution. I only hope that these are things we need to look at. I hope the Minister will take the first point about the schools and the one about the reduction in subsidies for the trade unions and other related institutions.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the great difficulty the Honourable Minister would have had in persuading the Ministry of Finance to impress the Ministry of Education with any large sum of money having regard for the fact that the allocations over the last 2 prior years were extraordinarily high. As I understand it, in 1990-91 there was an allocation of $63.6 million in capital

and 1991-92 $18 million. Despite all of those vast sums of money, we still have the situation where this morning those of us who read our newspapers at breakfast were treated with a disgusting spectacle of a primary school being exposed to the public which is obviously an example of great neglect. The Minister should really have a full-scale departmental investigation into the that famous or infamous Building Department. If ever there is an area that one should have a value audit, it is in the Ministry of Education Building Department. They have enormous amount of money to spend and I personally believe that all of it has not been spent on the Ministry of Education's buildings. We should really have a full-scale value audit on that. 2.40 p.m.

The basic position is, Sir, the Minister has to satisfy, in addition to the Ministry of Finance, the whole public of Barbados that he is deserving of any major allocation on a capital basis, because we cannot understand how all of this money has been appropriated over the last 3 or 4 years and we are being treated to this example we have here this morning. My understanding is that that can be duplicated all over Barbados.

I remember not so long ago there was a problem in St. Philip at one of the schools there, Ebenezer, I believe. I know of the situation in the Christ Church area. I am not saying it is as bad as what we saw in the newspaper today, but we must look at our methods of dealing with this matter.
The other area I want to ask the Minister about is this. I well recall that when the Deighton Griffith School was being planned provision was made in the land acquisition for an area of land for a community playing field, particularly a football playing field. I well recall that a specific additional area of land was bought and my understanding from the architects at the time was that they were going to plan this playing field in such a way..*..

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I do not want to know that it is there, because people keep asking me about this. I went and I looked and I do not see any sign indicating...

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: ...I did not go at the time the Honourable Member would normally go. I cannot find any sign to indicate the community playing area. It is very serious, because I feel in some way responsible for it. I was one of those who had to take the decision to deprive the Gall Hill footballers of a very small playing field at the back of Montrose, where there used to be a tremendous amount of community fighting taking place, because of the .fact that when the boys were playing football it used to go over the palings of the people in the National Housing Corporation's houses. To stop this it was decided that that land would be used for the purpose of housing, but that it would-be replaced with a playing field and the opportunity came when this school was being planned.

I believe it was some 4 to 5 acres of land. I do not want it to be thought that at the time when the planning took place that consideration was not given to the fact that this school, of which all of us were proud, was going to have a full scale playing field, but this was additional to it. I would like it to be marked. I am not complaining, I am only trying to get the information, because the people in the Kingsland/Wotton area are very proud of the fact that the school has now been completed, that the school already has established for itself such a reputation that there



are people who are very willing to choose it as one of the primary choices. I am not complaining, but I want it marked so that everybody can know that at least we honoured our commitment. I never had any doubt that we would honour our commitment, I only want our successors to understand the commitment and to do everything to implement it.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to comment on 2 or 3 matters, the first of which has to do with the use of asbestos. I am very, very concerned about this. The Barbados Labour Party breathed a great sigh of relief some months back when it thought - mistakenly now it turns out - that the Government had yielded to public opinion and pressure coming from the Opposition to decide to close the St. Leonard's Schools. I want to make an appeal to the Government from this side today for the closure of the school at St. Leonard's.

In the interest of the public health and the welfare, particularly of the students of that school, and the welfare of all students, because it is not only the St. Leonard's School, but there clearly is a large problem there, that the Government should ban the importation of asbestos into this Island and to discontinue its further use, and the use of any existing supplies that are on the island today should be discontinued forthwith.

Mr. Chairman, the use of asbestos for construction purposes has been banned in many countries in the world.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member unnecessarily, but we are dealing in this section with projected expenditures. If we are dealing with the Heads as they are, then you may have to satisfy me where expenditure on asbestos is a matter under consideration.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Capital Works on primary and secondary schools in Barbados. There is a school building programme underway at this time. I want assurances that asbestos is not being used in any of that building. Asbestos was used recently in Barbados in a Government housing complex at Kensington Lodge. I can read out a whole list of Government buildings.

*Aside.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: This is not a partisan matter. It does not matter whether it was 10 years ago. I want that assurance coming from the Minister of Education, and in particular to do with the schools. My information, Sir, is that a quantity of asbestos is buried somewhere on the site at St. Leonard's and that loose sheets of asbestos left back after construction are to be found on more than one school premises in this island. This is information coming to me from a doctor of medicine and I want assurances.
I do not know what I would have to say to persuade us of how serious this is. In the United States of America, in Canada and in Europe the use of asbestos for construction purposes has been banned and is severely punished where it is found that people are...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I am saying to the Honourable Member is that I would like to be able to differentiate between the generalisations of a Second Reading speech and the specifics in the Committee stage.

Miss .B. A. MILLER: I am saying that I want assurances that asbestos is not going to be used in the future, that it is not now being used, that asbestos is not to be found on any school premises in a loose state, I want to be assured that in those schools under this Head... I do not know what more I have to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have no problem with your seeking that assurance, but I do not want you to develop a debate on the use of asbestos when it is not related to the expenditure which we are discussing.

Miss B. A. MILLER: With respect, Mr. Chairman, the carcinogenic potential of asbestos has been amply confirmed elsewhere in the world and it is a matter of urgency. I do not know that in Barbados anybody can persuade me that that is not so. I think it was very wrong in the recent past, during the last year, for persons associated with the Ministry of Education to suggest that the fibres could not be inhaled. Asbestos fibres may be inhaled, they may be ingested and they are associated with cancers of the bronchus, cancers of the colon, the stomach, the oesophagus, the rectum and the throat. I would want to make this a document of the House. Special Textbook of Medicine Vol. 1, 15th Edition, 1975. 2.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am apparently not coming through as clearly as I ought to come through. Is there any

matter under this Head relating to the expenditure of asbestos?
Miss B. A. MILLER: I do not know, Sir. That is what I am asking.
Mr CHAIRMAN: You said you wanted that assurance. I am not therefore in a position...

Miss B. A. MILLER: But I am asking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not in a position to permit you to go on to build on it

Miss B. A. MILLER: No, Sir. I am using this opportunity to invite the Government to ban the importation of asbestos into this country.

3224

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That should have been done in Second Reading, not under this Head

Miss B. A. MILLER: What is the difficulty, Mr. Chairman? I am going to raise it again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I am saying is that I will entertain at this stage or in committee matters under discussion for expenditure and that is what this Committee is all about. Any generalisation...

Miss B. A. MILLER: I do not know how more specific I can be, Mr. Chairman. I have identified one school. I can identify another. The Barbados Advocate of Monday, January 11, 1993, just 2 months ago...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All I am asking the Honourable Member is to identify where in these Estimates expenditures are intended on the purchase of asbestos for the period. You are therefore asking for an assurance that this is not so. I accept that but I am not going to permit you to build a speech around it.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I cannot ask for an assurance. I am asking something more than an assurance. I am asking for the banning of the use of asbestos and I have to lay a foundation for it. I have to give you my rationale why.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I am suggesting to the Honourable Member is that is a matter that should be dealt with in a Second Reading speech, if it is that important.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me deal with a specific school. There is a headline in the Barbados Advocate of January 11,1993. Today is the 10th of March. Just 2 months ago. The headline reads asbestos roofing causing concern at Half Moon Fort meaning Half Moon Fort Primary School in the parish of St. Lucy which has an asbestos roof and it is causing concern. In the same way it is causing concern to the Head of the school, it is causing concern to me and to Members on this side. If you want to quote the subprogram I will do it

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want you to quote the item under which expenditures will be made.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Under subprogram 01:623 there is provision required to affect repairs to buildings, driveways, yards, grounds etc. All I am saying is that I am appealing to the Government to make sure that asbestos is not used in any programme.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And that is accepted.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Where this item appears at the primary level, at the secondary level and at the tertiary level.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:* And that is accepted. Miss B. A. MILLER: Even with respect..

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hold it a minute. I have made the point repeatedly that I do not need the assistance of Honourable Members in making certain judgments. I am not going to accept Honourable Members shouting across the Floor to the Chair.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this is a matter of national importance. It also goes to subhead in these Estimates under Education which deal with the construction that is going on at the old Queen College site for the new headquarters of the Minister of Education. He does not want to be breathing asbestos. You will not be the Minister at the time but whoever is the Minister of Education whenever that Ministry gets a new Ministry headquarters would not want to run the risk of him or herself and the staff there breathing, inhaling and ingesting asbestos. It is all right for people. It does not matter who built the schools.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: On a point of order, Sir. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am not giving way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is on a point of order. I am afraid the Honourable Member will have to take a seat.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is giving false information to this Committee.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is misleading the Committee. The Honourable Member is giving information on asbestos that is contrary to the findings of the scientific community to a large degree. The National Institute of Safety and Health did a study for the Government of Barbados through PAHO and have reported on the asbestos used at St Leonards, the Hospital, Bulkeley and all the other places. They have given a clean bill of health to the St. Leonard's School for asbestos. The National Institute of Safety and Health in the United States of America.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister can declaim as much as he likes. If he has so much confidence in that report he will vacate the Ministry of Health and put his office there at St. Leonard's school and bring the St. Leonard's students to Jemmotts Lane.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will both Honourable Members take thqir seats?

3225

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Sir, on a point of order. *Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have asked both Honourable Members to take their seats. I am not going to permit the debate of this Committee to get out of hand. I have made what I will now consider a ruling that I am not going to entertain any further discussion under this Head on expenditures on asbestos. Any further discussion will just not enter the records.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My ruling is that I do not see anywhere in the Estimates where funds are required or asked for expenditures on asbestos. The Honourable Member said she wanted an assurance that there is no requirement for funds for the use of asbestos in the repairs to buildings.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what you are saying is that we cannot talk about repairs at all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No. I am not saying you cannot talk about repairs.

Miss B. A. MILLER: If funds are required to buy nails or paint, does that mean that you cannot ask to have a school painted?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think the Honourable Member understood me quite clearly as to reasons why I am not allowing...

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hold in my hand a report which says that asbestos fibres were found in the St. Leonard's school in Form 22, Room 10, in Form 15, Room 5, in Upper 5B, outdoors, under walkway roofs near Form 15, Room 5.1 could go on because there is a lot more including the meeting room above the administrative office. That is why I want to know if the Minister has so much confidence in this Report if he is prepared to go and work and live there.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I wish to confirm to the Honourable Member that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education currently have asbestos roofs and I work in one. Nobody, as the Honourable Member knows, dies from asbestos in Barbados. There is not a single solitary case in Barbados where anybody has died from the inhaling of asbestos. There has been no record of anybody being killed or died from asbestosis.

4

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have made my appeal and in another place in this debate I am going to raise again as a matter of urgent public importance. People have died in inordinate numbers from certain diseases.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order, please.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Another matter that I want to address has to do with questions raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. It has to do with the use of the playing field at the Deighton Griffith Secondary School. I was the one at the time who introduced the concept of a back to back playing field. They told me it could not happen. It first was tried at the Westbury Primary School where they were invited to build a pavilion which looks 2 ways, on the west side it could look on to a large playing field. That is what happened at Westbury Primary School. There was a gate and fence. Every evening whoever was the community team wanting to use the playing field would go to the Headmistress or a person designated by the Headmistress to hold the key to the fence that would give them access. The playing field also had washing facilities, toilet facilities and whatever else you would expect to be part and parcel of support facilities for a playing field. 3.00 p.m.

This was the expressed intention at the Deighton Griffith Secondary School at the specific and special request of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South at the time. The additional lands were acquired with that intention. If it is, I am not saying that it is, that there is some difficulty in the logistics, in somehow coordinating the use or access to the use of the playing field at the Deighton Griffith Secondary School, I would want to assure the authorities at that school that it can work. It has worked and is still working at the Westbury Primary School. It might be useful for them to have some speech with the authorities at that school about how it can be coordinated and organised.
It would take some discipline on the part of the community groups who want to have -access. They must understand that there are matters of security which have to be attended to and you just cannot leave the field open at large for people to come and go as they like, and that the use has to be organised. A particular team or group of teams would say they want it every Wednesday and Friday afternoon. They then must make application to the School Board or the school authorities, whether it is the Head or the Gamesmaster/Gamesmistress, or whoever. But the point is it can be made to work and it must be made to work.

While I am on this subject, Sir, do not let us stop at the playing field. We have made this call from this Chamber so many times about the use after school hours



of school plant. Something has to be wrong in a Third World country like ours where so much plants held by Government and owned by the people is closed down promptly at 3.00 o'clock. There are so many small colleges and institutes of one kind or another around this country which are offering an education service to people. They are preparing people for exams of one kind or another. They are preparing people for the work place. Part of their difficulty often is to find a suitable place where they can have their evening and night classes and then of course, the business of rent. Why is it that the island's schools could not be made available so that once it closed down for official school usage at 3 or 4 o'clock, from then on to say 10.00 o'clock at night...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member conclude in 2 minutes.

Miss B. A. MILLER: In the last 2 minutes, Sir, I want to address the matter of the structure at St. Thomas, alleged to be a new St. Thomas Secondary School. I have made this suggestion before and I will make it again. Barbados desperately needs a trade school as distinct from the Polytechnic. This Government has gone back to an old style. It is now ejecting 16 year olds from the schools.
When we came into Government in 1976 we found them putting out 14 year olds and they had to be put back into school. This Opposition Barbados Labour Party wants the 16 year olds back into the school system, but not just for the sake of having them warm a chair in a school. There is enough school plant. With the building of the Deighton Griffith Secondary School there is a seat for everybody who is of secondary school age in this country. A lot of those children who are being chucked on to the streets to join the ranks of the unemployed what they need is a trade school where it will not be a matter of choice. Education should be compulsory up to the age of 18 in this country. They should then be able to move from wherever they are in the school system in Barbados at the age of 14, 15 or wherever. That is a matter for the educators and the educationalists, not for us. I really believe the need for a trade school could be answered by whatever is going to be the building at St. Thomas.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Miss. B. A. MILLER: All St. Thomas is going to give you in the end is a surplus of secondary school places. I am saying that a more specific and a need which is yet unmet in this community can be answered in the form of a trade school at that location.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, page 60 of this year's Estimates shows that under Subprogramme 02:102 there is a reduction in proposed expenditure from $294 158 to $1 781 646. This is under the Subprogramme - Other Personal Emoluments. Based on my own subjective calculations this means a diminution in expenditure in the order per annum of $312 512 or working it out to a decrease on a monthly basis in excess of $26 000.1 am not satisfied in my mind that we have yet heard what really represents that decrease. Perchance it may be that this decrease could very wdl reflect an intention on the part of the particular Ministry to decrease overall expenditure not only up to $312 512 per annum but it could very well have implications for about 150 temporary people in the Ministry of Education. I would want the Honourable Minister of Education to clarify, for the benefit of this Honourable Committee, precisely why that reduction is there at Page 60, Sir.

In addition, Sir, I note at page 63 of our Estimates the Adult programme is reduced from $3 918 219 to $1 812 000. I want to ask the Honourable Minister a number of questions pertaining to Adult Education as a whole. I am not unaware that the last 2 years we have seen in this country a programme introduced by Government where schools are used on evenings for the benefit of permitting people to come to them to get a chance to qualify themselves in some areas of academic and technical importance. I want to ask the Honourable Minister what indications he has to date of the success of this programme? In other words, to

what extent has the Ministry of Education garnished information on feedback on this programme? How successful this programme has been to date? I take it that a number of young people who go to these schools in the evening after 4 o'clock are young people who may have been called on to pay fees at private institutions to do subjects with a view to qualifying at CXC, London, or GCE programmes. And I would want to know if the Ministry can tell this Honourable Committee what indications are, and whether the Government on a long-term basis proposes to continue the programme. In other words, I am really asking how successful the programme has been to date. 3.10 p.m.

I am also asking, on the general question of education, a number of questions of the Minister which will give me some comfort once they are answered accurately. It relates to the expenditure of sums of money on educational institutions, Sir. It is no doubt obvious to all who can see that millions upon millions upon millions of dollars have been spent on education in this country over the last 20 years or so. And we are seeing definite strong empirical evidence that notwithstanding the number of secondary schools, notwithstanding the quality of education, notwithstanding the commitment of teachers, we are alarmed, Sir, that in a situation where the country can be presumed to be educated, many of our young people, with a strong secondary education, are coming before the law courts and in some instances receiving sentences



for criminal offences in the order of 15 years, 20 years and 25 years and such like.
There used to be a time, Sir, in the history of this country, when proper secondary education was taken as a guide to proper edification of people. And I wonder to what extent can this country be called on to expend so many millions of dollars on young people many of whom are going astray.
Now I am not getting into the argument about what many other factors could be responsible for people going astray. But I am concerned that if the true worth of education is to bring out the youth, I am concerned if the true worth of education is to assist people to distinguish between right and wrong, I am concerned to what extent the taxpayers of this country want to know what these young people are making of their time, what we are really getting for this investment.

I believe the Honourable Member for St. George South, the Honourable Member for the City, and in fact all Honourable Members, would be very concerned about the philosophy of free secondary education where initially it was designed to help the poor and the under-privileged and where today it is highly probable that it is being taken for granted. Even though we can apportion blame to no one, if the free secondary education programme is being taken for granted, we still need to know, Sir, how many young people are leaving school at 16, 17 or 18 with a feeling of not fulfilled. With a feeling of being not satisfied. With a feeling of being not able to fit into the community properly.

So I am asking the Honourable Minister to what degree does the Ministry collect percentile figures on students in all secondary schools where these figures will show how many children get 5 or more subjects at CXC level or equivalent, how many children get less than 5 subjects.
I want further, Sir, to ask if comparative figures are being taken on the performance of children in Coleridge and Parry, Lodge, St. Michael's, Combermere, Harrison College, Queen's College, Foundation School and Alexandra School and Alleyne, compared with other secondary schools and what barometers are in evidence. Sir, the question then is: to what degree has the Ministry been able to ascertain what the level of performance is in schools like Coleridge and Parry, Lodge, St. Michael's, Combermere, Harrison College, Queen's College, the so-called older schools and to what degree the performance of children in the so-called newer secondary schools is comparable or acceptable or so recorded as to give the Ministry cause for comfort, Sir?

Because, Sir, again empirically, we are seeing a dangerous trend where a large number of people who get education in the so-called newer schools are more prone to come to the law courts on criminal charges than people in the older secondary schools even though a disturbing trend has developed where even in the older secondary schools that usually carry more prestige and are esteemed to be elitist they are also producing people ihto the criminal justice system.

I want to know, Sir, what are we to be able, to understand in this Committee, if the Minister and his Ministry can give us figures to suggest to us what return we are getting on our investment. Millions of dollars have been spent over the years on education and we do not want to confront a situation where so much money is being spent to educate young people and where a large number of them are either not benefiting from the system or when they leave the system they feel to be social rejects and such like. So I want to know to what extent the Ministry keeps figures, how many children in the older secondary schools get 5 or more certificates? How many children in the newer secondary schools get 5 or more certificates, and if perchance there is a marked dichotomy in performance between older and newer secondary schools what plans will the Minister have for redressing the problem in terms of strategies for remedial education where it is required.

I am not blaming school teachers in this country for the bad performance of children. I am not even going to blame parents, Sir. But what I am saying is that where a country requires its taxpayers to expend enormous sums on youths, we ought to be assured that these young people understand and appreciate what the taxpayers have provided for them so that the country as a whole can feel justified that the money allocated for education is really properly spent

As I conclude, Sir, I also want to know if the Ministry of Education has started working closely with the Probation Service and with the Courts with the view to seeing if juveniles in secondary schools are themselves coming to court during school time of course, Sir, for offences that they commit during periods when they should be in school. I am seeing too many little children on the streets between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. not being able to give a satisfactory account of their presence on the street, even though the school attendance officers have been trying. I fear that the country is crying out for young people to fit properly into the general society, to conform with properly established norms and not to waste the education which successive administrations in this country have always allowed them to benefit from.

So I am asking the Minister to indicate to the House the comparative performance of pupils in secondary schools and if he sees any trend to suggest that some are



doing worse than others what steps he plans to take to redress the problem, Sir. Grateful to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Minister may be anxious to reply but I have some matters that I will need to hear him on, Sir. I really wish to say that the standard of debate as led off by the shadow Minister on this side has been of a very high order and the various contributions which have been made to the debate should make the Government more knowledgeable about the changes that are necessary in education today and the thrust that should be taken in education.

My regret is that there is an overall tremendous cut and obviously the lack of change (meaning money) available for us to make the necessary changes that are called for in the educational plant today in Barbados.

I want to take one subject like computer education, Sir. There is no doubt that there is an urgent need for intensive training of teachers in the use of computers and also in computer literacy in the country. There is a token vote - no more than what I call a token vote - in the Estimates under Sub Head 06 of $400 000, the same as last year, but I am fully aware, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that in my own constituency at the new St. Matthias Primary School, although we have had some computers given and a few sent by the Ministry, that we have found it very difficult to continue to have a continuous programme of teacher training in the use of computers and in the ability of teachers to train children in computer literacy.

There are Universities in the United States today who specialise in this field. The Minister should be aware that one of the outstanding people who have achieved eminence in this field is a Barbadian who was recruited to go to China in order to institute the programme in China itself. I am strongly urging that we should see, under this Head, increasing emphasis being placed on making Barbadians computer literate and introducing computer skills fully into the school system.

As I said a pilot project was started in my constituency. I have had to help arrange for a pool of private individuals to fill in the slack when Government took away the sole teacher there who had the task of teaching computer education.

Another disincentive which is affecting the expansion and the growth of computer education in the country is the 20% stamp duty which we still keep on computers and computer software. Computers come in duty free but not free of stamp duty. Ask the Minister, he will tell him. Stamp duty is another tax. The software and other peripherals as well as computers suffer a 20 per cent tax. I am strongly asking that this be looked into if Barbados is to be able to do Business in an updated and competitive world. 3.20 p.m.

Barbados has always had the reputation that produces people with skills and we have been in the knowledge industry for many years. The problems that we are having in terms of over 25 per cent unemployment today means that we must once again begin to look at our people as being educated to go overseas to sell their knowledge. Because of this, I believe that education must take a new thrust and a new direction in many areas such as computer education.

Sir, I also want to deal with the use of audio visuals and the new information techniques in education. Today at U.W.I. and in most universities you can stay in your home and be taught. You do not have to be at the physical plant in order to receive the teaching. We have seen some of the use of the new technology in operations. People who are operating in the Queen Elizabeth Surgical Unit can be guided through that operation by persons doing similar things in the United States or elsewhere. In my view, it is about time that our schools are linked on a complete computer network in order to exchange information and in the process to use skilled people in teaching in the various disciplines that we have here in Barbados.

Sir, my concern on the Audio Visual Aids is that we are getting that a bit wrong. Even the things that we are using we are getting a bit wrong, Sir. I am concerned that the Minister should investigate where at least one person in that Department who should really be doing work at the Audio Visual Aids can be found with his own private company and another company shooting film and specialising in the video retail and wholesale business. That person drew at least $34 200 recently from CIS for doing private work for GIS. Some the work was done in Government's time. I intend, in due course, to summon before the Public Accounts Committee the GIS and the Ministry of Education's people in order to determine why this officer can carry on his private business during Government's time. He will be well known to the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, because he worked for them in the 25th Anniversary Church Service and he does various other jobs for them.

These matters get out, Sir. The person also has subsidiary stores and that sort of thing. We have so many conflicts of interest because you will also find people working at CBC who are doing public relations privately for the DLP during their work time. There are too many conflicts of interest. One of the reasons why the Audio Visual Aids is not achieving the real task that it should achieve is that some people are not giving the time they should give, Sir. I can talk about this because my father-in-law used to be in charge of the Audio Visual Aids so I know a little bit about it I am asking the Minister

to investigate. If he wants the name of the firm, I will give him the firm name under which they trade. He should find out why time is being used in those circumstances...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, if the Honourable Member will give way. Sir, I have a little difficulty because the Honourable Member who is speaking, Sir, is Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I take it that he is going to give the Committee information to the effect that as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee in full knowledge of this information that he is going to give us chapter and verse now on what is going to happen.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I can assure the Honourable Member for St. Michael West that I will be as assertive about this as I am about St Joseph Hospital and any role he and any other person in his Ministry may have played, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member has given way, Sir. I hope he will be eminently more successful with this one as he was with that one.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member must not judge my success by his failure to respond to my letter to send me the report. I can assure the Honourable Member in this one that there will be much more success in that respect, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Back to Head 34.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am really very concerned and I will ask the Minister to make sure that persons who are working in Departments such as this do not have genuine conflicts of interest.
The other area that I want to direct some attention to, Sir, is the area of special schools. Once again, we are getting a vote of about $140 000 under this Head being given to 2 schools, the Challenor School and the Learning Centre. I am conscious of the fact, Sir, that there are some children with learning disabilities who go to a few of the private Government schools. This is outside of the School for the Deaf. I think there is some training for the disabled at the Charles F. Broome School, Erdiston Annex and the School for the Deaf. There is at least a greater need for the expansion of training facilities for those who are handicapped in our society. People do not recognise that at least 3 per cent of our population are suffering from some form of mental disability. This is the Month of the Disabled and we must not throw them aside. Of that 3 per cent, 75 per cent of these can be classified as mildly educable. They are capable of being educated in this way. 3.30 p.m.

I find that we as a community, not on a voluntary basis now, on the governmental basis we are not doing enough in order to recognise the large number of persons in our community who have a special type of ability but are not educable in the broader sense that the normal person is. Such children are exceptional children. They exceed in various fields, some of them in the arts, and I believe that we have a greater duty, b6th at the community level and at the level of the State, to assist them and make sure that they are protected. There is some money under Children's Development Centre, but there is very little being given here and I am afraid that in the Ministry of Education there probably is the thought that you have to concentrate on the normal and that the subnormal, or even the highly skilled, the geniuses as they say, are people who are oddities. I hope that that concept will be removed from the educational system.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The final subject I will address in the 2 minutes available to me, Mr. Chairman, is the whole area of vocational training. I believe we are still taking vocational training in Barbados in a very academic manner. I know that at secondary schools there is sometimes a loathing on the part of people to believe that the secondary school child should dirty his hands in the soil, should go into learning about plumbing, should be steel benders and what not, and this is manifested in the way in which we treat, by way of reward and otherwise, those persons in our society who are not academics but who have the ability as craftsmen and people of skill.

The same attitude is manifested towards the teachers who teach the subject At some schools they are looked down on and are not highly regarded as the person who is the academic, or the person who becomes the lawyer, the doctor, *et cetera.* I believe that this is wrong. I believe that this is an area in which Erdiston can make a contribution and indulge in this particular field of teacher training. I join with every word the Honourable Members for St. Andrew and St. George South have spoken about the necessity to keep Erdiston as a very important area of teacher training and reorient its direction and its role, because it has a tremendous contribution to make.

We are short here of opportunities for vocational training. It is a fact that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is getting over 5 000 to 6 000 applications a year for places and cannot answer the need. In those circumstances I am asking the Government in its negotiations with international institutions to place greater emphasis on obtaining the resources, both physical and human, for improving the level of vocational training within our community.

3230

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I have to respond to several Honourable Members and I will start with the last speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, first.
I will deal first with the question of training of teachers and the utilisation of Erdiston and other areas in the general area of teachers. He was being more specific dealing in the area of computers. He may not be familiar with the technical jargon, but at the same Erdiston College of which we hear so much today teachers across the system have been trained with their own HAZE modem at home to access the bulletin board - the technology may be a little too high - at Erdiston College and to do their work at home. As a matter of fact, I presented certificates to them and I am a founder member of the Association.

Mr. Chairman, I never thought in the history of Barbados in here that I would find myself being lectured about computers and computer training, when only 7 years ago just about 3/4 of the country was against me for the introduction of computers into the school system. I have lectured throughout North America and Europe over the years from about 1961. Honourable Members over there are aware of that, so I cannot allow anyone to come in here now and give me a lecture on computers and training.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. I remember when the Honourable Member worked with Mr. Ross Perot. That was his claim to fame. He really wants me to put it into the record for him, but he must not misrepresent the position over here, because I believe that 2 of the former Ministers of Education on this side - the Honourable Member for St. George South and the Honourable Member for the City - had both recognised very early the need for computers and introduced the programme, as the Honourable Member would know.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: My point of order, Sir, is that we are not lecturing the Honourable Member, we are trying to encourage the Honourable Member's colleagues to accept his advice.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member also spoke about visual aids. He can provide me with a name, because I am not aware of any such activity. Also, the Honourable Member obviously was not in his seat at the time when I spoke about the additional section for special education we have opened in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. George South and to which we have sent 50 children.

In the area of vocational training, again the Honourable Member was not in his seat when I spoke about the better utilisation and the association within the reform structure to link the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic with more technical education, hopefully within the reform system.
The Honourable Member for St. James North, who is not now in his seat, raised the question of probationary service. I should like to say to him that this is working, and indeed not only the school

attendance officers but only this morning on my way here, at about a quarter to 10.00, I saw policemen stopping some children right outside Queen's Park, querying why they were not in school, so the policemen have to be complimented as well for trying to assist us in this particular function. We need all the assistance we can get.

The Honourable Member for St. James North also asked about the reduction in the non-statutory figure. The reduction in that figure has to do with the fact that where we were before paying primary school teachers from the non-statutory vote, there were 124 teachers who were appointed in the last financial year, who would now appear under the statutory emoluments as opposed to the non-statutory. In the case of secondary teachers, there were 68 who appeared under the non-statutory column who will now be paid under the statutory column.

*Asides.*

Hon. C. V. WALKER: If you say the figures are wrong, I am not defending S or 4 turning out to be 7 or anything like that.

The Honourable Member also asked about the analysis of the CXC results. That is done every year. In fact, I will make it a document of the House or available to the Honourable Member for St. James North page 35 of the last analysis done by the Ministry, school by school, the number sitting, the number of certificates achieved. I even have further details on it which I can make available to him, but I do not want to delay this Committee.

The Honourable Member for Bridgetown said we should close St. Leonard's. No comment. She said to close St. Leonard's School, and I have no comment on that. A second area which she dealt with was asbestos. I am not going to deal with that. The other area she dealt with had to do with the use of schools by the community and I think what was interesting was that, following her comments, the Member for St. James North went on to talk about the utilisation of schools by members of the community. Therefore, in my estimation, the Member for St. James North answered that by stating that it is in fact occurring. 3.40 p.m.

The Member for Christ Church South first asked about the size of the dollar figure within a specific time frame. One must remember that within that time frame was the building of the same Deighton Griffith School,



Queen's College, Springer Memorial School and 10 primary schools. Therefore, that would be much more than what you may look at now. The fact is that if things are tight and we have no dollars, as I mentioned earlier this morning, we cannot do all the things that we would love to do.

The Member for the City mentioned the playing field, and I will double check because it has come up before in terms of access. The pavilion is in fact built as a dual pavilion so if there is some question of access I will have that checked out.
The Member for St. Michael South East asked about Wilkie Cumberbatch. I will have to do some checking on it. I give the assurance that we will. The Member for St. Michael South East also raised the question about some schools not allowing the community to make use.... Again, we had a contrary view from the Member for St. James North, but I understand there is a problem from time to time with individuals as opposed to a policy.

Concerning the last question about grants to the Unions, if we are cutting on maintenance, as was suggested, then we will cut on everybody.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I have been drawn into this debate in 2 ways. First of all the Honourable Member for St. James North put up a very interesting but strange commentary about the results of the secondary school system in Barbados. I am very concerned that he appears to be saying that the criminal element in Barbados is coming primarily from the newer secondary schools. That is what I heard.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: ... such criminals as had secondary education are coming mostly from the newer secondary schools. I wish to say that that is not true. It cannot be true. It is a dangerous theory.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is not in his seat, but I never understood him to say that. What he said is that among the people who have come before the Courts and received sentences of 20 years have been people coming out of the secondary school system. That is what he said. With respect, the Honourable Member is putting his gloss on what to me was a clear statement.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is a distinguished Q.C. and he might distinguish any Statement he hears. I am telling you that that is an impression which I gained and I have no doubt that other persons who heard what was said could have gained that impression, dangerous.

If even remotely that is suggested, it is

Mr. Chairman, by definition the system that we have had from time immemorial in this country is weighted in favour of those so-called older secondary schools. It stands to reason, therefore, that if you have a relatively small number of people in those schools and the rest of the school population is in the newer secondary schools, without more, the numbers going to do anything should show up with more coming from the newer secondary schools than from the older. So there will be more, no matter what the activity.

To focus on who is going before the Courts, it may very well be that the kinds of crimes committed by the other people are not the ones that are constantly going before the Courts. I am very well concerned about that kind of philosophy emanating from a man who is relatively young.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I am not going to let the Honourable Member misrepresent the speech of the Honourable Member who at present is within the precincts of the House but not within the Chamber. He never suggested in any way anything that was attacking the newer secondary schools. As a matter of fact, one of the persons to whom he would have referred came from one of the older secondary schools. The Honourable Member is wrong to try to put that twist to the speech. It was not made in that way.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, that is what I heard.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: So my perception does not come from what I hear? Sir, I heard him say and furthermore he went on in pursuit of his thesis to suggest that there should be a study. He asked the Minister if there are comparative statistics - he used the term percentile. I listened very carefully because I was struck by the strangeness of the query he was raising and the innuendo, intended or otherwise. I presume him to be a Member of Parliament and therefore what he says is what he intends to say.

I am only saying, Sir, that we have to be extremely careful how...

*Asides.*

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

3232

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that he wanted the Minister at some point to produce information which he must know is available anyhow as a public record. He can do his homework and get the information as to how many people got 5 "O" Levels from the newer secondary schools and how many did not. Sir, I have always contended, and I maintain, that a person who goes to a newer secondary school like St. Leonards's who gets 4 "O" Levels has probably done better than a person who goes to one of the older secondary schools and gets 6.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Precisely. I am surprised that I have to be discussing that. Discovering who got 5 "O" Levels and who got more than 5 will prove nothing because it is a question of what opportunity is available and how long it was available. More particularly, both Governments in the past have been trying manfully, if you will pardon the expression, to see if they can remove this kind of dichotomous approach to education. They have been seeking to make the secondary schools equal - and I think it is fair to say that all the Ministers of Education to date have been trying their best to see if they can get some kind of equalisation upwards. I am prepared to say that the Honourable Member for St. George South was a good Minister of Education. As a matter of fact, we have hardly had any bad Ministers of Education although there is one who fought very hard to get into that category! 3.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, seriously, I do not understand any suggestion implied or otherwise, which seeks to continue a strange concept about...

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the point I want to make is that the Honourable Member for the City also called for the closing down of the St. Leonard's Schools. Now, Sir, my concern is not that call because anybody is able to call for anything. My concern is that there is a constant focussing on these schools in a negative way. The deleterious effects on the children who go to these schools is not taken into account by many of the commentators. I am surprised that someone who has functioned at the level of Minister would allow such an effusion to fall from- her lips with such ease, calling for the closing down of 2 schools and using what I consider to be a specious argument to back her call. Those 2 schools, both 40 years old, have produced some of the most eminent citizens in this country. They have been upgraded over the years. The 2 schools referred to suffer from overcrowding. That is all that is wrong with them. The Honourable Member when she was Minister would remember that as representative for that area I came into this Committee and raised a series of alarms about the pressures which those schools were suffering. The Honourable Member herself is on record in here discussing the upgrading which came with the creation of the Science block.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: They only wanted cleaning. That is all that was wrong. I know you do not hear asides, Sir, but a voice said they only wanted cleaning. The Honourable Member whose voice it might have been, is correct. The Schools wanted cleaning and they wanted commercial cleaning. I have said it before. There are a number of schools and public buildings that require a different approach in the

concept of cleaning from the old-time way of having 3 maids passing with a dirty mop. We cannot clean commercial buildings like that; so we have to discuss it.
Sir, to talk about closing down 2 schools because they had a problem of which we had expert advice which confirmed that there were no congenital or any combination of factors so far known to man that could have created the issue! Yet we have an Honourable Member coming in here and creating an issue, helping to exacerbate a situation where people are under pressure. Those children and their parents who have not been as fortunate as some of the Honourable Members over there are under continuous pressure and the Honourable Member for the City comes in here talking about closing down 2 schools.

The facility with which we closed down Queen's College and the new school created is symptomatic of the methodological approach that has permeated this country from time immemorial.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: There is not a single solitary pressure that was brought to bear on a single solitary pupil except that we were going to be interfering with the tradition. Now they are all settled peacefully and happily in their new pastoral clime. But the pressure of having 1 400 children jammed together in a space that is not even as big as a football field...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is why the St. Thomas School was to be opened and the same Honourable Member now comes talking about an antediluvian concept, about a trade school.

*Aside.*

3233

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is not open because we do not have the money.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member as usual allows his enthusiasm and his voice to run away with him. It makes no sense. The St. Thomas School has not been finished. It has been closed down. No work was done with it It cannot be occupied. It cannot even be opened. The Honourable Member has not even read his Head of the Estimates and in the Cabinet he obviously does not know what is happening.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That point is made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No comment is going to bother me, Sir.

*Certain remarks made by Hon. B. M. TAITT were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the records.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I'll be back, Sir.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I want to travel to Cave Hill. Before I go there I want to correct one or two misstatements made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. In his usual style he made a number of wild statements that were...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Certainly you are not going to accuse the Honourable Member of making wild

statements.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Yes. I am accusing him of "wild".... What is wrong in saying he is making wild statements? I am now going to show what statements are wild, Sir. I am not making any pejorative comments about him.

*Certain remarks made by Mr. L. R. TULL were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the records."*

Mr. L. R. TULL: I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, what is wrong with the word "pejorative". What is wrong in saying the Honourable Member made pejorative comments? The next thing I will be hearing is that I cannot say he made critical comments.
I will go to the University, Sir, and then return to the comments made by the Honourable Member. 4.00 p.m.

Nothing has been said so far about the University but the Estimates reflect that there has been a cut in the Estimates for the University. Now there is a figure of $22
million and a $13 million that seems to reflect arrears. In 1991/92 there was a cut in the University vote.
The Principal of the University at Cave Hill reported to the Campus Committee that the Government of Barbados had intimated that he was giving the University only $22 million to spend for the year 1991/92. And it caused a great deal of panic at the University because it represented a 35% cut in the subvention to the University. When the panic set in there was a meeting of the Campus Grants Committee of which the Minister of Education is the Chairman and a number of programmes had to be cut or abridged in some manner.

Now I heard the Minister of Education today say that there will be further abridging of programmes at the University and I want to issue a word of caution because the Minister knows what is going on and at times says he is going to speak his mind and at other times he does not do so. This situation at the University, Sir, is a very dangerous one. All indications are that a number of programmes will be cut again this year and there will again be a problem with WIGUT and also the B WU who are the people who look after the non-teaching staff because there are a number of positions that must of necessity be cut as a result of the vote to the University.

They were asked to cut by 35% last year, Sir. They managed, I understand, to carry out a cut of 19% and the $13 million that is being voted this year, I understand also, represents the difference between the 19% and the 35%. So a substantial part of this money being voted is for paying off money from the last financial year.

So we have a situation wuere University education at Cave Hill is being seriously compromised and indeed the whole university system is being affected because of the Government's inability or reluctance or both to honour the commitments that they have entered with the University of the West Indies.

The University has never been short paid when the Barbados Labour Party was the Government of this country. We were never in arrears. It is a phenomenon that has come about with the Democratic Labour Party as Government and it is causing a lot of problems at Cave Hill with the staff. Those members of staff who are not on tenure are worried about their position. We also have a number of people who are in programmes, who are worried about whether these programmes will come to their conclusion because of the anticipated crunch.

Now, earlier the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in dealing with the situation in the Ministry of Education called for a value audit in the maintenance or the building section of the

support that for obvious reasons but I want to point out that these maintenance or building departments seem to be very fertile departments for all kinds of weird things taking place. And the Honourable Minister will well recall, since he says he is the Chairman of the Grants Committee, that when CIDA was considering whether it should fund the University Center Project that it called as a precondition that there be a management audit of the maintenance department at Cave Hill.

It is also a fact that what was going on in the maintenance department smelt like roses compared to what has been going on in the building section of the Ministry of Education. So, I support the call for an investigation into that department.

I also want to mention, Mr. Chairman, the School Meals Department and the Text Book Loan Scheme. There has been a cut in the textbook loan scheme - $50 000. A number of children who are in secondary schools were required by the secondary schools to pay a deposit on the text book loan scheme before the start of the academic year in September. A lot of them were told that they could not come back to school in September unless that money was paid. I hope the Minister is aware of this because if I am wrong stop me. A lot of them were told that they could not come back to school unless they paid the deposit. I would not even repeat that. It affected, for a while, Mr. Chairman, the attendance of a number of people of low income groups at the beginning of the last academic year. It is a little frightening that there should be an increase in the deposit of the textbook loan scheme at this particular period of difficulty in Barbados when the only people who are going to be hurt are those at the bottom and only $50 000 seems to have made the difference between their comfort and the use of the books that they would require for their studies.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation here because I think the Honourable Member probably missed that point either during this session or maybe at some other time. But you will recall, Mr. Chairman, the point was made in some discussion and I said that the money will be directly allocated to the secondary schools for the books, and this is the second year. They now purchase their books rather than the Ministry. These dollars are for the private secondary schools. Thank you. 4.10 p.m.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I understand what the Honourable Member is saying. I want to deal with the School Meals Department next. I see that there is a projected revenue of $625 000 for the School Meals Department. I understand that this will be the money contributed by the children in the primary schools for their meals. The School Meals Department will spend over $15 million in this coming financial year. I really cannot understand, Mr. Chairman, how the Government could re-introduce payment for school meals in a $15 million programme with a mere revenue of $625 000 when a considerable part of that $625 000 must of necessity be spent on the collection. I understand there are accounting aides and people who collect money and so on. A lot of the revenue goes towards paying new people to collect the money. •
Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the Government has declared war on the poor people of this country. The returns are so negligible in the overall context of either the education budget or the national budget that this could only be a deliberate policy on the part of the Government to inflict unnecessary pain on those who can least afford to bear the pain in this society. A matter of utmost trivia! It reminds me of the days when the Barbados Labour Party came into Government and abolished the donkey cart tax and the bicycle tax because it cost more money to make the licences and to collect them than the revenue that came in from the people who paid bicycle and donkey cart taxes. We are in a position today where we are treating some children all across this country in much the same way'as those donkey cart people were treated in those days. I am going to be dealing under the Ministry of Health on this whole asbestos thing...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In just one minute.

Mr. L. R. TULL: ...which you do not want us to deal with now, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In just one minute.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I heard you, Sir. In respect to the St. Leonard's School, I agree with the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown. We cannot continue with the situation as it is. The report that was commissioned by the Ministry of Health from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which was submitted to the Ministry, pointed out that there were problems with the level of asbestos particles in the air at the St. Leonard's School and recommended that there be a thorough wet cleaning of the School once a week.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time has expired.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I had proposed to make just one intervention but, for the record and to clarify a number of matters, I want to come back at this point, Sir. Because when the Honourable Minister of Education responded to my last contribution, he did indicate to this Honourable Committee that the Ministry of Education is always seized of the individual performances of schools in respect of 5th form students who do CXC and related exams. The thrust of the series of questions that



I put to the Minister, Sir, was not so much concerned in whether the Ministry has records of the performance of students in each school, but whether if the Ministry is aware of the fact that in the minds of Barbadians there is a dichotomy between the so-called older secondary schools and the newer secondary schools and keeps record on a comparative basis.

Sir, I was making the point that when the Minister responded, even though he was not physically in his seat, I understood the Minister to be saying that the Ministry of Education always keeps records in terms of analysis of the exam performances of students in each school. But I was asking the Minister to encourage his Ministry, bearing in mind the type of dichotomy that the society has decided to impose on th& various secondary schools, to indicate to what extent certain schools may very well be...

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

Hon. C. V. WALKER: On a point of order, Sir. I was just trying to point out because he was not in his seat and I said that total analysis was done and that I had an example of the analysis here. But I give you the assurance that an analysis means a categorical analysis across all ranges and the structures within the beam.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Taking into consideration the assurance that the Minister is giving, I would want the Minister to give things like age group breakdowns, gender breakdowns -1 am afraid of saying sex, Sir, because of the presence of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West - and proper figures so that Members of this Honourable House can be.able to benefit from the records which the Ministry gathers on people sitting public exams. I was informed that while I was not in my seat the Honourable Member for St. Michael West was not only in his chair but was on his feet, Sir. I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West thought that I had been making a suggestion that our educational system is producing a number of criminals coming from a certain place. I never said so, Sir. What I sought to say, Mr. Chairman, is that in view of the fact that the society expects secondary education to bring out the best in students and in view of the fact that education is supposed to bring out the best in students - and I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was coming to my rescue in my absence -we are perturbed that in a society like Barbados which has generally speaking, Sir, had the benefit of an excellent educational system where in the Law Courts not only are large numbers of people with 3 and 4 certificates being jailed for criminal offences.

There are instances, Sir, not only in the Law Courts where a large number of people who get secondary education are manifesting shortcomings of ability. The Honourable Member for St George South will tell you that there are times when some children who are in 4th form come before the Law Courts and cannot read the oath. There are times when people who have 4 certificates ask you to write an application letter. Sir, as I was saying that in view* of the fact that the educational system should bring out the best in

students, I was disturbed like all other Members on this side that our secondary system is seeing far too many of its graduates becoming people bent on criminal activities. Perhaps it is the unemployment situation. Perhaps it is the administration of this Government, Sir. But I am disturbed to think that in a situation where the society has over the years always expected more of people in whom large amounts of taxpayer's money have been invested that we would want more, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West gave the impression that I was categorizing students in terms of those privileged and under-privileged and that I was trying to make a case that the under-privileged from the so-called newer secondary schools were the most avid criminals in the society whereas those from other schools were not. Indeed, in my last intervention, I indicated that I was perturbed that people from Lodge School and Harrison College have been coming in recent times before the Law Courts for criminal offences.

The point I am trying to make, Sir, is that generally speaking if a student gets a secondary education and is intellectually fulfilled, gets qualified and sees himself as having a role in his community, it is highly improbable that such a secondary student would become a criminal or become involved in crime. I just wanted to clarify that for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West whom I know cannot sit down for a whole day when the debate is going on unless his restlessness impels him to jump on his feet even at the risk of being a little bit ridiculous, Sir. I am sorry, Sir, that a senior Member of Parliament can try to take advantage of a so-called neophyte or so-called junior in circumstances clearly when he was not aided and abetted by his colleagues and in circumstances where the record will reveal to be otherwise than a speaker of the truth, Sir. 4.20 p.m.

Finally, Sir, this is without reference to the fact that the last person I spoke to before I came to this Honourable House today was the daughter of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, who has never concealed her affections for me. But, Sir, as I conclude, I believe the question of educational technology, teaching aids, would have been raised.

I am not going to cast any aspersions on the Honourable Minister nor the Ministry, I am not going to make any pejorative comments about any of the



affairs within Audio Visual Aids, but except for the Honourable Member for St. John most Honourable Members in this House would have been brought up in Barbados in an era before TV, before video and in an era when reading was very much encouraged. As I applied my attention to what I am about to say, there is a lot of evidence coming out of the school system that a large number of children in this current era are showing themselves capable of managing the sciences and maths, and in a situation in which reading has declined the Ministry of Education will have to think of stratagems by which it lures children back to the humanities.

What I am saying, Sir, is this. Even though education for the marketplace is an acceptable solution, at the same time education for the entire being should be pursued. I am disturbed that where we have a lot of impressionable youth being lured to TV, to video, to Nintendo and where reading has declined, the Ministry of Education now has to find itself capable of meeting its challenge to induce the youth, where they are not reading enough, back to the humanities, not merely because the youth are supposed to find their way in the world of work, but because you want to build proper, decent, well-rounded, well-educated youth who would veer clear of the law courts.

I therefore ask the Minister of Education to assure this Honourable House that for the future teaching strategies, teaching management, teaching technology be allowed to take into account the reality of Barbadian life. We are living in an instant age where a lot of Barbadians, and the youth in particular, expect instant solutions and instant results. I am asking the Minister to be cognisant of the fact that we need to get the youth of Barbados, who are very much overcome by alien and foreign cultures, to become Barbadian in their ways. The only way we are going to get Barbadian youth back to the real Barbadian thing, the real honest-to-goodness Barbadian, like the Member for St. Philip South, or even the Member for St. Michael West, who understands poetry, who understands the need to be able to

debate, who understands the need to be able to communicate, I am asking the Honourable Minister to guide those senior people in his Ministry to embark on policies that would redress the imbalance. It is a severe imbalance, because if you look at the amount of Barbados Scholarships and which students read what areas, you will see the imbalance.

This party once made available to the country a grant of $10 000 to that student who did well in the arts and I want us to redress this imbalance where our youth will be encouraged to come back to the humanities, because ultimately the humanities will make men good, respect each other, be able to talk, to write poetry, even able to appreciate and tolerate an Opposition and to tolerate people of the ilk of the Member for St. Michael West.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that we have to get on with this debate. There are just 3 questions I would like to ask the Minister which were not dealt with earlier or by any of the Members on this side.

The first one relates to secondary education. We dealt with repairs relative to Primary, but there is no allocation in the Estimates for repairs and maintenance. I recall that last year when the Honourable Minister spoke under this Head he said that maintenance at schools was a problem and, in his own words, he said it is compounded by vandalism and stray people coming into the schools after hours. I would like to know how the Minister proposes to deal with maintenance this year, especially seeing there are a lot of cases of vandalism, missing school windows, *el cetera*.

On page 62, Grants to Public Institutions, we note that there is a grant of $7.8 million to the Barbados Community College. The amount for last year was also $7.8 million and we are given back the 8%. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister how he proposes'to deal with the additional expenses, and if there are any cuts as well at the Barbados Community College. This is an area of concern, because I understand there will be the introduction of a new course, a department of democratic studies. Maybe he could let us know if this is true. I understand that Members who are very close to that side will be involved in this new department. Maybe he could tell us whether or not there will be a department of democratic studies at the Community College.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, page 63. We note that the only thing that has been increased under this Head relates to subsidies and the transport of pupils, from $2 million to $2.4 million. I can only speculate that we can anticipate an increase in bus fares and I would like him to confirm what is the purpose of this increase.

* With those few questions, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go on, but I understand we would like to get on with the debate. I thank you.

*On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAJTT, seconded by Hon. C. V. WALKER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for 20 minutes, until 5 minutes to 5.00.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that.



*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the*

*sitting accordingly.* 4.30 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply to that it shall revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (RESUMED)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

Hon. C V. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, just to wind up. But before I do I would like to respond to the last speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James North who was not asking me as many question as he was trying to get some point across to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West about his daughter. I could not quite understand what the significance of that question was but I would expect that from him because he too brings messages to me from his old man since his father sat next to me at school. I am proud of him as a youngster now to be here with us.

The Honourable Member for St. Andrew asked 3 questions on repairs and maintenance. That is obvious, if there are in some instances no dollars or less if in the total picture there are less dollars, if in the whole there are less of the part, they must be less or none. That does not necessarily mean that one agrees that if any emergency comes up that we will not have to find dollars somewhere because the health and the operation of the schools are very important.

However, bearing in mind that there is a total grant to x number of secondary schools, part of the discussion which we held in here was also that any revenue they may have coming from the book scheme and others can ^Iso be utilised when there is an emergency.

Secondly, the grants to the Barbados Community College. They are now charging fees for certain things and we are hoping they can try their best and offset some of their costs and the fee recovery. Transport of pupils. The Ministry of Education does not deal with the increase in bus fares. The increased fares really has to do with paying off debts but we too owe the Transport Board for transportation of pupils over the years. Unfortunately, we get a bill and the methodology is such that we just get a bill and all the previous Ministers over there will know that from the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation that X number of children have been transported. In all the efforts tried to get identification of numbers and what have you to get the numbers of those who have taken rides on buses they claim that they have come to a number so they send a number.

*Asides.*

Hon. C. V. WALKER: We have to put them because the arrears are still going to come. Let us not get into the billing systems.

My neighbour and Honourable Member for St. George South said he believed that I am spinning a *top* when it comes to reform in terms of education. I certainly hope that by now, I at this stage and Honourable Members know I believe that we in Barbados those of us and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South too who is not in his seat we go back a long while. Those of us who have the pleasure to serve in here and especially those who have had the pleasure to serve as Ministers of Education, those of us who have served and invariably who have been teachers at some time or the other who clearly understand the pitfalls and all the requirements that are made from time to time and will always be made in my view on the educational system in Barbados and there will be no political divide in terms of what is required of the educational system. I would hope that members of the public if and when we get around to holding fora on any reform would come out and express their views and

share so that we come up with a common view of education in Barbados.
With that, Sir, I am much obliged to you.

*The question that the sum of $116 971 850 under Head 34 - Ministry of Education - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

## HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - $9 833 849

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9 833 849 under Head 35 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Hon. M. A. KING: In moving that Head 35 stand part I wish to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of this House some of the misguided statements and comments which from time to time are made about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Barbados' foreign policy.
There have been comments in the Press raising questions about Barbados' foreign policy and only as recently as last month, on February 11, there was



an editorial in the Barbados Advocate which raised a lot of questions about Barbados' foreign policy and when we in the Ministry took the trouble to provide full response to the questions which had been raised then a botched presentation of the reply which we gave was published.

One of the things, for instance, that they commented on in the editorial was the fact that foreign policy issues, are never debated in Parliament and went on to make the comment that before the change of Government in 1985-86 a debate was instituted in the Senate but was never completed, thereby giving the impression that the election put paid to the debate. The fact was, Mr. Chairman, that that debate took place after the 1986 Election and was a result of a publication which had been made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entitled Diplomacy and Development: A Review of the Foreign Policy of Barbados. This is a publication which was laid in the Senate and which constitutes a very comprehensive review of the country's foreign policy since 1966 and contains a wealth of information which is relevant. The Resolution moved in the Senate was initiated by Senator Wickham in April 1987.

The point I wish to make, Mr. Chairman, is that the editorial itself raised a whole lot of questions which are issues which the public wants to know about. 5.05 p.m.

Then when the full reply is given to the question they raise all they can do is publish a very garbled version of the response which was made with the headline "Foreign Service costing over $30 million". That is all they can find to speak about

One of the questions which the editorial raised was what is the country's foreign policy and in formulating the country's foreign policy what are the main considerations which are taken into account. Now, if the "Advocate" editorial writer says that the people of Barbados do not know what that is all about and these issues are not debated in Parliament, for the benefit of the Honourable Members because the "Advocate" is saying that all Honourable Members in here are ignorant of what the position is, and the country at large, I think one ought to know that the goal of all Barbados' foreign policy is to protect and promote the national interest of tins' country abroad. The main considerations which the Ministry takes into account in so doing are, of course, issues like negotiations, preserving and protecting the national sovereignty and security of our country, promoting the economic interest of Barbados including trade, investment, tourism and financial services because these are the main planks of our development effort at this time.

We are also concerned about promoting regional integration and cooperation as an instrument of economic

development and self-reliance in a positive way reinforcing national and cultural identity and promoting regional integration and cooperation as a tool for the more effective international bargaining on issues which are important to us as a nation. We are also concerned, of course, Mr. Chairman, to promote morality, justice and respect for human rights and democratic freedoms as being conducive to a more peaceful and stable international order.

Finally and equally important as the rest, we are concerned about protecting the interest and welfare of Barbadian nationals abroad wherever they are and wherever we have missions in a position to represent those interest.

Another question which the editorial raised was whether our Embassies and High Commissions were properly located to fulfil the policy objectives of the country. I think all of us know that Barbados has diplomatic missions in Washington, Brussels, which covers Western Europe and the EEC, Ottawa, New York, London and Caracas. It has consulates in New York and Toronto. These missions are located in positions precisely to pursue the policy objectives about which I have spoken before. Government is continually looking at other likely locations, for instance in the Far East within the constraint, of course, of our country's financial resources. In this context it is examining possibilities of shared representation with other CARICOM countries.

We should also note, Mr. Chairman, that almost all of our diplomatic missions are accredited to several countries. For example the Embassy in Brussels serves 7 other European countries including Belgium and the European Economic Community. The mission to the OAS covers a lot of the Central American countries and Venezuela would cover some of the South American countries with whom we have diplomatic representation.

Now in addition to all of that, Mr. Chairman, we have a network of Honorary Consulates which are strategically located all over the world. So that deals with the question of whether our Embassies were properly located. We have them^in areas which are designed to promote the country's trading and economic interests and to protect the nationals in those areas where a lot of Barbadians are concentrated.

One of the other concerns which we address is the question of whether the staff of the Embassies and High Commissions are trained adequately to perform their diplomatic duties. The clear position on this is that all Foreign Service Officers receive a basic grounding in international relations and diplomacy if they do not already possess qualifications upon entry into the Foreign Service. This basic training is supplemented by specialised training in a wide variety of relevant areas including export promotion, languages, tourism promotion, international



law and economics, human rights policy, international trade policy, management and computer use. The Ministry is also exploring the feasibility of assigning persons from time to time in areas where they can get some practical business experience as commercial attaches in appropriately selective missions.
One of the things about the Public Service about which we are concerned is that people who work in the Public Service who have a Public Service orientation and are there for all their life tend to bring that same orientation when dealing with issues which are centred largely in business and economics. We feel that if they get some exposure into the world of business and how business operates and works, that can be a very useful experience for them in dealing with areas of promoting the country's commercial interest abroad.
The question about what are the Embassies and High Commissions costing the taxpayers of this country, this is the occasion where these Estimates indicate what is the expenditure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 5.15 p.m.

The approved expenditure for the Ministry for 1992/93, Mr. Chairman, is some $13 121 373. The actual expenditure in 1990/91 was approximately $13V$_2$ million and this expenditure includes, not only the operating costs of the Ministry and the Overseas Missions, but also subscriptions that Barbados pays to various international organisations and agencies of which it is a member. The estimated total of these subscriptions for 1992/93 is some $930 000.

By way of comparison, the actual expenditure of the Ministry in 1986/87 was $10V_2$ million approximately, and the approved Estimates on the Barbados Foreign Service for 1992/93 represents approximately 1% of total Government expenditure. And this figure has remained relatively stable over the past 10 to 15 years.

Now comments are raised from time to time, Mr. Chairman, about Government making grandiose pronouncements on issues on which it has no responsibility and no power to enforce or even influence the enforcement of its bright ideas. This assertion, of course, Mr. Chairman, touches upon an issue of fundamental importance to us as a country. The role of a micro-state in international affairs has been commented on from time to time and, in Barbados, this has been a constant concern and our leaders have from time to time, over the years, made pronouncements on the issue of the importance of small stateS in the international community.

Prime Minister Barrow, for instance, in 1968 said:
"Barbados is a small state in a world where the economic and military power of a few megalithic states continues to preponderate in the balance of international affairs. It might have been thought therefore that Barbados with its minimum economic power and total lack of military strength could not realistically hope to create and execute an independent foreign policy of any significance. But Barbados has perceived that every state, however small, can play a useful pan in the international forums, a highly responsible role in the South hemisphere to which it belongs, and an important role in its immediate environment."
Prime Minister Adams in 1977 commented as follows:

"Great states when they cannot manipulate small states often regard the latter as disruptive nuisances. The existence of small states *per se,* does not present a threat to international peace. Indeed they have a positive and beneficial role to play in maintaining the peace. Freedom in this hemisphere is strengthened, not weakened by the mini-states of the Caribbean."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I may have lost you, but the document you are referring to ...

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, I am quoting fairly extensively from a note which I have.
I was quoting Prime Minister Adams. They obviously do not want to hear what Prime Minister Adams had to say.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just said that I may have lost you and I wanted to know the document that you were quoting from.

Hon. M. A. KING: No, it is a note from which I was quoting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am happy with that.

Hon. M. A. KING: Prime Minister Adams, Mr. Chairman, went on to say that freedom in this hemisphere is strengthened, not weakened by the mini-states of the Caribbean.
In its foreign policy therefore, Barbados would adhere to the principle of equality of states in all international forums. And that is a sentiment offered by Prime Minister Adams with which I agree 100%.
Prime Minister Sandiford, Mr. Chairman, in 1987 ...

3240

Aside.

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes, I am showing you the consistency of these positions by respective leaders of the country. Prime Minister Sandiford in 1987 said:
"So we contend that small states can and do make valuable contributions to the international community. ' Indeed the international community as we perceive it today, owes its very survival to the

small states of the world. Small states must be actual participants in the international community. They must be steadfast practitioners of international cooperation. They must be vigorous exponents in multi-lateral diplomacy and firm supporters of international organisations."
So that our leaders have been consistent in this regard. So that contrary to what is thought I support the view 100% that small states have a very effective and substantial role to play in the international community.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about the importance and significance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the' essential part that our foreign policy plays for the country, one cannot be living so much in the past as to come to the conclusion that a Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not important in the ordinary course of things for a country.

The Estimates show that what we appropriate for running the foreign affairs of this country is not in any way excessive. It is 1%, so to speak, of the country's national expenditure, generally. Against that background, Mr. Chairman, I move that Head 35, for the amount of $9 833 849 stand part of the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill.

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

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Minister has spent his half hour in recounting what has been accepted goals of Barbados' foreign policy for a very long time. Certainly if not as early as 1966, certainly since 1976 when we had a reorientation of our view of the world and when we had the perspicacity to look towards a wider role being played by Barbados.

It is a great pity the Minister has found it necessary to really spend the time answering allegations being made in the "Advocate" Editorial. And as a result he has fold us nothing new at all about Barbados' foreign policy or its thrust nor indeed has he dealt with any specific problems or any specific issues on which the country is at present engaged. 5.25 p.m.

I will accept for the purpose of this intervention, Sir, that the two most important goals which we should now set ourselves are really to concentrate heavily on regional development and, secondly, perhaps even first, to promote tourism, trade and the increase in our opportunity to earn our way in the world. Those should be the primary goals. Therefore, we would wish to see the Government concentrating on trade matters and trade policy and on investment matters more heavily than concentrating on some of the other interest which we sought to protect and to develop. In this regard, Sir, we hope that when we get on the Head dealing with Trade and Industry to have longer interventions on the issue of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations and the specific role which Barbados must play in this regard and the interest in which it must protect at this time.

We hope to concentrate and talk more about NAFTA and how we see ourselves fitting into the regional developments that are taking place in North America and elsewhere. We must at the same time under that Head speak a bit more about our obligation towards our regional partners, the pace at which the regional movement should go, the way in which we defend the interest not only of ourselves but of the other islands near to us who are* our brothers and sisters in the banana negotiations, for instance, and the stance which we must take in defence of them as against Latin American and multilateral interests.

I am not at this stage, Sir, going into any great details on that because we wish to push these Estimates. Certainly, under the issue of trade, we should address some of those matters in the wider context of the Government's structural policy in relation to trade liberalisation *et cetera*. Let us say, however, that there are some internal aspects of foreign affairs on which I would like to concentrate in my short intervention. It is the way in which the Government has gone around saving money by cutting the embassy in Trinidad and Tobago.

I think that it is a misguided policy to tell us at this time that the Government is seriously looking at examining the possibility of having even shared embassies in the Far East whilst not examining the probability or the necessity, if we cannot afford it on our own, to share embassies with our trading partners and our main regional partners in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. It is a misguided policy and I have to categorise it as that for us to believe that we are better off to go to Hong Kong or Japan or wherever and at the same time leave ourselves unguarded in our principal markets in Trinidad and Tobago. The Government must bear that in mind in setting its priorities in a structural adjustment setting.

