THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 8, 1994.

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker)
His Honour T. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., LL.B., (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Affairs, Tourism and Minister for the Civil Service)
Mr. H. deB. FORDS, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Leader of the House)
Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and Leader of the House)
Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General, Minister of Justice and Minister for CARICOM Affairs)
Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)
Hon. N. K. SIMMONS, (Minister of Education)
Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN, B.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M.
Hon. C. V. WALKER, J.P., (Minister of Health) Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. E. E. GREAVES, G.C.M., B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Culture and International Transport)
Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M., J.P., (Minister of Labour, Public Works, Community Development and Sports)
Mr. R. L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert. Ed.
Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Finance)
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.
Miss B. A. MILLER
Mr. DeL. 0. BRADSHAW, J.P.
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. J. 0. TUDOR, J.P.
Hon. D. W. BOWEN, (Minister of .Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)
Mr. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A., LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 25th January, 1994.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January, 1994, which I understand have been circulated, be confirmed.

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

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

PAPERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Economic Affairs I am commanded by the Cabinet to lay the Loan Contract between Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank. (Bridgetown Roads and Safety Improvement Project). On behalf of the Minister of Tourism I lay the 33rd Annual Report and Financial

Statement of the Board of Tourism for the year 1991-92, and on my behalf as Minister of Home Affairs, I am laying the Immigration (Forms and Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1994.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Miscellaneous Controls (General Open Import Licence) Regulations, 1994.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Bill to grant a sum of money from the Consolidated Fund and the appropriation of the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1994, together with the amendments which have been circulated, be read a first time.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am moving at this point that the following Standing Orders be suspended —they are Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 —for the remainder of the day's sitting.

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

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

ORDER NO. 10 — THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL, 1994

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, this Bill which seeks to provide for the grant of a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund as part of the appropriation for the year 1994 is brought primarily, as the Schedule to the Bill will indicate, to accommodate the expenditure in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under Head 35; the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment, Head 39; and the Ministry of Public Works, Head 42. Sir, Heads 35 and 39, which constitute the substantial part of the appropriation, have become necessary because, as I had indicated the last time this Honourable House met, of the United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
12.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, when I addressed the House on a related matter, I had given the assurance that within a short time we would bring the details concerning this Conference as we sought to obtain the permission of this Honourable House to spend the appropriate sums of money.

Mr. Speaker, I propose to give a full detailed picture to the Honourable House because you will recall they were some Honourable Members who were concerned that sufficient had not been given by way of information to this Honourable House.

The Conference which will be taking place in Barbados had its genesis in the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development which was held at Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992. That was billed as a World Summit Conference of which all of the world's leaders were invited to participate in what has been called an "Earth Summit".

Barbados was represented at this Conference by the Rt. Honourable Gentleman from St. Michael South, the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for the Environment and other officials, and throughout the negotiations leading up to the Conference, Barbados played a leading role in mobilising Small Island developing states to present their interests before that conference.

Significant progress was made in elevating Small Island developing countries as a group of countries which merit special attention. A decision taken at that summit which was reflected in what is called Agenda 21 provided for an action programme specifically in Chapter 17, Programme Area G of Agenda 21,

> "The International Community recognises that Small Island developing states which are now called SIDS and islands supporting small communities as a special case for both environment and development, presenting special challenges to planning for sustainable development.
>
> It further recognises that these states will be constrained in meeting such development without the cooperation of the International Community."

It is against this background that the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of the Small Island Developing States is being convened. The Government of Barbados at the Earth Summit offered the facilities of this developing country as a proper site for the Global Conference. And the Government of Barbados

was accepted by the world community in United Nations Resolution 47/189 which was adopted by the General Assembly and which formally approved the decision taken at the Earth Summit with respect to the Global Conference. Barbados was accepted as the venue for this Conference.

Mr. Speaker, this conference is one of the follow-up activities, specifically called for in Agenda 21, a programme of action agreed at the Earth Summit in Brazil in June 1992. As a first undertaking, part of the Rio Accord which is likely to reach fruition, the Global Conference scheduled for Barbados will have a unique place in history. It will represent the first full-fledged test of the commitment of the International Community to the implementation of the agreed provisions of Agenda 21.

The Conference will therefore provide an early opportunity to build a partnership for the implementation of the commitments of Rio and to give a positive signal that the way forward is a pragmatic, realistic approach based on practical achievable goals. The Conference provides an opportunity for the International Community to give tangible expression to the concept of partnership proclaimed by the Earth Summit and to move forward the process of achieving sustainable development.

I think, Mr. Speaker, at the outset we should establish that sustainable development is not new. Sometimes as we talk about these modem phrases and phraseologies, we tend to believe and sometimes portray the idea that these things have started with the most recent group of persons to put the idea together. But sustainable development has been considered in the past and it is fair to say that over the last 25 years or so, especially, and certainly since Barbados became independent, Barbados has, through the policies of its respective governments, moved towards the path of sustainable development.

