

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 20, 1994

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.25 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT (Speaker), B.A., Dip.

Ed. His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker) Rt.
Hon. L. E. SANDDFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.),

J.P.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and Minister for the Civil Service)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)

Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.

Mr. L. R. TOLL, Q.C., M.A.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. § (Econ.), (Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment)

it Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business) (Leader of the House)

Mr. J. O. TUDOR, JP.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE, (Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing)

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development).

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B., (Minister of Labour, Community Development and Sports)

Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing)

Mr. J. M. EDGfILL

Mr. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, J.P., B.A., Dip. Ed., B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B.

Mr. D. St. E. KEULMAN

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Health)

HOT. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LLJB. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

Prayers were led by Rev. Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, December 6, 1994.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Honourable the House of Assembly of the meeting of 6th day of December, 1994, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of September, 1994 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following: -

1. The First Annual Report of the National Productivity Board for the period October, 1993 to September 30, 1994. <

2. The Drawback of Duties on Sale of Goods to Tourists (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1994.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ending December 31, 1993.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution that this House has no confidence in the Honourable Minister of Education and Culture and calls upon the Minister to resign.

C(^RATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the last anniversary of the Independence of Barbados, the award of Knighthood of the Order of St. Andrew was announced for the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I count it a privilege and an honour this morning, and I believe I can speak for all of us irrespective of politics, to speak words in recognition of one of our most worthy and distinguished Members of the Honourable the House of Assembly, a man whose entire public life has been an object lesson in commitment, a profile in courage, a man whose contribution not only to the Barbados Labour Party but to Barbados, our beloved island, in good times and in other times, has been immense. I speak of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, Queen's Counsel, former Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party and former Prime Minister of Barbados.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South was educated at the Boys' Foundation School just over the hill from historic Oistin Town. He little knew that many decades later his opponents would grudgingly refer to him as the baron of Oistin. From the Foundation School he attended Harrison College before proceeding to the University of London where he obtained a Degree of Bachelor of Law with Honours. He was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in 1954

and returned to Barbados to enter private practice in Law in the same year.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South came back to Barbados at a time when the Barbados Labour Party, led by Sir Grantley Adams, was in full flower. At that time there was only one Barbados Labour Party in 1954 and the Workers' Union was then its vital arm. On one side in those years stood the Barbados Labour Party and on the other stood the Conservatives, then called the Electors' Association. The unity of the labour movement was to suffer a serious fracture a year later, in 1955, when elements in our party, that is, the Barbados Labour Party, in a desire to obtain personal power in a hurry, broke to form a new political party.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South was in 1955 still a very young man, a mere 24 years old. He was an avid sportsman playing representative football for Spartan Club, I am told, a fullback with a devastating right foot. Very soon he was to blend the robustness of the football field with the intellectual rigour that led to wide reading, not only in law, but in every aspect of public affairs and that is true even unto to this day. It was a period of intellectual preparation for his future role in the public life of this country.

In 1956 the Barbados Labour Party won one of its greatest victories at the polls but it marked the beginning of a difficult period of its history, particularly with the departure of Sir Grantley Adams to Federal politics two years later in 1958.

In the closing years of the 1950s the Honourable Member for Christ Church South immersed himself in local Government affairs and became legal adviser to the Southern District Council, a position which we believe he still holds to this day. It was the experience of those years which led him to the conviction that the void left by local government has not been filled in our country.

By 1961 the Barbados Labour Party was out of office. The Honourable Member had tried his utmost to be on the Barbados Labour Party ticket for the constituency of Christ Church in that election. 11.35a.m.

He was 30 years old and was passed over for an older stalwart. He was disappointed but his resolve to make a contribution to party and country was undiminished. This should be an example to some of our younger politicians who are wont to sulk in their tent.

The defeat of the Barbados Labour Party in 1961 was the beginning of 15 years in the political wilderness. The first 5 years were perhaps the most difficult and traumatic. The Federation collapsed in 1962. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South became involved as a prominent member of the under 40s in a relentless

campaign for the Independence of what was then described as the Little 8. Barbados has always been the hub for what is now called the OECS.

Freddie Miller of beloved memory and Lloyd Smith carried the fight in Parliament and outside of it* The Honourable Member for Christ Church South was joined by Lionel Craig, by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and later by the late Tom Adams. The hard work of the 1960s attracted a number of younger politicians many of whom contested the 1971 General Election. One of those was the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. He too was a member of the under 40s, in those years in the 1960s. I see the Honourable Member for St. Philip South looking up with a certain amount of surprise.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South was first elected to this Parliament in 1966. He had won a resounding victory in Christ Church as a senior member recording one of the largest number of what used to be called plump votes in the history of double member constituencies. The parliamentary team led by the late Sir Grantley Adams included the late Tom Adams, Lionel Craig and the late Burton Hinds. The rest is history.

At the age of 40 the Honourable Member for Christ Church South became the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party on the retirement of Sir Grantley Adams. There followed his crushing personal defeat in 1971, victory in 1976 and 1981, defeat in 1986 and victory again in 1991 and 1994.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South, Mr. Speaker, Sir, met them all and treated them all, triumph and disaster those two impostors just the same. I often think that Rudyard Kipling must have written this celebrated poem. If, for persons not unlike the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and I quote:

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same,
If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds of distance run,
Yours is the earth and everything that is in it and which is more, you would a man, my son."

Through it all, Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has never lost his focus. His commitment never wavered. At times his head may have been bloodied but it was always unbowed. Newer Members of the Barbados Labour Party and indeed of this Parliament do not perhaps appreciate the intensity of this time of the Labour Party in the long years between 1961 and 1976. It is entirely possible that the Democratic Labour Party may now grow into an appreciation of a long spell in the wilderness. At the start of that period in 1961 the

Barbados Labour Party went out of office having built JBI impregnable infrastructure.

The Deep Water Harbour was completed, Sea well Airport, as it was then known had been expanded and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital had been ⁵ built. Tourism development had started with the encouragement given to the Sandy Lane Project. It was a time, unlike today, when sugar was at its peak, jobs had been created in tourism and industrial manufacturing and construction by that time it was a large employer. Barbados will return to that at a sooner date.

The fight waged by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and his colleagues was against lies and distortion. The Barbados Labour Party sought to sow the seed that the history of Barbados began in 1961. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was an evil seed which is still flourishing among the DLP's revisionists who inhabit the cave on the hill. While building a political reputation, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South also advanced in his profession becoming a Queen's Counsel in 1969. In fact, Sir, he became one of the leading Caribbean lawyers of his generation whose name and fame created a demand for his services in many of the islands of the Eastern Caribbean. That is still so today.

In a long political career the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has been a Member of the Senate, the Other Place, from 1964 to 1966 and from 1971 to 1976 and a Member of this Honourable House of Assembly for 18 years which, when added to his service in the Other Place, make a total of 25 years of parliamentary service. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry from 1976 to 1985, President of the African Caribbean and Pacific Council of Ministers in 1979, President of Latin American Council of Ministers in 1980 and Prime Minister and Minister of Finance from March 1985 to May of 1986.

Our distinguished colleague and Honourable Member is a man with a prodigious memory with powers of recall that have stunned and stung many of his adversaries at the Bar and in this Honourable House. His basic shyness of which perhaps only those closest to him are aware has never obscured his courage nor his ability to speak his mind.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South has brought a plenitude of public energy to his every assignment and there have been many. He has been an example and an inspiration to every Member of this House of Assembly in his nearly 40 years of dedicated service. I hope you would forgive, Sir, if I make a personal reference by saying that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was a great colleague and friend of my late father. He was in fact a hero in our household long before

be became a hero in the Barbados Labour Party and in this Parliament.

On my return to Barbados, I joined his Law Chambers and sat at his feet. He was my mentor and master in Chambers. He is my Mend. He had a profound influence on my own development and was an inspiration to my generation of politicians, persons like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, the Honourable Member for St. George South, the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central and one would hope, in the future, the Honourable Member for St. John who is recalcitrant in these matters but we will help him on, and newer Honourable Members.

The 1986 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party said this of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and I quote:

"He had long enjoyed an enviable reputation for courage and strength of character, for candour and unimpeachable integrity. An efficient administrator, his incisive intellect enables him to cut through a maze of detail to immediately focus on the core of any issue, a gift he used with telling effect in negotiations at Lomé on behalf of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my intention, at a very early opportunity in the coming New Year 1995 to appoint the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Ambassador Extraordinary with powers plenipotentiary.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to congratulate the Honourable Member upon his elevation to the Knighthood of the Order of St. Andrew.

Thank you, Sir.
11.45a.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning and in another forum I indicated on the airwaves of Barbados that it was my considered opinion that the honour conferred on the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was well earned, was well justified and highly appropriate. I believe that an honour conferred on him at this time whilst he is still active in the political arena speaks well for the body politic of this country.

He has had, Sir, many achievements. I do not know of his intellectual achievements at Boys' Foundation School and in a sense I have to rely on the contribution of a former Member for St John, the late Enrol Barrow, for his memories of his stint at Foundation School.

I must say this, Sir, that those exchanges indicate two things to me. I have always felt that the Honourable Member for St. John had a special kind of affection for the

Honourable Member and was indeed somewhat disappointed that he did not join the Democratic Labour Party. But indeed, Sir, the story goes, I think it was in this Chamber, that when Mr. Barrow indicated that he had given the Honourable Member 4 noughts in a row the Honourable Member for Christ Church South got up and indicated to him that he was misleading the House, he was mistaken, and in fact there were five noughts in a row.

Well, Sir, I think that indicates a second thing and the second thing is, Sir, that the Honourable Member is quite clearly very appreciative of the entire debating process in this House and even in a situation like that will seek to correct an error on the part of an opponent in the House.

There can be no doubt that the Honourable Member's contributions to the debates in this House have been at the highest level and quite extraordinary in many ways. No one has a better appreciation of the skills of a debater than those who oppose on the other side. And I think that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is undoubtedly the best rebuttal debater that we have had in this House for a long time. He does not usually take the initiative in aggression but, in defence of his Party or himself or his policies, I think that he is unequalled in that regard.

Indeed, Sir, one would have seen some indication of the kind of thing that I am speaking of recently in a debate on the Throne Speech in response to the question that nothing about employment was mentioned in the Throne Speech. The ability to select a few words and to continue thereafter for half an hour appropriately incensed in the good spirit of debating I think is unequalled. One, Sir, can always tell when we are about to be treated with that kind of level of contribution; the Honourable Member rises and throws himself back like that and when he does that you know exactly what to expect

Also, Sir, I recall there were two occasions in this House when I found myself almost reflexively applauding a speech by the Honourable Member from the other side and his speech was entirely, very bitterly critical of me. It was a speech some time in the early 1980's by the Honourable Member, a speech on Government's interest rate policy.

I must say, Sir, although I disagreed with everything said, as a Parliamentarian one could not help but be appreciative of the way in which Government's policy was defended in that regard. And one tends, in fact I do, not only to look at the content of speeches, how it is done and so on, in order to have some appreciation of the merits and demerits of one's opponents.

His contribution to the Barbados Labour Party has been monumental in many ways. I do not know, Sir, how far his enthusiasm was initially but I do not think this

would be the occasion, Sir, to deal with those early years in Christ Church in the political process. I thought of the late teens and so on. Perhaps on another occasion I will pull his legs with that

I think, Sir, there are other aspects of the Honourable Member which one needs to advert to. Throughout his entire political career I do not recall any occasion where anyone pointed a finger at him in relation to any matter of corruption. I think this is very important to note because I believe that it is essential that whereas we are, fortunately or unfortunately, the role models in this society, when someone reaches that kind of level in a career without such charges being made against him, I think that is quite significant

His contribution, Sir, and in fact his knowledge of Caricom Affairs, his knowledge of Caribbean trade issues, sugar issues and issues relating to tourism has always been well above the average in this Honourable House. One does not necessarily agree with his positions on these matters, but there can be no question about it, that in terms of the economic history and the political history of what took place in those various areas of our national life I think he has almost unparalleled levels of information.

In a sense, Sir, he was a great believer in the contribution which the public sector should make to the development of this country and many of the Barbados Labour Party projects, especially projects like Heywoods, the Cement Plant and many other projects, he was very much involved in the development of them. I do not need, I think, on this occasion to deal with the merits or demerits of the projects, but I think the important principle was that he understood and was quite passionate about the role which the public sector of Barbados needs to play in the development of this society, and has always been - I think it is fair to say - somewhat reluctant, and rightly so, to place undue confidence in others, if I may say so, to develop Barbados. That, of course, has not always made him the darling of certain vested interests in this country, who perhaps probably would feel that by birth he would naturally flow to their support and to their side in most matters. Nevertheless, I think it is important for us to recall that has been the position that he has taken. 11.55a.m.

In the intervention of the State in certain areas of tourism, not so much in trade, but certainly in the area of sugar development, in the area of aviation and certainly in the marketing of sugar, there can be no doubt that he made a significant contribution. He used to be a very passionate supporter of local government, which as you know, Sir, is a major policy position of the National Democratic Party. I sincerely hope that when occasions arise in this House I shall hear him fearlessly supporting the NDP in its thrust to have local government re-introduced in Barbados. I think

that would be quite consistent with the kind of pattern which has evolved in his contributions to this House.

That whole era of the under-forties, I do not wish to get involved in the membership of. I was not admitted to membership and in fact I was not in Barbados at that particular time. I had not returned from my studies abroad at that particular time, I think I was working in Scotland, but nevertheless it was certainly an exciting period in the history of Barbados and it was a period that produced several stalwarts in the political process of Barbados.

At the constituency level, Sir, the Honourable Member has won and he has lost. He has known the pleasures of victory and he has known the bitterness of defeat. I believe that there are others in this House who have shared that kind of situation, myself included, Sir, but what is true is that if you are going to remain true to yourself and you are going to be constant in your position, there are times when the position you take in public life might not quite coincide with the wishes of the majority in a constituency, and one must be prepared to make those sacrifices, once you believe that in time the truth will emerge, and I am a great believer in that

And so, Mr. Speaker, I believe I have tried to be very honest in my appreciation of the contribution that the Honourable Member has made to public life. I believe that as a political warrior, in a sense, one always has the keenest appreciation of the strengths and the weaknesses of one's opponent in the political process, and therefore we in the NDP fully support and we think it has been a very good thing that this honour of Knighthood of the Order of St. Andrew has been conferred on the Honourable Member. Certainly, personally and on behalf of my family and on behalf of the wider family of the NDP, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my very sincere congratulations to the Honourable Member for an honour which I think is well deserved.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the comments and, generally, the accolades which have been directed at the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the honour which has been bestowed on him during our Independence period and our celebrations. I thought I would defer to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, since by age and by his previous political incarnation, if there was any part of the record that may have been distorted by the Honourable Member for the City he would have corrected it, since it is not something that would fall to me, having been "in pampers" at that time.

Let me say, that I first entered this Chamber as a member of the Public Gallery consequent on the election of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in

July 1978 and remained a very faithful member of the Gallery as a member of my sixth form. I came here often for the debates when the Labour Party was in its so-called heyday, the Great Combination. I must say that I always enjoyed immensely the debating style, skill, content and ability of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, who was then the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. I must say I thought it was a great tragedy when I entered the House in 1987 that at that time the Opposition Barbados Labour Party had been so thoroughly decimated that persons of his ability and stature were not here upon whom one could cut one's teeth as a debater. However, as soon as he returned in 1991 I must say that whenever I have had a clash in this Chamber it has always been as a result of something that he had said either in his own defence or in criticism of the Democratic Labour Party. I hold absolutely no hard feelings and I know that is also an attribute which he possesses, but I have enjoyed immensely the contributions he has made on nearly all of the subjects.

Most times I do not agree with his views. I do not necessarily agree with his perspectives for the Labour Party and their achievements, nor do I necessarily agree with the criticisms which he offers; but I certainly think that he puts more energy and substance into his contribution in this Chamber than most Members. I remember speaking to a parliamentary seminar early in this Session at the request of Your Honour and the Clerk and I made the point to the newer Members of Parliament that the only way they will be outstanding parliamentarians is if they enjoy Parliament. I cannot think I have met anybody in this Chamber who enjoys Parliament as much as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and it has been a pleasure to be in this Parliament with him.

I am not a hypocrite and therefore I cannot speak of virtues which he has which I do not know personally he possesses, but he has had an outstanding career in law and the honour which has been bestowed upon him is one which I believe he deserves as a serving politician. If it receives the support of both Government and Opposition, I hope he will not interpret that to mean that his contribution has been so anodyne, or soft, or uninspiring as to warrant that kind of support, because I am certain there are members who if they were awarded such honours because of the kinds of contribution they make to politics, there may be greater criticisms. But, in his case, he has served for such a long time and has made an imprint in so many areas of national life which is a distinction which only he and few others in this Chamber have, have had and will have. It is probably because of that that we on this side can give our support to the praise and the comments of commendation which have come forward. 12.05 p.m.

Hopefully, other members will avail themselves as we have, of this opportunity during the next four or so years, assuming that his political career is going to span that time in view of the other comments of the Honourable Member for The City of Bridgetown. Assuming that he will be here serving with the same tenacity for the next four years, I will urge Honourable Members, particularly the new members, to sharpen their debating skills against him, because I believe that that could be the best way that he will enjoy the next four years in Parliament, and seek to be as outspoken and as committed to the development of Barbados as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is.

Very often when there are the sharp exchanges in this Chamber the Honourable Member for St Joseph intervenes from his seat to tell us to be respectful but it is not disrespect that is being shown in those sharp exchanges. It is probably the testiness of the issue and the debating style of the members. As I said, I believe that so long as we can have those exchanges and still remain committed to our goal and remain civil and friendly in this environment, in this Chamber, this Parliament will continue to make its mark.

So on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party I would like to extend congratulations to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and to say how very pleased we are to give our support to this accolade which has been showered on him and to say that he is very deserving of the national honour which has been given to him.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct personal pleasure for me to join other Honourable Members in congratulating my longstanding and dear friend Sir Harold Bernard St. John on the signal honour which has been conferred on him. I believe that it is late in coming and I believe that Barbadians must move to the stage where those persons in public life like the Honourable Member who have made significant contributions to the development of their country should be recognised timely. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the reasons why we formed our own system of honours was to give this sort of recognition as is done in other countries.

In fact, in the United Kingdom, the honours system has developed - and I am talking about the honours system based on merit where the various leaders of political parties, whether they be in government or in opposition, the major Opposition or the minority Opposition, as well as Honourable Members and Her Majesty herself initiate the conferment of honours. I would hope that our national honours would develop a system where it is possible for leaders of the Opposition as well as the leaders of Government to recommend the conferment of honours on people who have made a contribution in political life.

Had this been so, I am absolutely certain that the Honourable Member's contribution would have been publicly recognised several years ago. I have had the pleasure of knowing my Mend since we were school boys at Harrison College. In fact, we spent many a Saturday together working on mathematics of which he was a prodigy, in my view, and working on Latin and English. He taught me mathematics and I would like to think that I helped to teach him some Latin and we shared our knowledge of English together.

That friendship has remained unsullied and unchanged and has deepened down through the years. As early as the 1940s many of us who knew him recognised him as one of the most brilliant Barbadians of the time. At Harrison College he excelled particularly in the 5th form, spent a year in the Lower Sixth, and was gone to the University College, London to read Law, and for a short period of time we lost contact. We renewed that in London and then he was back to Barbados where he entered into the practice of law.

He has made an outstanding contribution in the legal field. He has taken on some of the most arcane and difficult cases and has simplified the legal principles. He is perhaps one of the outstanding cross-examiners of all time and he has a great depth, not only of court craft and practice but of legal principles and the philosophy of the law in general. His contribution in this field is not limited to Barbados. He is recognised regionally as one of the outstanding Caribbean lawyers.

When it comes to politics, Sir, very early in his career he showed an interest in politics at the local government level, at the national level and at the regional level. There are very few of us left in Barbados who have the detailed knowledge which he has of local government. He was for many years legal advisor to the Southern District Council and it was not only his legal skill that he displayed in that role but his intimate knowledge of the needs of communities at the level of community. He was involved very closely with those people who were at the lower economic scale of existence. His contribution to the fisherfolk, for instance, in Christ Church, will always be revered and recognised. In local government, he was able to demonstrate the necessity for it and I think it is a great tragedy which I have always heard him regret when its abolition took place despite the strong recommendation from experts such as Dr. R. M. Jackson.

My friend has never given up his dedication to seeing that local communities progress and I believe that the development of Oistins Town in particular and of Scarborough and of Dover and other parts of Christ Church has been due to his imagination and creativity and to his constant hammering here within the walls of Parliament

and outside of the necessity for us to pay attention to our local communities. 12.15 p.m.

I was therefore pleased that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has decided that he would learn from the history of my friend's contribution to local government and continue to advocate its relevance to the development of Barbados. But just as he was strong on local government matters, likewise was his knowledge of national affairs.

The Honourable Member became the member for Christ Church. In those days there were double member constituencies and, in fact, he became the senior member for Christ Church. Having served in the Upper House, from the first time he entered into the House of Assembly he made his mark in the public's mind as one of the persons with a deep knowledge of the economy of Barbados, an understanding of its political institutions and a high appreciation of the public needs of the citizens of Barbados. Whether it was in the field of social affairs, in the field of political affairs or economic development, he made outstanding contributions. I would recommend, not only to historians but to young Barbadians that they should read his contributions in Hansard on various aspects of the development of our country.

On the regional level, the Honourable Member is recognised as a dedicated federalist, an unrepentant federalist. He warmed to the task of defending the federal concept and federation in days when others were impatient to move on and looked only at what was nearer home forgetting the wider commitment to the liberation of all Caribbean peoples simultaneously, if possible.

I recall very well when the late Right Honourable Member for St. John received a cable from Sir Arthur Lewis asking him not to make a final decision about the "Little Eight" until they had met The Right Honourable Member who was at the Law Courts spoke to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and myself and showed us a copy of the cable. I remember the Honourable Member for Christ Church South urging on him that it was worthwhile making one last effort to keep the Eastern Caribbean at least in a federal association. The Honourable Member has never wavered, I said, and will never waver. I think like me he will go to his grave believing that the true destiny of the West Indian people is in unity and a unified nation. Wherever he had the opportunity when he became the Deputy Prime Minister of this country, and finally as Prime Minister, to argue on behalf of closer union, he would throw his considerable knowledge of regional affairs behind the concept of closer union.

Prime Ministers, both past and present of the region, spoke with awe of the Honourable Member and the out-

standing contribution which he made in the LOME/ACP negotiations, of the creativity of his mind in being able to find solutions to problems that looked intractable at the time and of his dedication to the cause of the Caribbean. I would say that he is a true Caribbean man, an outstanding Barbadian and a nationalist, no doubt, but also a true Caribbean man.

On international affairs he never wavered either in his commitment on the equality and independence of all people. He has made his mark worldwide so that his reputation is not a local reputation only, nor is it merely a regional reputation, but it is an international reputation and one of very high standard.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has suffered at times, in my view, wrongly on a personal level and at the hands of political opponents. If there was one person who was constantly attacked sometimes beyond what I considered as legitimate in politics, I believe that it was the Honourable Member and he took it all and never felt that he was knowingly wronged by Barbadians. He always had the courage to stick to his beliefs, convictions and commitment and always came again and made and continues to make his contribution to Barbados.

I recall when the Honourable Member was Prime Minister in 1985 and 1986 one of the easiest things for him to do would have been to sacrifice the principles that he believed in and engage in the back-raising game. But none of that for the Honourable Member! He felt then and was convinced that the economy could not afford the type of recommendations that were being made by the other side. Rather than go for expediency and political survival, he went for the high road which resulted in the defeat of his party but it also set Barbados back many years. This is because he has an unshakable sense of political integrity. I want to emphasise that. He has an unshakable sense of political integrity, born perhaps of his own personal humility and integrity.

There is not a single person in Barbados who could ever say that the Honourable Member has used his office at any level for private, political gain from public service and there has never been a single hint of impropriety in his several years in political life. I think that is a tremendous testimony to this outstanding Barbadian nationalist. He swallowed defeat for the larger good of party and country and came again. Today some of those who now would seemingly say good of him, in the past one would not have recognised that they were speaking about the same person. Big man as he was and is, he would take all this as part of the course he has set himself in politics.

Sir, I had the pleasure of joining him in the political platform in the early 1960s, 1965 or thereabouts, and I spoke on his platform for the first time in 1965. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central speaks

of the days of the Under Forties but we were all fired by the federal concept and none more so than he. 12.25 p.m.

I was able to learn not only legal principles from him, but I was able to learn politics and the style of politics that he indulged in. He always felt that it was not necessary to pull down a person in order to build up one's own personal reputation. That is one of the things that he has taught me and I hope that I have been a good pupil.

In fact, I eventually joined the Labour Party at the urging of himself, and my good friend as well, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, joined the Labour Party in February 1971 after the three of us had been doing a case together in St. Vincent that lasted for 21 days. He was leading us then and he would spend the time telling me why I must get into the Labour Party, to the extent at one stage that I thought they were more interested in my joining the Labour Party than in winning the case. But we won the case and I gave him my undertaking that on my return to Barbados I would resign from the Public Service Commission of which I was then Deputy Chairman and I would join the Labour Party and I did.

It is again significant, Sir, the sense of discipline which he had. I was told that I had to seek to get the nomination for St. Michael South Central. I started canvassing in St. Michael South Central. Then one day the Honourable Member phoned me and said that he thought that Sir Ronald Mapp felt happier with St. Michael South Central and he was recommending to me that I should seek the nomination in Christ Church West. I had done some leg work, Sir. But so much was the respect that I had for his leadership - at that time the late Tom Adams was the Secretary of the Party as well and the two of them spoke to me - I went and ran in Christ Church West. He gave me a list of persons that I should see and I have never regretted it, Sir. He had the foresight to see that I would win the seat

And so we have sojourned and worked together in Party and for the country and I have learnt a lot from him and I am much indebted to him. Above all, I have learnt what friendship means. I have never heard him speak ill of anyone behind their back. There is nothing he would not tell you in front of your face that he would say behind your back. He is not the sort of person who bad talks people. Whether you are a friend or enemy he gives you your due. That is the sort of person the Honourable Member is. I believe that he has made a tremendous personal sacrifice and a contribution in the interest of Barbados. The honour which has been bestowed on him is the highest honour we have in this country. I wish it was higher. I believe that he considers this not necessarily as anything that has come to him personally because he is such a humble person, but as a recognition of the work of the people of Christ Church

for whom he has dedicated his whole life of over 35 years or more in politics.

When I hear people talk about politicians making a fortune out of politics and getting great reward I look around and I laugh to see how little we understand sometimes. Because with the dedication which the Honourable Member has given and the sacrifice that he has given certainly the financial rewards have never come to him from politics. He made a tremendous contribution in the physical development of Barbados as well. He has made his contribution at all levels. I believe that he has a longer contribution to give.

Within the Party he has been an outstanding leader. Everyone was given a fair chance and a fair hearing whenever he sat in the role as leader of the political Party. When the Party was at its lowest ebb he always had the courage to fight back and to inspire others of us to continue the battle. He believes passionately in the tremendous contribution which the Labour Party has made to the development of Barbados and he has never sought, as far as I am aware, to deny the contribution which others have made, although he may have disagreed from time to time to a particular approach to matters of this nature.

Today, we honour an outstanding Barbadian. It is very good that we have got the opportunity to do this in his lifetime, Sir. I would hope that he would find some time to write about his experiences and to leave the history of his life and of his contribution so that others coming in the future will learn from how a person can dedicate himself so selflessly to the cause of his people and achieve so much in such a humble and unpretentious manner as he has achieved.

I join with my friends and the other Members of this House in congratulating him on his honour. I know that his family has suffered grievously and wrongly on the political platforms, particularly his dear lady. Sometimes some of the criticism fell from the level of frivolity to even the very vulgar. But he was able to withstand all that and shake it off and go ahead and make his contribution to Barbados.

His family has stood by him in all of these years and I am sure that he appreciates it as I do hope the country as a whole appreciates it, Sir.

I therefore salute Sir Harold Bernard St. John as an outstanding Barbadian, Caribbean man and internationalist and I have much pleasure in seconding these words of congratulations.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, many are the encomiums that have been heaped upon the Honourable

Member for Christ Church South. I am happy to join in the sentiments expressed. I do not intend however to delay the House unduly, either in repetition of what has been said and what is well known, or in terms of making the Honourable Member more uncomfortable because of the good things that he did not know Honourable Members felt about him. 12.35 p.m.

But as the only two living members of the special club of former Prime Ministers, I could not allow this opportunity to pass without commenting on the life and work, still continuing, of the Member for Christ Church South.

Sir, we have shared a long association in the political life of Barbados. And perhaps it is little appreciated that the development of Barbados is due in very large measure to the contribution that individuals make in their several capacities as individuals, and also in terms of the contribution that they make towards the establishment, or the establishment if you wish to use an older form of word, and the consolidation and the building up of institutions. In both of these regards, that is, in terms of contribution as an individual as well as contribution to the formation, establishment and maintenance of institutions, the distinguished Member for Christ Church South has made an outstanding contribution.

I would like to single out, if I may, Sir, his tenacity of spirit. When once he is convinced of a certain course of action or of a certain concept, he holds fast to that concept or course of action; and woe betide those who disagree with him in his stance, because he could be a most devastating opponent or prosecutor of those who oppose him - very implacable in his argument and in the marshalling of facts or near facts in advancing his cause. But whatever he has said or has done, one could be sure that it was not from malice prepense but from a firm conviction that his was the right course.

A tribute has been paid to his nationalist feelings, to his interest in regional matters and also to his internationalism. He could not have risen to the height of becoming Prime Minister of this land without contributing in all three areas.

I myself, Sir, have been fortified in my own salad days in politics by his firm commitment and espousal of the regional principle; and we have shared common ground along with the Member for Christ Church West whom we gave some cover and protection in his constituency, in that particular cause - we did associate together for a time, Sir, in pursuit of the federal principle because it was an issue that crossed the divide of party politics in Barbados. One could be a Member of the Barbados Labour Party, one could be a Member of the Democratic Labour Party or a Member of the other fledgling parties in Barbados and still

agree on the objective of hoping and working for the assimilation of the many territories of the Caribbean into one nation.

I must say, Sir, that there was a parting of the ways when the objectives became a little blurred and what was an interest in a concept and an objective course of action became partisan in that from my own perspectives it became an attack on the Democratic Labour Party and particularly its then leader the late Errol Walton Barrow. So partisanship came in at that point and our bright, young, vigorous efforts at political discourse and political action, above partisanship, floundered. But we have maintained, some of us, a friendship and an understanding and a courtesy, except in very difficult times, and I am happy to note that the Member for Christ Church West, with his perception and his keenness as well as his courageous stances, made and continues to make a contribution to public life in Barbados. 12.45 p.m.

I have never shared with him his belief in the efficacy of local government for Barbados, Sir. Especially at this time when we have in this country to be very careful in ensuring that we do not unnecessarily expend resources on bureaucratic structures, I believe that any excursions in that direction may not represent value for money. I, however, firmly believe, Sir, that what we need in this country is a better allocation of the scarce available resources earmarked for the local level. I make a distinction between the allocation of resources specifically for local or constituency expenditure as distinct from re-inventing a local government bureaucracy and local government structures. In that particular regard, Sir, the representatives of the constituencies, elected by the people of the constituencies, should have a major input both in the allocation of those resources and in the expenditure of those resources.

To the extent that the Member for Christ Church South believes passionately in local government, I would only go along with him so far as the allocation of resources for local expenditure is concerned, not in his other structures, but he studied law; I studied politics and I approach it from a slightly different perspective. Perhaps like you, Sir, we might see the way forward in that particular way, through the effectiveness of the allocation of resources, not in the cumbersome structures that you put there to do it.

Sir, I have spoken with the Honourable Member on a number of occasions and he has always indicated to me: "Mr. Prime Minister, you wait, I will let you know when I am ready."¹ So there was never any doubt that the honour would have been bestowed on him, because we all hold him in high esteem and we certainly congratulate him. We hope that he will continue to make a contribution to the public life* of Barbados with the same integrity and the

same forthrightness that have characterised his participation in public life.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of the new generation of representatives of Christ Church. I want to say that we are indeed indebted to the leadership of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. When the Honourable Member was placed as leader of the Christ Church group, I believe that many thought that he did not have the kind of energy to do the job with the kind of dedication with which he did it. I believe they felt that he was just perhaps a figurehead leader of the group, but that was far from the truth. I have discovered that the Honourable Member seemed to have found renewed energy and I was really surprised by the measure of his vigour, and particularly impressed by the focus which the Honourable Member showed, a focus unmatched by many people whom I have encountered in my life.

He has the ability to be able to see a situation and to be able to address that situation and not get involved in a lot of peripheral matters that were not intended to reach the objective we were trying to meet. I was entirely impressed by his approach to matters at hand. I was also impressed by the selflessness of the Honourable Member. I have seldom seen such selflessness anywhere, where he was interested in the development of the candidates to an extent where he was always at their beck and call, and where he would freely give of information which many others would have felt that they needed to cherish and allow the younger ones to try and discover as part of a learning experience.

I feel proud to be part of the group here today to truly appreciate the work of Sir Harold Bernard St. John. I look at him as a father of Christ Church. From my youth I was impressed with his speeches, especially in Oistins. I remember the time when he led a group up to Silver Sands. As a matter of fact, he walked and they followed him. They pushed him on to walk from Oistins to Silver Sands in 1966 and I was very impressed to see a young man who had such an impact on the people of Christ Church that they made him walk from Oistins all the way up to Silver Sands. This was perhaps one of the greatest moments in our political history and I had the pleasure to see Sir Harold Bernard St. John as a leader in that group.

Sir, I also had the privilege to see Sir Harold Bernard St. John working as the Minister of Tourism. There again he showed this same focus, a focus which was motivated by the desire to get the job done. He was unassuming and approachable, humble, just focussing on the job at hand. I think this symbolises the kinds of persons that can make a great contribution to this country.

The honour bestowed on the Member for Christ Church South is therefore indeed quite fitting, because it

shows the kind of people whom this country should look up to, people who are motivated by a cause, and who will move steadfastly forward in order to achieve the objective at hand. In a day and age in which people perhaps tend to focus on problems, tend to focus on creating problems and spend a lot of needless time just addressing problems for the sake of problems but not looking for solutions, I believe that Sir Harold Bernard St. John stands as a monument for those who would want to focus on problem solving, getting the job done, especially in a period when we have to grapple with international financial institutions, when we have to look more fixedly at what has to be done to carry this country forward. Here stands a model of a person, a man for all times, a man who can show the way for the youth in this country.

Sir, I also wish to point out that in terms of his being a father of Christ Church, it amazes me that you can ask the Honourable Member almost any question about Christ Church and he can provide the answers. Sir, many times he comes to me and he says things that are happening in Silver Sands. He is not the representative for that area, but he has an abounding interest in Christ Church. He has an abounding interest in this country. Any person who shows such intimate interest in the welfare of people in the country as a whole and who is not just concerned about the interests of his or her constituency deserves recognition such as Harold Bernard St. John, the Member for Christ Church South, is getting today. These are the things I have seen, the qualities I have seen, in the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. 12.55 p.m.

I speak not to flatter the Member, I speak not to gain attention, but today, Sir, I had to speak because this is the way I felt about the Honourable Member and I was hoping that some opportunity would avail itself when, in public, I could let him know how I feel about his contributions in the Christ Church area over a long period of time and for demonstrating the kind of man he is, the kind of man who through his leadership can ensure that Christ Church can bring forth five members of his team, the first of all time, five out of five. This shows you the kind of man the Honourable Member is.

I believe he did it, not only for the Barbados Labour Party, but for Barbados because he believed in a mix of the older representatives and of the younger ones, a mix of community minded people, that Barbados deserved that kind of leadership and that Christ Church, the place he loves so much, deserves nothing but the best, and therefore he got this renewed vigour.

I have never seen a man his age move from Oistins to Charnocks to Waldron down to Wotton, down to Sargeant Village and even out to St. Philip and then go up to St George. I have never seen any man his age do so much. To think of his speeches, I have never seen any man

speak without looking at notes and having all the facts you can imagine, one person, a computer of a brain, Sir.

I feel proud that I can stand beside him and anytime I want to have information I can find it and he can make me feel that I am getting some information without having to feel like a psychopath. This is the kind of person this country needs and I hope that God will bless him, so that he gives this country many more years and that he gives the Christ Church team many more years and that this country can go forward as a team, the great team of the Barbados Labour Party and the five of Christ Church helping Christ Church to be the shining light, an example to other parishes in this country. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St, Michael East.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member has given way. In view of the hour, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2 o'clock.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

RESUMPTION Mr. SPEAKER:

The House is now resumed.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, during this debate to pay tribute to Sir Harold Bernard St. John I do so with a sense of humility since Sir Harold himself is a very humble person and one who makes you feel comfortable in whatever forum you may find yourself with him.

I am sure that my late father would have been extremely happy if he had lived to see the day when Sir Harold has been so appropriately honoured since I recall his tremendous excitement when Sir Harold first entered the political arena in the mid 1960s. Of course, you would appreciate that my father was a very strong supporter of the other side and hence his excitement over the entry of Sir Harold into politics in Barbados. I think, Sir, that his excitement stemmed from the fact that he had recognised in him an individual who was competent, possessed character, was fearless in his approach to debate and certainly would become a serious contributor to the development of Barbados in an orderly manner.

I don't think that those expectations were ever denied to this society because Sir Harold has in fact been a very fine example of what a public person should probably be like. I have a very quiet admiration for him and it has

certainly been an honour for me to have sat in our Parliament with such a distinguished individual. What is remarkable about Sir Harold and others of his era is that when you travel abroad on international seminars the respect and the tributes that are normally paid to persons of the likes of Sir Harold and Sir James Tudor and the late Enol Barrow and several others give a very proud feeling to be in that international forum and to be hearing the kind of comments that are made in respect of these gentlemen.

I am in unison with all of the comments that have been expressed on that side and on the side of the Opposition and I certainly would not want to prolong the debate, but I could not allow this debate to go ahead without recognising the quality and the quiet class that Sir Harold has brought to this distinguished House. I certainly have learnt a lot from listening to him and observing his attitude with regard to details on individual subjects.

I know that he has special love affairs with the foreign resources based in Barbados. I know he has an infinite knowledge of tourism. I know he likes the area of international shipping. I know that these are subjects that he has delved into with great detail and vigour. I too have some interest in some of those areas and, as a result of watching him and his enthusiasm for detail, I myself have adopted that style in anything that I do. To approach government or public affairs I always do extensive research before I seek to comment on any subject. It really is as a result of having observed people of the likes of Sir Harold and I certainly would like to encourage other members of Parliament and other members of the public in future to get a full grasp of all of the facts about a subject before they venture into the area of trying to debate. 2.15 p.m.

With those few comments, I would like to say that I am happy and my family is indeed happy that Sir Harold has been properly elevated in this society. I am also happy because for too many years we have had situations where politicians have been looked upon as the scum of the society and it is always a pleasure when we see one of our own being properly honoured.

I think, Sir Harold, that you have made Barbados proud in your own style. You are highly respected and I think that, if you are used as an example for others to follow, one must be fearless in politics, must continue to strive for what one believes in, must be able to speak fearlessly on the subjects one feels comfortable speaking on and bring that high sense of integrity to public office. I respect you, Sir Harold, and I certainly wish you the best in your future life.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, beginning with the beautifully delivered congratulatory speech of my good and learned friend, the distinguished Leader of the House, all of the speeches made here today congratulating Sir Harold Bernard St. John on his elevation to the knighthood have been very generous in tone, very relevant in focus and, if I may say so, he very much deserves the tributes which have been paid to him. A lot of what I would wish to say, Mr. Speaker, has been largely said and yet I could not allow this opportunity to pass without adding my own quota of congratulations because few people have worked as closely as I have done with him for at least half, if not more, of his very distinguished career in the public life of this country.

I first got to know him at close range in the closing days of 1970 when I entered his Chambers. The distinguished Leader of the House was then one of the persons in his Chambers and I was to join them both to be influenced by him as Chamber Master. Not soon after I was to run in a constituency, Christ Church East, that adjoined the one he was running in. The boundaries very much overlapped and we were to canvass very closely together. That was done over three elections.

Time was when I served under the Honourable Member as Minister. I was Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation and he sat on critical committees in the Barbados Labour Party, in the Cabinet where I was at first to join him as a colleague, and thereafter to serve under him when he became Prime Minister in 1985. Together we have made many trips to far away countries promoting Barbados as an offshore manufacturing centre and in many other respects ours has been a very close relationship over many years.

May I say, Sir, that the first point I wish to make has to do with his notion of service. I think it is fair to say that the Honourable Member has influenced and inspired a whole generation of us. Many came to Parliament in that vintage year of 1976 because of his inspiration. Many are still here and again in 1991 and again in this decisive year of 1994 I think it is fair to say that many are here because of his inspiration, his example and his encouragement.

One of the very strong points of appeal which Sir Harold wears is really his notion of service, an opportunity to enrich public life, an opportunity to give of yourself, an opportunity to help out others and not an occasion to better yourself or to help your family or anything of the sort. It is because of that being the foundation stone of the structure of all that he has achieved in public life that it is not surprising that never has anyone been able to question his sense of propriety and his probity.

In addition to that, he was a great encouragement to young people in sharing his knowledge, perspectives and

ideas and trying to teach you that in this game of politics you suffer ups and downs and that you must be persistent and have courage. In all of those respects he has been - exemplary.

I very well remember that fateful night of September 9, 1971 when having run in Christ Church East and been defeated, about 10:00 o'clock I made my way down to Foundation School Hall where his votes were being counted. It was clear by then that the Barbados Labour Party had suffered a decisive rout at the polls but the fate of our leader was then not known. When I got to the hall I made my way through a crowd that was swelling, but in my judgement had already reached 10 000. People from all over Barbados were assembled at the Foundation Boys' School. For some reason, which up to now I have not been — able to understand, his count never started until 12 o'clock midnight, virtually the stroke of midnight

I sat there on the platform with him and he reflected on the very devastating defeat that we had suffered. The pattern that emerged in the first 30 or 40 votes was Morrison, Morrison, Morrison, St. John, St. John, Morrison, Morrison, Morrison. This continued and in the end he was to be defeated by a man, not particularly well known nationally, but strong in the constituency. That was one of the painful moments of humility and defeat which he suffered in politics. I have never forgotten, however, that at the end of the count he was to turn to me and say "We — have to get to the books and to the law but we will have our night of victory". His sense of optimism and his persistence and tenacity in politics, already referred to by another Honourable Member, is one of the very admirable features of his political personality.

As a lawyer, and comment has already been made of that, having sat at his feet for some 5 to 6 years, I can attest to his qualities. A lot of young lawyers believe that you can pretty well make the law on your feet. The example he has always set when he was tackling a problem was, "Let us pull down the books", as he always told me. ~ Pull out the "Empire Digest". Check out the Halsbury. Research the All England and the West Indian Reports. Pull down the books, always an important lesson for all lawyers, and check the latest too so as to make sure that while we ourselves have been thinking about this problem a decision has not been given in a jurisdiction from which we take our guidance. All of that he taught me. He taught me, too, to speak candidly and frankly to the clients, never mislead them, to communicate honestly and never to confuse your own account of it with that of the client. Those who have departed from those important canons ^ have run themselves into tremendous trouble.
2.25p.m. *

In the courtroom he was crafty, he was a devastating cross-examiner. These points have been made earlier. But he always, whether he was addressing judge or jury,

recognized that there were points of importance in the case, matters that went to the heart of the issue and there were marginal points. He was never heard to address a marginal issue. I think he took the view that it tended to confuse both judge and jury and he would always in a case be concentrating on the essentials. His was a mind more for knotty problems in the law than in the field of contract or tort or civil aviation or shipping or in land law or in trust or equity. He never seemed to be attracted to routine points in the law but always the complex and complicated issues.

His reputation referred to in the wider Caribbean has been well merited and I think that part of his distinguished public service has to do, and we must not forget it, with his contribution in the field of the law. It has not been put this way, Mr. Speaker, but one of his strengths in public life has been the large fund of ideas which he always articulated. Ideas are in short supply in this country and I suppose everywhere. Throughout the history of the world I would have thought that it was fair to say that ideas have been one item always in short supply.