Sir, I have no difficulty with the Government maintaining the locations which it has at the moment. But let me speak a bit about the embassy in Ottawa. The High Commission in Ottawa has really fallen down.



The ambassador is operating virtually out of the basement. I do not believe that very much is going on there to warrant the maintenance of ambassadorial quarters. He could be non-resident and allow the concentration to be done otherwise. It seems to me a great tragedy that that embassy has been run down to the extent that it has been run down and no effective representation is taking place out of Ottawa, Sir. There is much more being done out of the consulate, for what it is worth, in the way of tourism in trying to get some trade going than out of the embassy at Ottawa.

Sir, I want to talk about how misguided the Government is in keeping two ambassadors-at-large. I warned the Minister that the professional Foreign Service Officers are being demotivated and being demoralized and frustrated when they have to cope with "missiles at large[11]. I have to call them missiles at large, Sir. A missile at large is an unguided missile that does not know its function, its place or anything, Sir, and it can hit anywhere at anytime.

*Aside.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: We do have at present attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it is most unfortunate for the Minister. There are two ambassadors-at-large who have no concept and no function of what their proper role happens to be, Sir. If the Minister is going to use training, I would send them to the Regional Training School. I cannot understand how the first ambassador-at-large that was appointed and was brought back is now dealing with areas outside of the portfolio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is a sad mistake to allow him to believe that because he has something to do with the Foreign Exchange Committee that he has the right to be interfering in the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Trade and whatever Ministry that he can put his hands on. One does not know the terms and conditions of his appointment.

I have said in these Estimates, Sir, that the only qualifications the two gentlemen have is that they have unsuccessfully run two businesses into bankruptcy. Other than that, I can see no reason when you have a whole pool of well-qualified Foreign Service people with the training and experience that they must be relegated into junior roles of political appointees, Sir, to find themselves being paid at the level which they are paid without any specific duties to perform and really creating confusion. We must really stop this foolishness in the Foreign Service.

I believe that there is very little money to be on Foreign Affairs. As a result, the money must be wisely and properly spent. We must have a core of professionals to carry out those jobs and those duties. That has always been my stance on that. I believe that in those circumstances we have to seriously concentrate on having officers with the skills to deal with export promotion and tourism rather than have people who are at large. I am speaking specifically, Sir, even though I have not given you notice

of the names. I believe the names are well-known and I have dealt with the offices that they hold, Sir. Likewise, Sir, I want to deal with the situation in London. When we were cutting staff, we cut the professional officers and we have left at the level of the Deputy people who do not understand or know their role or how they should perform and in what circumstances they ought to perform. Sir, .1 regret to learn that at the United Nations we have discontinued the well-known practice of reinforcing our representation at the United States at the time of the General Debate by bringing up officers from home-base and from elsewhere and giving them exposure to multilateral diplomacy and at the same time the opportunity to bring their perspectives from their bilateral roles or home-base to bear on the debates in the United Nations sessions. I am told that the delegation is only reinforced by the Minister who goes for a limited period of time and possibly his Permanent Secretary. 5.35 p.m. There is not enough expertise. The Minister will be aware that as far as the UN delegation is concerned they would wish to be supplemented. They would wish some assistance in that role. I want the Minister also to assure the Committee that the money which is available now will be spent in the major areas of trade, tourism and investment promotion. That is where we have to concentrate, whether it be within the Caribbean or whether it is within Europe or within the United States of America or the whole North Atlantic region. We cannot afford the luxury of having foreign aifairs merely for the sake of saying that we have some representation on the world stage.

Of course I agree with the Minister's statement so well expressed in the language of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Adams - by the way the anniversary of whose unfortunate and untimely death comes tomorrow - but I very much agree with the role which he saw the micro state having to play. In that regard'there has been a bipartisan approach on the role of the micro state and Barbados has a lot of positive qualities and contributions that it can make to international affairs. But at this stage, with reduced resources available to us, we must concentrate on those areas of economic, financial and trade matters that would benefit the country, rather than devoting our time to the other matters.

Let me just finish on this point, Sir. I am also concerned about some allegations reaching me from some of our nationals when they visit some of our Consulates, usually the Honorary Consulates, abroad. For instance, I have had a complaint as recent as today about very

little notice being taken of nationals who sought information at the Consulate in Miami. Apparently in that Consulate, other than the Consul General, who apparently was not available, the people in there do not seem to know very much about Barbados. Whilst I recognise that Honorary Consuls play a very vital role, I think one ought to sensitise them that they have to respond promptly to the needs of Barbadians who may make enquiries about trade or lost passports or have problems.

I do not want to intervene much further in this debate, because it is a question of time that is facing us, but I would say this to the Minister. The time to debate Foreign Affairs on a regular basis is for accounts to be given to this House when the Minister, the Prime Minister and other Ministers in particular travel abroad on Government's business relating to our international relations, whether it be foreign affairs *per se* or international trade, and that statements should be made in this House, as was the wont before, about those issues, so that the public can be kept informed and that we would recognise that the visit has achieved some benefit for Barbados.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, is the Honourable Member saying that the occasion of the debate on the Estimates is not an occasion to debate the issue of foreign affairs? Surely this issue can be debated on this occasion. What is wrong with that?

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member began his presentation by making the statement that I was recounting what was in essence and what has been Barbados' foreign policy for any number of years, but then he proceeded to do the same thing. He began to address certain areas, which I covered, and asserted that those were areas in relation, for instance, to the role of micro states. Both sides have accepted that that is the position which micro states play. Then he proceeded to deal with what he

perceives should be the direction of Barbados' foreign policy in this day and age, that our concentration should be on trade, investment, tourism promotion, promotion of the financial services, as if these are not precisely what the direction of the present Government's policy is, which is well-known to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West He knows that this is the direction of Government's foreign policy at this time, he knows that the whole purpose of organising commercial attach6s abroad, or organising even the Trade Commissioners, about whom he has been so pejorative - 1 have heard that word being used here before - that even in relation to the position of Trade Commissioners that the whole objective of creating the positions of Trade Commissioners was precisely to deal with this whole business of promoting investment, tourism and financial services. That is the purpose for which the commissioners were established.

The other point which the Honourable Member has been making very pejoratively about the Trade Commissioners - one of whom is attached to the Foreign Ministry and the other to the Ministry of Trade.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, can I make my point without...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening only to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. M. A. KING: The point which the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is making, I suggest again, quite pejoratively about the Trade Commissioners is that they interfere in other Ministries* business. That is not the role of the Trade Commissioners, Mr. Chairman, the Trade Commissioners so far have been engaged in putting together issues. What is wrong with them dealing with issues of the culture? What is wrong with them dealing with investment, the financial services and things of that kind? Their role is to assist in the promotion and development of these substantial areas of Government policy. The Trade Commissioners have been so directed that whatever they do, they do in consultation and discussion with the executive Ministries which are responsible for these particular areas.

The terms of reference, Mr. Chairman, of the Trade Commissioners are to assist the Government with the promotion of the economic interests of this country, and in this respect their mandate calls for them to co-operate and to work closely with the executive Ministries which are responsible for the promotion of the country's interest -Ministries like Trade, Tourism, with the Board of Tourism, the IDC, and they also work with the foreign Exchange Committee.

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: Well, culture is a foreign exchange earning product, so that you want to develop culture and cultural activities as a means of earning foreign exchange. Now the trade commissioners receive a salary. 5.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not happy with the asides being as loud as they are.

Hon. M. A. KING: I heard a *sotto voce* remark enquiring about the salary of the trade commissioners and that salary is at the level of S2 in the Schedule of Personal Emoluments.

*Asides.*

Hon. M. A. KING: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West commented adversely on the closure

of the High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago and he says that Government's policy in this regard was misguided, particularly after you took it in the context of looking to open missions in other areas of the world, even on a joint basis.

The first thing I wish to indicate is that the closure of the High Commission in Trinidad & Tobago was done by agreement and after close consultation with the Government of Trinidad & Tobago who have closed their High Commission in Barbados as well. The Governments of Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago have proceeded on the assumption that the relations between the 2 countries could be conducted on a less formalised basis. After all we are just a few hundred miles from Trinidad & Tobago. We are in the Caribbean region. What is wrong with our picking up the telephone to call our counterparts in other parts of the Caribbean on a more intimate basis and discussing any issues which you have to discuss.
In the Caribbean we are one people. You are talking about integration in the region.

*Asides.*

Hon. M. A. KING: If in this region we are talking in terms of Caribbean unity in this day of modern communications, fax machines, telephones and the easy accessibility to communication technology there is no great problem. If we have a problem and we need to get on a plane today and go to Trinidad & Tobago to discuss a view that is how it should be done. The businessmen of the region can do the same thing. The fact that the High Commissions are closed means that the actual expenditure for maintaining missions in Trinidad and Tobago and in Barbados is eliminated. But in fact, the High Commissioners are still accredited to the respective countries. So we still have a High Commissioner of Trinidad & Tobago and Trinidad & Tobago still has a High Commissioner to Barbados.

* I have seen recently information published about the Canadian High Commission in Trinidad & Tobago reducing its staff quite substantially as a cost-saving measure. We are in a world today where governments are using every reasonable device to minimise costs. It is not only small countries like ours which can hardly afford it. The major countries of the world are doing it as well. I just spoke of Canada's experience in reducing their mission in Trinidad & Tobago. A wealthy country like the United States of America is cutting back in a variety of missions. I believe the United States has closed some missions in the Caribbean as a cost-saving measure so we should not look at this in negative terms.

*Asides.*

Hon. M. A. KING: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West made the point that he regrets that the representation at the U.N. during General Assembly Sessions has not been reinforced as was the earlier practice. The only reason why representation at the U.N. has not been reinforced at U.N. General Assembly Sessions is because of the cost and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West should know this. If fre do not have any money, we do not have any money. The fact is that the representation continues. We try to make adjustments left right and centre with a view to ensure the country's interests in all the committees is adequately represented. I would not have thought that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would make an issue out of an attempt to save expenditure on an issue by reducing the cost of our representation to the U.N. after making the point that the money should be wisely and properly spent.
The Honourable Member spoke about professional foreign service officers being demoralised and demotivated by the appointment of what he pejoratively calls the trade commissioners - "missiles at large". How could he do that? The trade commissioners have a specific function.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are having too many interruptions.

Hon. M. A. KING: If the Honourable Member for St. George South wishes to speak about any particular Honourable Member, let the Honourable Member get up and speak and do not involve me in that.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr Chairman, comments have been made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West about the focus of the work of the High Commissioner in Ottawa. As the Honourable Member knows, the High Commissioner's role in a capital like Ottawa is largely a political and diplomatic role. We have a Consulate General in Toronto which is the major centre of business and commercial activity in Canada. The function of the Consulate General would be to deal largely with these areas of trade, investment, tourism and final services promotion. The Consulate General is in the area where the focus of economic activity is and where the focus of that economic work is being done.
Against that background, if the staff of the High Commission has been cut back because of cost considerations and the focus in promotion of commercial and economic activity which we are concerned about is directed towards strengthening the Consulate General, what is wrong with that?

3244

If I may just draw the attention of the House to this matter the High Commission operates from leased premises which are not now the basement of the official residence.

*Asides.*

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, of course that *sotto voce* cannot be heard but...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Obviously, you cannot respond to it.

Hon. M. A. KING: That's right, Sir. I cannot respond to it but I made the point that the High Commission operates presently from leased premises in Canada which do not break any planning or any regulations in Canada.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Hon. M. A. KING: I will pause at this point, Mr.' Chairman. 5.55 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, I really would like the view of the Honourable Minister with respect to the general impression that has unquestionably been given recently. I want to know whether the Government is carrying out an evaluation of the offices of High Commission, and in Ottawa. The facts appear to be quite clear that there are not strenuous appointments. There is not a lot of work involved. Every week, I believe, we are treated to some kind of evidence that the profession of journalism can be carried along parallel with the onerous duties of High Commissioner. This is a very serious thing. The people are saying that at this period of time of stringency that money should not be spent on High Commissions if the occupants of those offices are not giving full-time attention to the work. That is a fact. We have to face these questions. I want to know what are the views of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on it. Is he satisfied that is the correct impression to be given to the public of Barbados in which they have to pay the heavy sacrifice and at the same time they see High Commissioners - one writing a column regularly and the other one doing a very important job, exceedingly important and prestigious job heading a Commission of Enquiry - and at the same time holding this job.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs must have given permission for that activity. He must have given permission for the High Commissioners to carry on these extra activities. I want to know what are his views on it. If he has given approval I want to know whether it is a good thing to do it. Tell us about us. Let him answer us.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In similar vein, Mr. Chairman, before the Minister replies perhaps he would answer whether it is a fact that when the office in Ottawa had to be relocated it was relocated to a residence and the residents of that road where the office was relocated protested vehemently about the transfer of so-called diplomatic premises to a residential area. I want to know if the Minister is aware that there were protests from the residents in Ottawa in that street and if the matter has now been resolved because the Minister will recall that when the Government tried to use the rooms at the Consul General's house for the purpose of relocating the Commission, the rooms were not available. They were let out and the rooms in the Consul General's house were not available for the work.....

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In Ottawa. I am not talking about the Consul General in Toronto because the Minister ought to announce tonight that effective April 1 there will be a new Consul General in Toronto, a gentleman from the North. I am announcing it for him.

Now, Sir, it is all well and good for the Honourable Member for Christ Church South to take issue with the fact that a High Commissioner is apparently pursuing a private delight in writing a column every week in the "Nation". But what concerns me even more is that in one of the High Commissioner's columns on February 11 this year he had what I call the nerve to write that he had ordered the Barbados Flag to be lowered to half mast in recognition of the passing of 3 people who are not Barbadians and whom we had no connection with at all.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Who do you mean who is that? You do not read the newspapers? I forget you would not read his column as a former neighbour who did not like you. He used to refer to you as "the one out there so". You and I koow that.

Be that as it may, Sir, it is a serious thing. I want the Minister to reply and tell us if he approved before or after the lowering of the Barbados Flag on the mission in Ottawa to half mast in recognition of the passing of 3 people nondescript apart from Thurgood Marshall, 2 others that we did not even hear about them. They are not even Barbadians of any eminence, not even international personages. How can you deal with the flag like that? He wrote it himself. On his own admission he did this. Now, I think that is an affront to the dignity of the flag. I am not attacking the High Commissioner in Canada.

He is adear old soul. But I am attacking the way that there is an apparent abuse of the office of High Commissioner. If nothing has been done about these matters of which we complain, I would like the Minister to give some consideration and answer us.



Sir, in relation to the High Commissioner to London, we want to know how long is it envisaged that his Commission of Enquiry will last, how much need will be necessitated by reason of this additional responsibility in the Bahamas? These are important matters because they appear in the paper and you see a photograph of Sir William Douglas starting a commission. The Government did not make any announcement and I feel that the Government in this regard had a responsibility when it was known what was happening to have told the public. Certainly the people in London whom he represents ought to have been told that this is the basis upon which he is...

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister of Health is saying they must have been told. I am not presuming that everything was correctly done, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask Honourable Members not to pay attention to asides and then respond to them in the debate.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The other matter I wanted to raise, Sir, was raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Except that the Minister is in a position now, having regard to the length of time on which the Foreign Exchange Committee has been going, to tell us how successful Has the Foreign Exchange Committee been which is under his chairmanship. I want to know how much business the Foreign Exchange Committee has been able to attract to Barbados since it has been in existence. What it has been looking at, what it has achieved in terms of establishment of contacts and in terms of dollar value, the attraction of foreign exchange to Barbados? I want to know if it is a worthwhile Committee? 6.05 p.m. Sir, I would also like to know if there is any intention on the Government's part to expand the number of ambassadors-at-large because there is one other I will speak to the Minister privately about, whom I think is worthy of such designation.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, let me deal with the'last question the Honourable Member raised. He wants to know whether the Foreign Exchange Committee is of any value, what it has achieved. It is an advisory committee which has been set up, Mr. Chairman. It is a private sector/public sector committee which comprises the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Tourism, the Minister of Trade. The Permanent Secretaries of course accompany the Ministers. The Head of the Civil Service is included, the Director of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Governor of* the Central Bank, the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, the Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, the Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Tourism Authority, the Trade Commissioner in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Trade Commissioner in the Ministry of Trade and a representative of the International Transport Division. Those are the public sector people.

The private sector people on the Committee are the Presidents and the Executive Directors/Secretaries of the following organisations: The Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Barbados Manufacturers Association, the Barbados Hotel Association, the Barbados Employers Confederation, the Barbados Agricultural Society, the Offshore Business Advisory Committee, the Private Sector Agency of Barbados and the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited and also a representative from the Trade Union Coalition.

Now the terms of reference which the Committee has are to develop, exploit and monitor opportunities for earning and conserving foreign exchange, to identify and remove operational and other constraints for earning foreign exchange and to coordinate and monitor an overall strategy for promoting Barbados' economic interest abroad.

Now the Honourable Member for St. Thomas raises the question of what the Foreign Exchange Committee has done and what in terms of dollars and cents it has produced. The obvious thing one has to recognise about the work of this Committee is that obviously it is going to take some to produce results, because there is dialogue between private sector and public sector with a view to dealing with issues which relate to the earning of foreign exchange.

But there are one or two things which have "been done; for instance there was a proposal where there is a businessman in Canada - I do not want to call any names - who has put together programmes for ...

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: The business people in Barbados are interested in promoting and exporting to Canada and this businessman in Barbados has developed a programme for assisting in getting Barbadian products into destinations in Canada. That is one of the positive things which has actually come out of that proposal. Mr. Chairman, some of the critical things which the Foreign Exchange Committee has been looking at are opportunities for earning foreign exchange, and the business sector in Barbados has been concerned largely about this issue of removing local constraints to the earning 6f foreign exchange. A lot of time has been

spent on this issue of trying to remove local constraints to earning of foreign exchange. A lot of issues are
3246

brought to the Committee where local businessmen find that there are problems and leave these problems to be addressed which are from time to time addressed and dealt with. We have tried between the private sector and the public sector to put together a comprehensive working programme with targeted objectives where one seeks to achieve the objectives which have been indicated.

Now the Foreign Exchange Committee tries as far as possible to set up working groups to deal with specific issues, to make reports to the Foreign Exchange Committee when positive things have been identified and put together and then sent on to the executive Ministries for comment prior to being sent to Cabinet for approval. For instance, proposals have been looked at in relation to improving duty free shopping facilities in Barbados. That issue has been looked at and some concrete proposals in that regard have been put to the Ministry of Finance for consideration and later on for approval by Cabinet. Proposals are being made in relation to developing intensive trade contacts with Guyana and looking for the possibilities for investment in Guyana involving local Barbadian businessmen and efforts are being made to put together concrete proposals for making developments in that area.

So the work of the Committee, as I said, cannot be documented in terms of dollars and cents but there is a whole wide spectrum of activity which the Committee is involved in and the whole issue of dialogue between the public and private sector is important and is something which does help in dealing with the problems of promoting the country's business and developing economic interest generally.
The Honourable Member for Christ Church South asked for an evaluation of the offices of the High Commission in London and in Ottawa, and made the point as I understood it, that there seems not to be a lot of strenuous work involved in those High Commissions. I think the Honourable Member, Mr. Chairman, looking at the situation objectively cannot assert that there is not strenuous and serious work to be done in London. There is a substantial Barbadian community in England.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, let us be careful with the asides.

Hon. M. A. KING: Am I hearing, Mr. Chairman, that there is not a substantial Barbadian community? I have made a statement of fact. I am dealing with statements of fact. There is a substantial Barbadian community-in the United Kingdom. 6.15 p.m.

The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that one cannot say that the work to be done in London is not important. The work is important. It is important to have a High Commission in London. So that the money spent on a High Commission in London is money properly spent. You may have other problems but then that is a matter of issue.

The question was raised about the High Commissioner in London doing an assignment in the Bahamas. The High Commissioner, Mr. Chairman, was given 3 months duty leave to deal with this matter.

*Aside.*

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, one must recognise that there was communication between the Government of Bahamas and Government of Barbados. If we are talking* about Caribbean unity and helping one another in the region, we agreed to permit the High Commissioner to do the assignment requested.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member address the Chair.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, let me turn to Ottawa for a moment. Canada is one of Barbados' oldest

and closest friends. It is important for the relationship with such a close and good friend and trading partner as Canada to maintain diplomatic contacts with our good friend and trading partner. When you asked the question about the evaluation of the office in Ottawa, it is important. It is important, if for no other reason than that, that we have a mission in Ottawa.
Sir, some comment was made about the embassy. The functions of the Chancery in Ottawa were temporarily transferred to the residence of the High Commissioner with the permission of the Department of External Affairs of Canada. We said to them - look we have a problem. Our lease on the rental of premises for the Chancery has come to an end and we would like to operate from the



residence for a temporary period until we could relocate the Chancery. The temporary operation of the Chancery from the residence of the High Commissioner was, in fact, for a period of some 4 to 5 months. It was necessitated, as I said, purely because the lease had come to an end. We did not want to go to the extent of involving expenditure on the long lease of new premises, bearing in mind the country's financial position and the need to cut back on expenditure and save on foreign exchange. So that with the cooperation of the Government of Canada, we eventually located new premises where the Chancery is now situated. Obviously, it is not as elaborate as the other premises were but that matter is now resolved. There is now no question of any difficulty with residence.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member will just give way. I just wanted to remind the Minister of Foreign Affairs that I think he omitted to answer one of my questions. That question related to whether you have to have permission to write articles.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, my time had expired so I thought that I would give way.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish in this debate to address the issue which the Honourable Member raised and which has been inherent in much that has been said on this question of the cutting back of the Foreign Ministry's activities overseas. Mr. Chairman, it is not a secret that we have as a country difficulty with money. You would think hearing the Honourable Members on the other side that this is some heinous crime. Sir, when the Foreign Service of Barbados was started, we had very few people in the 4 or 5 capitols where we had people. Because our resources were meagre, those persons were required to function in a particular way. Especially in the 1970s and early 1980s when we had got money aplenty, the Honourable Members on that side expanded the representation. We were able to afford having some expansion of our foreign representation. Beginning in the 1980s, Sir, all countries all over the world have had to reassess" their capacity to pay for their foreign representation.
Mr. Chairman, there was a magnificent debate in the House of Commons in Britain when Mrs. Thatcher indicated that she had to cut the overseas services of the BBC .and the foreign missions.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I was in London. It is the same relevance as always. If the Honourable Member would just listen sometimes and stop trying to make herself.... The Honourable Member must be aware that the great German machine that has had growth in its economy for almost twenty continuous years has reassessed its foreign representation and has made decisions to cut, chop and change its approach. The European Economic Community, in an attempt to find a way to reduce the cost of their overseas representation, have agreed to joint representation in some aspects of their foreign representation. Let us take Canada. The Canadians have over the lasneight years spent a considerable amount of time refashioning their foreign policy, especially in regard to cost for overseas representation. For those countries that send troops overseas, the record is replete with information about how they have had to reassess their ability to participate in forays outside of their borders because of cost. One of the first things that the new President of the United States has done is not only to cut the staff in his own White House but to proceed to have a top to bottom reassessment of the United States foreign policy and foreign representation all over the world. 6.25 p.m.

I do not understand the problem, therefore, if Barbados in straitened economic circumstances has had to

reassess its own situation and has tried as best it could to maintain its levels of representation while cutting costs, and as a result has had to close the Trinidad and Tobago Mission, it has had to reduce the numbers at the United Nations and it has had to reduce the amount of travel. It is instructive that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, himself a Foreign Minister for a short period, who on the one hand is complaining about the cost of the Conferences and Delegations vote, on the other hand is saying how he regrets very much that it has been necessary to stop the sending of persons up to New York to the United Nations.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. I think the Honourable Member does not understand the thrust of my point, which is, that in setting priorities you look at where your major priority is. Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean is a major priority area. There was no argument about a reduction, but it makes no sense if you are going to cut Trinidad and Tobago and then -make 2 political appointments who are going to eat up, between them, almost...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point has been made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will address that issue, which is a non-issue, Sir, but I keep saying that you cannot reprobate and approbate at the same time. The whole of the Opposition has complained about the expenditure of the Government on conferences and delegations. Then the Honourable Member comes in a foreign policy debate and makes the point that he regrets, and he said it with all the force at his command....



*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes. If I can take note of his aside, Sir, I would recognise that he says I am talking foolishness. That is all right. Let this foolishness continue. The Honourable Member then comes in a foreign policy debate and said he regrets we have stopped sending people up to enhance the UN delegation. Sir, you can only send people up to enhance the UN delegation if you spend some more money from the Conferences and Delegations vote. The Honourable Member can spend some time on whether increase will necessarily enhance. I was just about to make the point that when they increased the delegation it was not enhanced, so he is probably right.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: He has more right to be on the delegation than some of the people the Honourable Members have sent. I will not dignify some of the things that happened during their time by putting them in the record, but Mr. Chairman, we cannot mislead the people of the country. This debate started with the Minister of Foreign Affairs alluding to an editorial which was obviously written by a person who was either malevolent or ignorant, or both. *The Advocate* editorial raised a number of questions about the foreign policy and then when the Minister of Foreign Affairs gave a detailed response to those questions, *the Advocate* newspaper, as it has been doing in recent times, garbled the response. I can speak of this, because on more than one occasion in recent times, when I have sent them detailed information correcting a story - it has not been published ~ the SSA sent them a detailed correction and I had to write another letter adopting the SSA's letter correcting that story, and I had to copy it to the publisher in order to have it published.

This *Advocate* editorial raised questions about foreign policy. What I do not understand is how they can raise questions about foreign policy and when we start to discuss foreign policy they say how we are using and misusing money, sending people all over the place. Then the former Foreign Minister, who himself travelled more than any Foreign Minister Barbados ever had...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: ... That Foreign Minister in his short time travelled more than any other Foreign Minister in Barbados.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Committee. He can ask at Foreign Affairs for the documents, but he will recognise that this Foreign Minister did more than any Foreign Minister they ever had to put
Barbados' foreign policy correct. Put that in the record too. Ask the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not see how the Honourable Member could have risen on a point of order then.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I know when it comes to the foreign policy debate and foreign policy issues they cannot question me on the facts. I know my facts very well. But I am not going to deal with the Honourable Member's exploits as Foreign Minister. He agrees with me that he is a very highly travelled Foreign Minister, and I have no quarrel with that. If the Honourable Member would accept the premise so articulately put in previous debates by the Honourable Member for St. George South when he was Foreign Minister, that a country cannot propagate or promulgate the foreign policy from Bridgetown. I have heard the Honourable Member for St. George South articulate this position most meticulously, that you cannot do foreign policy from Bridgetown and get results, so the question of how much the Honourable Member has travelled is only relevant in the context of how they have sought to twist the concept of travelling into a crime.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Costa Rica was very necessary. Since the Honourable Member has raised the question, since I have heard elsewhere about Costa Rica...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has 2 minutes to conclude his speech.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will speak again, Sir. The Honourable Member needed to go to Costa Rica, because Costa Rica is one of the most progressive of Latin American countries. There are a number of things happening in Costa Rica, it is democratic, it has a fantastic health system, it has been using its own resources for development in a way that we could copy and there are people who have a number of Barbadian roots living in Costa Rica, so an official visit by the Foreign Minister is in the interest of Barbados. I think that Honourable Members should examine the expenditure, but Members on both sides owe it to the population to assist them in understanding what this thing called foreign policy and foreign relations is all about.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member is raising a legitimate question, he should raise it. I have no quarrel with that. I believe that foreign policy should be criticised and examined. I believe that Ministers should be criticised and should be put to the stake, especially during this week when we are doing the Estimates, but I do



not believe, especially a Minister, or a person who has had ministerial office should be misleading the population, especially in the face of arrant nonsense written by people who either are mischievous or do not know any better. We should enlighten them.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member accused me of misleading the population, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Other Honourable Members spoke and there has been no specific reference to which Honourable Member did it, so I do not know that he has accused you.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am making the point, Sir, that there is nothing wrong with questioning the Foreign Minister. That is why he is in this Committee. There is nothing wrong with questioning the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member's time has expired, though.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If that is how it is, Sir, I will speak again. 6.35 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I wish to draw to your attention a person *sotto voce* said that the only...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, there is just one question that I want to ask the Minister. I am not getting engaged in the debate at this stage but am I to understand that the High Commissioner in London is currently being paid a pension by Government?

*Aside.*

Mr. L. R. TULL: Who asked you this question? I don't want any help. The pension being the full pay of a Judge and he is also being paid as High Commissioner and he is being paid as a Chairman of a Tribunal in Nassau about $100 000 while he is being paid as High Commissioner? And is he also at the same time being paid as a consultant to the International Labour Organisation? I want some answers because there a lot of eligible people who are not working.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the High Commissioner to London, as the Honourable Member for St. George South knows and as all of us know, is a retired Chief Justice of Barbados. Because Barbados Constitution provides pension arrangements in relation to retired Chief Justices and retired Judges and retired Prime Ministers and retired Members of Parliament.

*Asides.*

Hon. M. A. KING: I will answer the questions but do not rush me. I do not like being rushed.
The High Commissioner to London is being paid his emolument as a High Commissioner representing Barbados to London. The High Commissioner has been given duty leave to do a Commission of Enquiry into the Bahamas at the request of the Government of the Bahamas. I am not at this time.familiar with the financial arrangements or the terms agreed upon. I would make an assumption that the High Commissioner is being paid for the work. It is a customary thing and I would be surprised if he were not being paid for that.

*Asides.*

Hon. M. A. KING: He was an ILO consultant while he was Chief Justice of Barbados and it is a position he has continued to hold.

*Asides.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I think the Minister of Foreign Affairs and all of us should agree that in view of the special arrangements that obtain with respect to the request of a fellow Commonwealth Government for the services of a person who is in the employ of the Government. It would have been far better for the public of Barbados to have been notified of the arrangement for duty leave.When the Governor-General goes on duty it is in the *Official Gazette.* When any civil servant geis leave it is in the *Official Gazette.* We should have it in the *Official Gazette* so people will not besiege me and ask me these questions. I want an answer to my question with respect to whether permission has been granted for the High Commissioner in Canada to write weekly articles in a newspaper in Barbados under his name.

Hon. M. A. KING: In relation to that last question by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South I will have to check that. I do not know if he requested permission or whether it was granted as there are times when I am out of the country and there are others acting. A request did not come to me and I did not issue a permission. I can say that in respect to myself but I will have to investigate that.

Let me also make the point that in relation to the ILO consultancy which the High Commissioner has I understand that he receives a *per diem* when he travels on ILO business but does not receive a salary.

3250

May I just add, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the information in relation to the duty leave of the High Commissioner will be gazetted if it has not been.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to finish the point I was making.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member address the Chair.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if they wish to deal with anyone of the officers or the appointees in the foreign service they have as much right as anybody else to get up and deal with them. They cannot stir up anybody to discuss anybody in that way. The point I was making and the point I wanted to finish is that the debate on foreign affairs was called for by an editorial which said in its end that Parliament should debate these issues and when the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure come before Parliament that the Opposition should seize the opportunity to debate the foreign policy of this country in all of its various ramifications. That was the end paragraph of an editorial that has asked a number of questions.

Therefore when we seek to respond to those questions, we are only responding in the context of the fact that an important journal in the life of the community is suggesting that the Government is somehow faulty in its performance of foreign policy.

I want to make the point that the numbers at the United Nations have not been dramatically cut whereas the other side used to have 2 ambassadors to the United Nations. There was an Ambassador Plenipotentiary and then they created a position of Deputy Permanent Representative at the level of Ambassador. Removing that particular post did not savage the mission to the United Nations although if we could afford 8 or 10 people at the United Nations they could be useful. It is all a question of priorities and what one is able to deal with. 6.45 p.m.

Now the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, in discussing priorities sought to suggest in his rebuttal that a priority would be to leave the High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago intact. Well if he agrees that we are short of funding, it would mean we would have to cut somewhere else. Is he prepared to say that it was desirable fundamentally to have the High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago and cut at Brussels? As I understand it, we only have a very small staff at Brussels. Indeed there is an argument that can be made when one looks at what has happened in tourism and industry to look even further towards Europe for bringing more people from there to Barbados.

When we look at what is happening in the United States of America it must not be forgotten that all of the staff of the Tourist Board and the Industrial Development Corporation are accredited as Consular Officers. The commercial activity for the Consulate at New York is strengthened and broadened by the numbers for tourism and IDC. As I understand it, those numbers have been increased. On the one hand they called upon the Government to strengthen and develop their commercial activity and then on the other, when we have reduced the diplomatic activity at the expense of increasing the commercial activity, they still complain. But it is necessary for a small state like Barbados to determine what is going to be its priorities. If, in fact, it is desirable for us to put tourism representation in Florida, California or Atlanta then it will be necessary for us in terms of our resources to reduce the amount of diplomatic representation we have elsewhere.
One of the difficulties, I think the Minister of Foreign Affairs does not mind if I say this, has been an unreasonable press on the part of some foreign Governments against the concept of Honorary Consuls in their respective cities. I have never understood when those countries are dealing with the small States why they cannot recognise that States such as Barbados, the Bahamas and other CARICOM States would require to have more Honorary Consuls than some of the larger, richer countries.
When there was a Union of Soviet Socialist Republics they used to have Honorary Officers in all kinds of

cities in the United States. All that was required was that the persons be registered. Now that has been broken up and we have something called the Russian States, or by whatever name called...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Commonwealth States, the CIS...

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am so sorry. I apologise for not remembering the Commonwealth of Independent States. I have not had so wide an experience that I would remember all the things about the Soviet Union as readily as some of my other colleagues but I accept I am a little deficient there.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, I do not think I -need to belabour the point except that the


record needs to show that we have not cut our staff below the levels that were in existence for a very long time when we started this concept of diplomatic work outside of Barbados. In Canada we have strengthened the staff in Toronto. We recognise we do not have as stylish a High Commission as we once had. But there are times to come when either this generation or the next generation will find it desirable and necessary to change that pattern. It cannot be gainsaid that the world has changed. Many of the issues that were pressing and important 20 years ago are no longer of any importance. It is going to be imperative that countries like Barbados join with other countries in a regional approach to some of these issues.
This brings me finally to this question of the Caribbean as a priority. It is not necessary, it seems to me, for each CARICOM State to announce a banana policy. If there is a problem between Latin America and the CARICOM States about bananas, the first position of every CARICOM State has to be in support of CARICOM. They are required by treaty to do that.

We are members of the Caribbean Community and therefore in a row with Latin America and the Caribbean Community our first position is with the Caribbean Community. When the row is in fact against a basic principle for which we argue at LOME , we argued and signed the Treaty called The LOME Convention, but we negotiated the Africa Caribbean Pacific Treaty on the understanding we would have preferences for sugar, bananas and citrus. There was never any doubt and there can be no doubt that is a priority and policy and we have to take that on. We were fighting Latin America about that 25 years ago so there cannot be any issue that we have to announce a banana policy.

In a situation in which Latin America seeks to dump their bananas to the detriment of the people of Dominica the position of Barbados must be clear. You do not need to have a foreign policy on that. Our policy on that was decided and laid down and we like to believe that it is a unified "policy. I do not understand why the Honourable Member is saying he wants to hear from the Minister of Foreign Affairs what is our position on bananas. Our position is the same as it always has been.

I sometimes wonder why a certain journalist who works for one of the organs of information who knows about these things would not do some features. There is one journalist who has much experience in these matters who has worked in the regional organisation for many years. I think his editors should allow him to use his tremendous experience and expertise to help enlighten the comtnunity at large instead of some of the constant columnists, many of whom are genuinely ignorant and I do not say that in a pejorative way. They are genuinely ignorant and there are working members of the Press who know about these things...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: ...and I think they should write features about them. The problem is that the people who write editorials do not come down in the trenches anyhow. They do not know what is going on and that is another thing. I would prefer to know that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is writing an

editorial at the "Nation" instead of having to write columns and put his name under it If not him there are other distinguished members of the Press who ought to be writing editorials because they know what they are writing about on these issues. I know at least 3 journalists in Barbados who have as much experience at the international and regional meetings as some of the politicians on both sides.
I hope, Mr. Chairman, that we are going to get a better and more enlightened policy from the Press in these matters. They can continue....

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I know of no moderator, or ex-moderator, or former moderator who had any knowledge in these fields. I am talking about serious journalists. 6.55 p.m.
Mr. Chairman, they can continue to curse the Ministers and the Government on the regular matters, but on serious matters like foreign policy and regionalism and those issues, I think that those who know about them have a duty to help the rest of the community get information about them.
I am grateful to your Honour for allowing me the extra minute.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to make a comment so that the Honourable Member's stricture of me would not go unanswered. I am not going to engage in telling the Honourable Member how many times I have travelled abroad. Let me say to him, however, that on those times that I have travelled it is always to the benefit of Barbados. Barbados has benefitted tremendously by the foreign policy which I have pursued on behalf of the then Cabinet of Barbados and reoriented the foreign policy in a very progressive manner and that is now history. History will record it, Sir, as an outstanding example of Ministerial performance at that time.

Sir, I am not going to engage in that. Let me say to the Honourable Member again, he misunderstands the



force of the argument It is not proper policy for Caribbean States to believe that because we are in the same region we must not have physical representation in each other's capital. If you analyse the trade figures and the interest, Barbados' main trading area remains in the Caribbean and it must have more than a fax machine or a telephone call in order to defend that trade interest. If that point is not understood by the Honourable Member then he will Understand nothing at all. It is pellucid to me. It is absolutely clear and I believe that it is sound argument by anyone who has studied the basic of international relations. Therefore the point I was making is that if the Government had to institute cost cutting measures, its cost cutting measures must be so directed that it does not cut its nose off to spoil its face. There are other ways in which cuts could have been made.

I was also responding to the statement of the Foreign Minister that the moment the Government is considering the possibility of joint representation with other Caribbean countries in the Far East. My answer to that is, consider joint representation then with other Caribbean Countries in other Caribbean capitals too because those are priorities.

Now, Sir, let me just finally say this to the Minister on issues that have been raised about the conduct of persons when they are in the foreign service. The difficulty has arisen because we have not clearly demarcated, in regulations, or by administrative directions or otherwise, how political appointees to the foreign service should conduct themselves.

I have raised that issue on the Floor of the House without any successful answer from this Government, when a former High Commissioner to Canada and a leading member of the Democratic Labour Party attacked both myself and the then member for St. Michael South Central in a partisan manner. I have had as well to deal with the same matter when the Ambassador-at-large, the Scud missile, has done the same. And when they have thought it within their bounds to be campaigning in matters on that sort of basis.
Sir, you must deal with it because I have challenged the Government to lay down proper regulations and if the regulations must apply to the civil servants then they should apply to the political appointees whilst they are holding these posts. That is the fundamental principle that is at stake. And since it has not been

enforced, the Government will continue to find itself in problems. It would therefore find statements being made about the persons who hold posts and you will also find the same frustration of which I speak, accorded in the foreign service. The Honourable Minister can say what he likes. He does not know his foreign service if he does not believe that the mass of his foreign service people, the good professionals, are frustrated when they see the double standards that are being followed in this respect. Now I said that because of time I have not entered into this debate on areas of general and wider policy and I know that the Government was hesitant to start Health tonight so we have-run on because we were getting into a late time. I am prepared to engage any Member on the side of the Government at the appropriate time - not now in this debate where we have limited time - on any debate on foreign policy at any time, with or without notice. Whether it be relation or stance on relation to supporting our Caribbean brothers on bananas, Haiti, Cuba, the position of micro-states, whatever you like, he will find here on the Front Bench of the Shadow Cabinet, more than enough power and more than enough knowledge to deal with this matter in a professional manner.

Hon. M. A. KING: The Honourable Member seems to be getting very agitated about this matter. I do not know why. The Honourable Member talks about double standards. The Honourable Member speaks about foreign service officers being demoralized and demotivated by what he perceives to be political appointments. Is that what you are talking about?

*Asides.*

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The normal civil servant cannot do, and I cannot call their names, what a former Minister' of Information and who then became High Commissioner could do. But the point is, they are under the General Orders and they know it and political appointees do not seem to think it applies to them.

Hon. M. A. KING: Oh, I did not understand that the Honourable Member was saying that the foreign service officers were being demoralized because articles of a political nature were being written by Ambassadors/High , Commissioners. Is that the point you were making? Is the Honourable Member saying that foreign service officers would want to write political columns then and they • are frustrated because they cannot do that.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: He is capable of better, Sir. I would take it, that this afternoon, he is tired. Because he really is capable of better. I am not going to believe, like Honourable Members that he is slow. I believe he is capable of understanding these things.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member spoke of rules in relation to the conduct of members of the foreign service and of the local service. I think- we all agree that rules of conduct are necessary. I believe that those rules are now being revised and that very shortly ...

3253

***Aside.***

Hon. M. A. KING: Rules not only in relation to the foreign service, but in relation to the general service as well are being looked at and are being put in place and in the fullness of time those will be published and should be available for debate. I am told my time is out

*The question that the sum of $9 833 849 under Head 35 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs stand part of the schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.* 7.05 p.m.

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAUT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour, the SPEAKER, and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I want to give notice of a document.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you seeking leave for that? Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is seeking leave to (kail with documents to be laid If there is no objection, then leave is granted.

NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In the absence of the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, I give notice of the Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Police for the years 1990 and 1991.

*Aside.*

PAPERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sorry, these documents are to be* laid, Sir. On his behalf and on the command of the Cabinet, I lay those reports to which I made reference. I have nothing more here before me.

SUSPENSION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, that brings me to the end of this segment of this sitting. I move, Sir, that the House be suspended until 12 o'clock noon tomorrow.

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

•

*The question that this sitting be suspended until 12 o'clock noon tomorrow was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.* 7.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it shall revert.

COMMITTEE Mr. CHAIRMAN: Committee of Supply is resumed.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - $116 808 475 (As Amended)

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 36 in the sum of $116 808 475 as amended stand part. In moving that the Head stand part, Sir, I think the Committee would wish to have some information which I think is necessary. The current expenditure for the Ministry of Health for the financial year in fact has been projected at $153 132 389, an increase of $7 634 779 or 5.25 per cent over the original Estimates of $145 497 610 which were approved for the financial year 1992-93. Personal Emoluments account for $94 486 750 or 54 per cent of the total projected expenditure. A breakdown of these Personal Emoluments, Mr. Chairman, is as follows:
Statutory Personal Emoluments $58 175 994 Other Personal Emoluments 30 123 113 National Insurance Contributions 5 320 608 Health Levy 646 287
Transport Levy 220 748
$94 486 750 Mr. Chairman, the main programmes of expenditure
are:
Direction and Policy Formulation $7 088 281 Primary Health Care Services $35 727 370
. (or 23.3 per cent)
Hospital Services $92 027 650

(or 60.1 per cent)
(That is broken down into acute care $62.8 million and Other $29.1 million.)
Care of the Disabled $1 917 152
Pharmaceutical Programme $16 371 936
Mr. Chairman, the highest budgets are allocated to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which is $57.1 million and then the Drug Service which is $16.3 million, the
3254
Sanitation Services Authority $14.3 million, Psychiatric Hospital $13 087 691, Geriatric Hospital $7.7 million and the St. Philip District Hospital $4.427 million.

Capital expenditure is projected at $21 852 080 which includes an amount of $400 472 *for* non-recurrent items and also an amount of $500 000 for capital transfers. During the financial year 1992-93, the capital expenditure of $12 397 775 was supplemented by an amount of $753 755, making a total of $13 151 530. The capital expenditure of $21 852 million for the financial year that we are embarking on represents an increase of $8 700 550 or 66.2 per cent over last year. The main capital projects which we hope to complete this year are the Health Rationalisation Project $3 488 455, the Black Rock Polyclinic $784 440 and the South Coast Sewage Project $9 286 688. This is expenditure for this year. As you know, Sir, that is the beginning of a project which in the end will cost in excess of U.S. $70 million. The loan is for U.S. $70 million.

The Solid Waste Study which we expect to complete is $2 500 000. The West Coast Sewage Project, which will te piggy-backed onto the South Coast Sewage Project, we expect to spend this year $1 271 522.

Mr. Chairman, in case anyone who wishes to have a comparison between the expenditure pattern for the 1992-93 and 1993-94 expenditure, I will be happy to supply that information.
Sir, having given the information about the expenditure, I do not propose to take the Committee's time with a long exposition on the Head since I am sure that Honourable Members have specific questions. There is one other capital project which does not appear in the Estimates in that form because the funding has been approved as a gift. There is an Eye Care Centre which is going to be constructed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This is a grant of $2.5 million which I have spoken to the House about in the past. It is the Lions Eye Care Centre. This was approved last year. I am just explaining that is capital works that will be going on. It is a below the line account and I have no doubt that in due course the information will be made available. It has already been included in last year's expenditure.
Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of issues which have been raised from time to time and which require some information. Sometime ago in a discussion in this Honourable Chamber it was suggested there was a problem of nursing shortages at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I was not in a position at that time to present the information, especially as it related to staffing of the nurses at night. Mr. Chairman, on average there are between 60 and 70 nurses scheduled for duty on any given night.

12.10 p.m.

This allows for a minimum of 2 nurses per unit, one of whom must be a trained staff nurse. On specialised units these numbers are increased. A review of the absence records reveals that of the staff scheduled to work there is an average of 2 nurses per night absent. Of course, some nights there is none absent and on other nights there may be one or 2 more than the average of 2. In the event that an unscheduled absence brings a ward quota down to one, the senior staff in the nursing office will relocate a nurse from a unit which is better served to augment the staff on that ward, ensuring that there is a staff nurse available at all times in each unit. Over a 24 hour period, the records indicate an average of not more than 6 persons absent out of those who were scheduled to be on duty. In other words, over the 24 hour period, as opposed to the night period, an average of 6 persons were seen to be absent out of those who were scheduled to be on duty. There has never been the situation where there have been 60 persons absent from scheduled duty over any 24 hour period, which would have

had to be the case for the information which was vouchsafed of there being only one nurse on 8 wards. That has been demonstrated to be completely, absolutely not so.

On the question of nurses being injured on duty, over the last year there was one incident at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where a staff nurse was injured when a patient, who was on a waid for surgical treatment, but who also had a mental history, hit a nurse with a vase and also bit an orderly who was assisting in restraining him. There were no other incidents at the Hospital where nurses were injured by patients.

Mr. Chairman, on the question of the Eye Care Centre which will be constructed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital this year, I want to give a little information since I do not believe I have given any detailed information on that to the House.

It is proposed to build a facility, which is part of a multi-faceted development effort, to delivery primary and specialty eye care for the Caribbean Commonwealth countries. The Centre will serve as a co-ordinating centre for the prevention of blindness activities throughout the Caribbean, serve as a liaison with non-governmental organisations and act to implement and direct programmes in preventive and community ophthalmology in the region. The Centre will establish a system where primary ophthalmic care will be delivered by primary health care workers. Patients would be referred for secondary care to intermediate facilities, where available, and to the Eye Care Centre for secondary and tertiary care. Patients requiring surgical care and more skilled evaluation treatment and follow up would be referred to the Centre from all the Caribbean countries.

The Centre will be well-equipped with modem instrumentation and have facilities for delivery of



outpatient surgical care and, Mr. Chairman, this grant from the Lions International was given on the basis of our demonstrating to them in February 1992 that there were factors in eye care in the Caribbean which required early and urgent intervention at the tertiary level.

Many territories in the Caribbean now send patients to North America to obtain care at considerable expense, care such as vitro retinal surgical care, especially for diabetic retinopathy, ocular trauma, inflammatory and infectious diseases which are not now currently being treated in the Caribbean. The expanded delivery of secondary eye care will also be important for cataract, glaucoma management, *et cetera,* and, hopefully, Mr. Chairman, we will be able, in conjunction with an eye study which has been going on in Barbados over the last 6 years and which has been financed by the National Eye Institute in Washington, D.C. - the study has been carried out under the aegis of the State University of New York at Stonybrook and conducted in Barbados by Miss Connell -it is clear that a number of Barbadians, unless the matter is dealt with expeditiously, will find themselves blind in the not too distant future. The blindness rate in the Caribbean is approximately .5%. There is an estimated 27 000 blind persons and another 300 000 persons who are visually disabled.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to get a bit of information here which I bdieve the Committee should be interested in. I do not wish to spend the whole day talking about that

Another area which I believe was raised was the question of preventive maintenance at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Planned preventive maintenance is in place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the supply of medical gases for the boilers, for the operating theatre equipment, for the lifts, for the air conditioning systems and for the sterilisers. During the study that was done in the $40 million development project, the human resources development aspect of it included a study done under the aegis of the Pan American Health Organisation and it included an element of preventive engineering. That regime has been put in place. 12.20

An additional engineer has been added to the staff of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and it is anticipated that there will shortly be a full and complete preventative maintenance programme.
It has been raised from time to time whether there is any charge for the use of the emergency ambulance service. I wish to tell the Committee there is no charge for the use of the emergency ambulance service summoned in the event of a genuine emergency case. I also wish to point out that there is no charge for Barbadians referred to the Hospital by a general practitioner either through the Accident and Emergency Department *or* directly through the ward after consultation with the Duty Registrar, except that if the patient elects to enter into a private arrangement with a specific consultant for continuing care that patient is subject to paying the fees whether the patient is on the private ward or the public ward.

There are no special arrangements for pensioners on the private ward. Once a patient elects to be treated privately on a private ward, the full charges are payable in accordance with the Hospital Fees Regulations.

We have been continuing a programme of refurbishing and rewiring throughout the Hospital, and it is intended during the year to continue that programme. Plans for the creation of and establishment of an angiographic suite are proceeding according to schedule. A provision for the completion of the building to house the angiographic suite, which is already in Barbados, as well as to pay the architectural and other professional fees can be found in these Estimates. The area housing the artificial kidney unit was built to accommodate 11 patients who were serviced by 8 patient areas. It currently services 32 persons and this is only achieved by the staff working very long hours to be able to meet the identified needs. We hope to add another 4 bays to ease the congestion once other working space has been converted and refurbished.

We intend to refurbish the Medical Records Department. In fact, it is behind schedule and I have asked that they establish a Central Admissions Department. That is one of the shortcomings of our hospital in that we have not ever had a central admissions department I have asked also for an accounting and print-out system that will allow every single patient who attends the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to become aware of the actual cost of the service which he or she receives. For those patients who are public patients it will show as a cancellation on the bottom line. This way the whole country would be able to observe the actual benefits which accrue from attendance at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

We are seeking in the establishment of the angiographic suite not only to have heart disease dealt with at the prevention level but we expect that by January 1994 we will have begun cardiac surgery in Barbados. The angiographic suite is not only connected to the provision of cardiac surgery, as some persons seem to believe, but it will also provide the opportunity for vascular surgery which is now not a substantive part of our operations and will therefore allow, we think, for a higher percentage of the saving of legs, especially legs which are amputated on a regular basis.

Mr. Chairman, I believe there are too many amputations in Barbados and one of the things we hope for when the angiographic suite is functional is that, because the surgeons will be able to see much more of and



farther into the lower limbs, they might be able to do bypass and vascular surgery that will result in the saving of many limbs that are currently now amputated.
Mr. Chairman, the Estimates are replete with repetition of reasons why certain care is given in the various institutions. I could speak for a much longer period and talk about what is happening but, as I said, I believe that if I were to... In any case I would have to stop at this point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You still have another 5 minutes if you want to.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I would just like to look at the environmental health for a moment and indicate that attempts have been made to keep the environment as clean as possible. There are a number of negative habits which Barbadians exhibit which make keeping Barbados clean a very expensive proposition. We are seeing evidence that the constant call to the population to respond in a positive way is beginning to have the desired effect. I hope that the people of Barbados will recognise that complying with the Regulations arising out of the Health Services Act *for* maintaining a healthy environment is not doing anything other than preserving their own individual environment.

I should like to take the opportunity of these Estimates to invite all Barbadians to strive for that standard, which many of us knew when we were children, of cleanliness around our respective homes and residences. It is a part of the law that a person should keep his surroundings clean. It is a requirement of the law and I hope that persons will not become too upset if they find the public health inspectors who are going to be called environmental health officers are pressing harder than they used to. I remember the Honourable Member yesterday talking about the mercies of the health inspectors. They will find that the environmental health officers will be pressing harder for the maintenance of cleanliness around the home. I hope Barbadians will take that in the spirit in which it is being offered. There is a lot to be said for a cleaner Barbados. The Sanitation Service Authority has been striving manfully to keep the collections at their desired levels but there are some difficulties arising from'the failure of people to put out their refuse at the appropriate times.

There is never anything new on health. It is the same old story because it is the same old routine, but Mr. Chairman, there are some things which need to be said and in due course as the Honourable Members raise their respective questions I will be happy to answer any and all questions raised by Honourable Members.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 12.30 p.m.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would want to start off this year on a happy note. It is going to be denied me. As in every Estimates debate since 1986,1 have had to start off by observing that I do not have at my disposal, neither do you; Sir, nor any other Member of this Honourable Chamber, an up-to-date copy of the Chief Medical Officer's Report. We are still at the year 1989.1 make this comment every time. This is an important report which informs not only Barbadians but the Eastern Caribbean. They depend upon it in a way that we cannot begin to imagine because their capacity and facilities to enable them to do similar reports for themselves simply do not exist So parliamentarians this morning, Mr. Chairman, start off with that disadvantage.

I make that point first to say that this is only illustrative of the fact that the Ministry of Health continues to be plagued with mismanagement, not only in the area of delivery of services, but in the area, most importantly of policy direction, and unhappily as we.are going to discover this morning, in the area of its finances as well. The buck when it comes to deciding policy and priorities ends at the Minister's desk and I am placing all blame firmly on the Minister in this connection.

Mr. Chairman, a close scrutiny of the Estimates of the Ministry of Health will disclose to you and to all of us this morning a severe lack of focus and lack of direction in terms of policy. Almost as important as that are the implications for the delivery of health care services and the quality of service.
Mr. Chairman, in 1992 during this same Estimates debate, the Barbados Labour Party warned the Government about cutting the Health vote according to the IMF bidding. Especially we said the Ministry of Health should not have been the first in line for cuts. This is counter productive. The Government was cautioned about cuts in staff which would have implications for workloads, therefore quality of care, the Hospital's ability to deliver the full range of services required and indeed expected of the Queen Elizabeth 'Hospital.

Now, the Ministry of Health, according to the Auditor-General's Report 1991/92 financial year, apart from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs which, of course, gets 32.9% of the national cake, the

Ministry of Education gets 16.3% and the Ministry of Health gets 13.6%. That is a lot of money. The Minister has quoted the numbers. They are here for us. In 1991/92 the Approved Estimates for Health were in excess of $193 million. In the Approved Estimates for 1992/93 it is $157.89 million. You could call it $158 million. The Estimates for 1993/94 we are dealing with today are in excess of $174 million.

3257

Most importantly, Sir, this includes provision for the restored 8%.
The Ministry of Health gets a large vote. It is one of the big Ministries, one of the largest in terms of Government's employees. I would want to suggest that the larger the vote, the larger the responsibility especially for resource management. That is what is so critically lacking in the Ministry. The Minister has made it appear as though there have been increases and therefore you would assume from that improvements in the Ministry of Health. My reading and understanding of these Estimates show very distressing areas where decreases will occur in this financial year at a time when, in the prevailing economic environment, increased demands for services are beginning to make themselves manifest. Last year, 1992/93, as you will recall, Sir, was the year of the user fee increases. Remember it dominated the debate on Health in here and in other Ministries as well. We warned the Minister. He was told by us that he would not realise the increased revenues upon which he was apparently depending. Only last week the Honourable Minister of Health was in here asking for in excess of $9 million in a supplementary vote for the Ministry of Health. All of that speaks of gross mismanagement. Three weeks before the end of the financial year he comes in here looking for a supplementary almost in the order of $10 million.

Mr. Chairman, last year we pointed out that there would have been a fall-off in the demand for services which attracted the increase in user fees and that an increase in those services which were free at the point of delivery of service we would see a significant rise. All of that has come to pass. People who never frequented the precincts of the polyclinics are filling up the car parks now because they cannot afford the user fees at other institutions.

In these Estimates, Sir, I want to invite the House to look first at revenue. There is this old time notion, pure mythology, that Health is essentially and only a social sector Ministry. I keep making the point, health is one of the productive sector ministries. You tend not to look at revenue. Look at (xiv) in the Ministry of Health. It is incredible. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital revenue in the Estimates 1992/93 is $6 million. That is what was estimated, but in the Revised Estimates for 1992/93 it is $2.2 million. The actual expenditure in 1991/92 was $1.6 million. The Estimates for this year show $2.3 million. You see that drop, Sir? Look at Hospital fees now. Again in the Estimates for 1992/93 - this is instructive - it was $930 000. In the Revised Estimates for that same year it is $2$ 000 and in the Estimates 1993/94 the Minister is holding it at $25 000. It is my prediction, Sir, unhappily, that he will not realise this revenue.

In respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital you get a drop from $6 million to $2.2 million. Something is gravely wrong. This is serious mismanagement. If the Minister was in the private sector he would have been fired. I invite the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs to fire him from the Ministry of Health. Look at Dispensary, the same fees occurring. This is the story of revenue in the Ministry of Health.

Now, Sir, this speaks of what the Honourable Member for St. Peter earlier in this debate described as very poor forecasting. It does not say anything for the way in which the finances of the Ministry of Health are handled. We start off by observing that the Ministry of Health revenues are way down and falling. It is no wonder that over the past year we have seen massive supplementaries becoming an annual feature of the management of the Ministry of Health, this financial year notwithstanding.
Mr. Chairman, something has to be very wrong in our community when the most vulnerable, those least able to defend themselves happen to be the most penalised and the least accommodated by the

Ministry of Health. I speak of women, children and particularly the elderly. 12.40 p.m.
Children, 1991/92 - Decrease in the polyclinic vote. Decrease in nutrition. You will not find it on any page. This is some homework I did *for* myself. What I did was to look at the figures over 1991/92, 1992/93, and now 1993/94 to see where the overall average increases or decreases in expenditure occurred. I am horrified, Sir, where it will show that in the new polyclinics you saw a decrease in the order of 46.94% between 1991 and today.
Nutrition service.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member.

Mr., CHAIRMAN: Please state your point of rising.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Sir, new polyclinics are exactly that. You cannot show new polyclinics to show a decrease in children.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Nutrition service over the 3 years will have suffered a 15.45% decrease. Yes, between 1991 and today's Estimates will have totalled 15.45% decrease. And there is no provision yet, in these Estimates, for the St. John polyclinic. But, care of the elderly, over the 3 years - 1991 to today's Estimates - a 4.2% decrease.

3258

Look and see the decreases, Sir, in respect of the sub-program to do with the Geriatric Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital which is full of geriatrics and care of the elderly. Look at where the cutbacks are coming, Sir. This is a Ministry which is enjoying a health levy too. Let me deal with the health levy before I sit down on this first intervention.

This Ministry, in the Estimates 1992/93, the Health Levy realised $35.9 million revised down to $30 million in the same 1992/93. In these Estimates, this year 1993/94, the Health Levy is being estimated to raise $23.4 million. I have not yet got to the projects being funded by the IDB, the Lions International and all the other projects. This Ministry has so much at its disposal and could manage to mismanage.
I am sure, Sir, that those people who administer at the Inter-American Development Bank and the Lions International have got to be concerned about the capacity of the Ministry of Health to manage these projects. But I do not want to preempt myself and get on to that too early.
Policy Priorities - I want to start with the St. Joseph Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Of course that will be in one minute.

Miss B. A. MILLER: I cannot do it in one minute, Sir, so I will take my seat and let somebody else get in.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will respond to the Honourable Member about the decreases, because it does not seem to me as though the Honourable Member has been able to look at the Estimates in the detailed way which she purports to be saying.

Now she has talked about decreases as an indication of mismanagement. It is. very difficult to link that relationship and I hope the next time she gets up she will be able to show the relationship because I am having difficulty understanding what she means. But I will point out that she said there was a severe lack of focus and a lack of direction and I have not been able to link those broad statements with any factual information she has produced.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am certainly not going to have so many Members talking across the Floor.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sorry, Sir. On the revenue for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which was fixed at $6 million, a substantial part of the fall in revenue had to do with the pay back of funds from insurance companies which have not been able to fall into the last financial year.

I will give just *one example. The Honourable Member for St Thomas can confirm that in a matter with which he is fully seised, that he has indicated that in fact the people would have been able to send a cheque for $473 000 during the month of April. That is a figure which was included and expected during the last financial year.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I gave the Honourable Minister of Health permission to read into the record'the note that I gave him in respect of an accident case involving a young boy but the Minister is trying to obfuscate things. That is in relation to $925 000 in relation to hospital fees. My note to him saying that the Insurance Company is being asked to repay $437 000, that deals with the Medical Aid Scheme which is a different object number. Thai is 071508. He is a master of a lot of talk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That last comment does not form part of your point of order.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Members, Sir, are like mushrooms. They come up in the morning and they are gone. If the Honourable takes the trouble to look at the Estimates in the way he is saying he will see that the medical aid scheme was included last year in the hospital fees but in the revenue for this year we have separated it and made it a separate item for the first time. If you look you will see a zero. Don't come with that foolishness.

Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. No. The Honourable Minister is misleading the House. I have the approved Estimates for last year. At the same page (xiv), there is a line item under REVENUE –

MINISTRY OF HEALTH - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - Hospital Fees -Dispensaries, and further down, Medical Aid Scheme. Just as it is in this year's Draft Estimates.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: I am responding to what the Honourable Member said. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas gave the impression that when I talked about the $473 000 it would show up in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital revenue. The $473 000 will be included under Medical Aid Scheme as a separate Head this year because the same auditor's report shows that because there was not a clear indication as to where medical aid scheme repayments were made and to be made, we have decided to have a separate Head for the Medical Aid Scheme.

The Medical Aid Scheme was included in hospital receipts. It was included in last year's Estimates.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members will have an opportunity to make their points and should not be interrupting at this level. 12.50 p.m.

3259

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that the $473 000 which will be paid by the Honourable Member's insurance company and the $700 000 which we expect to recover from other insurances are included in the $6 million which appear this year as revenue.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If one looks at the Estimates on page 14 which say $2.3 million...

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The asides are loud enough to interrupt the debate. Let us keep ourselves at a low level.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If they are not interested in the explanation, I do not have to give it. But the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at No. 071501 revised estimated revenue for 1992 was $2.2 million. Then the revenue for 1993 is put at $2.3 million. The Estimates for 1992-93 had been put at $6 million.

*Aside.*

Hon. $B_r$ M. TAITT: When she is speaking and I utter a word, you have a lot to say. Do you want to hear? Well, listen. The Medical Aid Scheme is listed in 1993-94 at $280000 and the revenue is put at $2.3 million plus $280 000. Then they have hospital fees of $25 000 which remain the same, dispensaries at $90 000 which remain the same, and the others are basically the same. Now the amounts of $7.7 million that were estimated as revenue for the Ministry of Health have been cut $3.260 to $3.37 million in 1993-94.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, is that the Medical Aid Scheme will recover in excess of $2 million during the 1993-94 Estimates and the figures that were expected to be recovered during 1992-93 will be recovered in 1993-94. That is the point I was trying to make. In 1993-94, the figures must show an increase because the revenue has not been received in that year. Therefore, in 1993-94 there will be an over-receipt of revenue because the revenue will come in 1993-94.