The extent to which the International Community honours its commitment towards sustainable development, particularly in the areas of finance and the transfer of technology, should give a clear indication of its likely success by countries in implementing the provisions contained in Agenda 21. It is not simply assistance that Small Island developing states are seeking for they are placed to make an important contribution in the global search for more sustainable patterns of development. They have been described as the ecological equivalent of the miner's canary providing early warning of problems relating to the global environment requiring urgent attention.

There are many of us who feel, for example, that Barbados constitutes a microcosm of effective sustainable development possibilities. It has been posited for example that the physical smallness and discrete boundaries of an island will allow for a more effective evaluation of sustainable development actions and policies and resource management, on bio-diversity, quality of life and the economy.

As a microcosm to. the rest of the world, small islands can act as a kind of real life laboratory in new operational concepts of the transition towards global, sustainable development. In addition, the small Island Developing States, because of their relationship to the ocean and seas are a vital link in the effort to introduce more sustainable approaches to the management of these areas.

In the view of one author the Small Island developing states are in effect custodians of 30 million square kilometres of ocean, one/sixth of the earth's surface that falls within their 200 mile offshore exclusive economic zone. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that Barbados established its own 200 mile zone by the passage of the 1978 Act in this Honourable House.

12.35 p.m.

Many of the developed countries, apart from having responsibility for non-independent countries which are islands, also have small islands as part of their national territories. The sustainable development approaches which might be pioneered through the Conference and the experience gained and shared would thus be of national relevance even to some developed countries together with the discussions on the climate change bio-diversity and diversification conventions. The Small Island Developing States Conference is one of the major areas of attention on global environmental systems.

Mr. Speaker, let me spend a minute on the importance of the Conference to the Small Island Developing States. The adoption of Resolution 47/189 in December 1992 marked the first time in the history of the United Nations General Assembly that a resolution dealing with the specific environment and development needs of Small Island Developing States had been endorsed.

The International Community accepted for the first time that the SIDS were deserving and are deserving of special attention as it relates to the attainment of sustainable development. Prior to the adoption of Agenda 21, Mr. Speaker, by the United Nations at its 47th Session, the concerns and needs of SIDS were considered within the context of small states, particularly by the Commonwealth, and within the United Nations system by UNCTAD, (the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development).

Since the adoption of UNCTAD Resolution 78/4 in 1976, the concerns of SIDS have been addressed within the context of island developing states. The adoption of General Assembly Resolution 47/189 has served further to solidify the identity of SIDS as a category of states deserving special attention.

Despite resistance from some developed countries to the creation of a new category of states within the United Nations system, a long term objective of SIDS has been and should continue to be the achievement of such a status.

This Global Conference, Mr. Speaker, should serve as a vehicle to provide appreciation of the special circumstances and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States. On the basis of that agreed appreciation, it should produce results which would widen the sustainable development options currently available to the SIDS.

For the Small Island Developing States themselves, the Global Conference should be used as a means to establishing mechanisms to facilitate greater intra and inter regional collaboration between SIDS in the various regions and it should also seek to establish mechanisms aimed at increasing greater — for want of a better term — connectivity between SIDS globally, and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences.

This Conference should also provide the context for an evaluation of the role and future of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, which is called AOSIS, in sustainable development issues of relevance to Small Island Developing States.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, AOSIS was established during the Second World Climate Conference which was convened in Geneva during October, 1990. This alliance has played a very active role in the negotiations and the framework convention on climate change. Indeed, it is now the main instrument through which SIDS are negotiating for the Global Conference. The evaluation of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States should, of necessity, address such issues as institutional strengthening and responses to sustainable development issues at the international level.

Mr. Speaker, the Conference has some importance for the United Nations system itself. It is anticipated that the Conference will make an important contribution to the broader goal of ensuring greater efficiency in the UN system and of encouraging improved international and regional coordination of economic and social activities relating to sustainable development.

The SIDS have expressed the view, Mr. Speaker, in their previous meetings, that increased coordination among the several agencies and organisations implementing programmes in their states and in their increased cooperation with regional organisations, would lead to the more effective use of available resources.

Now, Sir, I come to the importance of the Conference to Barbados. I saw in an editorial recently, and in some communication, where someone was saying that we need to hear in detail what is the benefit and how important this Conference is to Barbados. I think in coming to ask this Honourable House to agree to the expenditure of substantial sums of money, it is important to indicate what are the benefits to flow from the Conference. There are a lot of things which appear obvious to those of us who function at a certain level which, in fact, are not so obvious to the vast majority of persons. So I think it is important that an attempt be made to analyze the importance of the Conference to Barbados.