The Honourable Member could always be relied upon to have an idea fresh, well considered on a whole range of issues in public life. But apart from his large natural ability it ought to be said that he read widely and that he was a man who engaged in long and hard study on public issues. I think that is worth mentioning and emphasizing, Mr. Speaker, because too many of us believe that we can be successful in public life and can make our mark in Parliament, and in other arenas in which we speak, can attract the attention of others without reading, without engaging in dialogue over many years on political issues, without developing political perspectives and without long studies of public issues. The truth is that you really cannot achieve much or be highly respected for your contribution unless you are prepared to do precisely what he has done over many years. I think that is one of the fine examples which he has given us, which all of us who are serious need to follow.

Mention has been made of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that Sir Harold had very strong views about the role of the state, particularly in our society and in the development of the country, the role which our own air carrier can play in the promotion of our tourism. He had very strong notions too about the importance of regional co-operation and continuing pursuit of the federal idea. In all of those respects I think that he has taught us lessons which we must not forget. Even though there has been a tendency on our part to move away from federalism and increasingly these days even from functional co-operation, our future as a region may still lie in the area of increasing rather than decreasing functional co-operation in a large number of areas of common interest.

Tribute has been rightly paid to the role that his wife and his family played in helping him in his many and

sometimes difficult years in public life and I would wish to associate myself with those very generous remarks. I have known his wife and children over many years. I was happy on many occasions particularly when I was Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation to, have both of them travel with me in Barbados' delegation to faraway countries as we tried to promote Barbados as an offshore centre for manufacturing and for a whole range of service activities.

Sir Bernard's contribution to the Barbados Labour Party has been large, his example in public life rich and his contribution to the public of this country distinguished.

It gives me great pleasure this day, my 53rd year, to be joining with other colleagues on the Floor of this House in offering him congratulatory remarks on an honour very richly deserved indeed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sir, I would wish to rise to associate myself with the remarks made so far in this debate in respect of the highest national honour conferred on the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Indeed, Sir, other Members of this Honourable Chamber have attested to the fact that he has been an inspiration to the generation of those who were here, for the most part, from 1976, the Honourable Member for the City, the Honourable Member for St. George South, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, but I would wish also to say, Sir, that I think that the greatness of the man is that his inspiration has spanned not only one generation but indeed two, Sir.

Indeed, my earliest memories of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South are those somewhere very far back in the recesses of my mind, when I was obviously about three or four years old, of seeing him at our house on a regular basis at a time when he was then a Member of Parliament, I believe in this Honourable Chamber. Those memories are one of the few childhood memories that stick with me. For some reason I just have this picture of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South sitting in a large peacock chair in a corner and it is one that has stayed with me all the time.

Later on, Sir, I was to discover on my own of the large generosity of the man and indeed one of the remarkable things that can be said of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is that I have never seen him be rude to anybody whether in Parliament, whether in the precincts of the Barbados Labour Party or anywhere else that I have seen him operate. Not only has he not been rude to people but I have never seen him set out to demean the dignity of persons with whom he has had to deal. I

think, Sir, that also speaks volumes about the man whom we are honouring. Because those who are charged with power or the ability to have power vested in them sometimes forget or take things for granted and treat people in a manner which is really not befitting the treatment of other human beings.

I would also just briefly like to say that his concept of service as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph put it is one that has stood with me, even today. 2.35 p.m.

There is no occasion on which you speak with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South that he does not raise some matter of public service, some matter pertaining to his constituents, some matter pertaining to public life in Barbados and one gets the impression that there is an all encompassing fervour on his part that matters of public nature, matters that affect the well being of his constituents, Sir, must occupy some primacy in terms of his time and his energies. I believe it is an example which those of us who are young in this arena would do well to follow.

Indeed the Honourable Member for the City, in what is perhaps the most fitting tribute that I have heard in respect of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, described aptly that he met the twin impostors of defeat and victory with the same fortitude and indeed what came through was his level of commitment, his level of tenacity, indeed his willingness to continue to serve. In this day and age, Sir, when the concept of fast food and instant photographs and everything is instant, it does well to sit back and reflect on those who have achieved much by dint of hard work and commitment and indeed a level of tenacity to the purpose and to the fundamentals which they have set themselves to guide their actions and their behaviour.

As an advocate, Sir, his reputation is legendary and indeed anyone who has gone into the law courts of Barbados and seen him cross-examine witnesses would be able to attest to this. I do not think that there are very many other persons who are members of the Bar who have such capacity of recall without taking a note as I have seen the Honourable Member for Christ Church South display in a law court.

Indeed, Sir, his capacity, as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, said to be able to strike at the heart of the matter and to address it clearly and succinctly is perhaps one of his greatest assets as an advocate at the Bar.

Sir, I would just wish to state that I think it is also a fitting tribute that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South be appointed as an Ambassador Extraordinary with powers plenipotentiary, as I understand it, so that he can be of great service outside of this

Parliament to the cause of improving the lives of the people of this country, as he indeed was when he acted as a major player, Sir, in the period from 1976 to 1986 in his capacity as Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Minister of Tourism and, indeed, as Minister of Finance between March 1985 and May 1986.

I believe that, not only Barbados, but indeed any other country in the region would be proud to have at their service a person with the skills and distinction of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Perhaps the two things that stay with me when I think of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South are:

- (1) a hallmark of excellence that seems to extend across his every pursuit, and
- (2) his willingness to assist when asked to do so by anyone, whether in active political service or indeed when one watches him interact with ordinary members of the public, his willingness to engage in discussion on any matter which he deems of public importance.

I think, Sir, those are rare qualities, particularly in a world that seems to have been invaded by a sense of mediocrity. And it is fitting that a person, while still active in his political career, should receive this nation's highest honour as our testimony to the great effort that he has placed on behalf of this country, indeed on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, and indeed on behalf of the people of Christ Church. His energy and youthful exuberance as displayed during the course of the three months campaign of this year is testimony also, I believe, to the type of person that we are dealing with.

I would say, Sir, that I do not believe that any honour would have been too high for the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and it is fitting that each of us has the opportunity to pay tribute to him. I consider it an honour and a privilege to be allowed the opportunity to sit in a Parliament and, indeed, to sit next to him during the course of this Parliament because I believe that I can only learn, not only the substance of matters but indeed, Sir, the approach which one must have in public life both in terms of one's commitment to people, one's commitment to honesty and integrity and one's commitment to service.

I believe, Sir, that was the legacy of Sir Grantley Adams that is being displayed so well by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and I would only hope that we as younger members of the Barbados Labour Party would have the opportunity to develop in that same light. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. C. EASTMQND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last 35 to 40 years of parliamentary life in Barbados, this Parliament, in particular the Lower House of Parliament,

has been able to attract a body of persons of formidable intellectual stamina and I can think of persons like the current Honourable Member for St. Peter. I can think of persons like the current Honourable Member for St. George South, the current Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the current Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and many others whose capacity of intellect is so astonishing as to attract admiration even in circumstances of political division.

Within the framework of those who have offered service to Barbados unselfishly today, we must note the Honourable Member for Christ Church South as a person who has been able to blend the intellectual stamina to which I have referred along with a sense of the highest political integrity that one can ever imagine, Sir.

I would want to say that I first encountered the Honourable Member for Christ Church South between 1970 and 1971 at a time when the headquarters of the Barbados Labour Party in Roebuck Street had been badly run down, the party's morale had been weak, the party was in need of a reshaping of its future and along came the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, not only to continue as a Member of the Barbados Labour Party, but to offer himself as leader of the party around 1970 to 1971.

I found that, from the outset, the Honourable Member for Christ South, as he is now, showed himself to be extremely honest and straightforward in circumstances when there are expectations that politicians as a class should not necessarily be honest and straightforward, but should be given to ruses and stratagems and possibly things like intrigue and other such qualities, but this Honourable Member for Christ Church South maintains a stance where he was brutally frank and candid and where he was not prepared to resort to trickery as a means to political success.

As for his capacity as a lawyer, I have had the benefit of reading the West Indian Law Reports, especially the first issues of the West Indian Law Reports and, even though Law Reports usually only report counsel's submission in a concise way, I was amazed at the quality of the submissions made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and that the decisions granted in his favour always seem affected by the quality submissions he had made. That struck me because, ultimately, an impartial judge is not required to adopt any particular argument put to him by anybody and can steer a course so as to come to a judgement without being influenced at all by the arguments of counsel. 2.45 p.m.

But as for the cases I have read in the West Indian Law Reports where the learned Member for Christ Church South was appearing, it would seem to me as though the sincerity of his arguments, loaded with the potency of

such arguments, was always able to capture Judges' imagination and then ultimately redound to his success as a brilliant Q.C.

I believe though, Sir, that it would be remiss of me if I were not to say that I believe that, in the final analysis, when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South writes his memoirs or reflects on his political ways, I would think he is going to consider his involvement in the ACP/EEC talks as one of the finest hours he would have had in his political career. For the record will show, Mr. Speaker, that when our venerable Member for Christ Church South was actively involved on behalf of the ACP in the talks at Lomé, when he was representing former colonial countries against imperial masters, he brought a sense of fair play, a sense of strength and a sense of understanding to the issues affecting Third World economies which are producers of primary products.

I believe that every Honourable Member in this Parliament will recognise that one of the fundamental crises facing Third World economies is that over time our contribution in the international community has been a contribution where we have been, generally speaking, reduced to being producers of primary products which often, when they get to the metropolitan countries, are converted into secondary products in circumstances where we end up being exploited. That is a fact. I believe every Honourable Member who has been able to follow developments in international economics will be able to tell you that, but when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South approached the ACP/EEC negotiations he was able to present the case on behalf of a sizeable proportion of the population of the world in such a manner as to be able to represent the interests of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries while at the same time extracting benefit and gain from the EEC for those for whom he spoke. I honestly believe, Mr. Speaker, that when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South considers his involvement in politics - and he has been around for more than 30 years - he is going to admit that some of his finest hours were spent in his involvement in the ACP/EEC talks.

I have also found, Sir, that the Honourable Member is a dignitary who is absolutely issue competent in politics. I believe that no political issue anywhere in the world ever escapes his attention. He is absolutely issue competent. For a man whose profession is that of lawyer, he manifests a frightening understanding of finance, of economics and, recently, of international business. His understanding of international business has to be put in context, because in a situation where he has already succeeded in life, and where there is a situation where he has done very well, it must be to his credit that recent financial developments worldwide can so attract his attention and grip his understanding that it shows that here is a flexible and versatile intellectual prepared always to keep pace with the times.

I referred earlier, Mr. Speaker, to his honest and straightforward approach. In my time I have never heard anybody say that he was given to bobol, to graft or to corruption. He has been one of these politicians who would rather die seised of integrity than die seised of wealth. I believe that we in this Parliament would more value what is done for Barbados when we recognise that he is prepared, even in the face of fluctuating political fortunes, to go down as a man with integrity than as a man of graft, intrigue and such like.

You will also be amazed to note, Mr. Speaker, that in very many respects the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is a person with a very especial grasp of developments in the fishing industry. Oistins is very much his domain and he has used Oistins and the Oistins Fish Market as a springboard from which he has been able to leap into the entire fishing industry in Barbados in such a way and to such a degree that anything the Honourable Member for Christ Church South can tell you on fishing is going to be proved accurate. I had talks within the last three weeks and information I have gathered in respect of fishing matched his to a "T" and it seems to me as though he was able to get his information even before I. He has the interest of the fishing community at heart. Today he was able to stop me and give proper advice on recent developments in the fishing industry.

I am also struck too, Mr. Speaker, by the commitment that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has to regionalism. I believe that at heart he is a federalist. He believes in regional unity. He would have been associated with the Barbados Labour Party in the days when the Barbados Labour Party decided to go the route of independence within a federation rather than independence alone. Even though subsequent historical events have shown that a situation has emerged in the Caribbean where all States have virtually gone the route of independence alone, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South still has faith and has hope in the integration movement.

I was heartened by the contribution made by my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, when she suggested that he has a role to play as Ambassador-at-large negotiating in the international community. Even though a lot of us will want to honour the very noble concept of Caricom integration and Caribbean unity, the fact remains that there are schisms in Caricom which need addressing and I believe that the reputation the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has in the region is such that, in instances where there is fragmentation and where there is schism in Caricom, we can reasonably expect that an intervention by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South could very well go a long way towards healing any divisions we may have in the Caricom region.

In addition, Sir, I am struck and I well recall an exchange between a former Member for SL John and the Member for Christ Church South as to who was the most skilled in civil aviation matters - the Honourable Member for Christ Church South takes a keen interest in civil aviation and tourism and prides himself to such a degree that, on one occasion, before my time as a Member of this Honourable House, there was an altercation in here between the late Errol Barrow and himself as to who was the genuine expert on civil aviation. In that exchange Barrow gave way and admitted that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South indeed understood civil aviation in a brilliant way!

We know in the Barbados Labour Party that it is difficult to find anybody as enthusiastic about life in Parliament as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. As I speak to you I rather doubt that passing 60 years is going to see the Honourable Member for Christ Church South consider his political position and consider retirement I believe that he would want, as long as there is a Parliament in Barbados, to be part of that Parliament. He is extremely enthusiastic about coming to Parliament. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there is a story that twice Parliament had been on recess and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South still showed up and asked: "Where are the fellows?" 2.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have no difficulty in commending the Government for having given him his fair due. In many respects, he has proved to Barbados that a politician can sometimes be a strategist and a person who will practise a measure of psychology to achieve votes, but that in his case he is prepared to go the way of a statesman. The whole of Barbados considers Sir Harold to be a statesman, Sir. I believe his record proves that conclusively.

I, therefore, on this occasion would associate myself with all Members who have spoken and have congratulated him and I wish him well at this time. I wish him great success in all of his future endeavours. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I join this non-partisan debate with a great measure of satisfaction and conviction. I have been a Member of this Parliament in which I have had the privilege to serve and to work with all Prime Ministers after Independence and I, surely, from that experience, was able to make a good assessment of each of them.

Today we are honouring Sir Harold for work well done, a job well done and, as a parliamentarian up to this Parliament, to a very high level. I daresay that today is a special day for Parliament, because of the four previous Prime Ministers I have mentioned, of the three I have mentioned, none of them has been able at least to achieve

the honour that Sir Harold has today. This reminds me very much that as a young boy when I used to sing in the choir I loved psalms and psalms somehow came to me. On this occasion, the one I remembered was:

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men."

All of these Members, of whom Sir Harold is part, have been good, and I say this emphatically because politicians can do nothing good. They cannot do anything good. It is a difference from saying whether a man is a good man or not, but it is the goodness that they do. This country has benefited tremendously and I say so without any exception because of my privilege to travel in other countries.

Barbados has been able to stand its own on high ground because of those persons who represented Barbados at that level, and Sir Harold must have done that for the country - no country can succeed without proper leadership - and at the time that the Honourable Member had the honour to lead this country and to serve this country.

Like all politicians you have to be a good warrior. You have to lose battles and you have to win them and the Honourable Member has so done. I say that because I was convinced that he was honest and sincere in all the contributions that he has made in this Parliament, for the development of this country alone I would say that he has made that vital contribution which has taken this country to the very highest points of development, even within the Caribbean.

Some mentioned about CARICOM, ACP. All of those are good and sufficient reasons why the Honourable Member should have been placed in this position, but I speak more so as a person whom the Honourable Member served well when I was presiding officer. I want to say this. When I first sat in the Chair, I had a kind of fear regarding how I would be able to contain and to apprehend the very contributions that the Honourable Member would have made. I did that simply because he had an aggressiveness, that if you are not careful, you would lose sight of the point rather than the aggressive manner. He was very forthright, very straight to the point As I listened in Parliament, all the trivia he takes out. He is very much direct and precise in what he is saying.

I can say this to him. I learnt a lot sitting in that Chair from him. Even though I had my view on asides, his asides were something thoughtful, and on many occasions, my decisions - I will say it - were based on what I heard coming from his pronouncements at times. That is where Members can be helpful and presiding officers can be helped. He was a tremendous help to Parliament.

One outstanding quality that I think, and I believe, is very unique in his style is that he challenges, but he does not challenge in a way to abuse his privilege. Therefore, I found comfort in serving in this Parliament while he was a contributor to debate. He was helpful and I am sure that, when you put all the contributions and all the things that have been said about him which I shall not now repeat, I would just want to add to my own contribution that we in this Parliament must start to look not at offering the Honourable Member an additional task of running around. Perhaps what I want to say is that these kinds of awards for achievement should be automatic for those persons who have reached high honour in this country and in this Chamber.

I believe, Sir, it is a waste, and I am saying this against a background, even against a constitutional position. The Honourable Member talked about Parliament. Parliament is not only the elected body. Parliament is also the Upper House. Could you think of some of the Members who have reached this high position in life who should have had an automatic choice to enter the other Chamber without any nomination? I think it should be automatic where some provision should be made for those Members who have served at this level, even though they have passed the active hustle and bustle of politics, to go and serve there with distinction as well. That says to me that we have to review the Senate. The Senate must now absorb the material that has been produced at this level and at the fight level they ought to be able to continue to produce that.

I am sure the Honourable Member will not have difficulty in travelling around the world, and I know this is true, but how much better could he serve in another political capacity even if there needs to be a constitutional amendment.

I think that Parliament today should be happy. He has struck a good blow for Parliament. He has brought something to Parliament which is so sadly lacking. Honourable Members who have not had the privilege like myself to hear the Honourable Member debate should go and read Hansard and you will be privileged to develop your own skills. He is extremely sure about what he says, confident about what he says and, most of all, I was convinced that he had a conviction for this country. No doubt that his political fortunes have demonstrated that. He was no coward, Sir. Whenever he lost he took it as a challenge and he came back to Parliament.

So, Sir, I myself am very grateful for the honour that has been bestowed on him. I hope that this will be some form of inspiration and cleansing in the public's mind that something good can come out of Parliament and that many of our parliamentarians should aspire to achieve what he has achieved over his years. 3.05 p.m.

With those brief remarks, Sir, I thank you and I extend my sincerest congratulations to Sir Harold and wish him many more years of political activity once health and strength serve him well.

Thank you.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be brief because we have a lot of Government business to do today but I could not let this occasion pass without placing on record my own congratulations to Sir Harold Bernard St John, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, on an honour which is well deserved and particularly long overdue. When the Honourable Member, the former Speaker just spoke, he struck a chord with me because he asked that these kinds of awards should be automatic for those who have reached a certain level of eminence.

One has on these occasions to be also frank. I would be less than frank if I did not say that it has bothered us on this side that during the last 8 years parliamentarians on the other side were accorded national honours and never was the Honourable Member for Christ Church South considered by the previous Government...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Today? He was offered what? Well, that was not known, Sir. If he was offered something on previous occasions none of us knew about it. He never had anything. Today is the first day he is getting something other than the Q.C., as far as I am concerned. This is a real thing. I do not want to hear about promises or having something in mind. I am a plain, blunt man, Sir. I did not want to be fractious at this time of the year before the other debates come up but I think these things need to be said. I would want in future that persons who have made the kind of contribution that the Honourable Member has made, who, as we are told today, has been the epitome of rectitude, the epitome of integrity, a person admired, according to the speeches we have heard today by parliamentarians on all sides, I would only hope that in future when we have these kinds of personages we do not wait until somebody's particular party is in power to honour them and that the recognition of those characteristics and abilities should be non-partisan.

Having said that, Sir, if I have been blunt it is perhaps a quality that I have developed in politics as a result of 24 years' association with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I first met him, of course, in 1966 during the Constitutional Conference in England. I had previously seen him once and that was during the historic stand by Frank Worrell and Garfield Sobers as they then were against England at Kensington in 1960. He was then a younger man sitting in the back row of the Kensington Stand in the lawyers' traditional garb

of black jacket and grey pants. I asked who he was and was told that he was "Bree" St. John who was not so much a cricketer as a footballer.

When I came back to practise in 1970, within months he and I and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West were engaged in a big case in St. Vincent, the famous Miro case where certain Members of the Democratic Labour Party were attempting to buy an island from the Eustace family. We fought that case for 21 days but it was a tremendous learning experience because as we know the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, there are cricketing comparisons that may be opposites. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West plays his law a little bit like Frank Worrell, I suppose, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is fashioned after Everton Weekes.

In fact, in his book "Everything Under the Sun", I think it is Jeffrey Stalmeyer who writes that, Weekes was in business when he went to start in England and that he was as though he was on the job 24 hours. In their approach to law and politics we could say that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South brought that businesslike approach, that willingness to start, get stuck in and do the thing in his own aggressive ebullient style.

While we were fighting that case in St. Vincent, I well recall that what struck me as the quality to which the Honourable Minister of Education has alluded, was that certainly after 15 days when we started to address, the Honourable Member without a note addressed Mr. Justice Denzil Peterkin for two days recalling what all kinds of witnesses said and without being stopped once for having misquoted the evidence. It told me that I was now in the company of one whose memory was different from that of the average ordinary lawyer. All of us at the Bar, in the succeeding 24 years, have been able to admire in astonishment his powers of recall. How he does it, I do not know. It must be a gift

In the political arena, he has been bereft of any guile whatsoever, any desire to deceive or to be involved in intrigue, straight down the middle perhaps is the best way of describing it. That forthrightness perhaps is a quality not appreciated until recently by Barbadians. Perhaps they had to see the errors of their ways or suffer some privation before they were prepared to admit that his, the way of truth and straightforwardness, was the way to go. In the meantime, he and his family suffered grievously for his honesty and integritous attitude. 3.15 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph was saying to me when he sat down that he forgot what he truly wanted to say and he asked me to say it, Sir. I am indebted to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph that, in a sense, and

perhaps, in truth, in the last generation there has been no more devoted Barbadian patriot than Sir Harold Bernard St. John. The vicissitudes of politics have seen him tossed and buffeted by an electorate for whatever reason into office and out of office. Never once did he resile from what he perceived to be a commitment of service to his people.

I wish to say that after we suffered the massive defeat in 1986, when there were just 5 of us who had the courage to face the hostile crowds in this yard every Tuesday and Wednesday. There were 3 plus the 2 in the Senate. I said 5. We were fortified, strengthened by the attitude of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

He went back to his law practice which he set up in the building next to mine. And I could say every day, at lunch time, he used to come over and he would have something to discuss. He is a man who has never been given to small talk. He always came to discuss something of great significance that affected the public interest. When he got back over he would phone again. If he could not come a day he would phone me in his famous style "What is happening now? What is going on there now? Let me hear you now." You know he is ready to talk.

But the Honourable Prime Minister would be able to attest that many a time when the 3 of us were in the Senate Chamber before we came into here and we were confronted with all kinds of things from the Democratic Labour Party about which we knew nothing we would only have to pick up the phone and call 436-8047 and he would give you the answer instantly. He helped us quite selflessly in preparing for major debates. Even though he had lost he was not embittered. Some people would have lost and said, I have done my part. They did not want me. I am finished with that. He stuck in there to ensure that, however he could, he would help rebuild the Barbados Labour Party.

I am proud and happy today, Sir, that his life has been spared to have soldiered with us in the summer this year to ensure victory. I do not think we have paid enough tribute today, Sir. We wanted all 5 in Christ Church because of the seat distribution. We put him and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West in charge of that one to deliver. You have heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East tell us about his efforts during the campaign. He ensured, together with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, that we got the 5 in Christ Church.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I wish just to say, Sir, that he and I have had some battles at the Bar and I must tell one story first. I learnt most of what I know about drafting pleadings from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. But I also resolved that I had to become adept at pleadings because of an incident in 1972. I had to plead

some defence with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, he was leading, and we were instructed then by Mr. David Gittens. He would have been at Carrington and Sealy at the time. We did a draft defence and went over to see him, Sir. He put his 2 feet on the desk and when he hollered at me you could have heard him down by Mr. Blackman's tailor shop at the bottom of James Street. He remonstrated with me about the quality of my pleadings. I vowed that never again would -he or any other lawyer have that opportunity to shout at me about the quality of my work.

I am grateful to him for being the hard task master that he was when I was a junior and to say that he instilled one quality that I think a lot of lawyers need to develop. Rather than go and ask him a question, he wanted to know that you had looked it up first thing, that you have exhausted your research and then come to him. But he did not want you to come to him and just rely on his memory and ask him a question and get an instant answer. I think he taught the qualities of resourcefulness and research which are essential for lawyers.

I would also wish to pay tribute to him, Sir, because when he was a member of the Bar Council he did much for young lawyers in Barbados. When you had to cope with difficult judges he was prepared on behalf of the younger ones of us who did not have the courage or the skills to take on some of those judges, to confront the Judiciary on behalf of the younger members of the profession. That is testament to his courage. There are very few who would have dared to stand up and represent young counsel as he and Jack Dear did in 1973. A lot of us who are around today and were around in 1973 will always remember and be thankful to him for what he did for us in ensuring that the young members of the Bar were respected by the Judiciary of the early 70s.

I could go on, Sir, but we have other things to do and other Honourable Members wish to speak. In winding up, I wish to say that it has been an enriching experience for me to have shared the company of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in politics in the last 24 years. He got me involved in active politics, on that same trip to St. Vincent in 1970, 1971, and it was he who also first appointed me to the Cabinet of Barbados in 1985, an honour and a privilege for which I remain deeply grateful and an experience which I cherish because it has also helped me this time around to have a better understanding of the functions of Government. 3.25 p.m.

I wish personally to thank him for all he has done for me and to say that this Party, as the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has hinted, has plans to use his considerable talents to the benefit of Barbados in the coming years. And I am sure that the criticism that I heard on "Guttaperk" this morning by the Leader of the Minority Opposition, that is

the Opposition of one, to the effect that the Prime Minister treated the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Honourable Member for St George South, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West badly by not having them in the Cabinet and how we disappointed the public of Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I heard it. I did not go to work until 10 to listen to you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, it is most regretful that I have to rise on a point of order during this debate. I was responding to a question by a member of the public and the specific question was whether or not the public out there, what the public out there feels about their omission from the Cabinet. And I made it quite clear that I was not expressing my views on the matter but several people in the Barbados Labour Party and in the public in general felt disappointed. That is what I said. I said several people among the general public.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is not how it went. When we come to contentious matters later on I will explain to the House how it went. I am ready, Christmas time or no Christmas time.

It was said that we should have told the public before, Sir, that they were not going to be in the Cabinet. That was said by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

I am going to wind up, Sir but we are debating so there will be some response. When somebody gets up on a point of order, Sir, I have to respond. I am not like that, Sir. I am not turning cheek or back or anything. I will face you and deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just wish to revert to the matter before us and that is the tribute to the Honourable Member and to say that all Members of the House will benefit, as we have in the past, Sir, from his intellect, his wisdom and his knowledge of politics in Barbados, the social history of Barbados and his almost encyclopaedic mind which is able to assimilate all contemporary matters, particularly matters relating to trade.

We look forward to his contributions in the New Year with even more keenness. He has told us two weeks ago how he is to be addressed and having regard to the uncertainty in some Members' minds today, some are calling him Sir Bernard, some are calling him Sir Harold, he made it clear to us, Sir, that to us in the Party around the table at night he will always be "Bree" otherwise he will be Sir Harold and I am very, very happy for him and I am sure he will have a very happy Christmas and I wish him many more successes in the years to come.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I too rise to pay tribute to this great but humble Barbadian statesman. I consider him, Sir, to be a model for all politicians especially in this day and age when politicians in all parties are taking a beating from the public.

In fact the Honourable Member for St. Michael East has said that some people consider the politician nowadays to be the scum of the earth. I therefore think that it speaks well for the Honourable Member for Christ Church South that, in the words of the Member for St. Michael South Central, no one has ever pointed a finger at him for corruption. He has inspired me, Sir, as a politician.

Let me say, Sir, I would like to bring into politics the same characteristics that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has brought. I believe that if all politicians model themselves on him it will be better for the politicians and for this country.

Equally true is the fact, Sir, that he has inspired me as an Attorney-at-Law because I have sat in court and I have witnessed his very incisive and piercing cross-examination of witnesses and he has won many a legal battle in court because of that type of cross-examination.

As I said, Sir, I have watched him. I have benefitted from his style. I have benefitted from his very shrewd advice. As a lawyer, Sir, you have to learn from the Honourable Member whether you are working with him on the same side, whether you are working against him, or whether you are simply sitting in the court and listening to the case. He must be classified, Sir, as a brilliant lawyer, one who sometimes makes something out of nothing. A very small point which perhaps a lot of other attorneys might not have spotted he is able to see it and make something out of it. He seems to have a way, Sir, of sitting in court and pretending or looking as though he is not listening but then when he rises to his feet almost everything that has gone on he is able to recap verbatim.

Everyone has spoken so far about his fantastic memory and I can safely say that even on another level I can also attest to this because he seems to know your constituents even better than you do. He was able to tell me who my supporters were in St. Philip North and he was able almost to number them. I have also listened and I know he has done the same thing to Members from other constituencies. I do not know, Sir, how he is able to remember the names of the supporters like that. From all of the constituencies he can tell you who the supporters are, where they live, their families, almost everything about them. And I believe, Sir, it is that type of memory that makes him such a good lawyer because he can recap the case law, he can recall the law, the cases on his feet by heart and what the cases say - the crucial parts of the case.

Sir, I know Barbados has benefitted tremendously from his contribution as a lawyer. Also the way he recaps the legal anecdotes, sometimes saying what happened with one judge and another judge and obviously the way he puts them over the listeners must laugh because he can be extremely humorous as well.

Sir, I know there are some people who cannot live with success. The moment they become financially successful they do some nonsense and they fall from grace, but the Member for Christ Church South is a successful lawyer, a successful politician, a successful businessman and, in spite of all that, he is very humble with his success. You can approach the Honourable Member without any fear whatsoever of being repelled. You can approach him on any matter and he will listen to you as attentively as a father would listen to a son. That is a characteristic of his. The word "arrogance" is simply not in his vocabulary, Sir. I have heard accusations levelled at him, that he is too honest to be a Prime Minister. When I first heard it, it shocked me, but I have actually heard that on the ground. That he was too honest to be a politician. Simply because he is not known for backbiting, back stabbing or lying. I believe it was lack of those negative qualities which might have caused him to lose his seat on two occasions, but I am sure that he would rather have lost it under those circumstances than to lose his integrity. He moved from Prime Minister to suffer a shattering defeat, all in the name of truth, all in the name of dignity. 3.35 p.m.

I said at the beginning that there is a mistrust of politicians, but I know that it is even more so when you are a politician and a lawyer together. There are people who simply seem to mistrust that particular combination. There are few lawyers/politicians in this country who command the admiration and respect from all sections of the community in the same way the Honourable Member for Christ Church South does. There is hardly a Barbadian who would not say "I agree with the conferring of the Knighthood of the Order of St. Andrew on the Honourable Member." It is something that he deserves.

As I said, Sir, his contribution to the political, economic, legal and social life of this country has been immense, and I mean it, Sir, because he speaks with authority on almost every topic. He speaks with authority on education, on the fishing industry, the tourist industry, the sugar industry, agriculture in general; in fact, even in the world of sports he is knowledgeable, very well versed in labour related issues, versed in foreign affairs, international business, in fact, a very well rounded politician.

I want to say that, in spite of all which has been said this afternoon, we should not forget that he is still with us and we still continue to benefit from his contributions. We appreciate what he has done and this honour which is

bestowed on him is the epitome of our appreciation. I expect that when the list of our national heroes is finalised the name of Harold Bernard St. John will be among the names on that list Barbados can be proud of this loyal son of our soil, Sir Harold Bernard St John.

Thank you very much.

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations being extended to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South on his recent elevation to the status of Knight of the Order of St. Andrew.

My interest in the career of the Honourable Member dates back to the year 1965 when I was a student at the Boys' Foundation School. In those days teachers of history were not averse to hiding behind the disguise of their discipline to promote their own partisan political preferences, and my history teacher at that time was no exception to that rule. He therefore constantly held up the Honourable Member before us as a man whom destiny had marked out for great political enterprises. Naturally, therefore, since the public relations job was so effective, I journeyed in the year 1966 to various parts of Christ Church during the General Election campaign to hear the Honourable Member. I heard him at Lodge Road, at Oistins, in Silver Sands and in a few other areas of Christ Church, and of course I did not miss any opportunity to hear him when he came to St. Philip to support the candidacy of the late D. D. Garner and, I believe, Mr. Lester Whitehead.

The passage of time has not dimmed my recollection of those public meetings. His platform performances were vigorous and impassioned, his articulation of issues determined and sincere, and in nothing that he said could one ever pick up any hint or trace of malice. It surprised no one then that in that General Election he should be returned as Senior Member for Christ Church, securing for himself in the process well nigh 6 000 votes. It was part of the lore of that election that he won more plump votes than any previous politician and I am indebted to the Honourable Member for the City for confirming that bit of information in her speech today.

The moment the Honourable Member entered the House, everything he said became news and he achieved all of this under the redoubtable leadership of the late Grantley Herbert Adams. He succeeded to the leadership of the Barbados Labour Party, I believe in the year 1970, for by that year age had so wearied Sir Grantley that as a public figure his resonance had diminished and his flame was burning low. I think it is now a matter of recorded history that just upwards of one year later that flame flickered finally to extinction. 3.45 *.m.

He tasted victory very early in his leadership of his Party for he led it with determination in the St. Joseph by-election which his Party won, retaining the seat formerly held by Sir Grantley. But by 1971, and as would happen again in 1986, electoral misfortune befell him. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that electorally he has been a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief but what has always ennobled him in my eyes, is the fact that from those dark brooding moments of the human spirit he has always emerged with his humility enlarged and with his partisan faith reinforced.

So he would return in 1976 to reclaim his seat in Christ Church and go on to be Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and Minister of Trade, Industry, International Transport and Tourism. He lived and breathed and walked and talked those portfolio responsibilities. Than he, I have known no Minister of Government in Barbados who has wanted to ministerial responsibility more. I have known no Minister to warm to ministerial responsibility as much as he.

By 1986, however, again electoral misfortune befell him but if that patriarch of contemporary British thought, Isaiah Berlin, is right when he defines greatness as the ability to transform paradox into platitude then it is no exaggeration to say that the greatness of the Honourable Member showed through in the period between 1976 and 1985. For he always seemed to be transforming into platitudes all the paradoxes of trade and industry; all the paradoxes of tourism and international transport.

He, Mr. Speaker, is being honoured in this year by his Party in Government and it is an honour to which all Barbadians have warmed and for which they have all shown some enthusiasm. I think that the honour is indisputably merited. I think that the honour is richly deserved. Those who speak slightly of his record as Leader of the Barbados Labour Party are not being fair to the facts. I think that it is often forgotten that on both occasions when he was called upon to lead his Party it was just some few months away from general elections, 1970-71 and 1985-86, and he was therefore called upon to subordinate his political strengths which I have always considered to be conceptual and programmatic and to focus his attention on the fury of the general elections.

I contend that had fate been kinder to him and had the timing of his assumption of the office of Prime Minister been more propitious he might have emerged as one of the most fertile leaders of Barbados to grace the prime ministerial office.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House has paid fitting tribute to him. With that tribute, I readily identify myself and I feel sure that, as is his wont, he will wear the honour recently conferred on him with quiet but compelling distinction.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend voice to the many tributes paid to my parliamentary colleague and Barbados' newest knight, Sir Harold Bernard St. John.

I have heard many things today, Mr. Speaker, that I well know of the breadth of his personality and intellect but it would be remiss of me to remain seated without saying a few words. The Attorney General has said that we have long to go so I will not speak long, but I must speak, indeed for this man is partly responsible for my presence in Parliament today and therefore I cannot be silent.

I asked myself as I sat and listened to the praises heaped on him, despite all that has been said today on both sides and all that has been said in the last few weeks when the announcement was made public, about this man, what really, Mr. Speaker, I asked myself, is the true measure of a man? All of us use indices of one sort or another, measuring sticks of one sort or another, but my own interaction with this man has caused me to ask that question today, and now that we are speaking of him. Many of us measure men by the depth and breadth of their wallets and although I am told indeed his is long and broad I cannot think that that is the only or the most important measure of a man.

There are qualities by which men must be measured and tested and they are, in my view, the esteem in which your peers hold you for often it is your peers that are the harshest in their criticism. Often it is those whom you would call friends who stand by and bear the dagger that causes you pain. Often it is those whom you, think of as being your colleagues and contemporaries who, when you think they will say kind words, are full of criticism. It is a tribute to Sir Harold Bernard St. John that all who know him speak well. People speak, Mr. Speaker, of his humility and Sir Harold is indeed a humble man, not full of airs and graces, always approachable and accessible.

I found as a young attorney that he was one of the senior attorneys who always returned your call. He often didn't know what you were calling him for or he didn't even have to know you but before the day was out, once you called Sir Harold, your telephone call would be returned. I called him often, Sir, to seek guidance on matters which came across my desk on which I needed some leadership. It was no accident that I chose to call him because I found that his depth of knowledge of law was so great that the answer was always at his fingertips and not only would the answer be there but he would bring a fresh perspective that would cause you to attack your problem with renewed vigour and not only to attack it with renewed vigour but to attack it successfully.

People speak of his honesty and perhaps that is one of his finest tributes, that at a time when politicians are generally regarded as dishonest, when the term "politician" itself has become synonymous with dishonesty of all sorts, he is perceived as honest. To this day people speak no ill of Harold Bernard St. John. He is the only Prime Minister, and I say it without reservation, the only person to have been Prime Minister of Barbados whose honesty is so widely spoken of. 3.55 p.m.

Indeed, it has been said that he is too honest for politics. I do not know that is true. I think what we should say, is that more of us should follow his example. It is an example that caused him to pursue the path of principle in 1986 even when he recognised that it would have caused the defeat of the Barbados Labour Party. He felt that he needed to say to the people of Barbados, you are being led on the wrong road and though ultimately the greed of the majority would not accept it, time has proven him right. Time has vindicated him. These are some of the fine qualities of which we speak, the esteem of his peers and the second measure of a man - the fine qualities of the person.

As a woman, I have watched him as a family man and observed his commitment to his wife and his children. One sees him constantly with his wife. He speaks of his children with great love and affection and has been there for them. I use "children" here in its very broad terms because "children" must include the whole family of the Barbados Labour Party for whom he has been there in times of plenty and in times of great need.

He has led this party with great distinction not only in terms of his performance as Prime Minister but as its leader because he was and remains the sort of person to whom we could always turn but that has been part of his general accessibility. It has been spoken of and I want to repeat, the sort of equanimity with which he has accepted both victory and defeat.

I well remember 1986 as a supporter of the Barbados Labour Party when I was at Law School in Trinidad and we lost the election. I had a small radio in my bedroom and I was trying to tune into Barbados to hear what the election results were. I was in the throes of my examinations. I turned on to hear Sharon Marshall of the CBC say that she was waiting to have an interview with Prime Minister Barrow because there had been a landslide victory by the Democratic Labour Party Government. However, as a supporter of the Barbados Labour Party I felt proud when Sir Harold was interviewed. He showed none of the bitterness that some of us display when defeated. There was no acrimony, there were no recriminations. He said simply "I am a democrat and the principles of democracy I have always adhered to. The people have spoken and I accept their decision without

reservation." It is a wonderful example for all of us to learn by and follow.

I want, Sir, very briefly, because time is going, to say two things. I did say that he was responsible for my being here but I will not resume my seat without speaking of them. He has twice intervened in my life in a very powerful way. On the first occasion it was as a businessman. Some years ago, my father was a small, black businessman struggling with a business. Sir Harold was then in the process of setting up Southern Plaza at Oistin. He called my father one day and said "I have a shop available in Southern Plaza, would you be interested in it?" Dad accepted and was able to open an outlet of his business there and did very well. I know that Dad has always been grateful to Sir Harold for giving him that opportunity which pleasantly impacted on the family's fortune. I want publicly to thank him today for that opportunity because by helping my father and by helping my family I was also helped.

Secondly, more recently when my political fortunes were not certain, Sir Harold rose and spoke on my behalf. I was not there but I heard that he spoke as always with his tremendous debating skills, with force and strength of argument bringing cogent reasoning in support of my candidature. I need say no more except that I stand here today and hope to do so for some time to come.

During the course of the political campaign he felt that having helped to secure my candidature he needed to give me some further support on the ground. He saw me one day during the campaign and he said, "Wait. You do not want me to talk? I want to come down by you and talk." He came on more than one occasion and stood on my platform while I listened with great enthusiasm as he put some real lashes in my political opponent. Again, Sir, suffice it to say that I stand here today. So, Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to this very fine politician, this fine family man, fine lawyer, to this very fine man, and to say that I am happy to sit here with him.

At the St. Michael School, my Headmistress Pat Symmonds, now Senator Pat Symmonds often said, "To him to whom much is given from him much is expected." Sir Harold has been given a great deal but he has given in return more than he has been blessed with, for truly Barbados and the Barbados Labour Party have benefitted tremendously by the life and service of Harold Bernard St. John and he is well deserving of the honour of the Knighthood of the Order of St. Andrew.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very brief. In 1970 when Sir Grantley Adams resigned as the political leader of the Barbados Labour Party and the leader of the Opposition in Parliament, it fell to Bernard St. John to assume the leadership in both areas. It was at that time that he began to weld together a group of dynamic young

people with a view to contesting the 1971 General Elections and I was part of that group. It was from that period that we began to work together as a team in planning the General Elections in 1971. We worked together very closely during that period and, indeed, for the period between 1971 right up to 1976.

We lost the elections in 1971. I lost by 89 votes and I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church South lost by 98. I do not know if it is because of the narrowness of the defeat in those two constituencies that the two of us were asked to serve as Senators. On reflection, I believed that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was appointed to the Senate because of his own worth. I was asked to serve because I had lost by the narrowest margin. I served as a Member of the Senate during that period between 1971 to 1976 and the Honourable Member was head and shoulders above anybody else in the Senate in those days. He commanded the debates and dictated the direction in which most of the work and decision making in relation to the legislation was done although he was a member of the Opposition. I had an excellent opportunity sitting as his very junior partner to be exposed to his style and his thinking. 4.05 p.m.

I recall very clearly, Sir, that from time to time he had to be away from Chambers and something came up and it fell on me as the only Opposition Member in the Senate, made up of a lot of elderly people in those days, to get up and talk. Unlike the Honourable Member for Christ Church South I quite often talk with a tremendous lack of knowledge but I talk nonetheless.

Gradually, as the years moved through that period I was able to glean a lot of information from the contributions that he was making so that, by the time 1976 came, I could then speak with great authority on, still a limited number of subjects, but at least with great authority on some, Sir. I am grateful for that period in which I served my apprenticeship politically, not at the feet of, because I do not sit at anybody's feet, but sitting next to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

I served with him for 10 years as a Member of the Cabinet. Indeed, we used to sit next to each other in Cabinet meetings. I have heard a number of honourable Members say this and I really did not want to get up to be repetitive but one of the things that stand out is his phenomenal memory. One who could remember the smallest details of matters relating not only to public affairs and Government but indeed the law. One could always rely on him to put a discussion in perspective by going back to the historical origin of a number of proposals and policies and to explain the source of why certain things were given birth. I believe that perhaps has characterized him more than any other person I have encountered in public life.

All of us from time to time forget details of debates and policies and so on, but it seems that he does not forget anything. I do not understand it but it is a remarkable gift. If I may capture it essentially, a lot of what he said in one other sentence shows the incisiveness of his intellect. He is not one who is concerned about the surrounding trivia for major points. He has a remarkable capacity to get to the heart of an issue and deal with it in an incisive way and I think that that is one of the remarkable attributes of the man of whom we speak.

I am not going to speak of his skills as a lawyer. I will only say that a few weeks after I had started to practice law, I saw him one day on James Street and I was walking in one direction and he was walking in the other and, when he got a few feet from me, he said: "I want you to go and do a civil service hearing for me this afternoon some officer was charged for something". He kept walking in the direction in which he was going and he obviously expected me to stop in the direction I was going and follow him. I kept walking in my direction and picked up the instructions, such as they were, while he was moving away from me and I was going in the other direction.