The point I was making is that if the cheque had been paid when it was due that would have been $473 000 which would be for 1992-93. The Government over-expended the vote which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was trying to get me to say. Therefore, the funds will be covered notwithstanding there is only $3 njillion listed as revenue. The final $3.8 million under Item 17 Queen Elizabeth Hospital reflect in minus revenue which will come in this financial year and will show up in next year's Estimates. Therefore, I am in no position to give a better answer. No one could have anticipated that an insurance payment that was due 2 years ago would take another financial year to be paid. The Honourable Members know the problem with the insurance companies.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to answer any questions but I do not intend to get into any trivia in this Committee. I do not understand how anyone who understands simple arithmetic cannot understand.

On the question of the Chief Medical Officer' report, the Honourable Members must know that like the Auditor General and other officers of that nature are not subject to any political direction. Except to ask for the report, the Minister nor any other person cannot write the report.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will not have these interruptions across the floor. It appears that some Honourable Members do not wish to continue.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Do you wish me to bring in a document that I have written and lay it? I am going to give you the legal position on this question. The legal position on these matters has been set out and

here is what it says.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will only have one minute to do that

Hon. B. M. TAITT: This will take one minute. I am in the biggest law court of all...I quote: "Where civil servants carry out the Minister's orders or act in accordance with his policy, it is for him and not for them to take any blame. He also takes responsibility for ordinary mistakes or miscarriages but he has no duty to endorse unauthorise action of which he disapproves, although he has general responsibility *for* the conduct of his Department and for the taking of any necessary disciplinary action." I do not want people to ask me things over which I have no jurisdiction.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of speaking on this Head. I just want to set the record straight. He can understand the way the process has to be done. There was a young boy, and I am not disclosing any name, who was run over by a bus in the bus stand. He suffered the most severe injuries. That, subject to memory, Sir, happened in 1986. The boy's family had to emigrate from Barbados because the Hospital here could not do the various surgical procedures which were necessary to rehabilitate a number of the boy's organs. Obviously the family could not afford the



expense attendant .upon overseas treatment. Applications were made to the Medical Aid Scheme for assistance and funds were remitted as were required from the Ministry of Health to the Consul General's Office in Toronto and the various hospitals and doctors were paid by the Consul General's Office from time to time. 1.00 p.m.

[1] Subject to memory, the first bill tendered by the lady responsible in the Ministry of Health was in 1987 and showed that as at that date the Medical Aid Scheme had advanced just over Can. $100 000. Subsequently, in 1988, that figure went up to about Can. $130 000 to $140 000. But from 1986 until August last year this boy has been receiving treatment of various kinds in Canada. The last surgical procedures were performed last year. He is now undergoing a period of psychological therapy to condition him at age 18 for the reality of his future, which I am not disclosing in the House, and we are informed by the psychologist in Canada that she is not in a position to give a report as to any future psychological trauma the boy will experience until the end of April.

It means that the lawyers for the boy, and I am one, are unable to compute his general damages, but we have been able, subject to the bills for the psychological assessments, to compute fairly accurately the expenses disbursed by the Medical Aid Scheme and other expenses, such as the mother's trips up and down, her rent and so on. The latest figures provided by the Ministry of Health show that as at January this year the Ministry had expended about Can. $289- 000, but when converted at yesterday's rate, that produces an equivalent Barbados amount of $473 757.

I approached the insurance company for the Transport Board and asked, having regard to the $10 million Resolution we had in here last week, and the demands being made on the Medical Aid Scheme, if the Insurance Corporation of Barbados wpuld consider settling that pan of the claim at an early date so that the Ministry of Health could recover the $473 000 to put back in this Fund so it can be lent to other people who have need of it That is where I stand. I am for the boy, I am not for the insurance company. The lawyer for the insurance company has assured me that she has made representation to the insurance company to disburse that part of the payment, so that the Scheme can get back its money. I wrote the Minister yesterday to say to him that we expect that within a month we should be able to have those funds which will then be sent to the Ministry for the Medical Aid Scheme. That is what it is.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the figures in these draft Estimates speak for themselves. There is a separate line item under Revenue for the Medical Aid Scheme and if the Minister cannot

manage his finances in a way which does not show this fall in revenue in his Ministry, that now is a 'matter for the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance to take note of.

Now, Sir, I want to move to the St. Joseph Hospital.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: On a point of order, Sir. I have just been given an indication that there is a typographical error.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member knows that the Minister does not manage any finances in any Ministry. She knows that, so I do not know what she is talking about it being a matter for the Minister of Finance.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if that is the way the Minister wants to save face, well the public of Barbados will have to judge. He has not yet told us where the typographical error is, which financial year it occurred in, under what Head, under what Subprogram or what line item, but he says there is a typographical error.

Mr. Chairman, let me get on to the St. Joseph Hospital. I want to say this to begin with. The St. Joseph Hospital is to be found at page 76. This is for the benefit of the Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am having a little difficulty in hearing what the Honourable Member is saying.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Thank you, Sir. The St Joseph Hospital. How can a 70.09 increase between the last financial year and this financial year be justified? This is an increase in excess of 70% over last year at the St. Joseph Hospital, for operating expenses in a hospital that is duplicating services already available in Barbados at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other hospitals.

Let me start off by making this point, Sir. I can only quote the Chief Medical Officer's Repot of 1989. That is the most recent laid in this House. Table 22 - Bed Utilisation by Type of Hospital - 1989. The occupancy rate at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was 75.6%. The Minister pointed out to us, and it shows here in the note, that the services provided at the St. Joseph Hospital would be in areas of obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery and medicine. I would refer you, Sir, to Table 23 where you will see now a bed utilisation breakdown at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Obstetrics at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital showed a 79.5% occupancy in 1989. Gynecology showed 78% occupancy. Medicine showed 86.2% occupancy. What this is showing us is that there is spare capacity at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. What is the justification for the Minister duplicating these services at the St. Joseph Hospital and the taxpayers have been



asked to pay $26 million to invest in a hospital that he himself, in an answer to a Parliamentary Question tabled by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, only last week told us that at the St. Joseph Hospital 70% of the beds are going to be private beds. 1.10 p.m.

So, what is happening is that the Barbados taxpayers are now finding themselves funding another private hospital in Barbados to the tune of $26 million. I want to hear about the dividends that will now return on that investment over the years? I want to hear the Minister on that I also want to point out, Mr. Chairman, and I am quoting the Chief Medical Officer's Report for 1989, it being the most recent available to me at Table 22, Woodside is showing an occupancy of 70.9%. It can barely make 70%. Bayview -56.7%. So where do we get off now with the Government spending $26 million to put

another essentially private hospital with only a 30% availability of beds for public use? This is the hospital to serve the North. I want to know what is the justification for that? We are told there is to be a Drug Rehabilitation Unit down there just as we were told there is going to be a special psychiatric 8-bed unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

There was some great confusion which was carried on with somebody at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a decision was taken by the Minister - he can make certain decisions when it pleases him - that he wants an 8-bed psychiatric unit within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is just chaos. Where is the policy formulation in this? Where is the sense of direction?

We were led to believe when the Government over invested in excess of $6 million purchasing the St. Joseph Hospital - the other $20 million was spent refurbishing and still spending, vide the 70% increase in these Estimates over last year - that it was going to be put to some highly special use and it was redesigned and refurbished to answer a demand yet unmet in our health services. It turns out that that is not so. The St. Joseph Hospital is no different now than it was when it was run by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, and in all the years that the Sisters ran it, it never made 40% occupancy. Everything the Honourable Member for St. Michael West touches in terms of occupancy suffers a decline. He did it in tourism and now he is doing it in health. That is the story of the St. Joseph Hospital. The public of Barbados does not know that what their taxes are funding is 70% private beds. We did not know that We heard it was a hospital for the North, but it turns out that only 3 out of every 10 beds is available for all like you and me, Sir. In other words, for those who can pay, there are 70 out of 100 beds. But for the people who cannot pay, the left over 30 beds would be for them.
I want the Minister to tell us about the nurse/patient ratio at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I want him to tell us about the nurse/patient ratio at the St. Joseph Hospital. I want to know how many beds are occupied. All we can hear is that one baby was born there - the most expensive delivery in the whole of Barbados, in the whole world. $26 million to deliver one baby. It is not a laughing matter. This is not even a bionic baby. $26 million, after 7 years this Hospital has brought forth one baby. Yet, Sir, the Chief Medical Officer's Report tells us that there is more than enough spare capacity in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital also happens to be the hospital where the neo-natal unit is going to be. Any baby born in the St. Joseph Hospital, who has need for the neo-natal unit, still has to be transported from the St Joseph Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where all the major support services are. This is criminal duplication of services at a time when Barbadians have need for basic services and I have not got to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital yet

The Minister really has to tell Barbados why the Government has provided a Hospital with 70 out of 100 beds reserved for private use in 1993. The Minister has to tell us what priority that has in delivering health care services. It would have been better if the Hospital were handed over to the private sector, but the private sector would not want it because the Chief Medical Officer's Report shows that even the percentage of occupancy in the private hospitals cannot get up to 70%. Any self-respecting hotel in Barbados, especially at this time of the year, would hope to be able to achieve 90% occupancy. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital does not make it to 75% in any given year. This has nothing to do with the recurrent expenditure in the years to come. I am quite horrified at the...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Honourable Members would be reminded that the Chair is the centre piece of the Chamber and they should not back the Chair.

Miss M. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to move now to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital shows a decrease in the years between 1991-93 of 7.87%. Operating expenses are down $1.8 million in the approved Estimates 1992-93 to $354 000 estimated for 1993-94.

Let me find the page for the Honourable Minister. Page 75. He has great difficulty finding the page.

The major General Hospital in Barbados, Teaching Hospital of the University of the West Indies, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I would refer you, Mr. Chairman to line item, Operating Expenses under Subprogram 01: Queen Elizabeth Hospital to be found at page 75. This is stunning.

3262

Approved Estimates 1992-93 - $1.8 million, revised Estimates - $1.8 million. The 1991-92 actual expenditure - $2.3 million and this year estimated $354 000. Not even half a million dollars. The Minister has to explain to us. Operating Expenses, Sir. Look over at the Explanatory Notes, it includes provision for the purchase of uniforms etc.

*Asides.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: If I look at the amendments, they do not address the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. They are amendments on technical management services, maternal and child care, psychiatric and care of the elderly. So do not tell me to look at the amendments. He does not even know what his own amendments are.

Mr. Chairman, this is bordering now on the disastrous. Not only this Honourable House but this country demands a satisfactory explanation today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 1 minute.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Technical Management Services. This looks after furniture and equipment This is down $1.7 million. This deals with maintenance of vehicles, plant insurance and the upkeep of buildings. An 11.8% decrease. Page 68 for the Minister's benefit. Help him to find the page.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said the time has expired

Miss B. A. MILLER: Under Direction and Policy Formulation Services. I will return to this matter. I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I wish to respond to what the Honourable Member has said because it will only be a recurring point made if one does not correct it early. If the Honourable Member will look at the page from which she read opposite page 75, she will see that 212 says: 1.20p.m.
If the Honourable Member would take the Estimates and look at the page from which she read, opposite Page 75, she will see that 212 says:

"Provides for the purchase of uniforms, for postage and miscellaneous office expenses. Also provides *for* seminars and medical training, expenses of patients and escorts travelling for medical attention unavailable in Barbados."

If she turns to the page opposite page 78 under "Medical Aid Scheme" - Subprogramme Statement it says:

"This subprogramme includes the cost of expenses incurred in connection with patients and escorts travelling for medical attention unavailable in Barbados."

When I said it was an amendment, apparently it has not been circulated. It is one to come. What has happened .is that the amount of $1.4 million at page 212 would have been included last year in the amount of $1.5 million at 212 on page 75. The $1.5 million therefore has been taken from that Head on page 75 but it recurs on page 78. There is not a diminution of the service. It is an arithmetic change because a Head has been created for the Medical Aid Scheme.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am sorry that it has not been circulated. I was under the impression that the correction had been circulated.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let all comments be referred to the Chair, please.

Hon. B, M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you have to understand that this yellow draft document which we get usually have in it a lot of errors. It is no secret that it does carry some things in it that are a little gargantuan when you look at them.

On the question of a Psychiatric Unit for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sir, I am really disappointed that the Honourable Member cannot remember that as Minister of Health she would have presided over a decision to establish a Psychiatric Unit in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But if she cannot remember when she did it, other Honourable Members over there who have served as Ministers of Health would know that this is a matter which has been hanging fire for in excess of 15 years. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the only teaching hospital in the world without a Psychiatric Unit.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member made it a priority because she sought to suggest that I made a decision on the Psychiatric Unit based on a personal matter. I understand the phraseology.

Miss. B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. In the first place I have never made any decision in respect of a Psychiatric Unit within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. If I had done that it would be there now.

3263

The second point I rise to correct is that I know nothing of any personal matter. Of this I am wrongfully accused and the Honourable Member must either explain it or take it back. I am making no personal references to him.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member in his speech referred to the Honourable Member as disreputable. I am objecting to it. That was the last point he made and he must withdraw the remarks.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Sir, I do not recall saying those words but if he said I said it, I withdraw it unhesitatingly. There is nothing disreputable about the Honourable Member. What she said was disreputable.

The Honourable Member must know that the question of a Psychiatric Unit for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is one which has been hanging fire for a very long time during the time of the Barbados Labour Party administration. Therefore, there should be no grand-standing by any Honourable Member on the question of a Psychiatric Unit. It is a requirement What has happened, and I am glad she has heard of the decisive decision-making by the Minister, if theis with the pussy-footing and the back a*id forth and gave a directive that it must be established by a particular time.

Now, if the Honourable Member does not want me to run the Ministry of Health in thai way she needs only get up and say how she wants it run and I will see if I can accommodate her. But the Psychiatric Unit will be where Ward C-4 is. What was being said before the present Director assumed office.....

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member is saying from her seat that she wants to hear about the Operations cut. She was not listening. I will do it again. The $1.5 million which shows up as cuts for Operating Expenses has been transferred to opposite page 78, the Medical Aid Scheme. What is wrong with the Honourable Member's head? If she does not understand it is like Spotters and Skinners. I have explained it is not a decrease. It has been moved from one part of the Estimates to the other part. What else am I to say? I have tried with the Honourable Member.
As a matter of fact, Sir, I have just been given additional information. Since 1969 it was talked about. In 1974 it was decided that it should be done, that is, the establishment of a Psychiatric Unit in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Dr. Bannister, I am not calling her name pejoratively, was sent for post graduate training in psychiatry to open the unit. This never happened.
We have a consultant who teaches psychiatry and he has no unit from which to teach it to young doctors. The Honourable Members were the Government from 1976 to 1986.1 have come back in 1986. It is now 1993.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is not a matter of agreement for the Governments. It is a matter of decision by the technical people that a unit is necessary. In fact, if the Queen Elizabeth Hospital does not get a psychiatric unit...

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The information which the Honourable Minister has just given he has again misled the Committee by saying that the decision was taken by the Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is wasting time. The record shows that the Barbados Labour Party administration also decided on the issue. It has been decided almost every year.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It had nothing to do with money. What happened is that there has been a constant dilly-dallying and difficulty with the implementation of decisions made at the political level. When they started the refurbishment of the Hospital they started using the space that had been allocated to hold patients while they refurbished other wards. The fact is it has now been decided. The Honourable Member therefore is not doing justice to the Hospital when she suggests that the decision was made recently based on any other consideration.

The Honourable Member has asked about the St. Joseph Hospital. The question of the St. Joseph Hospital has been stated and restated by this Government even before it became the Government. One of the things I find remarkable is that the Honourable Member said all we are doing is duplicating services. I wonder if the Honourable Member would have wished to see a second hospital in which there were no obstetrics or gynecology. I did not quite follow the fact that because we are going to deliver babies at that Hospital it must necessarily follow as a duplication of the delivery of babies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The fact we have surgery at that Hospital, we must have general surgery. We must have general medicine and we must have obstetrics and gynecology.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member asks why? Does the Honourable Member know of a hospital where there is no surgery? The Honourable Member knows of a hospital where there are no obstetrics and gynecology? The Honourable Member does not remember what she was told. In this very place in terms that were very

clearly outlined in a debate which is now in part of Hansard when we established the Hospital Board I outlined the policy. You know it would be improper to repeat it.
1.30 p.m.

In a debate when we established the Hospital Board I outlined the policy, Mr. Chairman, and you know, Sir, it would be improper to repeat I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard, page 4625 and she will find the policy of the St. Joseph Hospital spelt out.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Sir.

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

Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Minister is trying to refer me to Hansard. I am not interested in that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That cannot be ...

Miss B. A. MILLER: I have not made the point of order yet. That is only a preliminary remark.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have to let me know what
standing order ...

Miss B. A. MILLER: I am on a point of order. The question asked was: How can he justify the duplication of general hospital services at St. Joseph Hospital?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is certainly not a point of order in the context of what has transpired.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Let me answer the question. Because the people who go to the hospital will have the same kind of ailments whether they go to a hospital in the North, a hospital in the South, a hospital in the East, or a hospital in the West. They are the same kinds of things. The women will have the same kinds of problems whether they live in the North or the South. The men will have the same kinds of problems, there will be the same kinds of difficulties. What we have agreed to and what is already showing up is that 90% of the people who use the hospital services come from the Northern parishes which I answered in a Parliamentary Question here. But there is more.

The Honourable Member, Sir, speaks of the St. Joseph Hospital in terms which suggest that the St Joseph Hospital has been functioning for the last $1V_2$ years. The Honourable Member must be aware that we decided last year not to bring the hospital on stream therefore to talk about a 70% increase I cannot understand how...

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. The Honourable Minister, maybe, inadvertently, is misleading the House. In excess of 70% of
the people who live in Barbados live in St. Michael, Christ Church and some of St. George. I have difficulty with the statement that 90% of the people who need hospital services live in the North, unless the North starts in St. Michael.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is now telling the House untruths. I said 90% of the people who are using the hospital...

Miss B. A. MILLER: Which hospital? Hon. B. M. TATTT: The St. Joseph Hospital. Miss B. A. MILLER: It only had one patient.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well 100%. If it only had one patient, the one patient came from Pie Corner, so 100% of the people using the Hospital come from St. Lucy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot understand how the Honourable Member could get up in here and try to mislead by talking about a 70% increase in the funding for the Hospital. Of course it is a 70% increase. It moved from almost nothing to a point where we are beginning to put it on stream. There is only one hospital that has ever been put on stream in Barbados and that is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and that was done in the 1960s. This is the first time we are bringing a new hospital on stream.
A new hospital is not like a bread can where all you have to do is open it and put in the bread. It has to be brought on. You at least have to paint it and clean it and you at least have to get somebody to push the bread cart. I have never seen anything like this.

* The Honourable Member is talking about a 70% increase. Yes there is a 70% increase in the numbers which appear in the book if that is what the Honourable Member is concerned about. But the 70% increase includes that there will be a transfer of the staffing which was in the vote of the Psychiatric Hospital last year. The staffing for the rehabilitation unit was in the vote of the Psychiatric Hospital last year. All of the other personal emoluments relating to the rehabilitation unit can be found in the vote for the Psychiatric Hospital in last year's Estimates. Those have been transferred now to the St. Joseph Hospital so obviously you will see a zero where that existed for St. Joseph Hospital and it is bound to show up as a massive increase.
•
Secondly we are bringing the hospital on stream this year in .a phased way. Now when you compare the



S3 million for the St. Joseph Hospital, I think that is what they are getting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time for this has expired, but I will give you a couple minutes to complete that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Compare that with the $57 million for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. How could any one take $3 million, put it next to $57 million and talk about duplication of services. Therefore, Sir, until the St. Joseph Hospital is functioning at a level at which it can be assessed as a functioning hospital we have to start from somewhere.

A number of areas which will be at the St. Joseph Hospital that are not available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or if they are they are only available in a token way will be seen when the St. Joseph Hospital is truly functioning. For example there is a possibility that sports medicine will be practised at the St. Joseph Hospital in a way that is not now being practised at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

To give one example, there is on the cards a plastic surgeon out of Bethesda, Maryland, who will be functioning out of the St. Joseph Hospital who will bring his patients from North America. And the answer is that the St. Joseph Hospital is expected to be an earner of foreign exchange in relationship with Heywoods Hotel where persons, for example, who come to the St Joseph Hospital for plastic surgery will recover at the St. Joseph Hospital because they are not ill and they will then be in easy reach of the St. Joseph Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Hon. B. M."TAITT: The second thing is ... I will explain, Sir, when I come back.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the opportunity to revisit the St Joseph Hospital

because the Honourable Minister has now prompted me to stand up and ask: How is it therefore, under the Estimates going back to (xiv) Revenue, that there is not a line item now for fees from the St. Joseph Hospital? He tells us how it is going to be this big foreign exchange earner. Why do we not see revenue estimated from the St. Joseph Hospital? That is number 1.

He makes reference to something that I had not intended to advert to but I am afraid I must now because he has raised it. He talked about staff being hidden in other votes.

'Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, I never said anything about staff being hidden in any other votes. The record will show, Sir, that I stated when we did the
Estimates last year that the Psychiatric Hospital had within it the element for the Rehabilitation Unit because the Psychiatric Hospital was responsible for the Rehabilitation Unit. I told this to the House. The Honourable Member cannot make that statement.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps the Minister would enlighten us about the staff which he went to London and personally recruited. He was paid for this job.

Hon. .B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member must withdraw that. It is totally, completely untrue. It is an unmitigated lie. The Honourable Member will withdraw that, Sir. I object to that most vehemently. Mr. Chairman that matter has been raised and I have dealt with it and the Honourable Member must withdraw it, Sir. The Honourable Member deliberately, with malice put that in the record. It must be withdrawn. I have never received a cent. You must be mad.
Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member cannot be making a submission and on a point of order say it is an unmitigated lie and say somebody is mad. What sort of language is this? He is ruffled. The Honourable Member is obviously ruffled. He cannot make a point of order in those ways. What sort of behaviour is that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just before the Honourable Member proceeds. The Honourable Member made a statement which seemed to suggest that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West did something which he has denied doing. I would like in every sense of the word to conduct the business of this Committee in the way it ought to be. The type of language used can and will at times spark sparks.

Miss B. A. MILLER: I withdraw the statement, Sir. It was a typographical error. 1.40 p.m.

*Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: Thank you, Sir. I will restate it. Perhaps the Minister will tell us about the staff that he recruited in London, an operation in which expenses were incurred in the sum of $17 000. Perhaps he will explain to us about that. He interviewed them himself. He likes to tell you that he does not do this in the Ministry and that it is not his job to do that. He is now a Personnel Officer. All of this is about the St. Joseph Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that comment in relation to the Minister's Office?
3266

Miss B. A. MILLER: Oh, very much so to his person and to his office. His person went to London and personally interviewed recruits. He incurred expenses in the tune of $17 000 for the St. Joseph Hospital. Perhaps he can tell us if these people are now on staff. I am going to ask the question again that I asked earlier about the St. Joseph. What are the estimated recurrent expenditures down the years from this financial year and forward? At least there is a 5-year development plan for the St. Joseph Hospital and you must have some idea. Particularly, I really want to know why we do not see a line item saying "Fees - St. Joseph Hospital". All of these fees are going to be earned. Seventy out of 100 beds are private beds so we want to know. This is now in competition with private sector institutions. So we are looking for the kind of

returns that we would expect in the private sector.
Sir, if I may return to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I asked the question about Operating Expenses and got a very confused answer about the Medical Aid Scheme. Everything now is founded on the Medical Aid Scheme. Perhaps the Minister would like to enlighten us in respect of the line item "Supplies and Materials" at page 75. Actual expenditure at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital 1991-92 for Supplies and Materials was $10.7 million. Estimated for the same "Supplies and Materials" for 1992-93 was $6.6 million and estimated this year 1993-94 is $6.9 million. This is a long drop from in excess of nearly $11 million in 1991-92. Now this is Supplies and Materials, Sir.

Sir, if you look across the page on 210, this provides for the feeding of nurses, staff and patients, purchase of kitchen cutlery, tableware, medical supplies and minor surgical equipment, chemicals, small biological instruments, minor equipment, glassware, X-ray films and accessories, linen, clothing and bedding *et cetera.* While I am still at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sir, I think the Minister owes us an explanation in respect of the line item "Plant, Equipment and Furniture". Let us look at this, Sir. Plant, Equipment and Furniture provides for the purpose of mechanical spares and bio-medical spares. This is very important. This goes for whether equipment at the Hospital will work or whether it will not work. Actual expenditure in 1991-92 was $594 000. You could round it off at $600 000. Estimated and approved 1992-93 was $1.9 million. You actually expended in 1991-92 $594.600. Call it $600 000. You approved and revised at $1.9 million in this financial year 1992-93. How does it drop now in 1993-94 these Estimates to $126 000? Then the Minister will deny when members and the public complain that equipment does not work at the Hospital, when operations have to be cancelled and postponed because the equipment is not working and when people cannot get other services delivered to them. These are essential services at a hospital like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. How does it drop in 1993-94?

*Aside.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: No, that cannot drop that easily. That can splatter out. This is the Queen Elizabeth Teaching Hospital of the University of the West Indies which services not only Barbadians but has enough capacity in 1993, as it was designed to do, to service part of the Eastern Caribbean as well. How do we see these massive increases at the St. Joseph Hospital and decreases of this order at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? How can you justify that kind of increase at what is essentially a 70 per cent private hospital with less than 100 beds working with a 592 bed hospital, the main general hospital in the country, where in areas of Plant, Equipment and Furniture -Operating Expenses, Supplies and Materials which is critical to the day-to-day running of the Hospital? Is the Minister going to deny now that these were die cuts that were foretold by the Barbados Labour Party or are we going to beer that there is another typographical error? I am gokg to tell you this, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to accept anymore talk about typographical errors unless they are corrected immediately. I want to hear that they are going to be corrected upward. If $127 000 is being estimated to be expended on Plant, Equipment and Furniture at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the revised Estimates last year were $1.9 million. There is a word now being used in the agencies. He is down-sizing the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. PC is downgrading the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

*Aside.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. George South has given me the correct word. Bajans like to use this term. He is "starving out" the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He is "starving out" on everything. So when people complain they cannot get cleaning done, the maids do not have enough materials to clean in the Hospital, that there is a shortage of linen and bedding, we understand why now, Sir. The mathematicians among us will work out for me what percentage decrease it is from $1.9 million to $126 000. How many hundreds of percentage decrease is that? 1.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is ours and we reserve the right to be critical where criticism is in order, because it is important that this Hospital should not fall below the level of quality of care to which we have become accustomed. We do not want to hear that, like the Hospital in Jamaica and the Hospital in Trinidad under the IMF, that people had to run from those countries to other

countries for basic, ordinary procedures that do not even require surgery sometimes.
There was a time when a certain hospital had a black star against it. How does the Minister justify all of



this in the face of massive expenditure somewhere else? Where are the Government's priorities? That is the question I asked from the beginning. He cannot blame the staff or any typewriter or computer for this. The matter of prioritising, the matter of policy formulation in the Ministry of Health, as in any other Ministry, lies squarely in the lap and on the desk of the Minister of Health. How does he justify this rationale?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am very moved by the way in which the Honourable Member is taking her brief as she moves along. Sir, the answer to the main question of her last intervention is very simple. It does say $1.9 million. That is true, but the angiographic suite last year was included in that vote and it cost $1.8 million. So if you subtract $1.8 million from $1.9 million, you have $100 000 left. It is very simple, no mystery, no magic.

The efficiency that the Honourable Member is leading me to discuss at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where $10 million had been allocated to supplies last year, Honourable Members will remember that I came in here and indicated year before last, not last year, that we had brought some trained management staff into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We have persons now who are able to bring to bear the kinds of management capability which can be found in the private sector. As a result, Sir, they were able not only to stqp some of the excesses which had become a normal pan of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under the Honourable Member and other Ministers, but had in fact brought about efficiencies that resulted in savings.

Let me give you an example, Sir. There was an experiment, which has now been put into place, by a consultant which is going to be duplicated and followed around the world, where instead of our having to purchase oxygen for anaesthesiology they have been able to use air. We have been in the forefront of advancement and these are some of the experiments that have been carried out in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which have resulted in savings. I am proud to be associated with a hospital that has moved to the arena where we are applying operational research and where we are attempting to do scientific management techniques that will result in trimming some of the fat.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, we are downsizing, but we are increasing and improving the quality. This hospital is the only hospital I know where they have been able, with normal supplies, normal equipment, to do kidney transplants. In most other places they have the most sophisticated equipment but the Hospital has had 5 successful transplants without. . . .

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Now, you hear the Honourable Member is saying from her seat I cannot fix a sore foot. That is the kind of puerility you have to deal with.

Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. I object. The Honourable Minister is the pelson who talked about amputations in here today. He said too many feet were being amputated. I am only repeating him. He cannot stop amputating feet, but he will tell you now about hpw much heart surgery and transplanting he is going to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I am objecting to is the amount of interventions I am having with Members sitting and shouting across the Chamber. I am going to do something about that very shortly.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I am going to just conclude this segment by saying there is no shortage of cleaning materials, there has not been any shortage of cleaning materials at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Central Purchasing allocation does not appear in the Estimates under the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, it appears under that institution for cleaning supplies. I do not understand the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member should get up and speak and say what she feels. I am giving the facts and you are telling me to be sure.

Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. I think it is really quite misleading for the Honourable Minister to say that cleaning materials are to be found somewhere else. Note 210 at page 75 - Supplies and Materials - has among it diverse items, one of which reads "detergents". If that is not a cleaning material I do not know what it is, unless it now has a new designation. While he is dealing with supplies and materials, perhaps he will tell us if the supplementary he got last week is included in the Revised Estimates, and if not, why not.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am not moved by the language of the Honourable Member. The point is that she misunderstood what I was submitting. There is no shortage of cleaning materials, full stop. New sentence, new paragraph. There is an allocation that applies to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for certain of the supplies it uses which does not appear in the Estimates under QEH. Two separate things. I am not saying that detergent is supplied by the Central Purchasing Department.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member really cannot mislead the House.

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



Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member cannot make it appear in this Committee that his expenditure on cleaning equipment is shown under Central Purchasing, because he knows that the Financial Audit Rules must show his paying back Central Purchasing. The Honourable Member cannot fudge this Committee. 2.00 p.m.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: I am not trying to fudge any Committee, Sir. I am trying to point out to the Honourable Members that there are supplies which are provided through the Central Purchasing Department which do not appear under the Head. I am going to give the details when we come back from lunch.

The Honourable Member raised the question under 210, Supplies and Materials. I am merely saying that those supplies which are given through the Central Purchasing do not appear under 210. I will give the Committee the information when I come back after lunch. I just want to make the point that the St. Joseph Hospital is a statutory corporation. If you will remember, when we passed the St. Joseph Hospital Act the revenues from the St Joseph Hospital are not likely to show up here as part of the revenue in these Estimates in the same way as, say, the Sanitation Service Authority. Because it is a statutory board, it will show up in its own accounts when they are laid in the House.

These Estimates make the assumption that all Honourable Members understand the system we are using.

*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. It is not all right For the Honourable Member to be prancing up and asking where is the revenue from the St Joseph Hospital shows an abysmal ignorance of the system.

Miss M. A. MILLER: On a point of order. I have made the point that the Chief Medical Officer's Report stops at 1989. Perhaps the Minister will tell us now when we will get the first report from the Board of the St Joseph Hospital. In 1999?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I will tell her that, Sir. As soon as I receive it from the Board. Within hours of my receiving it, I will submit it to the House.

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that this sitting be suspended until 3:00 p.m. today.
Hon. B. M. TATTT: I beg to second that.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that, it shall revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (RESUMED) Mr. CHAIRMAN: Committee of Supply is resumed.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister of Health delivered himself of a very profound but disturbing statement during the course of our discussion in relation to the St. Joseph Hospital. The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown requested an explanation of the expenditure of $1? 000 approximately of public money for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred for interviews *for* staff at the St Joseph Hospital, and the Honourable Minister stated quite openly that he had interviewed the people and he intended to continue to interview the people in relation...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The records will not show that I said that. I have not addressed that issue on my feet and the Honourable Member therefore cannot allude to it I will say it for him to speak to it, but the Honourable Member must not say that I said something that I did not say. I have not said that. Do not attribute anything to me that I have not said.

* Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: All right Now, Sir, during the course of the debate on the St. Joseph Hospital we are told that expenditure by way of $3 million odd is going to be voted by this House by way of a grant to the Board which is running the St Joseph Hospital. As I understand it, the St Joseph Hospital will be administered by a statutory board and the revenue of that statutory board derived from the fees and charges it is permitted to charge will go into revenue. Part of the expenditure will be defrayed by those fees. It is anticipated that the difference between the receipts of the institution and the expenditure of the institution will be such that there will be a need for $3 million.

I jifst want to get it clear because this is a matter that we have been dealing with. As far as we, on this side, are concerned if you are granting Government money



to an institution to make up the difference between its revenue and expenditure there must be some principle, some mechanism in existence, to ensure that this House has surveillance of the money that it has voted for this institution. That surveillance usually occurs from the laying of the Report by that institution and the Public Accounts Committee or Parliamentary Members periodically scrutinising the

contents of that Report.
We want the Board of the St Joseph Hospital to understand that if it is dependent upon Government money, it has to be accountable. Secondly, Sir, we find it strange that having voted the money for the Board to carry out its functions that the Board then is going to delegate those functions to somebody else. We regard that as highly improper. If the Board is running the Hospital the Board must pay the staff. The Board must interview the staff. The Board must send in its report and we are not going to tolerate that. We want to make it abundantly clear that we are not going to tolerate that
We accuse the Board of not carrying out its functions. If it does not carry out its functions and does not send in the Report to the Minister so that the Minister can bring it to Parliament, it will be dealt with veiy severely. It is a serious breach of the constitutional proprieties that are associated with public expenditure in Barbados. Nobody in Barbados is above the Law. Let the Chairman of the Board and the rest of the St Joseph Hospital know that If it does not do it, it will encourage us in the belief that all we hear of the reckless, indifferent nepotism that is in existence in the expenditure of public money in the St Joseph Hospital is absolutely true. Nobody can cover up that
As I understand it, it is $26 million that so far has been appropriated for the St Joseph Hospital. That is a serious amount of money, so they better send in their Report. If they do not, I have certain information and on the Floor of this House will say it and nobody will stop me from saying it I will say exactly what the information is, so they had better send in their Report.

The last thing I want to talk about is the question of the sewerage scheme. I am asking a question because I believe it is an important part of public relations. My constituents are going to be affected by the siting of some part of the sewerage scheme. In order to quell their fears, although I believe they have been largely quelled so far, but just to reassure, I would like to know where an audiovisual presentation of what will take place there in the form of a model or whatever can be seen. I believe that it is important that you use the St. Lawrence School or some other place for the display of it together with a very clear description of what is going to take place so that the people will be able to understand.
4

Nobody objected. Everybody wants to have a sewerage scheme. You only have to drive around St Lawrence and you will know it is a necessity. Everybody knows that So we want to see where they have finally decided to site such works as they are going to have in that area.
I also would like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Health that we still have problems with unbushed lots in that area. 3.14 p.m.

In the St Lawrence area by the Pepperpot and the area at the back of St. Lawrence School there are still problems with people who own lots who do not look after them. Many of them have been living abroad for years and the Ministry of Health, as I understand it, from our time, has been regarded as the primary agency under the Health Services Regulations, or whatever the statutory power, to look after that. I really would like to draw attention to the fact that those areas suffer from the problem that they are low lying areas. They collect water from Kendal Hill, Kingsland, Graeme Hall and it comes right down. When the last rainy season came we had problems with drainage. Worik has been done in that area in St Lawrence but we still have the problems.

There ought to be a systematic preventative programme. They used to be one in the St. Lawrence area by the Pepperpot and we acquired nearly all of the houses and the lands below South Winds Hotel. We then moved the chattel houses across the road. There was a drainage scheme that was to go in there. I really feel that further work should be done as a matter of priority because when the rain falls you just cannot pass there. I have not seen the engineering plan but I know there is a master drain to be in there. The existing drain was to have been canalised, made wider. I see building going on at the old Dairy Queen site again. I hope attention is being paid to the drainage in that area because we really want to get that area in first class condition.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I hope the debate so far has made the Minister of Health understand clearly where our concerns lie. At a time when the Government is moving away from subsidies, when it has cut back on the Transport Board and other such subsidies we really need to understand why it would want now to create a new subsidy in the way it has done at the St Joseph Hospital because that is what the over $3 million granted here in this vote is about. What makes it reprehensible to us is that that institution has 70 out of 100 beds as private beds. I do not know how he is going to justify this but I hope he understands where our concerns lie. That lies even more difficult with us when at the same lime we are seeing significant decreases at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Up until this time the Minister has not yet been able to satisfy us how, where and why his priorities are skewed in this fashion.

3270

I asked a question before lunch that I want to repeat again. There has been a significant decrease under the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Supplies and Materials, and only last week there was an equally significant supplementary voted in here *for* the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, part of which would go to Supplies and Materials. The question I asked before lunch was, has that supplementary been included in the Revised Estimates figure we are dealing with today? If it has not, I need to know why not because if it has not, all the Minister is doing is paving a high road for another supplementary before the end of this calendar year, so he really must answer that question. That is not something he can gloss over or excuse away with any typographical errors. I really need to have that made clear. People need to know that they are comfortable going to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the supplies and materials are sufficient to satisfy their needs.

Sir, I want to use this opportunity to address a matter which I sought to address under another Head and which I consider to be a matter of national importance. I go back to the matter of asbestosis. I call again upon the Minister of Health on this occasion to move the Government to ban the importation of asbestos and its use in the construction industry in Barbados both in the private and public sector. It is not enough for the Government to do what it has already been doing.

I credit the Government with the fact and if you look at page 52 of the Estimates you will see that money is voted for roof cladding at the class room block in the Government Industrial Schools for the replacement of the asbestos on the roof there. I laud the Government for that. I know in the Ministry of Housing a programme had started to replace asbestos roofing in some of the older Government estates. This is a programme which has to be escalated. A sense of urgency has to be brought to it but it is not enough to be going ahead with that programme while at the same time you continue to allow the importation of asbestos. It is banned in the United States of America, Europe and Canada. There are heavy fines when people are found to be using this material for building usage.

*Certain remarks made by Miss B. A. MILLER were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the records.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: The point I am making, Sir, is it is no good unless you close the source. I do not think it is too much for the Government to simply announce that there is a ban on the importation of asbestos material for the use in the construction industry.

Mr. Chairman, there are other Heads in the Estimates which give cause for much concern. If we accept, and I believe I have shown to the satisfaction of Honourable Members that there are significant decreases in respect of the provision made for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, revenues have fallen at that Hospital. It has to do with the fact that services have fallen off. The truth is that when people become ill if they cannot get service at one point of delivery they will go to another. This is why the decreases I see under Maternal and Child Care (Polyclinics), Subprogramme 01 at page 69 are really

cause for much concern. Again at Supplies and Materials your actual expenditure in 1991-92 was just over $500 000. Your Revised Estimates for 1992-93 were $700 000. Today, your . estimates in 1993-94 are $633 000. Why are you cutting back on supplies and materials in the Polyclinics when demand is rising? The doctors testify that people who formerly went to their private physicians now find themselves at the Polyclinics.

Operating Expenses - Again your actual expenditure 1991-92 at the Polyclinics was $28 000. Your Revised Estimates 1992-93 were $37 400. Today you are asking for $37 500. You do not anticipate any increase in the demand at the Polyclinics at all? These are matters of great concern.
I would now want to turn very quickly to the Psychiatric Hospital and Care of the Elderly, page 77. Again, look at the areas of cut. Supplies and Materials at the Psychiatric, a hospital where the occupancy rate is like 99% because that hospital is'full of psychiatric geriatrics. You had $2.3 million Actual Expenditure in 1991/92. Your Revised Estimate in this financial year was $2.3 million. Why are you now estimating $1.9 million in 1993/94? This is a cut back.

*Aside.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: This has nothing to do with better management. The best waste is the Minister of Health and what the Prime Minister can do is to remove the Minister from the Ministry of Health.

*Asides.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order.

Miss. B. A. MILLER: Just look down the Increase or Decrease column in respect of the Psychiatric Hospital and you will see there are decreases in Supplies and Materials, Maintenance of Property, Operating Expenses, Plant, Equipment and Furniture.

*Aside.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: Of course this is a line item debate. When somebody goes into an institution run by the Ministry of Health or under the offices of the Ministry of Health and they cannot find one item it is a matter



for the line item. You take care of the line items and the Head will take care of itself. But we do not have any priorities in this Ministry. He is busy trying to put a psychiatric sub unit in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and cutting back at the Psychiatric Hospital. 3.25 p.m.

I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, where the priority lies in this Ministry. He is busy trying to put a psychiatric sub unit in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and cutting back at the psychiatric hospital. I do not understand it. I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, where the priority lies. How can you justify an 8-bed psychiatric unit within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital when you are cutting back at the Psychiatric Hospital - a hospital which has a 99% capacity, some days and some weeks a 100%, sometimes in excess of 100%? Where is the justification for that?

If you look at the population pyramid of this country, Sir, the health statistics generally will show you that we have a growing and aging population - a growing number in what we call the senior citizens category, the over 65s, They are growing daily under care of the elderly. Why are we seeing cutbacks, again in terms of supplies and materials, maintenance of property, plant, equipment and furniture? That is why I said at the beginning of iny presentation, Sir, that at those two ends of the scale where people are most vulnerable, least able to defend themselves - the young and the elderly - that this

Government is savaging the provision made for health care.
This is the inhuman face of structural adjustment. We hear the agencies telling us that you can put a human face upon it. Not so in this Government. Even the drug service, Mr. Chairman, between 1991 and this year's estimates you have seen over the 3 years a 9% cut in the drug service.

We know what the health profile is like. I am tired repeating it in here. Our profile is no different from a first world country profile. Look at the Chief Medical Officer's report and you will see. The heart diseases, the cancers, the diabetes,*the circulatory diseases, these all require treatment by drugs. And this same aging population that I talk about are the ones who are affected more than any other age grouping by these diseases. How does the Minister justify, at this time, a cut back in respect of the drug service? He needs to explain that to us. Because he cannot then be heard to say later on in the financial year, when complaints surface in the press and in this Honourable Chamber, about a lack of supplies and materials at various health institutions, he cannot be then heard to say that it is a typographical error. And I predict that before the end of the calendar year, not this financial year, he is going to be back In here looking for another supplementary. That is how they do business, crisis intervention. No planned business. They wait until the vote is burst and then they
run back to Parliament and because it is Health, they will vote it In any private sector institution, Sir, as I have said already, he would have been through the door a long time ago.

Now, Sir, I want to come to a matter of great national importance. The Inter-American Development Bank has seen fit to invest ... and this has no partisanship in it, successive Governments have been the beneficiaries of Inter-American Development Bank projects, mostly in the area of the environment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have 2 minutes to conclude.

Miss B. A. MILLER: South Coast Sewerage Project, West Coast Sewerage Project. I am not going to talk yet about the rationalisation programme in the Ministry of Health because that is to try to bring reason to all the chaos I have been describing for the last few hours. But I have a lot of difficulty, Sir, with the fact that the Inter-American Development Bank is making a major investment in terms of the protection of the environment in Barbados but the Ministry on the domestic front is giving only lip service to it The Minister must explain to us why is he cutting environmental sanitation units? Why is he cutting the vote for the animal control unit? Why is he cutting the vote for the vector unit? Everything that has to do with sanitation, every thing that has to do with the environment, is suffering a cut. How does he face the Inter-American Development Bank?

*Aside.*

Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes. The environmental health, the work that is carried through the polyclinics has suffered a cut over the past 3 years. The Environmental Sanitation Unit Let me refer the Minister to the page. Environmental Engineering Unit. Look to page 72. Look at Sanitation at page 74: Cutting on purchase of vehicles, plant, equipment and furniture at the Sanitation Service Authority at a time like this? How do you justify all of this? 3.30 p.m.

How do you justify all of this in the light of increases that you are giving in other areas? Like the St. Joseph Hospital if you want to know the other areas. These are questions that the Minister absolutely must address, Sir. He has got the priorities all wrong in the Ministry of Health.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude now.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I think the rather reasonable approach for the Honourable Member for Christ Church South elicit a much more sympathetic ear than the ranting and raving of the Honourable Member for the City. The Honourable Member has been speaking about cuts, Sir. Earlier I said there was a typographical error

and the Honourable Member has referred to it with a certain amount of sarcasm in her voice. The Ministry of Finance has confirmed that the figure of $930 000 showing up as a cut should, in fact, have read $30 000 and not $930 000 and they will be taking steps to correct that shortly. When I said that it was a typographical error, Sir, that was based on the information that had been handed to . me that it was a typographical error. I knew, Sir, that the Psychiatric Hospital could have been expecting revenues of $930 000. If error is made and it is said to be an error, the Committee has to accept it on good faith.

Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. I have in my hands the Approved Estimates of 1992-93. In the Approved Estimates of 1992-93 Under Revenue, page XIV, Ministry of Health - Hospital Fees, the Estimates for 1992-93 show $930 000. Is the Minister telling us that the typographical error goes back to last year's Estimates and is repeated again in this year's Draft Estimates?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point is made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I can only go on the basis of what has been told to me in this regard. I do not type the information and I am not responsible for the typographical errors in the book. It is not an excuse. It is a statement of fact and only the purblind would refuse to see it as a statement of fact. I am not going to get involved. The Estimates that have been put out by Government, from time immemorial have had typographical and other errors in them. I, therefore,* take no responsibility for an error of $900 000 and you do not have to believe it No one is asking the Honourable Member to believe it I am just saying that I have been told that it is a typographical error and I have said so. Therefore, they have said that it will be corrected. I have to trust my officials. I must.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I know you do not trust me, but that is proper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, that is not in keeping.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, I think the Honourable Member is right if she would have said that...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Except that you ought to be addressing the Chair.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: When I said that the Central Purchasing Department had an allocation for supplies, the Leader of the Opposition earlier sought again in an intervention to suggest that I was all wet around the ears. I draw his attention to Sub-programme 02 opposite page 25. It provides for cleaning supplies such as Vim, toilet soap, toilet paper, Clorox. It also includes stationery, paper, pens *et cetera* and other stock items such as plastic bags and mop heads. I wish to confirm that these are not paid back by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or any other Department. When f said that, the Leader of the Opposition sought to give the impression that I was misleading the Committee. These are facts. Look at Sub-programme 02 -Supplies and Materials. Show the Leader of the Opposition where it is. They seem to suggest that I would come into a Committee and seek to mislead the Committee in something as simplistic as this. If these were persons who had never been in the Committee before, one would accept that they are enthusiastic. Sir, pardon the expression. Do you know the expression "old dogs"? It is a term of endearment, Sir. Most of them over there are old dogs.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. I do not like Honourable Members who are of that sex telling us about (nciearment, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The endearment was not applied to him, Sir. The endearment was applied to the Honourable Member for the City. Any endearment which emanates from this Honourable Member would apply to the Honourable Member for the City. Let us in our wildest imagination imagine that we were going to be applying terms of endearment to others than the Honourable Member for the City. The last person who could evoke endearment will be the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to the Head please.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central raised a question about the Sewerage Scheme and he wondered where a visual presentation of what will be done for the South Coast can be seen. At the moment such a model is available at the Garrison Office of the South and West Coast Sewerage Project But the Honourable Member can be assured that as part of the programme of public information that that model will be taken to the St. Lawrence School and to other schools on the South Coast. There will be an intensified programme of information for the people on the South Coast who will be participating in this project I will instruct the South and West Coast to see that the Honourable Member in his capacity as a Member of Parliament representing an area in the South Coast will be given full and complete exposure to the South Coast Sewerage Project. The South Coast Project is only incidentally a project of the Ministry of Health but it is primarily a project of the people of Barbados. I think that both Governments should have a vital interest in its propagation.

The Honourable Member also raised questions concerning the St. Joseph Hospital. I draw to his attention the Act establishing the St. Joseph Hospital



which stated categorically that the Board should keep proper accounts and records of the transactions relating to the activities of the Board. Section 11(1) says:

"The Board shall as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, and in any case not later than the 30th day of June in each year, submit to the Minister a report containing (a) detailed account of the activities of the Hospital during the preceding financial year and (b) a statement of its audited accounts certified by the Auditor.

The Minister shall lay a copy of the report referred to in Sub-section 1 before Parliament as soon as possible after receipt of the report."

Sir, having been the Minister that piloted this Bill through the House, I was careful at that time to point out that it is my very strong view that these reports should be finished and sent to the Minister and laid in the House. 1 give the House the assurance that any delay in the laying of this report is not a question of recalcitrance or dereliction on the part of the Minister who has, in fact, drawn to the attention of the Board the tardiness. 3.40 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Leader of the Opposition would have me fired aboard, but I am going to behave with the same amount of zeal and perspicacity which he exhibited when he was Minister plus. I will seek to do all that he has done, and more, in relation to this business of the laying of reports. It is a matter, of course, which is hot with the Barbados Labour Party. They have always made sure that all the reports required under their administration were laid on time and we will try to emulate the very sterling example which was set by them in the time of their 10 years of stewardship. We believe that

those we are laying now on their behalf are merely due to inadvertence! But we will lay all of the ones that are outstanding from their time. The Sanitation Service Authority - they have not laid one ever, furthermore recently during the 10 years of the Barbados Labour Party, and it is only because the Sanitation Service Authority does not have the same facility for creation of facts, which members of the Barbados Labour Party have demonstrated, that we have not been able to lay reports. But in due course we will have to lay a report covering the whole period of the Barbados Labour Party. We will try to surpass the sorry example set by you.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. He is hinting to the Committee that reports during the period of the Barbados Labour Party have not been laid. Furthermore, Sir, the Honourable Member was talking about the St. Joseph Hospital, but he knows that the Public Accounts Committee has been calling on the Minister to get the report before the Public Accounts Committee so that we can finish examining the accounts of the St. Joseph Hospital. When 1 make a statement that the Minister should fire the Board, it is because the Public Accounts Committee cannot get on with its work. He knows that. I spoke to him on it.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The HonouraBle Member is perfectly right and the Minister is endeavouring to fulfill the request contained in the Honourable Member's letter, but parliamentarians must not pretend. The very Public Accounts Committee has never submitted a report ever.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The only time the Public Accounts Committee submitted a report was under the Labour Party. The Honourable Member must realise that even the then Right Honourable Member for St. John, when Leader of the Opposition, never submitted a report. He must not get his facts wrong. That is why we are ensuring that we again lay a report.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am willing to stand here corrected if the Honourable Member could get up and state categorically when he delivered the report, the date of the report and where it was delivered. It is all right for the Honourable Member, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, to give all and sundry the impression that a new Daniel has come to judgment, but the facts have not changed. When the Honourable Member went searching on erroneous information to indict the Minister of Health and discovered that instead of a mountain he had brought forth a mouse, the Honourable Member ....

*Aside,*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I have no difficulty. Please file the report so we could examine and discuss it. File the report and stop the innuendoes. File the report and if the Minister of Health is culpable, lock him up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to the Head under discussion, please.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: They are talking about supplies and materials, but they are always coming in here with a bunch of innuendoes. File the report to Parliament as you are required to do and then let Parliament deal with the Minister of Health. It is foolishness!

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is trying to say the Public Accounts Committee is not filing reports. The report is going to expose the Minister, if he wants to know. I do not want to talk out the thing. He should be contrite, not boasting and asking for it. Let me have the documents to expose you.



Hon. B. M. TAITT: I feel like a person who has just been savaged by a sheep. The Honourable Member got

up and said he is going to expose the Minister. I am begging him, I am asking him to expose the Minister. That is all he has to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let this be the final comment under this Head relating to the dealings of the Public Accounts Committee.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: With respect, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition talked about the Public Accounts Committee examining the St. Joseph Hospital. That is the relevance. I have stood in this Parliament and because as a Minister I do not appear before the Public Accounts Committee... I went to Geneva and on my way back from Geneva I stopped in London and did what any self-respecting Minister should do, I had a meeting at the offices of the High Commission in which I spoke to all the nurses who were interested in coming home, and gave them information about coming home.

In answer to a question asked by the Honourable Member for the City, all of the nurses working at the St. Joseph Hospital at the moment are nurses who got their information about St. Joseph from this Minister of Health. I am not ashamed of that activity, nor will I ever be ashamed of it. It is the kind of activity I have been doing for most of my life; talking about opportunities in Barbados. I can point to at least 400 people who have recruited as a result of that activity.

Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Minister is boasting about something which is in breach of the Financial Rules.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: All of a sudden they have gone for the rule book. When they are insinuating that I received money improperly, they do not go for any rule book. Let us throw away the rule book and talk. I am talking about having recruited hundreds of people for this country. It is a pattern which I established long ago and will continue. That is what I mean in response to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I have been recruiting people for Barbados from time immemorial, and I will continue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister's time has expired. There is a growing tendency to try ndt to regard the rulings of the Chair. I want to remind Honourable Members that it will not be tolerated. I am going to take a very strong hand in that regard. Let the Honourable Member for St. Joseph proceed.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I promise you, Mr. Chairman, I will respect the rulings of the Chair at all times. I rise merely to direct some specific questions to the Minister with respect to the functioning of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I must, however, begin by expressing my concern about a certain drift in the emphases of the policy planning and the policy direction and formulation of the Ministry of Health. The Minister did say earlier that there is a lot of routine in the management of the health services. I understand that. I understand too that he is anxious to be identified with and to have established the angiographic suite, which, as I understand it, is state of the art technology and a very sophisticated medical service. Indeed, we have discussed in this Parliament already that there is perhaps a case for the angiographic suite, based on the large number of cases relating to heart conditions sent abroad for treatment. 3.50 p.m.

We oaght not to be moving with despatch to erect sophisticated superstructures while at the same time not paying attention and possibly dismantling our base. By that I mean that I continue to get from my constituents and the public generally, complaints that routine abdominal surgery, hernia repair, for example, cannot be readily got at the Hospital. Quite often, people have to go to the Hospital on summons for 3 occasions to be told on each occasion that their operation cannot be performed because a theatre is not functioning, the anesthetist is not available or some other excuse. So we have difficulty attending to what I call the base of the service but at the same time we are moving with despatch to establish a very sophisticated superstructure in the form of the angiographic suite.

I wonder whether this difficulty at the base, if I may sustain the analogy, has not got to do with the points that are being made by the Honourable Member *for* the City, that is to say, that there is insufficient financial support to basic supplies at the Hospital and to that extent the general public, those who are poor and cannot afford to pay private institutions for these services are the ones suffering.

While on that general point with respect to our concern to establish the sophisticated at the expense of the routine, I must express my concern too about the vast expenditure at the St. Joseph Hospital in the face of very clear evidence that there will not be a sufficient demand for beds and services there. It seems to me that the St. Joseph Hospital is going to turn out to be a running sore on the finances of this country and the time will come sooner rather than later when we will have to concede in this House and to the public of Barbados that its purchase is a major miscalculation and a major error and the country cannot afford it. Already we have spent $26 million and we have not had an end in terms of capital costs and we are yet to be told what is going to be the recurrent costs from year to year.

I would like to know whether the Minister is considering marketing the services abroad. In terms of the general notion of establishing Barbados as a centre



for offshore services of all sorts - education, health and rehabilitation services, it seems to me we may be able to make a start there in marketing the facilities of St. Joseph in North America and elsewhere. That may be one of the ways in which we may have to raise high occupancy levels and help to earn some of the foreign exchange which the Minister talked about without any indication as to where that foreign exchange will come from.

Going back to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I think it was on the last occasion we discussed the Hospital here that I did raise the question and the time ran out before the Minister could get the opportunity to respond, that there is not enough privacy between the patients in the Accident and Emergency Unit and the nurse. Everyone can hear the name and the age of the patient and a short story as to what is his/her problem. It seems to me we must move to ensure there is some degree of privacy between the patient and the nurse to whom the patient reports.

I am concerned, too, about another matter which I have myself experienced while accompanying an elderly person. On weekends there is no drug service normally available. The Drug Service is closed and I get the impression that the druggist is on call but only in rare circumstances is he actually called out If there is someone who has been given a prescription between Friday night and Sunday night, he or she is told to come back on Monday and get the drugs. What happens when that person has been in pain for 2 to 3 days before coming to the Hospital and has to endure another 48 hours of pain and suffering before getting the drugs on Monday? If you are not in a position to go and be serviced by one of the pharmacies around, that person continues to be in pain and suffering until sometime on Monday when he can get the drugs from the Hospital.

I wonder whether the Minister will give the House the assurance that as pan of the attention to the concerns of the poor and those who have to expose themselves to the Casualty that he would try to ensure there is a 7-day service as far as the dispensing of drugs is concerned.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am much obliged to the Honourable Members for some very searching, interesting and valid questions raised. I will try to respond to them.
On the question of moving towards a superstructure where what is called the base may not be moving at the same pace, this is a function of the development process in health care and in hospital development. It is entirely possible there will be some lag in one area while one is going forward and breaking new barriers in comparison with another area. The fact is that fortunately or unfortunately heart failure does not choose the victim on the basis of class, colour or creed or even financial circumstances. In fact, the vast majority of the Medical Aid Scheme persons who go to Northshore Hospital and other places for treatment fall within the category of what could be considered the poorer classes of the community. Those persons who come from the other classes usually have insurance and in fact are able to move on to the same kind of treatment in North America on the basis of their insurance payments.

The Medical Aid Scheme has allowed a substantial number of ordinary people to benefit from the sophisticated health care which is provided in those countries, especially in the area of heart disease. Now, this country has been the beneficiary in excess of S3 million in uncollected and in fact uncharged fees by the Northshore Hospital which has been brought about because of a relationship between one of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital consultants who functioned in that environment some years ago. When they were beginning their own cardiac surgery programme, Barbados along with some other countries in the Eastern Caribbean, provided them with through-put. So there was a mutually advantageous relationship where we would send our patients to them and they, frankly, had the opportunity to use our patients in the development of their programme. As it turned out, we have both been beneficiaries and the result is that we pay Northshore a nominal sum of some BDSS20 000 a year for operations which would normally be in excess of US$2 million.

The reason why it is necessary for us to move toward the creation of our own capacity to have cardiac surgery done in Barbados is that, their programme having developed to a certain point now, it cannot be expected that they will continue into the 21st century to accept patients from Barbados and other places on a nominal payment basis. Therefore it is vital that we in Barbados create the framework and the capacity to perform our own cardiac surgery.

The truth is that no one knows from day to day within a reasonable scope of thought who is going to be the next heart attack victim. Given that heart disease and cancer and other chronic diseases are now the major causes of death in the country, it is very important that we make provision which will accrue to all of us to deal with the eventual and almost inevitable problem of heart disease. Those persons who fall within the range of 45 to 65 are the people without prejudice whom we have to cater for. So the forward planning at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is an ongoing thing which is done primarily by a planning committee and the necessity to have this kind of advance was recognised not this year but 2 to 3 years ago. 4.00 p.m.

We have, in fact, sent off the young surgeon who is going to be the first cardiac surgeon in Barbados and he is currently being trained at Northshore Hospital. The young nurse who is going to be the profusionist is already in training at Northshore Hospital. The methodology will be that a team from the Northshore Hospital will come down to Barbados and assist that surgeon who is now in Manhattan, New York at Northshore Hospital learning the art of cardiac surgery. When they come down they will assist in bringing this on stream.



Now, this is not the first area in which this approach has been tried. Recently at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital there were some 5 operations of hip and knee replacement. By having 2 Barbadian surgeons one of whom had an 18-month attachment in Toronto who is back in Barbados now, these two Barbadian surgeons have been assisted by a surgeon from Canada and the 3 of them were responsible for the replacement of hips and knees in Barbados. We have about 13 people on the waiting list for either a replacement of a hip or knee, an operation that normally costs about BDS $45 000. We were able to have those 5 operations done for, in fact, BDS $45 000. We need to have that kind of approach. With the refurbishment and expansion of the operating capacity we now have 6 operating theatres which means that one can be made available for the long hours of surgery like hip and knee replacement and eventually cardiac surgery.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: It is rhetoric if you are giving good information but if you are being pilloried by all and sundry it is not-rhetoric but let me do this rhetoric, Sir. It is rhetoric which you, Mr. Chairman, needs to know that we have, in fact, been doing these operations and soon in the kind of buddy system

the surgeons at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be doing their hip and knee replacements without the benefit of the surgeon who comes from Canada or, indeed, Dr. Bennett who was a surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who now works in Maryland and who came back as part of that programme. The Honourable Member raised some other questions. He raised the question of the St. Joseph Hospital. The St. Joseph Hospital is a divide between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party. It was understood before the Barbados Labour Party came to office that we felt differently from them on the need for a second hospital in the country in the northern climes. We felt tHat the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother had provided that facility. If the Barbados Labour Party Government had not been wrongheaded and stubborn that it might, in fact, have established that Hospital at some benefit to the country.

On the question of whether we are going to market the Hospital that is exactly and precisely the approach which we articulated before in the House and which I am prepared to say again. The idea is, for example, that in the Geriatric Wing of that Hospital where there are a number of Barbadians now living in the United States of America and elsewhere who are over 65 or are approaching over 65, or the parents or grandparents of Barbadians who live overseas who would like to be able to finish their days in the country of their birth, when that Wing is ready for occupation, we will be able to fill it with a number of people who will be coming back from North America.

It is not well understood that a country like Cuba, for example, has been able to earn massive amounts of foreign exchange from their health tourism. Long before I became Minister of Health, I had been making arrangements in New York and other places for medical practitioners who practice certain kinds of exotic medicines to consider Barbados as a place for relocation in the expectation of luring some of the lucrative persons in the United States of America who seek to have certain procedures done.

There is such a thing as eating disorders. We have been having discussions with an entrepreneur who has been able to set up about 25 different systems for dealing .with persons who have eating disorders *et cetera.* It is at a very high level of persons who are willing to pay large sums of money. There are matters which ought not to be dealt with in an unsophisticated way. There are matters that need to be examined. Now, the question will always be, whether it is the right mix of 70/30 or 60/40. Suffice it to say that at no time at the St. Joseph Hospital while the Government has responsibility for it will anyone who ought to be in that Hospital be turned away merely because they do not have the necessary funding.

The Honourable Member also raised the question about not enough privacy at the Accident and Emergency Department and I think he is right. I think this is a matter which I addressed about 5 months ago with the Hospital authorities. It is agreed that there will be a change in the structure of that part of the Accident and Emergency Department where information is given. I recognise, along with the Honourable Member that this was a shortcoming in the design. It is just one of those things in the normal scope of activities in a place like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that that particular aspect has not been completed. I hope ft will not be long before I am able to report to the House and for my own satisfaction that that particular responsibility has been finally carried out by the Hospital authorities, that we have a place where people who come in and are talking to the Charge Nurse are not being overheard by all and sundry. The matter is being addressed.

On the question of drugs on the weekend, again the Honourable Member's criticism is valid. It is a matter which has been engaging the authorities at the Hospital. I myself have been a personal victim of the absence of drugs during the weekend. It is a very delicate and difficult issue because the Hospital professionals have had a view



which tend to differ from the view exhibited by the Honourable Member and held by myself. However, we

are at the point of solution. It had to do with an approach at cost savings which I believe is penny-wise and pound foolish.