This Conference presents tremendous opportunities for Barbados. Among other things, it is anticipated that the Conference will afford the opportunity to publicise this country as a desirable tourist destination. Such publicity includes coverage by major international media houses which would not be affordable in other circumstances. An example: I can tell you that the CNN has allocated $2 million to cover United Nations issues of a certain kind and they will, in fact, according to their published information, be using this Barbados Conference as their model for the coverage of such environmentally related issues in the United Nations. So the CNN is out even now across the world filming matters relating to Small Island States, and Barbados will be included, to use as background material even as they cover this Conference so that we will get great publicity out of the Conference. There is no question about it that the entire world will zero in at communications level on Barbados during the period of the Conference. It will highlight the management and organizational capabilities for which Barbados has already developed a reputation.

This Conference is the largest meeting of this type ever held in a country the size of Barbados since the world began.
12.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, it will profile the convention facilities offered by Barbados, especially Sherbourne Centre, the venue for the Conference. Yes, Sir, we all hope it will be finished.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Members know more about these things, perhaps, than I do. But I would like to think that all right thinking Barbadians will hope that it would be finished. As we will hear, over and over again, all of the principals involved have indicated that they are either ahead of schedule or on schedule. We are only mortals. I hope that there is no one who is praying that it would not be ready!

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, no. We are not expecting to finish the whole thing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of an abundance of caution and so there will be no doubt in anybody's mind, that part of Sherbourne which we are discussing in terms of its being finished for the Conference will be such part of Sherbourne as will be absolutely necessary for providing convention facilities. I am sure the Minister of Health, when he was Minister of Education, in fact spoke on this and since then the Minister of the Environment has spoken to indicate that there was a section of the property that could not be completed and an attempt would not be made to complete it in time. Just in case anybody forgets why, it has to do with the fact that we did not have enough money at a certain point and we had to cut back. That is a fact of life all over the world that people had to cut back, We are hoping that to the extent it is feasible and possible those areas which we had promised would be finished, will in fact be finished in time for us to get the profile of our convention facilities demonstrated across the world.

We will also be able to showcase the hospitable, natural environment of Barbados. We will also able to profile the advantages which Barbados offers as a location for business including a stable political system as evidenced by the fact and example of the UN having agreed to hold the Conference in Barbados and the excellent telecommunication facilities offered by Barbados, as will be demonstrated by the fact that much of the Conference documentation will be faxed to the United Nations Headquarters in New York for translation. That is one way in which the cost of this Conference will be reduced considerably where, because we have the capacity in Barbados the information gathered on a daily basis will be faxed to New York, the translators will translate and fax it back down and have it ready in the usual way.

Aside.

Hon. B, M. TAITT: The translators will be in New York. Yes, the simultaneous interpreters will be here. But those who are not familiar with the inner workings of the UN might not be aware that there are two sets of translations. There are interpreters who are the simultaneous interpreters. They do simultaneous translation. As one person is speaking in one language, it is heard in another.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I am explaining it for persons who may not be as fully seized as the Honourable Member for St. George South, Sir. The simultaneous translation and simultaneous interpretation are done by persons who are on the spot. Then there is a whole body of UN personnel working in the Conference Section whose responsibility it is to translate into 6 languages whatever goes on and return it the next morning as a verbatim record or as a summary record depending on the stage of the meeting. That part of it is fairly expensive but will continue to be done in New York as if the Conference were being held in New York because Barbados has such excellent telecommunications capacity. It will also establish this country as a leader in the area of sustainable development as it relates to the Small Island Developing States. There can be no question about that. There can be no question that Barbados has retained its position as a leader and this document I have here, Sir, "Human Development Report, 1993" bears testimony to that. "Human Development Report, 1993" published for the United Nations Development Programme by Oxford University Press in 1993. You know, Sir, this deals with human development and it talks about the quality of life and it is in this document where it can be found that Barbados is in fact twentieth in the world in human development and first among developing states. This is something of which every Barbadian can be proud.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Neither am I. But we can be proud of the fact that over the years we have all participated in the sustainable development effort. We have reached the stage where, when you go through this document, from the human development index for all countries, if you start on page 135 and go to the page where all the statistics end on page 217 you will find that when they come to the developing countries they talk about high human development and Barbados is number one. On the status of women Barbados is number one. On the widening north/south gaps Barbados is number one, and it goes on.

If any Honourable Member would wish to get a copy of this document it can be had from the UNDP. Barbados ranks higher than such countries as Ireland, Italy, Spain, Hong Kong, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Cyprus, Hungary, Lithuania, Uruguay, all of those countries fall between 21 and 30, Sir, and 31 is Trinidad and Tobago. We can feel proud of the fact that we are being regarded as a leader in the area of sustainable development as it relates to the Small Island Developing-States.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, without prejudice to the views of the Honourable Members on the other side, I believe that all of the Governments that have been responsible for Barbados from the time Barbados started in its fledgling approach to managing itself can share in any credit which accrues from these particular statistics. Our ability to move into the Twenty-first Century and maintain that high level is the issue that will have to be faced by those who are here and those to come. It is proper that these matters should be debated to determine which is the best

way forward in all the circumstances. But the fact is that we have reached this point today because we have been prepared to take our chances to be responsible for our actions and very often to go it alone.