What stood out is that he knew what was important and he knew how things should be dealt with. He felt that I had a responsibility as a young lawyer that if I wanted to do a hearing that I should go into his Chambers and get a file or something to get the details. I did not do that partly because I do not have the discipline that he has. But it came through to me that this was a man unique in his ways, the way he behaved and how he expressed himself and so on.

I do not pretend like many Honourable Members who have spoken that I have ever been close to him. We worked as colleagues but I would not say that personally we have been very close. But from time to time in relation to our public affairs, he has invited my views and, most notably, when he became Prime Minister in 1985 I was somewhat flattered when he discussed with me the restructuring of a new Government. That flattered me tremendously because I have never known him to be a person who easily talks about these things to others, even at this stage.

Everybody who has spoken perhaps has made reference to the fact of his total probity, a man whose reputation for uprightness and honesty is beyond reproach. I could say also, Sir, as someone who has worked with him as a Member of Cabinet and a Government for 10 years that I can attest to that. He was always interested in the rightness of the cause, not the expediency of it. That is something remarkable not only in politics but in life. So many people are concerned about what is in it for me or how can I look best if I take a certain decision, rather than be concerned about what is right. That is something that characterized the Honourable Member for Christ Church

South more than anyone else that I have known in public life.

I want to make another reference. I hear how much he knows about public affairs, his phenomenal intellect and memory, the impact he has made on political life, locally, regionally, the important contributions he has made in the development of the LOME debates and discussions and negotiations. I have heard all of that

At one time I served as Foreign Minister of this country and some of my proudest moments were when I travelled to various parts of the world and hear Leaders of many countries speak to me, when they heard I was from Barbados, about the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the monumental contribution he had made to the LOME negotiations and the depth and breadth of knowledge on highly technical matters that he brought to bear on those negotiations. Everybody has mentioned these things and I add my voice.

But there is one aspect that I would want to mention before I take my seat. This relates to the fact that he is a veritable mind of information and local affairs. He goes around in this manner that strikes out as aloof and removed from the day-to-day living of people, but he does not miss anything, Sir. He knows all the things that are going on in Barbados. He knows the connections. He even knows who is dating whom. He walks around giving the impression that he does not know what is going on, Sir. You only know how he is keeping his eye on the ball when he drops one comment and moves on. He is, as they say, dangerous. Dangerous in a good sense of the word. A man who knows and understands all the little things that are going on. If you want to learn you have to keep your hand in. Keep near to him because he will give little pearls of information in a word and in a sentence and leave the rest for your imagination.

The award of the Knighthood of the Order of St. Andrew to the Honourable Member is a culmination of outstanding and remarkable contribution to the public life in this country and, indeed, to decency in public life. I, like all other Honourable Members on both sides, am glad to be able to use this opportunity to congratulate him on his award and to express the hope that his example, be all the things we have heard today, Sir, - he has heard so many good things today about himself that he is probably dizzy, - I hope will serve as an example and a guide for young people who have ambitions of being involved in public life. 4.15 p.m.

We are at a stage, Sir, when we are very self-critical and we are developing a lot of cynicism about politicians and their roles, even cynicism about their motives. I hope that, when this society and young people take a look at the example set by the Honourable Member for Christ Church

South, they will feel all is not lost and there is something to emulate.

I congratulate him, Sir, and hope, like others, that all this talk about retirement and coming to the end of his political career and all of that may just be 'a way of speaking, a way of establishing that he really is the senior statesman and politician in this country. I hope it is not at all reflective of any intention on his part, when those of us who work with him are so well aware that he is still at the height of his mental and intellectual powers. We hope that this talk of retiring from public life is nothing more than talk. I am grateful to Your Honour.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to add to this contribution to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Sir, as the Member who spoke before me said, I have not known the Honourable Member for Christ Church South for any great length of time, but only since my recent involvement in the political arena and coming to the public gallery and watching the debates in this Honourable House. I would always run in here and would always ask, has the Honourable Member for Christ Church South spoken as yet?

I used to come here in those days when I was a visitor, to watch him debate. When he puts his hands in his pocket and his stomach up in the air and goes back and begins to talk, because I speak of him in the present, you can do nothing but sit and listen, no matter on what side of the House you are sitting.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the Caribbean the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is respected. I, Sir, listen to his little humour sometimes. I was once on an airplane coming from Miami and I met a businessman who said he was going to Trinidad about some business and he was also looking to see if there was additional business in the Caribbean for him and I invited him to come down to Barbados at some time. When he came to Barbados he contacted me. I told him I would take him to see a Member of the political party of which I am a member, one of my colleagues in Parliament I took him to an hotel to overnight. The next morning I spent hours on the phone trying to reach the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I did not get him and I went to the hotel. I got the businessman and I drove him up to the hotel owned by the Honourable Member and we waited from 2 o'clock until about 5:30 to meet the Honourable Member. When he came I introduced him to the businessman from Miami and they began to talk about the fishing industry, the industry that the businessman was involved in. I was amazed to hear how the Honourable Member for Christ Church South talked about the fishing industry, about Trinidad, about Guyana, about Venezuela, all about boats and fish, colours of fish, the names of fish. He even went to his kitchen in the hotel and he brought out a flying fish well seasoned and showed to this man how things are

done to the flying fish in this country. I say this to say how knowledgeable the Honourable Member is.

Mr. Speaker, it is getting late and I would like to just say in my tribute to the Honourable Member, a few words of a poem that I once used as a tribute to Dame Eugenia Charles at a conference of the Barbados Labour Party. I would just say to Sir Harold from that poem ^MAbu Ben Adam" and it goes:

"Abu Ben Adam may his tribe increase
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace
And saw within the moonlight of his room
Making it rich like a lily in bloom
An angel writing in a book of gold.

Exceeding peace has made Ben Adam bold and to the presence in the room he said, "What writest thou?" The vision raised its head and with a look made of all sweet accord, answered: "The names of those who love the Lord". "And is mine, one?" asked Abu. "Nay, not so, replied the angel". Abu spoke more low and cheerily said, "Write me as one that loves his fellow-men." The angel wrote and vanished. The next night it came with a great awakening light and showed the names of those whom God had blessed and lo, Ben Adam's name led all the rest."

So, to Sir Harold we can say we wish you all the best and that you will continue to be to the Barbados Labour Party "A bridge over troubled waters." I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments made re the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. It would have been rather difficult for me to sit in this House of Assembly today and not say something on his behalf.

Sir, I must admit he is an inspiration for me. When I am in this House of Assembly I pick up the cue from him when I can speak. I can always tell, Sir, when there is a speech he does not like and he needs a speech to inspire himself.

Whenever he is enjoying something he sits attentively and he listens to you, Sir, but when you see him turn his back you can always tell that he is not listening to his fellow Members. 4.25 p.m.

Sir Bernard has been described as a democrat and that description came from a Member on his side. It is quite true, Sir. I have always considered him to be a true democrat I have been following him since 1971 and he has always struck me as a democrat. Somebody said "on the wrong side" but I will not say that.

What I would like to say is that he has a keen interest in agriculture and every once in a while he would discuss

with me the dolphin project in St. Lucy. I do not know if he has been fishing lately in St Lucy, Sir, but after hearing a speech from one of his Members that he can always tell you your supporters in particular constituencies, it tells me that I have to be very watchful of him in the constituency of St. Lucy.

Without any further ado, Sir, I would like to say that I congratulate him on becoming a Sir and I would also like to say that whatever he intends to do in the future - because from the cues that have been coming to me the whole day it seems that there is something better for him elsewhere - I would like to tell him that when he leaves this Assembly I will miss him.

Thank you very much.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said about the contributions made by Sir Harold St. John. I too would want to add my voice to these comments.

I first met Sir Harold in 1971 as a member of the Young Socialists. I remember Sir Harold taking this great party into the 1971 elections. I remember, too, at that time the Barbados Labour Party was hoping for a victory and when we lost many of us did not mind losing the election at that time, but we were very sorry when Sir Harold lost his seat, and many of us in the Barbados Labour Party cried, because he was a shining light to all of us.

Sir Harold has been described as a man of intellect, a man of sacrifice, a man of extraordinary ability, but we see him as a proper man, a man who would listen to the ordinary person, a man who would guide the youngest person and give him or her the best of his advice. We also see him as a fighter of the highest quality, a man who would fight sometimes even if the electorate was not kind to him. We see him as that man who has been described as a true democrat, a man who rose above partisan political feelings, who looked on the wider side of Barbados.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that Sir Harold is the longest serving active parliamentarian that we have today. In the Barbados Labour Party the only person who served longer than he was Sir Grantley and we owe a lot to this great man's ability. He has served well over the years. From 1964 or thereabouts to 1994 is a very long time in active politics and that is why I say I believe Sir Grantley, certainly in the Barbados Labour Party, was the longest serving Barbados Labour Party politician, second only to Sir Harold who has a long time left. I believe we would want to wish him well in the years ahead. I believe he will continue to serve not only the people of Barbados, but the people of the Caribbean. I believe that we would want to wish him well.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, there is no matter with which I have had to deal in my present capacity that

has given me greater pleasure than to be associated with the recommendations of the National Honours Advisory Committee that the Order of the Knight of St. Andrew should be conferred on the Member for Christ Church South. Sir, it is a measure of the merit of the award that if we were to ask if there is but one citizen who at this stage ought to qualify for the highest National Honour, I believe there would be one voice in this country that the one person who should qualify for the highest National Honour, if one and only one were available at this time, Sir, would be the Member for Christ Church South. I believe that the Member's contribution over the many years when he has contributed has been such that, if he were living in any other country in the Commonwealth, he could also qualify for that country's highest honour.

I want in my short contribution to salute him as a democrat History will have to record that twice he led his party into the battle of elections and twice he fell, but it did not daunt him; neither did it deter him, neither did it stop him from continuing to want to be part of this process of parliamentary life. Neither did it stop him from wanting to face the people over and over again. I believe his contribution to the building of democracy in this country, given the adversities he has faced both as a leader and in his own personal capacity, cannot be matched in the modern history of Barbados. He has also been a patriot He has contributed not only to national government but to local government and to the governance of the affairs of the world and has done so always conscious of his responsibility to country.

I remember 1985 very well when we had to take very difficult decisions pertaining to the future of Barbados and his patriotism on that occasion stood above all other attributes, Mr. Speaker. I think that when the history of the period comes to be recorded it will have to show that when it fell to him to take decisions about the future of Barbados, the decisions that he took stood the test of time. It is a tribute to his patriotism that when you analyse the income tax code of Barbados the concessions that now are there are not the concessions that he opposed in 1986, but the concessions that he introduced in 1985 and 1986 when he had the opportunity to make the crucial decisions in this country. Concessions pertaining to the building of an export culture in this country, concessions pertaining to the building up of export services in Barbados, they have stood the test of time while others, unrivalled, have fallen by the wayside. It was a measure of his patriotism, that outstanding characteristic, that he possessed in greater abundance than any other person in his generation, that separated him from his peers.

I want to commend him to this Parliament also as a simple but an unadorned first person who possessed no affectations, Mr. Speaker, few graces, a blunt, honest and simple man who spoke his mind as he saw it. I want to also commend him to this Parliament as a man who could

also be boyish in his manner, blessed with a tremendous sense of humour, a shyness which makes him all the more human. As for me, Sir, I am very pleased to be able to say that I have continued to benefit from his counsel. In that respect I want just simply to set the record straight, that on becoming Leader of the Opposition I made the statement that I was not going to appoint the Member for Christ Church South to a shadow portfolio, because I believed then that he had reached the stage of an elder statesman when his contribution to party, to country, to Parliament should not be confined by any narrow portfolio consideration, but should be widely and handsomely spread over all the affairs of governance. I did not, therefore, include him in a shadow Cabinet, precisely because I felt that he had a role to play in the affairs of this country bigger than that of a ministerial portfolio. 4.35 p.m.

It is sickening, Mr. Speaker, that lesser carping spirits could now want to distort and desecrate the sense in which he is now being asked to contribute to this Government by putting abroad a nasty piece of propaganda that he was excluded from our Cabinet. I was particular to make it clear that he could not be contained to any Cabinet portfolio. His role had to be bigger than any ministerial portfolio. Those who would want to put that propaganda on the road are sick and what they had to say about him comes from a forked tongue, and I need to say that.

I want for my own part to say that I have worked with him over ten years and I count myself blessed to have been the beneficiary of his counsel in the past, Sir. I look forward to being able to count myself blessed by having access to his counsel in the future. If I can only pay him a tribute that comes from one politician who has had to face the electorate on five occasions, if I had to choose someone who I would want to join me in battle, above all those of my generation without any disrespect to any of my generation, the one I would choose would be Harold Bernard St John.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Honourable Chair would just like to say that we support the sentiments expressed by all the Members. I would like to offer the heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I am sure that all of us agree that a person who has done so much to political life in Barbados is truly deserving of this knighthood. Thank you.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: I wish to say that I am very surprised, Sir, at the very generous speeches that the Honourable Members have made about me today. I believe that today is an occasion that, when I first entered Parliament some 30 years ago, I would not have envisaged this would ever have occurred. I believe that the Honourable Members were as generous today in their

speeches about me because they know full well that it is very unlikely that I will be able to quote *Hansard* on them in any future election.

I want to say, Sir, that many of the things they said in here they said to me previously when the announcement was first made so that I do not question in any way the sincerity of the content of their speeches. Politics is a very hard and difficult game and I want to put the record straight that on two occasions, once by my own Party and once by the other side, I was offered honours. On both occasions I declined, and part of the reason for my declining the honours on those occasions was because, in my humble opinion, the occasion was not right firstly, but secondly that the nature of the honour, I thought did not befit a politician having regard to the fact that, as rumour had it, there were others who were to be on the list whose contribution in other spheres of activity in my opinion were contributions which were not of the same calibre as a political contribution.

I regard the opportunity to serve as a politician as being an opportunity to perform the highest service. So that when I accepted the honour on this occasion I did so because, in my opinion, the office of politician is one which should be regarded in the best light in any community. It is a hard, difficult office to hold and particularly in a small country like Barbados in which a politician is expected, on the one hand to be dealing with very personal and intimate matters in relation to their constituents, and at the same time to be familiar with issues which are of international significance.

One of the things that touched me about the speeches today is the fact that I am constantly being referred to as a lover of local government. It is true, Sir, that I still believe that, for the delivery of some services to the electorate, our present system of government is inferior to the system that we had when those same services were delivered under a local government system. The reason as far as I am concerned is because of the fact that a local government politician has a very close contact with the needs of his or her constituents. They are therefore able to see the machinery of government responsible for the delivery of those services in a different light from a person who is a backbencher or a person who is a Minister of Government who to a large extent has to rely on others to ensure those services are performed.

The Board system which replaced the local government machinery is one that all of us in all political parties have had to question as to its efficacy. Indeed, when the talk of privatisation first came up in Barbados I am reminded of the fact that I had to stop some of its greatest advocates and remind them that many of the Boards of the Statutory Corporations that we have in Barbados are not supposed to be commercial entities but are supposed to be vehicles for the delivery of services which were formerly

performed by local government in Barbados and which in larger countries throughout the world are still performed by local governments and they are hardly likely to attract bidders in any privatisation programme.

I am very grateful to Honourable Members once again for their generous remarks and I want to assure them that I will continue as long as I am able to come to the House of Assembly and participate in the debates in the House in matters in which I am particularly interested.

As I see it, the issue of Caribbean unity, the issue of the delivery of Government services to the electorate, the issue of the general overall role of small countries today are still very important matters, and while over the last 30 years I have been able to make a contribution towards providing a point of view on those matters I know that the time is fast approaching when I may not be able to make the same contribution. I want to say though, Sir, that as long as I am here I am not going to stand idly by and not lend my voice in those areas.

I want to thank you, Sir, and the Honourable Members. 4.45 p.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, we move from congratulations to obituaries. This is the stuff of life. I wish to say a few words on the late Stanley Eustace Sealy, also known as Dick Sealy. Dick Sealy passed this life a few weeks ago and there are many, possibly some, in this Honourable Chamber who did not know, or if they ever once knew certainly had forgotten, that he was once upon a time a much respected member of this House of Assembly, not to mention of the wider Barbados community.

In 1961 Dick Sealy became the senior Member for St. Michael in this Chamber. In those days we operated under a double Member constituency system. He was a member of what was then known as the Barbados National Party. He sat in this Chamber from 1961 to 1966. What is hardly remembered is that he received on that occasion 12 000 votes, because he never sat in the Parliament again. In 1961 when he ran he received 12 000 votes, the largest number ever received by a Member of Parliament in this Parliament and this is a Parliament older than 354 years.

Dick Sealy started out life, I am told as a policeman, because this was clearly before my time. He died at a ripe age. He was 90. It seemed that at an early stage he became interested in public transportation matters so he left the Police Force and started a taxi transport service which eventually led him to his career as an undertaker for the rest of his life.

He was a man who was once a Mayor of Bridgetown. That is a fact not much remembered by people as well. He is not a man that I knew exceedingly well but I came into contact with him, particularly after I became a Member for

the City of Bridgetown. He was a man of a large and generous nature. His generosity has been described as spontaneous and it was offered to people in all walks of life. I certainly can speak of a number of poor people in the City of Bridgetown that Dick Sealy was kind and helpful to over the years, and it was not only in the business as undertaker but in almost any respect that people came to him on and on almost any matter he found ways to be helpful. This marked the quality of his life until his death in recent weeks.

There are a number of new Members in this Parliament, just little over three months old and sometimes we are generous and well speaking to each other as we have been all day in here today of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, but sometimes we are perhaps a little tired, we become irritable and we are not always kind to each other and we say unkind things. Sometimes, particularly when we are new in this Chamber, we do not always recognise that all of us come into this Chamber by the same door and up the same steps.

I believe it was the grandfather of the Honourable Member for St Michael North East who many years ago had to point out to another Honourable Member in here that he did not come in here in a wheelbarrow. That comment, I am sure, would have arisen out of the kind of exchange that I was just describing. People are variously described as stupid or foolish and I constantly remind younger Members that no fool comes in here. The people would have adjudged in the ballot box and they usually do not make a mistake and if they have made it they correct it very quickly.

Dick Sealy came in, made his contribution and went out again, mostly unremarked. He was not a man, in my own personal remembrance, who would have been anxious to draw overly too much attention to himself.

I have a very personal memory. Way back in the very early 1970s I had a godmother who is now deceased, but who at that time had become an old woman. She was very dear to us all. I made an arrangement with Dick Sealy that wherever she wanted to go she would telephone and he would provide a car and I paid at the end of every month. This went on for over 30 years. I remember in 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party won the Government I met him at a function somewhere and he said to me how nice it was doing business with me but he assumed that now that the Barbados Labour Party was in Government and because he was not necessarily of the same political persuasion the business would come to an end. I had to say to him very quickly and very sharply that I did not mix business with politics in that sense and that I had no quarrel with the quality of service that he offered because the day that he could not find a driver he would get in the car and go himself. He showed a very personalised service to her and several others of his clients.

I think perhaps that he had a greater love of the taxi service aspect of his business than he would have had of

the undertaking side of it. But he was a man clearly much regarded by his contemporaries in the field of undertaking so it was not surprising that on the day of his burial his undertaking colleagues bore him to his final resting place.

I would like, because there are brothers and relatives, some of whom carry on the business, to move the usual Resolution and that a suitably worded letter of condolence should go from this House to the relatives of the late Stanley Eustace Sealy.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with those remarks both on my own behalf, on behalf of my family and also on behalf of the National Democratic Party. I have known Dick Sealy for many years. He was a very personal friend and indeed a distant relative of mine. He was born on April 17, 1908. His mother was Edith Bolden from Welch Village in the parish of St John. In fact, he was indeed also a distant relative of a former Speaker of this House. 4.55 p.m.

He received his early education at St. Giles Boys' School, I understand under the charge of the father of the late Sir Orantley Adams. As indicated, after being trained and becoming a master craftsman he later became a police officer. He was also an outstanding musician. At one point he played the violin in the Percy Green Orchestra.

He was also one of those black businessmen of that period who, with little resources to begin with, succeeded in doing well and over the years maintained that success as a black businessman in Barbados. He was one of that generation for which I have the greatest admiration, very different from a lot of people who open businesses today and then tomorrow the business is gone with the banks often taking over the business because of the way in which the money has been spent.

His political contribution to this country has not been insignificant. He certainly was a major force in the Barbados National Party and, despite the apparent insensitivities of some people, I think it is not inappropriate to say that the Barbados National Party lives on visibly today in the presence of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. The Leader of that Party, Mr. Speaker, was the late Ernest Deighton Mottley who is the grandfather of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. He certainly was one of those persons who believed in local government. In fact, he was an Alderman and was later a Councillor in the local government system of this country. I think that most of you would know that he ran a funeral home very successfully and what is interesting is that he was one of the first people in this country to bring modern technology to bear on that science. "it is also interesting to note that his business grew and

survived because he was able to understand the importance of training and the importance of bringing modern technology to bear on his business.

He also served as Chairman of the Public Assistance Committee, a member of the Highways and Lighting Committee and a member of the Victoria Emigration Society. Apart from his service in this Honourable House, there can be no doubt whatsoever that he served in many capacities in the local government of the day in this country. It was therefore not surprising that he was able to win his seat with such an astounding majority. He had already done the work among the people in the constituency. He was indeed the last Mayor of Bridgetown before local government was abolished.

Dick Sealy was held in the highest regard among the politicians of the day. He stood out as the kind of person who did not get himself involved in petty controversies. He had very close and good relationships with all the political parties of the day. I think it is important for us to pay due tribute to him and to the political service which he rendered in this country. He had a store of knowledge of politics that was most remarkable. On many occasions I would drop in to see him and over a whisky which he enjoyed very much, he would tell you tales of politicians and the lives of politicians, details whether it be about the father of the Honourable Member who is Leader of the House or his brother or the late Sir Grantley Adams, the early life of Tom Adams, Errol Barrow, the whole lot. He had a knowledge of those gentlemen that was quite remarkable. I think, Sir, that he has made a major contribution to this country.

He has been an example of what small businessmen can achieve over time. Indeed over the years I have found him to be one of the most pleasant and one of the most helpful of individuals. There are many people in the constituency of St. Michael South Central where his business is located and where he resided, who have been helped, many, many poor people over the years. I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, for example, would be very familiar with a lot of the persons and characters that I am talking about. There are many more things that I can say because I know, for example - I do not know if he worked for him - but I know he worked for a lot of people who were connected with him over the years.

Make no mistake about it, Sir, we are dealing here with a most unusual Barbadian, a man who has made a major contribution and has set a fine example for all of us to follow in the public life of this country. He made his contribution and he knew when to get involved in politics and when to get out of politics as well and to continue to make his contribution elsewhere.

I am very happy, Sir, to be associated with the appropriate Resolution; as I indicated not only on my own behalf but on behalf of my family and on behalf of the National Democratic Party.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the remarks of the Leader of the House and also the Leader of the National Democratic Party and I speak on behalf of the Members of the Opposition and the membership of the Democratic Labour Party in saying that we certainly appreciate the life and work of the late Mr. Dick Sealy.

I cannot say that I have ever had any face to face contact with him but I spoke to him on the telephone on many occasions. He was a person who extended great courtesies and support to the people of St. John. I do not think there is a funeral that has taken place in St. John since I was the Parliamentary Representative for which his funeral establishment was not responsible. Having come from St. John he also had a relative who ran that element of the business in St. John. Certainly he was held in great affection and love for the opportunities which he extended to the people of St. John. 5.05 p.m.

I know of very few families in St. John which have had a death for which Mr. Sealy, himself, did not personally extend credit or some kind of assistance to them. I know that many of them still probably owe his funeral establishment large sums of money. He was nevertheless generous. Every now and then he would make a phone call to see if you could assist in recovering the sums through a gentle prodding of the family.

Apart from that, however, he also took the opportunity on several occasions to call me on the telephone about representation in St. John and about matters of national concern and - just like many other older politicians in Barbados, even though one may not have had the opportunity to meet them face to face or in person, many of whom take the opportunity to take up the telephone as was the case with people like the late Wynter Crawford and others - to offer words of advice across party lines and within party lines to younger Members of Parliament and offer ideas and encouragement, support. In that regard he was a person whom I came into contact with by that method.

I know other members of his extended family and I extend to them personally on behalf of my family and the members of the Democratic Labour Party our sympathy to the family and hope that they will take this loss in their stride, but that his work can certainly remain. The family name and what he has built, the funeral establishment at

Belmont will live on because of his generosity, his kind spirit and his integrity. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to personally associate myself and my family with the remarks made by the Honourable Members for the City, St. Michael South Central and St John. I had the honour of being a neighbour of the late Dick Sealy for several years when I lived in Pine Hill. I also had the privilege and honour of knowing him for many years when he represented the people of the City of Bridgetown at the local government level and also when he was a Member of this House of Assembly.

He was an extremely successful businessman and an equally successful politician. Although he never rose to the heights to which several of the leading politicians have risen he had an outstanding reputation of being a first class representative of his constituents. He gave great service to them in looking after their political as well as their daily needs.

In fact I remember a lady, the late Miss Ooddard of Bennetts, speaking of him and of the late Fred Goddard as her two fathers and it turned out because she asked me to make her will. She had merely a chattel house and a few bits of furniture but she left everything she had to these two gentlemen because they had given her everything that she had. And Dick Sealy was the sort of gentleman who gave generously to people from his earnings and his wealth and never asked in return anything for it

I do not think that we recognise this. Very often the politician as I said earlier today is put down. We do not recall those politicians like the Dick Seals of the world who do not go into politics to make a fortune but go into politics to give real service and Dick Sealy gave real service.

He was not a man of many words but when he spoke, he spoke words of wisdom. I recall that he held very firmly to the principles that he espoused. He was a black businessman from a poor family but never afraid to espouse the cause of conservatism in days when to be a conservative was a dirty word in the language of the politics of the time. But Dick Sealy felt strongly that some of the values associated with conservatism were worth preserving in the Barbados that he knew and he supported his party, the Electors Association, and then the National Party to the hilt.

I believe when that party finally dissolved Dick Sealy threw his assistance to the side of the Democratic Labour Party. But he never had political enemies. He was equally willing to give ideas and to offer assistance regardless of what was the political arena.

Sir, he has served some of my personal family as an undertaker for many years. And my experience as well as the experience of the Honourable Member for the City was exceptional professional service from him in anything he did as a businessman. For many years I supported his business whether I was buying petrol or anything else. He went beyond the call of duty to be courteous to all of his customers of all walks of life and it did not matter who you were. If you were there as a customer and client Dick Sealy was there as the true professional.

I regret his passing and I believe once again we have lost one of the generation of people who understood virtue and honesty and good quality and manifested those qualities in their daily lives. They were the salt of the earth. His passing for me certainly is a blow. I was unable to attend his funeral but I am pleased to have known a man of his calibre and of his outstanding qualities.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to express my condolences to the family of the late Stanley ^MDick Sealy. Many of you might not be aware that his wife is my aunt and my family has had a long association with the late Dick Sealy as we were also in the business of a funeral home - The Tudors and the Sealys.

Over the years I think they were able to negotiate quite satisfactorily who would bury whom because many situations arose where there was conflict as to whether the Tudor Funeral Home or Dick Sealy should in fact have certain burials to perform. But over the years they were able to work out a very amicable solution to determine who would bury whom. That kind of rapport stands out in my memory over the years.

I too would like to recognise the very sterling contribution that he has made to the political limelight in Barbados. I recall knowing him for a very long period of my early childhood and having a great admiration for him, coming up and seeing him at our home and understanding the values and principles that he stood for.

When I was one of the main canvassers for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central on a number of occasions we exchanged long and interesting discussions about the political landscape in Barbados. It was quite interesting at that time the variety of views expressed by people of the likes of "Sir" Stanley, because they seemed to have been denied a formal education through the university system, but yet they seemed to have possessed a command of knowledge that was beyond the average person. I always found it quite amazing how such ordinary men without any formal opportunities in education could in fact command such a great knowledge of life. 5.15 p.m.

Hearing other Members speak about his contribution, and certainly knowing of his life through the connection

with my family, I am not in any way surprised at the tributes that are being paid to him today. I would like, on behalf of my entire family, certainly on behalf of the Tudor Funeral Home, with which he has had a long association, to express my condolences publicly to the family and hope that he would rest in peace.

I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Honourable Chair would like to support the sentiments expressed on behalf of the late Honourable Member. Although he might not have been known to many of us personally, I am sure that we are grateful for his life and contribution, and this House will support with acclaim the Resolution of condolence and will ensure that the appropriate form of sympathy be sent to his family. As a mark of respect I ask you to join with me in observing a minute's silence for the passing of the late Honourable Member.

Members stood in their places in silence for one minute.

ORDERS OF THE DAY SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the rest of this day's sitting.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the Order of the Day.

ORDER NO. 1 - THE SAVINGS BONDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1994

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill before the House seeks to amend the Savings Bonds Act in order to increase the limit that may be raised by the issue of Savings Bonds from \$25 million to \$100 million, but it seeks to do a little bit more than that.

Under Section 3 of the Savings Bonds Act, Cap. 104A, the Minister of Finance is authorised to issue Savings Bonds up to the limit of \$25 million by way of Resolution. On 7th October, 1986 Parliamentary Resolution No. 51 increased the savings limit from \$25 million to \$50 million without amending the Savings Bonds Act. What we are now attempting to do, therefore, is not just to increase the limit but to so change the Act - because the Act is very specific that the Minister can only issue up to a limit of

\$25 million, it did not give the Minister authority to vary that amount - as to validate actions that have taken place between 7th October, 1986 and now, when the amount issued under the Savings Bonds Act has increased from \$25 million to \$45 million.

When you read the legislation, Sir, you will see, therefore, that we are seeking not only to increase the limit, but to have all the Savings Bonds issued since 7th October, 1986 to be deemed as having been lawfully and validly raised, as if Section 3 of the principal Act had been amended to authorise such a limit. So this exercise is both to increase the limit as well as to tidy up a lapse which obviously slipped Parliament. Indeed, perhaps, the appropriate amendment to the legislation ought to be to vest the power in the Minister to be able to come simply by Resolution and change the limit from time to time without having to come back on every occasion to change Section 3 of the Act. But I am not a lawyer, Sir. I can only argue in relation to what I think is more practicable because, in principle, the legislation is recognising that from time to time the limit will have to be varied by the Minister and perhaps all we need to do is to vest that power by law in the Minister and give him the prerogative to support any change in the limit by way of a Resolution.

Indeed, what we have before the House today, Sir, is both a change in the law and a Resolution in support of Section 3.1. I am hopeful that the lawyers can agree that all that would be necessary is for us to vest in the Minister the power to vary the limit and to do that by way of a Resolution.

Sir, the increased limit on the total value of Savings Bonds permitted to be outstanding under this Act has virtually been reached and we are now asking for the limit to be raised from \$50 million effectively to \$100 million. The request to raise this limit takes place against a particular financial and economic background. In relation to the fiscal position of Government, I have to report to the House that at December 16, 1994 the overall fiscal deficit had improved by some 29.3% as compared to the corresponding deficit at December 16, 1993. That improvement in the fiscal position of Government reflects again the fact that revenue performance has been greater than what was projected, and again I will repeat that it reflects a certain slowness in the disbursement of funds on the Capital side, for the reason I have already outlined to the House, that a lot of Government's Capital programme was related to financing from the IADB and from the World Bank, as was the case in the two previous financial years. A lot of these are at the level of pre-feasibility study, investment study or just simply cannot be activated because of difficulty in accessing the funds.

This particular measure also takes place against the background of the fact that the growth in the domestic debt has been the fastest growing component of total national

debt in recent times, in large measure related to measures put in place by the previous administration to transform the portfolio of the Barbados National Bank by issuing Government paper to relieve the Barbados National Bank of the agricultural portfolio, as well as the portfolio of bad debts of certain Government Statutory Corporations. I say that to make the point that historically matters pertaining to the management of the debt are focussed on management of the external debt, if only because of the greater difficulties realised in having access to foreign exchange to repay the foreign debt. But we have to be fairly careful in the light of what has happened in recent years in regard to the growth of Government's domestic debt since, as I said, in recent times, Mr. Chairman, there has been some fairly substantial growth in that debt. We want to make sure that the growth in that debt does not go beyond the demands of¹ both the public and the private sectors. 5.25 p.m.

I have to stress that point, Mr. Speaker, because we will have to do something early in the new year to put behind us some of the financial practices that have desecrated the governance of the financial affairs of this country so that we can start the new financial year on a clean slate. I simply mean by that, Mr. Speaker, that it is false budgeting to come to this House year by year and present glowing accounts of what constitutes the deficit that is being presented to Parliament in circumstances where arrears are being allowed to accumulate and expenditures are not being met when they accrue.

We have a situation which I intend to deal with where there are \$20 million arrears outstanding to the University of the West Indies. We feel that the best way to deal with that, is not to just issue government paper to the University which does not obviously put the University in cash, but to raise a term loan to pay the arrears.

There are also a number of arrears that are simply scandalous. It is a sad thing, Mr. Speaker. It is truly a sad thing that we now have to find \$4 million to supplement the vote of the National Assistance Board to cover that Board's payments for old people to travel on the buses of the Transport Board. It is a shameful thing that people could have been running the affairs of this country, speaking about how they are a caring government, and could have allowed the Welfare Department not to have been paying the Transport Board for old people to travel on the buses. It is a shameful thing, as my colleague says, in circumstances where no increases were made to the old age pensions. What I propose to do, Mr. Speaker, is to acknowledge that the arrears are true arrears that they have to be paid, that we will pay them and will clear the books of them.

We also are facing a situation where Government statutory institutions which receive transfers from Central Government refuse to pay the income tax and the national

insurance and have been allowed in instances to accumulate as much as \$5 million in arrears to the National Insurance and Income Tax Department. This was in the context of a situation where there was a lot of noise in this country as to who should be locked up for not paying their income tax and who should be locked up for not paying their NIS. But there is at least one Government Department which owes the Income Tax \$5 million.

My own preference would be not to raise the funds for that purpose to incur a cost by way of interest to the people of Barbados but to seek to get it waived by the Income Tax Department because it is transferring funds from one pocket of Government to the other. This is what passed for financial management in this country. That is why I am saying that even though the deficit now is 29% lower than it was before, we have to make allowance for the fact that, as far as I am concerned, all of Government's obligations should be brought to bear in the year in which they accrue and we start each financial year on a clean slate. This business of coming to Parliament and stating that the deficit is historically low when you know that funds are being carried from year to year is a form of false accounting. It is distorted financial management of the country and the time has come when it must stop.

I have also indicated to Parliament that there are instances in which expenditures were incurred in advance of the approval of Parliament. We are still evaluating expenditure for Sherbourne of \$5 million which has to be covered by way of supplementary. That is not an expenditure, Mr. Speaker, of \$5 million for the future. That is past expenditure for which no authorisation has ever been given by this Parliament.

I want to say again, because it is relevant and pertinent and material, that it is a shame that the largest proportion of expenditure on Sherbourne came from a thing called a Contingency Vote. It is a great shame of a kind for which no precedent can be found in the management of a country's financial affairs. I propose to go back to the old system where each Ministry has a small Contingency Vote relating to the size of the expenditure contemplated by each Ministry to preempt and prevent a situation ever happening again where a project as large as Sherbourne could be financed by way of contingency, and more to the point where as much as \$5 million in expenditure can be incurred on an activity without the approval of this Parliament.

When I speak about civil servants making sure that these things do not happen, Sir, I am very serious because the Financial Administration and Audit Act protects the civil servants of this country. I want to say again, Mr. Speaker if any of my Ministers asks any civil servant to do anything that is contrary to law, I want the civil servants of Barbado* to docket it, to put on file their objection to doing anything that is irregular and unlawful. That is the correct

approach. But it is not to be accepted that people should agree with the Ministers to do things that they know to be unlawful and then ask this Parliament to come and rubber stamp an illegality. That is what has effectively happened, Mr. Speaker, in relation to Sherbourne that, soon, early in the new year, to bring some relief to the creditors of Government who undertook work at Sherbourne, we will have to ask this Parliament to supplement the expenditure for the financial year by \$5 million, not for work in the future but to cover work already accomplished. It is wrong and it has to stop.

Now, Sir, this matter is also being brought in this House against the background of certain policy developments and certain economic developments in this country. The Member for St. Michael South Central is smiling. Perhaps I had better say first what I want to say in relation to his management. I want to talk about Government's current policy and to address certain developments where the economy is concerned. Some Members have had a lot to say in and out of Parliament as regards Government's keeping its promises and interest rate policies and so on.

Mr. Speaker, this House is blessed by having within it four persons who were former Ministers of Finance. This is without precedent in the Caribbean. None of them has ever practised as a professional economist and I have never been and will never be so rash or rude as to say that a person has to be a practising economist in order to be able to function as a Minister of Finance. In fact, I have always said that, if I had the choice, I would rather use accountants and lawyers to do tax reform than economists because a lot of tax reform has more to do with accounting and law than economics. But the Member for St. Michael South Central has had his chance and I want to say that I am prepared to listen to the advice of all of the four former Ministers of Finance in this House because they obviously have the experience that I can draw on.

Where the Member for Christ Church South is concerned I can listen to him because his work has stood the test of time. In 1985-86 he brought measures to this Parliament and there has been tax reform subsequently. But those measures are still on the statute book. That is the ultimate test of the seriousness of the direct policy; that it is sustainable. We can bring measures here for whatever purpose and then they are here today and gone tomorrow. It is very important that I make this point because I will listen always to the reasoning of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South because the measures he brought in this House to stimulate the exports of goods and services in 1985/1986 are still on the statute book. Every time we attempt to reform the system, people say, but these are those that you have to carry with you. History will absolve him. 5.35 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I remember him. He was the Minister of Finance who wanted to give Mobil a 15% after tax profit on their capital employed. I could not accept his judgement if that was one he was prepared to recommend to me. I could not accept the recommendation from anybody that any monopoly functioning in Barbados should be granted a 15% profit after tax on capital employed.

Also, Mr. Speaker, in relation to questions of whether he was prepared to carry out Manifesto measures, I have to remind him that there was the pledge to give back to the taxpayers of Barbados immediately \$39 million in deferred taxes by Light & Power. We are still waiting for them. Can we ever forget, that after he came in July and gave a few million dollars in tax relief, he came in April, 1987 and imposed what was then the highest imposition, \$55 million net increase in taxes in Barbados? Were it not for the alertness of the then Opposition it would have been worse because we would have had a consumption tax on vegetables.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to listen to all of the non-economists in relation to financial matters. What has been his record in relation to interest rate management? If you would recall, Sir, all through the election campaign of 1986 the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central told the people of Barbados that the bank rate was too high, the prime rate was too high and it had to be cut. He had his chance. He found the prime rate at 9%. He left it at 9%. He did not cut it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Very honourable too, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central put into the DLP Manifesto that interest rates had to be cut as a matter of policy. The rates were too high. He came in. He found the prime rate at 9% and the bank rate at 8%. He left both but he cut the savings rate. So we had a situation in this country where the Honourable Member was presiding as Minister of Finance and his only interest rate initiative was to make sure that small people across Barbados received less on their savings while he maintained what the banks could lend at in circumstances where he had promised, as a matter of policy, that he was going to cut the lending rates charged by the banks. So rather than cut the rates charged by the banks, he cut the rates paid by the banks to depositors. And now he wants to advise people on interest rate policy!

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: But that is the record, Sir. I make that point to nj^ke the additional point. They are talking now about bank rate of 9% as compared to 9½%, but I want to leave him for now and I am going to wind up.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not the Honourable Member for St. John. As for running, I almost forget to mention, Mr. Speaker, that if you cut income taxes in one year and you do not give a tax free month so that people can make their adjustments in that income because income taxes are paid on a calendar year basis, you face the effects of the cuts in the following September when people are given their income tax returns. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central ran in September of 1987 when he had to face the full effect of the income tax cuts. When I hear all the talk about how successful his policies were he should have stayed on there after 1987 to reap the whirlwind of what he had accomplished because that is where the real price had to be paid. He did not give a tax free month in the income year so that people could clear their balances. It was paid after he left so do not let us start talking about who will run or who will not run.

As for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, he has already distinguished himself in financial infamy as being the only Minister of Finance to fire himself, and with good reason. When I hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael South having the temerity to come to Parliament to ask questions about Barbados' relationship with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank and what has changed, after what he did singlehandedly to destroy the relationship between the Government of Barbados and those two institutions by refusing to keep his word on important matters of policy, how can he come to ask what has changed? I will have to tell him what has changed in words that you would deem to be unparliamentary. I will have to tell him that the institutions now feel that they are not dealing with a rat, but I cannot say that because that would be unparliamentary, but I will answer the question in due course. I will tell him what has changed. We will tell him what has changed in the Board of Tourism. We will tell him what has changed. But he has the nerve to come to Parliament - after he has compromised his own Government's capacity to access funds from the multilateral institutions by giving his word on one thing and not doing it - now to ask what has changed?

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. John has been the Minister of Finance and he wants to advise me on the question of whether or not we should give relief to the manufacturers. I am prepared to listen. Now, if I were to introduce a policy that sought to protect the manufacturers of Barbados by increasing the price of competing imports, giving them false competition in the market, I would feel justified in the criticism levelled at me recently and yesterday by the Honourable Member for St. John. This is because I would have been trying to shield inefficient producers by causing the price paid on the goods supplied by their competitors to rise above proper market prices by imposing duties or whatever else. That is not what I have

done. All I have sought to do is to remove the duties paid on the inputs that the people are using to enable them to compete with people in Barbados on the same terms that those people face.

Trinidad & Tobago exporters selling to Barbados do not pay duties on their raw materials. As a result, when they sell to Barbados their manufacturers have an advantage over our manufacturers in our local market if our manufacturers have to pay duties on their raw materials. If you cannot compete in your own domestic market against goods coming from abroad, pray tell me, how are you going to ask those same people to go abroad and compete in the other people's markets selling the same goods? It ought to be clear, and I am prepared to be advised, that if Barbadians are to be able to at least compete in Trinidad against Trinidadian goods, they have first to be able to compete in Barbados against Trinidadian goods. And to do so you have to create a level playing field for them within the country. The first part of the process is to make sure that both sets of producers have access to raw materials on the same terms. 5.45 p.m.

That is what I was taught when I was taught economics, Mr. Speaker. But I am prepared to be advised by others. I am saying to him that, if I had raised the taxes on Trinidadian goods to give people an artificial advantage in Barbados, the stricture would be justified. But you cannot criticize us because the logical corollary of what he is saying is that, in order for us to make the manufacturers produce more and more for export, we should raise taxes more and more on their inputs. That cannot really recommend itself as something that is sensible to any sensible mind.

I would tell him this. There is now an economic theology that says that you do exactly what he proposed to do, the Member for St. John.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Honourable Member for St. John. He is soon going to run, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am always frightened when he starts equating himself to me. I do not accept that equation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Member for St. Peter, please address the Members with their correct tides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I will do so, Sir, but I have always had questions raised about his competence. I also must raise questions about his character. When a Member

can get in this House and lambaste policies that he has agreed to in the Cabinet and then flee from the Chamber, I have to raise questions about his character. I have to raise questions about his character, Mr. Speaker, Sir, when he can sit down in his office in the Ministry of Finance and preside over the setting up of a Committee to bring gambling into this country, be aware of who was serving on the Committee, even pick who should be the Secretary to the Committee and then would want to come to this Parliament, having supported the bringing of casino gambling into Barbados, to ask us in this Parliament not to support casino gambling. I say it does not fall to him, it should fall to somebody who has character. Let somebody else who sits on the other side bring it. But it cannot be brought here with any honour by a man who, when you read the files, was fully in support of it.

How do you, Mr. Speaker, Sir,...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member certainly has not referred to the Honourable Member for St. John. He has once again continued in this trend of once again referring to "he". I assume that he is referring to me, and I really should not do so since he is obviously misleading the House. But since I can only ask for your protection I, as the Honourable Member for the City spoke about earlier, did not come in here in a wheelbarrow.

I have to ask your protection. If the Honourable Member is referring to me, I am quite willing to respond to what he says. But he must have decorum and decency and he must let the office fit him. At least he must refer to me as the Honourable Member for St. John.