I believe very firmly that there ought to be a weekend pharmacist on duty. The problem is that in a 24-hour institution we still have some shibboleths where certain categories can still claim overtime for working on Saturdays and Sundays. I believe that is inherently wrong. I believe an institution that is a 24-hour institution ought to have the same conditions for all the people who work there. The doctors and nurses work 24 hours 7 days a week and I believe the other categories should work in the same way. However,- one does not make unilateral decisions in this regard. Given the precedent which exists one has to make decisions that have been arrived at by agreement and consensus. I give the Honourable Member the assurance, however, that failure to reach agreement will result in unilateral direction on the matter. One will try first with the concept by doing it by agreement but it is necessary we have drugs available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or any hospital on a 24-hour basis.
I think I have answered all the questions raised so far. I do not know if any other Honourable Member has any other questions.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak with reference to Subprogramme 04 of Head 36 which concerns the St. Joseph Hospital. This House is being called upon to vote $3 million as a block vote to the St. Joseph Hospital. We do not know, since it is a block vote, precisely what these funds are going to be used for. 4.10 p.m.

The Minister has gone on record now as stating that as far as he is concerned there is nothing wrong with a Minister of the Crown personally recruiting staff on behalf of a statutory board and he sees nothing wrong with the funds, of that statutory board being used to meet the expenses of the Minister when he is indulging himself in that activity. Now, Sir, that is the Minister's personal point of view. But I certainly believe that there is something fundamentally wrong with a Minister of the Crown involving himself in the recruiting of staff of a statutory board. I also, Sir, see something fundamentally wrong with public funds being used to meet the travelling and other expenses of a Minister of the Crown when that exercise is being undertaken. The Minister has also said that he is prepared to do it ip the future if necessary. Now, Sir, it brings me back to this Head. This is a block vote to meet expenses of the hospital in the year to come. We do not know what these funds are used for but to the extent that...

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I want therefore to ask a specific question. I want to ask the Minister if all of the staff of the St. Joseph Hospital has been recruited? If the staff, Sir, has not been recruited, does the Minister propose during the course of the comyig financial year to become involved again in the recruiting of staff? If he is going to be doing so what is the amount out of this $3 million that will be spent in meeting his expenses if he is going to be involved in the recruiting of such staff? And, Sir, if at all, in the course of the next financial year, any more funds are to be spent through the vote of the St. Joseph Hospital to meet the expenses of the Minister of Health to recruit staff for that hospital I want to know now because I will want to vote against this Head on that ground and on that ground alone.

I believe, Sir, it is entirely improper. It really is improper for public funds, voted to a statutory institution, to be used by a Minister for that purpose. And I think it is really being contemptuous of this House for the Minister to believe that we should come to this House and rubber stamp the expenditure of funds in the manner in which he wants the House to rubber stamp these funds. So I am asking the Minister, very carefully, the Minister seems to be very contemptuous as well of the work of the Accounts Committee. I am a Member of that Committee, Sir. We are investigating...

*Aside.*

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to go into it as he has gone into it. We are investigating the expenditure of $20 million of public funds. We believe, on that Committee, Sir, that there should be due process. I do not share his view that we have laboured and brought forth a mouse. We are going to make sure that the Financial Rules are observed. And I do not want the Press this evening, Mr. Chairman, to give

a preliminary report of the Committee's work to this House. I do not want the impression to go abroad either, that the Committee is dealing with a mouse. I do not want that impression to go abroad, but I am becoming involved in this debate because if any more public funds are to be spent in meeting the expenses of the Minister of Health in recruiting staff for the St. Joseph Hospital, Sir, I want to say that this House ought to be told in advance so that I can exercise my right in this House to vote against it.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, you will recall, Mr. Chairman, because again when the Honourable Member gets up in what I choose to call his reverend approach I am not moved by any tone which he takes on. My position is straightforward and constitutionally correct. And I will explain what I mean, Sir.



When anyone of the Honourable Members has been Minister of Tourism and they visit outside of Barbados, as part of a delegation for the promotion of tourism, the expenses of that visit are paid for by the Board of Tourism as opposed to being paid for from the conferences and delegations vote. When anybody is Minister responsible for Industry and they visit to engage in the promotion of industry, the expenditure that is incurred during the time they are pursuing that activity has been paid by the Board responsible for industry. These are the simple facts, Mr. Chairman. The St. Joseph Hospital decided that it wanted, since it was starting a new institution, and at the time it was expected that the St. Joseph Hospital would come on stream towards the end of 1991, the St. Joseph Hospital had put together a team to go to London to visit 4 cities in London to recruit - "recruit" here in the broadest sense -to induce persons living in London, who were nurses, to come home to work at the St. Joseph Hospital. They were aware that I had been inducing and seeking to induce nurses to come to work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital during the period 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, by going to the respective cities where there are Barbadian and other West Indian nurses and trying to get them to come and work in Barbados.

There are staff members at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, including some whom the Honourable Member for St. Peter knows very well, who are on the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who became aware of the conditions available in the exact same way.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Bridgetown...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: And therefore, Sir, in the same way that one goes and tells the citizens who live in the various cities about what is happening in Barbados, whenever one is a Minister and one visits London there are calls from people to visit Birmingham, Leicester, and other cities and on this occasion the Board of the Hospital asked the Permanent Secretary of Health whether the Minister and the Permanent Secretary would be prepared, rather than send a delegation from the Board to the 4 cities, since there were going to be in London, whether they would speak to these various people in these cities. A meeting was held at the Office of the High Commission. Another meeting was held in Birmingham, another meeting was held in Leicester and another city which I do not now remember. It was arranged by the Barbados High Commission and the only difference was that instead of that portion of the amount being paid for from the Conference and Delegations vote, it was paid for in the tradition well-known to Honourable Members, by the Hospital. Now, Sir, what happens is that some person, in an attempt at trying to induce some one on the other side into

believing that there was some mischief afoot, slipped a note that had gone from the St. Joseph Hospital to the Ministry of Finance, which showed the Minister as receiving funds from the vote. *

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I know you do not want to hear the explanation but I am putting it in the record. When therefore, the St. Joseph Hospital was called before the Public Accounts Committee and they started to seek to investigate they thought they had something until they discovered that it was merely the same practice that has been constant in the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Industry and what had happened at St.

Joseph.
Now the Honourable Member asked a specific question...

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health is speaking about matters that have been discussed before the Public Accounts Committee. I am restraining myself from discussing matters that are before the Public Accounts Committee. But if he is allowed to continue to discuss public accounts I shall have, in responding to him, to say what that Committee has discussed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I am not in a position to entertain that particular intervention.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I draw to your attention, Sir, that there has been at least 4 different interventions during the day which made reference to matters being discussed by the Public Accounts Committee. There have been at least 4 press statements about matters being discussed by the Public Accounts Committee in the context of the St. Joseph Hospital. 4.20 p.m.
What I am giving you, Mr. Chairman, has nothing to do with any Public Accounts Committee. It is a factual account. The Honourable Member asked me to give an assurance whether I was going to be using any money of this vote for such a purpose. I cannot be brow beaten. They are free to discuss anything that they wish to discuss that you allow. I am giving information which the Honourable Member asked for and I indicated how and when I got involved in what he called "recruiting".

Sir, it is a fact that there is a shortage of nurses all over the world. It is a fact that there are many nurses of West Indian stock in the United Kingdom who are not and would not be embraced, especially during the Thatcherite regime. It is a fact that where there was an acute shortage of nurses in Barbados that we have been able by

3279
a number of methods, unlike other countries in the Caribbean, to stem the worst ravages of that shortage. We have been able to do it by a series of steps which we have taken. Included in those steps was a programme of information in the respective cities given by the High Commission and any person from the Ministry of Health who would happen to be in the area.
Mr. Chairman, it is no secret The Chief Medical Officer and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health were among the delegation that took information about this country to people in those respective cities.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am not going to allow anybody to give the impression by saying what they will and will not discuss. They are free to discuss what they wish.
The other point, Mr. Chairman, is that there is a Public Accounts Committee sitting. My understanding is that that Committee is to report to Parliament But every now and again, Sir, there are little bits and pieces and little innuendoes coming out of that Committee or people connected with it which leaves an impression in the minds of the public that something is afoot My contention is that whatever is afoot the Committee will report and it is free to report. But I object most strenuously and vehemently to any innuendo based on the fact that the St. Joseph Hospital paid the expenses for my *per diem* or hotel accommodation at a time when I was in the United Kingdom.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You were there. You would know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member give way? I have been reminding Honourable Members of Standing Order 33(6). There seems to be little intention for Members to understand that it is not even courteous for them to be heard to be shouting across the Table when Honourable Members are speaking. Now I have to make this very, very clear. If I have to make such an intervention again, I

shall be invoking the rule under Standing Order 42(a) and that is the end of the matter.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The specific answer to the Honourable Member is this. I am not a Personnel Officer. In the execution of my responsibility as Minister responsible for Health, any medical personnel anywhere in the world who at a time when I am traveling on behalf of the Government of Barbados seeks to get information from me concerning the conditions under which that person might come and assist in the development of our medical services, Sir, I will give that information. I have no plans now to engage in such activity on behalf of the St. Joseph

Hospital. Unless in the circumstances which require me while other activities I am required to speak for the St. Joseph Hospital, I will speak as I do for the entire Ministry. I have no plans to use any of the funds which are being voted. The funds which are being voted now have no provision in them for me to engage in the activity which the Honourable Member asked about. Having started and getting on its way, the Hospital is now a going entity albeit in its embryo stage which it was not at the time when I sought to assist in explaining to citizens in the United Kingdom and in the United States as to what the St. Joseph Hospital is, .what it is intended to do, why it was purchased and how we intend for it to be brought within the ambit of the health services of Barbados. I hope that this satisfied the Honourable Member in his specific question which he asked.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I need to speak again to Sub-programme 4 of Head 36, Item 716 of that subhead where a provision for capital purposes in the amount of a half million dollars is being asked of Parliament. To date, Sir, the St. Joseph Hospital has spent millions of dollars for capital purposes without any of this ever being put to tender or any contract being drawn for the carrying out of this work. An amount of a half million dollars spent for capital purposes by this hospital is going to require that notices of tender for the conduct of work at that hospital be put out and contract be drawn in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act. I am asking the Minister of Health if, contrary to what has happened to date in relation to the expenditure of over $20 million on the St. Joseph Hospital, that sum of money was spent for capital purposes was in breach of the Financial Administration and Audit Act without any notices of tender ever being invited or any contract for work being drawn in relation to this half million dollars that we are to vote for today and if the Financial Administration and Audit Act will be complied with.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member talks about a sum of $20 million. I am not aware of that. They have talked of $26 million and $20 million. I cannot speak specifically to the details. I will say to him that the purchase of the St. Joseph Hospital by the-Government was handled by the Ministry responsible for the purchase of such assets. The Honourable Member has asked the question. As I understand it, the $6 million which was paid for the Hospital plus the cost of such a transaction had been taken care of in the normal manner in accordance with the financial rules.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well, that is not a matter for me. It does not concern me. I did not purchase the Hospital and, therefore, if the Honourable Member is shouting "no", the Honourable Member must have information which



I do not have. So far as I am informed, Sir, the purchase of the St. Joseph Hospital was done in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act.
Secondly, Sir, the monies for the refurbishment of the St. Joseph Hospital were voted in the Ministry of Health. As far as I understand, the Accounting Officer in that Ministry informed me that the procedure that was followed was a procedure being followed also in the Governmental sector and, as Minister, I accepted that information. I am unable to give any better information at this time. The

Honourable Member, no doubt as a Member of the Committee, will be in a position to give more detailed information. So far as I am concerned, Sir, the matter was dealt with in a manner consistent with the practice. Sir, I just draw to your attention in terms of the Financial Administration and Audit Act that recently a judge held that matters that had been dealt with for 20 years in a particular way turned out to be contrary to the requirement of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. But those persons who had engaged in those matters, to wit the granting of contracts, believed they were doing what they were doing properly and in keeping with the law. Those persons believed verily that they were doing what they were doing properly and in keeping with the law. That a judge subsequently held that it has always been improper is even now being questioned in a second court. I therefore, Sir, am not able to respond to the specific question in the terms in which it has been asked. 4.30p.m. Mr. Chairman, what I can say is that the sewage treatment plant at the St. Joseph Hospital, which was a new institution, was put out to tender in the normal way, that the work which is to be done at the St. Joseph Hospital is being done by invited tenders in the normal way and as I understand it there were 4 firms tendering for the construction of the structure and installation of the equipment for the sewage treatment plant. My understanding is that the current refurbishing programme for the geriatric services will be by tender in the normal way.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to get drawn in, but I understood the Minister to say - and I only rise on a legal point - in relation to the expenditure of whatever funds in England, $17 000 or $18 000, the Minister was acting as the Board's delegate.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. It is legally impossible for the Minister to be a delegate of the Board. The Honourable Member knows that.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is the point I was going to make.

Hon. B. M. TAITT! On a point of order, Sir. It is no point the Honourable Member making the point when I confirmed that I have not said and do not ever regard myself as being a delegate of the Board. It is theoretically impossible for the Minister, under the Act that establishes the Board, to be a delegate of the Board. It is virtually impossible.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: All I was doing, Sir, was reading Section 5 of the St Joseph Hospital Act, which says, first of all at subsection (1):

"The Board may delegate such of its functions as it thinks expedient for the purpose of effectively transacting the day-to-day business of the Board to the Chairman, the Hospital Administrator, any committee appointed by the Board or to any of its officers.[11] In subsection (2):
"Nothing contained in subsection (1) authorises the Board to delegate its power to make regulations..." and hear this now,

". ... or to do any act involving extraordinary expenditure."

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: How do you mean finish it? Subsection (3) says:
"A delegation under this section may at any time be revoked by the Board and shall not prevent the discharge by the Board of any function that it has delegated under subsection (1)."
So what will be at issue is the capacity in which the Minister functioned on behalf of the Board. That is all. Get out of that.

% Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the legal logic, according to the Honourable Member, is that at any point the Board pays for anything, the basis on which it has paid is a delegation. That is what the Honourable Member is saying. •

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Wait a minute. The Honourable Member for St Thomas had ample opportunity to make his contribution, so he cannot now make a point from his seat.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Since the Honourable Member is quoting from the Act, Sir, let me quote from the Act. Sir, it is impossible for a Minister who has responsibility of a Board to be a delegate of that Board. That is trite

3281

law, Sir, and any attempt to obfuscate the issue by saying this is a legal point, or calling in the legal questions on an issue that is beyond legal reproach, is not an issue.
The general policy for the St. Joseph Hospital is vested in the Minister under the Act. It is not vested in any other entity. The Parliament can ask the Minister questions about his failure to carry out his duty, but the Parliament surely could not ask the Minister to be a delegate of the Board, nor could the Board ask the Minister to be a delegate of the Board, so setting up that as a straw man then to knock it down is really a very strange approach. I am not going to be moved by any attempts at that.

What the Honourable Members will need to ask themselves is, has the Minister and/or the Board acted improperly? When the question is raised the answer is very clear. There is nothing which could have the Minister being a delegate of the Board. This is the basis on which the whole issue proceeded in the past, that the Minister was a delegate of the Board, which is an impossibility and therefore the question does not arise. If they wish to raise questions about the impropriety of the Minister's action, they have to raise that *sui generis. They* cannot raise it on the basis of his beiiig a delegate for the Board, but, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared at a subsequent time when the issue is before *us* to deal with it, but I just answered the question the Honourable Member raised. He said it was a legal point, so I responded to the legal point

Miss B. A. MILLER: Sir, I rise to question something the Minister said a few minutes ago. He tried to disclaim that he had any knowledge or responsibility in respect of a question asked by the Honourable Member for St Peter, whether the public tendering process was employed at the St. Joseph Hospital. I have in my hand the Approved Estimates 1992-93 and I see, under St Joseph Hospital on page 75, that the actual expenditure in 1990-91 was $8.2 million, in the Approved Estimates 1991-92 it was $5.4 million. These are large sums of money and I am insisting on an answer. In the expending of this $8.2 million in 1990-91* and $5.4 million in 1991-92, was the public tendering process employed?
While I am on my feet, I am going to ask, for the third time, this question. The Minister came in here last week for a substantial supplementary vote for the Ministry of Health. I wish to know if that supplementary has been included in the Revised Estimates which are currently before us. If it has not, Mr. Chairman, it means that before the end of this current calendar year the Minister is going to be# back in here for a supplementary. I am entitled to have an answer to this question. This.is the third time I am asking it. Has the massive $9 million supplementary been included in the Revised Estimates before us?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in the context of $174 million, $9 million cannot be called massive. The answer to the question is yes.

*Aside.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time? The Honourable Member was in here talking about we have cuts and is now talking about a massive supplementary. The massive supplementary was for a number of people who had neurological and heart problems, who had to go overseas, and I explained that before. But the answer is yes, the $9.5 million, or whatever it was, Sir, was included and can be found in the Revised Estimates. The Honourable Member knows that when you go to the Estimates Committee, the Revised Estimates in the context of the Estimates Committee always take account of supplementaries. The Honourable Member must know that. She was a

Minister and presumably went to the Estimates Committee. 4.40 p.m.
*Asides.*

Hon. B. M. TAITT: She says she asked the question even though she knew the answer, so I suppose it is a lawyer's technique and therefore I have to answer. I answer the question: the answer is yes.
I think there was another question that the Honourable Member asked. As I explained before, first of all what was done with the money can be seen and, as I understand it, this is a matter which is engaging the attention of the Public Accounts Committee. I do not feel, therefore, that I wish to go into a long extensive discourse on what is now before the Committee and is being investigated and is supposed to be reported to this House. I do not understand how the Honourable Member can ask me questions which they know form the basis... If they ask me I have to answer because I feel that where my integrity is being questioned I have to answer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member give way. I am hearing some very loud asides' and it appears to me that the Chair is accused of entertaining, from a speech made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, something that is pertaining to a matter that is to be dealt with at the Public Accounts Committee. I have no way of knowing what is being dealt with at the Public Accounts Committee and I hope Honourable Members will desist from making these kinds of insinuations.
Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On the question whether the tendering process was carried out, I have explained to the Honourable Member that my understanding of the



procedure that was carried out was that it was proper. It was reported to me that it was proper and therefore I had no reason to feel otherwise. Until I have evidence to the contrary, I have to assume that it was correct

*The question that Head 36 as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
$37 571 064

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I rise to move the passing of Head 37, Ministry of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture for the sum of $37 571 064 as amended. In doing so, I wish to state briefly by way of introduction that it is generally accepted that housing is an important social tool in the hands of any Government and the Government of Barbados over the years has expended considerable sums of money in the provision of housing, upgrading the housing stock, loans, establishment of sites and services and the various other facilities associated with housing that one would normally expect a government to do.

I think it is a matter of record that over the last 2 financial years because of the economic circumstances in this country housing has had to undergo some cuts. As a result, the housing programme which the Government had set, we were not able to achieve a number of things which we wanted Nevertheless, one must still point out that the Ministry through the various programmes and particularly through the major agency for implementation of the housing programme, that is, the National Housing Corporation, has been able to do some woik.

I would just want to make mention of the fact that during the last financial year we have been able to complete a block of 51 houses in Church Village in St. Philip. The National Housing Corporation has entered into joint venture partnerships with a number of private sector construction firms to provide

not only sites and services but also to provide housing in areas such as the Crane in St. Philip, Wotton in Christ Church, Cane Garden in St. Thomas, Six Men's in St Peter, Hope in St. Lucy and Parish Land in Christ Church to mention some of the areas.

We also have the Venezuelan Housing project which was started some years ago. It is true at the moment it is overdue in terms of completion but this project was due to be completed in 2 years and it was estimated that there would be 496 houses in this particular development. It provided for 380 at Husbands Gardens and the remaining 116 at Cane Garden in St Thomas. Of the 380 at Husbands in St. James, 364 have been completed and handed over to the National Housing Corporation and the remainder are now being completed and it is expected that these will be handed over in the not too distant future.

The Venezuelan company, Inversiones, which was involved in construction of these houses and is still involved has started an additional SO at Cane Garden in St. Thomas and the National Housing Corporation has indicated very clearly to them that rather than try to scatter all their energies into different areas that an effort should be made to make sure that one aspect of the project is finished before moving on to the other aspects.

I think I could say up front that we have had some problems with the contractor in this particular contract. The firm has had problems with the project manager, with their cash flow and also with their scheduling and the procurement of materials. We had meetings from time to time with the company and it has made a promise to make an effort to improve the situation. This is proving to be somewhat unsuccessful and I would want to indicate that we will continue to have further discussions with the company and try to exert whatever pressure we can to ensure that the project is brought to a completion. I am not satisfied with the way it is proceeding on this particular project.
The whole question of housing is one which is of concern to all Barbadians. From time to time one will hear comments being made about the need to provide low cost housing in Barbados. One has to establish very clearly that it is very difficult to talk about low-cost housing in Barbados because of the high costs which really are involved in the construction of houses, the quality of housing which Barbadians have come to expect and the quality of housing which Barbadians demand. If you take, for example, the units which were completed quite recently at Church Village in St. Philip, the terraced units, our calculation suggests they be completed at a cost of about $85 000 per unit Now, this is by no means low-cost 4.50 p.m.

The National Housing Corporation has estimated that the starter homes which we look at from time to time the minimum which one would cost would be in the region of about $50 000. This excludes the cost of land which would be about $15 000. The estimated cost of a 2 bedroom wooden house is about $28 000 while a 3 bedroom house, excluding the land, is estimated to cost about $35 000. That is the kind of cost we are talking about.

It is the whole question of providing low cost housing which has some difficulties. It is for this reason that the former administration - I daresay we ourselves have adopted the approach that what we need to do in addition to providing terraced units is to also develop sites and services, that is, have housing lots for rental but they would be properly serviced units. Thai in itself is a very



costly exercise. We therefore will continue where we can within the limits of the resources we have to provide what facilities we can.

I would want to say also that in an effort to ensure that whatever money is allocated to the National Housing Corporation through the Ministry, that this money is used as effectively and as efficiently as possible. One of the things which the economic situation in Barbados has certainly brought to the fore

is the need in the governmental sector, both at the ministerial and departmental level, and also at the level of the various corporations for an efficient delivery of service.
Any one of us who has held ministerial office would recognise the particular problems which we sometimes encounter with some corporations and the attitudes which we find emanating from some people who work there in the belief that once you are working in the Government sector you do not have to be efficient and you only have to turn up, as it were, for work and then draw your money at the end of the week. We have had to take care of in terms of trying to rationalise the operations of the Corporation.

You woiiM recall, Sir, that during the Estimates debate last financial year for the current Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure I made reference to a situation at Gall Hill in St John where the accounts showed a considerable sum of money being expended to remove 2 houses. The Board had ordered an investigation into that particular development. Now, I think it would be fair for me therefore to indicate to this Committee that when the decision was taken to relocate these 2 houses, the National Housing Corporation had estimated that the relocation cost would have been $39 000 *(or* each house. After closer inspection it was discovered that the estimate was a conservative one given the poor condition of one of the houses which eventually had to be replaced by a prefabricated concrete unit. At the end of the construction the National Housing Corporation submitted a bill to the Ministry for $196 B62.92.1 daresay the Ministry rejected this and asked for explanations from the Corporation. As a result of that the Board instituted an investigation. The investigation basically involved the quantity of materials ordered and used on the project, what material and services actually went into the project, what wages should have be charged to the project and to reconcile any difference and discrepancies which existed between the submission made by the Chief Technical Officer and that made by the Financial Controller.

The investigation was carried out by the General Manager. Basically what was found there was poor supervision and direction on the project site. This was reflected in over-staffing and unnecessary overtime work, the use of skilled staff to perform tasks which should have been assigned to labourers and the engaging of watchmen during the 26 weeks when the work was suspended at a cost of $14 000 instead of removing material to the depot. In short, what I was saying was that it would have been easier and less costly to have removed the material from the site and take it to a depot rather than employing 2 watchmen on that site.

Further it was found that the Technical Division had incorrect expenditure relating to the provision of utility services.for the entire site to the 2 lots. It was generally accepted that the exercise should have been completed in 12 weeks rather than 26. It was closed for another 26 weeks while awaiting services.

Having considered the report the Board concluded that it would be difficult to lay blame on any officer below the level of the Acting Chief Technical Officer. The Board took a decision to revert the officer to his substantive post. One other senior officer was retrenched. The Chief Technical Officer who had responsibility for this project has since resigned from the services of the Corporation. That, basically, is the findings which the Board has had that it was gross mismanagement of the funds of the Corporation in terms of the negligence of persons who were charged with the responsibility of supervising and affecting these changes, that is, moving houses from one area to the other.

I think it is important that this be stated in the context of a situation where we have to try to impress upon persons employed in the various corporations and certainly in this particular area here, the National Housing Corporation, that they have to understand that money does not grow on trees and they have to be efficient. They have to be effective managers in the execution of any duties which they have to perform on behalf of the Corporation. That is the situation. I think it is very clear what the position is and no Minister is involved in this. It is interesting that there has not been any controversy or questions relating to this ever since the statement was made. 5.00 p.m.

The Leader of the Opposition, sometime in a *sotto voce* remark in Parliament, indicated to me that he knew what the findings of the Committee were, that it was mismanagement And as a result this presumably was accepted. If a Minister had been remotely near to this particular project then one would hear all sorts of accusations and all sorts of statements being made in the Press and in various places. I think the point has to be made very clearly that we have to be circumspect in the way in which we expend Government funds.

3284

I also want to indicate that during the year, and in the year ahead, the National Housing Corporation has restarted the Housing Loan Scheme and I am informed that the Board has raised the loan limit from $15 000 to $20 000 and the maximum salary qualification is $1 300 per month or $300 per week and I am informed that a number of persons are qualifying and receiving loans from the funds which are there.

I think it is also important to state that the Board has taken a decision that whenever they are going to move into a situation to build or establish terraced units, that rather than going for the large developments which have taken place in the past, for example, Ferniehurst and Haynesville that they would go for smaller units for a number of reasons. In the first place I think they feel that those areas have become unmanageable and it would be better to put smaller groups of developments in different parts of the country to ensure that there is not that kind of population bulge in one area with all of the attendant social problems that we see coming out of those developments now. I think that is something which we have to be very concerned about and that is why you will find in the Church Village complex we have decided to concentrate on a smaller type of development.
The Board has also taken a decision on the question of the sale of the terrace units and they are working out the modalities for the sales and of course whatever arrangements they have in place for the sale of single units will continue.

Now, as a result of the changing economic circumstances the Board also took a decision that the whole question of rents and the system of rents will be reviewed and will be changed. I have been informed that for many years the National Housing Corporation had been considering the adoption of the principle of economic rents and the Board has already started work in this particular area. They have had an evaluation done of all the National Housing Units. They are now doing work on the computation of the rates which will be associated with the particular units and as I understand it, basically what they would hope to do is to impute a rent to the particular unit and persons who are below a particular family income line would be able to apply for some relief. But persons who are able to pay and who are living in National Housing Units would have to pay the economic rates.
When the Board has completed their surveys and all of the information which is required in order for them to arrive at the details for this, then the House would be appraised of this particular situation but it is a decision which the Board has taken and one which they are working towards implementing.
I would also want to say that we still continue to have the problems of rent arrears and at the moment I am informed it has now reached about $3.4 million. It goes up and it comes down. Around the middle of last year it was about $2.8 million and the fact of the matter is that we are trying our best to ensure that these rents are collected. A lot of these rents, unfortunately, are owed for periods long in the past and we have to be able to make sure that we collect as much of these rents as possible because I believe that people who are renting houses from the National Housing Corporation ought to perform their civic duty and ensure that they pay their rents because after all it is a privileged position which they have, to be able to have a well-apportioned house, provided by the National Housing Corporation. When they do not pay their rents then it means that they are depriving other people from being able to get houses because one of the theories behind the collection of the rents is to ensure that the rents are used for refurbishing and further construction.

I would want, before I wind up, to indicate, as Honourable Members are aware that the Ministry of

Housing and Lands during the present financial year, has had an addition of the Ministry of Community Development and Culture and that in truth and in, fact, during the new financial year, the Estimate would reflect the Estimates for the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture.

I think it is very clear on the whole question of community development and culture, the position of the Government in terms of development of the community and the role which the Government sees its various agencies playing in ensuring that communities are kept together and that the communities become involved in the kinds of activities that would enable them to live a life of sharing and caring for each other. This therefore involves the whole question of youth and community development. In this particular respect I would want to draw attention to the Barbados Youth Service which has been established and which has been functioning in a very real way and is making a very important contribution in terms of its being able to pull young people together to inculcate in them, discipline and a number of other skills and other activities, to get them involved in meaningful activities.
We would hope in the process of time, to further expand this particular activity and I would want to reiterate an appeal which has been made, both by the Prime Minister and myself, when we went to the parade which they had at the old Naval Facility in St. Lucy some weeks ago, that it is a project which really demands the assistance of the private sector and all citizens of Barbados. 5.10 p.m.
It is a project that really demands the assistance of the private sector and all citizens of Barbados. I would want to make the appeal to the effect that one would



hope that people will come forward and give of their services voluntarily to the young people in this particular area.

One point I would want to finish on, Mr. Speaker, recognising that you are indicating this first thrust is running out, is that following on the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture is the Sherbourne Complex. We propose during this financial year to restart some work on the complex. Indeed, I want to say that the facilities for the Conference Hall at Sherbourne is about 95 per cent completed. We intend to complete that facility because it can be functional and we will have to phase the completion of the overall project. We will be making the Conference Hall functional within this financial year. We have an amount of $2 million which is voted here to assist in that particular development.

Sir, the total estimated cost of the Sherboume Project is $58 million. So far the expenditure to date is $26 million. We have a three-storey Conference Hall of 32 000 square feet, a 2 000 seating capacity Auditorium...

*Aside.*

Hon. E. E, GREAVES: No, I am being very frank. It is nothing to hide in this. We have a *2* 000 seating capacity Auditorium which will be about 32 000 square feet, two-storey Examination Hall and Auditorium of 24 000 square feet and a general foyer of 50 000 square feet We are hoping, as I said, to complete this in a phase way and we are confident that the Conference Hall when it is completed will be able to generate some income. This is basically what I want to say by way of introduction of this particular item.

With those remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this Head stand pan.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Housing was rather defensive in the first part of his contribution when he was dealing with housing. I agree with him that housing is important to everybody in this community not only for the reason which he gave, which is that it is a pressing and

urgent social need but also housing activity also assist in employment in this country. However, when one looks at the Estimates of Expenditure for this year, a number of alarming facts come to view. Over the last 18 months, there has been a 36 per cent drop in housing starts in Barbados. That is a massive figure.

The Minister in another part of his contribution blamed the declining economic conditions in Barbados for that situation. This no doubt is true but it cannot be an easy excuse for the situation that is confronting us. We are at a period of difficult economic circumstances when there is a greater need than before for what is described as low income housing both for rental and ownership, and more particularly rentals. But the Government housing programme has grounded to a screeching halt. The Minister will, no doubt, point to the Barbados/Venezuelan Housing Project to suggest that things are still going on. But this is a project that has been going on for many years and 496 houses were the original target. As faf as I understand it, about 400 of those houses are completed. So that what remains is about 100 houses left in the Government's housing-building programme for the coming financial, year.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that there are over 3 000 applications for National Housing rentals which are processed and approved. With the turnover of houses of the existing stock plus these 50 or more, it means that less than 2 per cent of those who have been applying to the National Housing Corporation for assistance in housing will succeed. It is almost an exercise in futility to continue to run that Department because a great deal of frustration is generated by people who go to the National Housing Corporation are told that their applications have been processed and that they are on a list. These people believe that they will get a house in a few weeks or at the outset within a few months. The situation at the moment suggests that the period of waiting will be in excess of 10 years.

*Aside.*

Mr. L. R. TULL: The Minister would know that, even if we had a problem like that in the past, those were the days when the Ministry of Housing had things to do. The Ministry has very little to do and, therefore, it can bend its attention towards these important needs. There is a lot of time on the hands of the Minister these days. But I want to make the point, Mr. Chairman, that at this period of difficulty when the Government has cut back on the amount of houses that it is building for rentals, particularly among low income people, that we have also a cut in the areas that would assist. I will deal with them later on.

Sir, I am talking now in the areas of National Assistance, Welfare, Child Care and so on which are allied to this problem. They are quintessentially the same. You cannot separate them. We have a cut of $5.7 million for housing in the public sector over the last 2 years. In 1991-92, the actual expenditure for the National Housing Corporation was $3.7 million. We have got down this year to $1.5 million. We also have under Sub-programme 1 -Venezuelan Project where $1.9 million was spent in 1991-92 and we have for this year zero. I do not quite understand it. There seems to be a drop over a period of 2 years of something in the region of $5.7 million being spent by the Government for public housing in this country. Now something is very wrong when we can read that under the National Low Income Project that the Government has allocated funds only for 50 units in this much



proclaimed Sites and Services that the Minister spoke about during his introduction. 5.20 p.m.
I do not know how you are going to work it It is significant to mention at this time, Sir, that as we move towards the end of a grace period, so to speak, with the amendment to the Freehold Purchase Act, when the demand would be moved on to Government, away from landlords, for the provision of serviced lots for private tenants of private landlords, there is going to be the same bulge he talks about, a massive bulge in a very short period of time. There is nothing in these Estimates to suggest that the

Government has started, or propose to start, during this financial year any of the fundamental work required to meet that heavy demand which is about 2 years away.

I want to mention 2 other things in relation to the matters raised by the Honourable Minister in his introduction. He talks about the survey that is being carried out in relation to rents in the Housing Areas. I was not quite sure what the Minister was saying during his introduction. His words were cleverly clothed in a lot of verbiage that suggested nothing to the thinker. I want to know what are the criteria being used by the Ministry of Housing or the National Housing Corporation in determining what the rents should be in these units. I want to know what tools are being used, because it seems to me that the Minister is saying on the one hand that he is introducing a principle of economic rent and at the same time he is saying he is applying a means test. I do not quite understand how the 2 things relate and therefore he should cut out the obfuscation and explain to us in greater detail exactly how he is going to apply this test It is obvious, and I would understand that the Minister would appreciate this, that having done a survey when he does the review of rents, that the results of that survey cannot last for all time and therefore there has to be an ongoing review of that review to determine whether the tenants should remain in the position in which they are initially determined *for* payment of rent The Minister also refers to the fact that there are about $3.4 million in arrears of rent for the National Housing Corporation and he makes his usual plea that it is the civic duty of these tenants to pay the rent so the money could revolve to help other people. What it is evidence of the very difficult period the country is going through and the economic hardship that has been visited on those tenants that they are unable to pay their rents. We cannot deal with it in isolation. What I understood from the Minister is that the arrears, instead of coming down at this period, are going up. If the situation remains the same, one can understand that the arrears will continue to escalate.

I want also to deal with the social areas and culture which now fall under the control of the Minister who just spoke. I am worried, as any right thinking Barbadian should be, about the number of persons who are losing their homes in Barbados, almost on a daily basis, because of the inability to keep their mortgage payments up to date. It is affecting a number of people particularly in the Public Service in this country. A number of civil servants, teachers and people of that ilk, who are paying for houses all across a number of housing developments in this country, are finding it difficult, because of the cut in their salaries by the Government, and also because of a lot of new impositions that are being placed on their income, to maintain their mortgage payments at the present rate. Day after day one can open the newspapers and see the number of houses that are being set up for sale by the trust companies in Barbados.

Take a single woman who is a teacher, with a child or 2, who is paying a mortgage on a house in Kingsland Gardens, for example, and who is receiving correspondence all like now - this is happening every day - from trust companies and from lawyers* offices telling her that she is 3 months in arrears on her mortgage and that they are calling in the whole amount, that she will bring in the money by the end of the month or they will set up the house for sale.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. L. R. TULL: This is a constant happening in Barbados today. How could you expect that teacher to stand before a class and teach with that kind of problem weighing on her mind as the hours go by? This is the situation. I had hoped that the Minister in his introduction would have touched on that, because one of the things the Government has to do is to try and hold out some hope, and they are not doing that. The worst part of that scenario I have just painted, Sir, is that there are a number of people, well known to many of us in here, who are waiting aside like shades gobbling up the homes of some of these ^people. Some of these houses, because of the depressed state of the market, are being sold at way below what the original buyer paid for it, so that even when the House is sold it turns out that there is no remaining equity in the house for the person who bought it in the first place.
I will come back, Sir.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I want to start off by telling the Minister that he must reconsider the policy enunciated by him some weeks or months ago when he opened the complex at Church Village. That is one which talks about rents based on the economic situation. I want the Minister to understand clearly that this is a matter which ought to be handled very carefully. It is not one you can realise or implement without having much difficulty. This policy was mooted long ago, it is nothing new,



but it is going to be more difficult now in these harsh economic times to implement When the economic situation is okay, you can think in terms of such a policy. I am going to say that any person who advises the Minister or the Government to implement this policy is doing the Government and the people of Barbados an injustice. I go on record as saying that I am in the real estate business and people are reducing their rents in order to get tenants. That tells you something. There is hardship out there and it is not easy to collect rents. People rent at what is known as an economic rent because people have mortgages and some of them have got to subsidise these rents in order to pay the mortgage. I am only saying to the Minister please look at that policy. 5.30 p.m.
Another question is how do you arrive at the economic rent when houses were built some 40 years ago by the National Housing Corporation and at a figure that has been paid back by the tenants? I want the officers and those who advise the Minister to tell me how they work that out The Pine and the Bayland houses were built *for* about $3 000 to $4 000 and over 20 to 40 years the National Housing Corporation has been paid back and has made a profit in excess. How do you arrive at an economic rent? How do you apply it in that case?

I can understand someone putting it to the Minister, using Chmch Village, and even if it is an error in using that, the people who put up these things have to be careful. I know about the Church Village project. It was a stop-go situation. It was not a project that continued from start to finish. There was a period when it was stopped and therefore you have to take into consideration the cost factor. This is an additional cost which is built in. Therefore if you are going to determine an economic rent you must say quite clearly whether you are going to take the cost that was incurred during the slow down or the stop period. So I do not want anyone to come and throw this policy out without the Minister having seen it.

" The Government has decided in these housing estates - these are the people that are affected by such a policy -to reduce the maintenance, to shut down some of the maintenance sections of the National Housing Corporation. I am going to say, and I want reason to prevail in this exercise, when you have a house as a landlord you have certain obligations. Government must not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. When Government wants to get at delinquent tenants, it must use common sense because when you are trying to get at the person at the same time you incur a cost. Government is reducing the level of maintenance and that is a big problem. What you will find as a result is that the property will be run down further. It still belongs to the National Housing Corporation. When you have to look to repair or do remedial work on it, it will be twice or thrice as much. Maybe sometimes 10 times as much.

I am going to say to Government, please realise that the houses the people rent are your houses and as a landlord please maintain them. You may pursue any policy to deal with delinquent tenants, but I am going to say it is a mad policy to neglect your responsibility. No sensible landlord would do that. When people make contracts and they hand over a house, they expect it to remain in the same condition and the contract says wear and tear is expected. It means simply that when you give a person a house in one condition you expect them to return it in that condition. If you as the landlord had it in that rundown condition, tenants will further run it down and then you have a problem.
I hope that the officials give the Minister the advice that where there are older units they should try to get them off their hands. Everybody knows that when property gets older that you have a maintenance

cost You have to lode at that as it could be one of the problems confronting the National Housing Corporation. I would ask them to accelerate that exercise and get them off to the people. At the same time I would expect some refurbishing work to be done to put them in fair shape or if you sell them as "as is" property, to see if a window could be set up so that they can borrow some money to put them in shape. I think that when you have proper looking houses it redounds to all of us here in Barbados. The other point I want to make is that you have to look at the housing situation. You have houses yet to be completed. I want the Minister to understand that mortgage funds are yet difficult to come by. The banks have money and some of them have said they are willing to lend but because of the insecurity of jobs the banks are looking at the criteria very closely and in some cases it is difficult for people to get a mortgage.

I want the Minister to look at the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company and see what can be done in order to put funds in it, whether to have housing bonds *or* to encourage the credit unions to lend more in that regard. At the same time, I am mindful there are some> people who do not belong to credit unions and they do not therefore qualify. That is why it is not sufficient to say that the credit unions are there and the banks and other institutions. I would like to see the Government having some window like the public workers' window it had in order to look after some of these people who cannot and will not get a mortgage from a financial institution.

Another factor is how best can the Government give incentives to private developers to build houses for rent. I can understand the Government not being able to go into building on its own, but at the same time, I think that Government could look at a policy to give incentives



to builders or people who have money who would be willing to invest. This is an area that Government could encourage Barbadians to invest in the country and this will redound to the benefit of the people who go to the National Housing Corporation. As I said, there are 3 000 of them now approved and on the waiting list.

You can help in this situation by encouraging the 'builders and offering some kind of incentives. I am going to suggest that Government make available land to these potential builders of terrace units. I know it has worked with single units and I am asking that this same policy be extended to persons who are willing to put up a couple of blocks. When you accommodate that sort of policy, you will find that the private builders would reduce the cost. Not $85 000 per unit. No dice! They will make sure that they reduce the cost so that they will realise the true economic rent and they will be able to pay for their outlay within 15 or 20 years.

I am asking the officials in the Ministry who advise the Minister to put up this sort of policy. There is need for housing. The situation in Barbados is that people who are renting apartments at $600, $700 and $800 are now returning to their homes. I am going to warn the Government on this. I am spending a lot of time on this .because I want it to get home to the people who are listening and should know, that because people have returned to their homes does not mean that their economic situation is any better than others. A house with a lot of other people-working might have a lot of bills too. They might have children at school, medical bills and other commitments which they do not tell you about I am going to say that Barbadians are not noted to disclose everything. Not even when they go to the bank do they put everything on the table. So it is going to be very difficult for anyone to trust an officer going out there to get that sort of information.

I think we have some discretion and certain cases cannot be, as the Minister said, lock, stock and barrel or one policy. It has to be a flexible policy but, as I said, it is very difficult to implement. I would think you are sending a signal now as a national policy and the private landlords will adopt a similar policy. 5.40 p.m.

One other point I want to make. I have seen as stated in these Estimates, a sum of money for resiling and doing these projects. I have not seen any in this year's Estimates for the one at Cutting Road. It is not so stated. I would like the Minister when he replies to state whether or not work will be done because this is a situation where the Town Planning Office is involved. This is one that occupied the attention of the whole of Barbados a couple of years ago - the Belle and Ivy situation.
About 20 housfcs were moved to Haggatt Hall. Roads were started but cannot be completed because, as I understand it, there was a lack of funds in the National Housing Corporation. I am asking the Minister to consider a policy -1 am putting this as a suggestion that where it is not possible to put in all the roads or barbergreen them, to ask the Town and Country Planning Department if it will consider allowing the roads to be marled, put in the drainage, electricity and at least a smaller water main which would reduce the cost and allow the people to go and settle.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you. I will get back up, But, as I said, I am only making these suggestions which could help the Ministry and the Government to meet these pressing problems. With this I will sit down for the time being.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I jhink I should respond to some comments which were made by the 2 Honourable Members who have spoken so far. The Honourable Member for St. George South made the rather stirring appeal on behalf of those persons who he indicated were on the verge of losing their houses because of difficult times and the attitude of the trust companies and those companies which are in the mortgage financing business.

I would want, Sir, to join with him in that appeal but from a different point of view. I do not think it is any secret that we in the country are going through some difficult economic times. Barbados is not the only country which is going through difficult economic times. But trust companies, faced with this situation in other parts of the world, have had to adjust their policies in relation to mortgage loans which they have outstanding. It would seem to me that the appeal should really be to the trust companies in Barbados even if this involves the Barbados Mortgage Finance Co. and other trust companies which are in the process of lending money for mortgages. They ought, in my view, to call the people in or adopt a different approach and try to ease and cushion the shock which people are experiencing because, in the final analysis, they are going to get their money back if, presumably, the people are able to have lower rates and maybe a longer time in which to repay the loans.

As the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has indicated, a lot of these houses are going on the market but there are no buyers. Where does that put the Trust Companies? Just to be able to put somebody's profcrty up in the newspaper for sale and in truth and in fact they cannot effect a sale? I think they have a duty and responsibility as corporate citizens to play a role



in assisting people in this particular regard. I would hope we would be able to send a very strong message from this Parliament to trust companies, including the Barbados Mortgage Finance Co., to adopt a more human approach to this particular problem. Everybody knows what the problem is. Therefore, I do not really see why they would want to be so hard and create such a difficulty for people who find themselves with that particular problem.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East indicated that the Government should look at finding ways of encouraging persons in the private sector to build houses for rent. We have been discussing this particular matter with some private sector people. I think everybody understands how the private sector operates. They operate on the basis of a profit. They have indicated very clearly that there really is not much profit in this particular kind of operation.

One interesting thing which is developing is that there is one developer who has come to us indicating that he wants to get into a further joint venture with the Ministry through the National Housing Corporation in the whole question of providing houses for people in what could be described as tSie lower income bracket, Indeed, he indicated that is the area in which he has been concentrating and it has proven to be pretty successful. We are in the process of allocating some lands to him. In addition to that, he has indicated that he has purchased an area of land which he will develop and where houses will be built for this income bracket because he has indicated this is a niche which needs to be taken up and nobody in the private sector besides himself seems to be interested in this particular area. At least one is getting some movement in that particular direction.

On the question of whether or not some of the monies which are voted here will go to cutting road development I would want to assure the Honourable Member that there will be some money expended in that particular area because, as he has pointed out, that area has been earmarked for the removal of those houses from the Belle over to this area but we had to slow the project down because we did not have enough funds to complete it. The suggestion which he has made in respect of seeking Town Planning approval for having roads which are not completed according to the standard which are laid down by the Town & Country Planning Department is a matter which I could certainly raise with that Department

On the question of maintenance of the National Housing Corporation property we have not discontinued the maintenance programme. There is a maintenance programme which is still going on. There are people Employed in this particular area because we recognise we have to maintain the properties of the National Housing Corporation. It is a fact that we do not have as many people employed in that section as we have had before but, as I said, we are striving to ensure that the production out of this Department is much higher than it was in the past.

On the Church Village area where the Honourable Member indicated it was a stop and go project, whatever stoppage there was it was really minimal in terms of the general construction period. I really do not think it would have the kind of effect on the costing of the units as the Honourable Member would want us to believe.

Both Honourable Members raised the question about the proposed change in determination of the rents by the National Housing Corporation. I would want to give the Honourable Member the assurance that it is not anything which the Corporation will be rushing into. There is a programme which they have in place in terms of getting the information putting it together and arriving at a situation where they are able to evaluate the results and certainly to put a valuation on each unit. The basic thing would be the charging of an economic rent and then people who are not able to reach that would be tested to ensure that they are not disadvantages! by this new arrangement. But it is a matter which is going to be looked at in a very careful way with all the approaches being adopted to ensure that the information which we have is proper information. 5.50 p.m.

One of the problems which I suppose we have had over the years in the National Housing Corporation houses is that very often we have had people who have gone into the houses at one income level and over the years their incomes have improved but as far as the National Housing Corporation is concerned the rents remained constant

In spite of that we still find that people have refused to pay. So that what we are trying to do therefore is to ensure that the Corporation gets the maximum benefit out of the facilities which it provides because, as I have said and I would want to repeat, housing in National Corporation is good quality housing and it is a privileged position which those people who get it enjoy.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, very quickly in relation to the point of the insensitivity of the Trust Houses to the plight of mortgagors in this country. The Minister in his reply seems to suggest

that the Government's role is only one of moral suasion to make these appeals to these people to be a little more compassionate.

The Government however has not been as kind to the mortgagors as they are to the mortgagees. They have bludgeoned these people of whom I speak over the last 18 months into a state where they cannot pay. The Government has become an expert in ways of inflicting pain on people, those who have to borrow to get



somewhere to live, they have been very brutal in the way in which they have handled them, not only by cutting their salaries and creating the greatest unemployment this country has ever known, but also by the imposts they have put on building materials, but all of that is part of it. All the Minister can say is that we must appeal to these people - the Trust Companies - we must appeal to them to help and understand. But when the people who are suffering were being beaten into submission by the Government it was not a question of moral suasion.

. This brings me, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to anothenaspect of the Ministry for which the Minister speaks. All these difficulties of which he speaks, the unemployment, the contraction of income in Barbados, all of the social problems, would have suggested to a Government or any thinking person that there would be a greater need for these ancillary social services. It is when things are bad, when people are not working, when they are not getting any money, when there is retrenchment, all of that, that there is a greater need for these social services. And this Government has, at the same time that they put tens of thousands of people on the bread line, denied opportunities to vast numbers of others and reduced the spending capacity of the few who remain workers, at that very time when the people are driven by the brutality of the measures of the Government to run to the Welfare Department and the National Assistance Board, and the Child Care Board, this Government has - and I almost said in its wisdom - in its shamelessness, gone and cut the welfare vote. $2 million less than before the difficulty started 2 years ago.

The Welfare Offices in Barbados are opening just because the employees in the Welfare Offices are civil servants and they have to go to work. That is the only reason the offices are opening. Because they have no money in the welfare offices and people who are in need are going to the Welfare Offices all across the country, week after week, looking for assistance with the traditional monetary grants and assistance in kind, that they have grown accustomed to in the days when they had a more kind Government - a Barbados Labour Party Government. They knew they could go there and get emergency grants - the $50.00 vouchers. They could get food vouchers, they could get assistance of all sons. And now all that is virtually terminated, at least during the last 4 or 5 months because the Welfare Offices have been telling the would be recipients that there is no money so why are you' wasting our time coming here.

We had a situation in this country, Sir, where the houses of old people were being repaired. Some were being replaced. They were protected from the elements. They did not have to dodge between the rain drops when they were inside their houses. The Minister gets up and gives us a lot of fine language today. He has restored the situation where old people are getting wet in their houses. There has been a cut in that vote. Could you imagine, Sir, a cut of $1.4 million now things are hard. Harder than they were back in 1991/92.

Provision for the payment of electricity for pensioners who live alone and who the Barbados Labour Party was concerned would not die in the night because the kerosene lamp fell over on the bed and started a fire. The Barbados Labour Party Government started payment of electric bills for those old people. All of them, not some - all who did not have other means of support other than their pensions. And now the Light and Power people have been moved to cut off the electricity of old people all

across this country and have them now living in darkness.

And now the water, Sir - the Barbados Labour Party again - and I really have to talk as if I am on a political platform because these things hurt. There was a conscious and deliberate policy to put water in the homes of all pensioners in Barbados. Sir, we consider it wicked that old people should have to walk down the road with a bucket catching water and breaking down their shoulders to get the water back home. Those people had water put in their houses and now the pipes are running dry for some of them because the water in their homes was cut off by the Water Authority who say they are not a welfare agency, that they are a business and if these people are not paying they cut off their water. This is what has happened to a lot of old people in this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for those who say that there were no standpipes in Barbados in 1976, that is a brutal and diabolical lie. There were a lot of standpipes in Barbados in 1976. As a matter of fact I remember a survey being done in 1977/78 where over 20% of the people in Barbados did not have running water into their homes. But they are going to need more standpipes now because that is the condition which these Estimates is reflecting.

Cut under National Assistance, cut under the Child Care Board. There is a situation developing and if the Minister would listen to the advisers in these departments - the Child Care Board, the National Assistance, the Welfare, Community Development - he would learn a lot of things. There are a lot of fractured households in Barbados. Houses where women have no man in the house, 4 and 5 children who are scattered. One in Fairs Home, one in another home, one living with an old man up the road, one living with a woman down the road, and the mother herself living anywhere. This situation is increasing. Those of us who have to deal with constituents on a daily basis are conversant with these things because these people, Mr. Chairman, speak to us and that situation is increasing rapidly. Where is the conscience of this Government? What kind* of Government would you call them? Where is the compassion of this caring Government? You cannot in Estimates, with an expenditure of $l'/_2$ billion And more tell me that you cannot find it in your heart to restore, not cut, the cuts that were made last year in these areas that matter in relation to social services in this country? 6.00 p.m.

While I am at it, Mr. Chairman, I want to mention something in relation to this Community Development Programme. The community centres in Barbados are virtually dead, Sir. They are not being used. There is nothing to go there for because the Government has not provided staff to man those centres and devise creative programmes to assist the lost young people out there who are looking for leadership and guidance. There is a mass of unemployed, people across this country and now more than ever should the community centres should be places of great activity to rescue these people.

The Community Development Officers really should at this stage be more busy than ever. They should be out there with that pool of unemployed persons assisting them. But they should be doing something else too. They should be out there preparing all those unemployed young people for the day vhen they have to move into a job. It is very easy for a people who have not worked for a long time to get into the habit of unemployment and after a while they give up and figure that employment is not for them. This is an important role of the Community Development Officers,, What we are having is a lot of movement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes more.

Mr. L. R. TULL: There is a lot of movement by the Community Development Officers to go and assist in areas that are new. If I am wrong, the Minister can correct me. But I understand that the Community Development Officers have moved to the Barbados Youth Service and their positions have not been replaced. If I am wrong, the Minister can correct me. They moved to the Barbados Youth Service. The most reviled initiative of the previous administration was perhaps the initiative of the Barbados Youth Service. The members of the Government then in Opposition, particularly through their shadow spokesman, the Honourable Member for St. James South, abused, reviled and used the worst invective against the Government when we proposed to introduce a Youth .Service. We heard how we were going to

put guns into the hands of young people and militarize them and give them to the then Colonel Lewis to use for this purpose and the other. The Barbados Workers Union came out week after week in The Union Speaks and attacked it. The Barbados Secondary Teachers Union and a lot of people from the pulpits criticised it because the Barbados Labour Party had the foresight in view of what was developing among young people in this country to say that a Youth Service was critical as a catalyst at this period.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. L. R. TULL: We were abused at every turn. Now I see the Honourable Minister for Youth Services down at the base in St. Lucy prancing up afid watching the young people in uniforms and berets looking like soldiers. I will stop at this point.

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

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I am going to continue from where the Honourable Member for St. George South left off because we need to put things in their proper perspective. Regarding this Youth Service Programme that the Minister speaks so highly about, we must not forget that it was the Barbados Labour Party that identified the site at St. Lucy. I was the Minister then. I went down there and saw the site. It was decided that exactly what is taking place down there should take place, but we were criticised. As I said, we are wise after the event although there were lots of people who criticised the Barbados Labour Party for taking certain initiatives. They felt that they were revolutionary projects and policies and they criticised us. But I am not one who is particularly worried about this sort of thing. This is what happens in the game of politics.

Sir, I am going to return to the question of Sherbourne. I am glad that there is some money allocated to get some action there. Sherbourne is a national scandal. Let us face it. I am bothered that the figure which the Minister mentioned earlier will escalate because the longer it stays there the more money it is going to cost eventually. That is the problem. There is a lot of exposed steel in there. You are going to have to take engineering advice as to how the steel is going to be removed, because I know once steel is exposed for a considerable amount of time that effects it. I am hoping that when you begin to restart with that figure which the Minister quoted that will be taken into consideration. If that 'is the case, then the Minister should say how soon it will be started. As the period drags on, it is going to cost more money. The $1.6 million that is allocated is less than what was allocated last year. I am going to go as far to say that very little work was done last year. It is next door to my constituency. We heard last year that work was going to start and jobs would be in the making.

Sir, I am going to say this. I am aware that the contractor is owed money for that project. The question, therefore, is whether in this sum of $1.6 million there is provision to pay him. The other question is:



How much money is left to carry on work there? That is important to me and to everybody. I want to know. I want you to tell me. I do not want anybody to tell me that they heard money is available for Sherboume and that work is going to start at Sherboume when the amount will be the amount to pay the contractor and no work at all will take place there. I want that to be said.

Sir, my role now is to make sure that there is no misconception. I want the Government to come up front and say, "Look, no work at Sherboume but we are going to pay the contractor a piece of change." Set it out in that manner. We do not want any pretty language so that people will become confused. I know that no work is going on there. Regarding all this about the Conference Centre being completed, I went in there and saw what had been done. You had to move the lift more than once. A lot of things happened up there. I am hoping that you will get it done and get the National Orchestra up there. I want to see it completed. I am making a statement for the Minister that no work is expected except if you come back for more money. You have to pay the contractor. The contractor is asking for money. 6.10 p.m.
The Child Care Board, though the Estimates reflect that they are getting almost the same amount of money as last year, I want the Minister to understand, if it has not yet been drawn to his attention - and I got this

information from someone who worked for the Child Care Board - that a contractor is owed over $50 000 and has refused to continue to give them services in a very serious area, the area of sanitation, pumping off the wells, and I would hope that the Government pays some attention to that particular contractor. I am going to say this. People have overdrafts to deal with, and it is the same with another contractor, who I will talk about too, where the Government owes the contractor and things have reached the stage where the contractor has refused to effect any plumbing services. I am saying that something should be done to correct this situation. It is very untenable. I just want the Minister to bear that in mind, because all the persons owed by the Child Care Board need to be paid.

I read these Estimates and I understand them now. Nobody is going to fool me with figures. When I see figures which tell me what was spent last year and what is to be spent this year I am not going to read that you are spending less or more, I want to know how much work was done last year, what percentage of the work, and what work is to be completed, what is to be carried forward. That is how I interpret my Estimates. So I want to know, in.this allocation, how much money is owed out. That will tell me what the Child Care Board is left with to operate. I want the Minister to get up, if he has the information, and let us know so that I will be clear in my mind and the Child Care Board will be clear in its mind that there is money voted here to clear all its indebtedness and have some money to continue, because I know that staff has gone home.

The maintenance of the buildings leaves a lot to be desired. I know you do not have the funds. I can understand that and make the point for the Government, but there are certain areas you cannot short change people on. You have children in these homes and there are employees who have families. An unsafe building is a very serious thing. You would know what would be the situation with Government if someone incurs an injury. I am just saying that these things need to be done.

When the Barbados Labour Party was in Government up to 1986 people were brought on to effect repairs on a day-UHiay basis at the Child Care Board. As soon as the Government changed, those people were chased away. This is nothing to do with the present Minister. Look at the Child Care Board's building. What does that say to anybody? Is it pleasant to the eye? It is a disgrace to have people working in there. The employees cannot come out and say it, but I say it does not meet the eye, it does not say anything for them. It can at least be painted and made to reflect the example these people are supposed to set.
I want to get on to another matter. There is another contractor who is claiming about $90 000. Work was done on the Rosemont units for NHC and there was a retention fee. The information supplied tp me is that since 1988 a claim was put in and processed, but nothing has since been heard by the man or his attorney. What worries me is the fact that the man's house which was used as security to get working capital to work with the Government is now up for sale and his family is now scrambling about looking for money to save him and the roof over their heads. That is the human element. All I am asking, whether there is a claim which justifies payment or not, that it be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. The man is paying interest and, as I know, the Government will not repay the interest the man has to pay. Since you have settled certain cases, I am asking that that be looked at. The Minister might not be aware of it. These are not things that will go to the Minister. I am not saying the Minister knows, I will not impute or insinuate that, but these are things which ought to be drawn to his attention, things which will tell us exactly the position of the NHC. Here again, if you have to pay that claim, it means there are less funds available to the Corporation to effect the work it sets out in the Estimates to do. This is time we did some tidying up of our act and I hope we can deal with these things in a frank manner. The Estimates should reflect exactly where we are going. That is why we sometimes on this side are suspicious when we see certain figures and see a decrease. We tend to interpret the decrease as a slowdown in business and the eventual loss of jobs, which might not necessarily be the case.



I want the Minister to understand that he has a duty to call on the NHC to give him an update on that particular situation, as well as the other one. These are all black Barbadians who want to get on. They want to offer services, but at the same time they are held up. They cannot develop their businesses, they cannot offer the services to other people. I am very sorry that this had to happen with the Child

Care Board. I am hoping that the Minister understands clearly what is happening out there. Please, do not short change the Child Care Board, they are doing a good job. I am putting a case for them. Give them some funds so that they can continue to do their job. At this time when people are abandoning families, I know the problem the Child Care Board has and I would hope that the Minister hears my plea on their behalf on this occasion.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 2 very short questions of the Honourable Minister of Housing on the Youth and Community Development Department. I am really very distressed to see at 315 - Grants to Non-Profit Agencies the actual expenditure in 1991-92 was $40 000, it was cut to $16 000 in this financial year and by half again now, $3 000 for 1993-94.1 want the Minister to tell us which are these non-profit agencies, because I would hate to think that these are what we call NGOs, non-governmental organisations, which are doing a tremendous job to complement the service Governments provide. Governments cannot provide all the youth and development services. Non-profit organisations such as the Boys Scouts and the Girl Guides, the YMCA, the YWCA and The Girls Industrial Union do a tremendous job in complementing what the Government does. At this time particularly, the young people have to be kept employed and these organisations do their best. They depend in very large measure on grants to help them provide the basic necessities, basket materials and that sort of thing to work with. 6.20 p.m.

. I am distressed to see that between 1991-92 and now, this grant is moving from $40 000 to $8 000. I would really want to have those agencies identified. I need to know because they are going to look to other sources in the community to help them in their fund raising. Now that is youth and community development. What they cannot get from Government they are going to look to the private sector to give them. The private sector is already overburdened and they will tell them - I know the story because I go begging on behalf of so many - that they are already committed. They have a special arrangement with so and so or a covenant with the third and the fourth. .Therefore they will have a very sad experience trying to raise funds for what is essentially a civic contribution of a monumental order that they are making in our community. I want to have them identified and to know the extent to which their votes are cut. When you move from $40 000 to $8 000 you are clearly cutting some off the list as well and I very much need to know.

Similarly, Sir, under Welfare Development at page 88 again grants to non-profitable agencies, actual expenditure 1991-92 - $30 000 moving to $10 000 in these Estimates. That was just a jump down.

Who are these organisations?

Lastly, under Women's Affairs, page 89, the Bureau of Women's Affairs. This is something to which the Government is paying now even less than lip service. They cut grants to non-profit agencies and these were to the various women's organisations which at this time really need to be helping women with ideas, putting together programmes for income generation, self-help programmes which are critical now in these times of high unemployment, that women should be able to come together and learn how they can help themselves so that they can feed their families... This vote is moving from $17 000 actually expended in 1991-92 to $1 000 this year. This can only now be a token. Again, who are these non-profit agencies and to what extent have they been cut. We need to know.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Sir, Head 37, Culture, page 91. The vote for Culture this year is $1.2 million. Mr. Chairman, this really saddens me. I remember when the Democratic Labour Party was the Government in the pre-1976 period a Minister of the then Government when asked about Government involvement in culture - there was a recommendation that Government for the first time get involved in culture as an activity of central Government -remarked, "What do you need that for? The people of Barbados are already cultured." That kind of ignorance has permeated the cultural policies of the Democratic Labour Party Government then as it is now.
In the 1976-77 period when the Democratic Labour Party was the Government, the vote for culture

was $50 000. I was in the Ministry of Education and Culture between 1976 and 1981 and when I left that Ministry the vote for culture was just over $4 million a year. It was nothing to do with CARIFESTA. We are not talking about that. Now, 12 years later, we have now dropped to $1.2 million.

I will tell you what is happening in culture, Sir. The Government has decimated this National Cultural Foundation to the point at which they are not even sure that the members of staff can be paid salaries out of this $1.2 million. This $1.2 million is not for the programmes of the National Cultural Foundation. This is money for the Landship and the Arts Council and BIM Magazine and the Barbados National Trust and the Dance Theatre and other unspecified cultural organisations. There is even money in it for the churches.

3294

This $1.2 million is not going to the National Cultural Foundation to organise and manage the cultural festivals in Barbados. There is no money really voted, if you analyse it, for Crop-over. I read in here recently a report from the Barbados Board of Tourism which highlighted the impact of Crop-over on summer tourism in this country.