In addition, there is a direct benefit to the economy of the presence of an estimated 2 500 visiting Barbados to participate in the Conference and related activities.

The hotel, restaurant, private transport and entertainment sectors are expected to benefit significantly. I will take this opportunity to say to small farmers, producers and other persons to gear their productivity, to gear their output to take account of the fact that there will be a swelling of the ranks of persons to be served during the period leading up to April 25 and on past May 6. It behoves us who are involved either in the private sector or in the public sector to gear our planning to take account of what will happen at this time.
12.55 p.m.

I also wish to address issues on this point which has been raised about the security surrounding the Conference. It is unfortunate that we do have a few people in this country who from time to time manage to disgrace even themselves while parading as intellectually capable of helping the society.

Mr. Speaker, in every country where there is a high level conference there are security measures to be taken. I heard a' voice on one of the call-in programmes which voice purported to represent someone who "has spent a lot of time in North America and who therefore knows what is going on", suggesting that when "they have conferences at the United Nations they do not interfere with anybody, they do not stop anybody from doing anything, they do not close off any street". Any Honourable Member over there, or indeed almost anybody from Barbados who has been to the United States and passed by the United Nations knows that the police in New York City keep a very strict watch on First Avenue during the three months when the United Nations General Assembly have their meetings. When the President of the United States is coming to town there are roads around the United Nations that are closed. And when any important personage is coming into the United Nations the people of New York grumble ...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, they do not have to do it for some of us, Sir. They do not do it for me. Unfortunately I am so well known in New York they do not have to do it for me.

The important thing is that for a Head of Government there are certain steps which are always taken in the interest of security. Therefore it is not fair to seek to give those persons who live in the general area of Sherbourne the impression that seeking out what security measures will have to be taken is something new. We have high level persons coming to Barbados. All of the delegates coming to Barbados, since they are coming to a United Nations Conference, will be entitled to the diplomatic immunity which we from Barbados get when we go to the United States to attend United Nations Conferences. For the days that the Conference will be held at Sherbourne, that part of Barbados will have been handed to the United Nations for their purposes. That is a requirement of International Law, it is a requirement of the U.N. system. It is nothing new and I hope that Barbadians will understand that what it means is that we have moved into another league perhaps, but it is nothing unusual.

Then there was the question as to why the police should be involved. This is a civil country, Sir, and that is why the police must be responsible for all security. Any security measures to be taken by anyone except on the property of Sherbourne, during the course of the Conference, must be taken by the Police in Barbados. So there is no individual who will fall under any other law than the Laws of Barbados and there is no individual who will be subject to any other direction than the direction of the civil authorities in Barbados. I hope that the whole community, certainly Honourable Members here, will get it very clear that what we are doing is nothing more than what has been done and will be done for United Nations Conferences everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, the preparatory process for this Conference I do not need to spend time on except to say that the Resolution that I spoke of, Resolution 47/189, established a Preparatory Committee for the Conference and they also established the need for regional technical meetings.

The work of the Preparatory Committee is being carried out in three phases. An organisational session was convened in April 1993. A substantive session was held in September 1993 and a resumed session will be convened in March from 7th to 11th this year. When I attended the United Nations General Assembly in October, one of the major points I made in the speech was that the PrepCom held in September had not been sufficient and that it was necessary to have a resumed session. I am pleased that the Secretary General and the authorities found it convenient to have a resumed Session March 7 to 11, 1994.

The PrepCom adopted an agenda for the Conference and its preparatory process. Whereas the substantive session has addressed the substantive work of the Conference, the major output being a programme of action on the sustainable development of SIDS, the resumed session will continue this process.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, there were two regional technical meetings, one held in the Caribbean. The Regional Technical Meeting for the Indian and Pacific Island States was held in Port Villa, Vanuatu from May 31 to June 4, 1993 and the one for the Caribbean Atlantic and Mediterranean States was held in Trinidad and Tobago from June 28 to July 3, 1993. The results from both of these Regional technical meetings formed the basis of inputs into the substantive session of the PrepCom which as I said was held in September and will continue in March.

In Barbados, as host country, we have also been making preparations. The establishment of a National Planning Committee ...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. " TAITT: If the Honourable Member understood me to say, or if I said there was no National Planning Committee, I would like to apologise for that, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. B. .M. TAITT: Now, Sir, that is the part I was not able to confirm. The Honourable Member said that the Committee has not met and I do know where he got his information.

The National Planning Committee is chaired by the Minister of the Environment, Housing and Lands and includes representatives of the private and public sectors from the BHA, from the BMA and from the Barbados Community College.. The next meeting of the National Planning Committee is scheduled for February.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of sub-committees addressing specific aspects of the Conference. There is a Sub-committee on Transportation for example, there is one on accommodation, there is one on public relations, there is one on entertainment and hospitality, *etc.* These report to the National Planning Committee and they also form part of the structure of the planning. The National Planning Committee and its sub-committees are serviced by a Conference Secretariat which has overall responsibility for preparing for the Conference.