Since I think that he is referring to me, let me get to the substance. The substance of it is that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is seeking to give the impression that I agreed to something. The only thing I agreed to was the establishment of a working committee, a task force to enquire into gambling in the context of tourism in Barbados. It was not a working group on casino gambling. As far as I am concerned the Committee could very well have reported that they were not in support of casino gambling and I would have accepted that recommendation.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall hereinafter and only refer to him as the most distinguished Honourable Member for St. John if that would please him. He did not come in here on a wheelbarrow but he came in here on the back of a Barrow.

There must be a certain level of seriousness to public life. Whenever I have a position, I stand by that position. Public life of this country requires that there be people of character at the centre of a public administration. There is something fraudulent about a person trying to bring casino

gambling into this country, setting up a Committee to do it, asking that matters pertaining to the enterprise that was trying to push it be referred to him urgently and to make all of these matters available to the Commission, in circumstances when the Secretary of the Committee had to go on leave he said who should be the Secretary. It was such that the matter had to proceed urgently. And then to want to come into this Parliament to be the person bringing a matter pertaining to casino gambling!

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: You said a person or a situation? Continue.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the documents will be available to the Commission.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should just like to advise you that we still want to keep this orderly and we do not want, in any way, to make any kind of imputation against anybody's character, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am all for order. But I am also prepared to mix it up when it has to be mixed up. And there are times when it has to be mixed up like now, when there is a feeling abroad that certain grubby-fingered politicians in the Barbados Labour Party are trying to bring casino gambling into this country, as if there was not a specific minute from a Prime Minister of this country saying that under no circumstances should any action pertaining to casino gambling be pursued at all in 1993. But the Minister of Finance then, after and in contravention of that minute, set up a Committee to deal with it The public has to be told these things, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. What the Honourable Member is doing is misleading the House entirely because he is failing to say that the Cabinet subsequently took the firm decision that in respect of that particular matter, on the file he is referring to, that no casino should be constructed or operated on that site at Bushy Park in St. Philip. I was present at that Cabinet meeting. It took place, I think, in 1993. That is a decision in the records of the Town Planning Office in this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order. No point was made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter relating to a site for casino gambling.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Thank you, Sir. Cabinet, in that day and age, did not know a lot of things that were happening in the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House since you tell me that they did not refer to a specific designation.

The Cabinet in December of 1993 agreed to the designation of a task force as a task force to consider gambling in the context of tourism development in Barbados. It was a decision of the Cabinet, in restructuring the Foreign Exchange Committee. It was in the NATION newspaper. I myself spoke in a press conference relating to the FEC. Do not talk stupidity like that You cannot be allowed to do it It is dishonest

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all I am saying for now is that there is a lot that happened in the Ministry of Finance that Cabinet did not know and you can be sure, Sir, I do not bluff. I do not speak in terms of anybody cutting secret deals that I cannot produce any evidence about I do not do that I do not bluff. Like the Honourable Member for Christ Church South I am a plain, blunt, straightforward person and when I speak, I speak CHI the position of certainty, I do not bluff. But the time will come.

There is something quite unseemly about our having a situation where people sit down around in a Cabinet, and agree that a loan should be raised from City Bank that has to be piloted through Cabinet by the then Minister of Finance. A Government does not operate in this way, Sir, that a Minister of Finance sits in a Cabinet which agrees that the Government should borrow money from City Bank and then comes to this House - and the Government borrows the money from City Bank - and then the Minister, who piloted it through Cabinet, opposes it in Parliament There is something wrong with that And then he gives the House the impression that the funds should be borrowed from somebody else. It is a question of character. 5.55 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: There has been no matter brought to this House since September 6, 1994 relating to borrowing from City Bank. It was borrowing, as far as I recall, from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce of \$42 million which was here some two weeks ago, nothing to do with City Bank. It was the second sugar industry loan that was a City Bank loan.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I brought to the House was a piece of legislation first of all to establish a sinking fund under the Act to provide for our ability to repay the loan subject to Government guarantee. What the Member for the City brought to the House was the Government Guarantee itself because we are required to do that by law. It was the same loan. There have been no two sugar loans, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he obviously did not know what he was debating because he must have gone downstairs for lunch. It was one loan. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been no two sugar loans. He said two sugar loans. There was one loan.

I am saying, Sir, that this Parliament must not come to this. Our Constitution recognises the principle of collective responsibility. If any of my Cabinet Members goes to Cabinet with me and agrees on a matter and then it comes to this House, we are all bound by the principle of collective responsibility. But the Member for St. John reserves for himself the right to agree to it in Cabinet, then we carry it into effect and he comes to House and lambasts it, saying that the Government should have done something else. And he wants to get out of it now, Sir, by telling this House, quite erroneously, Sir, that there were two different sugar loans when there has only been one sugar loan.

But, Sir, I am prepared to be advised by anybody on financial and economic matters. All I am saying is that, when you criticise, make sure that you are not criticising me on things that you cannot stand scrutiny on. That is all I am asking you, Sir.

Sir, in relation to what is now facing the country, it has to be carefully stated, Mr. Speaker, that despite the fact that there has been some improvement in the country's foreign exchange reserves this administration inherited the Government in circumstances where our foreign exchange reserves were falling. I want to repeat that, Sir.

Now this is the background. We inherited responsibility for the management of the affairs of this country in circumstances in which the foreign exchange reserves had peaked in June 1994 at \$405 million but in every succeeding month thereafter they had started to decline. The gross reserves of the Central Bank that stood at \$405 million, and I am citing information which is available to all members in the form of the Financial Statistics of the Central Bank of Barbados, at the end of June, declined to \$389 million at the end of July, \$374 million at the end of August and \$353 million at the end of September. So in three months time the reserves fell by \$50 million. Of course they were still higher than they were last year but the declining trend, part of it seasonal.

After September, Mr. Speaker, two things happened. There was an acceleration in private spending financed by an increase in banking sector credit to the private sector in circumstances where there was no commensurate growth in the deposit base of the banking system. So what we had was a process of domestic credit creation supporting an increase in private spending at a rate in excess of the growth of the economy.

Now, Sir, some members of the NDP and us differ on one basic point I feel that all forms of domestic spending, public or private, financed by excessive domestic credit creation is going to put pressure on the reserves. You will have a balance of payments problem. You will have a problem of making your payments, Sir, if your expenditure is rising faster than your income and your expenditure can only rise faster than your income if somebody is giving

you credit. So all payments in balances are associated and are rooted in credit creation. And your payment in balance will continue as long as there is credit creation.

Now there is a view it can only happen on the Government's side. And there is a view that some members of the NDP subscribe to, that only public sector spending financed by credit creation from the Central Bank can cause balance of payments problems. That is not true, because if there is a situation of tight liquidity in the banking system the Central Bank of Barbados has to function as the lender of last resort to the domestic banking system in much the same way as they function as a lender of last resort to the Government of Barbados. And what we have therefore in Barbados, Mr. Speaker, are the classical features of excessive domestic spending financed by excessive domestic credit creation. That took place in the context of a situation where we already know what we are faced with in the first quarter of next year and I want to spell them out.

In the first quarter of next year, Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a situation where the sugar crop is going to be the lowest in living memory - 36 000 tonnes. Ordinarily we look to receipts from the sugar crop to boost reserves in the first quarter of the year on the understanding that thereafter seasonal trends may cause the reserves to decline. Next year Barbados may not therefore be in a position to have the boosting of the reserves in the first quarter because of the historically low sugar crop.

It is also pertinent to make the point that there may also be an additional adversity of a low sugar crop, because Barbados will now have to import sugar in circumstances where there is a dire scarcity of sugar internationally. At the same time as our foreign exchange receipts for the first quarter may be low from sugar we may have to face increased expenditure on a commodity that we should be producing in Barbados. We know we face that, Sir.

We are also faced, Mr. Speaker, in the first quarter of next year with the requirement to pay back a fairly substantial amount of foreign debt and I want to read them out as slowly as I can, Sir, because I have asked for the specific details.

The Central Government and the Central Bank together will have to find at least \$120 million to repay debt principal and interest in the first three months of the year. On the Central Government side, Sir, we have to pay back \$5.5 million on the loan raised from Barclays in 1990, the last loan that the former Minister of Finance, the Member for St Michael South, raised before the 1991 election. The first interest payment of \$5.5 million is due on that.

On the Natwest Loan raised in 1993 we are paying back, Sir, in the first three months of the year \$7 million

amortization, \$658 000 in interest, a total of \$7.658 million. On a loan raised by City Bank in 1992, \$40 million is to be repaid in full. A Samuel Montague loan amounting to \$8.8 million in interest and principal on the Central Government account is to be repaid in the first quarter of the year. That was raised in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is the profile of debt repayments that we have to cope with, together with \$42 million repayment by the Central Bank. All I am seeking to do now, Mr. Speaker, in circumstances where domestic expenditure is demonstrably growing faster than domestic output caused by banking system credit, is to try to slow down the rate at which private sector expenditure grows. 6.05 p.m.

It is a temporary measure which I propose to review in the light of the performance of the tourism industry. All I am seeking to do is to cause the system to be able to retain more reserves now so that we can accommodate these particular payments in the first quarter of 1995 with no undue alarm to the Barbados economy. This policy is intended, as I said, to raise the domestic interest rates in the hope that people will stop spending so much and save a bit more. I also wish to create a penalty for the banking system if it wants to borrow from the Central Bank. By raising the bank rates we are raising the rate at which the commercial banks can borrow from the Central Bank in the event that they have a tight liquidity position. It is a purely precautionary measure taken early to make sure that there is no undue overheating of the economy, but more to the point, that we are in a position to meet all of those payments that we know are going to face us in early 1995 in the context of a low sugar crop.

Now, Sir, I have always practised the precept of economic prevention being better than economic cure. There is nothing I would have loved better than to let the spending continue. I am anxious to see the Barbados economy rebound at the fastest possible rate of growth, but I want to say this. I have just recently had meetings with the international institutions and I have told them I would be prepared for the economy to grow at $Y_2\%$ less than it is growing now if the reduction of that $V_2\%$ in the growth rate allows us to accommodate these unusually large payments without there being any undue harm to our economy. Members will see it, because I am making no secret about this thing, Sir, they will see it in what I have told the International Monetary Fund. I will come to that shortly, Mr. Speaker, because I am not making these things a secret. They will get the opportunity anyhow. I am interested in putting this country on a sustainable and sustained growth path that would allow this economy to grow without our having instability either in relation to prices, or in relation to the reserve position, but particularly in relation to the reserve position because we have already seen in recent years how the refusal to take early action to manage the reserves can cause the greatest pain to this

economy. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, this Barbados Labour Party administration is putting in place the measures to address the question of unemployment in Barbados.

Sir, when I hear the most distinguished Honourable Member for St. John speak about the question of employment creation, I am forced to remember that the Democratic Labour Party left office with no plan for employment creation.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: No, no. That was a fiction, like so many other fictions, invented in the heat of an election campaign when other people had focussed the question of employment creation as something we must aim at, because it is a great shame that people like.....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us cut out the asides. Not so loudly, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, Met them talk all outside. Let them come in here and debate with me.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: And you will have your chance to speak. I will respond after you, too, but come in here and debate.

I want to make the point, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party may have spoken about a 5-4-3 plan in the midst of a campaign, under pressure, because unemployment was made a central issue in the campaign. But they did not leave behind any programme for employment creation that a Government coming into office can say, we are going to pick up this and run with it. It is also set out in the Development Plan of the Democratic Labour Party. The Democratic Labour Party has said it is not at all concerned with Manifestos, it however had a Development Plan that was their working document. What did they say, Mr. Speaker? What did they tell you? That unemployment was to fall to 20% by 1996. What the Democratic Labour Party was talking about was the process of jobless growth, a bankrupt economic policy in which they were trying to get some growth induced largely by downsizing in the larger part of the corporate sector. But no measures whatsoever to re-stimulate the economy either by changes in policy, institutional arrangements or anything of the kind were put in place. It is wonderfully well addressed in the only document that was ever made seriously a document of this House, the Development Plan, where on target unemployment was to be at 20% by 1996.

The important point that has to be made in all of this nonsense about whether or not we should have solved unemployment within three months is that we came to office without being able to say this is a plan for job creation that any Government could take up and execute. What you had was a lot of talk about K Mart and the Kingsland Golf Course, and I want to say this again on the Floor of Parliament, because it is contained in the DLP's Manifesto. There was a lot of talk about the Bushy Park Development, although the principals at Bushy Park were able to tell the Government that the project could not come off unless a casino was part of it. That is in the DLP's Manifesto.

You had a lot of talk as well about how many thousands of jobs would have been created at *Julie 'N*. One does not dislike *Julie W*, but institutions in this country must not be made to feel that they can operate in defiance of the law. There is something wrong, as far as I am concerned, with that Haggatt Hall/SL Barnabas area being an area that is prone to flooding and an enterprise being allowed to carry on infrastructural work there, over the protest of the Chief Town Planner, without first of all complying with engineering requirements in relation to provision for proper drainage. I want to say that. There is something fundamentally wrong, because the Member for St. Michael East knows that that area is prone to flooding, but the work at *Julie 'N* continued over the protests of the Chief Town Planner who said that it should submit engineering designs to deal with the problem of drainage before it proceeded. But part of the election propaganda was that *Julie 'N* was starting and would create 2 000 jobs, and all that kind of foolishness. I have given instructions that the proper regulations must be complied with. Haggatt Hall is prone to flooding, but in the anxiety to show progress towards job creation *Julie 'N* was allowed to start that work without complying, and it is wrong. To say that it is wrong is not to dislike *Julie 'N* but is to insist upon proper governance in this country.

I have said all of that, Sir, to make the point that we came into office with a lot of rumours about big projects. The principals of Bushy Park made it clear that to support inland tourism they had to have a casino and that all the planning for Bushy Park, which is included in the DLP Manifesto, was predicated on the assumption that after October they would have been given the casino licences. 6.15 p.m.

Those were the broken weeds of the DLP employment creation strategy. It was nothing that could be sustained. What we intend to do, Mr. Speaker, is to refocus the whole question of employment facing this country back to the fundamentals.

The best hope for employment creation in this country, as in any small economy, comes with our

endeavouring to master production in the international business arena. Our market is simply too small for us to believe that employment creation can be sustained in Barbados by enterprises that cater only for the Barbados market. The first thrust of employment creation must be concerned with the mastery of activity in those parts of the economy that can cater for a market that is larger than Barbados. That is why, Sir, the work towards generating activity in the international business sector of Barbados is vital. That is why I am in a position to commend to this House the effort being made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Business to make substantial progress in the way in which we do international business in this country, Mr. Speaker.

The computerisation of the Corporate Registry may sound like a simple matter but for years the difficulty in being able to establish a company in Barbados was a deterrent to investment in this country. In one fell swoop we have executed the effort to computerise, to make Barbados come into line with what obtains in other jurisdictions where ease of being able to form companies is part and parcel of international business activity.

We have heard also about the need for us to reduce the transmission costs associated with people in the informatic sector receiving data or sending data abroad. I am pleased to reiterate that the rate for voice and data transmission associated with the operation of those industries have been brought down by at least 12% and we are looking seriously at the prospect of setting up a teleport. There is now in place an environment within which that international business activity can receive the focus that can enable it to generate the kind of foreign exchange surpluses that would enable us to underwrite economic activities in the non-trading sector.

A similar set of initiatives must be undertaken in that other part of the economy that functions in the international business arena, the tourism industry. A supplementary is before this House today that is in support of a re-direction of the allocation of resources to improve and, in fact, to practically change the nature of Barbados' marketing efforts in business and tourism, because we feel that much can be done by way both of direct foreign exchange generation in the sector itself and a contribution from the sector to support other sectors if tourism can be made to fire on all of its cylinders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already spoken in this House about the rural development programme.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I feel that Barbados has a range of options that it can pursue.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: For a man who has made a fortune out of having one-armed bandits in the premises that he rents, his high and mighty attitude on gambling is not to be commended.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Sir, we are seeing a rather unusual Jekyll and Hyde presentation by the Honourable Member. I wish to inform the Honourable House that it is being misled in his saying that I made a fortune off one-armed bandits.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: It is all relative. What is important to him may not be important to the rest of us, but it is beyond dispute that the Honourable Member *far* St. Michael South Central has made money from renting houses to people to carry on gambling activities and it doesn't fall easily from his mouth to speak on the morality of gambling.

Dr., R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I have never rented premises to anybody to carry on gambling.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: May I complete my point of order, Sir? I think the House needs to... I wish to complete my point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point that was made?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir. Some years ago I was a shareholder in a company that owned a building in Nelson Street which rented a property and part of the lease was that there should be no gambling on the premises and what in fact happened was that some Barbados Labour Party supporters and financiers not only broke the law because one-armed bandits were illegal but also broke the provisions of the lease and when it was brought to our attention during the 1978 bye-election I chucked them out immediately.

Mr. SPEAKER: So there was gambling there. Let us continue please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, it is characteristic of the mentality of the Member for St. Michael South Central that the only investment which he has ever conceded in this House as his is an investment in a building in Nelson Street.

I want to go forward.

Asides.

Hon O. S. ARTHUR: She has a good investment in good government too.

Sir, the point I am making is that we are going to stay the course where the creation of employment is concerned. We accept the compliments from the other side that are cast to the public in the form of carping criticism. This Administration, which did not inherit any programme for employment creation, should be able to solve the unemployment problem in three months. It says something about how they perceive us. I thank them for the compliments, Sir, in telling the public that we should have solved the unemployment problem in this country in three months. I accept the compliment, Sir.

We are going to sustain the course. In our manifesto I have described the framework within which the question of employment creation is going to be addressed. But it has to be addressed with an eye also to sound balance of payments management. Therefore, a series of measures to enable this country in the three critical export service sectors to press forward, has to be in the vanguard of our efforts to put employment in this country within a sustainable context.

I could, in the face of a reasonably modestly comfortable fiscal position, unloose the spending floodgates just to create jobs. And Sir, you can create jobs to cause people to move sand from one seashore to the other and to do all kinds of foolishness. But we are going to sustain the process and create in this country solid well-paying jobs in areas that make economic sense.

This Administration, Sir, is making an effort to be serious about our approach to and in the international business sector as proposed in our manifesto. When you read the manifesto that is where we say the thrust and the charge will come. There will be initiative in the area of housing. There will be initiative in the area of agriculture and that is why, as I said, we have brought that money to Parliament. I have been speaking to the Minister of Agriculture about taking idle lands around Mile and a Quarter.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, in the village where I live there is an estate that is lying idle surrounded by youngsters some of whom work in the crop. I would like to see that idle land converted into a rural enterprise for those youngsters under supervision from a revamped Barbados Agricultural Management Company which must become the agricultural equivalent of the BIDC and must come out of fanning as far as I am concerned.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: That must do for agriculture what the IDC and the tourism promotion industries have done for those two other sectors. All across Barbados where land is idle and the food import bill is high we must get idle hands in contact with idle lands, start a series of rural enterprises across the country with -training. And where there are buildings on the estates make provision for those persons also to have integrated training in related fields, motor mechanics, masonry, all the things that are required on a farm and, perhaps, even into craft and so on if they also have those kinds of things. 6.25 p.m.

I have already considered a pilot project for an area in my constituency and it will take the youngsters off the road, give them skills and put them in contact with the land so that they can produce to help both the level of unemployment in this country and also reduce the food import bill because there is the market there for it That is what the rural development programme is going to be about.

We want to have a series of all those kinds of projects across Barbados. Go back to the Scotland district and orchard programme. The foundation for those kinds of things is being laid. The foundation for an aggressive housing programme also is being laid. When one looks at what has happened in housing in this country over the course of the last five years, identified the pent-up demand, look at some of the surpluses that are lying at National Housing...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I tell you this is only a temporary measure. I am anxious to change it as soon as circumstances allow but there will be an aggressive housing programme in Barbados because we know that a lot of the unemployed in Barbados are persons who have artisan skills who have paid the price of the DLP not having a housing programme for the last four years. We are going back to it It is going to be something that will be sustainable. We are not going to start something that we will not be able to finish. Slowly but surely, it will happen.

That brings me to the whole question of our relationship with international institutions. Now, Sir, there is a question on the Order Paper that addresses this particular matter and I will answer the question as well too but I have a responsibility to address the House on this matter now.

The relationship between the Government and the multilateral institutions became a policy cesspool between 1991 and 1994. It was a cesspool of mistrust because a Prime Minister functioning as a Minister of Finance persisted in giving international institutions his word on *mattei**. at the centre of its party's policies but then refused

to honour them. At the centre of it all was the fact that the Government of the day at the outset of the programme with the international institutions said that an incomes policy involving an 8% cut in public servants' wages was going to be the centrepiece, not the peripheral part of economic policy, the *sine que non* that would prevent devaluation in this country. He said that he intended to keep the country on its course, and that he was not going to restore it, but he did not sell it to his Cabinet That is why I tell you that a lot of the things happened in the Ministry of Finance that apparently did not get sold in Cabinet. Under pressure from Cabinet he restored it but he broke his word with the multilateral institutions on what they regarded as the centrepiece of the programme.

As a result, even though the Government executed I would imagine about 90% of the programme it had with the International Monetary Fund - it undertook direct tax reform as planned, it undertook trade reform as proposed, it undertook divestment as proposed, it undertook all of the other major aspects of the programme as proposed - even though it executed about 90% of the programme, the fact is the lack of good faith which was at the core of it which led to bad faith. Therefore, the relationship became bogged down in what I have come to call a lot of foolish, niggling issues because they were part and parcel of the international institutions' insistence that "we are going to hold you to your word now hereinafter on everything that you have agreed to."

What it has meant for Barbados, and I want to stress this point in the light of what is happening now internationally, is that the Government of the day undertook adjustments to this economy in the expectation that financial resources would have come in to cushion the effects of the adjustments but the resources were not forthcoming. I want to use one example of what I am talking about to illustrate the way in which this is all interconnected.

When you undertake trade liberalisation, as has been undertaken in this country and contemplated across the world, trade liberalisation does not take place in a vacuum. By changing the rate of tariffs, converting non-tariff barriers into tariffs and whatever else, you change the conditions under which various industries operate. As a result, some are going to die and there are opportunities that are going to be created for others that are more competitive in the changed tariff situation. It has to be understood that a trade liberalisation policy is going to cause changes in the structure of the economy and that is going to represent itself in the form of some companies growing and opportunities being created for others.

It is at that point that you need to have access for investment sector loans that would allow you to recapitalise industries that can be saved, can provide capital for those that need it, can allow you to do the training and

retraining that is necessary in the context of a situation where the very structure of the economy is changing because the tariffs are changing. What has happened to Barbados is that the trade liberalisation went on, but the investment sector loans that were necessary to assist in the recapitalisation of the economy to provide new capital for new industries and to do the human resource development commensurate with the requirement of a changing economic structure was not forthcoming. That was the price paid by this economy for the foolishness that went on between the Prime Minister of Barbados and the multilateral institutions, that the country should, therefore, carry the stress and the pain of the adjustment without having the financial resources flowing in in order really to carry out serious structural reform in this Barbados economy.

I am saying to the House that a lot of money, U.S. \$240 million in projects and, to begin with, U.S. \$60 million in investment sector loans through the IADB hung on the Government operating in good faith with the multilateral institutions. This House was never told about the rest of the \$240 million but I know of the \$60 million which was subsequently reduced by the IADB purely because of the bad faith of the Government of Barbados.

Where we are now, Sir, is that this Government of Barbados has had an IMF mission come to this country under Article 4. The Laws of the country setting up the Articles of Association between ourselves and the Fund entitle them from time to time to send missions to this country just to routinely report back to the Fund on our economic performance because we are members of the Fund in good standing by Law." They have assessed our economic performance. They have also done an assessment of our medium-term economic prospects and a report has been prepared by the Fund, the macro-economic policies that they, from the Fund's point of view, believe are consistent with Barbados' present circumstance and our prospects. I will not be embarrassed if that document becomes public. I have no difficulty with people referring to it or seeing it because, as far as I am concerned, there is nothing secret in Government 6.35 p.m.

Now, Sir,...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The only reason why I have not made it public already, Sir, is because the members of the Fund met with me today and they have to carry it back to Washington to discuss. But I feel that these things should be routinely passed through Parliament because I can call any Minister of Finance... When I was in Opposition... These documents are circulated. All member countries of the Fund have access to the documents of the IMF. I have nothing to hide in relation to what we

discussed with the International Monetary Fund. Nothing at all. It will become available, Sir, and I hope he will read it for what it says of what the prospects are. But I am not going to indulge in the discourtesy of reading from it in this Parliament while it is still in draft. But I am saying that that has been done. Considerable work has been done in relation to our setting out a very clear macro-economic framework for the growth and the development of this country that will allow us to simultaneously address the question of employment creation and balance of payments stability.

I say all of that, Sir, to make the essential point I want to come to, that where our relationships with the institutions are concerned, it is upon the basis of our specifying new macro-economic fundamentals. I have already had 3 meetings with the social partners and I have gone to the trouble of giving them a Paper called "*Macro-Economic Framework*" within which our economic policies are going to be executed. I am going to give them a Paper entitled "*Fiscal Constraints*" because we have nothing to hide.

Considerable work has been done, therefore, in trying to chart out a sustainable growth path for this country based upon sound economic fundamentals. All of that work has been done between September and now because it is my point of view that if we are going to have a relationship with the multilateral institutions it has to be based upon ourselves defining the macro-economic fundamentals upon which we want to discuss matters with them.

When I hear a former Prime Minister ask me what has changed since then, it obviously represents the kind of *ad hoc* foolish, haphazard, bankrupt way in which he used to relate to the institutions. Before I can deal with the institutions, I will sit down and draft out precisely what I want in terms of macro-fundamentals for today and for the future so that when I speak to them it is upon the basis of what I have thought through. I am reporting to the House, Sir. All that work has been done with a view to our inheritance as Government and when you move from Opposition to Government you inherit a situation where you have to sit down and assess. We have done all that and there is now a defined macro-economic framework to which numbers are being attached. That will be used as the basis upon which we go to the institution and say: "We see this as a sustainable macro-economic programme for Barbados and we want to discuss our future relationship with you within the context of what we feel is sound for Barbados." What is wrong with that? What can be wrong with that? But I hear carping criticisms coming from the Member for St. Michael South who learnt nothing at all and has forgotten nothing, therefore, as to what has happened recently. A lot of serious work has been done on fundamentals. That is how it should be; if you would relate

to the institutions at least know what you want. At least know what the boundaries that you yourself want are. But the worst thing you can do is to rush haphazardly into a relationship without yourself knowing what you want and then have to accept any and all kinds of dictation from the institutions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take the liberty to say this, that after dealing with the International Monetary Fund this morning, I have told them that the next initiative will be that I want to send a Barbados team to meet in Washington sometime in late January with all of the institutions. These are the fundamentals of the Government of Barbados and let us discuss all of our programmes within that framework. If we can have a meeting of minds we would have one and if we cannot we will not have one. I am not bribing anyone in this House. That is how the country's affairs should be managed. If the Members of this House who were former Ministers of Finance know of a different way to deal with it that makes better sense. I await their advice in the matter.

There are also a number of conditions that have been specified by the IADB that we did not know about that we now grapple with. Nobody in this House knew, Mr. Speaker, that as a condition to get IADB loans, investment sector loans, that the Government of Barbados had agreed that the BDB should be closed down.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Should be closed down! That it was a condition of financial reform attaching to the investment sector loan that the BDB should have been closed down within a particular timetable. That is a fact.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Government had before it three options, one of which was the consideration of closing down the BDB altogether. But there were a number of other options which included continuing the BDB and particularly that part of the portfolio which is performing. You know that

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I told you I do not bluff. At the very first meeting I had with the Inter-American Development Bank they presented me with a timetable of action that they said they had agreed to with the Barbados Government included in which was the closing down of the Barbados Development Bank.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. If that is what the Honourable Member is saying, now that he has put it in that way, it means that the IADB is not telling the truth. But he must not give the impression that it is true that the Government of Barbados agreed to the closure of the BDB because that is simply not true. Therefore be clear in what you say because you are

trying to leave an impression in here and create some kind of untruthful impression out there in the minds of the public. All of this talk ... You are bluffing away...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has made his point. The Honourable Member for St. John, please, you have made your point of order.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Barbados were not aware and were not made aware by the most distinguished Honourable Member for St. John that, part of its discussion with an international institution was the question of the closing down of the BDB as a condition for access to a loan, Sir. That was never raised. But it is a fact...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. A full and extensive debate took place in this House for 2 full days on the Barbados Development Bank and the restructuring and what options were put by the IADB and what the Government of Barbados was considering during the last Estimates. The Honourable Member himself accused the Government of filibustering in the debate because we put everything before the public. And now he comes in here untruthfully...

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ...and put these kinds of positions before the public...

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is heard.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ...and cease to give the impression, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you will permit me that I have concealed information from the public. There were two full days of debate on the BDB last year in the Estimates.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I told you, that is why I am being so careful in what I am doing with the international institutions and that is why I am being open with this Parliament because I was not aware before the elections of the extent of the funds that hung on the relationship with the IADB. I was being told about investment sector loans, as all of us were.

We were not made aware that there was a pipeline of \$240 million and that, within that pipeline, access to the funds for any productive project in Barbados for the future, and I say productive because of tourism, depended upon the Government entering into and having an investment sector loan in place and entering into an enhanced surveillance facility with the IMF.

We were told that the investment sector loans which are of a special pedigree, were dependent upon the enhanced surveillance. But we were never told that a whole pipeline amounting to \$240 million had critical parts of it dependent on that. But I am telling you now. The Multilateral Investment Fund is an entirely different thing.

But that, too, access to the Multilateral Investment Fund through which countries can get access to funds to do training, carry out environmental projects, that too is dependent upon there being an investment sector loan in place and dependent upon there being a relationship with the International Monetary Fund. A lot of investment studies were being done by task forces and so on, would have come to nought. Some of the environmental and social projects were not dependent - and I make that point very clear - upon an enhanced surveillance programme with the Fund being in place. But the institution had come to the point where they were saying that to get project loans for the productive sectors there had to be agreement between the Government and the IMF on an enhanced surveillance programme. They themselves as I said, Sir, wrote into the conditions for access to the investment sector loans, Sir, financial reform involving the closing down of the BDB by a specific date and the restructuring of the Barbados National Bank. A lot of it will have fairly considerable consequences. But all of that was being discussed. 6.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am following your example. The House should also be told that the relationship with the IADB involves the Government having to undertake reforms in relation to land management practices in Barbados, a lot of which interestingly seems to have been designed to free up lands from their present purposes in this country.

Now, Sir, I am going to talk about it now because I am now hearing what they wanted. I do not know what the Government wanted but I know what the Government was leading the public of Barbados to believe. I certainly did not know, Mr. Speaker, that Barbados' land use policy in and of itself had been made the subject of discussion pertaining to conditionalities between the Government of Barbados and an international lending institution. Members of this House did not know it either and if they would be honest, Sir, they would say so. I am sure, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central did not know it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, I am suggesting to you, you are interrupting the business of this House continuously. Please. Your asides are too loud. You are interrupting the House, please. You will get your chance to speak.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of a country's land use policy in Barbados is governed by law in its Physical Development Plan. It would seem to me that you are now touching upon a policy that is so fundamental; it is really a fundamental thing. You are entering a conditionality about the size of the fiscal debt, Sir. You are bargaining away now with an institution the very physical configuration of how Barbados should look. That is what it amounts to, Sir. When a country's land use policy becomes the subject of discussions as part of a conditionality we are into serious waters.

In fact, Sir, I wonder how that could have proceeded without serious questions being raised about the integrity of the Physical Development Plan which is governed by law and the Town & Country Planning Act which is part of the Statutes of this country. I do not know how these things happen. That is why I was saying we have to be so very careful when I speak about trying to restructure that relationship. We have to be so very careful with what we go up to Washington and agree to or even put on the table as being subjects that are worthy of being part of the conditionalities between a sovereign Government and a lending institution.

It is a serious matter and I feel that in circumstances where even now, as I speak to you, the question of an appropriate land use policy for Barbados has been the subject of quite considerable discussion in the light of the concessions that the Government has given the golf course operators. Given that there is that lack of settled status in the way in which the former administration was dealing with it, it would be quite inappropriate for that to be so directly put on the table as a bargaining chip. We were hearing how all of the procedures of the Town Planning Department had to be made more transparent but we did not know about these things.

Then there is a third line, Sir, labour market reform. It means simply that the workers of this country between 1989 and 1992 were made to carry a disproportionate part of the adjustment in this country. Eight percent wage cuts, a wage freeze, reduction in severance payments, increases in contributions to the Severance Payments Funds, the temporary abolition of increments, the forcing of people to pay for their own severance and the list could go on, Sir. Included as a condition for access to the investment sector loans were additional commitments by the Government of Barbados that it would undertake studies to look at further labour market reforms.

What are we dealing with? The former Government did not take the public of Barbados into its confidence because it was in the process of discussing with the IADB additional labour market reforms coming on top of what has been forced down the throats of the people of this country. Mr. Speaker, when I tell this House I have been open and I will always be open, a draft report was done by

Professor Downes and I gave that to the Trade Unions and the Private Sector, seeing that what is being proposed will affect the severance rights and privileges of people of this country. These are serious matters that cannot be dealt with in this kind of cavalier, foolish way that the Member for St. Michael South would want to be dealing with it.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: But reports were being prepared, Sir, and I am going to respond. Thank God for the electorate that put me in a position now where I can respond.

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

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, once I am in public life the election will never be over. The Member for St. John went through a whole election telling the people of Barbados a complete lie, knowing it to be a lie, that I had entered a secret deal with the IMF. He will never, ever forget it.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for St Peter has said this three times and I am now going to correct it. I have never accused the Honourable Member for St Peter of entering a secret deal with anybody. I merely asked him to tell the public ...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Can I continue my point of order, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The only thing I have asked the Honourable Member for SL Peter, and he has not done it to this day, is to tell the public of Barbados what he told the IMF. That is all. 6.55 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most distinguished Honourable Member for St. John more than once in the General Election campaign gave me deadlines within which I had to disclose the secret deal I entered with the institution, otherwise he was going to tell it all. I am saying that it was a lie, a wicked lie, a terrible lie and I shall never, once he is in public life and I am in public life, allow him to forget it, because I had to live three months with a man proposing to be leader of a party telling a lie on me in public, Sir. And now he can come and say that he never said there was a secret deal! He said I had entered into a secret deal with the institution and he told

everybody to come and hear about the secret deal. What manner of man is this that we are dealing with?

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for St Peter. I take it that all of what you are saying, as you have said at the beginning, you will relate to the Savings Bonds Bill.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Of course, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it you are still leading on to that.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Yes, Sir. I am trying to set the Savings Bonds within the context of the management of the Barbados economy - this is a Second Reading speech, Sir - and to make the point that there has never been a secret deal between me in Opposition - because I could not have made it - and the International Monetary Fund. There is now going to be no secret deal; everything I say or do in relation to the International Monetary Fund will be above board. I have told this House that I met with a Mission today, the draft report of which I hope that every Member can have a copy as soon as it is ready. I will tell the Honourable Member for St John this, that I will never ever approve a car loan for myself to buy a jeep in contravention of existing policy. I will tell him that There is no policy in which a man can get a car loan to buy a jeep, Sir. I will never do that

Mr. SPEAKER: All right Let us continue, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Cabinet is now considering the question as to whether car loans can be used for the purpose of buying four wheel drives and jeeps and so on. There is no such existing policy.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I have never issued a licence for vegetables and I never will issue one either. I give the House the assurance that I will never approve a car loan for myself to buy a jeep in circumstances where that is in contravention of policy.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I have not called anybody's name. Mr. Speaker, it may enter the records of this Parliament that I have approved licences to import vegetables.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue, please.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, let us continue, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, it might have entered into the records of this Parliament by way of an aside that I approved the importation of licences. I have had nothing to do with any approval or refusal of any application for the importation of vegetables into this country. I can say that categorically, but the Member for St John lives in the dark, ugly underworld of gossip and innuendo. I remember him telling this House that the Member for St. Peter is going to lead the Barbados Labour Party into elections and then somebody else would become Prime Minister of Barbados. All through the election campaign that was on my back, because as I said, Sir,....

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The questions coming to this House in the name of the Member for St. Michael South, the questions being asked about matters pertaining to the Ministry of Finance.... I served in Opposition for seven years and I would have been ashamed if one of my colleagues had to be put in the necessity of having to ask questions from the Opposition about the portfolio I was being asked to shadow. It is a commentary on the lack of competence as perceived by the Member for St. Michael South in the capacities of the Member for St. John, that he feels that unless he asks questions about finance they will not be asked from the other side. You should be ashamed to be telling anybody....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Honourable Member, Sir, should be ashamed to be drawing reference to the role being performed by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, when all that the Honourable Member for St Michael South is seeking to do is to show up his inadequacy both as a shadow person for finance and as a person responsible for keeping pressure on the Government. The only person who is asking questions on the other side, outside his own portfolio, is the Member for St Michael South, and he can have the nerve to come to tell us about who is leading and who is not leading the Democratic Labour Party. The effective leader is the man from the Second XI. He is sending a message to let you know that his former party is now being led by a Second XI player and it reflects upon the Honourable Member for St. John as leader.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am going to mix it up in here, if necessary. They can go on the road and say whatever they want to, but when they come in here I am going to deal with them up front and after I have concluded....

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter. Are you continuing, please?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am anxious to continue if the Member for St. John will give me the chance. The Honourable Member has had a lot to say, but I do not say a lot I am a patient man and I will take my chances and deal with him, because the Member for St. John has now established a political track record that shows, in my judgement, that he is the emblem and the personification of all we have come to associate with Douglas Leopold Phillips, that he will tell a lie and know it to be a lie and that he will want the public to accept a lie.

This move by Government to increase the Savings Bonds limit..

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am about to finish, Sir. I will come back, Sir, I will give way to the Leader of the House.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the hour, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 8 o'clock,

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you reserve any right to speak?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, had I just left a conference in which I met with the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the entire Caribbean and Latin American region and North America, it would have taken a certain agility of mind and flexibility of moral outlook, to quote a former Prime Minister, for me to return to this beautiful island of ours in the psychological state in

which we presently find the Honourable Member for St. Peter. I would have left that conference on such a high note, having represented 250 000 citizens of this country who expect so much from him and who in return have received so little, that at least on coming back I would have thought that this would have been the occasion to imprint in my own country, as I sought to do outside on so many occasions, those qualities of leadership which one has become accustomed to in the history of this country.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that of the three or four presentations which the Honourable Member for St. Peter has given to this House, none of them even followed the rudiments or tenets of fifth standard composition which you, if you were an English teacher, Sir, would direct students to follow, the level of criticism which he begins by showering on the most inconsequential of persons, including me.

I am only the Leader of the Opposition. The Honourable Member is now the Prime Minister of this country and he must not concern himself with what people like me have to say. The public has made a choice, so don't worry about the advice I am giving you. I have no advice for you whatsoever and I will never have any advice for you. My job is not to advise the Honourable Member for St. Peter. My job will never be to advise the Honourable Member for St. Peter. Don't look for advice from me because it will not be forthcoming. My job is to set the agenda which the Democratic Labour Party will pursue and to seek to help the people of Barbados understand the fraudulent nature of the Barbados Labour Party's claims about a charter for change and the major hoax which has been visited on the people of this country consequent on the September 6, 1994 general elections.

I don't want anybody in Barbados to feel bad about how they voted. I wish to make that clear, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe in harping on anything. I am not into any exercise to make anybody feel bad. A choice was made. The people did not believe any of the things that I said. They didn't believe anything about the IMF or all the others which you said were so important in your life. Apparently those things are not important in the lives of the people of Barbados.

What the Honourable Member for St. Peter needs to do, to understand tonight as he speaks to this Chamber and, by virtue of those presentations, to the 250 000 citizens of this country is that he is the Prime Minister of this country, that he was elected to office and is paid a salary to do a job and that the excuses which he continually places before the people of Barbados are unsatisfactory and, as far as I am concerned, constitute the kind of intellectual...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Intellectual dishonesty is unparliamentary but I wasn't going that route but if you want to go that route. ..

Mr. SPEAKER: Careful!

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:... The kind of intellectual retreat which only the mind of what one would describe as a techno-politician, a kind of eunuch situation. You are neither politician nor technician. I mean a technical or political eunuch. Somewhere between the two. I am not sure what you are, whether you are a politician or a technician. That's the kind of flexibility...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Speaker, I will not have it read into the records that I am a eunuch of any kind but I also want to state for the records that there is no doubt as to what the Member for St. John is.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are objecting to the word "eunuch"?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No. He is not objecting Mr. Speaker.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am asking, Sir, that the remarks be withdrawn and I am saying that..

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: If you want me to withdraw them I will withdraw them.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: ... and I am also saying that there is no doubt as to what the Member for St John is.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I withdraw the remarks unreservedly. Somewhere between the imperfect technocrat and the typical politician lies the Honourable Member for St. Peter; but he is now being paid to do a job and he must do it.

He is not going to get anything...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member is being paid. He draws a monthly salary and has all the perks of office to do a job and I recall in this Chamber time and time again it being said, not only by him, but by some of the nuisances who occupied the back benches of the Democratic Labour Party in those days that the only thing that had to happen in this country - one particular nuisance I should say who fortunately left - for confidence to be immediately restored and for jobs to be created and investment to take place was for the Democratic Labour Party and its leader then to fall from office or be removed. Well, that has been achieved. So what is all the dippy-doodling and all the attacks on *Julie'N* and attacks

on people who if they don't get casinos they are not investing, what is all of that about now? What is that trivia about now?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Peter cannot generate any confidence here or abroad either by virtue of his policies or by virtue of the fact that he is illustrating that flexibility of moral outlook and agility of mind which does not locate him anywhere in the political landscape in Barbados. He is neither on the left, on the right, in the centre or anywhere and he is foundering in the Ministry of Finance picking up files with trivia. Mr. Speaker I will tell you some of the trivia that came into this debate.

I entered this House in 1987 and I bought a Suzuki Samurai jeep in 1987. I was not Minister of Finance and the Minister of Finance does not approve car loans for parliamentarians. The Permanent Secretary approves them. I have never seen a file like that when I was Minister of Finance. I purchased a Suzuki Samurai jeep. The Honourable Member for St Michael South Central was then the Minister of Finance. There have been several people subsequent to that in 1992 when I was not Minister of Finance. Again, I purchased a jeep. I have never seen any file, never minuted any file concerning me in the Ministry of Finance. The Honourable Member for St. Peter comes to this Chamber to give the impression that there is some Minister of Finance on this side - I know it cannot be me - who minuted some file approving a car loan to himself to purchase a jeep contrary, he didn't say to what, as if it is something that the Press should run with like the trivia over Kola syrup and the other kind of political nastiness that is now being elevated in this country as if it is deserving of the attention of a serious public.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am going to hope in due course, not for the editorial, because I can't do that, but I will find a way to get the record of this House to recognise that an editorial in the newspaper...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John, all of what you are saying you are leading towards the Savings Bonds Act.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am following exactly the course which the Honourable Prime Minister followed. I am getting right there. When I hit that, Sir, you will feel the full weight of the impact of my comment on the savings bonds issue. But I have to deal with the issues which he raised because he said they all had something to do with the management of the economy like jeeps, and trivia about what appears in an editorial as an instruction from a Prime Minister to a Minister. That is what a debate

like this is elevated to. So instead of starting where the public of Barbados expects a Prime Minister to start by telling us the state of this economy, what is the nature of the challenges which are facing this country, what 1995 is going to be like, instead of levelling with Barbadians about what faces Barbadians over the coming months, the Honourable Member for St. Peter launched a tirade of invective against every conceivable person who has ever said anything negative about him in the last three months, three simple months. If it were five years you would not mind. He spent time on an election campaign fought and won by him. Unheard of in the history of Barbados! That level of ungraciousness in victory I do not understand, not even in schoolboy politics, and I have passed that stage a long time ago. 8.30 p.m.