Now, Sir, I am a purist when it comes to this. Perhaps the best things I have ever said in the House of Assembly relate to culture. The whole question of expenditure of money on culture cannot only be pushed for its economic benefits, although I will deal with that. The spending of money on culture has a lot to do with the development of the people of Barbados as a nation and individually. The amount of self-confidence that has been created among Barbadian children in the last decade and a half as a result of an enlightened cultural programme is something that cannot be quantified in dollars and cents.
An amazing change has taken place in this country, a cultural renaissance, the likes of which does not happen in any country in such a short period of time. It is rewarded by this Government by the brutal slashing of the funds for culture. It is doing a serious disservice to this Barbadian community. In 1976 you could not run a play in Barbados for more than 3 nights and you could not have 30 days of theatre nights in a year because you would not have any audience. Nowadays you can do it every single night of the year. Now we are getting there to this appreciation of our worth and of the arts, the Government cuts the vote in this brutal fashion.

We are going through a period where half of the people under the age of 26 are unemployed. This is a time when this kind of programme needs some more money. The Honourable Member for St. John as a young man received his first meaningful paycheck as a result of being a resource person in CARIFESTA in 1981. It is the only side of him, Sir, that *I* still sit and admire, that particular exposure. Now, they are taking the National Cultural Foundation from under the Director. I hope the Director understands that. They are taking the department from him so that he will get frustrated and walk away from it, because that is all I can see in these Estimates.

From the economic side, Sir. 6.30 p.m.
Everybody is now recognizing, although it took many countries, no less the Third World countries, a long time before they began to appreciate the importance of culture in overall development. There is a dialectical link between the culture of a country and its national development. The Democratic Labour Party does not seem to understand these things. They see everything, as I have had occasion to say many times on the floor of this Chamber, in terms ol bricks, mortar and dollar bills, but the things that transcend that and human development do not even pass within hailing distance of a Democratic Labour Party administration and they are killing Crop-Over.

The worst tourist season for a decade we are experiencing now in Barbados and we need summer tourism. I hear dark stories of hotels shutting down in the summer. When -Crop-Over pulled like a magnet large numbers of Barbadians who lived overseas and non-Barbadians to give a boost to our earnings in the summer, Crop-Over now is in peril. What about all those programmes we started, summer workshops for disadvantaged city kids in all areas of the arts? They used to do that in Queen's Park in the summer when

we were in Government. You saw the children at the beginning and at the end you could not believe what had happened to them over that 4-week period. What is going to happen to NIFCA? I understand that the Jazz Festival has gone. The ESSO Festival I understand also is going. All the Government does, in addition to cutting the money all the time, is to keep juggling the Ministers. I believe they had 4 Ministers of Culture in 6 years and a newspaper, if you can call it that, had the audacity to say that the first Minister of Culture they had in this country is the Honourable Member for St John. It was the only time I had ever seen him blushed.

Sir, this is not a matter to be laughed over. I am really urging the Government that it has to do something. If it does not find the funds to come out of the Consolidated Fund, then it should get a promotional programme to involve the business houses and the private sector to come up with substantial funds to make sure that what we have started does not stop. I am really sad when I see this.

I want to make one final comment, Sir, because I am getting a bit tired of it all, because I do not think you get through to the Government when you talk these things. The Minister of Housing has taken over from the Minister of Agriculture who took over from the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, who took over from the Minister of Education, who took over from the Prime Minister. There were 5 Ministers in 6 years. While the Honourable Member for»SL Lucy, the Minister of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture, is struggling with this business of culture which he obviously cannot handle without money, they are undercutting him by forming a National Arts Centre, another cultural body, with the mastermind being one of the Members of the Democratic Labour Party who seems to be taking over what the National Cultural Foundation should be doing. It is not fair. My heart bleeds to see what has happened in respect of this particular programme.

One final work on this question of culture. The Government once, through the National Cultural



Foundation, had sought to spread the arts through the schools in terms of dance and music. The dance people had gone into the primary schools. We had started theatre in education. People who do not understand if they read a textbook about the history of slavery because Barbadian children do not read like they used to, can appreciate in half an hour in the schoolyard by a good drama teacher the dramatisation of particular events to get a better understanding in half an hour than reading any book. This was started and I understand it is finished because they do not give any more scholarships to people under the National Development Scholarships in Drama. They used to get scholarships in drama, so I have heard.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in 2 minutes.

Mr. L. R. TULL: What happened with the people who were being given scholarships in theatre arts?

*Aside.*

Mr. L. R. TULL: They are still overseas studying. Why are not more and more of them being trained and put through the whole school system to enrich that aspect of the curriculum and of the training and education of the young people in this country? One is asked what happened to the people who were trained before as if the people who were trained before, who were the trailblazers, are all that are required in the system. Some of them have moved on. Some have left the system and few are still there. But what has happened since then? If the Government's idea is that this thing does not matter, say so and let us put the debate at another level. But if the Government, according to what is set out in the Estimates as the aims of cultural policy and development in this country and what they have written in the Development Plan, and what they have written in the Throne Speech in relation to culture, if they mean these things, then they can do no better than to find some funds to make sure that we do not fall over the precipice as is being evidenced by what they see in these Estimates before me.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I believe that it is a very severe indictment of Government that in this period of structural adjustment we have had the benefit of carefully researched papers on indirect taxation,

we have had the benefit of papers prepared on privatisation, on Heywoods and all Government enterprises; but there has been absolutely no consideration given by Government at all to having the whole question of social reform addressed as the very serious matter that it is. For that reason, the point my colleagues have been making is that what could have been an orderly retreat is now, in fact, turning out to be a row.
In every Department of Government, as these Estimates indicate, the knife is being applied. There does not seem to be the awareness on the part of Government that the adjustment which has to be made to the delivery of social services in this country can be rationalised, and should be rationalised in accordance with a carefully thought-out plan, for example, that begins to address questions of how much of our resources that we commit to the social sectors should be allocated to the bureaucracy as distinct to the actual recipients.

I am.entering this debate to say, Sir, that there is a wonderful opportunity existing for the Government to do in the social sectors what it has really, albeit unsuccessfully, sought to do in the economic spheres where specific action on the part of Government has been contemplated. The social sectors are no less deserving of concerted research and rationalisation than the economic sectors.

I would like to see brought to this House at an early date a White Paper dealing with the reform of the social welfare system of this country that directly addresses the question of how we are going to preserve the safety net in Barbados within the reduced and reducing resources available to the country. On the present trend, I think the point all my colleagues are making on this side that the *ad hoc* institution by institution approach which the Government is adopting is going to eventually decimate each of the institutions involved, reduce each of the services involved and is going to ignore the possibility for rationalisation and the forging of sounder inter-agency linkages. In the final analysis it is going to avoid dealing with the most important question of how do we get more of our resources to the actual recipients rather than leave them in the hands of the bureaucrats. 6.40 p.m.

The other point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, Sir, concerns Sherbourne. This is the second year that the Government has proffered an estimate as to what Sherbourne is going to cost. On the latter occasion that the Government spoke to the matter it was going to cost $42 million. In the course of one year the estimated cost of Sherbourne is going to rise by $16 million. As we can see from the Estimates, Sir, Government is proposing to spend no more than $2 million a year on the complex; which means that it is hardly going to be finished, on current trends, for the next 18 years, in which time the Estimates would have risen from the present $58 million to some number which I do not care to speculate about.
I have to really ask the Government if there is a contingency plan for that particular complex because it is now clear, Mr. Chairman, that the Government has committed itself to something that it really did not think out to begin with; and it is now in it, Sir, without knowing precisely where it wants to go. I really believe it Will be a considerable liability for a future administration to have to contemplate having to find money to finish a project, the purposes for which was never thought out in the first case.

Does the Government have a contingency plan for the project? For example, is the Government at all thinking of the possibility that it may not want to finish Sherbourne and may want to get some private sector group to become interested in its completion for whatever purpose? Sir, I am not going to speculate as to what it might be, the fact is that it is now becoming abundantly clear, given the change in the projected cost as given by the Ministers themselves, that this going to be a tremendous financial drag on this economy.

I am calling for a contingency plan for this, Sir. It is not enough now, I think, for Government Ministers to come here year after year to tell us by how much the projected cost is going to escalate. The next time we hear from the Government, Sir, I think this House ought to require that in addition to looking at it from the point of view of Government, we need also to hear that Government has exercised itself with the question as to what are the other uses to which it can be put. It must tell us how we can cut our national, as well as our public financial loses, and give this House the benefit of a carefully thought-out contingency plan that would preempt persons from having to deal with a financial monstrosity in the future. Obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, it has been a long time since I have had an opportunity to respond to a number of questions which have been raised by Honourable Members and they are legitimate questions. Let me just start with the Honourable Member for St. Peter. The question on social reform and his statement that the Government should have . in place a working group, presumably to prepare a well thought-out paper and to have a plan for this whole question of rationalising the social services and ensuring that whatever reforms are in place do not redound to the disadvantage of the disadvantaged; let me say the Government has established a working group on social reform as part of the overall arrangement in the structural adjustment and members of this group are drawn from the trade unions, the private sector and the Government sector. I anticipate that this group will be forthcoming with their report as soon as possible and the Government will be able to put into place a number of the proposals which would be forthcoming from that, as the Honourable Member as indicated, to cushion whatever shocks there are.

On the question of Sherbourne, let me say that this administration is committed to finishing this project. I have indicated that we propose to finish it in stages and we have
provided therefore some money in the current Estimates and the Estimates which we are now discussing.

This, therefore, brings me to the point raised by the Honourable Member for St Michael South East, where he seeks to suggest and I want to be very clear on this that the money which we have voted here is money which is going to be used to pay the contractor. In truth and in fact, I would want this House to know that we propose to settle the debts which we owe to the contractor out of the allocation which is here in the Estimates for the 1992/93. We have not got the final figure in yet but it is less than what is contained in the Estimates for 1992/93.

The Honourable Member is suggesting that the money which we are now voting in 1993/94 is money which is going to be used to pay the contractor. I am saying that is not the case.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I did not make that suggestion. I put it to the Minister in clear terms. I wanted to know how much you owe the contractor so that I will be able to deduce for myself how much is left to do the work.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: What the Honourable Member is missing is that there is money in the allocations for this current financial year 1992/93 which will be used to settle debts for the contractor and 'so the money which we have in the Estimates for 1993/94 will be money which will be used to do some work and will go towards finishing the conference hall at the Sherbourne Centre.
Now, let me just move on to another point which has been raised by the Honourable Member for St. George South and I think the Honourable Member for St. George South is noted for his extravagance in the use of the English language and I think, those of us who know him, recognise that this is one of his weaknesses or fortes. But I think it is, in my view, a little irresponsible if I may say so for an Honourable Member who has been a Minister, an Honourable Member who is a Chairman of a Party and who has the intentions to take over the leadership of that particular party, to be irresponsible to the point of saying that crop-over 1993 is in peril. When such comments come from supposedly responsible persons who aspire to leadership positions then I know that the Press would tend to take those kinds of statements and run away with them. I want to give this House and this country the assurance that Crop-Over 1993 is not in any peril as is suggested by the Honourable Member.

The fact of the matter is, yes the money which has been allocated to the National Cultural Foundation is undergoing some cuts as indeed most other programmes in the Estimates which we have here. There is nothing new in that and what we therefore are trying to do, and if I can speak -specifically in respect of the National

Cultural Foundation, the National Cultural Foundation recognising that Crop-Over and a number of its activities play a very important role in the general development of the country and also economically, has embarked on a programme of soliciting assistance and support from the business community in terms of the kind of support which would be forthcoming to assist them in their programmes. It will be no different in 1993. 6.50 p.m.

Already discussions are taking place with a number of business houses to give support in one way or another to Crop-Over. I will say this. The Honourable Member made mention about the impact which Crop-Over has on summer tourism. J am confident that the discussions which I will be having at the Ministerial level with the Minister of Tourism will see a more empathetic and, indeed, financial support coming from the Board of Tourism to assist in that particular area. I would hope that the Tourism Development Corporation would find it in their hearts to put some money there to assist with Crop-Over. I am saying that we recognise the value of this. However, we believe that this is an area in which the private sector can also play an important role.

The Honourable Member for the City raised two questions in respect of the Youth mid. Community Development, The Honourable Member asked the question about the non-profit agencies which benefit from the subvention. The information which I have here indicates that these are the following groups which have received in the past subvention under the Youth and Community Development. They are as follows: The Girl Guides Association, the Boy Scouts Association, YMCA, PAREDOS, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Barbados Youth Council and Barbados Landship. We will have to divide the $8 000 among these organisations. I am not sure the position of the Barbados Youth Council.
Sir, in Welfare, I have not been able to get the information on the groups which are supported through Welfare in terms of grants to these organisations. However, in that respect, let me say that the Honourable Member for St. George South will have this Committee to believe that because of the cuts which have been instituted that the grants and assistance which the Welfare Department have been removed. Well, they have been reduced. I think the impression which would have gone out is that there is no work. As I understand it, I think the Honourable Member said that the people had no work to do and there is no money to give out. Therefore, they could go home.

Sir, let me say that the information which I have here suggests that up to December 1992 there were 8 786 recipients of cash grants. Basically, these are for children under 16 years and there were 5 193 recipients. For children over 16 years, there were 326 and for the able-
bodied adults 337 and disabled persons 469. Regarding the disabled persons, there are two different rates - 1 464 for persons over 55 years and persons over 65 but not in receipt of a pension from National Insurance Department get $25.00 a week. There are about 997 of those. These are Welfare grants. There is assistance in kind. There is educational assistance. There is after-care for ex-patients of the Hillside Home and, of course, there is "water installation in special circumstances. At the end of December, I should point out there were 2 967 persons benefiting from the payment of water rates and 767 persons benefiting from the payment of electricity rates.

In addition to that, Sir, there were a number of other areas where assistance has been given. The Welfare Department pays for 66 tenants of the NHC houses and 40 tenants of private landlords. The Welfare Department provides spectacles and dentures. They provide assistance to fire victims. They provide basic items of furniture, clothing and other needs to assist people in their various areas. Yes, the vote has been cut somewhat but it should be pointed out that the Welfare Department does provide some assistance.
Sir, this is in reply to the Honourable Member for the City in respect of grants to non-profit organisations under Welfare. It has been pointed out to me that those groups which benefit are the Barbados Association in the Aid of Blind, Deaf and Dumb, Barbados Legion of Empire Service League, Family Welfare League, Council for the Handicapped, National Council on Aging, Samaritans and British Aid Society.
The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East in speaking about the Child Care Board indicated that he was aware that the Child Care Board owes money to a contractor. That is a fact and they owe money to a lot of other people. I am trying to ensure that these matters are settled. The Government of Barbados recognises the important role which the Child Care Board plays in performing its role and its duties. But we have to again impress upon all of these institutions that they have to manage their finances and affairs in an efficient manner. I do not say this lightly because it is clear to me that with a lot more effort and more

control a lot of saving can take place within these institutions. I hope that a word to the wise is enough. There is a lot which can be done in terms of managing the affairs in a much more effective and efficient manner. 7.00 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. George South, with his usual extravagant language, spoke about the old people in Barbados who are now dodging between drops in their houses. Just let me say that we are concerned in terms of trying to ensure that our senior citizens get the treatment which we can provide within the resources which we



have in this country. I am sure the Honourable Member must be aware, and would agree, that this country, Barbados, provides a lot more for its senior citizens than any country of the Caribbean, and indeed can be compared with a number of developed countries in this world in terms of what it provides. Even now I am saying that without fear of contradiction.

• *Aside.*

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: But there are homeless people on the streets all over the world. There are poor people all over the world, there are poor people in Barbados, poor old people in Barbados and poor housing in Barbados. The fact of the matter is, we are trying our best within the limited resources which we have to answer those particular needs. I think the Honourable Member has to understand that there is no Government in Barbados or any country that will ever be able to answer all of the pressing social problems relating to old people, young people and the not so old. We have to put a programme in place and we are trying.

*Aside.*

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The Honourable Member raised the question about old people on the street. It is a very important point and it is of concern to us. I can say that we are taking action in this regard and the Ministry of Housing and Lands has allocated the old Hindsbury School for that particular purpose. Work will be going on to develop that particular programme. That will not be the only place, we are looking around to see what other buildings we may have in the St Michael area where this is a major problem to try to give some comfort to people.

I agree entirely with the Honourable Member for St. George South when he said that there is need for a revitalisation of work in the community, particularly in the community centres, and indeed that there is need for some improvement in the delivery of services in that particular area.

*Aside.*

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I do not understand the Honourable Member. When I could have replied to 2 of them, everybody wanted to get in and have their piece, so I have to reply systematically to all of the points which have been made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just understand the Chair is hearing you.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The community centres have a vital role to play. The Department of Youth and Community Development has been developing a number of
programmes, particularly to assist young people and prepare them for the job market. There is a joint programme between the OAS and the Department for this specific purpose and I am informed that in the Bush Hall Community Centre a project is starting there with this particular view in mind. It is a pilot project, but we are hoping to expand this into other areas throughout Barbados. We recognise that this: is an area which will assume greater importance in our whole scheme of things and we therefore need to ensure that the Community Development Division recognises the role which they have to play and that they have the mental attitude and approach to deal with these problems.

*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be suspended until 8.00 p.m.

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.* 7.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it should revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

*The question that Head 37 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT - AS AMENDED -$16744910

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I am asking that Head 39 for $16 744 910 stand part. I would like to make a few introductory remarks under this Head.

This Head covers the Ministry of Labour and is responsible for the Labour Department, the Environmental Unit, the Coastal Conservation Unit as well as the Natio ml Training. Board. Because of the present economic



situation in Barbados and the programme that the Government has gone into and in support of the structural adjustment programme the Government proposes, this Ministry was responsible in trying to get an agreement on a wages policy to support this programme.

As was announced by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, in conjunction with the reduction of the 8% in the public sector wage, he was proposing a freeze in basic wages in the entire working situation with increases only on the basis of gains in productivity or on the basis of profit sharing. The Ministry of Labour and Consumer Affairs was asked to discuss this proposal with the social partners and, as a result of that, it was agreed that settlement for their first 2 years, as I said, was in a productivity bonus and profit sharing only.

The Ministry of Labour and Consumer Affairs and the Environment held meetings with the BWU, the BUT, the BFTU and the NUPW and the Barbados Employers' Confederation on the implementation of various guidelines in support of the structural adjustment programme. The outcome of the meeting was not conclusive but indications were that the Barbados Workers' Union gave qualified support to the guidelines, the public sector unions had some misgivings while die Barbados Employers' Confederation supported the wages guideline.

At a meeting of January 7, 1993, the matter was brought to the attention of the Cabinet which noted the position of the social partners that while the Barbados Workers* Union took a conciliatory approach to the discussions it stated it could not support in full the guidelines as enunciated because it felt the guidelines as set out by the programme were being seen not as guidelines but more as rules to be followed and that the linking of wages with increased productivity, profit sharing and current inflation rate was a contradiction.

The Union agreed however that a national productivity board should be set up but concluded that the

board should only give guidance in the area of the measurement of productivity; that the old voluntary position of negotiation for wages and conditions should continue. That was the Union's position.
As a result of that, the National Productivity Board was set up and the representatives are from the Coalition of Trade Unions and staff associations, the Barbados Manufacturers' Association, the Barbados Employers' Confederation, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Consumer Affairs and the Environment or the nominee of the Minister of Labour. The Board in its earlier stages was provided with an ILO consultant who helped the Board to set up its guidelines.
The Board has a monitoring educational function and some of the things specifically for the Board will be to develop ways of measuring productivity, taking into account the initial work of the International Labour Organisation expert who was available to assist with the establishment of the productivity payments scheme as well as to monitor all aspects of productivity, growth and to assist with the methods for enhancing productivity.
As I said, Mr. Chairman, this Board is in place and it is supported by a staff of 1 administrative officer, a stenographer/typist, a senior economist and a statistician to assist the Board in carrying out its activity. During the period, the Labour Department was naturally kept quite busy dealing with the usual problems with labour relations and the report for that department will show that during the year it dealt with many cases of unfair dismissals, having a look at salary negotiations as well as the labour officer intervening in any dispute etc.
The National Employment Bureau operated at fairly full speed during that year as a result of a number of persons who sought to use the services of the National Employment Bureau. The programme under the Canadian Labour Scheme this year continued and the savings received to date for the 1992 season was a little over $1 million. That programme, as you know, is under some pressure as a result of the increased recruitment of labour from Mexico and therefore the numbers in this programme continue to diminish despite the best efforts of the Labour Department and the liaison officer for keeping the levels of employment as high as possible. They are exploiting as much as they can additional areas of employment.
Under this Ministry as well, Mr. Chairman, comes the Coastal Conservation Unit which is presently hard at work in trying to combat the effect of erosion on the coast and as a result of a project there has been some work going on around Barbados specifically at Accra, Rockley, in which there is to be built a coral nibble and submerged breakwater as well as some beach nourishment. 8.10 p.m.
The idea behind this project is that the submerged breakwater is intended to act as a kind of reef which would dissipate the energy of the incoming wave and therefore slow down the erosion along that beach as well as some internal inshore dredging and some nourishment along the beach to be done. The contract has been awarded. I believe work is going to start very shortly on that one.
There is also some work to be done at Heywoods where there is to be installed a beach face dewatering system. There is some work to be done at Reid's Bay, Lower Carlton as well. That also is a submerged breakwater. There was some work 10 be done around the Payne's Bay area that has already boon completed.
3300
This and other activities in the further monitoring of the erosion has been occupying the attention of the Coastal Conservation Unit during the year.
The Ministry has also held the responsibility for the Environmental Unit This Unit the National Conservation strategy or documentation was prepared by the Ministry in time for the UNSAID meeting held in Brazil. The activity includes an environmental impact assessment study that has been done by the Ministry. This is becoming increasingly important since most of the international agencies where they are doing any sector lending are insisting on environmental impact studies. They are well into reviewing environmental legislation. They have also set up over the year environmental education and public awareness programmes by way of seminars, presentations and documentations centred in an environmental unit, career showcases, *et cetera.* The National Conservation strategy has been mapped. The Department is following that programme very closely.
The Ministry has responsibility for the National Conservation Unit. This year they have voted under the Head some $5.9 million. This together with the expected revenues from the National Conservation

Commission of about $6.2 million would be the funds they are going to be operating on this year. It is expected that those funds will allow them to have some 525 field workers together with a monthly staff of 174. This would not allow them to move away from the 3-day week programme they had over the year. Therefore,- it is expected that the NCC will be operating, because of the constraint, at a reduced level which is unfortunate, to say the least, since this organisation had started to give the country a very attractive face. The Government is very aware of the important work this organisation is doing and appreciates the effort being done by voluntary organisations we see now mushrooming around the country to assist in maintaining our environment The Ministry has responsibility for the National Training Board. This Board continues its programme. There is an apprenticeship programme for young people in 10 skills as well as the Skills Training Programme is continuing. There are intensive programmes in manual skills. They are also doing work on the in-plant on-the-job training which includes instructor training, skills upgrading and refresher training for all levels of workers in the work force.

The National Training Board has been doing some small business development training programmes. These programmes are supported by a system of job analysis, curriculum development, testing and certification as well as an apprenticeship programme for a certified trade, training and instruction in full-time/part-time educational courses at approved institutions and colleges, as part relief to enable them to carry out their practical work. As you know, this programme is supported by a stipend from the Board in

which 45% in the first year of training is paid. In the second year 55% is paid and the 3rd year 75% in training and instruction. This programme is going on.

The number of persons trained as at February 28, 1993 are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arts and Crafts' | - | 17 |
| Auto body | - | 17 |
| Auto body repairs | - | 18 |
| Auto mechanic | - | 41 |
| Electrical installation | - | 91 |
| Leather Work | - | 22 |
| Masonry | - | 32 |
| Needlecraft | - | 78 |
| Plumbing | - | 92 |
| Steel bending & Fixing | - | 7 |
| Tailoring | - | 11 Tractor Operation & |
| Maintenance | - | 16 |
| Upholstery | - | 23 |
| Woodwork | - | 58 |
| TOTAL | 506 | |

There is also, Mr. Chairman, an in-plant training programme. The programme includes instructor training and it is supported by curriculum development and job analysis, as I have said already. The organisation has been looking at a special programme to train some of the displaced workers but I am not in a position to give you the details of that programme. If it is required I will seek to get those details for you. The projection is that during the coming year the Board plans to train 150 apprentices at a cost of $275 000. It is proposed to maintain this programme at existing levels to train 600 trainees in the skills training programme at a cost of $273 000, to conduct skill training programmes for retrenched workers in a variety of skills as well as conduct 4 in-plant training programmes for persons at the supervisory level.

That, Mr. Chairman, is a quick overview of the "Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment. As I said, this Ministry has an extremely important role to play during this very difficult period in which it has to try to keep the industrial climate in as amicable a way as possible realising the constraints and the desirability of keeping as close as possible to these various deadlines as set out as well as respecting their well-heeded voluntaristic system of labour relations in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 39 stand part. Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, let me begin by saying that the Minister in introducing 3301
this Head did mention the National Training Board and the areas in which it is presently concentrating. There is nothing new about that. That is just a matter of rehashing the function of the National Training Board. That has already been decided long ago. I wonder what has happened to some of the programmes, for instance, when I look at the number of persons who were trained during the past year, 560, this is not really good enough when we take into consideration what has happened during the past year. I would have thought there would have accelerated or increased training as is done by the National Training Board when we consider that several workers were laid off and there was talk about retooling them. Certainly this figure of 560 does not satisfy me that enough is being done to retool and retrain these people. I would hope that at some later date .additional funds are found to make the National Training Board an organisation that could do more training and re-training. 8.20 p.m.

**With the structural adjustment that we are going through it is necessary to have relevant retooling. It is okay to have the conventional areas of training but I have not seen or heard that the National Training Board has embarked on a programme in computer retraining. And that is a failure which I think the National Training Board ought to look at When it first started there were some short programmes conducted by the National Training Board and I would have hoped that since computer related matters are being dealt with in this day and age that the Training Board ought to look at them.**

**It is all right, as I said, having the old conventional areas of carpentry and masonry and even in those areas you will see there has been a slow down in training and it reflects the economic situation because there is not much construction going on in the country today and I think that is reflected in a mere 32 in masonry and so forth. So we have to look at that I am not satisfied that we can continue to train people in these areas at the expense of other areas and we should look at it. The National Training Board surely must come up with some programmes that reflect that this country needs to move it forward and to reflect the changes that are taking place.**

I think there is a matter of complacency at the National Training Board and that is my criticism at the moment. As far as the apprenticeship programme is concerned I am not satisfied that enough is done in this particular area. But at the same time we have to look at some traditional areas like in auto mechanics and so on. There are many firms that the young people were attached to that have closed down and hence the apprenticeship programme could be experiencing some difficulty. But even that will reveal something about what is taking place in the country and I think that we should be looking at the more modern technique in training rather than autobody repairs.

I hope the Training Board would explore that particular possibility.

The other thing is that I would hope, and I expressed this concern last year, that moneys that were supposed to be given to other bodies, like the workers union, to assist them, that they could liaise with the Training Board to see how best they could come up with programmes.

I will tell you one of the things that is really deceiving to me. Sometime ago I saw an article in one of the newspapers which gave the impression that a lot was being done for severed workers. That is very misleading. I know something was done for some workers but the article conveyed the impression that there was this enormous amount of training being done for the displaced workers. One of the questions which I have asked, which finds itself on the Order Paper is, how many people have been retooled and retrained by the National Training Board? And I referred to those persons who worked at the Transport Board.

I asked that question. Nobody can give me the answer. Certainly I would want to know because I think when they were severed it was being said that those persons would receive relevant training and

that funds would be set aside to assist them to retool themselves and find self-employment and that is not being done.
I must say it is not enough to continue in needlecraft day in and day out. There has got to be some other area that we can go into. We have to understand it is not enough to do that and I think the Training Board has to wake up as far as these programmes are concerned.
Now I am going to touch on the question of the National Conservation Commission and I want to ask one question: How come the National Conservation Commission is allowed to operate a library? Where about in the Act which establishes the National Conservation Commission does it say that they conduct library as one of its functions? Let me make this point quite clear. I am not critical that there is a library established as the Marcus Garvey Library, but I want it to be put in its proper place. Remove it from under the National Conservation Commission. It is not in its proper place. I do not think that the Minister of Finance is aware of this. This is the danger because there was some difficulty over that particular library and who should be responsible for it. I feel that the National Library should be responsible for setting up and seeing that library function but it is in the hands of the National Conservation Commission and I say the Act does not make provision for it.
I would like to see that matter corrected. It should not continue for too long. You say you have money voted and we have to make sure that we follow some of the

established rules in this Chamber and I would like to see that particular library removed and have trained people operate the library and I think it will redound to the benefit of all concerned. That is all I have to say on that.
Now since this Ministry is responsible for the Public Utilities Board I just want to make this point and I am not going to be too long on it. I am very surprised that the Government has not really raised an objection since Government is one of the major users. I would think Government should indicate whether it is interested in or why it did not make its position quite clear as far,as objecting to the application for increased telephone rates. In the past it has been done. I am only asking questions as to what would be the reason, if there is any reason, why Government has not.
There are a number of people out there who have been asking the question and I too would like to know because I think that what people are saying, and I tend to agree with them in some cases, is that Government is the largest user of this utility and the Government has been silent on it. There is a lot of speculation and I am not satisfied that the speculation is justified but none the less sometimes people have their views. I would hope that the perception of people is not correct because it will send the wrong message and I think Government should be mindful that it has a duty to show that it was concerned. People take the lead from Government and this is an area in which Government has been criticised. I would hope that the Government pays some attention and indicates to the public why it has not so far expressed its position as far as objecting to the proposed rate. So I would like the Minister to reply on that.
The other thing I would like to look at and I am going back to the National Conservation Commission. I remember the task force was set up after 1986 and one of the recommendations that came out of this task force was that there should be accelerated debushing programmes by the NCC. It was an area that jobs were identified but we saw people being taken on and suddenly there is a decline, they have been sent off. The point I want to make is quite clear. Since that task force came out Government should look to see whether it was relevant to continue. Now we realise that was a short-term thing. What has been put in place to replace the short-term thing that was recommended by the task force. Certainly the task force recommendation has become outdated. 8.30 p.m.
As a result, we saw a lot of debushing and cleaning. We thought that was relevant to tourism. People want to see a healthy environment and I, too, was happy to see a lot of areas being debushed and made pleasant to the eye. But you can see there is a rapid decline in the upkeep of these areas. I hope that Government will look at that.
While you are trimming; there are some things that you must not miss. If it was argued then that this assisted tourism or it was complimentary to tourism, then the same argument should be the same today. At a time when tourism is taking a dip, we would need to find out whether or not if it is as a result of the lack of the beautification programme. I am not suggesting that it is, but we have to look for reasons. I am suggesting that this could be one of the areas. Whatever we do, we want to know that a certain level of environmental cleaning is done by NCC and we should not be shortchanging in that particular area.
Sir, I am glad that some of the people who did not use to work are no longer there because it caused a lot of

jealousy when people were working. At the same time, Government still has the responsibility to replace those idle persons with people who have proper work ethics. Some of the people employed felt that they belong to a political party and they did as they liked. I am saying that. But I hope that we will look at that and see that Unit at the NCC is not depleted to the extent that we have an overrun of bush in the area which is causing a lot of concern. From time to time we come in here and we talk about the unsafe environment and lack of debushing. As I said, this is the responsibility of the NCC. I would like to see the NCC working hand in hand with the National Housing Corporation in some sort of programme in order to beautify the housing areas. Do not think that because there are some voluntary groups who get involved in cleaning up the environment that it is their responsibility. We must not assume that. It is not really right to feel that way. It is true that some people must show some concern in the environment. But I feel that the initiative must be taken by NCC. I will invite the NCC that wherever possible where people in the community have embarked on some of these garden projects to get involved and assist them with some plants and mold and assist them in developing the garden. Some of them are trying but there is still a lot left to be desired. I think we could do that. As I said, that will be assisting in a great way but do not have the stand-offish approach where I know the NCC had promised some plants but they never arrived to assist the particular group.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Mr. -DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I hope that the Minister will be able to throw some light on these few points that I have raised. As I said, I will be back, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make a few comments only on the aspect of the environment under this Head. Mr. Chairman, in 1985 the Ministry of Tourism was established for the first time to deal with the co-ordination of all the environmental policies and Acts that concern not only the Government but the country at large. I recall that an Environmental Bill was prepared at the time. It was shortly thereafter that the



Government changed. The Ministry of the Environment was dismantled and various areas with responsibility for environment under the aegis of Government were scattered far and wide. Earlier today, Sir, we debated the Environmental Engineering Unit and the South and West Coast Sewerage Projects which fall under the Ministry of Health. Those have a major environmental impact on this country. We also see that under (he Ministry of Labour and Consumer Affairs is tagged on what is, in fact, a division that carries out more of an educational role than an executive role.

Sir, I am a little bit concerned about a number of things that are happening with the environment in Barbados. The debate on the environment quite often involves how much bush is being cut down and how much the NCC workers are doing in the beautification of parks and so on. It is in that vain that a lot of the environmental matters are discussed. Occasionally too, Sir, when we talk about sanitation and the cleaning up of garbage or when we talk about the damage being done to the coral reefs off the south coast in particular as a result of the sewage that is being put out to sea, again we get into the environment. But I would like to suggest that we begin to look at the environment as something more than just relating individual events. The environment of Barbados is a very fragile resource. It principally comprises the water and the land and both are restricted limited resources in this country. Therefore, it is incumbent on us that we do whatever we can to preserve those precious resources.

Sir, there is no doubt at all that there has been a great amount of soil and water degradation over the past 25 years or so in Barbados. We once boasted of a pure water supply in this country. That is no longer so. Not only is it no longer pure, but it is no longer limitless. Everybody knows, for instance, that the Barbados Water Authority is seeking out new sources for pure water in Barbados. We are also concerned about the pollution of the marine waters. It is not only the inland waters that we are concerned about but also the marine waters. As I said, we are also concerned about the soil.

It is in this context, Sir, that perhaps I might have more appropriately raised the question under the debate of the Ministry of Agriculture. Since we are on the environment now, it ought not to be out of

place. A lot of poisonous and biologically potent chemical substances are being put on the land. In fact, they are being put indiscriminately in the hands of a lot of people who are ignorant about the ill-consequences of these chemicals and the lethal nature of them. I will give you an example, Sir. While the Extension Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture are dwindling in their activity, more and more farmers are getting into their hands vast quantities of chemicals for spraying of crops for herbicides, pesticides, weedicides and the whole lot. We have two interesting
things. We have an increase in praedial larceny in Barbados and quite often crops are sprayed one day. They are stolen during the night and sold to consumers the following day and consumed that day or the next day. There is very little protection against that. All kinds of studies have shown that there is a build-up in the human tissue of residues of a number of chemicals that go into these sprays. We have the phenomenon in Barbados of an increase in the number of strange deaths from different causes th& we were not familiar with in the past They are increasing in Barbados in recent times. 8.40p.m. . Who is to know, Sir, when studies have shown that there are probably over 500 chemical substances that are put into these sprays *et cetera* that are consumed ineviahly by the human body, that they are not responsible for a lot of the injury that is being done to the health of people in this country like it is in other countries in the world?

Studies have shown that there are 68 pesticide ingredients that cause cancer, and when one considers that the more dangerous of these pesticides are banned for use in the United States of America and in some parts of Europe, and those that are banned are then shipped to the Third World, like Barbados, then it means that they are exporting and we are importing slow death for Barbadians. This is a problem one would have expected, at this stage of our development, that the Government in spending all this money would be devoting some funds for the study of the effect of these chemicals on the lives of Barbadians.

I was dealing with the water system. It is common knowledge also that water-borne diseases cause perhaps anything between 50% to 75% of all the illnesses suffered by man. It is important, therefore, that the purity of our water supply be preserved. It is also common knowledge, Sir, that when you spread all these sprays all over the country, when the rains come the sprays go through the cracks and the pores in the rock system, the coral system, and get into the water supply, and ultimately get into the taps and into the bodies of Barbadians. So that these pesticides, herbicides, weedicides and insecticides are in fact what can be called biocides, because-they do not only kill the weeds, the pests and so on, they kill human life.
I was reading recently that in Barbados a great deal of plant and animal life is dying out. In demonstrating that, somebody asked me, "Do you see gaulins any more? Or peewhitlers?" There is one that used to sing, I cannot remember the name, but there are a lot of birds, for instance, that were around Barbados when all Honourable Members were children but do not exist in Barbados any more. You may say that is not a big thing. It is also true that a lot of plant life, particularly plants that were used in Barbados for medicinal purposes, have almost literally disappeared. One of the views being propounded is

that it is because of the spreading of all these lethal sprays and chemicals on plants in the ground and so on. It is not a small thing, Sir, because man and nature coincide, and if these things are dangerous to nature, of necessity they must be dangerous to human beings.
I mention this, Sir, only as an introduction, so to speak, of a number of other concerns I have of a specific nature. Before I go into the specifics, we have evidence that farmers who use insecticides, herbicides and the lot are far more susceptible to cancers than people who do not use them. Studies in the United States of America have shown that children in the households of farmers who use these things are 7 times more likely to suffer from leukemia than children who are not exposed to them. We start off as if these things are esoteric, but when we understand that they affect human life in a very real way, we have to move away from that kind of perception. They use them *for* everything, Sir, they are being used domestically now. There are more sprays, aerosols, in households now for one thing or the other than had been contemplated even 5 years ago, and all these contribute to the problem.

Getting on specifically now to certain specific things relating to the Ministry, I would like to think that the studies relating to the effect of the effluvia that go offshore and get into the coral reefs and pose a danger to the fish life of Barbados be given further study. Studies have been done about it, but the studies are now dated. To put it another way, they are outdated. There is abundant evidence coming across the world, as more and more countries give thought to environmental problems, that marine life is far more fragile than we used to think it was.

I remember years ago that the Barbados Labour Party administration sought to do something about the sea egg problem. We had been for ages reaping sea eggs every year in great abundance and at one point we realised that the supply of sea eggs was diminishing, and it no doubt had something to do - I am no expert in this area, but from what I have read - with the problems from the chemicals that were being put out to sea and also from the raw sewage which was put out to sea. I looked with great care under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment to see if I can find any figures to suggest that the Government is about to spend money to make a major assault on this problem. Under the Ministry of Labour the money is less than $100 000, when you come to think of it, because If you look at the Environmental Unit you see $92 600 being allocated and most of it for things like plant, equipment, furniture, maintenance of property and so on, and hardly anything for tackling the problems with the environment.

The money, such as we have, goes under the Coastal Conservation, but that is a specific IADB project to deal with the question of beach erosion and to do remedial
work. There really i$ no money of any consequence anywhere in these Estimates, and particularly under the Ministry of the Environment, to show that the Government has at last realised the importance of the environment, its fragility, the way in which it is being damaged on a constant basis and coming up with the kind of research and spending that would meet the problem and stave off disaster in the future, Sir. 8.50 p.m.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I have a few specific areas to address and they relate, not to general matters, but certainly to matters that affect my constituency and specifically under coastal conservation and under the National Conservation Commission. I must draw to the Minister's attention that I have exchanged an abundance of correspondence with the National Conservation Commission for upwards now of 3 or more years about the deplorable state of the Hastings Rocks. The bandstand there is virtually worm-eaten and falling to pieces. The former Chairman of the National Conservation Commission has promised that work would have started on that bandstand and nothing has been done. The Rocks is in a similar state. Some remedial work was started and it turned out to be not satisfactory and what used formerly to be a place of beauty and pleasure and satisfaction is now really a place that very few people resort to.

I should say to the National Conservation Commission and to the Government that if the Government is serious about tourism, particularly along that south coast, that Hastings Rocks should be used as a place where the police band as well as folk-culture groups perform on a daily basis throughout the tourist season and also in the summer. It should also be a natural exhibition centre for' local artists just as you see in Montmartre and other parts of Paris and in other capitals as well, where the artists display their art. They paint They play music.

I believe there must be some imagination on the pan of the Government and cooperation between Ministries if they are to get the best out of the use of these facilities. I grew up as a boy in the area so I know the area very well. It has now become substandard and is a shocking example of neglect. I would have thought that the NCC would have had the imagination to entice some of the major private sector owners along that road to come together to do something to improve the area, with some input from the Government.

The second point I wish to make relates to the coastal conservation of the south coast. The Minister mentioned the project that has started under the IADB and the work being done at Accra. Let me say that the work at Accra is not enough to prevent the tremendous erosion that is taking place right along the coast line as far as Maxwell and coming back down to the Hilton Beach. The whole



Hastings area is suffering. I have not seen all the studies done by people who have been advising the Government -starting with Dr. Chalmers and a chap with an Indian name who came before the final

work was dcme - but I believe that we are not taking proper care of a very important part of the coastline of Barbados. Although I concede that the south coast sewerage scheme will help improve the situation, I think we need to do much more about coastal conservation along that line.
The last point I want to make very briefly relates to the National Productivity Board. It is obvious that unemployment in Barbados has not reached to the stage where it is unacceptably high, a phrase used very often by the Prime Minister, but where it is now a chronic disease. Twenty-five percent unemployment is nothing that one can lode at with any degree of equanimity. All of us should be terribly disturbed about what is happening. In fact, unemployment is probably the number 1 disease now facing this country. The prospects for its worsening are there. To spend $210 000 on a National Productivity Board whose guidelines are not clear and with no details of the staff being provided... It is obviously going to be a very limited staff. I have no idea what staff they are having and what are the facilities being provided or how serious they are about their work.
From what the Minister has explained tonight - he was obviously reading from a brief - it is quite clear to me that there is no agreement between the Union or the social partners as he refers to them about a national prices and incomes policy. The only Union that seems to have settled on anything is the BEC which is settled on an incomes policy, that is, a freezing of wages. Nobody else seems to have come to any conclusion on anything and it seems to be an exercise at the moment in futility.
With a great deal of distrust, I am reading from what the Minister has said - as to where we are going in this area. Although we will get an opportunity to say more on this particular subject I say that it looks as though the Ministry has no effective approach on this subject as a whole.
I am therefore not surprised that the Unions are distrustful. They need to be distrustful in *′ atmosphere created by the Prime Minister and h^ economic management They have been sadly and badly burnt by the fallacious policies which he has pursued in this country to the detriment of the normal average citizen and to able-bodied people who want to work. What is even more a confession of failure in this regard is the statistics which the Minister read out. «
The Minister read out that last year the Government was only able to train 560 people up to February 28,1993. Couple this with the fact that the Samuel Jackman
Polytechnic is taking in less than a third applicants before admission. It has something like 5 000 applications a year and cannot accommodate the applicants who are applying for training places to qualify them for work. This is a very sad confession of Government's not taking the issue of unemployment seriously and having a broad view and approach to the problem of training. «
Let me say, Sir, that what bothers me considerably about this is that we are spending on training $2.3 million down from the $3.5 million in 1991-92, while the Government is taking in - if one looks at (xix) under Current Estimates of Revenue - from the Training Levy, $13.7 million.
Honestly, I really find it difficult and repulsive to think that the Government can be taxing us all by way of a training levy, money should be available and used for training, and can have serious problems of having to retrain people who have skills and who probably with retraining can become self-employed, that having made no money available to help the small man who wants to go into the private sector enterprises, all the Government can tell us is that it has reduced the training vote and set up something called the National Training Authority and have given it $8?, 000. There is already a National Training Board. Setting up authority after authority and another institution is not an answer to the chronic problem of unemployment confronting Barbados.
In these Estimates, the Honourable Member for St. George South and the Honourable Member for St Thomas in particular have warned the Government about the possible consequences of social upheaval which can flow to a country that does not recognise its duty to deal speedily with the tremendous social and economic problems that we have. Mr. Chairman, what is bothering me about this is that it is usually at the lower end of the socio-economic ladder that we are seeing these problems. 9.00 p.m.
It is the working class man that gets the hardest kick of all in this period of structural adjustment.
I am equally worried by the fact that there are over 300 graduates out of Cave Hill who can find nothing to do. Not that they are not capable of working, but the job market is such that they can find nothing to do in Barbados. That is a serious commentary. I think this Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and die Environment has to bestir itself and recognise that we have to find avenues for employment, that we have to explore new fields and chart new courses. It also has to recognize that

the knowledge industry is one of the industries Barbados should be investing in, investment in the human resources and those people with skills and ability even if we have to help them with forming consultancies and finding
3306
jobs overseas temporarily or otherwise as other developed countries do with their skilled people. I am not only talking about skilled persons with academic knowledge but with occupational skills and training that are so necessary.
I really must say that I *find* this Ministry too low-keyed, too too lacking in initiative. It does not seem to know what its function is at the moment It is certainly not on top of the game. It is not inspiring the social partners and it expects the social partners to make a quantum leap that is unreasonable at this time, without itself grasping where we are going.
Thank you.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments under this Head. I note that the objectives of this Ministry, in particular the ones that interest me Objective (a) which, indeed, is to support and encourage the creation of employment by fostering a climate of harmonious industrial relations, I would like to think that this House would spend some time in this particular regard. I myself am concerned about the social climate that must exist in Barbados for us to maintain a standard of life and certainly to maintain the tourism industry which is indeed very vital to our general survival.
I have to place on record that a number of people have been laid off in this country over the last 2 years and in particular during the 1991 period when we had the onslaught of the structural adjustment programme. That was a traumatic experience for us. It certainly was for me. I think the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment, in particular, contrary to many criticisms that have been expressed publicly, has been trying its best to inject some training into the society by providing about 30 or 40 different training programmes. There are a few concerns I must express as for as that is concerned.
We have been training in the areas of arts and craft, auto repairs, auto mechanics, electrical installation, leather work, masonry, needlecraft, *et cetera.* What I am finding is that even though we are providing some training for some of these severed workers in areas of self-employment, when they have completed training they are still not in a position to generate any kind of employment 'for themselves. The Ministry must be congratulated for taking a very serious approach to the retraining of retrenched Workers. I think the record of this House should reflect that they are indeed trying. I think the recent programme where they are trying to introduce the assignment of these trained people to work places or to manufacturing plants is a positive move. It has to be developed to the extent that people are, in actual fact, now working their way back into the society in general.
I am very concerned that we must move as a matter of urgency. I happened to travel to St. Maarten this morning and I realised that with the upheaval they had in that tourism destination, which is a Caribbean destination, that it takes very little to disrupt an entire country. Upheaval or anarchy in these forms where there is social unrest can very swiftly destroy the very existence of our tourism industry. I saw plane loads of people trying to get out all in a panic because they are concerned about the pending unrest that may still be there.
We have to be very conscious in this country that programmes are put in place to ensure that there is some form of relief to the working class man in Barbados because I am still of the view that there are still too many people in this society of a working class category who are unable to fina any kind of employment. Historically when the Democratic Labour Party came to office in the 1960s they introduced crash programmes. I think they were criticised. Those programmes sought to relieve some of the social pain that existed in society. I am not really opposed to them. I think if we can have those kinds of programmes which are contributing to the sustained beautification of Barbados so we can maintain our cleanliness, appearance and lift our standards, we would be doing something. We would certainly be providing some relief to those people who are unable to find any kind of employment.
I will make the point that when you interview people in our constituency, you find that a large number of them have gone to a secondary school to a 2nd or 3rd Form. They have not even reached school leaving age. They have no skills in anything. They are virtually unemployable. It is a very serious situation we are confronted with because, sooner or later, they become very frustrated and this is where society has to be very careful. I think we must spend some time on this particular Head and try even if we have to divert funds, to find some kind of money so we can inject it into this Ministry with a view of relieving some of the pain that exists in the constituencies, and in the villages in Barbados. I have seen it People are quite

prepared to make their contribution to Barbados even if it means they are part and parcel of the beautification programme. They are making a decent living. They are making a contribution to society. Being employed, we will gradually see an easing of -the kind of social difficulties we are presently experiencing.
I must make the point that Barbados is very heavily dependent on its tourism industry. We must maintain a stable environment. I must stress it 9.10p.m.
Barbados must maintain a stable environment if we are to survive through this period and into the 21st century. There are a couple of comments that I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, as a matter of notification. I have
3307
seen a situation going on. I live near Long Beach and I have seen a situation where, on about 4 *or 5* different occasions now for the last 6 months, dead animals are appearing on the beach. I myself have had to remove carcasses from the beach because of the stench that existed and it appears as if there is somebody who is consistently dumping dead animals - pigs, cows and chickens off the East Coast of Barbados - unless they are thrown from passing cruise ships - but it is a problem.
They are consistently dumping quarters of cows, pigs, chickens and they are washing up along the South-eastern coast lines. I have seen it and I have personally had to remove and bury some of these carcasses. I called the personnel of the Sanitation Department, Ministry of Health and they responded positively. They came and assisted without delay but I am concerned that there are still people who are wilfully dumping carcasses. They have no regard and are just throwing these carcasses in the sea as if it is a free-for-all situation.
We really have to start making these kinds of statements in this House and ensure that people are proper law abiding citizens and understand that they all have their part to play in our development
There are a couple of other points that I would like to make but I will probably stop at this stage because I am aware the Minister wishes to make a few comments. If necessary I will come back later.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, let me thank those who have contributed to the debate and I will try very quickly to answer as many of them as I can.
The Honourable Member for St. Michael East drew attention to the Board's activities in the training of retrenched workers but also commented on the fact that after they are trained they find it difficult to put themselves into employment. According to the notes that I have on the re-training programme to date, the National Training Board carried out a survey among displaced workers registered under the NIS for benefits. As a result training in 4 skills areas were put on and 67 persons were trained to date. Wood carving 13, Auto mechanic 13 and needlecraft 28. The programme has been expanded to include leathercraft 11, accessories 11, ceramics 11, tie-dye batik, jewellery, all done in cooperation with the Community College.

With regard to the comments raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church, Hastings Rocks is included in this year's programme under the NCC Funds and the project has been taken into consideration.The coastal conservation project is carrying out a pilot structure on the Rockley Coast in one area where the particular structure will be used. These pilot projects will be monitored for a year to see how effective they are. The Government and the IDB will then enter into an investment project to deal with the 2 areas of the South-West Coast that require attention. This is a pilot project and I am depending on the success of that project

And for the concerns of the Member for St. George South on the environment, the Ministry is looking at development of comprehensive environmental protection legislation. Discussions are going on with consultants from the Coastal Conservation Institutional Studies to prepare this legislation. This will be done in co-operation with the IDB and it is expected that the legislation will be prepared before the end of this year.

The Ministry has already drafted legislation on coastal zone management and this legislation will be dealing with several pieces of marine pollution and beach protection.
From my note as well, Mr. Chairman, in answer to the Member for Christ Church South on the staff

attached to the National Productivity Board, the staff at the moment is one Administrative Officer, one Stenographer/Typist, one Senior Economist, one statistical assistant and they have budgeted this year for a Programme Co-ordinator and 5 Industry Analysts. So that would be the staff that the Productivity Board would have to work with and the Analyst would have to carry out the responsibility under the Board and look at other areas of productivity in the whole area covered by the Board.
The Member for St. George South did express some concern which is very legitimate about the present use of pesticides and weedicides *et cetera* and I would just like to say that at the moment there is a Pesticide Control Board that deals with the introduction of any pesticide or weedicide coming into Barbados. Because there is inefficiency in the laboratory at the moment to test for residue of these, they presently use only pesticides approved by the USDA.

In other words, for a pesticide to be introduced into Barbados it would have to be approved by the U.S. Board. If it is not approved in the U.S.A., it is not allowed into Barbados. Some of them that were condemned by the Pesticide Control Board have been removed from use but there is no gainsaying that there is really too much use of weedicide and pesticides in Barbados and our farmers have to be taught how to use them properly. Not only that, they mix them in all types of cocktails and they believe the more they apply to the soil ...

Some of them have a very long life in the soil and certainly can be one of the problems that we are having in the strange causes of death that has been drawn to our attention by the Member for St. George South. Therefore, as soon as we are able to put in place the necessary equipment and the training of personnel to test



for residues of these in foodstuff it would be done as soon as possible.
The Member *for* St. Michael South East was of the view that in the area of computer technology we should be looking at training some of our people in this area. He was also of the view that the National Training Board has not been training as many of our displaced workers as we should be training.
The point taken about the Government's appearance on the Public Utility Board in the rate case of .the Telephone Company has been taken and will be drawn to the attention of the relevant Ministry as well as the effort by the NCC and the NHC to beautify some of the housing areas.
The Member for Christ Church West also made an observation that he did not believe that at this time the Ministry was as aggressive as it should be in trying to seek out new areas of employment. 9.20 p.m.
But I can tell him that the Ministry has been pursuing this fairly vigorously and it is very well aware of the role it has to play in these very difficult times.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, this is a very important area. The statistics indicate that we are at record levels of unemployment. This is a matter of such great concern to Members of this House and to members of the public that a thorough examination of the agencies which are responsible for evaluating the reasons for unemployment should be undertaken. We have had little public discussion on the causative factors of unemployment. One would have thought that in a community such as this with these record levels of unemployment that our academics and trade unionists, the Government and employers would have been engaging in an in-depth discussion as to the labour market in Barbados. I myself have been very much concerned about it that I have begun to do some investigations. There are a number of things that puzzle me.

Sir, I believe that I have made this speech in here on more than one occasion. It puzzles me how this Government should have been so unwise to have run down the good programmes that were set out in the programme of the National Training Board. The statistics that have been read out here about the National Training Board are very disappointing. I was one of those who fought hard to try and enlighten the public of Barbados, employers, trade unionists and others about the importance in the last part of the 1980s of training and re-orientation of young people in Barbados after a profound study in our own Ministry, particularly after we had gone to a conference in Vienna

dealing with industrialization where we forecast for the 21st century the role of science technology and things of that kind. We were determined that this community should be sensitized to the impact of the developments that would take place in industry and in other productive employment and the consequential loss of traditional jobs. We devised a programme of trying to integrate the educational system to refashion that We also decided that it was necessary to resuscitate some of the traditional methods of delivery of experience and skills by modernizing the apprenticeship system. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has had a lot of experience in dealing with this from the point of view of observing the role and the needs of small businessmen in particular. All of a sudden as part of the disaster that overtook when this Government took office a number of these programmes were down-sized or eliminated

Sir, it is time that we ask ourselves how is it that we have thirty per cent unemployment, 25 per cent official and 30 per cent in reality, and it is still impossible today for many people who wish to employ people cannot find people who have the requisite requirements? How is it that the Labour Party which is supposed to have been endowed with the resources to undertake fundamental research in certain areas of the labour market in Barbados cannot tell you today what is responsible for the lack of motivation of many people in Barbados who will refuse to do employment which is available at a wage well above the wage scales in many parts of Latin America? Why is it that we have not yet been able to persuade employers, Government and the trade unionists to sit down and agree and try to explain to young people that they cannot expect to get a man's wage when they are first going into the trades or in many areas of employment? I have to explain to people that after many years of study and I became a lawyer that I had to work for $5.00 a month many months.

*Aside.*

* Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Oh, yes! Nowadays I am not even working for the $5.00. That statement from the Honourable Member has now convinced me that the Honourable Member sticks in Bay Street regularly. He does not any longer go into Spry Street or James Street and those areas. If he was going down there frequently, he would know that sometimes it is impossible for that $5.00 to be earned.

The position is, Sir, that in many countries of the world a conscious effort is made to try and orient young people into the understanding that it takes time for young people to attain the level of skills to be able to justify in the economy the scale of wages that others who have gone through'a process. I want to say this, Sir. I know because I have had experience of seeing and studying the situation in such countries as Switzerland and Germany.



You may say that they are countries that are more fortunate than Barbados in that their Governments are able to enforce these ideas upon their young people because of the different historical and cultural background and the fact that they have to go through a compulsory apprenticeship. Why do we not think of what we are doing in this? Why do we not start talking about these things? We are not talking about them enough. We are not doing anything about them, Sir. The profile in this period of exceedingly high unemployment there is nothing that is galvanizing the attention of the people as to what is being done to try and relieve it. That is a fact. I do not see any pamphlets from the Ministry of Labour. I do not hear any discussions on the radio. I do not understand it.

Once upon a time when I was much younger, Sir, we used to have the Community Development Division. We used to have debates on these things and I used to be a judge, Sir. How are we going to teach those people at the street corners about these matters, as the Honourable Members on this side have had to point out, if the community councils where they are supposed to me are no longer available for them? Who is to do it? People of my age group cannot do it. It is the young people themselves that have to be trained and who will impart this. The trade unions have a massive role to play. The way how things are going now, if they do not sit down and decide how they are going to recruit new members in the future, they will feave no members at all. They should have a vested interest now.

*Aside.*

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Well, I cannot be as pessimistic as the Honourable Member. I believe that there are many people whose pattern of life will shield them from that problem. That is so, Sir. 9.30 p.m.

The basic position is, Sir, that we need to induce more people to become part of this. We must do it. We should be thinking about it, Sir, even if all that we do at this period is to try and reorient people in some of their attitudes to work. Barbadians do not believe when they have a job they should treasure it. I am going to deal with that. Obviously we are disappointed with the programmes, but next week is the time to talk about this, because those figures are going to ricochet right through Barbados.
Now, Sir, I want to make a few observations on the question of the coastal conservation. I wish to say, with due respect to all the technical experts in this area, that I find it exceedingly amazing that after nearly 10 years of study of Rockley Beach we do not have any positive and defiilitive activity going on there to prevent the erosion. You had the Zeigler Report which made recommendations as long ago as the 1960s when the Hilton beach was being reformed. They did a study from the lighthouse on the south coast right down to Hilton. That Zeigler Report was subsequently expanded upon, revised, when we were doing the fish terminal at Oistin and the recommendations at that particular period of time were consistent with the Zeigler Report. They did the work from Oistin right down to St. Lawrence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should conclude in 2 minutes.

Hon..H. B. St. JOHN: Now, Sir, we then had a lady called Dr. Chalmers who came here and who was given many extensions of contracts - I have no doubt she enjoyed Barbados so much that she always requested an extension - and she came in with some special scheme involving some special netting that would reform Rockley Beach, but that was a failure. What we have now is that one of your largest beaches, the best utilised, as far as I know, Sir, having to pass there every day, is in a sorry state. It is famous now, and we are sitting by waiting on all these experts. We should be risk takers. We should put a groyne out on Rockley Beach. It cannot do any harm, because the way how they are built today, they use the big boulders and if any harm is done they can go back and use a traxcavator and remove them. They have done it already. You have to make positive decisions. You start small. What we are doing is a waste of time. I am really shocked that up to now we have not decided that something positive has to be done, even if we use the old methodology of Zeigler. It is a very serious thing that we have.

Now is the time to do it, because you are working also on the sewerage scheme and if you do not do something you will have the sewerage scheme in and then you will want to do the work after you have done all the digging. Now is the time to do the integration and do the work positively. That is a very important point and I hope we will able to know what is being done. There again, the public relations department of Government is not doing a very good job, because many of us have been trying to find out what is the actual work that is going to be done at Rockley. I know about the cleaning and the clearing away of the coral up in the corner, because I passed and saw that. I want to know what work is being done at Rockley to expand the beach, Sir.
I am going to come back on this.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments on this Head, following the very statesmanlike approach by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, who has just spoken.

In terms of analysing a labour market issue, I think he brought a very balanced approach. I recognise that he speaks from time to time and says he is a worker. I think he is employed by Sintjon Chambers and from what

he is saying about the lawyers in Bridgetown, if I did not know he belonged to a closed shop I would try to recruit him and see if he could be my leading shop steward among the lawyers, because he is saying we have to look for areas to break into. But he is already spoken for, I believe. That closed shop would not allow us to come in and get bargaining rights.

One of the major points that was made here this afternoon is the importance of the labour market at this time in our development, particularly the role of the Ministry of Labour. I am of the view, Mr. Chairman,^ that perhaps the Ministry of Labour has always been considered a kind of Cinderella Ministry. I think we have been fortunate to have some good Ministers of Labour, some of whom are in this Chamber today, but I think you are lucky if you can get a Minister of Labour who has a clear understanding of the role and the potential of that Ministry. You are lucky if you can find a Minister who has a clear perception of the role that Ministry can plan in a community such as ours, and particularly in a period of structural adjustment where the human resources become fundamental, I think the role of that Ministry becomes even more important.

Anybody who remembers the marches of 1991 and the potential they had for social dislocation, and even the recent difficulties relating to the sugar and the Transport Board, and the potential they could have again for social disruption, would understand the role of a Ministry of Labour. Yet, still; I think it is clear that our recollection of those periods that perhaps the Ministry of Labour was not frontal enough in dealing with any of the matters. The Ministry of Labour could not be heard in November 1991. They were not out front. The Ministry of Labour could not be heard sufficiently over the sugar situation, the Ministry of Labour could not be heard over the issue of transport and one wonders why, within the structure of Government, perhaps Ministries that have focal positions are not always at the front when issues one would think would be important to them are being discussed.

I think that fundamentally we have not over the years maintained that early start which was given to the Ministry of Labour. One recalls that when the Labour Department was set up in 1941 or 1942, the Chief Labour Officer got the same salary as the Colonial Secretary, who was almost like the Prime Minister of that day. I think Guy Perrin got about £1 000 per annum, which was a handsome salary, because the idea was that labour was recognised as being important to the development of the country in terms of. human resources and employment which are central to a small economy like Barbados and I think economists are now coming around to agree that there are no 4 factors of production, that there is only one basically, labour. 9.40 p.m.

Anybody who talks about capital nowadays recognises that capital comes out of a head, whether you are talking about cranes or machines or whatever. Knowledge of computers comes out of the mind. There is only one factor of production basically because land is inert. It is dead unless human beings turn it into something. Entrepreneurial skills cannot be separated from labour. Entrepreneurial skills is only really the ability of man, whether white collar or not It is still labour so there is only one factor of production and it is the only thing that Barbados has, a whole lot of bright and capable persons.

I think we have to concentrate more in terms of where we focus our Ministry of Labour and our Labour Department. I think it is vitally important that we put resources there and we put high quality personnel there if we are to ensure the kind of transition into the 21st century that is going to be sustainable. It is going to be vitally important that we function in that way.

I want to comment specifically about how I see the Labour Department modifying its role in the future. I believe we have a potentially good Labour Departmentbut I am not sure, the way how I see things going at this point in time, that enough thought is being given to the Labour Department and the Ministry of Labour as new initiatives are started. For instance, we have to look at the relationship between the National Productivity Board and the Ministry of Labour. I for one believe strongly that the membership of the Board should include people from the Ministry of Labour. Right now it is supposed to be tripartite.

Our Union has expressed a view that there should be equality in numbers on the tripartite Board. Right now the employers have 3 representatives. There has been an offer of a second one to the union side so that it would be 2 and there is 1 representative, the Chairman, I do not know if he can be said to represent the Ministry in any real sense except that he has been appointed. I believe that the Permanent Secretary of Labour should be on that Board. I believe that the Chief Labour Officer should be on that Board. I believe somebody from the University should be on the Board. There is not going to be a cost to Government because nobody is going to pay the Board member? for their service. Because of the multiplicity of skills and also the fact you are talking about tripartism, I feel it should be meaningful tripartism.