There is a Cabinet Sub-Committee which gives policy guidance to the preparation for the Conference. This is Chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and it includes the Minister of the Environment and the Minister responsible for Culture and International Transport.

Since it is a United Nations Conference the authorities in Barbados have been working very closely with the officials of the United Nations Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, that section of the UN Secretariat servicing the Conference.

Already the UN representatives have made two planning Missions to Barbados, one in May and the other in November 1993 to work with local authorities. 1.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the Conference itself, there are a number of related activities which are being planned. These include a meeting of an Eminent Persons Group under the patronage of the Governor-General of Barbados. That Eminent Persons Group will include a number of persons who are well known in the field of environment and sustainable development. I think it is worthwhile to indicate who some of these people will be. From Vanautu there will be a former Minister responsible for the Environment, Hilda Linni, the Chairman of Ontario Hydro who has been Secretary General of the UNCED Conference held at Rio, Maurice Strong, the Permanent Representative of Guyana who is the President of this year's General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Rudolph Isanally, Capt. Jacques Cousteau....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I think everybody knows who he is, but he is from the Cousteau Society and Ambassador Tommy Koh who was the Chairman of the PREPCOM for UNCED. Mr. Ted Turner – you would know him and you may have touched shoulders at a point when you used to be more frequently in that level of operation.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of others. I do not think that it is necessary for me to call all of the names of the twelve. But this is the Eminent Persons Group that will in fact meet in Barbados and to support and assist them in their deliberations will be a roundtable of officials from various parts of the International Community such as the Under Secretary General for Policy Co-ordination and Sustainable Development, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago – Annette who incidentally is Chairman of AOSIS, Mr. Kenneth Danzey the Under Secretary General of UNTAD, Mr. Edwin Carrington – the CARICOM Secretary General and Dr. Stan Reid of the University of the West Indies. These are part of the roundtable group who will* service the Eminent Persons Group through their meeting which will precede and assist the Eminent Persons Group.

Mr. Speaker, this Conference will also have some assistance from the Non-Governmental Organisations. The Non-Governmental Organisations Forum comprising a series of network shops and briefings will examine special issues and challenges associated with current development patterns and models and also develop an action

plan for alternative models. The preparations for the Conference are being handled by a Non-Governmental Organisation Liaison Committee which is chaired by the Caribbean Conservation Association.

Apart from the forum which I just described, there will be a Village of Hope which is a multi-faceted exposition of ideas and examples of sustainable development for Island communities showcasing indigenous traditional and innovative approaches. Then there is SUSTECH '94, Sir. This will be a showcase and market for environmental and affordable technology and services which can assist the Small Island Developing States to achieve more sustainable patterns of development.

Now there are some broad objectives which the Conference hopes to achieve and there are substantive outcomes which are anticipated. The Conference will have two specific objectives which are:.

(1) to adopt and implement plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States and the utilisation of their marine and coastal resources, including meeting essential human needs, maintaining bio-diversity and improving the quality of life for Island people;

(2) to adopt measures which will enable Small Island Developing States to cope effectively, creatively and sustainably with environmental changes and to mitigate impacts and reduce the threat posed to marine and coastal resources.

The Conference will among other things:

(1) review current trends in the socio-economic development of Small Island Developing States and the prospects, constraints and options for their sustainable development taking into consideration the relevant programmes and recommendations of Chapter 17, Section CJ of Agenda 21;

(2) examine the nature and magnitude of the specific vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States with a view towards defining and/or formulating specific indicators of vulnerabilities in a way that has operational applicability;

(3) define a number of actions and policies relating to environmental and development planning to be undertaken by the Small Island Developing *States, with the* assistance of the International Community, to facilitate their sustainable development;

(4) identify the elements that Small Island Developing States need to include in their medium and long term sustainable and development plans including their response strategies, taking into account the importance of integrating environmental, social and economic factors in maintaining cultural and biological diversity and conserving endangered species and critical habitats both on land and sea.

There are two other particular objectives which the Conference will deal with. It will recommend measures for enhancing the indigenous capacity for Small Island Developing States in particular with development of human resources and the promotion of access to environmentally sound technology for sustainable development within Small Island Developing States. It will review whether institutional or other specific additional adjustments are needed at the international level to enable Small Island Developing States to give effect to the relevant provisions of Agenda 21.

Mr. Speaker, there are some complete results which we expect to see at the end of the Conference: (1) We expect to see the establishment of a Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme to promote and facilitate the utilisation of expertise from Small Island Developing States among themselves...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: (Yes, that is what the Honourable Members asked for. They said that they wanted full and complete information and we are seeking to give them...)

to develop an indigenous pool of expertise and issues relevant to assist and strengthen inter-regional cooperation between SIDS through such changes of personnel and expertise.

(2) We expect to see the establishment of a Small Island Developing States Information Network — SIDSNET dedicated to sustainable development issues relevant to SIDS and designed to facilitate exchanges on information and technology assessment and options among other elements.