I did not give the Honourable Member the rating of 4V₂ out of 10. It was the "Nation" newspaper of which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is a shareholder and all of his buddies. I am a shareholder in nothing. I do not have shares in anything in Barbados. But the Honourable Member for St. Peter is worrying about his rating of 4½ out of 10. He is worrying about what people say in Call-in programmes about the performance of the Barbados Labour Party. But I am not a caller, I went as a guest So did the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. What I was interested in and what the callers were saying is where have these people who feel so disaffected come from.

The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown in a previous speech made the point that a lot of people did not feel that the Government had done anything. The Honourable Member gave the impression that there were a lot of people who did not think the Government had done anything but she disagreed and said that the Government had done a lot.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. This is incredible. We are all in here. We are still here. We have been here all day long. I have absolutely no recollection of saying any such thing. He seems to be into mythology now. I am asking for that to be withdrawn. I never said or implied any such thing. I never used language which could be interpreted even vaguely in this manner. I am asking for that to be withdrawn. I will not have that ascribed to me.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, if she wants me to withdraw, I withdraw.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not if "she".

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for the City has asked me to withdraw I unreservedly withdraw all of that too. You cannot withdraw comments on the Call-in programmes, nor can

I. Therefore, if the Prime Minister has come back to Barbados and is feeling the full weight of public opinion, and that has caused him to launch this kind of presentation in the House this evening, I feel sorry for him because if it were I, I would still be riding high, having sat down with the leaders of Latin America, the Caribbean and North America and signed this great Charter to carry * the entire region into the future. But can you imagine that that has gone to the back of the Prime Minister's head altogether and he is saying all kinds of trivia about jeeps? It is unbelievable.

I need to get to the substance of this issue. I saw today in an issue of The Broad Street Journal that praise was being heaped on the Honourable Prime Minister for his great skill in negotiating the last tranche agreement of a global medium-term loan programme, which I negotiated for the first time in the history of Barbados, which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South described as an opportunity for money laundering in this country. But the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, when we negotiated that loan and brought it to this House, said that the nature of bonds being issued was an opportunity for money laundering. It is the same thing. This is the second tranche of it. I have not heard the same concerns that we have been hearing.

I heard about all these successes, about the credit rating of Barbados, about all of these achievements of the Honourable Prime Minister as he made his many travels overseas to the capitals of North America soliciting funds for the loan. I congratulate you for completing that work which was started by the Democratic Labour Party in respect to those foreign loans.

What I am concerned about is that when the Honourable Prime Minister has returned to Barbados, it cannot fall from his mouth three months after a General Election to give the impression that he is confronted with all kinds of major problems in this country and cannot extricate himself from them as if the Democratic Labour Party has tied the Barbados Labour Party down to something. Even if the Government had to clear all the little arrears, whether it is university...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not even going to get into that because it does not take an economist of great skill to understand how to clear arrears. We cleared \$64 million in arrears in this Chamber. It is true we used the Contingencies Vote and we put all of those arrears into one figure so that the House could see the global figure for the clearance of the arrears. Those arrears, including the one in respect to the University, were recently cleared. That is not any major piece of engineering that the Honourable Member is conducting in this country, while the impression is being given that it requires great

ingenuity and skill to raise a few dollars on the capital market to find financing for the University when it all essentially comes out of the same pot. Now you are going for savings bonds. It is for the Honourable Minister of Finance to determine how he is going to finance the operations of Government.

The Honourable Minister of Finance said as far ago as in the Budget which was delivered in this Chamber by me during the course of this calendar year that the Government should tell the truth that it is unlikely to access funds from the Inter-American Development Bank under the Investment Sector Loan and that it is not going to access any money from the World Bank and, therefore, one of the first things the Honourable Member should have predicated his economic policy on was the absence of those funds from his financing, according to his own calculations. But the Honourable Member comes into this House as though he is some wizard uncovering some bag of tricks which some previous Minister of Finance left for him to execute and is having great difficulty in executing those tricks.

On the campaign during the Election we heard every night that this is the choice for change. Would you believe, Mr. Speaker, that I could pick up the newspaper last week and read that the Honourable Prime Minister went to Miami and told the people in Miami that there will be no need for policy changes in Barbados?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That was in the paper. I read what was in the paper.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I will not allow that to enter into the record. At no stage have I told anybody in Miami or elsewhere that there is no need for change in Barbados. The Honourable Member is being true to form. He is a little liar.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, come on. Let us keep it orderly, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the newspaper misrepresented the Prime Minister's view but that is not my business because I do not own a newspaper.

Mr. SPEAKER: So you are withdrawing the words.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I cannot withdraw because I said what the newspaper said. I saw that with my own eyes, Mr. Speaker. I cannot be made to withdraw what is a fact. It appeared in the newspaper. The headline was...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, you should know that the Standing Orders do not allow you to quote from the newspapers as a fact

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, I will not quote, Mr. Speaker. What I will say is that I read in the newspaper. It is a fact that I read it That is a fact, Sir. I read in the newspaper a headline saying, it is quite true, that there were no major policy changes needed.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I said I read it. That is all I am saying. You cannot tell me what to say in here.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, let us keep it orderly, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But I will add to that, Sir, because I do not want the Honourable Prime Minister to have to get on his feet again and I know that he cannot get on his feet for this one. When the interest rate was increased, and he announced it, I never announced those things. I always let the Governor of the Central Bank do those things because I always understood the role of the Central Bank and my role as Minister of Finance, but you always had a different view of that The Labour Party has always had the view that Ministers should manhandle everything. I knew what the role of the Governor of the Central Bank was. It was better to be detached sometimes because when the opportunity came for me to say "No" I would say "No". I will get to the interest rate issue. When it was announced in that Saturday morning Press Conference at Government Headquarters, or wherever it was held, the Honourable Prime Minister said that there was no need for any change in the economic strategy.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: If you want to deny it. That is how I read it as a quotation of yours. That is what was said. If your press people did not read it, you could correct it. 8.30 p.m.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following day, once again thousands of Barbadians were very confused because I had always heard, not only from the Honourable Member for St. Peter, but in the most glowing endorsement from an Opposition politician, and I know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central must have changed the view by now, that the fundamental things that are needed in Barbados, that we need introduced are a low tax, a low interest rate and low energy cost policy, and that the Honourable Member for St. Peter was fighting a great battle against the rest of his Party to have that policy put in place. Therefore, when the interest rate position was adjusted I was not disappointed at all. I understand why the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central should have been disappointed. But I was not disappointed.

When we made changes in respect of the rates for which the Central Bank still has authority to make an imposition, last November, we made that change for a reason which is well known to the Honourable Member for St. Peter; we were still negotiating with the International Monetary Fund and the fact was that we were trying to get the report completed in respect of the programme which we had with the Fund, the stabilization programme.

We had a haemorrhage in the reserves of about \$71 million which the Central Bank itself was saying it could not explain properly. The Fund made it a condition of our discussions in that December that we took some policy initiative to protect the reserves. Of all the measures which, at that time, the Central Bank felt were desirable or possible to take in the context of what was happening in the Barbados economy, we decided to make an adjustment with respect to the interest rate at that time. I remember in the margins of this Chamber explaining to the Honourable Member for St Peter why we took that course of action that it would have "the demonstration effect" that we were interested in it because the Fund was giving us pressure.

Were it not for their influence, there is no way that that adjustment would have been made because it would have had no impact in respect of spending in December - over the Christmas period - and, for once, the comments that I read from one of the spokesmen for one of the other Opposition parties with respect to its impact in the New Year are quite correct. I made no comment on it myself because I was as shocked as any other citizen of this country that the Honourable Member for St. Peter, who lambasted me on the Floor of this House time and time again for chopping and changing the policies and for not being able to explain the loss in reserves of \$71 million, could either conceive of introducing a policy which he himself had consistently attacked on the Floor of this Chamber, accusing the Minister of Finance of being out of control and of accepting the advice of the Central Bank when that particular course of action was not necessary. And yet, one of the first major economic initiatives which the Honourable Member could announce from the high office at Government Headquarters on a Saturday morning was one of the very initiatives which he persistently attacked in this Chamber and attached to the then Minister of Finance as a symbol of lack of confidence, lack of ability by the international institutions and the private sector in the Barbados economy. The more things change, the more they remain the same. But that is not something for now because in 4 years' time the public would have ample evidence of that. It is not something I am going to ram down anybody's throat 3 months after a General Election. People should at least have the opportunity to do the right thing in 4 years' time. I am not worried about that.

I think that all of this talk about arrears to the University being scandalous is monumental foolishness,

Mr. Speaker. As I said in here it is symptomatic of somebody who has a file and is playing around with it in the office as a major decision that is not important and with little minor things which can be handled over time. The University's financial arrangements are not done on a fiscal year basis and the Honourable Member for St. Peter knows that.

The problem with the Honourable Member for St. Peter, and this is the major problem that I am going to say he has, is that, unlike him, I am a product of that University. But it is about time that the University of the West Indies looks at its financial situation and starts to manage its finances prudently. I am saying to the Honourable Member for St. Peter, if you wish to throw money at the University that is the Labour Party's business. But under the Democratic Labour Party, we expected the University of the West Indies to justify every single dollar which was given to it. That is why it was necessary for the Principal and other officials to come to the Ministry of Finance from time to time to demonstrate that the kind of money that they were spending, whether on new or old programmes, was justified in the context of other resources in the Barbadian economy.

What the Honourable Member for St. Peter has done is to rush into office with a soft spot for the University, and he knows why he has that soft spot, I do not have to have a soft spot for anybody.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Spry Street The only soft spot I have is for the people who come in there, a lot of them. I have no soft spots. I have never had to ask anybody to do special favours for me, thank goodness at age 32.1 hope it does not happen between now and age 64, God spare my life.

The University needs to be more serious and prudent about the way in which it expends public finances and finances given to it by the Government of Barbados. And to rush in here with a lot of pretty talk about throwing \$20 million at the University and, "it is a scandalous state of affairs"¹¹. What is scandalous about some of these public institutions is the fact that they are above the scrutiny of this Parliament but can get priority, as the Honourable Prime Minister is giving them, over other areas, in my view, which are more critical and for which there is greater need. That is my View and I am giving it honestly from my heart to this Chamber. I am giving that view based on what I have seen happen at the University of the West Indies.

Many times in the last 2 financial years provision could not be made in certain departments simply because we were seeking to have in place better control. Money was being made available to departments of Government.

I am not talking about the Welfare Department in particular but I am going to get to that. The situation where Old Age Pensioners had been travelling on the buses free and who should pay for it has been a long-standing problem. It is not a problem that started with the Democratic Labour Party. It predates the Democratic Labour Party.

Furthermore, as scandalous as the situation is supposed to be, the pensioners were still travelling free on the buses in Barbados. What is all this talk about a scandalous situation? Did any Transport Board bus refuse to carry a pensioner on the buses during the course of this fiscal year because of non-payment by the Welfare Department of \$4 million?

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member, please. Continue please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I cannot think - I was Minister responsible for welfare in 1991 - that there was adequate or, for that matter, any provision with respect to payment to the Transport Board. Some years the payment for the pensioners did not come from the Welfare Department. It simply did not materialize and it was put into the overall deficit of the Transport Board. That has been happening for years. So to talk about a scandalous situation as if there were some Minister of Finance allowing expenditure to be out of control is foolishness.

Furthermore, the Welfare Department cannot actually tell the Transport Board what is the value of the pensioners travelling on Transport Board buses and it does not seem as if the Transport Board can adequately cost the trips made by pensioners on Transport Board buses. This has been a major problem that we have been having between the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Transport for a long time. They have been functioning on the basis of guesstimates.

The \$4 million is not based on any scientific survey. It is not based on any accounting principle.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. John were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record. 8.40 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am going to put it this way, Sir, that the requests that were made by the Ministry, whichever Ministry it was that made them, are not based on any scientific analysis and have never been so based because it could never be \$4 million in this world or the next And I can bring any number of Cabinet Papers prepared year after year since 1991 which have never seen the light of day because nobody nowhere in Barbados

seems to know exactly what figure represents travel by old age pensioners on Transport Board buses.

If the Honourable Minister for Community Development wishes to deny that I am being truthful in saying that there is no scientific analysis the Honourable Minister may do so, but I know that \$4 million represents the same wild reckoning that took place in my time and I am saying, therefore, that as a result of that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance cannot say for certain to this Chamber that it has been based on any accounting principles, which he said are now being introduced into Government and for which public servants are supposed to be hung, drawn and quartered if those principles are not implemented. The Honourable Member cannot say so. I am ready to sit down if it can be said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Then he goes on, Mr. Speaker, the Welfare Department, the UWI, well that is all we were given but we were given the impression that it is a scandalous situation of arrears. Well, if we cleared \$64 million in arrears last year and the Labour Party is claiming now by his calculations about \$24 million, the scandalous nature of those arrears is the difference between \$64 million last year and \$24 million this year.

We will get to this in the Estimates, Mr. Speaker, because I know where to find them, those specific line items in the Estimates for which bogus figures are continually given by Government departments with respect to all kinds of operations financed by Government. The principal one would be the Transport Board because I am going to ask a thousand and one questions as soon as I see the figures coming in on the Transport Board subsidies. I know they cannot calculate on the back of a roll of toilet paper, as long as it is, how much money they would need in any given fiscal year.

I am sick and tired of this pretence where each Government gets in and pretends that the Transport Board under their administration is carrying out better financial operations and is cleaning up its act and at the end of every 5 years we are saddling the taxpayers in this country with a situation which nobody can get a handle on. And that is shown in several other areas. I do not know what solution the Honourable Member for St. Peter proposes to that but he has all the answers. He is the economic guru. I am not. Hopefully the tax administration programme which would upgrade the operation of the Ministry of Finance will help improve the skills of the people who are involved in those kinds of exercises. But a lot of those guesstimates are simply not working.

A debt was rolled over in the Transport Board from year to year under the fiction that the subsidy that was

being provided was adequate and we cleared arrears in statutory corporations including those of which the Honourable Member for St. Peter was Chairman at some point.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The ADC.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I heard what the Member said but I want to make it very clear that the Honourable Member for St. John, as Minister of Finance, has never had to bring to Parliament any measure pertaining to money to clear any arrears accumulated by me as Chairman of the ADC. I want to make that clear for the record less it may be misunderstood. He has not had to bring to this Parliament any financial measure to pay for anything done by me at ADC of Barbados.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only person who believes that is the Honourable Member for St. Peter. That much I will say as a caveat to what he just said.

We have had this debate in here. The facts have been given but as I said facts do not mean anything to some people. I cannot...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the arrears for the ADC were arrears accumulated in the last 3 years. I was the Chairman of the ADC in 1983/84, ten and eleven years ago. I am not going to have it cast, Sir, as an impression that a Resolution or any other measure was brought in this House last year to clear arrears ten years ago. It is not true. It is disgraceful.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John has heard the Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: And I disagree with him, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a matter of your disagreeing or not. Honourable Members, of course I do not have the record. The Honourable Member has stated it is 1983/1984.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member for St. John that you will misunderstand 1983/1984 as something that is very recent?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given my position and, as I understand the rules of the House, he is entitled to put his position and he has put his position.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, no measure has been brought to this House to

clear arrears for the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation for the years 1983 or 1984 when I was the Chairman. No measure has been brought by this Minister of Finance in the course of the last year. The measure that was brought to clear the arrears for the ADC were arrears accumulated in the last few years not as far back as ten years ago. That is a matter of public record.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking therefore that to the extent that that is a matter of fact that it be withdrawn from the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, you will have to withdraw your remarks. I am asking you to say what you have to say in a different way altogether because the imputation is clear what you are trying to say.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to claim the privilege I am entitled to as a Member in this House. Unless the Chair is saying that what I have said is incorrect I cannot see how it will be possible for me to withdraw the remark. May I complete my point?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, you cannot complete. There is no need to try to place the Chair in an uncompromising position. The Chair does not have the facts at present. The Honourable Member has stated that you are referring to something that has happened in 1983/84. You are stating that it is something that has happened in the last year. You are dealing with 10 years difference and I believe that we are dealing with all Members here of integrity.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said arrears have been cleared in a statutory corporation for which the Honourable Member for St. Peter was the Chairman. Those were the words I used. I never called a year in the course of my debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: But, your inference. The Honourable Member for St. John, your inference ... 8.50 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I will rephrase it I withdraw the remark and I will rephrase it in this way. I brought a measure to this Chamber for \$64 million in arrears in respect of one Statutory Corporation for which, at some point in its history, the Honourable Member for St. Peter was the Chairman.

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

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for St. John, your inference and the imputation are very clear to this Chair. You seem to be inferring that the

measure that was brought to this House related to the Honourable Member for St Peter. That is clearly coming out, and the rules of this House state that you must not make those kinds of imputation to any Member. I am asking you to withdraw the remark.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I withdraw the remark and I will make two statements of fact, Mr. Speaker. I brought a measure to this House for the clearance of \$64 million in arrears. One fact One of the entities for which clearance of arrears was approved by this Parliament was an entity for which at some point the Honourable Member for St. Peter was the Chairman. Fact No. 2. If that is being challenged in here, I have a problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: I challenge that again. The Honourable Member for St John, you are making an imputation where you are trying to say, it appears to this Chair, that the Honourable Member for St Peter, in some way, and these arrears where the measure was brought, are connected. This is the understanding I am getting.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I accept your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but I am not sure I can continue in this debate. You have to understand the basis on which I am entitled to speak in this debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: You made one fact. All I am saying to you. ...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But, Mr. Speaker, you are not letting me say anything either.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Precisely! I want to make the point very clear that in my view I am stating my position. If any Honourable Member in this House has a contrary position, I am going to sit down and permit them to put that position to the Chamber. That is how I have always understood debates are conducted in this House. I have never stopped the Honourable Member for St Peter putting his position. He denied something and I accept his denial as forming part of the record, but I understand what is happening here now in this Chamber, is that I am being told I must withdraw my position, but the Honourable Member has not withdrawn his. So the record shows his position but not mine.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John. This Chair is not asking you to withdraw your position, all the Chair is saying to you is that you have to observe the rules, the Standing Orders, of this House. The rules of this House clearly show that you must not impute anything. Could we continue the debate, please?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have not run out of steam. At 10 o'clock let somebody tell me I have run out of steam, because you know me better than that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I understand your rushing to finish business, but let me tell you something. You are not dictating any pace for me over here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could the Honourable Member for St John just continue, please?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am going to continue, I have to move on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not let them tease you like that. Continue, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On several occasions, both in the course of the stabilisation programme and subsequently, measures have been brought to this House to clear arrears in Statutory Corporations. That is nothing new, and that is nothing that any Minister of Finance worth his salt, especially one with the qualifications of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, or those that he boasts of - and I am not imputing improper motives to him - because I am saying he may boast of extra university qualifications like ability and leadership skills and so on - taking into consideration all the qualifications which he says he has, it cannot take all the ingenuity which the Honourable Member for St Peter seems to want to impress Barbadians he now needs to summon to clear arrears in respect of pensioners travelling, as if that will break the Treasury. Do you know that months ago the Honourable Member for St. Peter came in here and said he had requests for \$66 million in supplementaries? He did not say for expenditure incurred by the Democratic Labour Party, because part of that, as I understood it, included new programmes for which we have already approved sums of money, whether it is the NCC, the computerisation of those things, they were all in the \$66 million. So it was not just Democratic Labour Party expenditure, but the cohorts of the Labour Party.....

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I did in fact inherit supplementaries for \$66 million. The things of which he spoke were additional expenditures that we evaluated in conjunction with the \$66 million. I stand on what I have said. We inherited supplementary requests for \$66 million. The other things that have been brought in as new expenditures of Government were not part of the supplementary requests we inherited. I stand on what I have said.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: What would be interesting, Sir, and this is what I want done, is for the Honourable Member for SL Peter to bring to this Chamber

any approvals which I as Minister of Finance gave in respect of any of those requests for supplementaries. If the expenditure was not accommodated by the Contingencies Vote, when it came to my desk it went straight back out of the office. The Honourable Member for St Peter has the perfect right and privilege as the new Minister of Finance to manage the economy of this country, and because you have a supplementary request, unless it is in the most extenuating of circumstances, you do not have to approve all. You could have shut down the Institute of Democracy, you could have done all the things that you want to do to reduce further expenditure, if you wish to do them.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, I understand there was a lot of joke business inside here over the subject That was one that a big hue and cry was made over. The Honourable Member for St. Peter gets on in this Chamber as if he has a mountain of problems and this poor, little Minister of Finance has no friends because the Democratic Labour Party left him all problems and all enemies. But that is not true. There has never been a Government in the history of Barbados that has not come in with some goodwill. What has happened is that the Honourable Member for St Peter has squandered it in the shortest time possible. That is a new phenomenon, but it is not a new phenomenon to have goodwill. The Honourable Member for St. Peter can pick his friends now, his enemies, and can throw the files he wants to in the stuff bin and he can continue to search around for the trivia, the approvals that he thinks are going to cause somebody over here to get locked up.

I want to say this, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to this idea of expenditure, I want to put paid to some issues. I am calling on the Prime Minister to launch any investigation he wants, including an investigation into the St. Joseph Hospital. Launch an investigation into the School Meals Department! Launch an investigation into the Ministry of Finance, but most of all, when you are writing the terms and conditions of the Commission which is enquiring into casino gambling, tell them to launch an investigation into the files of the Ministry of Finance relating to casino gambling. Tell them to launch an investigation into the files of the Ministry of Finance related to casino gambling and see if they do not find, Mr. Speaker, because we dealt with Bushy Park this evening and it is monumentally dishonest that the public of Barbados has not yet been given the actual decision which the Cabinet of Barbados made on August 19, 1993 with respect to Application No. 0031/01/93D in respect of the project at Bushy Park. 9.00 p.m.

Do you know what the Cabinet of Barbados actually decided? I am going to tell this House, Mr. Speaker. First, that with respect to the construction at Bushy Park

Plantation, St. Philip a golf-centred resort subject to the following conditions:

- (a) No further development of the land should be carried out without the prior grant of permission by the Chief Town Planner on an application made in that behalf;
- (b) No public road shall be altered without the grant of prior permission by the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transport;
[This is the important one]
- (c) No casino shall be constructed or operated.

As for the Cabinet of Barbados and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph who is being advised by the editorialists in the *Advocate* to take up the files, the files I want him to take up are the Town Planning files, the Ministry of Finance files and the decision of the Cabinet

I want to say, Mr. Speaker. I saw one of the principals of the Bushy Park project once in my life. He came to me to talk about water problems he was having. I have never discussed or seen any member of the company which is establishing this golf-centred resort on the issue of casino gambling. From the beginning, the position of the Cabinet was that no casino shall be constructed or operated. The Cabinet also refused when the task force asked that two public officers travel overseas - the Chairman of the Betting and Gaming Committee...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order. I will have to make a record of the House that there are records in the Ministry of Finance stating that the Honourable David Thompson met with investors and this letter is dated August 10, 1994 after the Cabinet decision to discuss the fact that concessions were being sought, including concessions for waivers for casino gambling.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that could not be a letter from me, because my correspondence to the operators of the Bushy Park golf course were very clear, that the laws in Barbados have not changed. That correspondence will also be made a document of this House.

No member of any golf-centred project in Barbados has ever sat down in the Ministry of Finance to discuss with me the operation of any casino in Barbados. I can say that openly because it has never taken place. What happened was that, as part of the project, they included in their entire project proposal a whole host of things, on a water mill, a water sports park, a golf course, buildings for a whole host of things, including the word "casino". But the decision on the concessions was not made by August 10th. Check your files.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St John and also Honourable Member for St. Peter. We now have have casino gambling and I have allowed a lot of latitude in this debate. I would really prefer that you press on and not go into any specific details.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have given you the latitude and I have allowed you to touch it but this is not the time or place.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I agree one hundred per cent but I want to go on to make this general point The determination in relation to concessions offered to persons who want to establish golf courses in Barbados was done on a generic basis. The first application was from Kingsland and we approved - and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would have to attest to that - concessions for Kingsland and then said we would apply it to every single golf course which operates in Barbados so long as it had Town Planning permission. It is not my business to know whether the Town Planner has approved a golf course, a casino or anything else.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South can tell you that he applied on behalf of somebody else and I wrote back and told him the concessions are generic and, so long as Town Planning approval is given, the Cabinet has agreed that any operators of golf courses until further notice will receive exactly the same concessions on their operations. Now I am finished with that subject, Mr. Speaker, except I need to go on to this now, although I said it in a point of order. I never commissioned any report on any casino gambling in Barbados.

The Tourism Development Corporation wrote a letter to me and asked me if I would object to their commissioning a report - the Tourism Development Corporation, Mr. Geoffrey Cave. I said, "That is your affair. That report will inform the private sector contribution but it will not inform the Government's contribution to the deliberations." Now, Mr. Speaker, that report was never delivered to the Minister of Finance. I have never received it, largely because the man was not reporting to me. He was reporting to the TDC and therefore for any impression to be given... The working group has not even reported and Mr. David Bynoe who is the Chairman said in The Broad Street Journal three weeks ago that, based on their consultations with most of the private sector and interest groups, most people were opposed to casino gambling in Barbados.

So it was likely in my view that the task force was going to write and tell me that they do not support casino gambling.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The record has to be clear on this, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member for St. Peter does not need to write me letters trying to implicate me with things that I am not involved in as he did a few weeks ago. I am not in that kind of child's play and I don't have any more toys. None. Therefore, a Prime Minister writing to the Leader of the Opposition a lot of trivia about, "I am sending you this report since you commissioned it", when the facts show that I did not commission it, in my view, is an act which goes beyond the decency of the office of Prime Minister. That is my view.

Therefore I treat it with the contempt which it deserves and I don't want to see that kind of mail again because it will go straight into the stuff bin before I even reply to it I don't care who it comes from.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, please. Lest the record be misunderstood and misrepresented I can only report on what is contained on the files of the Ministry of Finance in relation to the establishment of a working group and of the working group it is said:

"On behalf of the Chairman of the Foreign Exchange Committee, the Honourable David J. H. Thompson, Minister of Finance, I invite you to be a member of this important working group."

Similar letters were sent out to all of the other persons who constituted the working group on casino gambling. It was established, Sir, not only on the authority of the Minister but the Minister himself determined who should be the secretary of the working group and who should replace the secretary when the secretary went on leave.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I have never denied that the Foreign Exchange Committee set up the working group.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, that's a good point that we can continue to debate on the Savings Bonds.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: And I put the Christian Council on it, too.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John, I have allowed a lot of latitude in this debate and I believe that we are getting too much into a debate that is not before the House. Can we continue on the Bill?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a Resolution before the House and we will deal with it then.

The financing of Sherbourne: I approved, in respect of the financing of Sherbourne, those limits which were approvable under the Contingencies Vote. Any other expenditure that took place with respect to Sherbourne is expenditure which the new Minister of Finance is entitled to investigate and deal with according to his dictates but he will not see on any file anywhere approval by the then Minister of Finance of expenditure on Sherbourne outside of that which I had allocated from the Contingencies Vote. To give the impression, listening to the statement that was made, and this is the thing that needs to be clarified, that the public record is being distorted, the Honourable Member for St. Peter has avoided, has been imprecise and the entire speech lacked clarity because he said, "a project as large as Sherbourne was financed by the Contingencies Vote." Now, how could you finance a project which you & I cost \$50 million out of a Contingencies Vote? What the Honourable Member needed to say, if he was trying to be precise and truthful, was that the expenditure incurred between April 1, 1994 and September 6, 1994 for which the Minister of Finance gave any approval... 9.10 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is just going to get himself tangled up on what is meant by the word "finance". Funds were provided to support such expenditure as was supported out of a Contingencies Vote. When I said it was financed out of the Contingencies Vote the only funds that were spent on Sherbourne this year came out of a Contingencies Vote. I stand on that

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, there was no other provision approved nor did I approve any other expenditure so he is not saying anything. The entire project could not be financed out of the Contingencies Vote but that is the impression he sought to give. He cannot confuse me. Your using the word "finance" does not confuse me. That is your problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just proceed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, that is the Honourable Member's problem that there is no mystery to this thing as he pretends there is. There is no major mystery to the financing of Government's operations. The Honourable Member for St. Peter likes to give the impression that it is some high science, and that he has some special qualities which he is bringing to bear on the operation of public finance.

Now, why does the Honourable Member for St. Peter, elected by a handsome majority in his constituency, with a Government of 19 members, and the panoply of the state at his disposal trouble himself to interfere with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South who is not in his seat and whose mandate came to an end? What psychology, what kind of political behaviour would propel

the Honourable Member for St. Peter to focus on those kinds of things at this critical time in our development? That is what I cannot understand. In his own admission to the New York correspondent, he probably spent a little too much time away, so in coming back to Barbados he may have found that there were shadows around that he thought had disappeared while he was away.

Mr. Speaker, I saw the largest contingent I have ever seen of Government Ministers assembled anywhere in the world on behalf of the Barbados Government in Miami. I was not there for that event I was not even there on behalf of Barbados, but I reflected when I saw all of these Barbadians in the lobby, security personnel, four Ministers - I would not even go through the list. I should ask a parliamentary question. I do not begrudge the Honourable Member the panoply of attendants and the minions that he wishes to have at any activity which he holds. He is entitled to do that.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I do not know to whom the Honourable Member refers when he speaks of minions but I would hope that he does not so refer to any Barbadians, Ministers, or otherwise who were in Miami attending the Hemispheric Summit and then the Miami Conference. I really hope not, because I am tired pointing out to the Honourable Member that he cannot dismiss people. He cannot use that kind of language to speak of other people. Sure we can have the rough and tumble and the tug-of-war in here but he has to desist from calling people idiots, fools and saying that they are stupid and describing them as minions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, your point has been made. The Honourable Member for St. John, could you rephrase what you were saying?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not know. My vocabulary must be too large and the Honourable Member for the City may have a very limited one. Therefore I will try another one. Let me try another word: "Satellites", Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is based on how you use them.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes, Sir. That is quite correct. I am just checking to ensure that I use the right word. I would prefer to use...

Mr. SPEAKER: I am asking you just to give it in a different way.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I would prefer to use the word "satellite".

Mr. SPEAKER: So you saw satellites there. Let us move on. He has withdrawn the word "minions". He has used the word "satellites". He saw satellites.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: A "minion" is a beloved object, a darling, a favourite.

Mr. SPEAKER: It could also mean a stooge.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: "One specially esteemed or favoured" and that is the context in which I made it. I used the word "minions" before and somebody thought it was a term of abuse.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a term of abuse.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have never used the word "minion" in that sense. "One who is esteemed, or favoured, a favourite idol, a favourite of a sovereign, that is the context in which I meant it."

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but the word "minion" could also be used in a sarcastic tone. Let us go on, please. The Honourable Member for St. John, please continue.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Peter is entitled to carry all the satellites he wishes. He must not feel badly when he returns to Barbados and finds that nothing has changed. Therefore, if it makes him feel bad when he arrives at the Airport that the people of Barbados do not feel that anything has happened in the past three months he must not take it out on the Democratic Labour Party because we are not supposed to do anything.

The Honourable Member for St Michael South Central is not supposed to do anything except defend the people's interest. It is the Honourable Member for St. Peter who has to detach himself from the lofty halls of the Intercontinental in Miami with his satellites, return home and ground himself in the reality of the problems which are facing the average man and woman in this country. That is the problem.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has lost touch with reality, economic reality and political reality. That is the problem. That is why this kind of trivia, that each Ministry is going to have a Contingencies Vote by the next Estimates as if that is a major exercise in financial engineering. We permitted Ministries to change their priorities in the course of the financial year and so, whereas their global budget did not change, they could adjust their expenditure so long as they did not go outside of the overall expenditure. That is the point the Honourable Member for St. Peter did not make, that with respect to that \$66 million in requests for supplementaries, some Ministries may have realised savings and, in fact, because Government's capital works programme has been slowed there may be other opportunities to divert expenditure and not affect the overall balance. That is a determination that the Honourable Minister has to make. He is not going to get any advice from me on those subjects because it is not my business to advise him on allocation and choices.

That is what economics is about - choices. I always understood it to be about that

Now, I have a whole page of other points I want to make but I want to give the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central a chance to add his comments in this debate.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am getting to that. Like the Honourable Member for St. Peter I am getting right there. Savings Bonds, Mr. Speaker, we have to get the context of the debate. Each political party in this last election had a job plan. But you know what was remarkable about the Honourable Member's plan? The Honourable Member for St. Peter went to New York and in answering a question the phrase "30 000 jobs" came out. Do you know that by the time he reached back to Barbados, apart from the speech which the Honourable Member for St. George South made in Edge Cliff in St. John in which he said he is not promising a soul a job. .. 9.20 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter found himself in Barbados telling us that that interpretation that was put on his speech, as if it were a job plan, was not the correct interpretation. But that, in fact, he viewed it more as a goal; as something that we could seek to attain.

What I want to say is this, that when I analysed it more carefully only 2 parties had job plans: the National Democratic Party and the Democratic Labour Party. The Honourable Member for St. Peter floated an idea in New York. It was one thing in New York, another thing before elections in Barbados, another thing after elections in Barbados and come the Budget in March it is going to be another thing altogether. But I can guarantee you this, Mr. Speaker...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is it. There is rest and peace in Paradise. That is what I can guarantee. Time is longer than twine. The Honourable Member for St. Peter will be called to account for every single job. People talk about the dingiest chapter in political history. I was the victim of a statement that manufacturers in Trinidad had bribed the Democratic Labour Party by giving it \$1.5 million. On the same day that appeared I was mortgaging away myself and 20 other members of the Democratic Labour Party to secure a loan in Bridgetown to finance an election campaign. The Honourable Member for St. Peter confirmed that he heard it was so - on the front page of the *Advocate* newspaper the day before the election - I have never accused anybody of any dingy anything. I understand what elections are about - the Honourable Member for St. Peter confirmed that he heard it was so and

said it was one of the most despicable acts that we had mortgaged away the country to Trinidadian manufacturers.

When I read it after I heard his speech at the Labour Party Convention describing my comments as the dingiest chapter in Barbados political history, and then thought about that vicious lie spread by the *Advocate* and compounded by those who should know better, all I said was, louché. But the Honourable Member for St. Peter so lacks confidence that he is going to continue to be spouting that foolishness until he meets his political grave whenever that is. As far as I am concerned, that is dead.

I am going to bring in this Chamber a report of the luncheon which he attended in Washington. I'll read out the outline of what took place. He knows he went to a luncheon because I was in Washington then. I am not even going into that now. Let us move on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us move on.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I will bring the information to the House, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We have a very difficult task in this country of seeking to realize that ambition of creating 30 000 jobs. But what has happened, Mr. Speaker, is that every single major investment, even investments which members of the Barbados Labour Party were involved in, like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, major investments to create jobs, as soon as the Labour Party won office in Barbados one golf course has gone through the eddies.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The golf course project, in its present state, has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not the Barbados Labour Party has come to office and if the Member wants that matter to be opened, it will be opened. But it has absolutely nothing to do with the Barbados Labour Party's coming into office. It has to do with the acquisition of land.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could we move on.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kingsland Golf Course has come to an end. I should like to hear the Leader on Kingsland Golf Course. Now we hear that Bushy Park Golf Course is contingent on casino gambling, a fact that I was never aware of, because the Cabinet firmly decided that no casino would be constructed or operated at Bushy Park and Town Planning Department communicated that to the operators.

The third is Julie'N. Is that the sin that it committed? He came from Baxters Road. Only black people can be used.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. I am on a point of order. I have been listening in here for over an hour and all I am hearing are distortions and variations of the truth. It is not true to say that only black people can be used. It is not true to say that any black man owns Julie'N because the black man you all used continues to be used.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have to withdraw your remarks and say what you have to say.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City, let us continue. Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Christmas is coming up but you are not going to stop me from saying what I want to say.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The investment by Julie'N. I can see people taking pride in seeking to stand up and stamp on a young businessman in this country. Two businessmen seem to have a bee in their bonnet.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Respect the Chair. I am giving you this last chance. Let the Honourable Member proceed in this debate. I think you will want to proceed in this debate, savings bonds. We are getting a little nearer now. We are as far as Haggatt Hall. Could we proceed, please? I am still on my feet. Let us proceed orderly.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: They did not rely on political patronage to be where they are. I know where my political alliances lie because I know the alliances which the Democratic Labour Party have are with people who fought hard to be where they are today. The point is that they do not understand what it is and I am, at some time, going to have to get at the root of this, that Julie'N a company which invested in this country, a major investment can receive the opprobrium and almost abuse of some people simply because they asked the then Minister of Finance - he was not pretending to be so, he was the Minister of Finance - to do the ground breaking at their ceremony. As I would assume that they would ask any

Member of the Barbados Labour Party in due course to open the building when it is completed. 9.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, let us hear the Honourable Member in silence.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You and I are not going to tangle in here. You can rest on that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed. The Honourable Member for St. John, continue, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it concerns me then to see that the Prime Minister is on the one hand trying to give the impression that he is creating jobs and creating an environment in this country for businesses to grow and develop, but yet certain businesses are being singled out for a kind of scavenging, political scavenging...

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rules of the House do not allow for a Member to be charged with improper motives. All I have said that is recorded in relation to Julie-N is that the construction work that went on at Julie-N has gone on in defiance of the insistence of the Chief Town Planner that Julie-N should be required to put in proper facilities for drainage in an area that is prone to flooding. That is all I am saying, and as the Minister responsible for Town Planning, I am trying to make sure, even now, as the work is going on, that Julie-N complies with what the Town & Country Planning Department said should have been a precondition before any work started that, in an area prone to flooding, proper provision should be put in for proper drainage whereas Julie-N was allowed to go ahead in a rush during the election campaign, maybe to create an impression, rather than conform to procedures applying to everybody else.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is the crux of the issue, Mr. Speaker. Why Julie-N? Why would this be weighing so heavily on the minds of...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Again he is imputing improper motives and I want the remarks about scavenging to be withdrawn. I am going to say, Sir, that I would require that every major investment in any area prone to flooding comply with the Chief Town Planner's requirements that proper facilities be made for drainage. There is no scavenging to deal with Julie-N, Sir, and I want those remarks withdrawn. I am merely making sure that the Town & Country Planning laws and regulations are applied.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could you withdraw those remarks, please?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, that is no big thing to me. I hope all comply, because I know the Honourable Member says he is a straightforward man with Anyway, time is longer than twine.

I want to say this, Mr. Speaker, that an unusual effort has been made, in my view, to single out a company of young vibrant Barbadians, who are developing outside of Barbados as well, for the kind of political scavenging, and I am not sent by any individual. He said I am using it in reference to him but I am not using it in reference to him. I said single out, I did not say by whom and I am not going to say by whom, Mr. Speaker, for the kind of political scavenging which gives the impression to me, Mr. Speaker, that an attempt is being made to ensure that this company does not succeed. I am concerned about that for a number of reasons because even in the heat of the most virulent political battles in Barbados, never have I seen that kind of focus being given to a company which, in normal circumstances, any proud Barbadian would be willing to give its support to assist in developing.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, again I have to insist that when he speaks that they were singled out, he is speaking about the Minister responsible for Town & Country Planning. All that we are seeking to get *Julie-N* to do is to comply with the Town Planning laws. There is not one law for *Julie-N* and another law for other companies in Barbados. Nobody on this side is trying to cause *Julie-N* to do other than to comply with the law. A company should not proceed to undertake an investment of that scale in circumstances where the Chief Town Planner has said: "Look, carry out proper drainage," and they do not do it. They should not be allowed to do it. Nobody is trying to single out *Julie-N*, Sir. They must comply with the law.

And, Sir, I have been very patient not insisting that there be an injunctive work stoppage because we do not want to frustrate the investment. But they must comply with the law. They really must and I am disgusted to be part of a Parliament and hear somebody get up in this Parliament who could aid and abet a company not wanting to comply with the law. It is a serious thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay. Your point of order has been made. The words "single out" are imputing improper motives to the Member.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not aiding and abetting anybody in not complying with the law. I want the Minister to do his job. I want him to do that job fairly.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, you used the words "single out".

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: There were five editorials by the Labour Party controlled newspapers against *Julie-N*.

Mr. SPEAKER: You were referring ... Mr.

D. J. H. THOMPSON: No. I was not.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Just clarify it or say it a different way.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not referring to the Minister of Town & Country Planning. I am saying there is a general effort by the Barbados Labour Party. I knew nothing about any drainage. It is not my business. I am not an investor in *Julie-N*. I expect Barbadians to comply with the law and it is your job to make sure that they do so. Do not come pretending that failure to do these things is some excuse or can be used as some excuse to give the impression...

You know what the Honourable Prime Minister did? He then went on to pooh pooh the idea that *Julie-N* could create 2,000 jobs by virtue of that project. He went on to give the impression that that was some kind of hoax which was staged during election time. Now, what conclusion should I draw from that kind of thing?

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to leave that where it belongs. The history of Barbados is going to determine his political stances. He is being pushed and pulled by forces that he never anticipated.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us move on.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: They will deal with him harsher than he will get to deal with them.

Now, I want to go on to the financial institutions. I have consistently said in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, what were the issues that were dividing Barbados and the World Bank, Barbados and the IADB, Barbados and the International Monetary Fund. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has an idealistic view of what the institutions are. He probably read too many texts books and has fraternised with people who seem to think that people like he and I, when we are governors of these institutions, have some great impact on the policies of the institutions. So the Honourable Member for St. Peter is going to the institutions with a position and he seems to think that these institutions are going to sit down and say, "Yes, Prime Minister from Barbados, you are a great governor of this institution. You have put your position. It sounds terrific. We are going to support you". If it were as simple as that there is not a single country in the world that would devalue its dollar. Not one. So to give the impression that the Honourable Member for St. Peter, by virtue of some special characteristic, which we cannot see with the naked eye, is going to fly to Washington next month with some team to put a position to the institution, what monumental waste of money is that? What do you need to put a position to them for? The Honourable Member needs to

understand, Mr. Speaker, that the institutions have their own theology and what we, as small countries, regrettably have to do is to seek to negotiate our positions around those institutions' hardened positions. So the Honourable Member is taking a trip to Washington with a large delegation probably to enjoy himself again up in Washington.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, again the little warped mind of the Member for St. John. I never said I was going to Washington, Sir. But I would urge him, Sir, to remember that he represents a constituency that was once represented by Errol Barrow and remember what Errol Barrow said when he had to deal with the institution. But the Democratic Labour Party has changed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I know too. There was once a meeting in the Cabinet Room and when the gentleman got inside they started to talk about what their views were and Errol Barrow asked somebody if they were heading in the direction of the Airport and they said yes and he told them, put the two men in and drop them off up there, because he understood that it did not make sense talking to them about what the position was in Barbados. We know what we need to do in Barbados. All of us know what we need to do. There are things the institutions want us to do that we should not do, and that is why we did not agree to shut down the Barbados Development Bank. That is why we did not agree to the entire exercise in trade reform which the World Bank wanted us to undergo. That is why, in respect of the report written by Dr. Downes, the reason why that report was never made public; it is because the files will show that we did not agree with the conclusions of the report and we asked for an additional report to be done, and another consultant came in to augment that particular report 9.40 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St Peter seems to have some kind of strange mental processes which tell him that if you commission a report you must agree with the conclusions, so that because there is a report called the Downes Report, which says that there will be adjustments in the severance pay, and because the Government commissioned the report, that it is the Government's report and the Government is about to introduce those things; that because a man called Nat Solomon came here and a report was commissioned by somebody and he said there should be casino gambling, the Government said there should be casino gambling. I do not have that kind of warped mentality and I cannot make those kinds of intellectual jumps - agility of mind and flexibility of moral outlook - I do not have those kinds of things, Mr. Speaker. So we have spent the past few years in this country fighting with the World Bank to the extent that they walked away from Barbados and said: "We are not doing business with you, because you do not want to do what we want you to do."

The Inter-American Development Bank says to us: "We need the IMF to design the macro-economic framework," and the IMF says to us: "You have a major problem in Barbados, you want to keep some institutions that we think need to be restructured." On the Transport Board, the IMF has not told anybody to increase bus fares; what the IMF said is that, if you can find every year a subsidy of \$20 million for the Transport Board and that is your priority, well go that route. However, we believe, and the Ministry of Finance agreed, that the Transport Board subsidy should be substantially reduced and that, in place of that, a programme of restructuring, which would include the increase in bus fares, should be introduced. That was the Democratic Labour Party's position with respect to that.