Then we have to establish clearly what is going to be the relationship between that Productivity Board and the Ministry of Labour. The Ministry of Labour has its functions cut out for it in terms of collective bargaining and industrial relations. I can see the National Productivity Board as only an advisory element. It should not try to supersede the Labour Department. It has to work in conjunction with the Labour Department. If there are difficulties between the Unions and the employers
331]
in looking at productivity ratios or any other ratios that are relevant to collective bargaining, then I think the Board can carry out research and it can present the parties with the information that they have and provide the information that is necessary. It should just be an advisor to the Labour Department. I hope that we do not see any kind of struggle there to suggest that this Board now has some separate and independent status that puts it above the Labour Department. I believe that would be a most unfortunate development.
The other thing I would like to say is that the National Productivity Board has to be highly skilled. The personnel have to be well trained. We are talking about an area where we have to produce a lot of people. It is an area related to labour ecpnomics. We do not have several labour economists in the Caribbean and therefore what the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was calling for, the kind of objective research and analysis of labour market situations, is just not available.
If you go to the University of the West Indies there is probably only 1 person there who is doing a lot of labour market research. That is Dr. Downes. He does a lot of work in that area. He is now trying to broaden his experience in that area. Generally speaking, it has not been an area that would capture the imagination of most researchers. People are concerned with monetary economics or those other areas that can lead to a lucrative consultancy or something like that.
There are several people in St. Augustine who are fairly good but the Labour Department has a definite role in terms of generating the kind of research that is important. We talk a lot about the informal sector. Nobody has done any research on the informal sector. It is growing but we do not have any definitive position on it. Why shouldn't the Labour Department go out there and do research on the informal sector? I believe that what they will investigate and pose as findings will not be supportive of those who are suggesting that perhaps people should be going out in the informal sector to get jobs. Studies that have been done on the informal sector - I have just read one on Mexico - suggesting that it is not something you can depend on for the development of your country. The informal sector is about poverty. It is about "scrunting". It is about people who are outside of the safety nets who do not gain any NIS benefits. It is about survival. Nobody really wants to see the development of any informal sector. It is an aberration from normalcy. It is a disease in the system that shows the economy is not working the way it should. It is not something we would want to set out as a programme for building any country.
*We have to be able to analyse these things and see what they mean. What we want is entrepreneurship. We want to set up small businesses and put people on a growth
path. I think that is one area that has to come under the recognition of the Ministry of Labour.
I want to move off the Labour Department and make a brief point on the National Conservation Commission. Mr. Chairman, I see a reduction in the vote for that very important agency. I want to repeat the point I have made before. I believe the NCC performs a "very important function in this country. I will not back down on that. There are some people who believe that it is wasted money. I believe that they contribute greatly to enhancing this tourism, product that we have.
The NCC has done a tremendous job in making Barbados a beautiful place. The parks, the way they maintain the roadside and roundabouts etc.
*Asides.*
Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Sir, I feel a sense of pity for those workers who were the worst treated of all the employees in any government corporation. They got an 8% cut and they are on a 3-day week and a lot got sent home too. Mr. Chairman, I am hoping that with some immediacy the rigour of the 3-day week - we know that the 8% is going to be restored - is going to be removed from these workers. I believe it is a tremendous burden for them with their family commitments to carry the brunt of these rigourous adjustments. I think they have got the worst treatment out of all of the government workers. I think it is very terrible for them. They are people that we know in our various constituencies. They have been put there by either one side or the other. Most of them have been political jobs. Either the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party. They are the working class people in this country. They are very poor people, the unskilled. Not even semi-skilled. It is very difficult for them to get any other kind of job and I believe we should move as soon as possible to put them back on a regular 5-day week. I can see- that perhaps with the cut in the Budget that is going to be a difficulty but I believe the Minister should seek,

however possible, wherever he can see economies, to ensure that the workers get back to that 5-day week. The final point I would like to make relates to the National Training Authority. I believe we are going to have some extensive discussions on the question of this Authority because it seems to me that movement towards a technical vocational and training consolidated programme is a very positive development for Barbados. I believe that technical vocational and training aspects of our country have been operating in a very loose way over the years. There are a lot of agencies responsible for training, but there is not enough relationship between the training programmes and the business side. There is not enough relationship between training and employment.
3312
There is not enough manpower planning and I believe we have now to be very clear in the future about training persons for work because that is where tomorrow is. Tomorrow is not just about knowledge. Unless people have skills, they are going to find it very difficult to fit into the world of work.
I believe that it will make sense to do as Jamaica has done where they have set up the H.E.A.R.T Institute, and other countries have found it better to coordinate their training policies to set up one authority. I believe that this is a.move in the right direction. I believe we will have to have an early debate of where we want to go with this Authority. Right now we find ourselves into the Estimates but I think we will have a full-scale debate some time on technical and vocational training. Thank you.

*The question that Head 39 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.* 9.50 p.m. *On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to' His Honour, Mr. SPEAKER, and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, March 12, 1993.

*The question that the sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. Friday March 12, 1993 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.* 9.52 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it should revert.

*Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AS AMENDED - $11 698 853

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce for the sum of $11 698 853 stand part of the Schedule. In so moving^ think it is appropriate that I make a few introductory remarks.

It is well known, Mr. Chairman, that over the last 18 months or so the programme the Government has implemented has had an effect on the whole trading pattern, in that one intention was to suppress the area of demand through import tax. Also, our manufacturers, as a result of some of the decisions taken at that time, found themselves in very difficult circumstances to compete with their CARICOM neighbours.
The Research Division continues to be hampered by information statistics that are a little dated, due mainly to the fact that there was a changeover in April 1991 from the CCCN system to the harmonisation system of classifying products, and as a result the Statistical Department found themselves behind schedule having to do a lot of cross checking. Therefore, the only hard statistical data which is available for analysis, unfortunately, is data up to May 1992. I have on numerous occasions expressed my dissatisfaction with this

situation, since it is very difficult to follow trends if your data is so dated, but I have been given the assurance by the Statistical Division that they are doing everything possible to update the situation, and with the computerisation of the Customs Department we are hoping that this would make it a lot faster and that our data will become up to date, which would allow our Research Department and all the agencies that depend heavily on updated information to be able to act quickly. As a result, Mr. Chairman, I am only able to give a summary of hard data available for the period January 1992 to May 1992 and compare it with what happened from January 1991 to May 1991.

During that period, Mr. Chairman, total domestic exports declined by about $4.5 million, from $114.2 million in 1991 to $109.8 million in 1992. Total imports declined as well by some $205.6 million, from $603.7 million in 1991 to $396.1 million in 1992, and re-exports accordingly declined from $5.4 million in 1991 to $46.8 million in 1992. As for domestic exports, there is some indication that the export of manufactured good has begun a slight improvement over the latest information from trends picked up in the Ministry, and we see that there has been an increase in the export of beverages by some $3.5 million, an increase in export of machinery and transport equipment of $7.8 million, from $14.1 million in 1991 to $21.9 million in 1992. We have had a decline in the export of agricultural produce, having declined by some $15.7 million from $50.5 million in 1991 to $34.8 million in 1992. As to be expected, there has been a fall off in sales of cement and there has been slippage in the garment industry.

From the direction of trade upgrade, Mr. Chairman, domestic exports to all of Barbados' major trading partners, the indication is that they are beginning to climb out of

3313

the trough and are beginning to increase and export, and as to be expected, CARICOM remained the highest, although it had slowed somewhat, in the rate of growth.

That, Mr. Chairman, has been the trend and I am going to look at some of the major international and regional institutions that will have effect on our trading patterns in the coming year and I will first look at CARICOM matters.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the Heads of Government agreed on a new rate for the Common External Tariff and it has been agreed as follows, that the rate is supposed to reach between 5%, with a maximum of 20%, by 1st January, 1998, and the staging is as follows:

From 1st January, 1993 to 31st December, 1994, the rates in the MDCs would be between 5 to 30/35. There was an attempt to meet a consensus, since some countries were insisting they were not going higher than 30 and others, including Barbados, wanted 35. In the LDCs those rates would be 0 to 5 and they will have an option to decide whether they would go to 30 or 35.

From 1st January, 1995 to 31st December, 1996 the rates will move from 5 in the MDCs to 25/30 and in the LDCs from 0 to 5 to 25/30.

From 1st January, 1997 to 31st December, 1997 the rates will move from 5 to 20/25 in the MDCs and 0 to 5 to 20/25 in the LDCs.

From 1st January, 1998 onwards the rate will be 5 to 20 in the MDCs and 0 to 5 to 20 in the LDCs.

To date, Mr. Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago has introduced the new rate from 1st January and Barbados is expected to introduce this rate between 1st January and 1st June, most likely by 1st April or thereabouts. The decision on that will have to be made by the Minister of Finance.

Tarn pleased to state, Mr. Chairman, that at last Antigua has ratified the Rules of Origin and we can now have them in place.

One other matter. At the CARICOM level, there is the continual pressure from our CARICOM partners to dismantle totally the licensing regime. One of the things that. has been holding us up was trading in primary agricultural produce. 10.10 a.m.

At the last council meeting, a decision was taken to amend Article 29 and introduce Article 29A which would allow agricultural produce to be treated the same way as any industry under Article 29. At any time if States feel

that they need to invoke that... As we are all aware the whole area of primary agricultural produce is a very ticklish area and one that has caused a lot of concern throughout.

The other international arrangements that would impact on trade during the year, the Uruguay Round has been continuing but there is still some Difference between the United States of America and the European Community in terms of agricultural subsidies. Those of us who watch CNN saw only yesterday that the Dutch farmers protested and dumped tons of white potatoes in the cities against the whole area of removal of subsidies from agricultural produce. So you realise there is still concern.

One of Barbados' main concerns under the GATT is the pressure on developing countries to open their

markets at a time when their economies are undergoing some strain and the insistence on the complete liberalisation of trade and services has been a natural concern of the developing countries. Under the Enterprises of America Initiative there were 2 meetings held at the CARICOM/U.S. Council during 1992. One of the problems at the moment still to be resolved is the U.S. insistence on full reciprocity in the area of trade under the Enterprises of America Initiative. The CARICOM obligations under the Lome Convention and CARICAN are also a concern.

The Venezuelan CARICOM treaty was signed October 13,1992 and is taking place but implementation of the agreement with Barbados is expected tc take place shortly following the finalisation of a few remaining administrative procedures. As you know, under the Lome Convention one of our main concerns at the moment is the onslaught on the banana protocol.

Under the NAFTA arrangement that has been signed in August 1992 we have some concern that the cheap Mexican labour and goods will interfere with our opportunities to trade in the United States and we, therefore, at the CARICOM level, are endeavouring to get in there very early to make sure that this NAFTA arrangement does not disadvantage the CARICOM countries and erode any of the things we have had under the CBI.

Mr. Chairman, as you know this Ministry has responsibility for the new Barbados Industrial Development Corporation and legislation has been passed and that organisation is now in place and beginning to settle down. There have been some teething problems. At the moment there has been a recent recommendation from the Board for an appointment of a CEO. The BIDC has honoured its agreement and has discharged its several obligations and has paid under the area of severance the sum of $1 million. There are still some personnel matters remaining with both present and past staff and these matters are in the hands



of our legal advisors and I can give the Committee the assurance that these outstanding matters will be resolved as soon as possible as soon as the recommendation from our legal advisors are in place.

The BIDC has presented to the Board and the Board has accepted a strategic plan for the first year and the minimum objectives of that organisation on the strategic plan would be to generate an additional 1 500 new employment opportunities, to increase the foreign exchange earnings from goods and services by some $15 million and to facilitate the start up of at least 6 new foreign owned enterprises as well as to increase investment in the indigenous manufacturing associations.

Under this Head, the Board has recently reached an agreement with those officers who were employed by the handicraft division and they have formed themselves into a company and the Board has assisted them in the formation of this company and there were certain facilities made available to them under this new arrangement. The stock has been valued and I know that as a contribution to the new organisation the BIDC has written off some $243 000 of stock. They have made the facilities available to them at reduced rates and they have made other things. I am very pleased about this development.

The organisation is now registered and is operating under the name of Pelican Pride Craft and Cottage Industries Limited. The corporation auditors are Coopers and Lybrand and they have completed the physical count and the assets wefe determined at $683 000 and $230 000 of this sum will be written off as a grant to the PPCCIL and $453 000 will be recorded as a loan. As required the company has provided written confirmation that its share capital of $80 800 has been subscribed and therefore that is in place.

The Barbados National Standards Institute has been concerning itself with agreeing on CARICOM standards as well as some local standards. We are beginning to have a very serious look at making some of these standards mandatory because particularly in the agro industry we find that our produce is at a very high standard, such as jams and jellies but we are getting a lot of low quality stuff coming in - tomato ketchup, jams, jellies - from the CARICOM countries at a much cheaper rate and as a result the local agro people are finding it very difficult to compete. Therefore, we have to look very seriously at making some of these standards mandatory.

Over the period we have been able to adopt some CARICOM standards for biscuits, coconut oil, wheat flour, paints, laundry soaps, paint and paint coating and cosmetics. As well the Barbados Standards Institute has been looking at some quality control and doing a lot of work in this area. They have received the National Building

Code which has been awaited for a long time and advise that the code is now at the Government Printery to have some additional copies printed. As soon as the code has been completed it has been worked on by Mr. Gilbert Miller, a consultant from Australia. It is very comprehensive and it is recommending a building authority and this has been passed to the Ministry of Housing to look at the whole area of establishing the authority, how it is to interface with the other agencies and how soon we can introduce the building code

which we all agree is very necessary in Barbados.
On the co-operative division the amending legislation has been recently introduced in Parliament. The co-operative is now beginning to be fully staffed. The staff is in place with the exception of one co-operative officer and a senior cooperative officer. The recommendations have been made on that. The rules have already been made and we expect the Act to be proclaimed within the next 2 weeks or thereabout. We expect the Act to be proclaimed within the next 2 weeks or thereabout which will allow the Cooperative Division to have additional legislative authority to deal with... 10.20 a.m.
*Aside.*
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I am advised that the Cooperative Act will be proclaimed on March 15.
One other area, Mr. Chairman, that comes under the purview of this Ministry is the Arawak Cement Plant. As you know, this is one of the agencies that has been posted for privatisation. In the meantime the Plant is operating at a reduced level. It is grinding imported clinker. The reduction in the construction activity over the last couple of months had reduced the demand. The average output of that Plant within the last few months has been about 5 000 tonnes of clinker a month. On this 5 000 tonnes of clinker it has been able to break even from an operational point of view and with a little to pay some of the creditors. Therefore, the objective is to keep that operation as efficient as possible in the reduced mode so that it would not put a 'further demand on the public purse. That is the way it will operate until a decision is made on what we are going to do about the privatisation of that Plant.
Very quickly, Mr. Chairman, in the time available to me I will seek to do a very quick review of what has happened. As I said, it has been a difficult year. The MDCs have recently been very adamant about the widening of the gap between trading in the LDCs. As a matter of fact, they have commissioned a report where it showed that the LDCs at the moment were only doing about 13% of their trade in the CARICOM region and about 87% of trade outside.
3315
Barbados still maintains its position as being one of the better traders with the CARICOM region. All of the Ministers of Trade have acknowledged that Barbados, wherever possible, sources items from CARICOM. We have been a faithful adherer to the Treaty. Therefore, I hope that now we have agreed on the new GET with the number of lists, exceptions, *et cetera* which allow almost every State to protect any sensitive industry, or retain those for revenue purposes, that we should see an implementation of the new GET by everybody by June of this year so that we can continue to the next stage of the Regional Integration Movement.
Mr. Chairman, as I said, from Barbados' point of view, it is absolutely necessary for every State now to implement the new CET since, in my view, there are no reasons why the new CET should not be implemented since provision has been made in the allotted lists A, B and C for any difficulties they might have. Therefore, I expect we will, by the end of June this year, have the new CET which will allow our manufacturers to begin to get an equal footing in the other MDCs and remove some of the difficulties they are now encountering.
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40 stand part of the Bffl.
Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr, Chairman, I think everyone who listened to the Honourable Minister would detect that the Government has given up all hope of any meaningful effort in the area of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce. As we look at the Estimates and the various allocations, it is clear to us that as part of the programme of Government and its vision for the future of Barbados' economic activity, it is envisaging a very limited role for industry and indeed, it does not seem to be very clear in its mind as to its trade policy.
From the very inception of the programme announced by the Government for the stabilisation and restructuring of the economy of Barbados, we were at pains to point out that our view of the programme as set out was different from that of the Government. We warned at that particular period of time that the Government should rethink its acceptance of a policy which, in our opinion, would inevitably lead to a decimation of our manufacturers. We were particularly critical of the fact that the trade liberalisation programme which was being followed by Barbados was different in many radical and important respects from the programme other countries within CARICOM were following notwithstanding the fact that those countries were under a programme with the same
institutions we were then beginning to deal with. <
We have recently had a statement by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs as to modifications of the

taxation policy with respect to partial relief of taxes to the manufacturing sector. I am a bit surprised that the Honourable Minister in introducing this matter did not advert to it at all for I am sure that within his Ministry there are a large number of documents, both internally prepared and derived from letters, from those who deal with the Ministry regularly which would indicate that the partial relief granted by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs does not restore the manufacturers to the position they were in prior to the impositions in 1991 and further that the disadvantage they are operating under with respect to their CARICOM colleagues is not yet removed.

You cannot have an integration movement which is fair and equitable and which seeks to allow market forces to operate on equal terms and conditions which has a different legal regime with respect to the importation of inputs. Trinidad and others are still granting raw materials free of duty and Barbados is not granting that. We cannot have it. It is an unfair imposition on our manufacturers. It has been, to a large extent, responsible for the decimation that has taken place.

We also have the additional problem which is a very serious one - I think it will be dealt with in greater detail next week - as to what is Government's attitude within the Integration Movement to the CARICOM Treaty which permits individual member States to unilaterally and very much to their own advantage, manipulate their exchange rate policy so they have advantages in the rest of the market which other countries will not share who do not pursue a similar policy. It is a very important point. It is a matter that has not been dealt with yet. It is one that, in our opinion, the Government of Barbados should place fairly and squarely on the bargaining table because the Treaty does envisage a degree of harmonisation of economic trade policies which are not in existence at the present moment. 10.30 a.m.

I understand the Jamaica position very clearly but it was chiefly because of the Jamaican insistence on the radical change in the measure of the protection in as short a period of time as possible derived from the common external tariff that we have landed ourselves in a position today in which independent observers for Third Countries looking at the Caribbean Common Market are legitimately entitled to say we do not have a common market, we have a very uncommon market. That the effort towards a single market in the sense of a customs union and in a sense of moving towards harmonised and monetary policies and harmonised and trade policies have been retarded.

We are, to some extent, worst off than we were and Barbados, Sir, in our opinion, on this side, has not placed this matter on the bargaining tables to the extent that it should have been placed. Certainly the Ministries



in Barbados have not sensitised the various factors and agencies in Barbados who ought to be interested in this matter to the extent that they should be. We are still, as the Minister proclaims, the most liberal in our policies in relation to imports. Our exporters are still subjected to unfair regimes in the other countries.

What is the position, I ask the Minister, in the Trinidad market with respect to the replacement regime which has been introduced there as a result of agreement with the World Bank on trade liberalisation, whereby many articles which were subject to licences, or what the Trinidadians call the negative list, which were subject to the negative lists or prohibitions and which have now been replaced by a surcharge on imports. That surcharge, I believe is in the form of an additional stamp duty. It is part of their phasing. Is Caricom trade exempt from that? We must ask that question. These are very important issues and they are not in the public domain anymore.

My understanding of the position is that Trinidad, as a Minister says, is implementing part of the agreement with respect to the common external tariff in that they are introducing the rates of tax but they are still granting their manufacturers duty free raw material entry. They have a stamp duty which is being applied in those areas which formerly were the subject of the negative list or prohibitions. Now they were supposed, as far a Caricom was concerned, since January 1991, as I understand it, to have removed the negative list with respect to Caricom products. If they had implemented that it means that the Caricom products should not now be the subject of the replacement regime because you are not supposed to have any regine to protect the Trinidad manufacturer in his domestic market *vis-a-vis* Caricom goods. This is a very important point. The Minister must tell us what is the position with respect to that. Surely the Ministry has studied it. We must go back and look at the efforts that were being made to create a genuine customs union and a genuine single market. You must see where the imposition of the Jamaican regime upon the rest of the Caribbean has distorted it. You must see what the position is in relation to this and we would like to know here.

Now, Sir, it is really shocking that the much vaunted scheme for restructuring the institutional arrangement in relation to industry and export promotion should find itself in the position in which, today, a considerable period of time after the passage of the legislation, the Minister cannot tell us that they have a common external tariff at the new organisation. What kind of planning you could have had that you, for some period of time, made this the lynch pin of your policy. You passed the legislation, you came in here all in a hurry and said you had to do it, it was part of the restructuring exercise, you wanted to get it going. This
whole thing had to be dealt with and now you are telling us that you have only now got a recommendation for a GET. That is what the Honourable Minister is saying. That is typical of the approach of the Government.
When we accuse the Government of dithering, this is the kind of evidence which points conclusively to the validity of our point •
Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in 2 minutes.
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Yes, Sir, this headless organisation has been marking time over a considerable period.
Now, Sir, before I finish, there is one other point that I wish to deal with because many of the things that we want to deal with are questions of policy. Right now, as for as any restructuring exercise that will take place, it is quite legitimate for the Prime Minister to say, looking at what is coming through from the Ministry Trade and Industry that this is the one the axe will fall on. Really and truly the public is beginning to say in its mind that die Government will have to look at its Ministries because from what the Estimates disclose, it is clear some would be better run with no Minister at all, having regard to the work they are doing.
Now, on the question of the export trade, I do not want to go on to that. I have a few more things to say on that, Sir, so perhaps I had better stop at this period of time.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph.
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Committee would forgive me for following in the footsteps of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South who concentrated or focussed almost exclusively at the level of direction and policy formulation.
A very frightening development has been taking place in Barbados which has gone without the public debate that it should be attracting. I think that we, in this House, have a responsibility to initiate and maintain the debate with respect to the role of manufacturing and industry in the future of Barbados. In the post independence Barbados, Mr. Chairman, we have relied on agriculture, principally sugar, manufacturing and tourism in terms of being employment generators and in terms too of being the principal generators of our foreign exchange. Within the last 5 to 7 years we have seen a steady and dramatic decline in the contribution and the role which manufacturing has been playing in the Barbados economy, and one gets the feeling that the Government

has almost written off manufacturing and the role that it can play as a prop and a major foundation of the Barbadian economy in the future. 10.40 a.m.
It is my view and I think it is the view, too, of the Barbados Labour Party that manufacturing does have a significant role to play in the Barbadian economy of tomorrow and of the long future. We shall continue to set a target and work assiduously towards realising at least 10 per cent of employment coming from manufacturing activities.
I can see that Barbados has lost its competitive advantage in relation to a lot of the activities in which we used to be involved up to 7 or 8 years ago. But in terms of the dynamic world in which we live, it was always anticipated that we would have to change, accept new challenges and do new things and that other countries with wage scales and other cost structures much lower than ours would come along and begin to overtake us and some actually overtake us in things that we used to do advantageously. What worries me is that we have not responded to that challenge because we have lost our advantage in relation to garments and all forms of stitching. There was a time when we made brassieres, panties and all forms of nightgowns, nightwear and gloves. We had up to 10 years ago an advantage in that field. We have lost it for all sorts of reasons and most of them had to do with our cost structure. For those of us who are connected to the sector, we always recognised that the time would come when we would have to say virtually goodbye to that. But it was never conceived that we would throw up our hands in despair and virtually give up and that we

would not have been vigorously and seriously looking for and actually succeeding in having alternative activities of a different nature. My concern is, Mr. Chairman, that we have not found replacement activities so as to allow us to maintain our employment levels, generally speaking, of 7 or 10 years ago.
When the Minister speaks of a new target of 1 500 jobs for the year ahead, that is very unconvincing because he has not told us from where these jobs are to come. Where is he hoping to get new international mobile capital from? Will it come from Japan, United States of America, European Economic Community or the United Kingdom? Where is this capital going to come from? I take it that it will be for the most part coming from what we call international mobile capital. In what areas of activity therefore will it be concentrated?
Now it has always been conceded that we need help in tetms of identifying the product areas in which we still have a comparative and competitive advantage and that has to be an ongoing study and search. I want the Minister to
tell us who is doing that job now for Barbados and what are the new product areas that we believe that we still have an advantage in and that we can get on to working. There must be new, better and more creative ways of approaching manufacturing activity in Barbados so as to ensure that the sector does not die a slow but unavoidable death in Barbados.
Before I get off of that point, Sir, I want to ask the Minister what is happening in the office in New York. Do we still have an office there in New York and is that the best location in terms of attracting business out of the United States? Even if it is still a good location, can it cover the whole country or should we be resorting to some form of agency arrangements where we can have a presence in other centres? In any event, is the United States of America still the best source of international mobile capital for us in Barbados? They are the sorts of questions that I think that we need to answer. I got the impression that that office was so starved of finance a year or two ago that really, although it remained opened, no vigorous and serious promotional activity could have really been undertaken out of that office.
I am also concerned about an omission in your presentation because the new structure, Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, has really taken over the export promotion work. You have said nothing at all about what activities you are hoping to be engaging in the year ahead in terms of actual physical promotion, around what product lines, who is now doing what and what sort of supportive studies you are doing before you set about penetrating any new markets. Has that work come to an end or do you really have a serious division within the BIDC doing export promotion and what sort of promotion and to what countries are you hoping to be involved with in the year ahead?
As part of a new thrust and a new attempt to resuscitate manufacturing, it seems to me that the Government needs to address the whole question of the role of the fiscal incentive regime. In the past, it was relevant and served a useful purpose up to the early and mid-1980's. It is now clear from all the studies that I have seen that an old regime has been overtaken by a new regime in other countries and that for the most part it has lost its effectiveness and appeal to prospective investors. There is nothing that is preventing us either by way of any CARICOM arrangement or otherwise from thinking new thoughts and actually putting in place a radically new and far more attractive incentive regime for prospective industrialists. Jamaica has gone ahead and other countries I in the region have gone ahead and put in place new and more attractive regimes. I want to know what are we in Barbados doing with respect to putting in place a new regime of incentives both for the domestic manufacturer and external manufacturer for the future.
3318
I want to come to one other point, Mr. Chairman, before I sit down. It has to do with handicraft. 10.50 a.m.
I am sorry, Sir, I want to restate that. I think what the Minister was indicating was that some form of divestment has taken place, or is taking place, in relation to that activity.
At the height of IDC's success in the late 70s and early 80s, they had gone as far as setting up training facilities outside the Industrial Development Headquarters and one was actually established at St. Bernard's, St. Joseph. For a long while that has been closed and no training activity in handicraft goes on there at all. It seems to me that, given the potential of the sector, and given the fact that there is so much unemployment in Barbados, that is the sort of activity that may usefully be resuscitated or revived at this time. There is no doubt that you have the training skills still available; that the raw material, particularly the grasses, continue to be available, particularly in the Scotland District area, and besides you have an actual building there that is idle. It seems to me that, not only there, but at other points around Barbados the organisation may usefully consider reviving the training so as to impart some skills to our young people and help them to earn a living in this very difficult time.
I would hope that when the Minister comes to respond he would want to address that particular aspect of

the handicraft issue.
The point that has been made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South needs reechoing. It is that if we are serious about trying to resuscitate and revive the fortunes of manufacturing in Barbados, we must make sure, to use the expression of the time, that the playing field is level. We have to be serious, we have no choice. That is the challenge facing you, Mr. Minister, your Ministry and your Government. We cannot duck it. The Government cannot continue to pursue taxation and general trade policies that disadvantage our manufacturers. We must always bear in mind that Barbados up to now continues to be an oasis in a desert of devaluation, and as long as that situation obtains, there are several disadvantageous consequences which we have to address. We will have to find policies that address that particular situation. With the Guyana dollar at $100 to U.S. $1 'and Jamaica $22428 to U.S. $1, we are at a serious disadvantage and we have to find policy instruments that allow us to find some way of redressing those imbalances. That is part of the challenge which the Government faces and the Minister and his Ministry too.
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, first of all to respond to the Member for Christ Church South, CARICOM trade is exempted from the surcharge which replaces the negative list in Trinidad and Tobago. The second one, very quickly, the CEO is to be appointed from 1st April.
The other one, Mr. Chairman, is the non-tariff barriers. As we all know, although we recognise that there are non-tariff barriers, it is very difficult for us to pin them down. I must say that we are keeping very close to the manufacturing sector. As a matter of fact, only yesterday I took an hour from here to meet with the manufacturers and I will get back to that. We have not been getting very many complaints from our exporters about the Trinidad market. The complaints are mostly from the LDC markets, particularly ahcn items coming under Article 66 - water heaters, *et c^^ra* - but as you know, the Treaty gives them the right to protect themselves.
Let me get back to address the points raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. He is absolutely right in that the different levels of exchange rates throughout the CARICOM region has posed a severe problem for the Barbados economy. Because of tbe strength of the Barbados dollar, we find that it translates itself into the cost of goods when you are comparing them, taking labour costs, *ei cetera* into consideration. Therefore it means we have to review that.
This Government is very aware of the problems being posed by that and therefore our deliberate strategy would have to be one where we would have to move up the technology ladder to enable us to operate at the level of industry that can bear or afford the price of labour we now have. Let us be practical. We cannot expect to reduce the rates of labour in Barbados at this time. The Democratic Labour Party Government has as a policy decided to retain the present exchange rate parity, so those 2 things are given. Having accepted those 2 things, we have to involve an industrialisation strategy that would see us trying to do that.
To get further and also address the point raised by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. Let me start by saying that manufacturing remains a key sector of the economy and we are working feverishly with the manufacturers. In fact, we Had a meeting yesterday with the manufacturers trying to identify their problems and map out a strategy to overcome those problems. The Honourable Member is correct in saying that the numbers employed have deteriorated some more and that is mainly due to the fact that the majority of people in industry before, particularly the garment industry, and let us look at that industry to see what has happened. With Communist China coming on stream, Korea, *et cetera*, we are now finding it extremely difficult to be competitive in garments, except in those cases where we are moving the garment manufacturers up the garment ladder - in other words, more in the

design type garments, high quality lingerie and that type of garment we are looking at - and the few that remain have been trying to retool in order to become competitive. This is one of the areas of concern. That part of it is beginning to stand up.
Let us look at the strategy the Barbados Government is following. We well know that we would have lost a competitive edge in those foot loose industries like the assembly of electronic components. These go wherever labour is cheap. Let us be practical. Wherever labour is cheap and all they have to do is move the headquarters, any screwdriver industry would move, and with NAFTA providing an additional cheap pool of labour in Mexico we also have to look at that. We have recognised this and we have been looking for a little while now at the area of the whole information industry. Presently with the Ministry are 2 very recent studies that have been done showing Barbados' competitiveness in the whole area of informatics. One of these studies shows that as far as the positive points are concerned, the Barbados trainable labour force is a plus. Our telecommunications system is also a plus

and things like our airport and the fact that there are daily flights between Barbados and North America, and the fact that we have people like DHL. There are 2 areas in which we are not competitive at the moment and which we have to overcome. One area is labour rates. In the whole area of labour rates Jamaica, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic are cheaper than we are. The biggest constraint at the moment is in the cost of dedicated lines like the T144 lines and the 54 ?? lines. 11.00a.m.

We have started negotiations and I am pleased to report to this Committee that the BET has agreed in principle to reduce the cost of dedicated lines in order to make us as close as possible to the cost for dedicated lines with Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. We are also looking, and this is an ongoing discussion between ourselves and BET... One of their concerns is that if they make the cost of dedicated lines so cheap people who are big users of lines like the airlines might find it cheaper to install a dedicated line and do all their telecommunications through it and bypass the domestic telephone.

What we have agreed in principle with BET to do is for us to amend the Incentive legislation so that we would name specific industries that would be entitled to low cost dedicated lines depending on the jobs they generate and what kinds of foreign exchange they are bringing into the country and that we can amend the Incentives Act to have a special category of companies that would qualify for low dedicated line cost. These discussions are at an advanced stage. We have concluded the arrangements and I expect that BET would soon be making an announcement about the reduced rates. They are going to their Board very soon with the rates and we are in discussion with them because it is very critical.

We realise it is very critical because Barbados has been operating in this area for a long time and at the moment we have some 12 data processing firms that employ over 1 700 and this is where the emphasis is. I feel that we must move towards the scanning, multi media work, offshore sectorial work, data input and the whole area. As you well know, CDS has now reached the stage where it is employing some 900 persons, f think CDS has seriously been marketing vigourously their services overseas and the reason that it has not been in a position at the moment to follow through with some things is because of the volatile airline business in America which is going through such rapid amalgamation, buy-outs and transfers. They have been trying to target certain areas which as soon as the climate has settled down somewhat they will pursue.

Confederation Client Services has been doing very well and they are expected to expand. As a matter of fact, the Chairman of Confederation Client Services was in Barbados recently and he has expressed his total satisfaction with the operation in Barbados and has offered the Chairman of the Board to be one of the persons that would assist us in a promotion that the Board is scheduling for North America next month in this area. This offer has also come from the CDS to assist us in targeting companies.

Offshore keyboarding has gone upstream in technology in that they have a regime in which they can within 30 seconds exchange of data coming in. They are doing the scanning and the inputs are being done here in Barbados and returned by dedicated lines. We are also having a look at soft key software because with the establishment of a computer faculty at the University of the West Indies where more and more of our people have become computer literate and the access of mini-computers a lot of people have reached the stage where they are able to write the programmes.

As a matter of fact, there is a company now that has recently been established that is coming to Barbados to produce software. That company is very soon recruiting some additional Barbadians. It is an area where the higher level of people coming out with B.Sc.'s in computer programming, computer analysis and so on will be able to work.

We have recently turned over to a company called AA Data Services occupation... They took occupation of a building only a week ago and they are commencing operations in March. As well we are vigorously pursuing the other offshore industries like the ICB, captive insurance companies, foreign sales corporations as well as the other areas such as the assembly, the more upstage electronic industries. We have to have a broad-based industrial policy because we still have people leaving school who cannot operate at the level of data input so we still have to



have some assembly industry in Barbados and we are pursuing those areas.

As I said earlier, there is a strategic plan which is very well documented by the ?? - I can make a copy available - in which they have broken down the activities in months and quarters and show the promotion they are doing, the areas we are targeting.
In closing, I will say that Canada and America are still the most fertile grounds for pursuing this type of activity and this is where we are concentrating. The New York office is still in place. You raised the question about whether New York is the exact place. What I can tell you is that the Board is considering a scheme because as you know there are now international business brokers, people who walk around as business brokers and the Board is looking at a scheme where it can try to have some incentive for any legitimate broker who can introduce into Barbados an industry that is acceptable to Barbados in our programme. That is being looked at the moment
Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Members who have spoken on this side have given a very broad thrust to the policy issues and have spoken excellently on the matters. The Minister in his reply has not really enlightened us as to the specific steps that the Government intends to take to level the playing field insofar as we are facing competition from the CARICOM region in particular, given the different approaches being taken both to tariff and non-tariff barriers. The Minister has left at large that we have an option under the GET to go to as high as 35%. I assume that next week in the Budget Speech we will hear at what level Barbados will cast the top rate of its Common External Tariff.
The fundamental issue posed by both my colleagues who have spoken is how and what specific measures is Barbados going to put in place to rectify the normal discrimination in competition which results from a difference in the parity of exchange rates within the region particularly when that is coupled with non-tariff barriers still being put up against our exporters within the very CARICOM region.
I want to bring this down to some specifics in terms of numbers. Unfortunately, as the Minister says, up to date figures for 1992-93 are not available and that is to be regretted. I have the most recent Economic and Financial Statistics Report for February 1993 issued by the Central Bank. 11.10a.m.
It is difficult to get from them a picture of the up-to-date position. What is very clear on an annual basis is that Barbados' domestic export trade has been reduced by more than 100% between the years 1984-85 and 1991.
In 1983, for instance we were doing over half a billion dollars in trade, $583 668 000. By 1991 we were down to $241 420 000. When we look in terms of employment there is no doubt that we have lost between 1989 and now roughly over 5 000. My friend tells me it is between 6 000 and 7 000 in the manufacturing sector.
It is interesting that the Minister has not given us the recent statistics relating to IDC employment to show- us what is the net loss that has occurred on IDC and IDC assisted areas. But the picture is bleak. It is not one we can mince words about. It really shows a gross failure on the part of the Government to grapple instantly with the problems that were foreseen. These problems have been documented in reports. We have paid heavy prices for consultancies in this area. I do not know how many more studies we are going to go through in all of these matters.
Within our own market, even on the goods we are producing here, whether it be toilet paper, biscuits, whatever you like, we are uncompetitive as compare:[1] with the similar product coming out of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. We have to ask ourselves why? Of course, we appeal as good Barbadians to buy local wherever possible. But that sentiment is not going to be turned into concrete action in circumstances where the housewife finds herself, if she is a civil servant, with 8% less if she is still working, and in many cases in the family home people are out of work, one or 2 breadwinners, and therefore they are looking selectively at the shelf, as the Minister must know. I have seen the Minister in the supermarket, like myself, from time to time looking at the shelf and making the choice based on what our pockets can withstand. That is a very serious thing for us.
I continue to dread for the future of manufacturing if we are not going to be much more aggressive in dealing with the threats that confront us. The threats are international as well. If we take the regional area there is no doubt that the North Atlantic Free Trade Association has already begun to present difficulties for us. Only yesterday when we dealt with the issue of labour the Minister confessed that we were losing out in jobs, exporting our expertise and skills to North America and Mexico.
I predict that the Caribbean, if we are not careful, will find even in the niche areas we are trying to

select for ourselves that we will suffer under the NAFTA arrangement It is not enough for us to rely on the CBI. There is not going to be any long-term protection or love for us within the United States Congress if we go to each of them one by one. We have to look at building ourselves into the regional trade regime in a much better way. We have to face up to the problems that are occurring as trade liberalises under the General Agreement for Tariff and Trade. Sometimes I get the impression that we do not recognise that our strength is in joining with

3321

other developing countries in taking a stand in the areas that we as developing countries only know too well and can deal with at the moment

Let me take one example of an industry that has potential for us. It is the rum industry. It is an industry that was addressed in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party specifically on the last occasion. Again, reading unavailable figures it has shown some growth between the years 1985 and to date. The highest I have, the 1990 figure is $14 807 000 in export trade *for* that year. I am told that it has even greater potential for growth. One of its complications is not only investment because some investment has come in recently but there has been a change in retooling in the manner in which the industry is approaching its stance. But, it is an industry dependent on another industry here as well. It is dependent on the sugar industry.

What is the reality? The reality is that in the last few years and for the foreseeable future to the year 2001, this industry will have to be importing its raw material of molasses with a foreign exchange cost that we can ill afford because we are once again failing in the industry we have practised for over 350 years, the sugar industry. That is a serious thing. The reality must sink home to Barbadians. Even in the industry that should be natural to us and we could do well, we have fallen down. We cannot even produce the raw material ourselves. We found ourselves making arrangements with Latin America for molasses and we are now finding ourselves this year making some arrangement with Guyana about molasses. I have tremendous concern that the linkages which should occur between the interlocking productive sectors in our country are not being taken seriously. There is a tremendous lack of coordination in those fields.

I want, Sir, as well to say there are a few things the Government must grapple with seriously. Obviously if we cannot change our rate of exchange, and we have agreed that is the policy we want to pursue, then the Government's other policies, monetary and fiscal, must pay regard to how we are going to give the best regime to the manufacturing sector. High interest rates which we pursued in the last few years have been a heavy contributing factor to cost. There are many small industries here, and small industries are the backbone of manufacturing, that have gone under the weight into bankruptcy and receivership with job losses for a long time. Likewise, Sir, design. We have not done enough to approve and improve in a design field. The Barbados Labour Party started some years ago with furniture. We came in for tremendous criticism at the time, a lot of it unwarranted, on what we were trying to do in the design area.

'When it comes as well, Sir, to the question of cost, I want to address the area of telecommunications. The Minister spoke of what is being done to help maintain data

entry firms in Barbados. He said discussions are going on with Barbados External Telecommunications Ltd. on reducing the cost and giving set lines which can be accessed. Very soon BET might find itself in a position that a lot of its technology is outdated and it cannot protect itself from being tapped in from overseas. One must recognise this. We renegotiated with BET an agreement *for* a long-term monopoly. The Government has recently sold all of its shares in BET so it has no insight on how to influence this. We cannot allow a monopoly that has done very well in the United Kingdom. I was recently looking at the financial statistics and its growth area is very strong. But we cannot allow that to drag its feet on how we deal with opening up to competition, the telecommunications lines in order to help other industries. 11.20a.m.

In fact BET itself should be re-investing. It has re-invested in digital systems but it must go further. It must re-invest the profits earned here in the data information sector in a wider field and also in training, training not only at the level, as the Minister said, of people at the university who may be doing B.Sc. in Computer Technology but the whole country has to become computer literate today, including those people that we need to make the initial entry into the system.

I just want to perhaps end on this last point, Sir, that human resources management is going to be a challenge for industry, for the services for tourism, for governmental systems and how we do business. And we have to show a massive investment to training and training in those areas that we can get ahead. And human resources management means as well that we do have an existing pool of expertise, even retired civil servants and retiring public sector people at the age of 60 or 65 who still have a good 10 if not 15 years to give. And I suggest that the BIDC ... part of its job should be to look for consultancy opportunities where we can sell out skills in Africa and elsewhere.

I was in the Indian Ocean last year and was surprised at the tremendous thrust the United States was doing using its black Americans for the thrust into Africa in order to sell its skills, technology and expertise. So there is a future hope for Barbados but we Barbadians must be imaginative, we must get up and get, and we must not be afraid to confront the difficulties as they exist on our home front

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, I would ask the Minister if he could reply to me on the question of any representations being made with respect to the duty concessions. I also want to point out, Sir, that the incentive regime for services which was devised to facilitate the very thrust that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West just emphasised was the victim, to a large extent, of



the reforms in the recent income tax reforms. We would ask that in the revisiting of the tax reform proposals... We cannot deal with the Budget now, Sir, we have to be very careful on this - which we will no doubt hear of early next week and it will be debated next week that consideration be given to the encouragement of the formation of these firms.

The Minister spoke a lot about computer software. The incentives that providers of software will get under our existing tax regime and incentive legislation are not as good as those that the manufacturers of physical goods will get We have this hybrid situation that has to be dealt with. Computer software is only an example of one aspect of services. There are others too - some of the traditional professional services. The object of some of the regimes that were in place in our time was to give encouragement by way of comparable tax incentives. This is why it is very important that we appreciate and understand the points made by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph with respect to the Fiscal Incentives Act. It is a clear case for a review of all of our incentive legislation and for a decision to be made as to whether we are going to be part of the harmonisation regime within Caricom which I think is desirable but at the same time we wish to make it clear that in this round of agreement on a harmonised regime there must also be agreement as to further harmonisation in our monetary policy. There is no integration movement in the world that would have survived the dislocation that our integration movement suffered by unilateral action on the part of some Governments in relation to their exchange rate policy. The whole* object at the attempt at monetary and fiscal integration in the European Economic Community illustrates that. So we must decide in our minds on these matters and I am one of those who firmly believe that this should be the subject of intense investigation, discussion and analysis by all of the people who can contribute.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chairman, let me thank all of those who contributed to this debate. The points have been taken. As the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has said the Barbados Fiscal Incentives Regime is derived from the Caricom Harmonisation Fiscal Incentives. That Agreement is being revised and it is expected that some new ones will be before Member States for approval very shortly. The Agreement calls for a change in the current incentives regime.

Notwithstanding that, Mr. Chairman, we have Been definitely improving our overall incentive regime. We have a revised International Business Companies Act. The Fiscal Incentives Act is being revised as well, the Foreign Sales Corporation Act(check)** is being revised and we have a new division as you know and we are looking at the whole area, as the Member for Christ Church West so right said, of services. That is an area we have to look at - our Health Services Marketing, our educational services, our spots services; develop wherever we can. We must admit that

one of the resources that Barbados has always been very proud of is our human resource and therefore we have very developed human resources and we have to use them wherever we can.

In the area of levelling the playing field, all I would say at the moment is that representation has been made by the Manufacturers Association. The case has been very well put The Ministry is in consultation and discussion with the Ministry of Finance and we are aware of the difficulties. That is the most I can say at the moment

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank all those who contributed to this debate and we have taken note of all the points raised and I now beg that Head 40 stand part

*The question that the sum of $11 698 853 under Head 40 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS,
COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION
(AS AMENDED) - $75 875 615

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 42 in the sum of $75 875 615 (as amended) stands part, I think I should say a few things about how this money is planned to be spent within the Ministry over the next financial year. 11.30a.m.

As is well known, Sir, the Ministry is divided. There are two divisions of my Ministry. There is the main one which is the Ministry of Public Works and the other one which is the International Transport Division of that particular Ministry. Sir, as the Head implies, it deals with public works and transportation. That is the internal transportation. It concerns the road construction, road rehabilitation, road improvement, maintenance and things of that nature. It also concerns matters pertaining to public transportation within Barbados.

Under road construction, there is a project now which my Ministry is pursuing and the one to which I am now making reference. It is funded by the Caribbean Development Bank for the construction of 3 roads. Those 3 roads, as this House well knows because I have already put it into the record but I will do so again, are as follows: Continuation of Highway 2A from West Moreland to Warrens, the Clermont Road leading from Highway 2A to the same Clermont Road that joins the Husbands Road which is by Queens College, and the third is the Canewood Road. That joins Jackson up to Lears which I think you are very familiar with that one, Sir. I hope you are, Sir. The latter tw6 roads to which I have made reference are roads that had been used for years. People called them back roads but they have been traversed over the years



and a number of cane carts use the Canewood Road as well. It is a very narrow road. There is also a bridge at the top of the road near Lears. That road needs some rehabilitation. We propose to construct a new road along the line of the old road and we will also construct a new road in Clermont which is a link from the ABC Highway at the roundabout at Warrens to a point in Husbands near Queens College. I believe pareiits who take their children to Queens College will find this a very convenient road to use especially at Warrens.

*Aside.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Those roads are estimated to cost $27.6 million. This is Barbados currency to which I am referring and the Caribbean Development Bank is providing a loan in the sum of a little over Bds. $19 million or thereabouts or U.S. $9.6 million. It is proposed that the work should commence very shortly on the reconstruction of those roads. We believe that we should be ready to start probably sometime in the month of May.

Sir, let me say that tenders were invited leading to the award of contracts for those roads. They were received and they have been evaluated and we will be shortly awarding the contract. The contractor who will be working on those roads has already had the approval of those institutions that are financing the construction of those roads. Shortly, we will be taking that final decision and award the contract with respect to those roads.

There is also a project which will be financed by the World Bank. This is the second road rehabilitation programme. You will recall, Sir, that sometime in the 1980's there was the first programme and we are now to embark on the second programme which calls for road rehabilitation. The rehabilitation would involve the stripping of these roads of the existing surface, removing any soft spots and resurfacing the entire roads with pot mix. Let me also state here that the amount of money that the World Bank will be providing is U.S.$21 million and it is a 4-year programme. The road rehabilitation includes Highway 1 from the Spring Garden Roundabout to Speightstown including a small section of it for which work had recently been done by Fitts Village. The consultants and engineers will be working on it so I hope all will be well. I cannot say more than that, Sir. That should be done this year.

Sir, we expect that work at Bath Village, Highway 7 Junction to St. Lawrence Gap, Highway T Newton Junction - Lodge Road to Oistins including road improvement at Church Street Junction.

Highway U - Enterprise, Chancery Lane, Wilcox to Fairy Valley junction; Highway 4 -Stewart Hill, Massiah Street, Woodland, Turnpike to Carmichael Road junction; Highway X - I know the Leader of the Opposition will appreciate this one - Cottage
Plantation to Groves junction with Highway 3B and Maxwell Hill, Graeme Hall to Highway T and Oistin Hill. This is about 40 kilometers of roadway and it is anticipated that work on this should begin in July. 11.40a.m.
*Aside.*
*
Hon. P. M. GREAVES: They cannot be done altogether, but work will begin and we will do whatever we can.
Also in the project is a road safety component which consists of improving 5 intersections with substantial traffic and poor accident records. These roads are Rendezvous at Highway 7. I think this is what the Leader of the Opposition was just referring to. Let me state here, Sir, that tenders have already been received for work on that junction and an award of a contract will shortly be made. Also in that same project is the Codrington Hill/Cave Hill junction, which is a bad junction as well and work will be done to improve that junction. It is hoped that work on that junction will begin some time in February next year, which will be within this financial year. Work on Rendezvous should begin, hopefully, in May. As I said, tenders are already in and it is a question now of approving the contract and contractor for doing that particular work.
Work on other parts of this project cannot be done during this financial year, but I will give them just the same. The Pine North-South junction, near the training centre, where there is now a section of the Community Development Division of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the Thornbury Hill/Highway 7 junction will be improved, Rendezvous/Dayrells Road/Golf Club junction will also be improved. This is not the one to which I made reference earlier. The one to which I made reference earlier is by the Plantations supermarket and the petrol station, the other one is going into Golf Club Road. That is a corner that also needs to be improved. It is made worse by the presence of 2 properties, as one turns into Golf Club Road, on either side of the road. What is necessary to be done to improve that junction will in fact be done.
The proposed roadworks include,the removal of obstacles which affect visibility, construction of sidewalks as well as some drainage works.
*Aside.*
Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am being anticipated all along, Sir, I do not know why I am speaking. It seems as though it is not necessary for me to speak at all, because one appears to know what was done, what needs to be done and what will be done.
I think Honourable Members will be interested in the overlay programme as well. The total overlay

programme involves 160 kilometers of high priority roads. This project aims to raise standards and prevent deterioration of the existing network. Let me say that 3 companies have prequalified for work within this component of the project and the final approval of the World Bank is being awaited before these firms are requested to submit priced proposals. It is anticipated that work will commence some time about July this year.
The roads to which I have earlier made reference, like Stewart Hill, Massiah Street, Carmichael and other roads, will be done during this particular time. It is also proposed, within this World Bank project, and clearly before we complete the work of rehabilitation on Highway 1, to carry out some rehabilitation work on a couple of bridges on that highway. Those bridges are near Buccaneer Bay, as well as near Treasure Beach. Here again, Sir, the tenders have been completed and an award is about to be made. The contractor, by virtue of his contract bid, has met with the approval of the institution funding this project, the World Bank. 11.50a.m.
This loan agreement also provides for routine maintenance and this is an interesting one. The loan agreement with the World Bank provides for a 2-year pilot project under which private contractors will be engaged in routine maintenance in specified areas, Christ Church and St. Philip and St. George. The contractor will be expected to maintain the roads which includes patching potholes, weeding the roadways, checking out service depressions, replacing broken concrete curbs and cleaning culverts. Tenders have already been invited for this work and the closing date is March 24, 1993.

The project also envisages the purchase of equipment to be used by the Ministry itself, personal vehicles and some tools and it is my understanding, in my discussion with the Permanent Secretary, it is also seeking to get some mechanical equipment for weeding of the roadways. I think it is about time that should be done. We will be able to weed the gutters beside the roads because we believe a lot more can be done in this way.

*Asides.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The technical assistance programme to be financed will improve the workshop operation at the airport, implement the road maintenance management system and studies undertaken in road maintenance equipment management, road network rationalisation and computerisation. Firms have been shortlisted for undertaking studies in these particular areas. It is anticipated that these consultants should be in place not later than June 1, 1993.

In routine maintenance to which I have earlier referred, US$650 000 have been allocated by the World Bank. That is the* routine maintenance where the contractors will be responsible for the total maintenance of the roads which they have been awarded contract. The other maintenance work will be done by the Ministry. Of course, the work of that particular Ministry involves responsibility for public buildings and at the moment we are working on the Fisheries Building on the Princess Alice Highway and we also have to refurbish the National Insurance Building to the extent of $1.5 million. -

I have to say a little about the Scotland District and the work there. We are hoping to complete the road at Cane Garden which has involved the resiting of houses and a new road is to be built there. Road repair work will be carried out at Springvale and the Upper Parks Road in St. Joseph.

Some Members might be interested in the work that will be done in terms of the Overtake programme as well. From Greenland to Cherry Hill I think that road has already been completed. Cane Garden, Porey Spring, Highway 1 to Highway 2 at Farm Road has been done. A lot of work has been done in St. Peter, I notice. The "Whim Road has been done, Highway 1 to Highway 2A. Carlton Road in St. James from Lower Carlton to Highway 2A. Molyneux Road has not been done. That will be done. Highway 1. That road is terrible. From Porters. to Westmoreland by old Porter's factory that still has to be done. Bennetts new road to Highway 2A junction.

This is the first year of road maintenance within the project. We may also be able to carrry out some works on Highway IB from Crab Hill to North Point Resort in St. Lucy, Turners Hall Yard in St. Andrew to Highway C sign in St Thomas, from Exchange to Mt. Wilton, the Land Hill Junction. From Mt. Wilton to Melvin Hill. In St. John, Massiah Street to the St. Philip border. Another St. Peter, Ealing Ground to Charles Duncan O'Neal Highway. In St. Lucy from Mt. Pleasant to Graveyard.

*Asides.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: There are other years of the programme where all parishes are involved but these are not being done at this particular time.

Six Cross Roads to be done as well. Searles. There is a road from Searles to Six Cross Roads and the Six Cross Roads Junction is also to be done. If you pass through St. Patricks through Woodbourne to Six Cross Roads. It might also require acquisition of some of the petrol station at Six Cross Roads.

*Asides.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES; The Licensing Authority in the Ministry has acquired a heavy duty hoist and 3325

modern brake tester to assist them in carrying out then-work of testing vehicles for road worthiness and the, work at that department has already been computerised. We are looking to computerise fully the driving license section shortly.

Public transport.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES; I have not even touched all. In public transport let me say very briefly in the Estimates one will see the amount of $100 as a subsidy for the Transport Board. I want Members to understand that that is a token provision. That was included because it svas anticipated at that time of preparation of the Estimates that the Transport Board might have been privatised by the end of March. That is not possible. The privatisation of the Transport Board will take a bit longer than that. 12.00 noon

Although the figure of $100 is mentioned there let me say that during the last year $4 million was provided as subsidy for the Transport Board and because of the reorganisation and restructuring that took place within the operations of the Board as well as the administration, we have been able to eke

our way out with the $4 million. I anticipate that there may be a bit of a shortfall. That is my own personal anticipation.
What we are going to do with the Transport Board is we will have to subsidise it. We may provide a figure probably of not less than $1 million to enable it to carry on the work it is now doing. Also some time during the year, as part of the privatisation process of which I spoke only 2 meetings ago, the Transport Board will sell off a substantial portion of its fleet and keep a fair number of its units and vehicles. I already gave the number about 2 weeks ago for servicing the routes from Sam Lord's right down to St. Lucy with the routes converging into Bridgetown. Some of the routes will have to be abandoned to private enterprise. We are hoping it will be a wide section of the private enterprise.
At the same time, Sir, I want to make this point as well. A transportation study will be done to advise the Government on the proper mix of public and private sector transport and other matters relating to transport. That transportation study will be financed by the European Investment Bank. It is non-reimbursable. They are fully financing that study. It will begin fairly soon. We hope that will be made available to this House and to other
Honourable Membe* s. <
I believe my time has expired. I am sorry I have to rush it but I will have to come back and talk about certain
other matters relating to that Ministry as well as the International Transport Division of this particular Ministry.
I beg to move that Head 42 stand part of the Bill. Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that.
Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I sat here and listened to the Minister talking a lot about roads. It was only in the final minute or so that he touched on the burning question and the ever important issue of public transportation. First of all let me say that I have no difficulty with the programme as set out by the Minister to remedy some of the roads and to extend Highway 2A. But I have a lot of difficulty with not hearing him dwell on or telling us something about what is the Government's policy, or his Ministry's policy, regarding the Scotland District and in particular the parish of St. Andrew. I am beginning to wonder why this parish has been abandoned. It is a scandal when you pass through that parish to see the roads ail washed away and the sort of alternative road network people have to use in that parish.
I am asking the Government to pay some priority to the Scotland District and in particular the roads in the parish of St. Andrew. At the same time it should look at the bridges in that particular parish as well because everything is falling apart. I am satisfied that not enough work and attention is being paid to that parish and the Scotland District. I am saying they are people too. I feel that when we are talking in terms of allocating funds it should be done with a view to letting all Barbadians share a bit of the national cake. I am not happy that funds which are placed in these Estimates are sufficient to deal with the situation in those areas. I have travelled through the area and I know the magnitude of the problem. I hope the Ministry understands that no excuse will suffice for their negligence of that particular area.
Now, I also want to say that as far as the maintenance is concerned, there has been a considerable reduction in the maintenance programme. I too am concerned about the tenantry roads programme. There are a lot of people who live in tenantries with unpaved and unlit roads. In this day and age when there are so many raids and assaults being made on persons I am asking the Government to consider looking at illuminating the roads in these areas where people have to pass and also paving these tenantry roads. I know there are quite a few of them.
While I am on this I must say I have asked questions a year or so ago about roads in St. Michael South East and all I heard as a reply is "when Government gets funds." I am hoping the Minister will give me and the people in St. Michael South East the assurance that funds will be available from this vote to spend -on correcting the roads that I mentioned some months ago.

Now, I would also like to draw the Minister's attention to the question of transportation. It is too important an area to deal with it in this *ad hoc* piecemeal manner. The economic recovery we anticipate will not, and cannot, take place until the Government pays some attention to transportation in this country. If we are talking in terms of economic recovery, whatever that is, we have to look at transportation. For too long this

area has been put dn the back burner. I want the Minister to understand that. He is talking in terms of a subsidy to the Transport Board. 12.10 p.m.

Now I am going to spend a little time on the Transport Board because not all of us have motor cars and the commuters have to use the transportation of buses, mini-buses and ZR vans, in order to get to and from work. I cannot understand and I am searching everything to find out how it is that I can hear that the Transport Board is reaching a viable position now that you are going to get rid of it. Who advised you? If it is the IMF they have got to be mad or they do not like Barbadians. And if that is the cost that we have to pay then, I say, I will leave the IMF out of this because I do not believe and I do not want to accept that the IMF could lay those conditions down that we must destroy Barbados and Barbadians. Even the poor school children are out there without buses to get to and from school. Do you understand what it means when you withdraw the servicing of routes in the south? It is a discriminatory policy. After all they contribute to the Transport Levy. They pay taxes. Why are they being neglected or abandoned, why are you going towards the North? I cannot see any reason. I would like to be told or to be convinced that there is a good reason for that. At the same time we have been told that the lucrative routes are the routes that are going to be disposed of and I am going to venture as far to say that the routes that are being contemplated to be retained will not make any money, because first of all you have to subsidise them and they are the ones that you have competition on.

The routes in the North are the ones on which you have serious competition. I want the Minister to look at that because time and time again we are given the reason why we had to withdraw buses from, let us say, the Pine and other areas because of competition.

Now let me tell the Minister what could be done: All the Government has to do is to bring in some buses similar to the mini-buses and put them on the routes and then you will know exactly what happened. I am saying it is a big problem in this day and age, where there are so many people who are afraid to get off the buses to walk home. They are looking over their shoulders and you are taking the buses off and placing them in the hands of the private concessionaires. I will say this and I want to repeat it. The private concessionaires are not interested in operating after

9.00 p.m. or 10.00 p.m.* and those are the times that labourers and workers have to go home if they want to eke out a living for their families. Now what are we doing? Are we leaving them at the mercy of criminals? That is what we are doing. And that is why I insist that Government look again at this policy of privatisation.

If the Transport Board Chairman is saying or conveying the impression that it is now about to break even or to become viable then I want it explained to me why now you are going to get rid of it. You have spent $12 million in subsidy and $10 million again and then $4 million, a total of $26 million and if I were to go to the year before $21 million - $47 million to try to put Transport Board in shape. And now after you have spent $47 million you are going to get rid of it, now that you are hearing that it is getting out of its problems? Give me the reason for that. I would have thought that now that you have begun to see light at the end of the tunnel and that you will say, okay, let us look back at our situation and change course.

It is a dangerous path that we are going down and I am saying, if the IMF has made such an imposition or requirement, then I am saying the time has come when we have to say to the IMF that we are not satisfied with that sort of arrangement and no Government at all should accept those conditions because we can see the dangers of such a policy. We have to understand the pain and hurt it has caused.

Ask yourselves what you are doing with those old age pensioners, those indigent persons, the school children whom I mentioned before, the incapacitated and the blind people who have to travel on the Transport Board buses and it was this very Government that said that the old age pensioners should travel free at all times. They said no peak hours. The BLP policy was, do not allow them to travel on the buses during peak hours to be pushed around. But the present Government declared a policy whereby old age pensioners could travel at any time of the day.

Now I am beginning to wonder why all of a sudden you have* abandoned them. I am worried about them because, Mr. Chairman, it takes $3.00 every time an old age pensioner has to travel to the Post Office to cash their cheque in those areas where there is no Government transportation.

I am going to say this: If you are going to cause them to pay for every trip now, I am asking the Government to consider moving in a vote which could go by way of a token which would be accepted by the private concessionaires. Devise a system whereby tokens could be used on the private buses - the mini-buses and ZR vans -and are redeemable.



I want the Government to look at policy otherwise you are doing an injustice to the old age pensioners

of Barbados especially. I hope you understand that. That is why I said you cannot rush hastily into this privatisation policy because you have to understand what you are doing. The Minister will agree with me that he will now have to look at the regulations because the amendments we made related to giving the minibuses the right to carry standing passengers. What we have been doing is placing the buses that carry more than the 25 passengers in the hands of private concessionaires once again. You are going to need an amendment to the regulations, Sir.

We have to ask ourselves another question and I want the Minister to tell us why, today, the Barbados Workers' Union Cooperative Society, having put in a bid or expressed an interest in purchasing these buses, why it is that up to this time they are not in receipt of a reply. You have them out there, they are willing to purchase but you have not even treated them with the courtesy of a reply.

The Transport Board Chairman says he does not know what is going on and it is not possible to accomplish the deadline date. I will give a new date of June 30, because the Government should aim at June 30, but a lot of work has to be done during that time. I agree the Minister must come back for a subsidy. I will tell you what this means. If the Minister has to come for a subsidy it means that between now and June 30, the Transport Board will not break even at all because if it is making money you do not have to come for a subsidy. It is telling us one thing, they are fooling the public when they say they are making profit or are near viability. If you are in a viable situation and you are taking off some of the lucrative routes it means you are in a deficit position. Now watch that policy. And if you want it to work you have to mix some of the lucrative with those that are less lucrative and then you have to look and see what is going on. I am telling you the public out there is listening. This vote has got to be highlighted, put it before the public's eye and ear. It is not a matter that can be dismissed.

Mr." CHAIRMAN: Two minutes to conclude.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I agree that the Transport Board needs to be revamped. And I want the Minister, when he gets up to tell me why, and I want to pose a question. Why is it that you have gotten rid of all the guards that were employed and you now have a private company coming in? I want this investigated. If people working at Transport Board do not have an interest in the security firm - conflict of interest again. I am reliably informed that is the case. You have fired people, Mr. Minister, although they decided to take a wage cut and despite that the Board went ahead and hired private security services to do the work there. I say that is unfair.

I think that the Minister needs to get to the root of that and tell us why that has taken place. It is not sending the right signals to people in this country. 12.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I take the cue from you that my time is up. I am going to sit because I will be back to pose further questions and to make a further contribution under this particular Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas caught my eye.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the sentiments that used to be expressed by the late Errol Walton Barrow between 1976 and 1986 found some sympathy with me. He used to say to his own side when he was in opposition that we are not the Government. They are the Government. They have the country to run. Let them run it. I am not here to tell anybody how to run the Transport Board. Do what you like. The time will come when I will make a critical analysis on it. But I am not here to tell you how to run it.