We hope, Sir, that this could be integrated with the development and strengthening of regional sustainable developing centres as focal points for such networks and as catalysts for the fostering of research and development of indigenous technology relevant to the sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States. One possibility, of course, is that Barbados would host one of these centres.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well, there may be a lot of unemployed politicians. Precisely, once you are qualified. 1.15 p.m.

Sir, we also hope to have, and this is important – I am particularly interested in this one – the establishment of a regional disaster emergency fund. The traditional approach, especially by utility companies in Small Island Developing States, is to buy insurance to cover the risks resulting from natural disasters. Insurance companies are, however, now becoming shy of hurricane risks. Some enterprises may not find insurance cover for hurricane risks at all in the future. In the event of a hurricane an affected Small Island Developing State with little or no hurricane insurance would find itself in a position of a beggar state in relation to the International Community. This facility is aimed at providing a safety net for Small Island Developing States. It is anticipated that the utility companies will play a major role in establishing such a mechanism. In the interim, however, assistance will be required from the International Community.

Another major outcome, Mr. Speaker, is hoped to be the "Barbados Declaration". It is hoped that in that Declaration we will reaffirm the commitment of the Small Island Developing States to sustainable development and the international community's commitment to assisting these countries in this regard. The Global Conference should demonstrate the seriousness with which the Small Island Developing States, and indeed all members of the International Community, are undertaking their responsibilities and the commitment to implementing the decisions of UNCED, the Earth Summit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given this information in much detail because I believe it is important that we a community in this country recognise that this event which is about to happen is really one of the major events for Barbados in its history.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not wish to overstate it, Sir, I will try not to overstate and that is why one wishes to be very careful with the language one uses. One does not wish, however, for it to be regarded as some kind of festival, some kind of near Crop-Over. It is in fact something that will have a tremendous amount of impact on where we are going to be in the next 10, 15, 30 years; not only we in Barbados, but all those people who live in Small Island Developing States.

Part I of the priority areas for consideration by the Global Conference will include such things as climate change and sea level rise, including coral beaching and tropical storms; natural and environmental disaster preparedness, including early warning systems; disaster relief mechanisms and storm resistant construction and yes, Sir, management of waste. We also will look at coastal and marine resources; fresh water resources; land resources, including sustainable agriculture and forestry; energy resources; tourism resources; bio-diversity resources.

Sir, I recall time when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South had responsibility for tourism he was very careful to point out that a country like Barbados should have an optimum level of investment in tourism. I recall very well agreeing with a policy which had been adumbrated pointing out that one of the dangers that Barbados could face would be an over investment in tourism plant. I find that very interesting now .....

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member was discussing at the time, in his capacity as the decision maker and the policy formulator, limitations to be placed on the development along the coastline, limitations to be placed on the amount of plant, the amount of cement, the amount of things we put on our coastline. And, Sir, it is interesting to note now that there are persons who would raise questions in a negative way suggesting that Barbados is not capable of attracting further investment in tourism, and those persons seek to compare Barbados with countries that are relatively virginal in their approach to tourism development.

Sir, if you take a country like Belize, it is not an island state, but Belize is very carefully trying to develop eco-tourism by way of a systematic preservation of the jungle areas around small cabanas, for want of a better term. To their surprise, some people moved in and in a relatively short time destroyed a substantial part of their land mass, their habitats for wild life, *et cetera, in* order to provide smoother pathways for vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, those persons who seek to compare Barbados today with countries that are now growing at the stage Barbados passed 20 years ago are either being blatantly political or not giving enough thought to what constitutes proper development. It is the duty of whichever custodian is in office at any given time to ensure that the coastline of Barbados is not desecrated merely for the ability to say that we have attracted yet another hotel.

Mr. Speaker, I recall when I held the portfolio of Health that we had a tremendous fight with the Inter-American Development Bank, not really with the Bank, with an official in the Bank who had come from a Latin American country, who wanted to force Barbados not to have the South Coast Sewerage Project. The

Inter-American Development Bank made Barbados redo the feasibility study as it related to contamination of the southern coast, because they argued that Barbados' coast was not sufficiently contaminated as to warrant sewering. That is a fact. I spent a considerable amount of time in Washington battling with people on that issue.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I tried, but they had the money. If we had the money I would have told them to know their place, but we did not have the money. When you do not have the money you have to go and genuflect sometimes, you have to form fours, you have to salute. Sometimes you have to do things you would not normally do. If you want to get money for this country you have to do them, Sir. I went to Washington and I spent a lot of time having discussions with one single individual, until' one day I decided we should have a meeting with somebody at the proper level and told them we were not like the country that individual had come from, we did not have the people eating from and defecating in the same pool, we are a serious country.
1.25 p.m.

You know, Mr. Speaker, soon thereafter a mission came down and we got some money and Bellairs did another feasibility study and the project started rolling again. It is a serious problem.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAM: The Honourable Member would know that there was a time when he had a lot of difficulty even... I am going to leave that.