On the question of the housing rents, the Fund said: "Here you have an institution that is providing public housing for Barbadians, some of whom should not benefit from subsidised housing. It is not an issue just of housing rents, it is an issue of who should benefit from public housing in Barbados." The Honourable Member for St. Peter reduces it in his technician mind, in that simple technician way, to niggling things, niggling, like the Transport Board deficit. That is not niggling, the operations of the Transport Board are a serious matter. What is it that the taxpayers of Barbados are prepared to pay to keep public transport in this country? Are we going to write an open cheque to the Transport Board every year and tell them to fill in the figures, as has been happening?

Now as for the whole programme of restructuring of the Transport Board, including a re-examination of the fare structure and all of those other things, the Government agreed to the proposals, put them before the social partners and the social partners said no. They said no on the housing rents and we deferred them. What other issues were there? A medium-term economic programme for Barbados. We were not able to design that before the Government demitted office, and there were other contingent matters. But if the relationship between Barbados and the international institutions was such a cesspool of mistrust, as the Honourable Member for St. Peter in his offensive hyperbole seeks to characterise it, why is it then that that mistrust did not cause the relationship of the World Bank to survive? We told them: "You are graduating us, thank you very much, we are not doing what you want us to do," and we bade them farewell and left as friends. The IADB said what their position was. The point is that nothing has changed, and I am going to say this here tonight, that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is going to go...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That was recommended as a result of the concept of restructuring the Board, not

just because fares should be increased. That is the point I am trying to make to you. The Honourable Member is giving the impression that the institutions came down here and said: "Increase bus fares." The increase in bus fares formed part of an entire study for the operations of the Transport Board, and it did not just include increasing bus fares, it included buying new rolling stock and other kinds of proposals. But the public would attach weight to the increase in bus fares, because it is the most controversial aspect of that restructuring exercise. The Honourable Member for St. Peter does not understand these things, so he sees them as matters of trivia. He says lack of good faith. He now has nothing to hide, so when the team returns, Mr. Speaker, from the IMF, the World Bank and the IADB in January, I want to hear that he has been able to remove that cesspool of mistrust; that he has designed a macro-economic framework that is acceptable to the International Monetary Fund and that he will not spend all day and night trying to fight with the IMF's representatives here in Barbados, which is something a Prime Minister should avoid at any cost. That is nagging and trivia as well. Instead of that kind of trivia and worrying about whose office is where and who said what in the newspaper, he needs to lift the relationship with the IMF to a higher level and lift the status of his office to the level that, when he goes to Washington, they do not feel, and they should not feel, that they are dealing with somebody who is a petty Prime Minister of a small banana republic. That is the point. That is the task the Honourable Member for St. Peter has and I hope he can rise to that challenge. I am not seeing a lot of evidence of the roadway to that being adequately paved, but I hope that he can rise to that challenge.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter said he has nothing to hide, but it is strange that in the last House he constantly made the point that the House should become the centre of economic debate in this country, and yet on each occasion that he has the opportunity to actually put the flesh to that jobs plan, put the flesh to the economic programme, he retreats into an *ad hominem* exercise of attacking people in the Other Place who have First Class Degrees in economics, of attacking the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. The Honourable Member started his speech today, Mr. Speaker, by wanting to deal with four people. How could somebody come to the House of Assembly, after a trip to Miami, with a speech on a piece of paper to deal with four people? I could not believe that. Do you mean even on the plane he could not write down a few points about the development of Barbados to lift the debate? He came in here saying: "I will deal with four people on interest rates." What is going on in the House today? Sometimes I have to ask. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I wish him luck.

Land use policy was in its very preliminary stages of discussion with the IADB. We had not even got to any substantive stage on the labour market reforms with the

IADB, because the labour market reforms we were dealing with were those which the Fund had been providing the technical assistance for in terms of preparing the various reports and that kind of thing. The point is, Mr. Speaker, every time those matters came to the House the Honourable Member for Christ Church South challenged the Government that they were not providing information and on each occasion I said what the terms of the various programmes were. In all fairness to me, at least I know he listens. The Honourable Member for St. Peter was, obviously, not in the same realm as me and other Members in this Chamber at that time. I do not know what realm he was in, or what plane his mind was on at that point, but I know that on every occasion that it came up we put clearly before the House the programmes with the various institutions. 9.50 p.m.

So, anyway, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter started the debate in that context. Let's get to the Savings Bonds issue.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: All right, let me go back to some other issues then. All of this is related, but I want to get to the substance of that, Mr. Speaker. We are not going to oppose the measure. There is no need to oppose the measure. We consider it to be one of many initiatives which the Honourable Member in the course of 1995 will have to take.

I wish the Honourable Member for St. Peter would follow his own advice in this Chamber. By March, he has the exercise of dealing with the fiscal position of the financing of Government's operations. He has given us a hint that 1995 will not be an easy year, but he has certainly not given the same kind of frankness which he required of everybody else. There are some things that he knows. I am not dealing with them now but come January 1st, there are some things that the Honourable Member for St. Peter knows which I feel we have to get on the agenda of an economic debate and I am going to... If you wish me to raise some now I can raise some of them.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows that the medium-term economic scenario for Barbados is certainly not as rosy as the impression being given by Honourable Members on that side with respect to the projects which they hope to undertake in the coming months. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has to negotiate a very difficult task. He has very ambitious Ministers, some whose ambitions exceed, by far, their ability and I want the Honourable Member for the City to get up if she wishes and comment on that. But my ambition exceeds mine too, so I am not afraid to say that.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let's go on.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on the difficulties which we will face in 1995 he needs to be frank and concise. I will not be sidetracked with a trivial exercise in *ad hominem*, not abuse, but criticism of people who have not even seen the Savings Bonds Bill yet but yet he is jumping into some of kind of debate with them as if they are stalling the progress which he intended to make in the first three months of office.

I believe the *Nation* newspaper is entitled to give the Honourable Member a rating of 4 out of 10. As I said, I am not a shareholder. His friends are shareholders and if they say 4 out of 10 you can imagine what his enemies will give him. I will be generous and give the Honourable Member 3 out of 10 in the first three months. I know that come December next year the score may be declining, not increasing. I hope that it will not be so for Barbadians.

We are not going to oppose this measure. Certainly more details should have been given by the Minister of Finance at the beginning so that he could set the tone for a useful debate. He avoided that course and we are therefore left to the kind of scenario in this debate, because the wicket which he has prepared has caused us to respond in the way we had to respond. But the record is now clear, at least with respect to the role of the Democratic Labour Party in Government, and the initiative which it undertook in Barbados which is now receiving the criticism of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, but which he heralds with the comment that there will be no major policy changes and that the economic strategy will not change. How he reconciles the two I do not know; but I am going to wait and see in the coming months. I am obliged to you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a brief contribution to this matter. The Minister of Finance has indicated that he wishes to increase the savings bonds limit to \$100 million, as I understand it, from \$50 million which now exists. Perhaps he can tell this House whether or not he intends to utilise all of the available facilities, the new facilities for borrowing, when and for what purpose, if he sees it as part of the process of preparation for mopping up any excess liquidity in the system which he anticipates may develop in the not too distant future; if it is part of his balance of payments defence programme or whatever and what kind of interest rates this kind of thing will attract in the market today in the light of the very aggressive policy towards increases in interest rates which he has recently embarked upon.

There are a few comments which the Honourable Member made relative to me which I think I will have a duty to address. He claims that I took no steps to reduce interest rates in Barbados during my period of Minister of Finance. What he omitted to tell the House, Sir, was that,

after years of pleading in this Parliament and after putting maximum pressure on the Honourable Member for Christ Church South after he took over the responsibilities of Minister of Finance, that the Member for Christ Church South quite aggressively opposed the high interest rates which the Honourable Member for St Peter was supporting and advocating in the early 80s as part of the team that devised the I.M.F. Programme in the 1980s and in the years that followed that

He also failed to tell this House that he confessed on the Floor of the House during the period when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was absent from there that it was a major mistake to have had those interest rates in the 1980s and that he was now committed to what the NDP was committed to, namely a low interest rate regime. He is on record, Sir, as saying that. Sir, I took him seriously and I will tell you why I took him seriously. When I left this House, Sir - I think the last sitting was sometime in December, 1990 - I left him as a very decent fellow. It was based on my knowledge of him up to December, 1990 that I went public and made a statement that he seemed to me to be a decent fellow.

Sir, now I see a mixture of a Jekyll and Hyde situation here today that would suggest to me that a major change has taken place. Under normal circumstances, Sir, he would have known that by the time the Government changed in 1986 with a prime rate at 9% in the context of Barbados that there was very little opportunity for further downward movement of that rate unless you reduced the savings rate. You had to reduce the savings rate as a stimulus for a further reduction in the prime rate in Barbados.

But, Sir, how did the Honourable Member interpret that? He reduced the savings rate for the poor people in Barbados. He knows perfectly well that with a prime rate at 9%, if you want to push that down, given the spread that banks require in Barbados, you will have to reduce the savings rate. There is no question about it, that there is no way you can get the prime rate down below 9% in Barbados with a savings rate of 5%. You will not succeed in getting that. This is not North America where people are content with a 2% spread because of the large volume of business where banks can survive at a $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ and a 2% spread. As a matter of fact, now that the savings rate is 5% people are now lending at 12%, a 7% spread.

I am not quite sure what the prime rate is now because I have not received any notification of what the banks are charging as a prime rate in Barbados, but I suspect that it is going to be at least 10% and that is why I am wondering what kind of... 10.00 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, if I can help the Honourable Member. There was a time in the past when

the Central Bank used to prescribe a minimum prime lending rate, but with financial liberation the only rate now that the Central Bank sets in relation to the commercial banks⁹ rate is the deposit rate. I am trying to help the Honourable Member as far as that is concerned because he is out of touch obviously with things since 1990.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No, Sir. I am not out of touch at all. That was the problem we raised here in the House just the other day during your absence because, when you came to the House with a loan with an interest rate 2½% above prime and could not tell the House what was prime, or how you would determine prime, or who will determine prime...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, you did.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He is the Minister of Finance. He may not be here but he is still the Minister of Finance. You came to the House with that Resolution last Tuesday and you are responsible, not the Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I have never come to this Parliament and spoken in relation to prime rates, not knowing what a prime rate is.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do have a problem, Sir, with the principle of collective responsibility. A measure was introduced in this House last Tuesday, or two Tuesdays ago, by the Minister of Finance who I believe is still you. You were not here but it was introduced in your name. In the Addendum the rate of interest payable, that was fixed was, I think 2% or 2½% above prime. That was part of the Addendum and the issue that arose here was/what was prime?

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That is the point we were asking. That is how the Resolution was worded. That is the problem we had with the Resolution. That was the problem we sought elucidation of on the Floor of this House. What is the prime in Barbados? You call any bank tomorrow morning and ask them what is their prime rate for today and if you can get an answer you would be doing better than I, better than the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, and better than a whole lot of people in Barbados. As Prime Minister and Minister of Finance you call any bank tomorrow morning and say: "Good morning, what is your prime rate today?" and if you could find somebody to tell you I would be surprised.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I believe, Sir, that I am going to have to get into the habit of appearing on "Guttaperk" programmes on CBC regularly on a Tuesday morning. I think that would help a lot because I believe that pan of this exercise is to enable the Government to create the 30 000 jobs which it promised the people of Barbados, part of the exercise for these bonds. What I think the Government must understand, and the Prime Minister, it was you who said that Job No. 1 is jobs. It was you who said you would be creating 30 000 jobs in Barbados. It is you that set that agenda. It is you that won the election. It is you that have invited the people of Barbados to judge you by your performance in relation to what you said was Job No. 1 and therefore you won their loyalty, you won their confidence and they expect you to deliver the goods.

They also expect that, for someone like yourself who is a trained economist, who was in this Parliament also as Leader of the Opposition, and also the principal spokesman for your party on finance and planning, that the Honourable Member for St Peter would have had a pretty good knowledge of the state of affairs of this nation. There is, therefore, no excuse and the public will not accept any excuses in your failure to deliver the goods. You promised 30 000 jobs. The people expect 30 000 jobs and I will be going to my constituents day after day and let them know that my problem in getting jobs for them is because the Prime Minister of this country is not honouring the commitment he made to this country.

I will warn you. The people expect you to deliver. Those of us who follow United States policy fairly closely would see that the President of the United States has now got himself in a bind, having promised a middle-class tax cut, failed to carry out his promises for two years and now he is trying to tack back. After the Democrats have lost an election he is now trying to introduce a middle-class tax cut. The point is this, that the people of Barbados expect the Barbados Labour Party to carry out its promises.

Now, Sir, in so far as this Resolution will assist you.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have a Resolution in front of me.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: All right. In so far as the passage of this Bill will assist you in finding the 500 jobs a month - it is more than 500 now because three months have passed and you have not created any. It was 500 for 5 years from September 6.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: They are temporary jobs, as far as I am aware. Sir, it is 500 jobs a month from September 6 for five years, 12 months in a year, 12 x 500 is 6 000, times 5 is 30 000. You have already lost three months so now it is more than 500 jobs a month that you have to create and no amount of double talk, no amount of excuses will allow you to renege from that fundamental commitment which you made to the people of Barbados.

I am going to tell you this. I supported and I still support the effort to stimulate manufacturing through the removal of taxes on inputs in manufacturing and agriculture. But I am exceedingly disappointed that you gave on one hand and the next day you increased the interest rates and took away more than you gave those people. Sir, do you realise that manufacturing enterprises that had adequate stocks would have already paid the duties before that announcement was made and they are now paying the high interest rates? They would not have benefitted in anyway from any duty free concessions because they would have imported their materials prior to the concessions being granted and they are paying the high interest rates?

I do not know, Sir, if you operate in such a way that you come in contact with many of the small manufacturers in Barbados that employ a large number of people. What is very interesting is that they are the people who have hardly any equity in their businesses today. They have borrowed from the Development Bank. They have borrowed from the commercial banks. They have borrowed from friends. They have borrowed through suppliers' credit and when all that is multiplied those people will get wiped out by those interest rates. This Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has, on a previous occasion, wiped out 14 000 jobs in the private sector in Barbados through the advice that he gave to a former Minister of Finance, the late Tom Adams, and his successor. 10.10 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is wild and irresponsible and those remarks made by the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central cannot be allowed to go into the record, Sir. I really have to ask you to ask him to withdraw them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member withdraw those remarks?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I will withdraw the remarks. It appears that I was under the erroneous impression that he was the adviser. There is no doubt that the interest rate policy of that period did contribute considerably to severe job losses during the period.

The Honourable Member has a problem, as he said, in increasing Old Age Pensions.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is that kind of implication that you gave, that because of the problems created by the past Government, you have a little problem now in manoeuvring to meet debt payments and so on. That was the final thrust

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little secret now. Do you know what the Honourable Member has done? There is a thing called Treasury Bills. I believe that there are probably over \$650 million dollars in Treasury Bills outstanding at the moment. If you calculate that, a 1% rise in the Treasury Bill rate means that the Government has to find an additional \$6 million in a fiscal year. Put it in the commercial banks. That is what he is doing. There is no guarantee that the Treasury Bills rate could rise by only 1%. It may rise higher than that. Also, there is a situation where our foreign debt is largely designated in US dollars. The majority of that debt was on the basis of a given amount above the LIBOR rate. Interest rates are rising. You would probably find that, on the foreign component side, the external factors, you may have to find yet another \$6 million or more for debt service payments. At least he could have controlled the domestic rate. Therefore, the Ministry is a little unhappy about this, Sir, but I suspect that with the interest rate hikes, Sir, we would be paying more and more when we go to the supermarket. For these savings bonds we will be paying higher rates and less money will be available to the Government; or else he has to raise taxes or something like that. What is the point?

Let me tell you something, Sir. I really find it hard to believe that the Honourable Member could be so thick-skinned or so insincere as to come to the electorate 3 months ago, having taken from the NDP - some people call it stealing or something like that - without attribution or without asking permission the policy on low interest rates, and within 3 months reversed himself on it. This is why I believe that I begin to detect the same kind of influences on interest rate policies in Barbados now as existed in the 1980s, this whole idea of using interest rates for balance of payments protection, irrespective of the damage that it does to the rest of Barbados.

I am quite sure the Honourable Member is fully aware of what I am saying. He was pan and parcel of it and I am going to urge on him tonight, whatever measures he is going to take, to make sure that he gets those interest rates down. In my judgement, I see nothing happening in Barbados' economy at the moment which would justify that interest rate increase, which indeed is signalling not only to those people participating in the domestic economy but to those participating in the external foreign exchange sectors of the economy that the Government might be raising interest rates that would make their projects non-viable.

It is not going to help job creation in Barbados. There is nothing that you can do in Barbados that can have a

more devastating impact on job creation than interest rates, absolutely nothing. We know that taxation can slow down the growth of the economy, but already we see the impact on that other big area in Barbados, largely forgotten, a major area of job creation in Barbados, that is homes. The 60 000 homes in Barbados are an important source of job generation in this country and already we see the mortgage rates rising, totally unnecessary and unjustified. The impact on Government's fiscal deficit, the \$6 million that could well have been used in other areas, now has to go to debt service. There are other things that the Honourable Member could have done in order to protect the balance of payments. It is like using a sledge hammer in order to put a small nail in a piece of board.

I think, Sir, I have already indicated the impact that it is having on the manufacturing sector and I feel very strongly that this Government really has to have a firm policy on interest rates if it is going to enjoy the confidence of investors in Barbados.

He also talked a bit about \$39 million in deferred taxes. Was it not \$39 million? At least it was \$39 million then. It would be much more now. If you are so interested in the \$39 million then I think we should go after the \$39 million plus. He says there is no such \$39 million accumulated in deferred tax accounts in the Barbados Light and Power Company. Do you not have a deferred tax account? Does a deferred tax account mean that taxes are deferred and that the account is payable at a given point in time?

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is only a book thing. It remains a book thing only if the Barbados Light and Power continues to expand at a given rate and then the deferred taxes will not be paid. But deferred taxes can become taxes payable. That is entirely up to you. If you want to get \$39 million, you know where to go for it.

Then, Sir, there is that business of MOBIL, some 15% after tax that I was supposed to have granted. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I know you have not spoken yet, I want to get you in the debate. ...and his predecessor in office, for about 5 years there was a constant argument between MOBIL and the Government as to whether they were making money, whether they were losing money or otherwise.

The case that was put to me when I became Minister of Finance is that there was a prolonged period of under recovery by MOBIL. I am going back to 1981 - 1986 which he would not have known about. He would not have

known that there were several years of under-recovery by Mobil during the 1980s and the decision that I recommended was a very simple one to deal with the problems of the moment, that is, to allow a higher rate of recovery in 1986 or 1987 or whenever it was and it would apply to that year. 10.20 p.m.

As the Honourable Member for Christ Church South knows and as the Honourable Member for St. Peter knows - he was in the Ministry of Finance - Mobil would come periodically in the Ministry of Finance for an evaluation as to the amount of money that they should be paid and the levels that they should be paid.

I never took any decision, nor the Cabinet that I was a member of never took any decision that would be there for all time. In fact, the only variation that was made at the time was that one tried to start the process, instead of just giving off the cuff increases, to try to fix it to some kind of rate of return. That was the rate of return fixed for 1986 or 1987, whichever year it was done on the basis that there were three or four prior years of losses and under-recovery by Mobil. It was nothing that was cast in concrete. It was something that was reviewed every year. There was never any fixed agreement. So when I hear the distortions especially by people who should know better... the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, you were part and parcel of that business with Mobil for many a year and you know it was a periodic thing that was done year after to year in the course of evaluation. That is my position, Mr. Speaker, and I gather my time is up but I will have other occasions.

One final point I want to make, Sir. I do not know why the Honourable Member for St. Peter is carrying on this debate about Casinos. You can bring the debate to an end. I said so this morning on 'Gutaperk'. Just get up in your seat right now and utter these words "There will be no casinos in Barbados". Just get up and say that and the problem is solved. That is why you are there. I would hate to think that someone with your background, as someone who has just been talking about choices and so on, you would not clearly understand that there are issues rooted in morality, in respect of the development of a country, and that once you take a decision at that level, everything else is secondary. Just remember that and not go down in history as the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister whose sole contribution to Barbados was to bring casino gambling to this country. Thank you very much.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to conclude the debate and I must thank the two honourable gentlemen who spoke for a very entertaining debate. This House, during the course of the next few years, is certainly going to be regaled by statements from the Benches of an Opposition which vie with each other for the trophy for outlandishness and sensationalism and a wildness.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this House this evening had the benefit, first hand, of what can happen when you have two leaders of opposition parties, both purporting to be spokesmen on finance, vying for the headlines. Reason went through the window, wide erratic statements that bear absolutely no relationship to whatever happens were made. Sir, but the contest between the two ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member, please!

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR:... the contest, Sir, between the two...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: ...I am going to wind up soon and you are going to run out soon... the contest between the two, Mr. Speaker, is going to be horrific. And I will say this, Sir, that the Member for St. Michael South Central has gone ahead of the Member for St John on a number of issues, he got to the Press first, and the Member for St. John now feels that he has to catch up and overtake him. I give him zero for being on the ball and I would at least credit the Member for St. Michael South Central for being out front of him in speaking on the issues although what he has to say, Sir, does not merit serious response.

I refer to the question of morality where he ended, Sir. He gave me a lecture, at the end, on morality as it pertains to casino gambling. All I can say, Sir, is that I am prepared to be guided on the question of morality by the Member for St Michael South Central. I know, Mr. Speaker, that his Party was committed to a policy that persons should not draw pensions before the age of 65 and I know that no NDP politician would ever draw a pension from Parliament before the age of 65, Sir, because that is what morality in public life is about All I have to say, is that in terms of public morality, the NDP took a position that politicians should not draw a pension before the age of 65 and I know that no NDP politician had an opportunity, being moral, to draw a pension before the age of 65.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. We also took a position, Sir, on \$15 000 tax free and I know that no BLP politician who opposed that actually took the \$15 000 tax free.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, that is no point of order.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am prepared to defend it, on moral points; high, high moral points, Sir. A lot of positions have been taken by leading members of the Democratic Labour Party on moral matters having to do with the social fabric of this society and things that could undermine that social fabric and I hope that, in the interest of morality in public life, when the facts are told and have

to be told, the morality of leading members of the NDP would remain intact Sir, I say no more for the time being, but it is a moral issue.

Sir, the only one issue that was raised by the Member for St Michael South Central was the question of the utilization of the funds and when. The simple response is that it is customary, from time to time, as anybody who has been in the Ministry of Finance would know, that when limits set by Parliament are on the point of being exceeded, Parliament is invited to set new limits without there being...

Mr. Speaker, I am trying to answer the question. The last time the limit was set was in 1986. The limit has been approached incrementally over time. We are changing the limit now because the limit is on the point of being exceeded. The limit was 50 and the amount borrowed is now 45. All we are doing is giving ourselves the latitude that some time in the future we can raise funds locally under the Savings Bonds Act The amount that will be utilized by the way of this instrument obviously will depend upon Government's definition of its borrowing requirements and the sourcing of those borrowing requirements as between the various instruments through which Government can borrow. The determinants of Government's borrowing requirements, as anybody who has served in the Ministry of Finance knows, await the Estimates exercise which everybody knows is a March exercise and therefore all we are doing now is giving ourselves the latitude of a new limit But the impression being cast that we are now going into the bracket of \$50 million, today or tomorrow, is false. The setting of this limit by this Parliament is nothing new. That is what I am trying to say, Sir. This Parliament has set limits on all kinds of borrowing instruments. 10.30 p.m.

All I am saying is that the question as to how much we are going to raise by this as distinct from Treasury Notes, Treasury Bills, whatever else, is a matter that will fall to be considered as part of the Estimates exercise which anybody who has been involved in financial management knows it is an exercise between January and March. I am not trying to be disingenuous, therefore, when I say that all we are doing is expanding the limit, but I could not tell the House now, until we have gone through the actual exercise of budgeting, what the amount we are going to utilise by way of this Instrument will be. That is a simple, straightforward answer, Sir.

I am afraid that I have to say, Sir, I was surprised it was asked by a person who himself knows how Government's borrowing requirements are arrived at, having been there himself, and how the determination as to how you source the borrowed funds as between the various instruments is dealt with. All I am doing now is giving us the latitude to make sure that we do not act outside the

four walls of the law. At some time we will come back to the House and tell the House how much of our borrowing requirements will be met from Savings Bonds, *et cetera*. That was the point he made, Sir.

In relation to Government's interest rate policy, Sir, I really think I have to respond. We have changed the savings rate by one percentage point, we have changed the bank rate by 1Y₂ percentage points. If I had increased interest rates to 20%, 10%, 8%, if I had taken the minimum savings rate to that level, you would think in terms of a high rates of interest for Barbados.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, on a point of order. I have heard this kind of trickery...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute, please. I need to hear the Honourable Member. He is on a point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: A 1% increase in savings rates from 4 to 5% is a whopping increase. Do you realise that it is really 25% more that people receive on savings? And similarly a 9 to 11% increase in interest rates is a whopping increase. Only a madman would think of an 8% increase in interest rates. It is a whopping increase.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the only point I am trying to make is that the minimum savings rate now in Barbados is lower than the minimum savings rate that this country has had in the last five years. At some time it was 7%, 6%, 6.5%, 5V₂% and all of that, Sir. We are not charging a minimum savings rate that is outrageous in the context of the situation at all. More to the point, Mr. Speaker, I have made the point over and over again that the Government contemplates this as a temporary measure that we were even prepared to review in the light of the performance of the tourist industry. I have made that point but they are prepared conveniently to ignore it.

Secondly, the question of the execution of interest rates has to be discussed within the context of the material conditions under which that is undertaken. In the past, Sir, the pressure that has been put on the reserves of Barbados, as we all know, has generally been pressure caused by excessive Government spending financed by money creation through the Central Bank. In such circumstances, Mr. Speaker, it had been my argument - and I am consistent on the point - that where you have a problem of pressure on the reserves caused by fiscal excesses, it should be addressed at source. I have just gone through this with the IMF, with anybody who would discuss it, that if the problem was on the fiscal side it would have been addressed at source.

Let me repeat the material circumstances surrounding this policy. We have had a process of excessive credit

creation in the banking system to finance private consumption, not public consumption. So we have decided to address it also at source by trying to create the incentive for people to want to save more and to spend less. That is all I am doing, Sir. So that to compare our position on interest rates now, where the material circumstances have to do with excessive private spending caused by excessive domestic credit creation for private spending, and equate that with the policy that you would pursue in circumstances where the pressure on the reserves comes from excessive Government spending. . .

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: ... So that you discuss the use of policies in relation to the material conditions under which the policies are intended to fly. It makes nonsense, Mr. Speaker, therefore to compare the relevance of policies intended to correct pressure on the reserves caused by fiscal excesses with one in which the problem has to do with the fact that the extension of credit by the private banking system has been too rapid, private spending has been too rapid and private savings have been too slow. That is the point. The Central Bank of Barbados had a special meeting on this and they had to convince me, because we sat down and went through it as carefully as we could. But the material conditions surrounding this particular policy are different from those surrounding the use of interest rate policies in the past where you could not point to slow rates of growth of deposits in the banking system. So we are trying also to stimulate savings.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I presume the Honourable Member will concede then that it was inappropriate for him to make reference to interest rate changes in 1986. He says the two are not comparable. I will take his point if he concedes that.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: All I am saying is, let us therefore set policy in the context of the material circumstances surrounding the execution of that policy.

Aside.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. John and the Honourable Member for St. Peter at this stage were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed then.
10.40 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Yes, Sir, all I was saying was that the particular policy is being applied temporarily to deal with a set of objective conditions that are different from those in which interest rates policies have been applied in the past in Barbados. Therefore, one has to discuss policies in relation to the objective conditions.

Mr. Speaker, if I had to deal with a fiscal excess, I would deal with a fiscal excess at source. But we are trying by this policy to increase savings and to reduce private spending in anticipation of the fact that, come early next year, we have to have a fairly substantial increase in debt service.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot for the life of me focus on any of the points made by the Member for St. John having to do with the savings, and he does not want me to attack him, but I just want to make two points...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I wish to make it very clear that I have not spoken and asked anybody not to attack me. The Honourable Member may feel free to do whatever the rules of this House permit him to do. He can feel free to say anything about me that is true and even add his usual interpretations which are so distorted and warped.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two points concerning the management of public financing that I really just want to touch on in conclusion because they are very important points of principle.

A Government of Barbados should not find itself in any financial year having to declare \$60 million of arrears. The fact that it could be dealt with and treated by the Member for St. John as something that is standard...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue, please. Honourable Member for St. John, your asides are too loud.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we are going to be using measures such as the overall fiscal deficit as the standard for good financial management, it makes no sense to keep deferring expenditures incurred in one year to another year so merely as to show low deficits in a specific year; \$60 million in expenditure, Mr. Speaker, is about almost 2% of GDP.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House because the impression is being given that the clearance of the arrears may be arrears that accrued in the previous financial year. The Government of Barbados in 1993 cleared arrears that had accrued in some statutory corporations in excess of 15 years. It was a massive clearance of public sector arrears, a programme which formed part of the stabilisation programme of the IMF. You could not have \$64 million of arrears in one financial year and no economist should make a statement like that. It is foolishness.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when those matters were brought to this House, Sir, nothing of the kind was then revealed. This is the kind of instant imagination

that this Honourable Member always seeks to get himself involved in. The Member for St. Michael South Central was a Minister of Finance and he did not leave any arrears pending for anybody to clear off. The Member for St. Michael South Central was Minister of Finance.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Thirteen million dollars in arrears which had accrued from Arawak Cement Plant. There were a whole host of arrears, the BADC, a large number of statutory corporations, a whole number of transactions which had never been cleared in the public sector. \$64 million were brought under the Contingencies Vote to remove them. Most of them in addition to that were amounts which had to be cleared from the Barbados National Bank, debts which had been run up by statutory corporations including the BADC of which he was the Chairman.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, he wants to enter that into the record but there was a policy at the ADC where, at the end of the financial year, the operating deficit of the ADC was cleared by way of the subvention given the ADC through the Budget. That was the policy of the Board in the early 1980s. That is why I can speak with confidence on the matter that any arrears of the ADC would not have been arrears for ten years. Around 1987-88, Mr. Speaker, the arrears of the ADC started to accumulate and rather than their getting all of what they requested through the Budget they were asked to defer some of the debts that they had, pending the clearance. But this is foolishness that the member..., whenever he is challenged on a point, resorts to misrepresentation. It is now pathological to the point where we cannot ever, ever believe anything that he says.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: But it is a very serious matter, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the point I am making is this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am making this point because I want to come to the point of principle. I believe that we should clear the arrears and start the new financial year with a clean slate so that thereafter when one speaks in terms of a deficit...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John, you had your chance to speak. Honourable Member for St. Peter could we conclude the debate please, keeping it at a level which is befitting of this House? I would like you to cut out the different references and let us move on.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am responding to a matter that was entered into the record of Parliament and what was said this evening, that a trivial matter...

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: A little child. That is what he is, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, it was entered into the records of this Parliament that the clearing of \$60 million was a trivial matter. I am saying that it is a serious matter that goes to the heart of financial management, that we must put the financial affairs of the country in such a condition that arrears are not carried from year to year and that is what our financial management is going to be about.

The other matter that...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. At no point in my speech - and the Honourable Member is misleading the House - did I say that the clearance of \$64 million of arrears is a trivial matter. I said the concept of finding ways to clear arrears in my view is a trivial matter which the Minister of Finance is giving the impression is some kind of high science which only people like him have some kind of capacity to do ...

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point of order.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: and he has the ability to do it. He is drawing funds from the taxpayers.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point of order.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the only other point I want to refer to is the whole question of the University of the West Indies where the impression is being made that there is some cosy relationship because I like the University of the West Indies and I want to clear *it*

What we are seeking to do is to honour the commitments that were entered into by the Government of Barbados to give the University a subvention to meet the payment of fees.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: He can't take the pressure and there will be more if he continues. He is going to run again, Sir - a little girl. Very girlish, Sir. Reminds me of Paula all the time. He keeps reminding me of Paula. Everytime I hear him, I hear Paula. He looks like Paula too, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute please. The Honourable Member for St. John you referred to some rulings of the Chair relating to your rising on points of order. I just wish to inform you that this Chair really objects to your

continuous interruption with loud asides. This Chair has not prevented you from rising on a point of order and you continue to interrupt with these asides. I am imploring you as the Leader of the Opposition to consider the kind of behaviour you are exhibiting.

Let us continue, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I think I have to correct the record where the University of the West Indies is concerned. It was said by the Honourable Member that I am seeking, only because of a cosy relationship with UWI, to clear arrears. The facts of the matter are that the Government of Barbados entered into undertakings to pay specific sums to the University to cover their costs. It did not provide the University with the full amount of what it agreed to and therefore arrears have accumulated. All we are seeking to do is to honour the undertakings entered into by the sovereign Government of Barbados. Therefore it is foolishness, wrong and misleading for the Member to say that we are trying to clear the University arrears because of some cosy relationship. There is one final phase to this that must be understood. 10.50 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The question is how he is clearing the University arrears. I made the point that the Honourable Member for St. Peter made it appear that it was some big gift of financial engineering that he was going to raise money locally from the private banking system to finance the operations of the University. I said as far as I am concerned that is not any major financial engineering either. That is the point I made but he does not seem to understand.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am about to conclude. I will conclude on a point of principle. The former Honourable Member for St. Philip South has told all of us that this Honourable Member for St. John...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has one minute to conclude.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Yes, and I am about to conclude... used to call him before debates to enquire whether he was going to speak after him in a debate. He has developed a tradition of not being able to take criticism. It speaks to the question of his character, the carping approach to acceptance of criticisms compounded by a desire to lie, and to lie and to lie is what...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter I am going to ask you to withdraw those words. You must withdraw all.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I withdraw them, Sir.

/ beg now, Sir, to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that

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

On the motion of Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1-3 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported to the House accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, each seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move, Sir, that the sitting be suspended until 12:00 o'clock noon tomorrow at which time we will proceed with the Supplementary Estimates on today's Order Paper. We will, I hope, get to the Resolution which would enable the Other Place to meet on Friday and possibly clear the Order Paper before the end of the year. There are delaying tactics in here. There are all kinds of filibustering going on.

The question that the sitting be suspended until Wednesday, December 21, 1994 at 12:00 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like all Honourable Members to be as punctual as possible. There will be no grace period tomorrow. We shall start promptly at 12:00 o'clock noon. 11.00p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 7 - TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by the Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee of Supply.

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUM OF \$17 512 031 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 1994-95 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1994-95 NO. 4 WHICH FORMS THE SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - \$132 192

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13 stand part.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 13 now do stand part.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central may speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: That was very close, Mr. Chairman. Just one or two little points I want to raise under Sub-head 3 and other Sub-heads dealing with the same issue of utilities. I have noticed, Sir, that Government's utilities bill requires supplements almost on an annual basis. Of course, one of the significant costs in some departments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism and so on, would be the cost of overseas telephone calls that come under the heading of utilities.

I just want to make a point that I am very pleased to see that the work which Mr. Wendell McClean has been doing over the years has borne some fruit and that...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir, Head 13 deals with payments to the Defence Force to cover the cost of personal allowances to the soldiers going to Haiti. It has nothing to do with utilities and I would respectfully suggest that the arguments being advanced now have nothing whatsoever to do with the payment of personal allowances to the soldiers going to Haiti. Head 13 deals with grants. This is making provision for the grant of allowances to the soldiers who served in Haiti. It has

nothing to do with Wendell McClean. The recent reduction in long distance calls was negotiated by the Ministry and it has nothing to do with Wendell McClean. It is truly irrelevant.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, is the Honourable Member denying that any overseas calls have been ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said he was referring to utilities and I was checking to see where Utilities was under this Head.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, Sir, if the Honourable Member prefers me to deal with the Defence Force I will deal with the Defence Force.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I am asking you a question. You said you were referring to Utilities under Head 13 and I was ...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, the Honourable Member has risen on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, I am not giving a judgement on his point of order until I get you to answer the question.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am responding to his point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot do that. I am asking you a question. You told me you were referring to Utilities and I was checking to see whether Utilities was under this Head. You may proceed then.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will speak then on the Barbados Defence Force.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will speak on the Barbados Defence Force if the Honourable Member prefers me to do that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central I have not given a ruling regarding what the Honourable Member for St. Peter asked. I was trying to give a ruling based on what you were supposed to be speaking on so I was therefore checking what you were supposed to be addressing.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You are going to rule what I am to speak on? That is a most extraordinary thing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to rule that you are not going to speak on any matter that is not related hereto. So you should proceed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that the utilities bill for the Defence Force is going up. I can speak on anything relating to the Defence Force. Anyhow I will deal with utilities under another Head if it makes the Honourable Member more comfortable at Christmas time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am again to remind the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that I have taken no cognizance of the point of order made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter because I was going to make a ruling pending a response to my question. I am, therefore, asking you to speak now on the matter which you want to address. The point of order is not addressed at all.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much, Sir. I am very pleased to note that you have indicated that you are ignoring the Honourable Member for St. Peter. You are quite correct in that regard.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, Sir, the Chair will not have that. I am not ignoring any Member but I am just asking Members to follow the rules and I will ask questions to inform any judgement that I make here. Please proceed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I take it, Sir, you are not taking cognizance of him. Fair enough.

If I may continue, Sir, I notice, Sir, that already \$17 700 000 has been made available under the area of national defence and security preparedness and now another \$132 000 is being required as a supplementary provision. And, Sir, I wonder whether or not the Honourable Member would indicate to us in some greater detail how the additional sums are going to be utilised if there is any additional information apart from what appears or should have appeared in the Addendum to the Resolution. That is the first thing.

The second point I would like to make is this, that we have constantly to watch the amount of money that we are spending under Defence and Security. Government, Sir, is about choices and from time to time for many years my own view has been that we have been spending too much money in the area of Defence and Security and not enough money on the Police Force. The result has been a general rundown of the Police Force and its inability to respond to the law and order needs of the society as adequately as we would like.

But, Sir, that stems from a situation way back in 1976 when the great combination, of which no one here was a member - there is one member here, Sir, who should plead guilty - promised this nation, just as the Honourable Member promised them 30 000 jobs, that there was no need for a Defence Force. It is in the 1976 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party that there is no need for a

standing army in Barbados. And then you proceeded to develop a standing army and you have spent hundreds of millions of dollars over the years on that standing army.

In fact the only areas where the army has ever been called upon to carry out any military duties have always been outside of Barbados. They had to go to St Vincent and the Grenadines without bullets, if you may recall, when they intervened in the St. Vincent situation. They are now in Haiti. They have been sent to St. Kitts, but never at any time in the past 18 years, has the Defence Force been called out in Barbados on any military duties. I think that on one occasion they were called out to help to put out a fire in Bridgetown, if you may recall.

The point I am making, Sir, is that the people in fact voted for the Barbados Labour Party in 1976 and they voted for the position that there was no need for a standing army in Barbados. 12.15 p.m.

They voted on the assumption that there would be no standing army in Barbados and the commitment that was made then in defiance of the position taken by the Labour Party prior to the election has had serious financial consequences for Barbados. The reality today is that we have to look very carefully at the money we are spending on Defence and Security and the money we are spending on the Police and we have to take decisions looking down the years as to whether or not we want to put more resources behind the Police Force and less resources behind the Army. That is a decision that has to be taken.

As I understood it, the Army at that time, as was created in 1976, was never intended to be the kind of Army that we have today, but nevertheless, Sir, the reality is that we are landed with this situation now. It has always been my feeling that a lot of the duties done by the Barbados Defence Force could be done by an upgraded Barbados Regiment and that the Naval Division, the Division that should be strengthened, is not strong enough and the other Divisions should be gradually reduced over the years. That has always been my position.

Sir, I have in my hand a copy of a document called the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, General Elections 1976. It was indicated in asides that they said no such thing in 1976. This is what they had to say, Sir:

"The Party will not commit our country to any foreign defence pacts. Internally, the defence forces will be limited to such as are adequate to maintain law and order. There will be no need to maintain any standing army or other defence force."

That is what they came into office on. By the time they left office they had a major Army in this country, they started to develop an air wing to the Army and then, of

course, there was the Trident that was bought without any notification to Parliament at all. The Trident turned up one day in the Harbour and nobody ever knew that the Trident was bought at all.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You may have had an agreement with the British Government I am saying that nobody in this Parliament knew that the Trident had arrived. Members of Parliament knew about the Trident only when a photograph was taken and appeared in the Press, right here in the Harbour in Bridgetown. So you had developed a naval arm, you developed an air arm without any strike capacity and you had developed an Army that had 20 men. In September, 1976 the Defence Force consisted of 20 men and by 1986 it consisted of 1 200 men, and that was the promise which the Barbados Labour Party made to the people of Barbados. I am going to repeat it, Sir: "There will be no need to maintain any standing army or other defence force."

Now, Sir, that is one side. If I were to get a copy of the Estimates and I were to go through those Estimates and add up the amount over the years on Current Expenditure, I would demonstrate to you how expenditure under this Head has escalated over the years. Ask yourself the question: What has the Army been called upon to do in Barbados, and does it justify the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars over the years?.....Thank you very much.

Sir, that breach of promise with the electorate of Barbados resulted in some serious escalation of expenditure in relation to Defence and Security over time both in terms of the Current Expenditure and, of course, in terms of Capital Expenditure, but I will go through this and I will show how that expenditure has escalated over time. When you are talking about cutting back on Government expenditure, when you are talking about trying to allocate the resources of Barbados as efficiently as possible, when you have a situation where Government has had to cut back in so many areas, I think it is important to look and see how we are spending our money and, whether or not when we look down the road, whether we want to be spending more and more money on Defence and Security or whether we want to create a situation where we have targeted more expenditure in the area, for example, in the area of the control of traffic in illicit drugs and see whether or not the naval arm, especially the surveillance of the inner waters of Barbados, is not the important area in which to go, and whether we should continue spending more and more money on Defence and Security as presently exists.

I had not planned to speak on the issue of Defence and Security, but since I was provoked unnecessarily by the Honourable Member for St. Peter.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is asked to note that Members in this House are not provoking anyone, as far as I have seen. In terms of the ruling I gave earlier, I would prefer if you would stick to the matter in hand.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, provocation is a thoroughly subjective thing. I do not propose to detain the House any longer on this matter in this segment of my speech, but if I am further provoked by any speeches I will then continue and respond on this Head as well, so the ball is in your court.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, in 1987 the Member for St. Michael South Central had his one and only opportunity ever to present Estimates to this country and he brought his Estimates, including Appendix G which indicated item by item what every statutory institution requested of him and what they were given. The only institution that was given what it asked for was the Defence Force. He cut the Welfare Department, but he gave the Defence Force every penny they asked for in 1987.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Who?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter is asked to take his seat, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: What? For misleading the House? Bring the Hansard.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I say the Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could you please indicate how?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He is in breach of a fundamental Standing Order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central please indicate ... We will disregard the Honourable Member's comment, since he does not want to... Continue.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, it was the first and only time in this House that they have ever had that Appendix showing what every institution asked for and received, and when he had the responsibility to deal with the Defence Force, he cut the Welfare vote, he cut the vote for Child Care.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I have never held responsibility in this country for the Defence Force, The Defence Force was under the responsibility of the Prime Minister of Barbados. Absolute rubbish!

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, what was outstanding, and Errol Barrow almost had apoplexy, Branford Taitt cursed very badly that day in the House, the only institution that got what it requested from the Minister of Finance was the Defence Force. He cut Export Promotion. He gave them less than they asked for. 12.25 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I must insist that the Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Only one member should be on his feet at this point. Could the Honourable Member for St. Peter please take his seat?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I must insist, Sir, that the Honourable Member is misleading this House and attempting to mislead the general public. The Honourable Member knows very well that I was not the Prime Minister of Barbados. I was not responsible for Defence and Security and he does not know what representations were made to the Ministry of Finance in terms of expenditure and the extent to which it was cut. You are just blowing hot air.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not clear on your point of order.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Member can speak as often as he wishes but the record has to show that in the one year, the short period, mercifully, when the Member for St. Michael South Central had the opportunity to allocate the funds of this country, the only institution that received exactly what it asked for was the Defence Force. It does not fall properly from his mouth...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is not telling the truth, and if he insists on that I am going to call him a liar.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will see in Appendix G that it was done item by item. There was an uproar in this Parliament and that Appendix has never been reproduced again.