Sir, this Head provides a very good opportunity for me to raise a number of matters, not about how the Government should be run but about the concerns of my constituents. My primary concern is the welfare of the people of St. Thomas, nothing else after that.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, for many years I have been asking for a number of roads to be done. I was not here when the Minister outlined his programme.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now we have been going quite well for the morning. Let us just keep it on a straight course please.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition took a full note and from that note I was able to glean that. Apart from doing a road from Cane Garden to Porey Spring, I presume that Cane Garden is the St. Andrew Cane Garden because the Shop Hill to Porey Spring has already

been done. Canewood at long last is going to start I believe in May according from the notes that I read. But apart from that, I do not see anything else planned for St. Thomas.
*Aside.*
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not worried about the main roads. The poor people do not live on the main roads in St. Thomas. I am talking about up inside.
3328
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member address the Chair.
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I want to start on Sub-programme 2 on Page 102 - Subsidiary Road Construction and Maintenance Services. Government attempted a few years ago to repair Lion's Castle Road. They made a mess of it because they put down the marl-fill. They ran out of money and the contractor ran away from the job. The rain washed it off and it was a waste of money. Now I see this year that the vote is cut as compared with last year from $5.7 million to $1.2 million for subsidiary roads which include tenantry roads. But there were in St. Thomas a hard core of tenantry roads that we have been trying to get done since 1986. They are Content and Highland. Content is the road behind the pavilion at Barker's Corner that runs across and skirts the playing field. There are two roads off the main Shop Hill Road opposite the road that leads to Grandview. These are two short roads and they are unnamed. One is by the Nazarene Church and one is a little further. They have no names but they are on the side of the Nazarene Church. Those two have been in a terrible state for many years. We were promised about 3 years ago that something would be done, but nothing was done. I am making a plea to the Minister to have some work done on Content, Highland and the two tenantry roads in Shop Hill. That would assist very much, Sir.
I note, Sir, that there is nothing planned in respect of the Rock Hall Road. I mean from the top of Barker's Corner right down to where the road opens out and joins the road coming from Content Plantation taking you back to Highway 2A. It gets wide down by that mouth. But the Rock Hall Road is a particularly narrow road. I asked a question in here about 2 years ago and I got an answer telling me that the volume of traffic on Rock Hall did not admit of any work being done on it. That is a joke. There is the District "D[11] bus that goes through Rock Hall at various times during the day. Tourists coming from the West Coast trying to get to Welchman Hall Gully or the Cave use that road. It is very, very narrow. I am glad the Minister of Education is saying that that is true. I know that it is very, very narrow and, obviously, Government does not have money this year to deal with this matter but I would like some preparatory work to be done.
Sir, one of the first things that we could do perhaps at reasonable cost would be to look at widening those bends where the Court is now which was formerly the old District "D" Community Centre. Then the very next corner that bends to left and the one that bends to the right. But we could eliminate the dangers in those corners by cutting a road straight through from the Community Centre down the road that takes you to the fowl farm and the big farm of Mr. Reid. There is only one house that will be affected. You would eliminate those corners and then we could widen the road a little further down by what we call the "breadfruit tree" down in 'the bottom by the bridge pass the hospital. That is the next bad point
Sir, I would like the Minister to at least have the Ministry carry out a survey of the Rock Hall Road this year to see what can be done with a view to the elimination of the dangerous bends and the widening of the road at a point below the District Hospital, Sir. In other words, we can prepare to do some work in the future this year. I do not think that will cost too much.
Sir, under Sub-programme 4 - Bridge Construction and Maintenance Services, again I had a question down about Arch Hall Road. That road needs some surface repair. There is a bridge in Arch Hall next to a church that I have warned the Government that that bridge is going to collapse shortly. Unless something is done urgently about that bridge and the road in Arch Hall at that point where the bridge is, it is going to collapse and you are going to maroon a whole village. Let it not be said that I have drawn it to Government's attention. I would like an investigation done on the structural integrity of the bridge in Arch Hall with the view of seeing what is necessary to rehabilitate it, Sir. It is on the point of collapse. 12.30p.m.
I turn next to Scotland District Special Works. This is not my constituency as such, but very often you have to pass through my constituency to get to the Scotland District I note that there is a severe reduction in the vote from $4.8 million last year to only $1.3 million this year. It cannot be that Government does not understand that the time has come when we must stop perpetuating the attitude, via the provision of Government financial services, that there are 2 Barbadoses, the one under the hill from Shop Hill back to Christ Church in the south which has all the nice houses and the lights, and the one over the hill that is in darkness and in need of upliftment
There was a former Minister of Transport and Works, D.O'G. Blackman, who some years ago took it upon himself to deny the people of the country the services of MTW and concentrated all of the repair work and

rehabilitation in St Michael, Christ Church and parts of Sfc George.
Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. The Honourable Member has indicated that the area I represent is an area that was fully serviced, but I should like to assure the Honourable Member that there are several roads, in particular in the Belle and Rouen, which still need to be completed.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I was making a broad comment. We went through that in here. I have the document where...
3329
*Aside.*
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, all the people of St. Thomas, St Andrew, St Joseph and St. Peter were left out. 1 have the document in a file marked "Secret and Confidential" where the Minister set out his programme and it did not include anything in those country districts. That document, I believe, may have been made a document of the House. The facts in that document I read into the records of this House and I will find them later on.
The time has come when people in the country must get some of the money that is being spent in these services. It cannot be right that the Government can believe it could severely reduce the amount of provision for the Scotland District from $4.8 million to $1.3 million. That reduction tells us that the Government does not have any desire really to do what has to be done to ensure that the Scotland District does not suffer the kinds of problems it has been suffering for all these several years and to which the public has become accustomed and fed up with.
I will have to come back on this later on, Sir, but I want to draw to the Minister's attention in this first intervention to the Barbados Water Authority at page 109. Again, 1 have to be calling the Water Authority every week reminding them that the district from Porey Spring to Cane Garden does not have water. Welches, where the Honourable Minister lives, he can tell you, for days on end there is no water. The whole of Shop Hill right through to Porey Spring, the western side of St. Thomas. This is a disgrace. These people have been asked to pay massive taxes and are going to be asked next Monday to pull their pockets again. The time will come when one of us will have to take the bull by the horns and tell our constituents not to pay any taxes because they are not getting any services. If everybody else in this country is afraid to do it, I will do it in respect of the people in St. Thomas. I am fed up and disgusted that they are being short changed, presumably because they returned a member of the Labour Party consistently, in the provision of Government's services. This is not fair. I am angry, Sir. I will come back later. You will have to put up with me later on.
Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I really do not want to spend much time on transport, because I realise that speaking about needing this or that road done in this coming year is an exercise in futility, because the allocation to Transport and Works is almost negligible, but I think I need to make one or two points here.
The first statement I wish to make is that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East said the problem of the Transport Board could have been solved by the transport Board buying buses of the size of the minibuses. I do not think it is as simple as that. Obviously he meant that along with other things, but I think the
inducements offered by the minibuses, like stopping wherever somebody stands up and things like that, had a lot to do with a lot of people getting in the minibuses. It was also a fact that if you were not exactly at the bus stop, perhaps 6 feet away, even though you were running towards it, the Transport Board drivers would not stop. I found that remarkable. I believe some of them still do it. I believe it is unconscionable and that is the sort of thing I believe made people turn off from catching Transport Board buses.
I wish to make a statement, Mr. Chairman, on the privatisation of the Transport Board. I believe Government has to look at this matter again and in this instance I totally agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. He wanted to know why it is that now that the Transport Board is becoming a profitable and viable organisation the Government should be getting rid of the Transport Board. I believe that is a very good point. The IMF, in my view, could be showing the Government in what areas they can make certain things profitable, but I do not believe that the IMF should be going further than that and recommending to you what you should or should not sell after the organisation has become profitable.

Mr. Chairman, Barbados got a lot of praise over the past number of years, precisely because the Government was running the transport system. All over the Caribbean the transport system is being run by the private sector and it is total chaos. That is why there were a lot of praises for Barbados because the system we had which was run by Government was superior to what goes on in the other areas. You only i ave to go to St. Lucia and some of these other Caribbean islands to see what takes place there with regards to transport. 12.40 p.m.

I am happy to hear that the Government is going to keep some of the routes including the Crane and Bayfield which I always felt that the Government should never give up. As I said at the beginning, Government should look again at the privatisation of the Transport Board and I am persuaded in that to the extent that paragraph 15 of the Letter of Intent said:

"The Government is also looking into the possibility of contracting out to the private sector certain activities and services currently undertaken by the public sector (such as some construction works, port operations, and bus services)."

Now I have heard recently that the Government has no intention of privatising the Port so in my view bus services come under the same paragraph 15 where it said the Government is looking into the possibility of contracting out these things. If the bus service is mentioned along with the port operations and you have



made a decision that the port operation should not be privatised, my view is that you should also look at the bus services as well.

I believe that we will be better served if the Government keeps the Transport Board because most of the work that was necessary to bring the Transport Board to viability has now taken place. If it has not taken place yet and you are telling me more is to take place then I do not know. With the number of persons who have been laid off and things like that and the reduction in the number of buses and the one-man buses, if still more needs to be done in order to become viable well, then something is or was radically wrong all along. Anyhow, I am not going to get in that much longer.

One more point, Mr. Speaker. I do not usually speak about roads and water and things like that when I make any intervention in this Honourable Chamber; but I have to make an intervention this time with regard to 2 roads in my constituency. Now, there are few roads in St Philip South which were started 2 years ago and which after reaching a certain stage had to be stopped. I am not too worried about those. The Minister obviously will say at another time when those will be restarted.

I have realised within the past 2 or 3 weeks that some work is being done on a road which runs from the corner of Graves Hill to Four Roads and it looks to me as though they are doing some drainage work. In my view, that road was not a bad road. It is a fairly good road compared to the 2 roads I am going to mention now. The 2 roads in my constituency of St. Philip South which I consider the 2 worse roads in the constituency are the roads from Six Cross Roads to Kirtons Corner via Four Roads. That road is extremely bad and dangerous. The other one is from the corner by St. Martins Church when you go through Foul Bay to Israel Clarke's.

The 2 roads are well known to Transport Board drivers and they are extremely dangerous. I would have thought, Mr. Chairman, that the Transport Board drivers and other personnel connected with transport would have seen that Foul Bay road where you turn by St. Martin's Church and go through Foul Bay there are some corners up there and if anything is coming in the other direction, even a bicycle, one of the vehicles will have to go back to let the other pass.

The danger of the road between Six Cross Roads and Kirtons Corner is that on that road there is the St. Martin's Four Roads Primary School. On afternoons, that road is crowded with children and it is extremely dangerous. There have been many complaints made about that road and I believe the powers that be should look into not only repairing that road because when rain falls it is chaos but the fact that these numbers of children are on that road on

their way to and from school and have to be walking in the road. I think something has to be done about those 2 roads.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will take my seat

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, one of the things I find very curious is that a number of persons claim that the country has no money and yet it is expected-to engage itself in activities that

call for money and to keep engaging in those activities that call for money.
I became the Minister of Transport and Works in June 1986. At that time I thought that a lot needed to be done with the Transport Board. It was very heavy. There was a lot of fat at the Transport Board and we thought we would reduce it to what we would consider to be manageable proportions. That was done and we were told that the Transport Board at that time was on its way to viability.
*Asides.*
Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I was told another time very shortly this thing can work and be viable. I had my own plans for transport at that time. My plans were to farm out some of the routes, charge private operators a franchise, give all the routes to the Transport Board. At the moment the Licensing Authority is the chief technical office in the Ministry. Let the Licensing Authority give all the routes to the Transport Board which can then take some of those routes and license them to certain private operators. It could get a revenue without even travelling on a single route. That was my view.
I was told "hold it We can get it done our way." My position was that I would give it a year to try those plans. If it is not done within a year then you would have to use my plan. At the end of that year I was moved from my position and sent somewhere else. That plan was never tried but yet I was told the Transport Board was on its way and doing well and viable. We have done a reorganisation of ihe Transport Board over the past year or so. We have given up a number of routes. We have trained the staff of the Transport Board. We have gone into a one-maa operation of those units rather than have the driver and conductor, we now have a driver of those units who is the sole operator on those units employed by the Transport Board. We have reduced the staff drastically to about 690 persons. 12.50 p.m.
We are told we are approaching viability. *Aside.*
Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, when I made a few steps down out of this building, I am making an approach, to St. Lucy if I am walking in that

direction. When do I get there? That is the important thing. 1 am not one to believe that the Transport Board should necessarily make a profit. If it makes a profit, all well and good, because it has to re-equip itself. The Transport Board cannot re-equip itself but if it does that that would be a plus for it. I am not yet convinced myself that the Transport Board is a viable operation. What is more, I am not sure that the Transport Board will ever be a viable operation operated by the Transport Board.
I have heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip South saying they have lost ridership because of the attitude of drivers towards passengers. They will not pick them up. If they are not there at the time they reach the stop then the driver moves on. That cannot happen with the private operators. Therefore, like that you are going to lose ridership. This is only a single example of what can take place when you are operating an operation like the Transport Board in the way it is operated at the moment.
We cannot take the Transport Board like private operators do and tell them to drive the buses and we will give them a percentage of their takings. We have to pay the drivers wages. Those drivers drive the buses and he is not dependent on the number of persons he carries in order to earn his wage. He will earn his wage because he is driving the bus. It is as simple as that.
I want to make it clear, Sir, that the Government is not, and I repeat not getting rid of the Transport Board. It is reducing considerably the operations of the Board. I have said it before. I have said it in here about 3 times already and yet I am still hearing about the Government getting rid of the Transport Board. That is not the case. I have said about 2 weeks ago that we are retaining a number of units. I said about 75.1 may have even said 100.1 am not sure. We are going to retain about 75 or so to do a service. I said then that service which will operate along the eastern side right up to the North and will still pass through all the many road networks we have and along which the Transport Board buses normally pass.
The fact is, Sir, we are retaining a fairly strong segment "of the Transport Board and others we are going to privatise. This is not new. We have already gone off 13 routes. One is talking about routes that are not viable and routes that are lucrative? The Transport Board was forced off lucrative routes. It is not a matter of staying on lucrative routes.
*Aside.*
Hon. P. M. GREAVES: By the private operators. It has nothing to do with Don Blackman. It has a lot to with the tremendous licensing policy of the Barbados Labour Party in the late 1970s. We have all had private operators in our time. It began that way. What I am talking about is the tremendous

number that were licensed at that time.
There was a number of them when you were in the Government as well in the 1960s and 1970s.
*Aside.*
HOB, P. M. GREAVES: That is a fact. Some were given by the Honourable Member but I am talking about licensing of those vehicles and making them legal on the particular routes. Most of them up to then were operating illegally but the legality of it is what, in fact, forced the Transport Board off those lucrative routes. One lucrative route was the Pine in recent times. But it became not lucrative after a time for the Transport Board, as an example.
Sir, we have to do something with transport. I have made it clear that we have to reorganise it in a way that it is not, in fact, a tremendous drain on the taxpayers of this country but at the same time we have to organise it in a way that permits people to travel where they want to travel.
The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East made an observation which is correct that the private operators are not interested in operating their vehicles beyond 10 o'clock in the evenings. That is one of the reasons why we have decided we would have the spread from St. Lucy right around to Sam Lord's, each one coming through Oistins and so forth and coming into Bridgetown. At night they can have a similar effect fanning out from the centre, which is Bridgetown, going in those opposite directions taking those people home after 10.00 p.m. or 11.00 p.m. as the case may be.
The Transport Board is not a welfare department. The Transport Board has been paid money to transport old age pensioners. It was never done by the Transport Board free of cost. The Transport Board is owed money now for last year for transporting the old aged pensioners on their fleet. The point I want to make is it is for another department to set out how those old aged pensioners can continue to travel on not only Transport Board but also on those private buses as well. I would not like to see them travelling on those ZR vehicles because they would not survive.
*Aside.*
Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It should be so organised that it should be paid for but you cannot expect the Transport Board to do it. It is not the function of the Transport Board. It is not the function of my Ministry to do it either. It is a service, I believe, that should continue but do not expect it of the Transport Board.
Sir, it has now gone into the time that, perhaps, we should be going to lunch. At some point in time I will come back on these matters here and other matters raised by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and
3332
St. Michael South East as well and all others who will later on be speaking on this particular Head of expenditure. 1.00 p.m.

Before I take my seat, Sir, I move that you now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.
*On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon'.C. V. WALKER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour, the SPEAKER, and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that the sitting be now suspended until 2.05 p.m. today.

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

*The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.05 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.*

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it should revert.

*Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.*

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Resumed)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply is resumed.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to the Honourable Member for giving way. I just want to make a few points and some of them are of a nature that would obviously have direct bearing on the effect they have had on constituents. The Head that we are debating gives us an opportunity to highlight a few areas of concern.

I would like, first of all, to deal with the question of transportation as it relates to vehicles that are presently engaged in the transportation of people on a daily basis as substitutes for the Transport Board.

I think we can go back over a number of years, and I really do not think that the question of how many permits were issued to the taxi drivers is really a major issue. I think that with the increase in the cruise ship business that we have seen over the years it seems to me that it was a reasonable policy to look in terms of expanding the taxi service to the extent that local Barbadians can set up small enterprises of their own and benefit to some extent from the tourism industry.

What happened, Mr. Chairman, we saw a situation develop where a number of buses were allowed to operate at the Harbour and at the airport which to a large extent placed a lot of pressure on small taxi operators in terms of getting a fair share of the business in the tourism industry. Whereas the small operators would be able to benefit by having jobs to take visitors from cruise ships around the island on day tours we saw a situation developing where a number of these larger coaches have been introduced into the market and they are, up to today, still dominating the lion's share of the market in terms of transportation.

Mr. Chairman, that has had an effect because many of the small taxis or the mosquitoes that were given these licences under the other administration and some of them under this administration, then could not compete with the large tour operators. Having had a licence they had to seek business and many of them started to operate illegally on bus routes competing with the *bona fide* taxis who were operating on a book basis. That is, if you wanted a taxi to get you from A to B you would call and get that kind of service. Those small mini-vans that are called Mosquitoes started to compete with the service to the extent that the entire transport system became very chaotic and it is obvious that when you get that kind of competition forcing its way into the system, that sooner or later the Transport Board would have a problem unless the whole system was properly regularised.

I do not think that we should venture into the business of how many permits were issued or when they were issued. I think it was a good idea, but I am not satisfied that the small taxi operators are getting a fair deal.

* I would particularly like to see the taxis in Barbados enjoy a bigger spread of the tours around the Island, Mr. Chairman. I believe that we are a tourism destination, that we have very limited areas of economic activity, that we can employ people and transportation in an area that generates millions of dollars in profits and there are several small taxi operators that are denied that opportunity because of 10 or 15 buses that dominate the entire scene at the Harbour and at the Airport. It is my belief that we should try to go for the kind of interacting between visitors and locals and the transportation system is a good area that we can get that kind of interaction, where the taxi drivers are talking to them, taking them to their homes *et cetera.* We have to encourage that and I really would like to see an effort-made in terms of making sure that the taxi drivers are given a bigger slice of the cake. Whatever system we come up with I really would like to see that.

3333

I must say that the route taxis that are operating in the area of which I have some interest, the St. Michael East area - the Ivy, Government Hill, St. Barnabas - I have been speaking to many of the drivers and they have been playing their part in trying to be responsible. We had a situation where some of them were using very loud music. The Chairman, Frank Mallet, myself and others have had discussions with those drivers. We have appealed to them to be reasonable and indeed many of them are transporting old age pensioners and senior citizens without charging them. I would like on record to congratulate them for being very reasonable with the old age .pensioners and some welfare cases that they are taking without charge.

Mr. Chairman, I have a few concerns. I know it is generally felt that my predecessor, as a representative, took care of all of the roads in the St. Michael East Constituency but indeed, Sir, there

are still several roads that need to be repaired. The entire Belle/Haggatt Hall area...
*Asides.*
Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I believe if you are going to do a job it should be done properly and one of the problems I have in the Belle, and quite seriously in the Rouens area, the road was prepared and the marl was put down and I have a situation where, when vehicles pass through the area and a lot of dust rises up and I get constant complaints, and in particular in the dry months, when people are saying that the dust is always there. It is a real problem. I have seen because I go into all of the homes in that area and it really is a major problem. I am going to urge the technical people at the Ministry to make sure that those roads are corrected.
Now, I have one other problem and I would like to place it on the record. We are having a problem and I have met with a number of the constituents. On the road from the Bussa Roundabout to the Norman Niles Roundabout there is an off-shoot that takes you over to Neils. I cannot remember the name but it is above Bird Hill, off Haggatt Hall and you are abutting and bounding Neils' main road. We have had a number of complaints because it is a 2-way traffic lane going there and it is extremely dangerous. A number of the constituents have made out a case for us to try to have the access going from off the main road in the direction of Neils as a one-way street and to make it a No Entry.coming from Neils on to the Highway. We are suggesting that instead of coming through that road from Neils to the Highway that you go around the roundabout and then come up on the Highway. I think we have had quite a few accidents in that area and I really would like the technical people again at the Ministry to look seriously at correcting that flaw. 2.20 p.m.
It is the old Haggatt Hall Road. It is very dangerous. It is not a big inconvenience to make it one-way and have the traffic going in one direction. Then you come around the roundabout to ensure that we reduce the risk of accidents. I think that should be looked at.
Mr. Chairman, I know that I do not have a lot of time and I need: to speak about a matter to which I have some interest because of my long association over the years with it. That has to do with the Airport. I want to just drift very quickly because I know my time is very restricted. We have a situation right now at the Airport where there are no cold storage facilities in place. I think that is a situation that cannot be tenable. We have a number of importers of food products and I am sure the Minister of Health would appreciate this argument. Many importers run the risk of leaving produce exposed to the elements and many times in the sun at the Airport because there are no cooler and freezer facilities working at the Airport. I believe that British Airways has one facility and it is restricted to their commissary. The Airport is an international airport and I really think that we cannot allow that situation to exist. I thought that I would use this public forum to bring some attention to it.
Sir, the other area that I have concern has to deal with the allocation of water to some residents in the Belle. There was a lot of discussion about having those illegal quarters removed from the Belle area and placed into the Haggatt Hall area. There is still a number of them to be removed. But there is a situation existing where there are some *bona fide* residents who are still living in the area and who are not considered to be part of the restricted area. We have made several applications to the Water Authority and there is this hesitance to issue a water certificate to these residents. The mere fact that you say that you are attaching water to a unit in the Belle there is this fear that exists or whatever it is. I think that is really not fair to those *bona fide* residents who should qualify for water supply and are not now given that opportunity. I really think that we have to forget that myth if a person's house is legally located and acceptable to the zone areas where the water problem is. I think that we must, as a matter of policy, approve the allocation of water to those residents. I do not think that we should have any fear that it is in the Belle. I think the technical people in the Ministry know the people that I am talking about and I would like to see them issue the water to them without much delay. I will close at this point, Mr. Chairman.
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I want to use the reduced vote under the Scotland District from some $4.8 million last year to $1.3 million to make some comments of a general nature about the Scotland District and to raise some specific questions relating to the constituency of St. Joseph. I believe that the significant reduction in the vote reflects not only the

financial difficulties the Government is experiencing, but it also reflects a long-standing attitude on the part

of Government towards rural Barbados in general the Scotland District area in particular. I am not now blaming the Democratic Labour Party Government but I am talking about Governments over the years. I think it must be borne in mind at all times that, when we are talking about the Scotland District, we are talking about an area that runs from Pico Tenerife in the St. Peter/St. Lucy border right back to St. Marks in St. John, an area of one-sixth of the land space of Barbados. The tendency has been to give it a disproportionately small share of Government resources over the years almost forgetting that there are human settlements there and that the people need services of the same quality as the people who live in urban and suburban Barbados.

The particular approach towards the Scotland District over the years has been to view it as a kind of nuisance area, an area of floods year after year and an area of uncontrollable soil slippage. But I think that we must recognise that the Scotland District is not only a challenge and a difficulty, but it is also an area of great potential because it is an area in which we can grow all the flowers and foliage that we need in Barbados and for export. It is an area where we can grow all of our bananas and a lot of our vegetables and where we can concentrate our sheep and cattle production. Sir, it is an area of rich potential and we ought not to be viewing it only as a problem area resulting from the frequent floods and the need to repair the same bridges over and over, and an area of uncontrollable soil slippage.

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that in this privatisation of the Transport Board in this slenderizing of the transport services that the Scotland District which in the best of times got little of the resources of the state will now get virtually none. The private concessionaires, the minibus owners, who are not interested in working after 10 o'clock p.m. and who do not interest themselves or find any appeal in the remote villages and the long haul routes in Barbados will totally abandon the outlying districts in St. Joseph. I would like to get an assurance from the Minister on behalf of the people of St. Joseph that the Transport Board will be conscious of that omission and will try to correct it by ensuring that the remote districts of St. Joseph, St. Andrew, St. John, and St. Thomas, all of which fall around my constituency, will be serviced.

With respect to the roads, Sir, I think the point that I have been making can be emphasized by reference to the speech of the last Honourable Member for St. Michael East. While he was calling on the Government to complete existing roads, my call is to put in roads where none has ever been put in. That is the difference. He wants existing roads upgraded, modernized and completed. I want roads for the first time and I think that point makes the contrast.

There is a district before you get to Walkes Spring after you pass Sproute. It is Clifton tenantry just about 150 yards from Walkes Spring where there is a cane track, or an intervale as we used to call it years ago, which leads to several houses and in the rainy season it is virtually impossible to get in there. 2.30 p.m. They could do with a third grade road, some sort Of hard surface, which at present they do not have; but I want to move to a road that leads from Spa Hill straight into St. Andrew. That road has been impassable, both from the St. Andrew entrance and the Spa entrance in St. Joseph. It is an area called Boarded Hall and it has caused such a concern to the emergency services in Barbados that about 2 years ago officers from the Fire Service spent a day there trying to work out how they could get people out of that area in the event of a flood or any other emergency, because you cannot easily get in by vehicular traffic either from the Spa or from the St. Andrew/Cane Garden side. I have been in contact with the technical officers of the Ministry of Transport and Works for a long time trying to get an assurance as to when the road will be made passable, or alternatively, the Government would announce and implement a major plan to remove the people and resite them.

I think it is a continuing problem. It is one that causes me and the residents there great concern and I should like to hear the Minister specifically on this area known as Boarded Hall, where the people are literally marooned. There have been occasions in the past when the ambulance was called and found it impossible to get into Boarded Hall.

In addition, Sir, I want to raise the question of Airy Hill in St. Joseph, a road that has fallen into disrepair to the point that you are actually in danger using it as the driver of a vehicle. Cleavers Hill, and also the Bathsheba main road, have been allowed to fall into serious disrepair. Lower Parks and Cambridge cry out for some road patching and road repair attention. I hope that the Minister is taking note and that the officers of the Ministry, whom I believe are within earshot, will recognise that rural Barbados/ in the Scotland District, has a claim on the resources of the State too.

In addition to road repairs, Mr. Chairman, there is too the problem of lighting and debushing in the Scotland District area which need some attention. At the end of the day we must remind ourselves that the Scotland District is also an area of human settlement. People live there. To thai extent we have to ensure that they are given certain minimum services and that the quality of their lives i.s addressed in the same

way as successive Governments have been concerned to address the quality of the lives of those who live in urban and suburban Barbados.

3335

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, most of the matter relevant to our concerns in this area have already been dealt with by Members on this side, so I will restrict my concerns to the constituency of St. Andrew. I would like to ask the Minister specifically if there are any plans at all to fix any of the roads in St. Andrew during this year. In this regard I was wondering whether it made any sense asking the Minister anything at all relevant to St. Andrew, since I have been asking a number of questions relevant to repairs in St. Andrew. It is becoming a nightmare to travel to St. Andrew and one cannot exaggerate the situation down there bad enough. It seems as though we have this distinction, as I am always saying, between the urban areas and the rural areas, and then when we are dealing with the rural areas we are having the further distinction between St. Andrew and the other rural areas.

The type of answers I have been getting repeatedly from the Honourable Minister has been "we will promise to repair this particular road at some particular time, we do not have the money," or in some particular cases, "this particular area is affected by slippage." I recall at one time the Honourable Minister saying in this House that it would take more money to repair all the roads in St. Andrew than the rest in Barbados. It seems as though this has been interpreted in such a way as though it does not make any sense starting to repair the roads in St. Andrew, because if you start you will not be able to finish. I am somewhat worried, because when I look at these Estimates of Expenditure, in particular page 102, Subprogram 2: Subsidiary Road Construction and Maintenance Services, among others, we notice that there has been a 78% cut under this Head. With this cut and the fact that we did not get anything done in*St. Andrew last year, I am wondering what will happen this year. The problem is that we have not had a single tenantry road repaired in St. Andrew during the past 2 years. I am thinking of roads like Worrell's Road, Boys' School Road, Farrell's Road, Franklin Road, Hope Road and Jackman Alley Road. I think that the Honourable Minister needs to really look at St. Andrew in the light of this neglect of repairs, in particular with respect to the tenantry roads.

When you are dealing with residential road construction and maintenance services on page 103, the situation is even worse. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph just alluded to Cambridge, St. Joseph, which is also part of the St. Andrew constituency. This is a road, while it might be in the Scotland Area, that is not normally affected by slippage. There have been some potholes in Cambridge in which you could actually hide, and buses are expected to pass on them. I do not know if the Minister or his technical people realise the problems of people in these roads and further down Chalky Mount.

Mr. Chairman, these are certainly areas the Honourable Minister needs to look into. I remember talking about the Turner's Hall Road when a marl track was made to replace an existing road leading from Turner's Hall to Rock Hall, and I am wondering whether the Ministry has any plans to repair this road, because it is a relatively good road and there is just a short span of about 40 metres that needs to be repaired.

On the question of bridges, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph referred to the Scotland District area, but on page 104, Scotland District Special Works, we notice here again a drastic cut of about 72%. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether there are any plans to repair the Walkers bridge, and it has caused serious disruption during the past 3 or 4 years as a result of its non-repair, Also, Springvale was made impassable after some heavy rains about a year ago and we were promised that work would start on the repairs to Springvale as soon as the money becomes available. Over a year has passed and nothing has been done with respect to Springvale. Certainly, it is about time the Honourable Minister let us know what plans the Ministry has relevant to this road. 2.40 p.m.

The Member for St. Joseph spoke about the problems with street lighting and I do not think I need to repeat that except to say that street lighting is needed more in these areas which are impassable than in the urban areas where it abounds.

On the question of the water situation, residents in the Apes Hill Development and the Orange Hill area have actually taken a petition to the Water Authority relevant to the water problem they Iiave been experiencing and something was done on a temporary measure. My understanding is that this problem has resurfaced again and maybe the Honourable Minister could tell us whether or not there are any plans to relieve the situation in the Orange Hill Water Hall area. There are other areas that are also affected but these areas are pretty bad. People have to be up as early as 2 o'clock on mornings in order to get a bath and this is not a very comfortable situation.

Just one more thing on the question of privatisation. I note that the Honourable Minister said a few of the routes would be retained by the Transport Board mainly on the coastal areas. I take it to mean that the more

rural areas like St. Andrew and St. Joseph would be retained by the Transport Board. I believe the Minister needs to be specific as to the exact routes because we have been talking about privatisation of the Transport Board for some time and all we are hearing from the Honourable Members is that we have to reorganise the Transport Board so that it would not be a tremendous drain on the taxpayers of this country. I think it is about time the Minister comes with a specific plan as to the reorganisation of the Transport Board

with particular reference to rural areas that are badly affected like St. Andrew and St. Joseph.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Chairman, I have no particular issue to put to the Minister with regard to roads or any of those other things but I want to take the opportunity of this Head to address an issue relating to the Airport which should not take very long.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, in recent time there has been the odd incident at the Airport where someone has died at the Airport. As a result of that, there have been a number of calls for the Government to have a health station or some such thing at the Airport and there have been attacks on the public health nurse who is stationed at the airport.

I believe it is important and necessary that we clear up the situation with regard to why and what the public health nurse is there for and does. In the first instance the Public Health Authority at the Airport is concerned with disease that is transported from one part of the world to the other by humans. It is concerned with public health and in no way is deemed to be or supposed to be some kind of clinic station within the airport.

It is not customary for there to be clinical services available in airports by governments. No one arriving at the International Airport in Canada or the United States of America or Heathrow or any of those international airports will expect to find a health clinic at the airport. Such health facilities as are found at airports are usually provided by the airlines. It is the responsibility of the airlines to have medical personnel available to their passengers in such levels and circumstances as is required.

The attempt to find that the public health nurse who was at the Airport ought to have performed functions that are not normally part of the airport function needs to be put in proper perspective. Airlines have responsibilities to the people who use them. Because it is desirable that we seek to help find solutions to all kinds of problems the Chief Medical Officer has been having discussions with the airlines and other users of the airport to seek to have a coordinated arrangement at the Airport.

I think for those who do not know and, unfortunately, when these matters are reported in the Press'they are sometimes dealt with by persons who might not be familiar with the practice in the international community. Some measure of blame is being ascribed unto the public health nurse who is at the airport for an entirely different reason than that which would fall to a clinic. That is not to say that any medical personnel who happens to be in the vicinity of a person who falls ill do not have some moral responsibility if nothing more than to become involved. It is the old time concept of "Is there a doctor in the house?"

I wanted to take this opportunity to establish for Members of this Honourable Committee that there is no responsibility on the part of Government to provide an airport clinic. After all, when someone is going to have a heart attack he does not choose where to have that attack. I have seen theories in 1 or 2 articles and in letters to the newspapers that would require us to have a clinic in the House of Assembly or in Broad Street: wherever it is possible that someone might be afflicted with a heart attack we would be required to have a clinic. Some of the harsh criticism that has been levelled at some of the staff working in the Public Health Clinic has been quite unjustified.

I thought I would take this opportunity to clear the air and establish that it is no responsibility and/or duty of the Government to have a full scale clinic at the Airport. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I rise once again to raise a few matters. The Prime Minister earlier this year made a ministerial statement in which he alluded to the setting up of a Transport Commission. The Minister in introducing this Head alluded to the transport study.

Now, I am trying to figure out how the Government is going to formulate a policy and the effectiveness of that policy when the transport study is not available but yet major decisions have been announced already. For instance, if as the Prime Minister said in that statement there would be a Transport Commission it would mean that one of the recommendations of the transport study would be something similar to what was referred to by the Prime Minister. We could very well have a situation where a number of things have been put in place and they fall contrary to the recommendation of the transport study. I am mindful that the Transport Study will take into consideration air transport as well but we just have to watch that. I am beginning to wonder if you implement so many things which will obviously fall within the purview of this study whether it would not lead to some sort of confusion. I would suggest we have this study as quickly as

possible so we would know where we are going. We would be quite clear and not be wiser after the event that something is recommended after. It depends too on the timing of this study. 2.50 p.m.
I would also hope that when the privatisation and the bulk of the public transport has fallen into the hands of private concessionaires that the Government recognises the fact that there might be claims for increased bus fares. I think the public expects a clear statement of what would be the position when we take into consideration the establishment of a transport commission and we have privatisation of that magnitude what will happen if these private concessionaires ask for an increase in bus
3337
fares. Who would then be responsible for controlling this? We have to look at whether the matter is going to go before the Public Utilities Board or whether the Government is going to be responsible for that policy in determining what the level of bus fares would be. Let us understand it.
We know that when you privatise you have less leverage. Your interest is reduced. Therefore, you may fall victim to the majority of concessionaires, who we know, and we have heard the Minister say, they will run buses when they feel like. I would like to know who will be responsible for regulating these matters. In other words, we need a regulatory authority. I would like the Minister to speak on this because if we are going to move into this very serious subject, then we have to be quite clear. There are possibilities we will have hurdles and some problems so we need to deal with them.
The other question which I would like to ask is this. I go back also to the statement made by the Honourable Member about a valuer being invited to do a valuation on the rolling stock and equipment owned by the Transport Board. We have to be careful because valuations change from time to time. I want the Government to understand that I am mindful and I stand to be corrected, and I do not think I need to be corrected in this, that there are some 124 buses lying down because they are immobile due to some reasons such as no insurance. They are not road worthy. They are lying down at the Transport Board. No use is being made of them. They cannot go on the road while 180 are in business.
When one is^talking about valuing the rolling stock I do not know if that will be part of the rolling stock. I am trying to get an understanding of this because rolling stock does not necessarily mean the buses that are operating at the moment. The rolling stock will have to take into consideration those buses. I would like to know if the Government would be thinking in terms of selling those buses that are lying there which cannot be used by them for one reason or another.
I want to be quite clear on this because this subject was raised some time by the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central speaking in another place about selling off some of the assets of the Transport Board to pay severed workers. This is a very serious thing because we want to know what sort of money we are looking at. I would not want the expectation of people to be that great when we are talking about selling off buses. If you are taking 75 from 180 you are looking at 105 buses so by the time you have to look at depreciation, the age of buses, what they hre selling for because some of the buses will cost very little depending on the age, the availability of spare parts, and all of that.
I also want to raise the question of why it is you have spent money on fitting fare boxes as recently as last year and whether you are going to sell those buses with the fare boxes. That is why I said we have to go into this with an indepth study of what you are doing when you come to transport because we are talking about the public's money. This belongs to all of us in Barbados. We want to know exactly how this matter is going be approached.
This takes me on to the programme which Government has for improving the minibus and ZR bus stands, I am going to repeat this that all is not well with those bus stands particularly the one at Fairchild Street. People have been complaining of bag snatching, harassment and drivers not wanting to park there after a certain hour because it is poorly lit. Above all, there are no proper lactrinal facilities.
My understanding is that a request was made by the ZR Association to have permission to construct some sort of facility at the Fairchild Street Bus Stand with a view to providing proper lactrinal facilities and so forth. I would hope that matter is given some immediate attention. It is very, very important. I do not think we should sit down on that. It is absolutely necessary. Let me make the point. I see no difficulty once the Town and Country Planning approves it and I see no reason why it cannot and should not be approved and this permission granted so that we can have a proper and more orderly conduct of business in that bus stand. We have to look here again at the person and the threat to persons when they are about to r*nch the buses there.

I know the Government is trying to accommodate these ZR people and the minibuses. But, at the same time, there is some infrastructure that has to be put in place. It is no sense putting them there and then putting them in conditions that leave a lot to be desired. I would hope something is looked at. I am not quite sure. It is not identified in the Ministry what these things will be. It just says providing a sum of money to assist with these bus stations.
I also want the Government ta answer what they are going to do when you reduce the number of buses operating from Bridgetown. What are you going to do with the large bus stand? That is going to be under-utilised. I am making that statement. It will be under-utilised because if you are reducing the number of buses that is a very big bus stand that was built in order to accommodate a certain number of buses. I am going to suggest that whoever buys the buses that some consideration be looked at so that they could use part of that bus terminal.
As far as the bus terminal in St. Peter is concerned, I am aware that some refurbishment has taken place down there. There is a good workshop down there. I just want

to know that these services are coordinated so that when we have the 75 or 80 buses we will not have this foolish expenditure. We would want to see proper coordination of this kind of work. I am raising these questions so that those in the Ministry who are responsible for advising the Minister would take into consideration all the various factors which must come into play when determining what would be the future policy of public transport. 3.00 p.m.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member will conclude in 2 minutes.
Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I also want to conclude by saying that I hope I will not have to come on the Floor of this House or elsewhere and criticise the Government for having more than 3 drivers per bus. My understanding is that the advice is that there should be $2V_2$ buses per bus and the most is 3. I would hope that we will not have a situation where there are too many drivers for too few buses.
Mr. Chairman, I feel that sometimes I am being' criticised for giving the Government sound advice but I have a civic duty because if there is wastage I have to pay and I do not want to pay for something I should not be paying for. I hope the Minister will take this into consideration and whatever recommendation is made to him see to it that we do not have 200 or 300. I think the most, at the moment, should be between 100 to 175 drivers based on the figure which the Minister said are the buses he would like to retain. So that is the second part of my contribution.
His Hon. Mr. T. C. ESTWICK: Sir, I rise to make a short intervention. This was not part of my plan, Mr. Chairman. I want to start by first raising some queries about the Water Authority and the provision of water services, not only in the Christ Church East Constituency that I represent, but across Barbados in general. I believe, Sir, this is virtually the start of the dry season and across Barbados today you can hear people crying out and lamenting the fact that adequate water services are not supplied to them.
Now, I do not know the reason for this. I have not heard any proper explanation for it either. I think, Sir, if we are talking about productivity in Barbados, if we are talking about commerce in Barbados, one of the most essential things that must necessarily be gotten right is the provision of water supplies to everybody, not only to businesses but to the population as a whole.
Now, in particular, in the Christ Church East constituency the areas of Chancery Lane and Ealing Park and if I may add, below the Atlantic Shores area, Inch Marlow, suffer tremendously from inadequate supplies of
water. If there is water at all between the hours of 5.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. it is a trickle and I must say that people must virtually bathe in pep bottles of water that they have saved up the night before.
This is ridiculous, Mr. Chairman, in view of the amount of money which is paid by many people to the Water Authority and towards taxes in general. As I said I do not know the reason for it. There was some lame excuse given that a pump at Hampton went bad the other day. If we are dealing with machinery I believe there must be a regular and adequate regime of maintenance on machinery and equipment in Barbados. You just do not wait for things to break down then to rush in an emergency situation to repair. Likewise we hear of endless pipes that have burst in the ground. These are excuses that I have been hearing from the time I was a little boy, that pipes have burst in the ground and water is running away. In 1993, with modern technology that is nonsense to be telling people.
Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I saw it with my own eyes in an area in Chancery Lane and I called the Water Authority about it on more than one occasion and it took them about 3 weeks to repair a burst pipe. Now that is not good enough in 1993 either and we talk about savings.

The beautiful thing about the system in which we live and the attitude that we have in this country is that politicians take the licks and the persons who ought to be doing the work do not do it. But yet, the politicians do not do anything to those people either. So I suspect the politicians deserve the licks. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that we are in trouble - let me put it that way.
Let me now give a word of caution. I am not a golfer but we are hearing talk about the golf projects coming on. which will be using exceedingly large quantities of water. I am not condemning them, as a matter of fact I am all for them. Like my friend to the left, I am all for casinos too. They have to come and if the old regime does not want to be modern, we the young fellows will have to be modern. I am not interested in speaking about that at this point in time.
*Aside.*
His Hon. T. C. ESTWICk: But people like you and the Church criticise it all the time.
We have to be very careful, Sir, how we manage our water resources from here on in, not only in terms of the supply which we provide to people but also in terms of how we preserve and protect the water supply which we now have.
*I* think recently we have heard talk about possible contamination from pesticides from persons. I think we have to be extremely careful in that regard as to what
3339
water supply and the provision of water supplies that we give to people in Barbados.
I thought I heard it being hypothesised that part of the reason for the failure of the Transport Board was that the drivers did not really stop for persons who were not at the bus stop waiting for the bus. Well, I totally agree with the drivers. I was left on a few occasions. Barbadians leave here and go to Canada and must go by a bus stop. They leave here and go to England and must wait by a bus stop and line up. Nowadays we have people standing in their verandahs and shouting at a mini-bus and the man stopping in the middle of a bend.
Sir, it is about time that we appreciate the fact that a society can only advance if it is disciplined and if people understand. Let me put it in the most minutest form and I say it all the time. A bus stop is put there for a particular reason. The Transport Authorities did not put a bus stop where they put it because they did not have anything to do. They put it there for both a negative reason and a positive reason. It is like having a sidewalk in Bridgetown. The Government or whoever pays to build a sidewalk, pays to make it readily available to people and you will still see people walking in the middle of the street, hoping to get knocked down to get a piece of insurance money. To me, these things are outlandish. Something is put there to be used, you do not use it but then you expect society to conform to your indiscipline. We have had enough of it in the past and we have too much of it now under the present regime that we have with the totally chaotic mini-bus system which is presently operating in Barbados.
There must be a way to deal severely and quickly with these issues of indiscipline. One way or the other they have to be dealt with otherwise we may as well sit down, shut shop, go home and let anarchy reign. It is the small things in society which I have just emphasised that matter in the long run. No matter what laws we pass, unless the society or the people in the society are prepared to adhere to things which are of benefit to them then we are really wasting time.
"Drainage: We are technically in the dry season and I think this is an adequate time for the relevant authorities to do a generalised approach to well cleaning and sinking of wells in respect of drainage. 3.10 p.m.
Every year in the area of Callenders, which is in my constituency as well as by the St. Patrick's Primary School, when rain is around the little children find it impossible to pass the St. Patrick's - Walrond area because it is so flooded during that time. My friend who once represented the area, Sir, is quite v ? .vinced that that remains a BLP afea. Well, so be it. I still have a responsibility to them even though they voted for Mr. Bowen on the last occasion and did something to him. Anyway, that is another matter.
*I* am talking about the wells not only in the Christ Church. The dry season is about the only time that I can think of that you can look at wells and clean them or sink some that need to be sunk.
Sir, we have also heard talk about the development at the Airport and the realignment of the Airport roads around Thyme* Bottom, Parish Land and Pilgrim Road. It is of extreme concern to the people in that area because some people have been complaining to me that they have heard that they will be relocated to Haggatt Hall. They do not really want to leave the Christ Church East area. I would ask, Sir, that plans at all stages be made known to the people so that they can plan their lives. If they are to be realigned or relocated, at least they will be able to do it at any early stage and they will be able to plan their lives at least in the short and medium term.

I have heard talk, too, from other Honourable Members about roads in their constituencies. Sir, I think the last time that roads were done in the constituency of Christ Church East, and I thank him, was when the Honourable Member now for St. Joseph did a couple of extremely small roads in Silver Sands and patched one or two other areas. The result is now history, Sir. He was actually known as the Minister for patching up there. Seriously, Sir, we have the Wilcox Hill area. Something must be done with the Wilcox Hill Road as quickly as is humanly possible and likewise, Sir, the King Corner. I have had repeatedly, Sir, to speak to the Minister about King Corner in which Dr. Demoge lost her life tlw other night and quite a few people have lost their lives over the years. It is a terribly bad corner and it is even made worse by the erratic driving habits of the minibus men who ply that route. It is absolute madness out there at peak hours. I have already spoken about it, Sir, and I am hoping that something will be done about it as quickly as possible. When it comes to the repair of roads, I can give a list of them - Lead Vale, Walrond, St. Patrick's, Lowthers, Charnocks, Parish Land. The Fairy Valley Road down the hill is really a disgrace because there is no road.

Sir, there is no proper disposal of garbage because no garbage truck can go down and I know of no Barbadian who is going to climb a hill to put garbage onto a truck. So they just throw it down the hill. It is unsightly now in respect to tourism and the tourists who are using the Long Beach Resort. No fire engine can get down there and no ambulance can get down there. I am talking about Fairy Valley down the hill. It is a particularly bad scene especially when rain falls. In 1993, young women should not be going to work with two pairs of shoes and having to hide one pair of boots more than likely in the grass to collect them in the evening time or tie plastic bags around their feet. That should not be obtaining in 1993. I think, Sir, that there will come a time when politicians will not be able to explain these issues. These are matters which 3340

have existed before my time and my mother assures me that they existed when she was a girl in the area. They have been around for a long time and time is going to run out on us. We just will not be able to keep making excuses or trying to put back issues and events. I am not saying that everything in Christ Church East can be done within 5 years or within a year. But there must be certain things and certain areas on which all Honourable Members must respect one another. I know that if something in my area is acutely bad that that has to be done before something in my honourable friend's constituency. I think we have to respect one another well enough to appreciate that fact.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

His Hon. T. C. ESTWICK: There is an area in Gibbons Ridge running from the same Wilcox Hill to Thornbury Hill which is a ridiculous road. There is an access road which is overgrown between the same Gibbons Ridge and Gibbons Boggs. This is a road that can take a lot of load off the top roads if it is adequately repaired.

I appreciate the fact, Sir, that money is tight and, as' I said before, that all of us cannot get all things done in the time that we would want them done. But I believe that collectively we have to at least seek to impress upon the powers that be. I think it is well known in Barbados that the powers that be certainly do not sit in the back and we, too, are in need of help. We are in need of getting things done in our constituencies because at the end of the day it is not for our benefit, but it is for the benefit of persons who put us in this Honourable House to serve them. That is the important point I would like to finish on.

Sir, I have said that I do not localize my approach to my constituency alone. I have spoken about the water problem for the entire country. I have spoken about the necessity for us to join heads and hands and prioritise what has to be done for the benefit of Barbados. I am convinced that, if Barbados is to advance and if we are to bring new industries into Barbados, the Ministry of Transport and Works must be one of the most important Ministries. That Ministry has to provide the infrastructure for any developmental thrust which we are going to have. I end by saying, Sir, that the provision of adequate and safe water supply is one of the most important ingredients in any thrust that we can have. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South caught my eye.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very brief, probably about 2 or 3 minutes. Earlier today I made the point about Transport Board drivers going along and leaving persons who are only 5 or 6 feet from the bus stops. The point that I was trying to make is this. I explained to my colleague but he apparently did not

understand what I was ^saying. I was trying to explain the reasons why the minibuses were more liked or used by the people of the country than the Transport Board buses. I was not trying to make a point about whether the driver should or should not stop. That was a point being made to show that the people could trust the minibus driver that, if they were only 6 feet from the bus stop or even further, he would stop. Let

me say this, Mr. Chairman. I lived in England for 3 years and the buses also stopped for you if you are not at the bus stop providing the driver can see that you are making an effort to get to the bus stop. I lived in England for 3 years and that is a fact. The first thing that has to be done is to stop the nonsense by the minibus drivers. They should not be allowed to stop any place. That is what is needed. Once you can stop the minibuses from stopping willy-nilly including roundabouts and things like that, then all the drivers of these vehicles will know that those people will be making an effort to get to the bus stop. The point that has to be made, Mr. Chairman, is this. In England, as the Honourable Member said, you have to line up at the bus stop. That is true. But if the driver sees that you are honestly making an effort to get to the bus stop, he presses the button and the door opens and you step in. That was the point I was making. In Barbados, air that has to happen is this. If the driver stopped at the bus stop and sees you coming, all he has to do is to remain at the bus stop until you get there. I do not see the argument I do not want anyone to think that I am encouraging lawlessness. I am the complete opposite. I just want the point to be made that the minibuses will have to be told where to stop and it has to be enforced. This was one of the reasons why people gravitated to the minibuses. That is the point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I would like to respond to all the questions asked but that certainly is not going to be possible. I will have to choose those that I will be able to respond to. I will start first of all, Sir, with the contribution made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East in respect to water services and drainage as well as making all kinds of services available to people including road services in Fairy Valley under the hilL I have grown accustomed over the years, Mr. Chairman, to my fellow countrymen siting their homes in the most inaccessible areas and then expect that all services must be brought to those places where those homes are. That is clearly impossible. This is still Barbados. It is not the United States of America. We are still very limited in our resources and there is no way that our country will ever be able to afford to carry all the services to all the people in the little areas where they have gone to live. That is impossible and, therefore, I want to make that clear right now. I want other people to understand this as well.

On the question of water service provision, let me start this now. There is the Stanley Report which I

3341

am not sure that it was ever laid in this Chamber and I doubt very much that it has been. But around 1970 or 1980 or thereabouts, he reported but nothing has been done about that report. 3.20 p.m.

I believe there are some persons who would not have liked something being done about it, because it made all kinds of recommendations, some of which did not find favour with some persons. I reactivated the report and I will do something about it.

According to the Stanley Report, Barbados' water resources have been estimated at about 54.7 million gallons per day, of which 7 million gallons are surface water from the Scotland District. The present demand is for 32.5 million gallons and private irrigation 10 million, making a total abstraction of water of over 42.5 million gallons of water. The Water Authority presently pumps 32.5 million gallons of water per day.

*Aside.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Of course it is too high. It is much too high, but this is the dry season, Mr. Chairman. In the dry season we have to understand that the level of water drops, because there is a greater demand in the dry season than there is in the wet season for the use of water. Because of the demand and the supply, we do have problems.

Let us look at the Hampton Station, to which reference was made before. On 3 occasions, according to my advice, the Water Authority stopped the station to upgrade the electrical equipment there. The Honourable Member for Christ^ Church East spoke of preventive maintenance, and this is the point I am making here now, that on 3 occasions it was stopped in order to upgrade the electrical equipment there, to provide the very kind of maintenance of which he spoke. On 4 other occasions there were power cuts and after the power cuts the pumps malfunctioned and there were problems until the water was restored.

We are bound to find all kinds of problems, Mr. Chairman, in matters of this kind. I agree with a comment I just heard that these are matters which should be brought to the public so that the public can understand what the situation is, both in terms of the demand for water, of what we are able to provide and of water conservation.

Barbados proposes to undertake a comprehensive water resources management and water loss study, the aim of which is to rational ise the use of water resources and wifl focus on all potential sources of water in the island, including ground water, surface water, treated and untreated waste water, as well as brackish

water and even sea water.
These are the things we are hoping to study. Out of this we are hoping to be able to devise a 20-year plan for dealing with our water resources. The Inter American Development Bank has allocated the sum of about U.S. $1 million, about Bds. $2 million, to utilise for financing short term consultancy services in order to provide the study relating to that particular matter of which I spoke just now.
Drainage. From the funds we have available to us we expect that we will be able to clean about 130 existing wells and we might be able to sink 32 new wells. With the amount of construction going on in Barbados and the number of wells that are being sunk on a regular basis from time to time, Barbados will soon be a country of wells. That is the system we have at the moment, soon to be supplemented further by the Sewerage Authority, but it is the system we employ at the moment for the taking off of our water. If that is our system, then we have to do the best we can in the circumstances we have.
King's Corner is a very, very dangerous junction where about 4 roads converge. It is no surprise to me that there has been loss of life at that corner. I have spoken to some officers of the Ministry about King's Corner, particularly since the accident, and as a matter of fact I spoke to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and some other persons about King's Corner, and some useful suggestions have been made. That is one area we will have to look at in order to bring some measure of security and safety to that particular area. 3.30 p.m.
Now there are a number of questions asked and the fact is that I cannot answer all those questions. I am sorry the Member for St. Andrew is no longer in his seat but there are certain questions he asked that in my introductory statement I have already volunteered the information. He was not here then and now I am about to give the information he is still not here.
A number of persons have spoken about the services particularly the road resurfacing and the rebuilding in their area as well as lighting and to some extent drainage. These are matters that I would want to take up. I would want it to be understood that I have not taken note of every single road of which mention has been made here this afternoon. That was not possible. If Honourable Members really want to have their matters dealt with apart from the fact of having spoken about it here I would suggest to them that they should write and identify the particular matters of which they have spoken so that they can be given some consideration. Those are roads and I will deal with them in that general fashion rather than with each one singly.
As regards the member for St. Michael South East who returned to the question of the Transport Board and matters pertaining to it. He spoke about the transport commission, yet part of the transport plan for

Barbados involves a commission that would be the kind of umbrella authority to have responsibility for the whole of public transport in Barbados. It cannot be done by the Transport Board because that is an operator in itself and that too will have to be regulated. It would have to be done by some commission that is higher than the Transport Board which will be able to regulate all transport in Barbados.
Because of time constraints in my introductory remarks I was not able to deal with this particular matter but, apart from that and the fact that the Prime Minister mentioned it, I have spoken about this on some previous occasion about having a transport commission that would look after the whole system of transportation in Barbados.
At the moment one of the reasons why we are unable to observe the April 1 deadline for privatisation is the question of a number of things and, of course, the question of the valuation is one of them. It is not only a valuation of rolling stock. We are valuing totally the assets of the Transport Board including the rolling stock. What the Transport Board is selling to others would be rolling stock. It does not and cannot sell the Fairchild Street Bus Stand because as far as I am aware it does not belong to the Transport Board. It cannot sell the Speightstown Bus Stand for a similar reason. It does not belong to the Transport Board. So those things will be kept and may be used for the purpose for which they were constructed. That is as a bus stand. The Fairchild Street bus stand will be a bus stand in the South and the Speightstown Bus Stand in the North and we have just agreed on a firm which we believe is competent to value the stock of the Transport Board. When this is done, at that point we will have discussions with all those persons who have expressed an interest in purchasing that part of the Transport Board that will be for sale.
The route taxi application to build a bus stand. I am not familiar with it myself but it is something that has to be looked at very carefully. If they want to build a bus stand in an area we believe can be allocated for such a purpose then, perhaps, we can have some serious discussions as to how that can be done and as to all matters pertaining to it then and in the future that there is no difficulty where that is concerned.
We go back a bit to the Scotland District which is an area of particular difficulty not only to us but to any Government in Barbados. It is not an easy matter to deal with because it requires the kind of resources that

we do not have. It has its own peculiar problem and from the advice I was given by my technical people one problem leads into another. What we have been doing is providing temporary linkages that will enable people of St. Andrew and those others who want to move from one parish to another to get there. It will not and cannot be of the quality
that one will find in other parts of Barbados. If you do it today, tomorrow it disappears and we cannot afford it. What we are providing are temporary linkages, whether it be a road or a bridge. The bridge might be wooden but they are passable and that is the best that we can do at this time until we are able one of these days to be able to provide for the people of St. Andrew who really and truly deserve better because it is not their fault. It is an intractable problem that we have and we will do the best we can in those circumstances.
I still have not yet spoken about international transport.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I would like to turn with permission of the Committee to the issue of international transport using as my point of departure Program 11 and 12 opposite page 111 of the Estimates, 1993-1994. It seems to me that one of the greatest threats to the viability of Barbados' tourism and as a result to our economy is the whole question of the financial crisis facing the world's aviation industry and its likely impact on the carriers that service Barbados, the American, the European, the Canadian and the regional airline BWIA in particular. It seems to me that the crisis is so serious and the fall out so imminent for us that it is about time we begin to talk about it with a view not only to sensitizing those who follow the entire population and the industry but to try to get from Government what in particular is its standby strategy in the event of the worst scenario developing as a result of this' crisis.
Now, Mr. Chairman, it cannot be denied that the financial crisis facing the aviation industry is perhaps the worst it has faced since it became a mature and full fledged industry. That crisis is reflected in the fact, for example, that 3 of the American carriers, Continental, TWA and American West are operating under Chapter 11, in bankruptcy. > 3.40 p.m.
It is reflected in the fact that at a recent session of the Aviation Subcommittee of Congress some of the American carriers were asking that the air bill fee and the ticket tax, both of which yield revenue that is used for airport development across the country, that they be allowed to use that money, as it were, in order to subsidise their operations and try to return to financial viability.
Now America is still regarded as the home of capitalism. When the airline industry could be asking the Government for a subsidy, I think it gives you some feel as to how acute the crisis is. It is reflected in the fact that in Canada, for example, Air Canada has run up a debt of over $2 billion across the border. It is reflected in the fact
3343
that except for Swiss Air, Alitalia and Air France in Europe the story is much the same with serious losses, restructuring and alliances going on. It is reflected farther afield in the fact that Air Japan has had to have a state subsidy, so too has Quantus in Australia; and even though the Pacific carriers have been the most successful financially over the years, most of them are beginning now to chalk up substantial reductions in income and profit.
Now, no useful purpose would be served at this point, Mr. Chairman, in tracing the history of the crisis, whether it preceded deregulation under President Carter in the United States of America or whether its origins were manifested later; or the impact that the international recession has had, or in the Gulf War and the price of fuel and so on. I do not think that any useful purpose would be served in going into that. I think we can proceed on the premise that the crisis is real and very much with us and that it has resulted in certain consequences with which we have to concern ourselves. For example, there has been predatory pricing policies among the airlines, cut-throat competition and the airfare wars among them.
We have had a lot of losses in the industry. We have had a lot of routes abandoned by airlines. We have had aircraft being parked. American Airlines, for example, has taken some air buses off their routes. There were 25 of them, a lot of DC 10s too are parked in the deserts of Arizona and California. The President of the holding company and Chief Executive of American Airlines has recently gone public to the effect that if the losses continue American Airlines will have to look to the non-airline section of its business in order to remain in business. They are the ones that are making money.
He has also made it clear that one of the inevitable consequences of the present crisis is that passengers will have restricted choices for the future, less options in terms of travel, and the options

that will emerge will be more expensive. Now, that obviously has severe implications for us in Barbados because we rely on other people to move tourists in and out of Barbados. We have no national carrier of our own as part of our strategy of economic development or of tourism support. We have to rely on American Airlines, Air Canada, British Airways and BWIA.

Now, at present, we have more capacity in air seats than there is demand. American Airlines provides us with one direct flight from New York every day, one from Miami and I think there are 2 flights over Puerto Rico. The demand is out of harmony with the capacity. As part of the restructuring and dnvn-sizing operation the time will cfcrtainly come very soon, perhaps in a matter of months, when the existing arrangements will have to be radically altered. I think that is the clear shape of the future.

Equally, Sir, British West Indies Airways has major problems. The problem is again a financial one. It has affected its ability to provide adequately additional fleet and to service us in the way we have been serviced by BWIA in the past. But BWIA is central to our tourism and because of the fact that the Trinidad Government, with its financial difficulties, has not been able to provide subsidies of the shape and size of the past, BWIA has been forced to pay its way in the world. It is clear that BWIA's difficulties will seriously and adversely affect its service to Barbados. It is clear too, for example, that BWIA will not be able.to provide the service it has been providing from Germany in the future. The many points out of Germany from which BWIA serviced Barbados I think it is fair to say will not continue, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt and others.

I think it is clear also, Sir, that the services out of Miami and New York may very well be affected for the future. The picture all around is one of crisis on the part of the airlines service and an inevitable down-sizing of their operations which will affect the seating capacity in and out of Barbados for the future.

The experience of the Bahamas in relation to British Airways is a chilling reminder of what can happen when you rely on these carriers to provide the seating capacity and support your tourism and all of a sudden they discontinue operations. British Airways virtually discontinued its operations in the Bahamas with serious consequences for its tourism sector. We ourselves need not go as far as the Bahamas for a reminder because the failure of Pan Am and Eastern has robbed Barbados between them of something like 300 000 air seats. That is a lot indeed. That reminds us of what can happen when these airlines run into financial difficulties.

What I want to know and I think the public will be concerned to know from the Minister is what plans Government has in the event of the worst situation arising, a situation such as BWIA virtually dropping out of the skies. What are the standby arrangements, a situation in which American Airlines reduces its 4 flights to 2, a situation in which Air Canada cannot service us in the way it has serviced us in the past and in which British Airways itself reduces its activities to and from Barbados? 3.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member has 2 minutes.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I regard that, Sir, as an important question and I think it is connected to the question as to whether we in Barbados can avoid spending a considerable sum, such as we used to spend in Caribbean Airways in trying to help ourselves.

We have survived thus far on the basis of getting others to provide the services for us but the time may



very well come when in order to penetrate new markets and in order to ensure that certain areas that are meaningful for Barbados' tourism are serviced we may have to get in there ourselves and spend some money.

I am not suggesting that it will necessarily take the shape of a revival of Caribbean Airways in its traditional activities in the past but it seems to me that whether we ride the tide because of spare capacity that is available, whatever we do it might very well be that we cannot avoid helping ourselves in the light of the crisis and the likely shake-out as it is going, inevitably, to affect our tourism in Barbados.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments on this Head which is a very important one in the overall economy.

Between the Airport, the Seaport an$ public land transport there is a great deal of importance within the structure of our total economy. These are the major infrastructural areas and I wish to make a few

comments on them, both in terms of description and in terms of prescription. It seems to me that in 2 years in particular we have had some fairly serious transformations. The Bridgetown Port is one such area and one phase of that transformation started in the 1980s and is continuing where in fact we have had to restructure our Port operations, both in terms of the actual physical structure of the Port and I think moving from that we have also been re-assessing procedures and operations in that particular area.