Suffice it to say... The Honourable Member for St. Joseph and I understand what I was saying and we move on. When the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was at the top there were certain other Honourable Members...

Mr. Speaker, the capacity building in Small Island Developing States....

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That was the point I was making. When the Honourable Member for Christ Church South became the top, it was like a breath of fresh air for certain other Honourable Members. For the first time they were able to get a direct line. But that is not the point now, Sir.

One of the things that will be discussed at this Conference also will be the national institutions and administrative capacity, regional institutions and technical cooperation, regional transport and communications systems, science and technology, human resources, development in education, training, health and population.

In order for the Government of Barbados to host the Conference it is necessary for the Government to enter into an agreement with the United Nations concerning the First Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The United Nations operates on a basic principle that if a country offers to host a conference, the country has to pick up the tab, make provisions for the cost of any amount over and above what it would have cost in the estimation of the United Nations officials had that conference been held in New York City or in other United Nations facilities. That has been the case, as far as I am aware, since the United Nations has been holding conferences outside of its own facilities.

I remember when there was an UNCTAD meeting in Chile in 1972: the Chileans were required to build from scratch a massive stadium, which they did, and which at the time was considered to be the 8th wonder of the world. So the agreement would be a legal agreement between the Government of Barbados and the United Nations and in that regard it is estimated that the difference between what the conference would cost the United Nations at New York and here in Barbados is US$1.4 million which translates into the amount which appears in this Bill as a Schedule of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the amount of $2 856 000.

You will note that that is coming under Object No. 317, Head 35 — Subscriptions and Contributions. Mr. Speaker, let me make it clear.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The amended Schedule, Sir. Yes. The amended schedule which was just distributed, Amendment No. 1 also makes provision for some other matters required. The $2.8 million remains constant, that is, we have had to add $130 000 for other personal emoluments and $50 000 for utilities and $20 000 for maintenance which brings up the additional figure. The US$1.4 million or $2.856 million is the differential between the U.N.'s estimated costs of holding the meeting at the U.N. Headquarters and holding it in Barbados.

It must be made clear, Mr. Speaker, that the reason for these costs will be for the bringing of personnel from the United Nations to Barbados. Such personnel would include translators, interpreters, security personnel, typists – not typists *per se*, but other similar ancillary staff. The conference secretariat will have a secretary general, a department for policy coordination and sustainable development, a director, several professional officers, one finance officer, 4 assistants to the under secretary

general to the director, to the professional officers and to the finance officer and then there will be some technical servicing secretariat for the conference offices, *etc.* There will be a meeting servicing unit chief, an administrative officer and a chief interpreter. Then there is a department of public information and of course the office of general services, audio engineering, security communication and engineers, transport officers, security and safety service. All of these persons who are normally engaged in New York will be brought here.

There will also be provision made for the media facilities and there will be accreditation clerks, document clerks, secretaries, messengers, because it is going to be an in-house situation, and of course the U.N. staff and some other people related to their own publicity facilities – radio, television, photography, *etc.* Now, there are also some ancillary things which we have to provide. The Secretary General himself is attending this Conference and it is customary for the host country to look after some aspects of that. We have to provide a number of offices and a number of bits and pieces of machinery and equipment, details of which can be had when we go into Committee.

Mr. Speaker, what must be understood is that this is a deposit which is to be made to the United Nations against the incurring of these costs. To the extent that the costs are not incurred, Barbados will be refunded the deposit. So the $2.856 million that we are voting today or that I am asking this Honourable House to vote will in fact be a deposit to the United Nations against these costs which are anticipated. Such costs as do not occur Barbados will not have to pay. In that respect...

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: If it goes over, it is the same as any agreement and/or contract. We may have to pay a little more but having said that, I think it is fair to say that the United Nations participated with the Barbados authorities in the strictest examination; and we as the host country were able in fact to reduce considerably the numbers which they indicated would be necessary. There are certain other steps which we have taken and are taking that has allowed for the figure to be brought to US$1.4 million.

We have every reason to believe, and I am confident, that we will not exceed that figure in relation to the movement of the United Nations staff and in relation to the specific things to which the agreement between the Government of Barbados and the United Nations will refer. I give the' Honourable Members the assurance that when the agreement shall have been signed a copy of the agreement will be laid on the Table of this House so that the actual expenditure can be measured subsequently against the amount which we have asked the Honourable House for.

1.35 p.m.

Added to that figure of $2.856 million is a figure of Bds. $1.280 035 for the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment. That is expenditure which the Government of Barbados will make in relation to its obligation to the Conference but which will be spent on equipment and other materials which will fall to be owned by the Government of Barbados so that when the Conference is over, this figure of $1.228 035 will still be in Barbados by way of the equipment, *etc.* that has been purchased for use at Sherbourne. Again, when we come into committee I will be pleased to give more and better detail if it is necessary.