Mr. Chairman, in relation to the matter before this House the \$132 000 - a grant to meet the cost of the payment of personal allowances to soldiers of the Defence Force serving with the multinational force in Haiti - now, I want to speak to that briefly.

Before I committed this country's soldiers to Haiti, I called the Leader of the Opposition. The Member for St. Michael South Central was somewhere in Miami. I found him and I called him in advance. I said, "I am about to take a decision to commit the forces of Barbados to Haiti. We are going to pay them X. I am calling to seek your support in the matter."

He supported our sending the soldiers to Haiti. He supported the payment of the allowance to them and now we are coming to Parliament to ask for the \$132 000 to pay the soldiers who he said should have gone to Haiti, he does not want to support this matter, Mr. Chairman. Now, what manner of matter is this that we are dealing with? This is all we are dealing with. You agreed to it in principle. Put your money where your mouth is!

It is part and parcel, Sir, of the nature of the Member for St. Michael South Central. All I am seeking to do is to give financial support to the decision that you helped me make and that you came forward and told the people of Barbados that you are part of, that our soldiers should have been prepared to go to Haiti. He spoke eloquently. He said that there was no more deserving use to be put to the black soldiers of Barbados than to go and help their black brethren in Haiti to restore democracy in Haiti. He said that for too long we have not been helping Haiti, Sir.

Now all I am asking this House to do is to find the \$132 000 to pay for the soldiers going to Haiti and this is the kind of foolishness we hear from the Member for St. Michael South Central. It is a shame, and I think it is right that he should apologise to the House. I know that the Member for St. Michael South Central feels that he has always to be sensational and to upstage the Member for St. John. But pick the issues!

This is a matter that we all agreed with. We are now paying for it and let us do so with a sense of decorum rather than stir up foolish controversy in the country, because you value our ability to send all our boys to help restore democracy to Haiti, and you have said so. You are now casting an aspersion on the youth of our forces for that purpose. Stay consistent for once. They have done an excellent job. All the fears about what could have happened to them were not realised. We are in the process of restoring civil society in Haiti and we are all pleased that our people could have been part of that process. I think the House should not carp at the fact that it has cost us \$132 000 to be part of that glorious adventure in the restoration of democracy in our hemisphere.

I want to move that this Head stand part, Sir.

Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is quite correct when he says that it is a matter of choice for the Government how it spends the money. The Honourable Member has had a

number of opportunities to persuade the electorate as to the choice which we have offered them and on each and every occasion the electorate have not invested him with the numbers necessary to put in place his choice.

I would also like to remind the Honourable Member that, while it is correct in the passage that he read from the Barbados Labour Party manifesto in 1976, that that passage was written as part of a whole column dealing with Defence and Security. A crucial part of that column was that Barbados should have no territorial ambitions but, while recognising its crucial geographical significance to the North American and Latin American continents, there is no reason why Barbados should attract foreign invasion or intervention.

In all our innocence - we were very innocent when we wrote that, Sir - for within three months of the Barbados Labour Party assuming office we had an invasion inspired by the friends of the very Honourable Member, the former political colleague of the Honourable Member, the same colleague who actually moved at the Honourable Member's then Party the Resolution for Barbados to become independent. An invasion and the whole stability of the democratic system of Government was threatened so that however innocent as we were then in reality...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Mr. Sydney Alleyne is no friend of mine. He is a personal friend of the Honourable Member for St Thomas and he visited his home. He is his personal friend for many years in London. He is not my friend.

Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN: I just want the record to note that this country was subjected for the first time to a new situation, the potential danger that small countries have where a group of buccaneers can decide...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN: ... the fact that a small group can decide that they are going to invade a country came home to all Barbadians and that is one of the reasons, as was explained in here, for the need for the Government to have some element of security forces.

Since then, another situation has developed in the Caribbean and Honourable Members must not gloss over it. These countries are threatened by the activities of a number of drug lords and it is in the interest of these countries to make sure that they have arrangements in place in order to have good intelligence about their activities and in order to forestall any attempts that they may use to subvert the institutions in this country. This is not an area where any responsible government, given the existing situation in these territories, should accept the advice of the Honourable Member.

It is not strange to me that the Honourable Member, when he had the opportunity as the Honourable Prime Minister pointed out, far from cutting, gave the Defence Force exactly what they wanted.

Now, Sir, it has been fashionable for some members, the Honourable Member in particular, to try and foment strife between the Police Force and the Defence Force by persistently trying to point out on occasions such as this that provision for the Defence Force means that there is a denial of adequate provision for the Police Force. As has been repeatedly pointed out during the administration of the Barbados Labour Party in the period 1976-1986, that that is not so. In truth and in fact, the police have got greater resources during that period of time percentage wise than the Defence Force. There is a choice we have made with respect..

The Honourable Member says it is not true but I recall on many occasions that this point has been persistently made, no doubt with a view to court favour with the police. The point of the matter is that in reality, the Police Force had more resources in total over that period of time than the Defence Force. That is so. 12.35 p.m.

The one point that we have, and it is a point that has always been made, certainly by me, is that we have to try and coordinate the efforts of the Police and the Defence Force in relation to the Coast Guard. That is a fact. There is no doubt about it, that we need a Coast Guard for a variety of reasons. I have always advocated that there should be some coordinating mechanism in place to ensure that we do not have duplication in that area. Luckily for us, there appears over the course of the last three years to have been some measure of coordination because they have joint exercises in that area that take place regularly.

While the Honourable Member continues to suggest that there should be no Defence Force, he also continues to say that there is a need for some kind of unit to perform the activities which are now performed by the Coast Guard arm of the Defence Force.

Sir, I have intervened so that the record could be made clear.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, just one point of order. I do not think that anyone at anytime ever heard me say that there should be no Defence Force. What I am saying is that there should be no Defence Force of the kind that we have or of the size that we have. That is what I have said again and again. I have said for a long time that our capacity to control our waters, particularly our inner harbours and so on, is probably the most critical area needing funds for that kind of activity now. I have said that, not now. I have been saying it for about 15 years.

Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN: Sir, I do not know. I am very glad to see that the Honourable Member has explained his position to say that there is obvious need for a Defence Force. The point is, there are areas in the Defence Force, in addition to the Coast Guard and sea patrols, of disaster preparedness. Nobody knows when there is going to be a hurricane or a disaster in Barbados. The point of the matter is that it is the Defence Forces all over the world who are assigned that responsibility as opposed to the Police Force.

In the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean countries where there is no Defence Force they have had to create a special unit within the context of the Police Force and train them along the lines of the training that the Defence Force has had specially to deal with sabotage, disaster preparedness and some of them that have coast guards. So what are we arguing about? I am very glad to see that the Honourable Member has changed his mind to say that this argument now is only in relation to the quantum and not in relation to the fact that you have a Defence Force.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I had not initially intended to speak on this issue, and certainly, I do not have at this time any views to express one way or the other about the existence of the Barbados Defence Force but will do so in the fullness of time. I must confess that having read the Addendum to the Resolution, I would have thought that the Minister of Defence, following the practices which he is required to follow under law in consulting with the Leader of the Opposition on the deployment of troops, or the convention, whatever - it is neither here nor there to me - that the second corollary would have been on an occasion like this in this Chamber to inform the people of Barbados about the disposition of those troops, how long the commitment of Barbadian troops will continue, and other features of the arrangement of Barbadian troops being in Haiti. It is an unforgivable act for any Minister of Defence to come...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The arrangement pertaining to the time that the Barbadian troops would stay in Haiti was arranged by the previous Cabinet and the previous Prime Minister. The information is well within the knowledge of the Honourable Member for St. John. The rotation was arranged before I came into office. He knows the period. He knows the rotation and that has been disclosed in public before. Nothing has changed in relation to the commitments that were given by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South when he went to Jamaica and arranged for our soldiers to go to Haiti. Nothing has changed and therefore there is nothing on which I am to update him.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, let me make the point that when I speak in here I do not speak on behalf of my household and, unless the Honourable Member for St. Peter does not understand what his job

is this is the Parliament of Barbados. There are 250 000 citizens in this country who are entitled to have the affairs of this country scrutinised in this Parliament and for the salary which the Prime Minister draws every month, he has a duty to explain to the citizens of this country what is happening in Barbados. Now, the fact that something may be within my private knowledge does not absolve the Honourable Member for St. Peter who has constitutional functions in this country, who has moral responsibility and who, as matter of political integrity, has a duty to tell the people of Barbados that there are still Barbadian troops in Haiti, and what is the nature of the arrangements for those Barbadian troops. Now, that is the first point I want to make. It is an unforgivable act for any Minister of Defence to come to this Chamber...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Barbadian public is not in the dark that Barbadian troops are in Haiti. When Barbadian troops were going to Haiti on the arrangement made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South and cleared with his Cabinet, including the Honourable Member for St. John, it was made clear that they would be there for at least 18 months. I have spoken to the public through Press Conferences outside this Parliament that the troops are to be there for 18 months and that there will be a three months' rotation. That information is already in the public domain. Any member of the Press who has come to this institution should know of it. They are going to be there for 18 months by arrangement entered into by the DLP Cabinet of which he is a member and there will be a three-month rotation. That information is already in the public domain.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must say that in terms of what I am hearing here, I think the Honourable Member for St. John is entitled to his opinion. I do not think there is a difference here but I think the two Honourable Members are saying two different things. The Honourable Member for St. John is entitled to his opinion.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: And, Mr. Chairman, I am going to go on to say this that the House of Assembly could not have been told about the deployment of troops prior to September 6 because it was not meeting and that since September 6, 1994, the Prime Minister has not accounted to this Parliament, which he says he was going to make the centre of discussion on all kinds of issues in this country, that accountability and all kinds of committees would be set up to discuss all of these major reforms in the country, and parliamentarians would be working hard for their money, and so on. That is why it is unforgivable. It is even more unforgivable that it is the Honourable Member for St. Peter that could even utter these words in this Chamber today. I have had one conversation with the Honourable Member for St. Peter regarding the deployment of troops.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading the House again. He will not be allowed to mislead the House. I have had the opportunity to commit troops twice and on every occasion, although there is no constitutional requirement, I have called the Leader of the Opposition. I, however, took note of a situation where there was another Prime Minister, I was Leader of the Opposition, he had to commit Barbadian troops and I am still waiting on a call from him. I called him on both occasions. That is a fact

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point of order being made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter is that you called the Honourable Member more than once. Is this your point of order, Sir?

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am giving a ruling, please. The Honourable Member for St. Peter, you are saying that you called the Honourable Member for St. John more than once....

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: I have talked with him all the time.

Mr. Chairman...and he is therefore misleading the House. Is this correct the Honourable Member for St. John?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member has had one conversation with me regarding the deployment of troops in Haiti.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, regarding that particular matter. You may continue. 12.45 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: How could I mislead the House? What foolishness is this that I am hearing now? I have had one conversation with the Honourable Member about deployment of troops in Haiti.

The second point I want to make is this. Since the Honourable Member for St. Peter is going to make an issue of these things, let me make the point very clearly, Mr. Chairman, that I have never had any consultation with a Minister of Defence relating to the payment of personal allowances with respect to soldiers of the BDF serving with the multi-national force in Haiti. I am not objecting to the payment but I understood from the Prime Minister's comments that he discussed the payment of troops with somebody else. I do not want it to be in the record for him to give anybody the impression that I am in any arrangement, as Leader of the Opposition, with him regarding this. This is the first time...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am speaking for the record. You cannot stop me from speaking for the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not stopping you from speaking. Proceed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Precisely, Mr. Chairman. I have had no discussion on this issue of payment of troops. I would be very happy that the troops are paid. I want to thank them on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party for carrying out the task which they carried out in Haiti. They are, after all, Barbadians and we hope that the task which they have gone to Haiti to perform, as soldiers in a multi-national force and also as citizens of this country, would be carried out with the kind of decorum and efficiency with which Barbadians normally travelling overseas on behalf of the citizens of this country carry out their functions. It is a tragedy, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that some of them may not spend their Christmas in Barbados.

The Prime Minister did not want to tell the House that. He did not even want to thank them, in this Chamber, for that contribution. The public record for those who wish to read Hansard should reflect that we are very grateful that our citizens, highly regarded throughout this region, highly regarded throughout the world, will continue to be model persons when they travel overseas on behalf of the people of Barbados.

I wish our soldiers well while they are overseas. I hope they meet with success and I hope that the aims and objectives of the work of that multi-national force will see fruition during the time that they are there. I accept what has happened. I am not opposing the expenditure. I am opposing the callousness with which this Assembly is being treated by members of the Barbados Labour Party and, in particular, by the Honourable Minister of Defence, because I believe that it is very important that matters of this sort be discussed.

The second point I want to raise relates to a matter that was made public for which, when I last raised it in this House, people did all kinds of hand signals at me and told me wait and do not raise it. But I am going to raise it because I have a duty to raise it. Many years ago we deployed troops in Grenada. Those troops returned to Barbados and many of them brought back weapons from Grenada with them. That is not a fact which the Honourable Attorney General can question because I have represented former members of the BDF in matters in which, very regrettably, they were found, in one case, in possession of a firearm which came from a source outside of Barbados and it was believed to be associated with activities which he engaged in outside of the country on behalf of the people of Barbados.

The Commissioner of Police made a very grave charge on the front page of the newspaper which the

Honourable Attorney General himself sought to downplay by saying that nobody put that information before him. But that information has been put to the public of Barbados. It is a serious charge which demanded immediate attention and some immediate response either by way of investigation of the relations between the Barbados Defence Force and the police or a thorough investigation to ensure that those are allegations which, if they are true, would not be made again because of the seriousness of them.

This Parliament is entitled to know these things. Defence and Security is not any cloistered virtue that a few people sitting down in some corner of Barbados are entitled to have all the knowledge of, while the rest of citizens know nothing about it. There is a valid reason for a Defence Force, there is a valid reason for a Police Force in any country. But the Defence Force and the Police Force must justify their existence, must maintain their integrity and must be accountable to the public of Barbados. The only way that they can be accountable is if knowledgeable and sensible citizens can raise these kinds of concerns.

It is important that the Honourable Attorney General who, as I understood his response to what the Commissioner of Police said on the front page or elsewhere in the newspaper, said he was going to investigate this matter, it is important that that matter be investigated and that the people of Barbados have the benefit of the information which comes from that investigation.

We have had a lot of talk by the Labour Party over the years about reports and investigations, reports that were never laid, all kinds of infelicities. We have had an Administration that has come to office, a Minister that acknowledges that there are some kinds of corrupt practices with the respect to the exportation of drugs for the drug service and nothing was done about it, other Ministers alleging all kinds of strange things happening in the Halls of Government, no investigation because these things are being left in the minds of the public to give the impression that the previous Administration was involved in some kind of shenanigans. Up to now we have not had the investigation promised into the issuing of minibus and other permits in the Ministry of Transport and Works. I want all of the investigations launched, as a matter of priority, because we, on this side, know that our hands are clean. You can open all the files in Government Headquarters relating to Defence and Security and you will not find the imprimatur of any member of the Democratic Labour Party on any of those activities which you seem to want to suggest to the people of Barbados took place in the period leading up to September 6, 1994. If you have the evidence, bring the handcuffs and when we are out of the precincts of Parliament, let the police arrest us and you could charge us under any relevant legislation in this country.

I know that I can walk around Barbados free from debt collectors, free from the police or any other citizen humbugging me. Whenever I see somebody approaching me, I basically know why they are approaching me before they come. It cannot be for any of those reasons. I am appalled, Mr. Chairman, that these kinds of things are happening under an Administration which from the outset promised integrity and accountability where, in the first presentation delivered to the Barbados Labour Party's Conference, the Honourable Member for St Peter who has retreated from every single position that he took prior to the election and since, has not been able to launch any investigation into anything. All of it is trivia. All of it is words left hanging in the public domain but we cannot leave the comments of the Commissioner of Police hanging in the public domain because those are very serious allegations. They go to the heart of national security and we will shortly be having Barbados Defence Force troops returning from other jurisdictions in the wider Caribbean including Haiti and St. Kitts.

I want to know therefore that efforts are being made by the relevant authorities, whether it is the Minister of Defence or the Attorney General's office or he himself or whoever, to ensure that the occurrences which the Commissioner of Police said obtained are not in fact going to continue or are not continuing. I also want to know what efforts...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:... are being made..., thank you, Sir, ... between the Police Force and the Defence Force to root out the incidence of these activities which the Commissioner of Police said took place after the Grenada intervention, what steps are being taken to ensure that members of the Barbados Defence Force or other security forces travelling outside of Barbados are not returning to Barbados with weapons or firearms of any sort? I want to know the concrete steps which are being taken, because there was a very serious allegation. Either the Commissioner of Police is wrong or the Attorney General is not receiving adequate information from him and it is something that he would need to rectify, or let us reshuffle the Cabinet and get things in order so that we know where Barbados is going from here. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. 12.55 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am so pleased to be involved in this debate, directly and vicariously, by those on the other side. It is going to make my Christmas entirely happy, Sir. Let me first set the record right in respect of something that the Prime Minister said in relation to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

I was in here in 1987 after the rout of the Labour Party in the 1986 Elections. I was present and took part in the Estimates Debates of March, 1987.

For all that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has said, he cannot contradict the written record appearing at page 754 of the Estimates Debates for 1987. The Honourable Prime Minister, who was then Shadow spokesman on Finance, in his Second Reading speech on the Appropriation Bill made these observations, and I quote from the second paragraph on page 754 as follows:

"It is a very interesting scenario that has unfolded where Government's identification of its priorities for spending is concerned. The Minister [meaning the Honourable Member on the Back Bench of the Opposition] was innovative this year in one respect. He included, as an appendix, a profile of the projected expenditures by boards and corporations, their deficits and how much they have been granted and it makes very interesting reading. The Defence Board asked for \$16.9 million and they got \$16.9 million. [I want to stress that. It is all contained here.] The Export Promotion Corporation asked for \$2.5 million and they got \$1.9 million. The Board of Tourism asked for \$16.6 million and they got \$15.4 million. The IDC asked for \$4.5 million and they got \$3.9 million."

And I have gone through and identified other areas where the NCC was cut by \$900 000, National Assistance Board by \$1.2 million, Youth and Community Development and Barbados Youth Council by 15%, not by Mr. Errol Barrow who was responsible for Defence and Security but by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central who was the Minister of Finance and who had to preside at Estimates Meetings and dole out the money. Deny that! It is all there. So when you hear him this morning ... he is always sanctimonious, always moralizing. For Christmas I am going to ask the Honourable Member to promise himself for the New Year to be very circumspect in what he says.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is for me to deal with you. I am not Sydney Alleyne. Sydney Alleyne went to my house when Sydney Alleyne brought his aunt Daisy Cametta Holder of St. John for me to represent her and I got her off.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. I said he came. Think I told lies like you? Sydney Alleyne came to my house for me to represent his aunt.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. You knew him from London too. You used to be with him at the West Indian Students Centre. Do not let this degenerate into a debate about Sydney Alleyne. We are talking about Sydney Alleyne. We are not talking about Al Ramsay.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You should know. Remember dates between July and August this year. You should know, all right, a word of warning for Christmas.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. Oh! he is gone. I want to reply to him. He has made some allegations about the Commissioner of Police and the Defence Force and he does not tell the whole story. One Sunday, I think it was early last month, the headline of the Advocate newspaper above a story written by Mr. Joseph carried statements attributed to the Commissioner of Police, other statements, that in some way the Defence Force may have been careless and some of their equipment and ammunition was finding itself into the wider community.

The Commissioner of Police pointed out that, at a Press Conference on the Thursday before the story appeared, he was asked a series of questions and gave a series of answers from which Mr. Joseph constructed a story, from which story the headline was subsequently distilled.

The Commissioner of Police expressed his anger at the story. He issued a statement to all sections of the Press the same Sunday afternoon and the Monday immediately following. His voice was heard on the radio stations and on television for the public of Barbados to hear his explanations. If the person who made the allegations in the first place subsequently explained to the public of Barbados in greater detail what he said, what he meant, what were the implications, what were the nuances, what were the innuendos, what were not the nuances, what were not the innuendos, what more is there for me as Attorney General to say? He is the man who made the statement from which Joseph got the headline. He is the man who subsequently two days after came and explained to the public. So the short answer to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is that the Commissioner of Police, in writing and through the electronic media gave an ample explanation. True, I did ask the Commissioner what it was I was reading on the front page; true, I did say and was quoted as saying that I was seeing him on the Monday morning at a 10 o'clock meeting and we would investigate - I think that might have been the word that was used - the comments that he made. All of that took place. The Commissioner explained the context in which he spoke, the context in which he was reported, and how various questions were asked at different points of the interview and then juxtaposed to present the matter as the Advocate has done it; but the fact is that the Commissioner gave a full explanation to the public and

there was nothing more for me to say. He has explained his position already. 1.05 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, well knowing that the Prime Minister has to make a Christmas broadcast, or a New Year broadcast, was pre-empting those broadcasts to suggest the content of them by somehow complaining that the Prime Minister has not thanked the soldiers, who went to Haiti, for their involvement. They will have to do it now. Yesterday, Sir, at 4 o'clock at Paragon a number of soldiers passed out, not collapsed, paraded and were enlisted...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Lest the Honourable Member continues to mislead the House, I cannot direct, nor do I wish to, the Prime Minister on how he must discharge his functions outside of this Chamber, but as an Honourable Member I am entitled to ask on behalf of the people of Barbados that this Chamber be treated with respect, and that is all I am asking. He may say what he wishes anywhere he wishes outside of here.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Whatever that was meant to achieve, so be it, using words as words. Yesterday afternoon, when a number of soldiers passed out at the Paragon base of the Defence Force, neither the Prime Minister nor I could be present because of our commitments here. The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Senator Murray, deputised for us and delivered the feature address, which I saw on Monday and approved, which the Prime Minister also saw, and included in that feature address was the expression of thanks to the soldiers of the Barbados Defence Force from the Government of Barbados on behalf of the people of Barbados for the efforts of those members in Haiti. No one must feel that this Government is callous of the work done in the name of the people of Barbados in Haiti. Nobody must feel that this Government is not appreciative, and more than once the Prime Minister has publicly expressed his thanks to the men, but yesterday was the most recent occasion.

If the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was reminding us of our manners, I am sorry to disappoint him to let him know that we try always to be conscious of our manners...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I never said that I said if you are trying to remind us of our manners.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, lest the Honourable Member mislead the House, I do not give gratuitous advice, I make demands on behalf of the people of Barbados. That is my right. I do not want to give any advice nor ask you to do anything. When I make a

comment in here, I am demanding as a representative that you rise to the challenges of integrity and decency which are required by leaders in this nation.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I wish it to be clearly understood that, notwithstanding anything that was said by the Commissioner of Police publicly in his own defence or in relation to the statements attributed to him in the Sunday Advocate, my investigations reveal that there has been no leak of guns or ammunition from the Barbados Defence Force into the wider community. I will go further, because on a matter like this I agree with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, once these things are raised at some time the public is entitled to know the answers.

On the same Sunday that the article appeared I spoke with Colonel Deighton Maynard, who was then in charge of the Force in the absence of Brigadier Lewis, and he explained for me - I hope my memory is right - that they do a count of all equipment and ammunition every....

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of elucidation. As I understand this scenario, it is that troops returning from deployment overseas bring back to Barbados with them arms which they find while on that deployment I have represented somebody involved in such a matter and there are a number of troops - at least the Police believe so - who came back from Grenada with arms and those arms have been circulated in the community. It is not the BDF arms, nobody is questioning that, but those arms are still in the community. I got the impression it is that that the Commissioner of Police was talking about, because other policemen have been talking about it, these BDF boys bringing back guns from Grenada on previous occasions.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition pre-empted me, he anticipated what I was going to say, just as he accused the Honourable Prime Minister of anticipating him. I was explaining, that in respect of the weapons currently in Barbados in the custody and possession of the Defence Force, there has been no leak. There are a number of checks, including serial number checks, that are carried out on weaponry on a regular basis, and I mean two or three times a week or more, and there has been no leak.

I have had, and I have to be honest about this, no information about what happened with the Grenada business in 1983. It has never been raised with me. It never surfaced in the newspaper that anybody was talking about Grenada 11 years ago. The impression that was given to the public by the Joseph story was that, currently in Barbados, arms are being leaked from the Defence Force into the wider society, and that is what we are dealing with, but I cannot tell him a thing about 11 years ago other than that one man Bayne a few years ago - I do not know if you represented him - got dismissed from the Defence

Force for being found selling a gun or something like that. I am dealing with the current situation.

I want to say this in relation to the very last point the Honourable Member made. There is no reason for anybody to feel that troops returning to Barbados will be treated different from the average citizen in relation to Customs checks and not searched-upon suspicion that is reasonable. The ordinary person returning, his baggage is checked. There are no special exemptions given to members of the Barbados Defence Force. 1.15 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I thought that...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I also recognise that it is your duty to make sure that all of us participate when we want to participate. There is no question of the debate being wound up like this.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had caught your eye and I was waiting to see if any other Member wanted to speak. I am prepared to give way, since I had caught your eye, Sir, to the Member for St. Michael South Central because when I next speak I would want to wind up on Head 13.1 don't have to give way. He can't tell me how to run my affairs, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My eye caught the Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am prepared to give way to other Members who want to speak on Head 13.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Three hours have not expired and every Member in this House can get up and speak as often as he wishes for fifteen minutes.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: He is very fretful, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is not that you are preparing to give way. I don't like this attitude that you are preparing to give way. You cannot close the debate so long as other Members want to speak and the Chairman had better understand that too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The rule is that I will ask whom my eye catches to speak and I will not tolerate any offensive remarks from any Member in this Honourable House. If my eye catches the Honourable Member for St. Peter and he does not want to speak he may sit back down. It would then be my choice to allow whom my eye catches to speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member cannot wind up the debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter has his chance to speak. If he doesn't want to speak he can sit. My eye did not catch the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and he is asked to sit

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I was about to put the question. I rose to wind up the debate on Head 13.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One is asked to sit. I caught the eye of the Honourable Member for St Peter and if he is not speaking he can sit and then I will make my choice.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking, Honourable Member for St. Peter?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was standing here when he was sitting down.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, you were about to put the question and I rose to wind up the debate on Head 13 before the question was put

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter was asked to address the House. If the Honourable Member does not want to address the House, he may sit and I will make my choice.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on my feet. Would you kindly address the Member for St. Michael South Central?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My eye caught the Member for St. Peter.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was standing and he has got back up now. I am on my feet. Let's follow the rules of the House. He has no right standing unless he is bringing a point of order, or a point of privilege or a point of elucidation. The ruling indicated any one of the three. He has risen on neither of the three. He has no status other than any other Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Michael South Central is asked to desist from making his remarks. My original ruling was that the Member for St Peter was asked to speak. The Honourable Member for St Peter has no authority whatsoever to tell me who should speak. If he doesn't want to speak, he will say he doesn't want to speak and he has not indicated to me that he doesn't want to speak.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He sat down. He is no longer in possession of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Then my eye caught nobody else. The Honourable Member for St Peter was asked to speak.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you were about to put the question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, Sir. I was looking around, but I did not stand to put the question yet.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am prepared to yield to any other Member of the House who wants to speak. I have caught your eye and I am prepared to yield to any other Member who wants to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All the Honourable Member for St. Peter has to do is to sit down and I will call whom my eye catches.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, you know, Sir, the debating style of the Barbados Labour Party never ever changes. They got so upset because I indicated the serious violation of an electoral promise. They committed this country in their time, in my time and in this time to extraordinary expenses on the Defence Force.

You were not in here. We have already quoted from this document, the 1976 manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, and we have established beyond the shadow of a doubt that it was a major breach of a promise to the electorate of Barbados. Instead, being unable to deal with that, the Honourable Member for St. Peter then proceeded to suggest to the House - not suggested - as he did make a statement that, having agreed to the sending of the troops to Haiti, I find myself in an awkward position where I am opposing money spent on an exercise.

When this Resolution was introduced nobody even mentioned the word Haiti or troops. When I spoke I did not address the question of troops in Haiti. What I relied on in my speech was the general principle as applied to the allocation of resources to the Defence Force. Absolutely nothing in my speech was either for or against the allocation of the money for the troops to Haiti. But, typically of the Barbados Labour Party, the Honourable Member got up in this House and tried to suggest that I was less than honest in my presentation, having agreed to the sending of the troops and now opposing the voting of the money for the troops, which is totally untrue. I think it was quite unnecessary and the kind of debating which one will hope will come to an end in this House in the not-too-distant future.

The record will show that, consistently and persistently over the years, I have concerned myself with the escalation of expenditure on the Defence Force, both

in the capital and the current budget, and the reality is that sometime, somewhere along the line, somebody is going to have to make some fundamental decisions in relation to the Defence Force.

One, what size of Force do we really need? Two, what are the functions of that Force? Three, whether the country can afford it? And four, whether or not the country can meet the legitimate demands of a police force and a defence force of the kind that we have at the moment?

There have been all kinds of suggestions made on the Boor of this House before. For example, one should begin to look at an expansion of the Barbados Regiment and a progressive reduction in the number of personnel of the Barbados Defence Force, but having highly trained and highly targeted personnel, so that what would happen over time is that you would have a smaller force but yet enough people available with that kind of training at less cost to the Government of Barbados. There is nothing wrong with that suggestion. I have heard several experts. It has come from many people that something can be done to re-organise the situation so as not to look at this progressive increase in expenditure that we are seeing down the road. It is these kinds of general principles that we are talking about. 1.25 p.m.

Now, for the Honourable Member for St. Peter, aided and abetted by someone who should know better, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, to come in here and read a speech - it was not my speech. He read a speech that the Honourable Member for St. Peter made some years ago and all that confirmed was that the Honourable Member was wrong then and is wrong now. That is all it confirms.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. What the Honourable Member has just said is not true because the Honourable Member at the time was reading from Appendix G which was part of the Estimates as an Appendix at the back of the Estimates. What is significant is that having read from what I quoted this morning, the former Honourable Minister of Finance did not then get up on any point of order or say I was wrong, or misquoting. Let me tell you how it read: Mr. O. S. Arthur, Hon. B. M. Taitt, Mr. Speaker, Hon. B. M. Taitt, Mr. O. S. Arthur, Mr. Speaker, O. S. Arthur, right through. There was nothing from him and we will try and get the Estimates of 1987 and quote from them again, from the original document. You mean you will come in here and deny Hansard?

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am quite accustomed to abuse of that nature. It does not disturb me in the least, as the Honourable Member knows. Sir,

Hansard is a sacred document. It would be a major breach of the privileges of this House if any Member should seek to deny anything that is in Hansard. I am not denying it. All I am saying is that the Honourable Member said it then and - what you have read now - that he has said it again. All I am saying is that he was wrong then and he is wrong now. What is wrong with that? I am not saying that Hansard was wrong.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You are quoting what he said. The Honourable Member made the statement then, and he made it today and Hansard has confirmed that he made the statement then. That is all that has happened here. That is all this exercise is about. Fundamentally, even if it were true that during my period as Minister of Finance, when I was not Prime Minister of this country, when I was not Minister responsible for Defence and Security, the vote was not cut in that year, that in no way should detract from the thousands of statements I have made on the Floor of this House over the years drawing attention to the fact that we have to watch the continual escalation in expenditure in relation to the Defence Force; and also that we need to look very carefully at how we allocate resources to both the Police Force and the Defence Force and to find those areas of activity where we can probably influence training or something like that in order to reduce expenditure in the total area so that we may get a leaner, more efficient Defence Force, and that we might get a more efficient Police Force.

At the same time, that very critical area, patrol of our inner waters, which has been neglected for many years and which, as I understand it now, is perhaps one of the areas which needs supervision in relation to the trafficking in drugs in Barbados in the inner waters of Barbados, I understand that this is a problem. I understand that we do not have the resources to deal with it effectively and that it is something that needs to be dealt with. I do not know what the point is they are making. Even if they establish the point, even if they were true, what they were saying, that I did not cut the Estimates in 1987, what does that prove? It cannot in anyway prove my lack of sincerity or commitment to the fact that we need to have a leaner Defence Force in this country and a more efficient Police Force and that we have to look at the allocation of resources.

Now, Sir, I think it is a very serious matter when people are going to start using that kind of argumentation. Let us say the Honourable Minister of Finance today feels that we are spending too much money on a particular school, or something like this, but next year he is faced with a situation where maybe there are bills to be paid, all sorts of things to be done and in that particular year he finds that he has to allocate the same amount of money that he had allocated last year. Does that mean that, because

he makes that allocation, he does not feel that too much money is being spent there because in a single year he could not make the allocation? I do not care what they say. What they can establish in terms of what happened in 1987 does not matter to me. I can go through Hansard and find 100 debates where I have made the same point again, and again, and again.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let me tell you something. The Honourable Minister of Finance has come in this House again and again in recent times - as a matter of fact, the very Estimates that we are considering, and asked if he considered it before. He made the point that if he were Minister of Finance he would not have spent the money that way. That is what he was saying all along but he has to come for the money because the money has to be spent on something. If the bills have to be paid they have to be paid and if you are Minister of Finance you just cannot refuse to pay bills.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If you think that I am going to make an adverse comment on the Honourable Member because you have told a lie on him, you are wrong. If I have to criticise him I will criticise him in my own independent judgement, not urged on by you all because only this morning you demonstrated that you all can play with words, play with Hansard, play all kind of tricks inside here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member ought to refer to the Chair.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I went through many years of that. I know the Barbados Labour Party. That is the way they argue. All I had to do was to set them off. You can programme them. You know Christmas toys that you can wind them up and when you wind up the toy and you put it down how it will run? All I had to do was to come in here with the 1976 Manifesto and point out that they breached a major promise to the electorate and that would set them off. I know how to set them off.

I am getting back to the Defence matter. I really rose to deal with those points to make it clear to this House and to the public of Barbados that I never commented in one way or another on the expenditure relating to Haiti, and that was principally because of the discourtesy adverted to by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in the failure of the Prime Minister when he presented the Bill, even to mention - not to thank them - the word Haiti. He did not mention anything about soldiers in Haiti at all. He just got up and said "I beg that Head so and so stand part" as though Barbadian soldiers did not exist in Haiti. That is a fact. That is what he did. Then he had the gall to get up

inside here and come and accuse me of not adverting to the Haitian situation, the unmitigated gall, my friend. That is what it is. 1.35 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Why should the Minister be asked to refer to Haiti when he ought to have assumed that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was competent to read and understand? Because the Addendum to the Resolution ...he is now going to look at it He got up swiping like "Blind Elder".

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is misleading the House, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was on my feet. Mr.

CHAIRMAN: One Member was on his feet

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

Mr. D. A.C. SIMMONS: You cannot have a point of order on a point of order.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You cannot have a point of order on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is asked to sit

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of privilege, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I was pointing out that in the Addendum it said, for example,

"Programme 02

National Defence and Security Preparedness Subprogramme 02. Barbados Defence Force: Object No. 316: Grants to public Institutions: To meet the cost of the payment of personal allowances to soldiers of the BDF serving with the multi-national force in Haiti."

The Honourable Member was told from the document printed and circulated what was the purpose of the expenditure now being voted.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member did not indicate when he introduced the Resolution nor did he say or even advert to the note. If he had said that the information is contained in the note I might be inclined to forgive him on the basis of your representation. But he never made any reference to the note.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am justified in anything that I say. Yes, I said the Official Opposition was not here and you should go ahead and I would not say a word because I am not the Official Opposition. When the Leader of the Opposition came in here about two minutes after 12.00 I looked at him and I said "do you all not realize that this could have gone through?" I am not doing anything behind anybody's back. I am not in that business.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There is nothing that I would say to you in this House that I would not say to this Opposition or anybody else. Do not fool around.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I made that statement to him when he came in here. It is not any secret that you are revealing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are asked to refer to the Chair, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You thought you had a secret but you do not have any secret. I told him that

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, please. The Chair has not noted the asides being made here. I am dealing with the matter being addressed here by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. Let us proceed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I have been on my feet now for about 10 minutes and for 8 of those minutes, Sir, I have had interruptions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have one minute more.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Those 8 minutes would normally be added on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair has compensated. You have one more minute.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: One more minute? Mr. Chairman, it is a good thing that I said I have 8 more minutes. I will get one. If I had said 5 minutes I would get minus one minute.

Basically, I think I have addressed the points that were raised in distortion of what I said and I still maintain my fundamental point and the fundamental point is that we just have to look at the allocation of these resources. The

time comes when any Government or any Parliament has to look and see where we are spending our money.

Even in the United States, every day there is debate as to how much money should be allocated to Defence and Security, how much money should be allocated to the Navy, the Army and so on. But in this House, apparently, you just cannot raise issues like this. When the Barbados Labour Party forms a Government, you cannot even raise an issue and be constructively critical. Unless you get up and say it is the greatest thing that ever came to this Honourable House, they immediately get annoyed with you. I am going to bring example after example. This is one of the examples that I am talking about

Thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think it needs to be said that my friend went back to what the Labour Party said in 1976 in its Manifesto. Prior to the 1986 election the public of Barbados saw Mr. Errol Barrow on television saying that he was going to cut the Defence Force and reduce it to a commando unit Is that not true? Mr. Barrow said he was going to do that

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He remained as Prime Minister for 1 year. It was not cut. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central remained in the Democratic Labour Party until February 1989 wielding influence at Ministerial level and on the backbench and, presumably, the Parliamentary group. The Defence Force was not cut for the 3 years that he remained a member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Were you not there for 3 years? He is still a member of the Democratic Labour Party. You all deny that he was a member of the Democratic Labour Party between 1986 and February 2, 1989 when he formed the new Party.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I thought that was the date when he left and said he was forming the break away group. I thought it was February 1989. It might have been March...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: February 4th. Okay. He is asking me to recall with precision. I am only two days out with events that happened 5 years ago.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In 1986, in this Manifesto which the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central subscribed, indeed the Manifesto which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition now accuses him of writing without proper consultation with the broader party and that this therefore represents his own document, he wrote this. This is what he said at page 22, I think he was the one who signed it; this one had a pledge and subscription by all the candidates. He was a candidate then, Sir. It is at the back.

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

"COMMAND" in capitals.

Listen to Defence and Security. Listen to what they were writing down telling the people they were going to do with the same Defence Force about which he is critical in regard to our pledges in 1976:

"Without equivocation, we shall maintain and uphold a Defence Force whose strength, size and excellence will reflect the most careful application of the country's resources.

We need such a Force to repel with vigour assaults on our territory, ships or aircraft by mercenaries and terrorists, and to destroy the traffic of illegal drugs which is now the greatest internal threat to our national security.

We need"

This is how they allowed the Defence Force to operate with the Police Force:

"such a Force to reinforce, but only if need be, the strength of the Civil Power, in the efficient control of serious civil disturbance.

To achieve these objectives, a DLP Government intends:

- (1) To encourage greater co-operation between the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force;
- (2) to expand the coast guard, Sir.
- (3) to create a marine division of the Royal Barbados Police Force".

1.45 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: More people. Duplicate the Coast Guard. This is the commando unit:

"to establish within the Defence Force a small highly trained commando first reaction unit to strengthen the regional coast guard system and to emphasise the defensive role of the commando unit mentioned above".

I do not know what this means but these words next appear from a force which was 1200 in our time, hear this:

"There will be no job losses from the manner in which a DLP Government will implement these policies".

Now, what are you telling the public of Barbados? What were you telling them in 1986? That you intended to maintain the strength of the Defence Force at the then existing levels? Or worse yet, increase them a little bit - the Defence Force, the Coast Guard, the Police, the Marine Force - you will reach 1500 the way you were planning it? There would be no job losses.

Let us stop playing around with this now. This is a political football and I hope I will be able to demonstrate that the Democratic Labour Party never seriously intended from its paper commitments nor its moral mouthings to reduce the level of the Defence Force and over time the DLP Government in the last 8 years were able to make part of it function in a constructive way in terms of providing some job opportunities, providing some sporting facilities and interests for young people and so on. By March next year we will also be able to announce to the House a programme in which the Defence Force is going to contribute to the relief of unemployment. So it is performing useful works.

I believe, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition mentioned the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into public service vehicle permits by the Cabinet. I am authorised to state that early in the New Year a Commission of Inquiry will be appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, Cap. 112 *inter alia*

- (1) to investigate the grant, issue, transfer, renewal of all public service vehicle permits between January, 1994 and September 30, 1994.
- (2) to investigate the management and operations of the Barbados Licensing Authority.
- (3) to report findings and make recommendations in respect of management of the Licensing Authority and the issue, grant, renewal, transfer of permits.

That matter was agreed last Thursday.

In the meantime, a decision has also been taken prior to the public sitting of the Commission to have evidence collected by two former Senior Police Officers - the

former Senior Superintendent Douglas Agard and former Assistant Superintendent of Police Gilbert Crichlow who will interview the persons concerned.

Let me say now that the Commission of Inquiry will have the same rights and duties and powers as a court to summon you and there will be

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is how it goes. No problem. So there will be powers vested in the Commission, where people refuse to comply with a summons, for subpoena powers to operate. We expect that the public will exercise maximum cooperation in this matter, especially in the collection of the evidence. People have to be interviewed, statements have to be taken so somebody who is going to do the inquiry can lead the evidence and so on. That is the function of Messrs. Crichlow and Agard.

Two persons have been contacted who have agreed to sit as Commissioners. We expect by Friday the third person to signify his acceptance of the invitation and by the weekend the announcement of the Commissioners will be made. I do not think it will be fair to announce two ahead. We will announce them all together. We give Members and public the assurance that by the weekend and perhaps as early as tomorrow, once we have their approval and have taken it back to Cabinet, by tomorrow evening we should be able to announce all three members. There will be three members including a woman.

The full terms of reference will be made available in a release on the weekend and some indication will be given of the time when the commission will start. There is a lot of background work that has to be done, collecting, assimilating, and collating the evidence presented to the Commission and to whoever is going to lead the evidence. That has to be done first, but we hope that the official establishment of the Commission by Her Excellency will be about the middle of January. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to apologise, as I should, to the House for having sought to cooperate with the Minority Leader of the Opposition against my better judgement. It was a fact that when this matter first was put today that the Official Opposition was not here and the Minority Leader did say, let us get this out of the way in 15 minutes time. I am not here to do the business of the Official Opposition. He only sprang to his feet, Sir, when he saw the Opposition Members walking through the door. And he was in such an anxious state of confusion if you would recall, Sir, that he started to talk about Wendell McClean and the reduction of telephone bills. I give the Honourable House the assurance that it is

the last time I will collaborate with the Honourable Leader of the Minority Opposition on any matter, Sir. 1.55 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I do not wish to be misquoted. It is a fact that I told the Honourable Prime Minister to go ahead with the matter at 12 o'clock because the Official Opposition should be in its place and I will not be doing their work for them, or words to that effect. That is what I said. However, by the time I looked around I saw the Opposition coming in and then the Honourable Member got up and introduced the motion. I asked the Leader of the Opposition and the Member who was with him: "Don't you realise that this could have gone through?"

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I asked them that, I was not trying to do anything behind their backs in any event, so do not come in here and try to suggest that I acted in bad faith in relation to anybody or misled anybody, because it is not true. You know exactly what happened.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, this is the season to be merry. The truth of the matter is I did take his advice, and said let the matter stand part. That is exactly what I did. It is going to be the last time that I accept the advice of the Minority Leader of the Opposition in this House on any matter, but he really wanted to double deal the Opposition. He said he was not going to do the work of the Official Opposition, let us get out of here in 15 minutes' time, let the thing stand part. But when he saw the Leader of the Opposition coming through he got up and started to talk about Wendell McClean and the cuts in the telephone rates on a matter having to do with the Defence Force, because he did not know what was in the Supplementary. That is the nature of the mail and now he has the nerve to criticise me for having got up to say: "Let the matter stand part". I apologise to the House, Sir, because my approach is to give the House more information rather than less information. It will not happen again.