I think we can all recall when the gantry crane first came to Barbados and the impact that lasted for some time before we could make the kind of transition that would make the Port what it appears to be today and put it in the path that it seems to be going.

I would like to recall that the present Minister was responsible for introducing a UNDP team which came and set up a series of workshops and seminars which helped the transition proper. In fact that team was here again led by Dr. Brian Zamas from the University of Wales and the exercise that was attempted on that occasion was to put the social partners together and by examining a case study of the Bridgetown Port, analyse where it had come from, where it was, and where it had to go in the future. It seems to me that has been remarkably successful in bringing about a transformation at the Port that we now have to monitor and see where it goes. I think that is admirable.

I recognise at this stage that the Port is again poised to make certain changes. I am very glad, for instance, that the Port is not thinking about going back to the old privatisation business. In fact it seems that the Port is going in the other direction. That is, further centralisation of its operations. You will recall that it was not so long ago that the Port was basically a private sector area with the Port

Department providing some ancillary services *et cetera*. It seems to me that under the structure that now exists with a public sector enterprise in control and with the kinds of initiatives that have been taken, the Port can be a successful area of operation. I say that, to perhaps compare it with the transport system because I do not believe there is going to be any significant change in the way how the airport is going to be managed or that there will be significant changes in the operations of the airport where there is a fusion of public and private sector operations that at this point in time seem to be delivering the goods.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot say that I see the same type of calm and peaceful transformation in the land transport operation that I have seen at the Seaport. I recognise that perhaps the greatest element here was perhaps an element from outside. I am still a bit concerned because we recognise from the Letter of Intent that the Port was one of those areas that was named directly for privatisation. It seems to me an unfolding saga of where the transport system is going. I agree the Transport Board is only a part of the overall question of land transport. And quite frankly, in terms of the timing, it seems to me a bit precipitated that they have taken decisions about the Transport Board before we have been able to get the benefit of the studies about mass transport which should be used as a basis for decision making.

As I said before, I believe this is because the IMF took a decision about the Transport Board. I am not pleased about that. I am not happy about that. Again I will say, I do not think that the present decision makers in the Ministry of Transport are necessarily to be blamed for what has happened but they have to execute policy once that policy is determined.

It seems to me that that orderly transition from a Transport Board to where we are going, because up to now I am not clear where we are or where we have to end up, is still a matter of concern for us and the social partners because the train transition which can be managed if it is very clear where we are starting from and where we are going, that management by the social partners has not been there. Quite frankly it seems to me that there is still an element of uncertainty of where we are going.

In the meantime, decisions about infrastructure, decisions about rolling stock - and I have grave doubts anybody will want to buy Transport Board buses -decisions about human resources, these decisions are coming to us in a very *ad hoc* and a very piece meal manner and I feel that I have to speak about it.

I will repeat my position on this and I will still hope that those who can make the decisions will recognise that there is a massive difference between privatisation, total divestment and really, in the case of Transport Board

3345

as it appears to me, a dismantling of an existing system where I am not even sure how much thought has been given to what is going to be the replacement system. 4.00 p.m.

What is our vision right now in terms of mid-year or after mid-year in Barbados of a land transport system and what this will mean for the workers of this country and what this will mean about orderliness in our society, I am not yet convinced that these matters have been given the full thought that there is a crystallization of thinking in this matter. I would hope that there is a strong understanding that perhaps the best that can be done now is that a solid core of public transport can still be held even at this late stage.

Sir, I am hoping that the divestment that has already occurred, and we have no difficulties saying that has happened, that we can call it an end now and we can rationalise whatever structures that are there at present and try to make the best of them. We all know that in terms of the public transport system the most valuable parts are really the routes and not the rolling stock at the Transport Board. They do not have any real value. The r^^s are the important thing. Unless any private sector grou$_F$ of persons will be guaranteed that they will have lucrative routes, they are not going to become involved in any further privatisation system. Unless you get big groups that are going to continue over time and you devolve your system down to very small concessionaires, they will also have problems in the coming years in terms of the continuity of their business. It is all right in the first stages where you can make some money but after you have to replace the rolling stock and after you have to make social commitments to workers and pay the NIS and all sorts of things that will be coming at you, you will find some defaulting down the line. You are going to find that the quality of the rolling stock is not going to be good. I am saying do not wait until we get there and we find that we are living in a guarded situation in this country. Let us exercise our vision up front. We have gone as far as we believe that we can go in this matter and I feel now that it is a matter that must be taken very seriously. We must try to examine where we are in terms of our rolling stock. Regarding all of the buildings that we have put up in terms of terminals *et cetera* and the provision of adequate services to the workers of this country, let us hold where we are and let us try to maximize efficiency in the Transport Board. I am sure that the people of this country will not be short-changed.

Mr. Chairman, we in our country have been fairly amateurist in our approach to certain areas. I have always maintained that we hav", -\ massive transport system. We haVe never really appointed transport economists and so on. We have not sent people to be qualified in these areas. There is no reason why we should not have a transport

economist whose job it is to help to develop the kinds of systems and structures in the Transport Board that will make it efficient. In these days of computerization and so on, you can develop the information systems and scheduling and all of those things that perhaps, if they had been introduced 10 years ago, it might the Board in a

different position.

*

Sir, in terms of placing the correct personnel there and in terms of even looking at your rolling stock, I believe that one of the things that we missed in Barbados was the fact that the need for those big buses was diminishing. We were caught up in the old-time tradition of buying a Leyland or Mercedes that we continued buying them and it was only the wisdom of the market that the concessionaires started to buy small buses. They realised that a small bus with a rapid turnaround was more useful in our transport system than the big buses. What you are going to find now that the Transport Board now has all of the big buses but the people out there who are making the money do not have any. They recognised that the market was telling them to go for a different structure. Sometimes you can become wise after the event. I am convinced that, if the Transport Board had recognised this and had not bought those buses during the 1980's and early 1990's, the picture would be different. Because one time there was the thinking that they buy the buses from Brazil and so on, small buses and not the old time buses. But I still do not think that they answered the question in the way it should be answered. That is my concern, Sir, in terms of the land transportation.

Sir, I see there is a vote here under Structures at the Bridgetown Port and perhaps the Minister might be able to satisfy us about what those siructures are. I would imagine that we are trying to improve the structures in terms of cruise tourism. I understand, of course, that we have to be looking at the short and medium term of container park. But I have no idea what that money for structures includes and perhaps the Minister can tell us.

In terms of roads, Sir, I am being a bit parochial here. I think that over the last number of years the Ministry of Transport and Works has tried to improve the road system in Barbados. It is always a very expensive exercise and it is one that can never be completed. Even as you are finishing roads, the rain will come again and where roads appear to be even and well surfaced you can get developments of potholes again. So there seems to be a continuous saga of trying to fight against the elements to, maintain the road system as best as possible. 4.10 p.m.

There is, Sir, a major link road, the one which goes from Oistin right through Lodge Road, St. Patrick's up to Six Roads. I think that was scheduled to be done at this time - I think the Minister could probably remind



me - but I think the citizens in the area of St. Patrick's had received letters indicating that the surveys were to be carried out. I am hoping we will be able to complete that particular project, because the road is really

in a very bad state of repair and I think the people of St. Patrick's and Fair View deserve better. I have no doubt that you will be advised on that and that it will be completed. Then again, across the road, to Lowthers/Fair View Hill, a road the planning behind which was started by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph at the time there was they levy, but another Minister did not want to carry it through. I think it was Minister Johnson at the time who did not want to carry through on that one. It was substantially worked on, but I think it needs now to be completed. One of the difficulties when you start these road projects and then there is a hiatus in completing, you spend a lot of money. The rain damages the surface and you have to come back and build again. I hope this second bite will mean there will be a completed road in that area.

I want to express my appreciation on the whole of the work which is being done in the Ministry of Transport arid Works. In very tough times you cannot always do the difficult road work, but they have been doing certain things in the area. For instance, they have been putting in road signs and street names, those types of things that are in the tidying up area. I think the Ministry of Transport and Works, sometimes unsolicited, has been going through that work. I go through my constituency and I see at different junctions they paint the lines in so that the motorists know when they should and should not stop. I see a lot of signs going up - "Children crossing" - not only in areas where schools are but generally in residential areas and I think they must be commended for a lot of that tidying up work which is going on.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for making those interventions. In closing, I will say this is a Works Ministry and it therefore caters to a lot of workers, especially unestablished staff. I hope that eyes will not be placed there in terms of cuts again. They have already suffered. Areas which are very efficient, public sector enterprises which fall within this Ministry, like the Water Authority, I hope they will not think about laying off people at this time. It is a very, very difficult time where you have to carry a few more Barbadians along the path and I hope we will be able to do it. I know that this Ministry is one that has a fairly big wages bill and therefore it will always be a target to see perhaps where reductions could be made, but I would like to put in a plea to all of those who have to manage that Ministry to try and retain the unskilled workers as much as possible, because it is very difficult for them out there to get sustenance anywhere else than in areas of work such as this.

I thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think it is necessary to place on record my concern about aviation as it relates to Barbados. It is therefore necessary for me to recap and go back through a number of years to indicate to you where I think we should be in terms of organising ourselves to ensure that we never run into a problem with aviation.

If I take you prior to 1973 when we had the oil* crisis, airlines operating into Barbados - British Airways, Air Canada, Air France, ALM, BWIA - were able to operate scheduled carriers in and out of Barbados without having to worry significantly about the amount of payload they had available to them at that time, the reason being that the operating costs of airlines prior to 1973 were very minimal. I think the payload yield in those years was somewhere between 15% and 20% of capacity that was necessary for the airline to operate successfully.

After the oil crisis in 1973 a situation developed in Barbados where we immediately saw the payload yield of capacity rise to somewhere in the vicinity of 60% to 65%, which meant that every aircraft, operating into Barbados would have to have a guaranteed yield of at least 65% to ensure that it broke even. This question of airlines operating into Barbados became a matter of dollars and cents. No airline will operate into Barbados or to any destination unless it is financially viable.

In addition to the oil crisis, you will recall that the world in general started to have a problem with hijacking' and it meant that airlines then had to focus their attention on security. This introduced another cost to the operating of an airline. Then they started to introduce bigger equipment. Seven-four-sevens came on stream, which cost a lot more money, and by 1975, taking all of these things into consideration, a situation developed where all airlines started to introduce what they called in those days apex fares. Apex fares were cheaper, they were designed to ensure that airlines operating on a particular route had a guaranteed payload. They went for specific target marketing into different market niches in Canada, the United States, London and Europe where you had to guarantee getting so many people on a flight before you could actually operate that flight.

Most of the problems and concerns Barbados faces today have to do with the fact that the Barbados Tourism Authority, apart from doing generic advertising, has to ensure that we are able to move people to Barbados. A lot of support has gone into working with the tour operators and the travel agents in the overseas markets to ensure that we have that guaranteed seating capacity. If the situation arises where an airline - whether it is American, Pan American, BWIA or British Airways - cannot get that kind of support,

whether it is with the assistance of the Barbados Tourism Authority or their own co-operative advertising, they .will not operate. The point is, there are a lot of
3347
factors which have to be in place and Barbadians must understand their role in this regard, because the Barbadian product we are selling to the visitor is of very vital importance to the industry.
The Barbadian public should take a leaf out of the books of our parents and forefathers, where they were very respectful and understood treating people very decently. We have lost a lot of that in Barbados today, we have lost a lot of the attractive features that caused people to gravitate to Barbados, so if we want to remain in the tourism industry
- and I think we are so structured that we have no choice
- Barbadians are going to have to understand their role in terms of their relationship to the development of tourism. If we have a bad product and we are not able to attract people to Barbados, then automatically the tour operators and wholesalers overseas will say Barbados is no longer an attractive destination and subsequently we are going to have a problem with aviation seats.
My concern is that we have to guarantee the aviation industry is sustained. I am saying there are a number of factors that have to be right for us to guarantee that our aviation plant remains intact. Whether we like it or not, Mr. Chairman, aviation is always going to pose a problem for us, because as I prefaced my remarks, nobody is going to come here to set up an airline, even if it is on a charter basis, if it is not financially viable.
I just thought I would make those few comments so that we would have a very clear position of what has happened and where we need to stand as Barbadians in relation to the preservation of the aviation industry.
Thank you.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am winding up, unless other Honourable Members want to speak.
I would like to speak about some matters pertaining to international transport, as was raised by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. He referred, quite rightly, as is the case,* to the chaotic situation of commercial airlines operating nowadays, not only Caribbean airlines but anywhere at all, certainly in the United States of America.
The strongest airline in the world, as I understand it, is British Airways. There are a number of airlines operating in the East, in Asia, that have some financial strengths, but most airlines operating outside of that operate very precariously. That includes the American airlines and those, unfortunately, that do serve us. American Airlines is perhaps the largest in the United States of America and
maybe the strongest canier.
<
In days before deregulation there were over 20 airlines operating in and out of the United States of America. Along comes that great deregulator that is supposed to have brought about much greater efficiency in air services, and all that has done is to bring about the demise of a number of airlines serving inside and outside of the United States of America. It is a theory that has gone bust. What it has done is brought about a dog-eat-dog situation in the airlines, a lot of airlines have had to reduce air fares below economic levels and as a result losses, bankruptcies and closures occurred. There are very few airlines operating in the United States of America now that are outside of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy laws of the United .States of America. There are very few airlines operating in the United States of America now outside of the bankruptcy laws, but we are concerned with American Airlines.
4.20 p.m.
The Honourable Member for St. Joseph would like to know what standby arrangements there are in case the worst situation should occur. I assume the worst situation would be the lack of service out of the United States of America because that is our major supplier of passengers and they reach us via American Airlines and British West Indian Airways and some charter services from time to time.
I do not anticipate, despite American Airlines' problem, their ceasing service to our country for the simple reason that even in these difficult times they have put on direct services from Miami and New York. We were served from New York via Puerto Rico but ev*»n in the past 8 or 9 months they have

introduced a direct service to Miami and one about 6 weeks ago out of New York into Barbados. We know they would have done so because they would have analysed our markets, analysed the situation and realised that they could take the risks in introducing these services.
Be that as it may, we are not complacent about those links we have out of the United States of America. We have been having discussions with a number of airlines in the hope at some point in time we can interest them in operating into Barbados and initiating a service here. We have spoken with Delta Airlines, United, Continental and U.S. Air and Mr. Chairman, I believe at some point in time some of these airlines might find it prudent to give us the service we have been seeking.
In addition to that, we have discussions with other international airlines and I am speaking specifically abaut those airlines outside of the traditional North American area. Those airlines, I believe, would be in a position to give us some kind of service out of Europe or South America which has been for us a reasonably strong area of supply in the past. Although I am not in a position to identify for Members precisely all we have been doing, at the same time I want them to understand we are
3348
not complacent and we have been in the marketplace looking for services.
We are also looking for shuttle services into Barbados, out of Manchester, out *of* Ireland, out of Europe and there are such services available which will serve us in the near future.
In my opinion, BWIA overextended in Europe. It has been flying to Stockholm, Helsinki, Finland and more than one point in Germany, Zurich and so on. I believe with the limited aircraft it had it overextended itself and had^to cut back services. There was a problem with Scandinavia because of the devaluation of their currencies and traffick was not as strong as in previous times. Even in the German market there has been softening, but at the same time we are expecting to have some tourists out of that market using LTU and other aircraft. We are even looking to continue to serve the Italians by charter service. Air France which indicated it would start a service 2 years ago did not but now we are having talks with Air Martinique which flies out of Europe.
We are looking at a number of airlines in order to ensure we are not disadvantaged. We entered last year into an air services agreement with Holland. We signed it last year and we are also discussing with Maarten Air, a Dutch carrier, to provide service from Europe to Barbados. We are looking further afield and I am sure more will be heard about this in time to come.
The Honourable Member for St. Michael East has rationalised the position with regard to the provision of such services. He has familiarity with that and was able to do so. I believe that what he has said has considerable merit in terms of services by airlines. But, as I said earlier, we are not sitting down and expecting them to come to us because we have something special here. We have to be out there in the marketplace to try to attract them.
BWIA and LIAT - I do not know whether I should mention LIAT. In a nutshell, I think we all know the position with LIAT. The Heads of Government have agreed that LIAT should be privatised. There has been a single applicant to purchase the airline and I believe that is now being evaluated by a team of evaluators out of France.
British West Indian Airways. I do not know what I can add to what the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has said. It is not in good financial health. I agree with him that BWIA has been central to our services over the years. It would be a pity if anything catastrophic should happen to BWIA. I know they are looking in the market for a buyer but they have not been able to attract any. First of all, they are looking for a strategic partner that they have not been able to attract. Neither have they been able to attract a purchaser. Be that as it may, we would all want to see BWIA continue to give the service either constituted or structured as it is now or as a restructured service serving us in Barbados.
These are some of the problems that confront us in aviation, that we have to tackle. On a daily basis we are looking at these things because we believe in the long run it will redound to'the benefit of Barbados or have the opposite effect if the worst happens.
With those remarks, I believe I can bring this discussion to an end. 4.30 p.m.

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS - $38 029 924

Hon. W. W. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 43 stand part and in so doing I wish to make a few comments. There is no gainsaying the importance of tourism to the economy of Barbados, for it is true to say that it is really the engine of growth in the economy. There are a few important aspects of it:-

1. The crucial role in the socio-economic development of Barbados;
2. The foreign exchange earnings which are the life blood of our economy;
3. National income;
4. Direct and indirect employment;
5. Government revenues;
6. Sectoral linkages, agriculture manufacturing, *et cetera;* and
7. Almost every job, as far as I am concerned, in Barbados, to some extent has links with tourism.

Sir, I feel in the short time available to me and fully cognisant of the fact that tourism over the past 6 years has not been debated during the Estimates, also taking cognisance of the fact that we had 2 full days' debate on the Tourism Authority only a month ago, I still feel duty bound to mention that as far as I am concerned, we have to recognise there is a need for a new tourism. The imperatives are that there is a need for a new tourism which is flexible, sustainable and quality oriented. That is one of them. We need to go beyond this sun, sea and sand syndrome. We need to have a tourism that caters to a mature, more experienced and more environmentally conscious consumers. We need to improve our attitudes to visitors and to be more professional and productive. I think these are important.

3349

We need to bring a reduction to harassment and crime. Now we have some work being done in this area on the beaches, but what we need to do is to have a look at those people who wear collar and tie who harass people every day, not necessarily on the beaches but in telling people or trying to get people to buy timesharing. The Board of Tourism is inundated with complaints every day from people who harass visitors in that respect. I think we need to have a look at that. We need to lessen, Sir, the private/public sector conflict < id have more harmonious relationships. If we do that we would be better off. I also think there is a need for continued development of sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment aimed at improving all the games in Barbados.

Sir, using those imperatives as a background, I had a look at the monies voted in the 1993-94 Estimates, and $38 029 924 was the amount voted. If you look at the summary you will notice that $707 410 is for Statutory Personal Emoluments and, indeed, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports will have an allocation of $1.13 million. As far as the Board of Tourism is concerned, it will have $29 500 363, with Grants to Public Institutions a further $450 000. There has been an increase of $9 million approximately. One has to consider and admit, that late last year we had $9 million voted for the new advertising campaign in the United States of America. Only this morning at 3.00 a.m., 5.00 a.m. and 6.00 a.m. I was privileged to see those advertisements on CNN. I know Honourable Members probably sleep soundly at that time and might not have seen it, therefore, I said that for their elucidation.

*Asides.*

Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I do not think I have a lot of time for heckling but merely to mention that the Barbados advertisement was shown at prime time too, Sir, but since it is a 24-hour channel some people do look at it at 3.00 a.m., 4.00 a.m. and 5.00 a.m...

*Asides.*

"Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to have those interruptions.

Hon. W. W. HALL: As we look further on page 116 we will notice that for The Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation it is $416 687 for Grants to Public Institutions. That is really for salaries and operational expenses and $370 634 for capital expenditure. As we go over the page, we have $40 000 for the Caribbean Tourism Organisation. This is the norm. Then we have $500 000 under Subprogramme 3 for Tourism Development Programme.

Sir, to explain this I would just say that the IADB loaned us $1 million. This sum of $500 000 is counterpart funds. In discussing it, I would just say that the

Government has received this pre-investment loan from the IADB of U.S. $1 million. It will be utilised to finance investment studies in many areas. Some of the areas will be policy and strategy, institutional strengthening, urban rehabilitation (this will involve St. Lawrence Gap, Speightstown and those areas), heritage tourism, nature base tourism, the small hotel sector, private hotel sector refurbishment, redevelopment and, indeed, cruise tourism. That $500 000 is for that.

As we go further down we will notice that $600 000 will be for the Boxing Board. The $4.5 million will be for the National Sports Council for salaries, maintenance, *et cetera*. The capital expenditure will be $900 000. As we go further down, you will notice that for the Gymnasium we have under Subprogramme 316 - really that should be 315. It should not be "Grants to Public Institutions" since it is not a statutory board as such, but a private company. I think it should be "Non Profit Agencies". That should be $669 000. 4.40 p.m.

Grants for capital expenditure is $738 000. Quite frankly, Sir, as we look towards Program 2, that is Development of Tourism Potential it says:

"The purpose of this Program is to intensify market strategies in traditional and non-tradition markets and exploit fully growing ones to sustain the growth of the industry; to provide a better service for its clientele by renovation of facilities, imp ,ve ground transportation to support marketing efforts."

Now, what I think you have to really do is to identify your market. Having identified the market, Sir, I think you could then proceed with all alacrity to get on with the business of your marketing strategies.

Sir, I think that in developing our tourism potential we need to do a few things. We need to intensify the market strategies in the traditional and the non-traditional areas. This is not old hat. It is a well-known thing that what we try to do is to intensify our market strategy in the traditional areas as well as to look at the non-traditional areas of staff deployment and things like that.

In recent times it has also involved the idea of using charters out of some of these non-traditional areas like Detroit, Atlanta and some of the other North-western areas.

We need to exploit fully the growing markets to sustain the growth of the industry and in that category will come the North-American market, that is the United States of America and Canada.

I think what I would like to do, Sir, is just to say a few of things we are doing. I know we do not have a

3350

lot of time. But I think what I will try to do is say exactly what we are doing in North America. We would like to build on the recovery of the North American market in the last quarter of 1992 by aggressive promotion of the extra inclusive package in the major North American markets that was strengthened by the non-stop American Airlines service from New York and the increased capacity of BWIA from New York.

Sir, I was very interested to hear the Member for St. Joseph when he posed the question of what would we do in terms of a back-up or contingency plan. I was equally impressed when the Minister responsible for Information gave a detailed description of what he would like to do and would continue to do.

Sir, in North America, television, newspaper and magazine campaigns in markets stimulated by recent CTO regional markets... This is an advertising campaign that costs some US$15 million, $11 million contributed by the private sector and $4 million by the Governments of the Caribbean. It is a programme where 28 Caribbean countries are now seen on prime time television in the United States of America and it is a good situation for us to piggy-back on that and do our own advertising. I think that is important.

We have also done extensive advertising mainly in newspapers with wholesalers and this is rather important it is also a back-up situation.

We hav&opened new markets with charters. I alluded to it earlier on, Sir, but I specifically say now that we have gone into Dallas, also we have gone into Orlando from June with MLD Vacations. We are also into Atlanta from June with Club America. So, Sir, I believe that these are areas that should be of some interest.

We are also working with American Airlines and their In-House Operator Fly Away Vacations to develop traffic to feed the San Juan hub, Dallas, Raleigh, Durham, Chicago, Nashville and California. It is true that while the Member for St. Joseph was quoting from the Wall Street Journal, we have looked at that too, it worries us and it makes us very aware of a position which can become precarious. AMR Corporation, which as you know, owns American Airlines, an airline that has well over 600 planes, one gets the impression that when you have such a big conglomerate like that that you cannot fail but the problem is that it is only the AMR Airline's Corporation that have hemorrhaged cash. The airline part of the airlines part of the operation is the only one that had hemorrhaged cash. Their other business enterprises in Information Services, Data Processing, Consulting, Training, Investments Services and Airport Services have all made money.

I also want to say that compounded by over capacity of the recent recession, the murderous cold wars, the volatile fuel prices, <the airline industry has sustained an $8 billion in losses since 1990.
We are aware of this and therefore, Sir, we need to look very seriously, as our Deputy Prime Minister alluded earlier on, we have to look seriously at continuing dialogue. Funny enough, Sir, when we do that on a continuous basis we find that sometimes we are maligned for it but I believe that a small developing country like Barbados needs to really talk to the mega-airlines of this World. There are about 8 of them now, Sir, and in another few years they will be down to 5. I think we have to continue speaking with them on a continuous basis.
We need also, Sir, to place special emphasis on the bridal market, incentive and group travel and festivals and gospel and crop-over festivals. That traffic, Sir, is something that we have to continuously pay attention to. To do this, Sir, we have had to have some institutional strengthening and we will be doing this by way of the appointment of a sales director, deploying staff to specific markets, using direct marketing through computer data base and the major travel agent in educational programmes in Barbados in June and we will have another one in September. One cannot forget that last year we had well over 500 travel agents coming to Barbados at the same time to have a look at this country.
I really do not have much time, Sir, but I just thought that since I was mentioning about the growth areas one* cannot really deny that Canada, after many months of decline, would believe that for all 12 months of last year showed growth and indeed ended up with a 10% increase. 4.50 p.m.
What we will do there is to introduce a special version of the extra inclusive package for $790.93 and launch a winter version in the Fall. Sir, we will relaunch sales efforts in Ontario. We will strengthen the Montreal Office and target cricket for increased traffic. We must remember that we had a lot of increased traffic from Air Canada over the past year or so.
Europe, I would hardly not be in a position to adequately discuss Europe, Sir. Suffice it to say, Sir, we are continuously looking to Europe. Only today at ITB, we just completed some arrangements with Unger Tours from Germany starting from November this year. LTU are anxious to have a direct flight using the MD11 with a capacity of 380 seats from November, going into the Winter season. Sir, I will say that this will complement the fact that British West Indian Airways will be offering two flights out of Frankfurt. There will be opportunities to increase a new charter lift out of Hamburg, Cologne, Berlin and later on we will be looking into increasing our traffic out of Switzerland and Italy.
3351
Sir, time does not really permit me to go further into that. But I just wish to say that we also have to look at the new markets. Last year in the Budget debate, I said that we would have to look for new markets and we will have to lode to Japan. I said that we will have to go to Africa, South Africa, Australia and the Pacific rim. I said that a year ago, Sir. So it was not a figment of my imagination or the ideas did not fall as manna from heaven, Sir. It was a conscious effort to make sure that we look for new markets. What is more, Sir, we also decided that we had to intensify our efforts in the Caribbean also. Therefore, I only mentioned that so we would know that this has been our policy for quite sometime and not a happening three months ago.
*Aside*.
Hon. W. W. HALL: I will speak about South Africa when we have an audience of 250 000 Barbadians plus the other Caribbean countries. I am sure that there would be some reason to illuminate any dark corners in their minds. I do not see why I should just tell 28 parliamentarians and a gallery of about 20 people and 20 officers.
Mr CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member address the Chair?
Hem. W. W. HALL: We will be upgrading the hotel plant, improving our ground transportation and our ancillary services. I am only saying that we are going to use the money to do these things. We will be doing training at all levels. We will also be looking at public awareness programmes and educational programmes in schools so we can let our school children and, indeed, the public at large in Barbados know the importance of tourism to our economy. We will be looking at our attractions, restoration of our historical monuments and we will look at strengthening the intersectoral linkages. We have to look towards wholesome tourism. I heard someone mention today that we will soon have to go as a matter of course towards casinos. I do not know about that. I feel that that is a decision the Government will have to make. But I have an alternative, Sir. I think we should look at wholesome tourism. Let me explain. Wholesome tourism is, as the name indicates, where visitors from overseas can come here to partake in spiritual services. While they are doing it in Barbados, 1 000 or 2 000

people can come from all over America to worship with us. That is wholesome tourism. You have never heard that before.

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: address the Chair.
Let the Honourable Member
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I shall ignore that heckle from my own side. But he is only young, Sir.
I just wish to say that sports tourism, health tourism and cruise tourism will be the areas that we will be looking at It is only decent of me to give...

*Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order please?
«
Hon. W. W. HALL: ...the Opposition some time to really have a look at the Estimates and give us their opinion of it. I really wish to say that I have so much material here that I need not take up anymore time. I do not believe that one can easily say that the Ministry of Tourism and Sports has been anything else but very well run. I feel so, Sir, but we need to improve. There is no doubt about it. We passed the Bill for the Tourism Authority only a few weeks ago and I believe that within a matter of days when that is proclaimed we will be ready to launch off at pushing Barbados' tourism further. Sir, as far as sports tourism is concerned... *Aside.*
Hon. W. W. HALL: I do not really wish to talk cricket with you.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Obviously, the Honourable Member knows that that cannot be the trend. You are addressing the Chair.
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I will be addressing you at all times. The point is, Sir, that what may have escaped you is the heckling from the other side.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: There cannot be any heckling. Certainly, the Honourable Member knows that he should not pay any attention to asides.
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, the heckling is so loud. They are so vociferous with their heckling that I cannot help but hear. I think that, if you would send one or two of them outside, Sir, that would be a great example.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: In good time. ,
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I just wish to end by saying that our sports tourism fusion is one that is copied throughout the world even in South Africa, Egypt, Canada, and England. They recognise that sports can complement tourism. Sir, we really need to have the facilities in place so that can show our people from overseas that we do not only have talented players but we have the facilities.
Now I have a few notes here on what we will do in sports but, obviously, I have not got the time.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes to conclude.
3352
Hon. W. W. HALL: I have spoken for an half hour already. I am not wasting time. Look, when I played cricket, occupation of the crease was not something that I desired. Since I have moved away from those days, occupation of the crease is something that I appreciate. Sir, in an half hour I do not have time to really develop a subject like tourism and sports. So there is no point in .heckling me. I said that I would sit down and give the Opposition the opportunity...
*Aside.*
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. It is a bit late in the evening, but I think Honourable Members must still recognise that the Standing Orders have not been suspended. 5.00p.m.
Hon. W. W. HALL: I just wish to end by saying, Sir, that the sports-tourism fusion is one we hold very dear and one which I think will help most of our youngsters, our young professionals, to go overseas. Today in South Africa there are about 11 Bajan professionals playing cricket. There must be 50 playing in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. In Holland there must be another 6, 7, 8, 9 or perhaps 10. I am

saying, therefore, that our professional cricketers have done us proud overseas and I believe when they are overseas they invite people to come to Barbados. We wish to make'sure that we have the facilities here which can do us proud.
Sir, I will pause for station identification. I beg to move that the sum of $38 029 924 under Head 43 - Ministry of Tourism and Sports - stand part of the
Schedule.
Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, the complacent tone with which the Honourable Minister has introduced these Estimates has served to mask, I think, the deep crisis presently being experienced in the industry. No one listening to him would have remembered that the last 3 months, which were supposed to be our best traditional winter season, have been our worst perhaps on record and that for many properties across Barbados there has been no season at all. Within 6 weeks of this season many properties were charging summer rates and failing to attract any business at all. Many of the properties on the south coast, medium sized, intimate, most of them owned by Barbadians, have not been able to face the Development Bank and pay their monthly mortgage. In the midst of
winter properties in Sunset'Crest have recorded occupancy rates of 25% and less.
That is just an illustration of the nature of the crisis facing the industry. When we listened to the Minister we not only heard complacency and avoidance of the fundamental problems in the industry, but we could also detect a tone of blind faith, as though simply wishing away the problems would cause them to go away. That serves as an opportunity for me to say we will only work our way out of our tourism problems through radical and bold new initiatives, creative thinking and the provision of the necessary capital in order to address the problems. My fear, after listening to the Minister, is that we are bound to conclude that part of the problem in Barbados is that we have a crisis in leadership at the private sector level and also at the public sector level.
Let me turn now, if I may, Mr. Chairman, to the Estimates themselves. The first point we have to make is that we have less money, nationally speaking, this year for the promotion of tourism than we had last year. In the last Estimates there was the provision of $20 million and later in the financial year $9 million was transferred from the Head called Investments in the Ministry of Finance and Planning and that resulted in the Board of Tourism getting $29 million last year, But that is not.the total contribution to tourism promotion, because you will remember, Mr. Chairman, that the private srector, TDC, also makes a contribution, so that even though this year we have the Estimates indicating $29 million, which would be the same as last year from the Government side, the private sector, TDC, has already announced that because of the decline in profits in the businesses concerned their contribution will be less. The total effort for tourism promotion in Barbados in the course of this year will be less than it was last year. That leaves me to wonder from where will the money come to make all of these new initiatives in marketing of which the Minister spoke.
I am concerned that unless we put further effort behind our TV marketing programme in the United States, it may well be in vain. It was important that we start it, but if we stop it and there is no follow up, you only sold Barbados for 3 months as it were and you no longer see it, it may very well be that our $9 million may not give us the return - I would not want to say it may be wasted - we should be getting for it if we follow up that effort, even if not on the same scale. My point is that with less money being available for promotion, we are likely to find a further decline in visitor arrivals, and that the circumstances of the moment call for increased expenditure for promotion rather than a decline. That is my first point, Mr. Chairman.
My "second point arising from the Estimates has to do with the fact that for more than 3 years the Government, through the Prime Minister and other Ministers, has
3353
been telling us that we are on the verge of getting major financing from the IADB and other institutions for structural adjustment in tourism. The delay had to do with the fact we were awaiting studies. We were told that in relation to agriculture, in relation to industry and in relation to tourism. "As soon as the studies are in and we have had the opportunity of studying and reviewing them we will be ready to do the structural adjustment which is so necessary in the area of tourism." 5.10 p.m. If ever there was a case for structural adjustment in Barbados, it certainly applies to the tourism sector where the plant is tired and worn much of it 20 years old and more, where we need to modernise our facilities in order to be competitive with many of the destinations within the region and all that we

have here provided in the Estimates is $V_2$ million. I am referring now to subprogram 4, page 170 and the page opposite for the execution of multisectoral pre-investment programmes comprising of institutions strengthening activities and pre-investment studies.
Sir, we are at a point where we need to implement programmes to invest substantially and significantly in the sector to realise the turn-around that is so urgent and so necessary. All the Government is promising after 4 years or more of waiting is that we are going to have some pre-investment study. I think that is not only a matter of regret but it is a matter of shame and scandal that the Government has not got any further in its thinking and its planning in respect to the tourism sector.
Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The multisectoral pre-investment programme relates exclusively to institutional strengthening in the Ministry. The funds for structural adjustment are identified under the Inflows and Financing and Government has made considerable progress in the development of the programme. Those are 2 separate and distinct items. The Honourable Member for St. Peter made that point also but I did not bother to correct him at that stage but it must be known that that has nothing to do with the structural adjustment programme and loans from the IADB or the World Bank. That is something completely different.
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I do not think the intervention of my friend, the Honourable Member for St. John, has done anything to deny the thrust of the point I am making. Even though he has attempted to clarify the note under subprogram 4, it still does not deny the point that we are not ready for the structural adjustment in the industry which we were led to expect 3 years ago as imminent and only awaiting the study for the industry. In fact, if we are to pursue his point for a moment we would need to say in reply that at this point the Government of
Barbados has no certain hope of getting any money for structural adjustment from the IADB because there remains a major divide of opinion between the Government and the IADB and the World Bank as to precisely the nature of the preconditions that Barbados should put in place before the money comes through. You cannot do the reforms if the agencies that are supposed to give you the money are not in agreement with what you propose to do as is the present position between the World Bank, the IADB and Barbados.
In any.event, in the year ahead there is no money provided in the Estimates for structural adjustment.
*Asides.*
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order please.
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, the Howarth study came in over a year ago. I believe 2 years ago. Certain recommendations have been made. The industry has been studied and restudied. We know the problems and I think we know what solutions we should pursue too and the point which I seek to make is that the Government is being reckless, indifferent in abandoning its responsibility to the major employment sector and foreign exchange earning sector when in the face of the trends in the industry it is refusing to do what is necessary and make the structural adjustment investments which are necessary.
I think we need to remind ourselves as to what are some of the problems which the policy direction of the Ministry of Tourism needs to be addressed. We are witnessing in Barbados and have been for the last few years a decline at an average rate of 3% or more of long stay arrivals and short stay. We are witnessing too a consistent decline in bed capacity and that has very serious implications which we need to dwell upon for a moment. That means that the hotel sector is no longer seen as profitable and that it has not been attracting any new capital. That is very painful for all of us who mean our country well.
Very quite often we hear that islands within the area - only 2 days ago there was an announcement on the radio that one of the islands in the Grenadines has attracted a US$100 million investment in the tourism sector. We, in Barbados, have not been attracting any new capital in the tourism sector simply because the sector is unprofitable except for a few players in the sector.
Investors do not just invest for the sake of investing there must be a reasonable and attractive return for the investor. The Barbados tourism sector is no longer attractive to investors. That is a very serious problem because the sector will wither and decline unless we can have an injection of new capital.
Part of the problem why the sector is unattractive to new investment has to do

with Government's taxation policies. The fact that the indirect taxes in the industry are killing it.
It is not widely known that the taxation on the inputs in the industry range from 50% to 100%. When you consider that you are competing within the region with countries that have experienced devaluation and whose currencies are very low in value in relation to us and whose wage structure is also low you get a feeling for the extent to which we are at a major disadvantage in this country.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the Honourable Member proceeds, the guillotine is at 5.45 p.m. I would think the Minister would want to use his right of reply which must be done within that period.
Let the Honourable Member proceed.
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I do not want to add further pain to the Honourable Minister. The speech that has been delivered by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph indicates quite clearly that we on this side are seriously concerned about the state of the tourist industry and more so about the fact as the Honourable Member *for* St. Joseph has put that the Honourable Minister is skirting around the real and fundamental problems. A solution has to be found to the problems we have that Barbados is not as attractive a destination as it was in the past to people from North America in particular.
The European market has helped us. There is no question about that. We always knew that given the strength of the Barbados dollar periodically our visitors from Europe would decline because of the fact that the European currencies would drop in value in relation to the U.S. dollar and that when that occurred our visitors from Europe with a possible exception of the U.K. would drop dramatically. Our saviour at that time was the United States market. 5.20 p.m.
What we have now, and this is something I fail to appreciate how the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Government of Barbados do not seem to recognise our problem now is that the Barbados dollar is still tied to the U.S. dollar and while we had the advantage of the European currencies enjoying strength in relation to'the U.S. dollar, particularly the German mark for some considerable period of time, we have lost a great part of our market share from the United States of America.
The latest Central Bank Report for February illustrates what is happening here. We knew that the Honourable Minister who has access to this information would not tell the public that it is now a matters of record that the year 1992 has been a year of decline and also...
*Aside.*
Hon. H. B. SL JOHN: Yes, we have the statistics 385 392. You said "yes" but the Honourable Member did not mention it. We are here to tell the public that there was a further decline from the previous year 394 000 which itself was a decline from the year previous 432 000 which itself was decline from* the year previously 461 000. We have had 3 years of very steady decline. When we look at the position in relation to the U.S. market that is worrying because our dollar has not changed in relation to the U.S.
I will show the Honourable Members this. In 1989 we got 154 000 Americans, in 1990 we had 143 00, 1991 -119 000 and 1992 - 110 000. That is a significant shift in a market where we cannot say we have suffered from the impact of currency changes and something seriously is wrong. We feel that disastrous mistake that the Tourist Board made a couple of years ago when it withdrew from television advertising in the United States of America is partially responsible.
In tourism marketing what you must understand is that you have to pay attention to all of your major markets. While it is better to place greater emphasis on particular markets when the conditions are particularly favourable, you just cannot desert the market. That is what has happened. They deserted the -market when they withdrew from television. Of course, we know they had a lot of problems when they also made some very bad mistakes in respect of the shifting around of their advertising agents and things of that kind.
The Government should recognise also that more sophisticated analysis should take place like why is it that the new competitors we have in the tourist industry -1 am talking about Costa Rica. Many people do not recognise that in 1986 Costa Rica only had about 50 000 or 60 000 tourists a year. They have over 300 000 now. Many of them are Canadians. If you look at what has happened to OUF Canadian market, you will know that we used to have 70 000 to 80 000 visitors and it goes down to 49 000 now.
*Aside.*
Hon. H. B. St JOHN: It is not only shopping around because we have advantages over certainly the

Dominican Republic which is also a greater competitor...
*Aside.*
Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Barbados has good water. In Costa Rica and in the Dominican Republic many people have to take special tablets before they go there and after. There must be something wrong if people are prepared to do that. There are some problems we have in relation to that. I want to know whether some of the studies
3355
one normally does before making a marketing effort have been done in these markets.
Now, Sir, obviously we cannot have a full-scale debate on this matter but I also want to mention something else. The Honourable Member prides himself on the question of sports. We acknowledge his great contribution as a player in this respect What I want to know is, how is it that the Minister and others can say that it is the role of the Government to foster this type of tourism and they left for at least 5 years now a golf course in Christ Church unattended, despite the fact that it was owned by the Tourism Investment Corporation, despite the fact that it has been publicly advertised. What we have now is an individual walking around Barbados saying that you will not get the golf course, although he is the highest bidder, unless he is given $200 000 because he has to spill it to somebody else.
It is a ridiculous situation that as Minister of Tourism and Sports responsible for the Tourism Investment Corporation he has allowed an asset to stay there and deteriorate day after day when it was within his competence to hold on to the Tourism Investment Corporation that is within his Ministry and ask for an explanation why is it they are not doing something about that. It is under the Minister's portfolio. Let the Minister explain to this House how it is that his Corporation that owns die golf course, that advertised publicly for bidders, that received bidders, has not been able to close a sale. Let him explain that because it is pan of sports. What are the Government's plans for resuscitation of that course as a municipal course.
Now, Sir, we had a big debate not so long ago on the Board. The urgency with which they came in here with that debate I thought "by now the Board would have been announced. Of course, I know the Honourable Member does not know who the Board is. I genuinely believe that because none of the numbers he tried to play played.
*Asides.*
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No, I am wrong, Sir. One played.
I want to finish on one particular point. The Honourable Member talked about private/public sector conflict. The Democratic Labour Party is responsible for that structure you allowed to arise in Barbados in which you have 3 competing bodies now for the determination of how Barbados is marketed. You have the Barbados Hotel Association, the Tourist Board and a new thing called the TDC. All 3 of them now have money out of the taxpayers excerJt the Hotel Association. That comes out of the hotels. All 3 have money and you have 2 public sector bodies, so to speak.
Now, Sir, there is bound to be conflict If you know Barbados well and the composition of these bodies you would know that it would be the aim certainly of the commercial angle in the TDC to project their image. If you look you would see TDC is dominated by the duty-free importers. Therefore their aim is different from the aims of the others. It is an important point you have to watch. You have to do something to ensure that somebody is going to coordinate the overall national effort and point to the national interest. This is something you have to do. You must have a rationalisation of your promotion abroad.
Sir, I am going to stop now because I understand we have to give the Honourable Minister time to reply.
5.30 p.m.
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I just need to reply to a few of the charges made by the 2 speakers on the opposition benches.
The Member for St. Joseph feels that you can say nothing and say it strong and seriously and that makes you making a big point. In other words, Sir, you can say plenty in an indomitable style and they will think that you said nothing. So, Sir, it is a matter of choice.
If the Members feel that it is only a matter of blind faith that is their business. I am not here to satisfy their emotive mouthings. I feel, Sir, that I can tell or challenge any one of them to any tourism debate any place, any time, anywhere. It does not bother me, Sir. So really those sorts of things do not bother me. So it is not a matter of blind faith and I will show you why.
Anyone listening to the Member will believe that tourism figures have slumped so badly that we have got perhaps a decline of maybe 30% in terms of visitor arrivals not to mention short stay. Let us go long stay, Sir.
Sir, in September 1992 there was an increase of 4.4% and in October 1992 an increase of 13.1%. In

November 1992 an increase of 2.2%. In December 1992 there was a decrease of 2.2% but 35 965 visitors came to Barbados. Yes it is true that there was a decline of 2.2% . I am not dishonest, Sir. Far from it. I can make that claim morning, noon and night. Not only in the afternoon, Sir. I am not dishonest so do not give the impression that I am hiding facts.
The Honourable Member for the City has a Parliamentary Question and she said that the tourism figures had declined for the past 4 years.
Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. I never said anything about tourism figures declining. The Minister is only talking about arrivals. I want to hear about revenue.
3356
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, the Parliamentary Question is a matter of record for this House, so I need not worry about that. I deal with truth, Sir, and the Parliamentary Question is here as a matter of record so whether it is revenue or whether it is arrivals the question was put
Now, Sir, I said only 6 weeks ago, and I said it in a fashion that they might have thought was jocular but I said that I have not answered it yet because she asked me about 4 years and it was only 2 years that we had this decline and I then said, even though I do admit that by the end of 1992 we would see a decline of about 2%. I said that, Sir, so I do not have to come in here and repeat and regurgitate things like that all the time, that there was a decline. If you want me to look at declines in visitor arrivals and if you want me to tell the people of Barbados exactly how many times they have increased it is there for all to see. There are more increases than declines as far as I know when I was Minister of Tourism. So I am not hiding the fact that last year there was a decline of 2.2%.
As a matter of fact, Sir, the Member for the City is right. It is not merely a matter of decline. It is a matter Of the money you make. I agree with that.
I also wish to say, Sir, that where there have been declines in long stay there have been massive increases in short stay. So much so that some 22 000 more people came to Barbados in 1992 than in 1991. There is no gainsaying that I have to get up and confuse people with inaccuracies that we were hiding things. I am not hiding any thing. The records of tourism will be there for all of the students of tourism to peruse and make their evaluation.
Sir, I will speak until the time runs out. When the time runs out I cannot do any more.
Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ church South ...
*Aside.*
Hon. W. W. HALL: The Golf course? I can tell you about the golf course because you seem to give the impression that I know something sinister about a golf course. As I said before, my hands are clean and pure. Lily white man! Let me tell you, Sir. We went to the Cabinet with that golf course and let me tell you something, there is no criminality. The point about it is that the Durants Golf Course can only be a municipal course. It will never be a championship golf course. For those of us who have played golf at a very high level let me elucidate.
*Aside.*
Hon. W. W. HALL: I do not know what the Honourable Member for Christ Church South bought, Sir.
I would say he has the capacity to buy the whole of Barbados.
Sir, I hope you will give me an extra 2 minutes for all these asides.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order, please.
Hon. W. W. HALL: I wish to say that the files are there and when anybody wishes to peruse them they will see exactly what the position is. There were myriad interests in that golf course, Sir.
*Asides.*
Mr CHAIRMAN: I am having difficulty hearing the Honourable Member.
Hon. W. W. HALL: Some people came and asked about the golf course and had no money. Other people came and said that they had friends like you. They said they were your friends, they did not say they were my friends. That is why they have not got it yet because 1 have no friends to give anything to.
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I do not mind. Anything I say in here I can ....
Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable Member risen on?
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member said that some people came and said they were my friends, that they know me. I am an international personality.
*Asides.* 5.40 p.m.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the Honourable x Member risen?
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member said that some people came and said that they were my friends.

*Aside.*
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Oh! That is a different matter. They know me. I am an international personality.
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, as one internationally known personality, I am glad to welcome you to the club. I know that people will say that we are their friends and they know us, especially when they want to get in our august company. I can understand that. Seriously, Sir, there is no criminality about that.
3357
*Aside.*
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes to conclude.
*Aside.*
Hon. W. W. HALL: No, I am not going ahead. Let the two minutes go. Let it go. It is not my fault that you did not choose to debate tourism because that is the measure of your contribution of two little spurts. You did not have anything else to say. I am not going to fight against the time. I am not going to kick against the bricks. Why persecute me.
Sir, I wish to say that the Durants Golf Course will be sold. The Government has made the decision to sell the Durants Golf Course. But we have to make sure that the people have the money to pay for it. Do you want us to trust it? Do you think that this is a shop at Baxter's Corner? This is a Government that will sell the golf course. If you know anybody who has $600 000 to buy it, buy it tomorrow. I give you that assurance.
I am saying that this Government will sell Durants Golf Course whenever we get somebody who has the money and we will make sure that it is there. But there have been people who have been masquerading, not in Barbados but from overseas, who have been coming to buy the golf course everyday. They want to buy it everyday of the week and twice on Sunday. That is what they want to do. I am saying to you that this Government will not be selling until they assure us that they have the money. If they have the money, it is sold. That is your answer since you tend to think that I knew something. What $200 000 are you talking about? I have never seen that money in my life. If I were playing cricket today, I would have $200 million but not $200 000.
Sir, let me end with the Board. The Board right now is my business. The Board on Monday will be your business because you are a member of the citizenry of Barbados and you will know Monday. I say right now to leave it with me. I do not want you to be telling other people about me. I can handle myself. Sir, I have not got the time. Indeed, I have the inclination but not the time to go further. I wish to thank the two Honourable Members for the two spurts that you made. You seem to think that every time I get up that it is a jocular thing.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.
Hon. W. W. HALL: Sir, I would just like to thank you for your patience and consideration and your forgiveness to Members on that side who heckled throughout.
Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know if I can accept that compliment because I would never accommodate the heckling.
*The question that Head 43 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

## HEAD 50 - POST OFFICE - $6 488 398

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I move that Head 50, Post Office in the sum of $6 488 398 stand part.
Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that, Sir.

*The question that Head 50 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*
*Clauses 1 through 4 inclusive were called and passed. The Schedule was called and passed.*
*On the motion of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Appropriation Bill 1993 and the Barbados Estimates 1993 in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

*On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Appropriation Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Appropriation Act, 1993.*

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, during the course of this sitting, there are some documents that came to hand which should be made documents of this Chamber. I am seeking your permission, Sir, to revert to that part of the Order Paper so that due notice can be given and documents can be circulated.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave is therefore granted. 5.50 p.m.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the 1992 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Barbados.

I am also commanded to lay the Barbados Economic Report, 1992.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 60, asked by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, is now ready.

3358

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Question No.

60 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture:

1. Would the Minister please state what are the criteria used by the National Housing Corporation for the appointment of persons to the permanent establishment and for promotion?

2. Would the Minister please state the number of persons on the permanent establishment of the said Corporation?

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 60 is as follows:

In considering candidates *for* appointment/promotion to posts in the National Housing Corporation, the following criteria are taken into account:

basic educational qualifications; ' qualifications applicable to the vacant post; any special course of training undertaken by the candidates in relation to the vacancy; quality of performance appraisal reports; experience in areas related to the vacancy; seniority, though this is not considered to be the only determinant for promotion.

There are 128 persons on the establishment of the Corporation.

permanent

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister confirm that the person who is acting in place of the Secretary is related by blood to the Chairman of the Corporation?

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am in no position to confirm the allegation made by the Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: No more supplementaries. I should just take this opportunity to return to Messages.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: This is just to report to the House a Message in the usual way when the Governor-General goes on vacation. It reads as follows:

"MESSAGE NO. 1/1993 HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Her Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly that she will be unable to perform the functions of Governor-General during the period March 9 to 14, 1993.

Her Excellency further has the honour to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly that under the provisions of section 30 of the Constitution, The Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, has designated The Honourable Sir Denys Ambrose Williams, GCM, to be Governor-General's Deputy during the period March 9 to 14, 1993.

R. NITA BARROW Governor-General.[11]

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that brings the proceedings of this Chamber, which commenced on Monday of this week, to an end. As is customary, Sir, and this is the sixth year, I should like to thank all those persons who assisted this House and the Committee in being able to conclude its business here today. Specifically, I refer to the officers of the House, to all Honourable Members, to the staff of Parliament wherever they might be, and I am also including the police, who had specific duties during the long period that this sitting was under suspension.

I think, Sir, I should record our appreciation for all those persons who made this sitting possible so that we could reach a conclusion. As a matter of fact, let me say that this is the first time for a long time that we have been able to reach that far in our consideration of the Estimates. I think it can probably be a lesson to us in the future that in fact it *can* be done if we conduct our business in the appropriate manner. It can last all year, if we so want it, but it can also last the time allotted in the Standing Orders, if in fact we so desire and so organise our business, which in fact has been done and the way in which it has been done I think deserves a little merit

I must also include Government Officers in this exercise. I did not include them just now, Sir, I forgot to, but they were available to us and to this House and I think they should also be included among those to whom appreciation should be extended.

3359

With those few words, Sir, all that is now left for me to do is to move that this House do now adjourn until Monday, the 15th day of March, 1993 at 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon.

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

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion for the Adjournment, I wish to add my voice to that of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, the Deputy Prime Minister, in expressing thanks to the officers of the House, as well as the staff of Parliament, the police and the public officers who have assisted us in getting through the Estimates 1993-94.1 should also like to thank members of ,the Press in particular, who have carried reports of the work, and those members of the public, although still too few, who came to listen to this exercise.

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that Parliament may become, or may be seen to be irrelevant in some people's minds and I am sure that for those who come and listen, and for those who would read, that it should never be so.

I want very much to emphasise the point that this is the first time, I think in the last 20 odd years, that the Estimates have been completed with debate on every Head, except the Post Office, which is the Annexed group, but every Head of the Estimates has come in for some consideration by this House with contributions from both sides of the House. It emphasises, contrary to one or 2 detractors, that Parliament is a very serious place, that certainly this Opposition gives very serious consideration to the people's business, that we bring our analytical skills, our critical skills and our positive skills to contribute to improving public affairs. The few detractors who would like to be in here, but cannot convince the public, if they had any doubts, should now have their doubts removed that the people's business is certainly taken very seriously by the Opposition. 6.00 p.m.

I personally wish to say and cohgratulate this side of the House for the sterling contribution which they have made to the debate and the assistance given in clarifying matters. I hope the Government would have taken note of the very positive suggestions made in this debate and the spirit in which those suggestions have been made.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has asked that the House be adjourned until next Monday at 3 o'clock for a very important matter. I would hope that as Leader of the House we would be able to discuss some of the mechanics of what will happen during the next 3 days of the House's sittings, starting with the

Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals by the Rt. Honourable Member for St. Michael South and followed on Tuesday with the response by the principal spokesman for Finance on the Opposition side and then the the others of us contributing to the debate.
Certainly we will try as much as we can to get the maximum amount of agreement on procedures so that it will not bedevil the House. Before I leave the House this evening, I am going to speak to the Leader of the House and if there are any difficulties I will call on Your Honour to assist us in any such difficulties that may arise.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House until Monday, March* 75, *1993 at 3.00p.m.* 6.03 p.m.
3360

**CONTENTS**

MINUTES
Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of March 2,1993.....3091

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

**Mr. SPEAKER** .....3091
Receipt of Accounts and Statement for the month of December, 1992.

PAPERS

**Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD**.....3092
Report on the General Election, 1991.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS
**Hon. P. M. GREAVES.....** 3092
Suspension of Standing Orders 6,16,18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the sitting.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1993....._____3092

Rt. Horr. L. E. Sandiford, 3092, 3095, 3096; Mr. O. S. Arthur, 3098, 3100, 3101, 3104, 3105, 3106, 3107, 3109, 3110, 3111; Mr. Speaker, 3109.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 10 - GOVERNOR-GENERAL (as amended) -$533 765.....,.....3112

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3112. HEAD 11 - JUDICIARY - $818 260.....3112
Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3112; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3112, 3113.
HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT - $3,524,934____". . 3113
Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3113.

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(as amended) - $2 868 870.....3113

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3113, 3117; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3113,3114, 3115, 3116; Hon. N. K. Simmons, 3115.

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE - $3,403432 ... 3118

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3118, 3125, 3126, 3128, 3129; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3118, 3119, 3128, 3129; Hon. H. B. St. John, 3120; Mr. L. R. Tull, 3121; Hon. M. A. King, 3122, 3123; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3123, 3124, 3125; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 3126, 3128.

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
(as amended) - $4307,471 .....3129

Rt Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3129, 3131, 3133; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3129, 3130; Mr. O. S. Arthur, 3131; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3131, 3132.

HEAD 17 - OMBUDSMAN - $31,599.....3134

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3134. HEAD 18 - AUDIT - $301, 621.....3134
Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3134, 3135, 3139; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137,' 3138; Mr. O. S. Arthur, 3136; Mr. J. O. Tudor, 3139.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING TUESDAY,

MARCH 9,1993 COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (as amended) - $79,046,168.....3139

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 3139; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3140,3141,3150,3151; Hon. D. J. H. Thompson, 3141, 3142, 3143, 3146, 3148, 3149,3151,3155,3156; Mr. H. A. Blackman, 3143,3152,3153; Hon. H. B. St. John, 3144, 3145, 3146; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 3149; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3151; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 3153.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND FISHERIES $21,378,983 ____3156

Hon. D. W. Bowen, 3156,3158,3159; Mr. R. C. Eastmond, 3156, 3157, 3158; Hon. H. B. St. John, 3160, 3161.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES **Hon. P. M. GREAVES.....**3161
Notice of Supplementary Estimates No. 7; • Head 42 - Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation -. $2,700,000.
3361

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS Hon. B. M. TAITT.....3161

RESUMPTION COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES (resumed).....3161

Hon. D. W. Bowen, 3162, 3167, 3185, 3186; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 3163, 3178; Hon. W. O. Franklin, 3164; Mr. R. C. Eastmond, 3166, 3167, 3182; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3168, 3169, 3170,

3179, 3180; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3170, 3171, 3186; Mr. O. S. Arthur, 3171, 3173, 3174, 3187; Miss B. A. Miller, 3174, 3175, 3176; Hon. D. J. H. Thompson, 3176, 3177; Mr. J. O. Tudor, 3181, 3182; Hon. H. B. St. John, 3184.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY - $31,823,729.....3187

Hon. N. K. Simmons, 3187; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3189, 3190, 3191; Hon. H. B. SL John, 3193.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1992-93: NO. 7

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION - $2,700,000 .....3194

Hon. P. M. Greaves, 3194, 3195; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 3195.

QUESTION TIME (QUESTION NO. 65)
Mr. O. S. Arthur, 3195,3196; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3196, 3197; Miss B. A. Miller, 3197.

RESUMPTION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1993 COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 29 - ATTORNEY GENERAL -$869,771.....
3197

Hon. M. A. King, 3197, 3207, 3209; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3198, 3200; Mr. L. R. Tull, 3200; Hon. D. J. H. Thompson, 3202, 3203, 3204; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3204, 3205; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3206, 3207.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (as amended) - $116, 971, 850 ____
3209

Hon. C. V. Walker, 3209, 3211, 3218, 32219, 3220, 3230, 3237; Mr. G. W. Payne, 3212, 3213, 3214, 3217, 3218, 3236; Mr. L. R. TuU, 3215, 3216, 3233, 3234; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 3220, 3222; Hon. H. B. SL John, 3222; Miss B. A. Miller, 3223, 3224, 3225, 3226; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3224, 3231,3232; Mr. R. C. Eastmond, 3226,3234,3235; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3228, 3229,3230, 3231.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS - $9,833,849.....
3237

Hon. M. A. King, 3237, 3239, 3240, 3242,
3243, 3245, 3246, 3249, 3252, 3253; Mr. H. deB. Forde
3240,3241,3249,3251,3252; Hon. H. B. St. John, 3244; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons,
3244, 3245; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3247, 3248, 3250, 3251; Mr.

L. R. Tull, 3249.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES.....3253
1. Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for 1990.
2. Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for 1991.

RESUMPTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 11,1993 COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH (as amended)-$116,808,475 ..
3253
Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3253, 3256, 3258, 3259, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3267, 3268, 3272. 3273, 3274, 3275, 3276, 3278, 3279, 3280, 3281; Miss B. A. Miller, 3256, 3257, 3260, 3261, 3262, 3264, 3265, 3266. 3269. 3270, 3271, 3281; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3258, 3259, 3280; Hon. H. B. SL John, 3268; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 3274; Mr. O. S. Arthur, 3277, 3279.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE - $37,571,064.....3282

Hon. E. E. Greaves, 3282, 3285, 3288, 32%, 3298; Mr. L. R. Tull, 3285, 3286, 3289, 3291, 3293, 3295; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 3286, 3291; Miss B. A. Miller, 3293; Mr. O. S.Arthur, 3295.
3362

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (as amended) - $16,744,910 .....3298

Hon. W. O. Franklin, 3298, 3307; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 3300; Mr. L. R. Tull, 3302; Mr. J. O. Tudor, 3306; Hon. H. B. St. John, 3209; Mr. R.L.Morris, 3309,3311.

RESUMPTION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1993

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (as amended) - $11,698,853.....3312

Hoii, W. O. Franklin, 3312, 3314, 3318, 3322; Hon.'H. ,B. St John, 3315, 3316, 3321; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 3316.

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION (as amended) - $75,875,615 .....3322

Hon. P. M. Greaves, 3322, 3323, 3324, 3325, 3330, 3331, 3341, 3347; Mr. DeL. O. Bradshaw, 3325, 3327, 3336, 3338; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 3327, 3328, 3329; Mr. H. A. Blackman, 3329, 3340; Mr. J. O. Tudor, 3332, 3333, 3346; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 3333, 3342, 3343; Mr. G. W. Payne, 3335; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 3336; His Honour T. C. Estwick, 3338, 3340; Mr. R. L. Morris, 3344.

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS - $38,029,924 .....3348

Hon. W. W. Hall, 3348, 3349, 3351, 3352, 3355, 3356, 3357; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 3352, 3353; Hon. H. B. St. John, 3354, 3355.
HEAD 50 - POST OFFICE - $6,488,398.....3357
Hon. P. M. Greaves, 3357

PAPERS **Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD.....**3357
1. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Barbados for 1992.
2. Economic Report, 1992.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS **Hon. E. E. GREAVES .....**3357
Notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 60 was ready.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

**HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER.....**3358
Message No. 1/1993 informing the Honourable J the House of Assembly that Her Excellency the Governor-General, Dame Nita Barrow, G.C.M.G., D.A., would be unable to perform the functions of Governor-General during the period March 9 to 14, 1993 and that the Honourable Sir Denys Williams, GCM, had been assigned to be Governor-General's Deputy during the aforesaid period.

SUSPENSIONS:.... 3103, 3132, 3139, 3161, 3181,3197, 3217, 3236, 3253, 3268, 3298, 3312, 3332

ADJOURNMENT..... 3358
Hon. P. M. Greaves, 3358; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 3359.

**SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE**

**ARTHUR, Mr. O. S. (St. Peter) BLACKMAN, Mr. H. A. (St. Philip South) BOWEN, Hon. D. W. (St. Michael South Central) BRADSHAW, Mr. DeL. O. (St. Michael South East) BRATHWAITE, Mr. L. L. (St. Michael North East) ^ CHELTENHAM, Dr. R. L. (St. Joseph) EASTMOND, Mr. R. C. (St. James North) ESTWICK, His Honour T. C. (Christ Church** East) **FORDE, Mr. H. deB. (Christ Church West) FRANKLIN, Hon. W. O. (St. Philip North) GREAVES, Hon. E. E. (St. Lucy) GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St Michael North) HALL, Hon. W. W. (St. Michael West Central) KING, Hon. M. A. (Christ Church West Central) MILLER, Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown) MORRIS, Mr. R. L. (Christ Church East Central) PAYNE, Mr. G. W. (St. Andrew) SANDIFORD, Rt. Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South) SIMMONS, Mr. D. A. C. (St. Thomas) SIMMONS, Hon. N. K. (St. James South) ST. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church South) TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West) THOMPSON, Hon. D. J. H. (St. John) TUDOR, Mr. J. O. (St. Michael** East) **TULL, Mr. L. R. (St. George South) WALKER, Hon. C. V. (St. George North)**