The matter of the Defence Force is a serious matter. I would rather, given the nature of the world in which we live, not be party to a discussion that politicizes the functioning of the Barbados Defence Force. The role they play in the Coast Guard of Barbados and in the fight against international drugs is crucial, Mr. Chairman. In some respects they have not been provided for enough as a Defence Force in that important work. For example, if ever there was the need for an aeroplane for the Defence Force it is now to supplement the work of the Coast Guard in the fight against illegal drugs. The Caribbean is now a major transshipment port for illegal drugs. We must not believe it cannot happen here. I am not going to go into details, but we have seen in another Caribbean country

what can happen when the institutions of the civil society come to be subverted by international drug traders. The work of our Defence Force has taken on a dimension that is far more critical than that which would have prompted its formation in the first instance. And therefore, given the objective conditions under which we now live in this country, to hark back to 1974 scenarios as to whether or not there is a need for a Defence Force in Barbados I think is not only to trivialise the issue, Sir, but is really to cast this discussion of the functioning of this vital institution in a context and a framework that is unworthy of those who want it to be so discussed.

The Barbados Defence Force and the rationale for its formation is now bigger than politics. It is a vital institution whose functioning and effectiveness are important to ensure the stability of this country and the functioning of our civil institutions. Therefore, I am going to support its existence, I am not going to toy or make facetious statements about how large it should be. I would also want to believe that only the fullest co-operation between the Defence Force and the Police Force and also the Customs can suffice at this time. I want to introduce that element in the matter because we often focus upon our disciplined forces, but very often it is those institutions that are not themselves the subject of the disciplined training that can be the weak link in the chain.

Now that we are on this matter, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to see the Prison Officers exposed to the same kind of disciplined training that the other Forces have. They get some, but there is need for more. I do not want to be anecdotal, but we have seen in this country a situation where a man was arrested for drugs, a Brazilian, and he virtually walked through the front door of the Prisons. So there is no point having a strong, disciplined Police Force, a Defence Force that collaborates in the fight against drugs and then when you send the people to Glendairy Prisons a man could walk through the front door. The whole effort is destroyed.

I am saying we need now to conduct this discussion in the context of a framework where all the entities that are involved in this most important matter should have their capacities systematically upgraded to deal with the threat that is posed. I am therefore putting the Prison Guards as well as the Customs, to the extent to which they are involved in this matter, within the pot as part of this overall effort. In time, changes will be made to make sure that they all function together and understand what is the threat; that the Caribbean is a very important transshipment point and growing in importance for illegal drugs, and as we begin to see the effects of it in some Caribbean countries we do not want that to happen in Barbados. To date we are not as important a transshipment area as some other Caribbean countries. But it is remarkable how fast things can happen in this region and that countries which were very stable five years ago now are under serious threat.

I was privileged to be at the Summit of the Americas to hear the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago ask for hemispheric support for the guarding of witnesses who had witnessed the behaviour of the international drug barons. They have a situation in Trinidad where they now have to have a witness protection programme, because they have witnesses who intend to give evidence against international drug barons and it is posing a tremendous problem for them. That is what we are dealing with, Mr. Chairman, and we must not trivialise this matter.

In some respects our Defence Force, in the area of interdiction of drugs, has been unprovided for. I also want to say that we have to take seriously what appeared in the newspaper, that there appears to be a shift of the problem to the north. In my own constituency we have had the experience of the drug traders dropping a shipment of drugs exactly on a pasture. That is the sophistication we are dealing with. I do not want to use this House obviously to go into matters of national security. But it is a matter of concern to us, a matter that is going to require the commitment of resources and I want this House, therefore, when it comes to deal with defence to understand that we are scrupulous about expenditure, we will not let the expenditure get out of hand, but we have to live up to our responsibilities. I therefore want the House to look at what we are seeing, that in 1986-87 the vote for Defence was \$16.9 million; in 1994-95 it is \$17.7 million. You cannot properly talk about expenditure on Defence having got radically out of hand. Every year there is a separate expenditure that is warranted and required. If you were spending \$16.9 million on defence when the Member for St. Michael South Central had the opportunity to deal with it and if he agreed, Sir, that the problem in relation to the fight against drugs has grown, a 1994-95 expenditure of \$17.7 million in these circumstances cannot be extraordinary. Let us therefore maintain that kind of perspective on the matter because we are dealing with the very threat to the stability of countries like these. I would really want to impress that on the Member for St. Michael South Central. 2.05 p.m.

It is all very well his feeling that he has to grandstand so as to outcompete the official opposition. I understand that, Sir. This House is going to be regaled by his antics in that respect. We accept that We expect the competition between the opposition parties to lead to very strong, wild statements being made from time to time; but let us agree that in an area like that, where there is so much at stake, foolish statements must not be made merely for the purpose of carrying on a political competition. I really must say that.

I promise to give the House as much information on the function of the Defence Force as is admissible within the limits of what the national security in this country can bear. In that regard Sir, I just want to make one point in

relation to the functioning of our soldiers in Haiti. All of the arrangements pertaining to the soldiers in Haiti were made at a meeting in July, the time they would spend there, the rotation, the command structure, the allowances and so on. All I have done, Sir, is that I have come into office and have had consultation with the former Prime Minister first of all, the present Leader of the Democratic Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the NDP. I have spoken to all of them, Sir, in relation to what a former Prime Minister agreed to in July and did not have the decency to tell the country what he had agreed to.

I consulted all of them on the matter of Haiti. I have spoken to the public by way of a press conference. This is the first opportunity we are getting in the House to discuss defence and I am dealing with it now. I have told this House that our soldiers have performed outstandingly in Haiti. Yesterday I would have wished to have been in the House...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I have to rise on a point of order in this matter because while the Prime Minister may wish to distort his own record, he got up and moved this Head without one single word about troops in Haiti and that is the complaint of the Opposition. It is nothing to do with what he told the public. I frankly do not care what he told the public when I am asking him in this Parliament to inform this Parliament what is happening with the disposition of troops in Haiti. That is the only accusation that has been made. Do not pretend that you said something that you have not said.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I care what he tells the public and the public cares what he tells them too, because he went out and told the public and told the manufacturers that the measures that were granted to help the manufacturers rather than helping them were hurting them and he is vexed because they have torn his clothes off in public. They have rinsed him out. He is a man without any credibility in relation to his public statements; but my credibility in relation to my public statements is firm. You went out in public and told the public that the reliefs to the manufacturers are hurting them rather than helping them and we have seen a leader of a Party stripped in public by the very men - for Christmas. You have mangled your credibility. You have been made to look like a joker by the public and the public is watching you in all your statements and all your lies...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to refer to the Chair.

Asides.

Hon O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I need no advice, no broad guidance from the Member for St. John in relation to how I should speak to the public of Barbados in

relation to matters of state. I have kept the public fully informed of every decision of substance I have made and I have used the medium that I could speak to the public as a whole. I look to the day we can get live television in this House so that when one has a major announcement to make it can be made from the Roor of this Parliament But in the absence of that, Sir, I have had more press briefings to talk directly to the public, and spoken live to the public by way of press briefings, carried live. So when I am told that I haven't spoken to the public about Haiti... I spoke to the people of Barbados live about what I was doing in Haiti, live about what I was doing in St Kitts and I now cannot take it from the Member for St. John that I have not spoken.

In relation to Haiti, Sir, poor fellow, the Member for St. John is taking a beating from his former Leader, from the manufacturers, from everybody in Barbados who feel that a Leader of the Opposition should have more maturity and commonsense than he has. He comes to this House and shows us all of his frustrations. Poor fellow. I am sorry for him. Cool down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Pardon me.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am sorry for you to have to listen to him. I am begging him to cool down, hold his blows, get a little experience and do not let the Member for St. Michael South Central outfox him all of the time. He will continue to outfox you, Mr. Member for St John, once you continue to show the degree of immaturity that you are showing in these matters.

Sir, with those words I beg to move that Head 13 as amended do stand part.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that

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

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

Head 16 was called.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Head 16 is one that has been inherited by the Barbados Labour Party. We are seeking the House's approval to expend \$30 000 on unanticipated expenditure and in relation to the operating expenses of the Ministry of the Civil Service.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 16 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 - MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Head 20 was called.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I will speak on this.

There used to be a Planning and Priorities Committee which functioned as an executive sub-committee at Cabinet that used to monitor Government's capital programmes on a monthly basis. Under the Democratic Labour Party, the Planning and Priorities Committee which functioned on a monthly basis was replaced by a central planning committee which seems to have been a sub-committee of Cabinet, a committee of the whole together with all the permanent secretaries and so on.

It is our judgment that, by that change, monthly control was lost of the execution of Government's capital programme. We feel quite frankly that there is a need therefore to re-institute a system of monthly monitoring of Government's capital programmes and to have all matters pertaining to the Government's profit cycle brought under a Planning and Priorities Committee functioning as an Executive Sub-Committee of Cabinet

I have also recast the functions of the Planning and Priorities Committee to have before it all of those major applications to the Town Planning Department by the private sector that are of a substantial scale and can therefore affect the level of investment in the country. We have therefore recast one of the management exercises that was undertaken and we have disbanded the old Central Planning Committee that used to meet at Dover half-yearly and sometimes not at all. We now have a system in place where every Government capital project must come before the Planning and Priorities Committee monthly, that all new projects must come for approval. It is an Executive Committee of Cabinet so therefore it will approve things on Cabinet's behalf. It is made up of all the Ministries which have a bearing on the economy as well as the Attorney General together with the Chief Technical Directors of the respective Ministries. As I said, Sir, all of the major Town Planning applications are before this new Committee. We have the town and country planning pipeline coming before us so that we can monitor what is happening out there.

All the major investment proposals in the private sector that require Town Planning approval will therefore exercise the scrutiny of that Sub-Committee of Cabinet. It is our way of trying both to streamline the management of the capital programme as well as to avoid major capital projects taking place without proper planning. We are trying to avoid the re-occurrence of the St. Joseph Hospital kind of thing. If those things are kept before a Sub-Committee of Cabinet then all of the matters pertaining to execution can be gone into properly, including the compliance with the Financial Rules with respect to tendering. 2.15 p.m.

We are trying by this mechanism to make sure that cost differences are kept to a minimum. Every month, therefore, we are going to run a project inventory telling us where projects are supposed to be and where projects are.

Further to that matter, Sir, I want to say that, in relation to those unfinished projects, I have asked specifically that they must be recast as new projects. We may have started out with a St. Thomas School because there was a view that there must be a school in St. Thomas. If the project is to be restarted, it must not necessarily be restarted to be a St Thomas School for that same reason. It would obviously have to start as a new project and, if any new features are to be built in it, those would have to include a possible purpose other than that which initially informed its conception.

In relation to Parliament, the work on the West Wing of Parliament has been going on indefinitely. It has been done by the Ministry of Public Works. It has been done largely on an overtime basis. I am not pointing fingers at anybody, Sir, but we are not happy with the way in which the project has been executed. It has taken too long. We are asking that it be put on a project basis as well and that it be managed equally like any other project; that it must have a finite time to its completion, it must have a budget and it must have somebody assigned to carry out the work like any other project. It is just another capital activity by Government and there is no reason why it should persist as long as it has persisted.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has therefore been recast with a view to our being able to better manage projects on a monthly basis. The staff, therefore, will be assigned to other activities. One of the project activities that excites me is the Carlisle Bay redevelopment. I believe that the fullest development of Barbados as a service society means that we have to optimise the potential of Bridgetown as an important service centre. There are tremendous opportunities existing in that area running from Trevor's Way straight up to the Hilton and that has to be the centre of our service centre. I have asked that somebody in the Ministry of Economic Affairs be assigned to that project. We are putting together a private/public sector group to work on it. One Ministry has even submitted a project for a marina within the existing Careenage which will involve a number of changes.

All of these are matters that are now before the Planning and Priorities Committee. I say that, Sir, because no provision was made for a Planning and Priorities Committee in the Estimates. I am re-assigning staff, and I want that point to be clear. I am trying to make the best use of the existing staff in the Public Investment Unit in the Ministry of Economic Affairs. I am not taking on staff to execute this. All we are asking for is \$1 100 to provide for supplies and materials associated with its functioning. That is all we are doing so we are making the fullest use

of the staff of the office of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and adding \$1 000 to be better able to monitor the capital projects in this country.

Sir, there is also a provision here for management of the Planning Cycle. Some consultants were engaged, in fact, by the previous administration to precisely do what we have already done in many respects; that is, to tell us how to reinstitute a process for managing the projects in Barbados. I am not going to comment on it. I might feel that it could have better been handled by getting some of the people to review what you had before. But a lot of the money is being spent on consultants from abroad to help us establish what was the Planning and Priorities Planning and Project Cycle.

Sir, \$14 000 is being asked for to continue the execution of this Planning Cycle Project that was started by the previous administration. I am going to carry it through. I have no difficulty with that. They have helped us to put together a public/private sector seminar to deal with partnership out of which many good ideas came, particularly on how the public and private sector can collaborate on capital projects. I feel that work was for useful work and that the result of that work could be made available to Members of the House when it is available.

The House is being asked, therefore, to approve, in addition to the funds for the Planning and Priorities Committee, \$14 000 to continue the work of the Planning and Projects Cycle Management that we have inherited. I believe I would have covered the request for supplementary expenditure as fully as possible in the circumstances. Against that background I would now like to move respectfully that Head 20 stand part.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words in respect of this. The fact that in a former administration the Barbados Labour Party had a Planning and Priorities Committee and found itself coming back into Government in 1994 and having to re-establish a Planning and Priorities Committee speaks very seriously to the great difference in the style of management between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party. I do not tire, and will never tire of pointing out that the Barbados Labour Party is the party of decentralisation. It is us who put the social services into the communities where people are and do not require them all to come to Bridgetown to be serviced. It is us who decentralised, and the Democratic Labour Party has always been the great party of centralisation but it is not unusual to find that in a conservative party. That is the style of management of conservative parties. It was not shocking to come back to hear that they had put the red pen through the Planning and Priorities Committee and had, in fact, put in place a Central Committee which, as we have heard, never met. You need

the Planning and Priorities Committee, Sir, as the Honourable Prime Minister has pointed out, in order to monitor and manage the capital programme of the Government.

I do not mind the fretfulness of the Honourable Member for St John. That is nothing new. All this talk about what the Prime Minister is working for, the Prime Minister's salary has not changed. It is just that this Prime Minister is working for his money in a way that the other one did not. He said he was not getting any ulcers over that. But that is only part of the resentment and the lack of graciousness and good manners coming not from the other side, I have to say, but from the Leader of the Opposition, setting a very poor example to his colleagues simply because you are over there and we are over here.

When there was a Planning and Priorities Committee, Sir, in a former administration, that was a time when the Barbados Labour Party built schools, polyclinics, highways, extended the Port and the Airport and that sort of thing.
2.25 p.m.

In the last 8 years the capital projects have been an Arch over a bridge that should be a swing bridge so that we could use the inner basin of the Careenage. But all of that will come. All of that is going to come. Sherbourne, Nelson...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: It wants licking down. It does not serve any purpose. Moving Nelson several feet and paving Trafalgar Square is the extent of the work of the Central Committee under a Democratic Labour Party Administration. You could have Sherbourne being built out of a Contingencies Vote. You could have the St. Joseph Hospital, and nobody understands how you could take money from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, you could take money from the Psychiatric Hospital, you can take money from Sanitation - all of the officers are sitting there. Sir, I know that you cannot see them, but I can - money was taken from them to pour into the St. Joseph Hospital that the Honourable Minister of Health before the day is finished will tell you can have 9 patients.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Nine. Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is the difference. For 8 years since the Barbados Labour Party left Government we waited for the south coast to be sewered. It is right for the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to hold down his head in shame. You are new in here, so it would not apply to you. It all founders at the head of the spring.

The Honourable Member for St. John was a Minister of Finance. He had the power to say yea or to say nay. He said nay to the Carlisle Bay Development Plan which would have made the industrial and business capital,

Bridgetown, a place today that would have already had international business and foreign trade moving out of it in a way that we now have to come back and do. But that has always been the destiny of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is infringing the Standing Orders of this House. She is misleading the House. She is not being truthful to the House because the matter of the Carlisle Bay Development Project never came before me for consideration when I was the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that, like so many other things, was left on the desk. The Ministry of Education Headquarters... the Minister of Education is asking to leave that for her to talk about and I would leave it because you are going to hear about the squandermania of millions of dollars in that respect.

The sewerage of the south coast. Imagine! Eight years. In 3 years the Barbados Labour Party sewerage the whole of Bridgetown. We ripped up all of Broad Street, all of Swan Street, all of Roebuck Street and sewerage the whole of Bridgetown. And 8 years and not one foot of sewerage has been done yet in the south coast sewerage project. They had strange priorities, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You have to sewer the south coast before you get to the west coast

The St. Thomas School. That is the Government that in 8 years allowed sanitation to get out of control so that something called Mount Stinkeroo is now to be found on maps of Barbados. Tourists tours are taken to Mangrove so that they can see how, in a Third World country, we fail to dispose of our garbage in a proper fashion. That is one of the reasons why it is so important to have a Planning and Priorities Committee so that on a monthly basis we can monitor not only projects which are to come on stream but projects which are in progress and there is not one single project that we could point to today that is in progress.

I jsee in the newspaper and hear that the Honourable Member for St. John is shouting and screaming that we must make Sherbourne a priority. A priority to do what? This started out as a music school and then we heard it was going to be an examination centre and it was going to be all sorts of things. They put a face on it. They had the gall to put a face on it, to put a photograph in their Manifesto for the last election and all the back side of Sherbourne is out to the world. It is going to cost \$40 million to complete the Auditorium. The former Minister of Finance - this shows where priorities lie ...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: ...that is part of the arrears he left on us too. They have not paid National Insurance, they have not paid PAYE. All of those are the arrears that the current Minister of Finance now has to be engaging himself with. Do you think it is fair, Sir? We should be able now to push off with our own projects. The financial year starts in April. We are just over half into the financial year and over \$60 million in arrears?

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: It is a monument also to mismanagement Economies are not managed like that I do not believe that the Honourable Member for St John manages his law Chambers or his household in this fashion. It is for the Barbados Labour Party to decide in this Administration what the priorities will be. He could as well stop prating to the press because neither he nor the press can decide for us what our priorities will be.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if there had been a Planning and Priorities Committee you would not have the cost overruns, the time overruns, you would not have had all the breaching of the Financial Rules on a regular and everyday basis.

I was shocked yesterday to hear in here the Honourable Member for St. John, a former Minister of Finance, standing up in this Chamber and suggesting that we should pursue a course which would mean that we would continue as was their wont when they were in Government to breach the Financial Rules. I was shocked to hear that. I heard him say so.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. I have never suggested in this House nor, for that matter, have I ever advised anybody to breach the Financial Rules. That is a wilful misrepresentation of what I said and again, an untruthful statement being made to the House.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. John stood up in here yesterday, Sir, said that the University was not any priority and that the Honourable Prime Minister has a soft spot for it and suggested that we should continue to be in arrears having made an agreement...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am not finished speaking. Stop jumping up like a Jack-in-the-box all the time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. John went on to say that the way we should do business is that trivial things like the Transport Board... It was no

big thing that they did not pay the Welfare Department so that senior citizens in this country could travel on buses. All of that is what got us into the problems we have today.

The Planning and Priorities Committee will help this Government to make not only the officers of the Civil Service understand, but themselves keep the Government's capital projects on track and also allow us to have a pipeline that you can see where you have come from and where you are going to and where you can look at the big picture and see what you are doing. I do not know what economic or any other benefit the Arch has brought to Barbadians. It is not even a tourist attraction. Tourists do not stand up to watch that.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would wish to add my support to this part of this supplementary Resolution because I do believe that this is going to make the big difference in how this Government manages and executes its capital projects.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have no problem in supporting this. This is a new initiative, another one of those big initiatives for which \$1 100 is being provided. Reallocating staff and, apparently, the existence of a Planning and Priorities Committee in Barbados seem to have been a considerable boon in terms of the efficient execution of capital works programmes even though there were major cost overruns on most of the projects which the Barbados Labour Party undertook with a Planning and Priorities Committee in place. Even though the Post Office at Cheapside had problems, even though there were a whole host of capital works projects in this country supervised by the same Planning and Priorities Committee which experienced exactly the same problems which other capital works programmes...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ..had had from time immemorial.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. In relation to the Post Office building the truth about that, Sir, is that I was involved in the arbitration. I brought the case against the Government. It had nothing to do with the Planning and Priorities Committee. It was an officer of Government who did not pay attention to the 14 days' termination notice. She was given notice that the contract would be terminated within 14 days unless the money had been paid. She did not see that the money was paid and, under Clause 24 I think it was at the time, we terminated the contract. It had nothing to do with the

Planning and Priorities Committee. That was inefficiency within the department 235 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am glad to hear that there is a difference between planning and efficiency or that that line can be so sharply drawn that, on the existence of a planning and priorities committee in itself which is supposed to monitor all of these kinds of things and endue itself with all of these great tasks which the Prime Minister has assigned to it, even when it existed, errors of that magnitude, or as you say, such small errors, could occur. But that nevertheless such errors could cost the Democratic Labour Party eventually nearly \$6 million to correct, and the Honourable Member for St Thomas can stand up in this House and give people the impression that a minor error... that is monumental incompetence in the face of a Planning and Priorities Committee. The Minister should take the responsibility because the Minister is responsible for the acts of his subordinates. So which Minister should have resigned?

You understand what it is like, Mr. Speaker, a few months away from a general election when the Honourable Member for the City can actually not hold her head in shame to hear that the error of a functionary did not result in the resignation of a Minister, when time and time again, by her own principles and standards, she has stood up on this side and accused Members of the Democratic Labour Party for not observing the principles of Westminster Government and taking full responsibility for actions of subordinates and resigning because they were incompetent.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is somebody who supported a former Minister of Health when I brought a No Confidence Motion in here about what happened at St. Joseph Hospital. The Honourable Member for St John, Sir, this is my point of order, is quite improperly misleading the House to say that there were several projects which were into time and cost overruns.

We built 7 polyclinics, over a dozen schools, two major highways, without any cost or time overruns. He cannot name one project where there was a cost or time overrun.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I would not even bother. She is not going to sidetrack me in this debate, Mr. Chairman. The public records are there.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member replied to the point of order I raised just now and deliberately distorted the truth. He knows that the actual debt at 1986 for the GPO was \$2 million. Under their Attorney General, between 1986 and year before last, Sir, they allowed the interest charges to build to a point of \$7 million. That is the point

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not getting into that. The Honourable Member was legal counsel; he knows the matter was under arbitration and that that arbitration must have taken some time. I am not even going to bother because, if I wanted to say what I want to say about you and the post office, it would be something else. But you can feel free to bring all of your private knowledge on these matters to the House. I have never advised the Government of Barbados on a legal matter yet. The matter came to Cabinet and it was my job to pay for the project and I did. I gave you an undertaking and I kept it

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable young gentleman, Sir, is now displaying monumental intellectual dishonesty. He knows that a Resolution came into Parliament saying how much money was required - \$7 million. I have not said anything that was not said in here, Sir, and if it is necessary, go for the debate. All I have said is, \$2 002 000, I think it was at the time, that the Chief Justice held that the Government owed and had wrongly determined the contract. We, therefore, as a Government in 1984 left the DLP to take up a basic debt of \$2 million. For the next umpteen years they refused properly to deal with the arbitration and interest was building up all the time so that when they finally agreed to settle, and he knows, Sir, that the two of us discussed that, it could not continue. It had to be brought to an end otherwise it would have hung the Government. It had to be brought to an end and it was agreed to settle the matter. At that point \$2 million dollars....

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I said he is speaking from knowledge he has that I do not have. I was never the legal adviser to the Government of Barbados in those matters, either as acting Attorney General or otherwise. When the matter came before me, we immediately found the \$6 million and paid it in the tranches that it was agreed it would be paid and gave it priority over a large number of other things which probably had greater importance, that the initial incompetence which led to that was incompetence by the Barbados Labour Party for which a Minister should have taken responsibility and it was incompetence which took place even in the face of a Planning and Priorities Committee being in place.

Therefore I am saying, when the Honourable Member for the City says that it is a difference of style, the difference in style makes no appreciable difference at the end of the day. You can set up 12 tiers in between the technocrat at the bottom and the Minister at the top to do all of these wonderful things, that difference in style, in my view, has more effect in frustrating the objects of good government than does a better streamlined approach to the issue.

Imagine now that what we are hearing is that town planning applications, even private town planning

applications, which already take a considerable time to be processed in Barbados are now going to be taken by the Minister of Town Planning to a Planning and Priorities Committee for consideration. So that once again the citizens of Barbados, in respect of major private sector projects, as part of the process of considering the permission to be granted by the Town Planner...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Please address the Chair.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I apologise. That was my understanding. However, the projects, as I understand it, including private sector projects, are supposed to go to the Planning and Priorities Committee for consideration at some point.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, if I may elucidate, Sir. One of the things that affect investments in this country is the speed with which we make decisions in the public service that affect people's private investments. One of them, Sir, is the length of time that it takes in relation to granting town planning approvals and hearing appeals and so on.

As we all know, we are committed in the Manifesto to remove many of the encumbrances that stand in the way of people making investments in this country. What we are trying to do is to keep the matter under constant review, so that we have to know when they come into the Town Planning Office wherein is the decision-making

Asides.

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

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Planning and Priorities Committee does not intend to arrogate to itself the rights and the functions of the Town Planning Department in relation to the granting of approvals and are just monitoring where things are in the cycle of decision-making. 2.45 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: So, Mr. Chairman, basically it is a Committee which is doing the job which Government is supposed to do anyway. In other words, the persons responsible for planning and developing the Barbados economy are supposed to be in contact with people in the private sector, as happened with the Democratic Labour Party. In fact, the only way we were able to know that all of those projects which we quoted consistently in the General Election were underway and the state of their development is precisely because we were monitoring with the private sector progress with respect to those projects. There are a large number of projects such

as the redevelopment of Crystal Cove Hotel, which the Government took an active involvement in, even up to and including speeding up the process of getting Central Bank permission so that they could float shares on the London market for the first time in the history of Barbados for their Barbadian investment. Those projects were speeded up, not because we needed any committee, because the relationship between the principal policy makers and people in the private sector was a fluid relationship which sought to facilitate investment. Now to set up a committee does not add to that. As long as the person responsible for development and planning in this country is interested in expediting those processes, and keeps contact with the private sector, those initiatives will move swiftly.

The impression is being given by the Honourable Prime Minister, without saying so, that the absence of a Planning and Priorities Committee, together with the monumental foolishness which was added to the debate by the Honourable Member for the City that there was no Capital Works programme, meant that the Democratic Labour Party was not monitoring the Capital Works programme.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Every time a Supplementary was sought by the Democratic Labour Party or by way of a Bill, I as Minister of Finance came to this House and gave information on the progress in relation to the Capital Works programme in terms of figures, and very often I itemised the projects. In the Budget in 1994, March, we set out those projects which would be undertaken in the course of the fiscal year. We itemised them one by one.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, if you did not read the Budget that is your affair, you cannot stop anybody. The Black Rock polyclinic, we commenced the St. John polyclinic, we built the Kingsland school, there are a whole host of Capital Works projects which we undertook in the course of the Democratic Labour Party administration. The Hometown Complex is a Democratic Labour Party project, but you would never understand these things, because you wanted the beach land for your friends, as usual.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to address the Chair, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: And you want your friends to build ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you imputing improper motives to the Honourable Member for the City?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have not called any names, Sir, and I am sorry. Those should be treated merely as asides.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the real point is that there were no major projects which were undertaken by the Democratic Labour Party as Capital Works projects which were not monitored in some way by the Ministry which is responsible for Capital Works programmes. When I was Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, one of the areas to which I paid very careful attention was the progress of the Capital Works programmes. As Minister of Finance there was always concern about obtaining the appropriate levels of growth in the economy by speeding up the Capital Works programmes wherever possible. The problem is that the execution of the Capital Works programmes has less to do with policy makers getting together than it has to do with the contact between the institutional finance and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and other technical work which has to be done. So that a committee meeting once a month, in my view, I know was the Honourable Member's play toy from way back, this Planning and Priorities Committee, because he has lectured this House consistently for eight years that the disbandment of that committee was a major retardant to the development of Barbados. But anything he established or had anything to do with, whether it was the Public Enterprise Unit, the Planning and Priorities Committee or any of those entities with which he had some minor contribution, he extols as the greatest institution of Government in terms of facilitating the social economic progress in Barbados. There can be a difference in style and management; \$1 100 for the sake of reconvening the Planning and Priorities Committee for refreshment and stationery is...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute and the House is asked to note that the House will be in Committee of Supply until five minutes after 3.00.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ...a matter with which we can complain. The Honourable Members on that side said that there would be a resumption of all of the unfinished projects as projects. I am entitled to ask, and will ask, about the St. John Polyclinic. I have asked on several occasions. Money was provided in the Estimates for that project to be restarted in December of this year, for the project to be resumed, and therefore I wish to know how soon the work on the St. John Polyclinic will be resumed, whether it has been recast as a single project or whether it forms part of some larger project and when it is anticipated that the project will be completed, or whether in fact, Mr. Chairman, the project is one that has been abandoned by the new administration. That is one.

I also want to know whether work will be resumed on the Sherbourne Centre or whether it is true, as the Honourable Attorney General said - I do not know if he was standing or sitting - that the steel should be removed and sold in Barbados. Are we going to be completing the auditorium? Is it something that the Government sees...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, let me make it very, very clear. My personal, private view about that place behind Sherbourne that they call the open backside, I want it clearly understood it is my view that we should not spend \$30 million, as we are told is the figure, to complete it and build an auditorium. I feel we should pull down the steel, sell it back to Bobby York in Tobago and salvage something and think again. I am totally opposed. If I have to be tied by the principle of collective responsibility because the majority of the Cabinet wants it, I understand that principle. But privately I would like to pull it down tomorrow and sell the steel. It is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his presentation.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes. I am really asking about the disposition of many of those projects for which funds were to be provided in the course of this fiscal year, whether the Planning and Priorities Committee is going to be diverting those funds to new projects, and whether in fact, because the Minister of Finance has said that these unfinished projects have to be recast as new projects, whether it means that no further work will be done on them until the proposals for them as new projects have been developed. If so, what is going to be completed during this fiscal year as a Capital Works programme for Barbados, if anything?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. John obviously is going to flee again. It is a habit of his that we have to get accustomed to, because he developed it in Government and he always finds a reason to flee once he has to be responded to. What we just heard from the Member for St. John was obviously the product of a very confused mind. 2.55p.m.

His argument against the establishment of a Planning and Priorities Committee is that we did not need a committee to coordinate the Government's capital works programme. But his Government replaced the existing Planning and Priorities Committee with a Central Planning Committee so they themselves recognised the need for a committee. He was party to it, Sir, so he cannot now come to this House, having been party to a Central Planning Committee that was supposed to be coordinator for capital projects and say there is no need for one. His very argument is an argument at cross purposes with himself.

They replaced the Planning and Priorities Committee with a Central Planning Committee that used to meet half yearly. Everybody must understand that to have major capital projects on stream and to convene a committee to monitor it on a half yearly basis is to invite disaster. That is how cost over-runs arise. That is how projects go off stream and nobody can get them put back on stream in a

timely manner. It was a committee of the whole together with everybody in the Public Service and it used to meet, significantly, at Dover. Our committee meets in the Cabinet Office.

I make that point, Sir, because the former Committee was bigger than Parliament. Everybody came to speak and it was a talk shop at which nothing happened. We can, therefore, begin to understand why there was a Sherbourne because a Sherbourne came out of an approach to the management of capital programmes where...

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Barrow started it. That was the approach Sir. We may better now begin to understand how you had the St. Thomas School, how we had the fiasco at the old Queen's College site which is intended to be the headquarters of the Ministry of Education. There was simply no mechanism in place to seriously discharge the responsibility of managing Government's capital projects.

The Member for St. John obviously has a confusion because they themselves recognised the deficiency and they went out and brought forward this Planning and Projects Cycle Management Project which is telling us precisely that we should have a monthly committee in place to monitor projects and they have spent a large sum of money on it. I am glad that this supplementary has come to the House in this fashion because the House is being asked to vote \$1 100 for us using the existing staff at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and re-assigning them to carry out a responsibility in managing capital projects. That is the BLP way, spend \$1 000, use existing staff and put a system in place to manage capital projects.

We have had a Planning and Priorities Committee in place now for three months. The DLP way is to engage foreign consultants to come and tell us that we should have a committee that the Member for St. John says that we should not have; and we have spent large sums of money on it already and we are now being asked to vote \$14 000 in additional support for it. So there is no doubt that the very fact of their having had a Central Planning Unit to monitor projects, however indifferently, and their establishment of this high priced project called the Planning and Project Cycle Management Project is indeed recognition on the part of other persons in the DLP that there was need for them to address the question of capital management in a more timely and efficacious manner.

We can disregard the double speech of the Member for St. John. It is double speech. Foolishness!

Now, Sir, I want to say that I have carefully checked all of the records and never has anything known as a St. John Development Plan ever exercised the attention of the DLP Central Planning Committee. I want to read that

into the records of Parliament I have checked carefully, and there has never been any consideration by the Central Planning Committee of the Democratic Labour Party responsible for managing capital projects, of anything known as the St. John Development Plan. It has been a fiction intended to be a fiction; and it has been treated with complete and total disrespect by all of the colleagues of the Member for St John. It has never been an agenda item of any aspect of government's capital development. It was a terrible attempt to mislead the public.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be ashamed to be a Minister of Finance purporting to have a Speightstown Development Plan and not have a Speightstown Development Plan exercising the attention of a planning committee of my Government. I would be ashamed. I am saying to this House that this Member for St. John stands to be condemned for having been a Minister of Finance in a position to influence Government's capital programme and never yet having had the courtesy on behalf of the people for St John, to put before that Central Planning Committee a document called the St John Development Plan. He, therefore, has a nerve to now come to this House to ask us about when this House—Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: This debate must not finish today without my making these points. The Central Planning Committee considered the Mt. Tabor School, the St. John Polyclinic, the construction of six tenantry roads in St John, *all* of which were completed between 1987 and 1991, the upgrading of the community centre at Gall Hill, the establishment of a welfare centre at Gall Hill in St John, the establishment of a playing field at Cliff in St John, a fish market at Martin's Bay, a play park and extension of the Colleton Day Nursery, all of these, the pre-feasibility work on the Consett Bay Fishing Project, all of those are projects undertaken; and the present road resurfacing programme in St. John which your candidate wants to take credit for was a project negotiated by the Democratic Labour Party and funded by the World Bank. Every major road in St. John is now resurfaced. Did you know that?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand on the point I made.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Oh! Sorry. Is to be resurfaced...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. I don't know what the Barbados Labour Party will do, but I know that every major road in St. John, from Malvern where the Honourable Member has financial

interests right down to Churchill in St Philip and from Martins Bay, St John to Four Cross Roads were supposed to be resurfaced under the World Bank.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the only thing that the Member cannot say is what I have said - that a St John Development Plan has never ever been presented nor exercised the consideration of the Central Planning Committee of the Democratic Labour Party Administration. That is a matter of historical record.

In relation to the St John Polyclinic the Member for St. John was responsible...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am on a point of order. I would like to know whether if I brought the St John Development Plan in here the Honourable Member will undertake to put it before the Planning and Priorities Committee and give it appropriate priority? Tell the House that now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, in relation to the St John Polyclinic, the Member for St John was the Minister of Finance for six months of this financial year. He made sure that no funds were spent on it in those six months. He, therefore, did not treat it as a priority. I don't know, therefore, how he can impress anybody that it is a priority because when he had a chance to spend on it in this financial year he did not spend. It was a secondary priority and we are going to treat it therefore exactly in the same manner that he treated it during the course of this financial year.

As regards Sherbourne, Sir, more will be said later. But it is quite important that the House understands that \$30 million is the anticipated cost of finishing the auditorium and, in addition to that, significant defects have already been found in the existing structure at Sherbourne.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his presentation.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am in the midst of a last paragraph, Sir. Significant defects have already been found in the existing structure at Sherbourne. We are in the process of having them evaluated with a view to having the cost determined. 3.05 p.m.

In addition to the \$30 million that will have to be expended if we were to get a very recalcitrant Cabinet to agree that we should even contemplate it - and I would be part of the people who would say "No" - we also now have to look to find money to fix a building that was done in a hurry and was improperly done in the first place.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 20, as amended, stand part.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that

The question that Head 20, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 28 stand part.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 30 - MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND MINISTRY OF CARICOM AFFAIRS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 30 stand part.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 36 stand part.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that

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

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 43 stand part.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that

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

HEAD 50 - POST OFFICE

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 50 stand part.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported to the House accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, each seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, the Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.

ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO AUTHORISE THE MINISTER OF FINANCE TO RAISE BY THE ISSUE OF SAVINGS BONDS IN BARBADOS MONEY UP TO A LIMIT OF \$100 000 000 FOR FINANCING SUCH CAPITAL OR OTHER EXPENDITURES THE MINISTER MAY DETERMINE

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is a natural result and sequel to the amendment to the Savings Bonds Bill. Yesterday we had a full debate on it and with no disrespect meant to the House, I now beg respectfully to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS I beg to second that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, we have a Resolution before this House where we want to raise the limit to \$100 million. After listening to the speakers last night and the Honourable Member for St. Peter, we were told that the sugar revenue in this country in the coming year will be much lower than we had anticipated earlier. At the same time, we have a situation in this country where nearly all the hotels seem bent on going to all-inclusive tourism. I am suggesting...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to you, I have to refer you to the Standing Orders dealing with relevance. I have not in the course of this debate referred to any sugar money nor tourism. I, therefore, could not, in a Resolution dealing with savings bonds allow a matter like this to entertain the House along the direction being sought by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, yesterday on another occasion I did allow a lot of latitude. I am suggesting that you address the matter before the House today, please. This matter relates to the issue of Savings Bonds. This is what the Resolution is about. There will be no latitude whatsoever today. We are dealing with the issue before the House today.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Thank you very much, Sir. I am grateful for your ruling. It is obvious to me that the Government needs to increase their cash flow and they are asking for the limit to be raised to \$100 million. I am suggesting that, if we are going to be having problems with our receipts and we need to increase our cash flow, what we have to do is to make sure that we have enough revenue to repay the savings bonds. One of the ways we can repay the savings bonds is to make sure that we get maximum revenue from tourism. Any problem with that one, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: You go ahead. I will tell you when there is a problem.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, Government finds itself in a situation where it will have a problem with revenue and they have decided to increase the savings bonds limit. The receipts from tourism will not be able to repay the savings bonds that they will have to borrow.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, may I say that the Honourable Member is on the point of misleading the House? The receipts from tourism are not part of Government's revenue and he really should not be confused in these debates. It has nothing to do whatsoever with savings bonds and I will await your ruling as to the relevance of what we are hearing in the light of the matter before the House.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, receipts form part of Government's revenue.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy are you through?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, Sir. I thought you were making a ruling so I sat

Mr. SPEAKER: I will make it at the appropriate time.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: What I am saying is, Sir, that once the revenue from tourism increases the revenue of Government increases.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I will now make it then.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You agree, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. I am making the ruling now because I would like you to address the matter here.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Savings Bonds, Sir. We are dealing with revenue to help repay the savings bonds. 3.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are dealing with the bonds. But we are not dealing with what you are dealing with. There is no latitude given today. We went all over the place yesterday, not today. We are dealing with this today.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It is obvious that the savings bonds that we have in front of us are being nosed because there is a revenue problem of Government. They say that I cannot talk about all-inclusive tourism and the effect it is going to have on the Government's revenue.

Mr. SPEAKER: What has that got to do with this?

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You want consideration of staff. Okay. If they want to have consideration of staff, I have no problem with that. But what I would say is that the reason why they are raising the bonds to \$100 million is that they would be having serious shortfalls in their revenue. I am saying that if they are having serious shortfalls in their revenue and they have to raise savings bonds that they should not go towards the line of borrowing but what they should do is to restructure the tourism...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No. ...where they would encourage the private sector to build more hotels so that all-inclusive tourism would not affect the tourism that we have now. What we have is a situation where you have two concepts competing for the same number of rooms.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying that we should increase our rooms.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, you obviously want to say something about tourism.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am dealing with revenue, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The time will come when you will have the appropriate Resolution. I would like you to address this Resolution before the House.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is why I am saying that if they need to increase the Savings Bonds in this country they have to bring proper reasons why they are bringing a Resolution like this to the House, not just bring Savings Bonds to the House and say they are bringing Savings Bonds to accommodate us, Sir. It is a fact that they cannot be just accommodating us, because, if they

were accommodating us, they would pass the law for \$50 million or \$55 million and not \$100 million.

As I said we would discuss all-inclusive tourism and how we can increase...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ... when I get the opportunity next year. I wish you a Happy Christmas, Sir, and I hope that my Christmas present next year would be latitude like the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, thank you. You have to pick your latitude on the right day. Yesterday was the day for latitude. The question is...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to close this debate by saying that the House should thank the Member for St. Lucy for his contribution. He was a former Financial Controller of the sugar industry. They got rid of him. We now know why they had to get rid of him.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter is misleading the House. I never thought he would have done something like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of order.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I was never a former Financial Controller of Barbados Sugar Industry Ltd.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Honourable House of Assembly be adjourned until the 17th day of January, 1995 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning. We are hopeful that on the 18th day of January, 1995 we would be able to do the special debate on the No Confidence Motion brought by the Honourable Member for St John.

Speaking on the adjournment, Sir, I would wish, at this Christmas time, to use this opportunity to offer most particularly, Sir, to the staff of this Parliament who have

been tried particularly over the past two days and whose work is not yet done because they have to service the Other Place on Friday, the day before Christmas Eve. They have worked long, arduously, tirelessly and loyally throughout this year, irrespective of changes in the Government.

We would like, at this Christmas time, to offer to them, and I believe in this regard I can speak both on behalf of the Government and the Opposition, I can speak on behalf of us all, to say that we would wish every good wish for Christmas, health and prosperity and everything that they would wish best for themselves in 1995, to the staff of Parliament. When I speak of the staff of Parliament I am not only speaking of the Reporters, this goes to the Police Officers who service us when Parliament meets, the security personnel who service us, those who clean here, those who feed us, and look after our welfare in every regard. I should like to put on record our appreciation of the way in which we have been looked after and this building has been looked after so that we could get on with the people's work. I look forward to more of that committed service in the year to come.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, in seconding the motion for the Adjournment, let me say that I should like to concur with the comments which have been made by the Leader of the House and, in particular, to extend the gratitude of the Opposition to the members of staff and those who service this Parliament for the courtesies which they have extended to us during the course of the period since September 7, 1995 when we were in the Opposition and to say how impressed we are, as usual, with the standard and quality of the work of the Clerk and his staff and the persons who deal with security and refreshments for Members of Parliament.

Let me take this opportunity to say, since the House will not be meeting until next year in January, that on behalf of the Opposition I wish all Members, in particular those of the Government who I may not see again, all the best for the Christmas season and success in those things which they think are important during the course of 1995.

I look forward to returning to the House on the 17th January, 1995, at which point I will let the Leader of the House know whether I am prepared to commence debate on my Resolution against the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East

To be honest with you, Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that we would have started it today because I am in possession of the relevant files. But I thought there would have been more important things come January which the Government would wish to complete. However, I am

ready and wish the House would convene even earlier than 17th January, 1995 because that No Confidence Motion is very, very important and the facts which are related to it must be made available to the public. I am very anxious and regret very much that we are taking such an extended break from Parliament. But since that is so there is nothing else I can do and I will indicate to the Leader of the House on the 17th whether I will be able to debate.

Once again, I want to wish you, Mr. Speaker, and your family, Members of Parliament and their families, staff and their families from the Members of the Opposition and their respective families all the best for the season and God's guidance and blessings in 1995.

Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Honourable Chair would also like to extend the wishes of the season to all Honourable Members and the staff of Parliament and, of course, all well wishers. We hope you have a happy and prosperous Christmas and we wish you all the best for the New Year.

The question that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, January 17, 1995 at 11.00 o'clock a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.25 p.m.

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