Let me say that there are a number of areas in which the Minister of the Environment, as. the executive Ministry servicing the subject, will require other things for the performance at the Conference by Barbados. You will recall, Sir, that last week there was an additional sum of money which was voted which took account of the completion of the Sherbourne Complex. I believe that in the Estimates to come there will be small amounts which will form part of the expenditure, and when I say small amounts I speak here only to give the House full information. For example, there are certain security equipment which the appropriate Ministry will want to purchase which is not, as I understand it, of an extensive nature but nonetheless I do not wish to hear subsequently that having come to the House for the monies for the Conference how come the Police or some other agency is seeking to have equipment which they are linking to the Conference. Since it seems that those amounts will fall for payment within the new financial year, they obviously will not be included in a supplementary which comes before this House.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. I give the Honourable Member the assurance that that is not the case. All of the amounts – and when we go into Committee we can give detail on this if the Honourable Member wishes – that will be necessary will be spelt out.

I think I should also point out that since this Bill includes some aspects of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which do not fall to the Conference,-I should mention them quickly. If one looks at the Explanatory Note connected with amendment No. 1 to the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, one would see that we are making provision for payment of allowances attached to the posts of Commercial Attache in Brussels, that is the Consular (Commercial) in Brussels, and the Consular (Commercial) in Washington, as well as to supplement the

inadequate funds of the other Missions, and at Headquarters to take care of other Personal Emoluments. If Honourable Members wish to have details on these I would be pleased to do that in Committee but I would prefer not to debate or discuss those matters in the context of the Global Conference. I can wait until I go into Committee and discuss those matters.

I also wish to point out that a number of countries and institutions are making contributions, hard U.S. dollar contributions, by way of equipment or funds to the Conference. For example, we have received funding from the UNDP for the Conference to help with the setting up of the Secretariat. I do not know if Honourable Members wish to have complete details of that. Again I would be happy to provide that in Committee.

I also am able to say that some of the agencies with representation in Barbados have made significant commitments to the Conference facilities. The Government of Mexico, for example, is sending a contribution. International Business Machines, IBM, and some other corporate structures in the United States represented here in Barbados have indicated that they will be making substantial contributions toward reduction of the cost of the Conference. I do not wish to go into unnecessary naming of names at this point but I have no doubt that in due course we will be able to acknowledge all of the companies which have made a contribution to the holding of the Conference.

I know, for example, that we are going to need 50 personal computers for use at the Conference and IBM has offered to lend the Conference the 50 personal computers, among other things. That will constitute a substantial saving, if it comes to fruition. I know that other institutions are making contributions. The Governments of New Zealand and Australia have contributed to the Prep Comms. The Government of Canada has demonstrated an interest through CIDA in contributing to the preparations and at another point before the Conference I will come to this Honourable House with information on all of those countries and institutions which have made a substantial contribution to the holding of this Conference.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, since Barbados became independent, Barbados has become one of the more respected Member States of the United Nations. We joined the United Nations in 1966 and from that day when Sir Frank Walcott, who was our first Ambassador to the United Nations, Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, which is not always remembered — He was, in fact, the first permanent representative to the United Nations...

Aside.

Hon,. B. M. TAITT: He was the Permanent Representative. He served, in fact, for the whole of that General Assembly in 1966. He was followed by Ambassador Hilton Vaughan, who was followed by Ambassador Oliver Jackman, then Ambassador Waldo Ramsay, and then we had Ambassador Moseley, Ambassador Mapp right through to Ambassador Maycock.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No. The Honourable Member for the City says that I may be filling time. No, I am not filling time. There was also Ambassador Don Blackman. I am making the point, Sir, and I think that there are many young people in this country who are not familiar with them because we do not have, for a number of reasons, a penetrative and informative systematic way of letting people know. All of these Ambassadors, every single one of them, has served Barbados with distinction and has helped, right down to Ambassador Maycock, to raise Barbados, along with the various Barbadians who served with them in their capacities.
1.45 p.m.

We had 3 or 4 deputy Permanent Representatives. We have had Consulars and then we have people who have been there from the beginning working in the dungeons as I choose to call it. These are persons who have helped to give this very small country a magnificent reputation in the corridors of the United Nations.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, including Ambassador Waldron-Ramsay.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Irrespective of • the foolishness with the dog. Ambassador Waldron-Ramsay is probably the most knowledgeable Barbadian in matters international. I think it is not right and it cannot be right for us not to acknowledge the tremendous...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not mind where the people anywhere hear me say it. I speak of my own knowledge. I do not require anybody to tell me that. I say categorically without fear of contradiction that Ambassador Waldron Ramsay is probably one of the most knowledgeable Barbadians on matters international. He worked substantially...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAUT: That is true. that is why I can speak of him in that way. The Honourable Member is not without some knowledge, Sir, and he knows what I am saying is correct. I am not going to spend a lot of time on it. But I think since the Honourable Member has raised it and sought in a way to be pejorative I am going to say, I am going to put it in the Record, he worked substantially for Tanzania and he worked for Barbados and led Barbados into being considered early as a country to be watched. I have no difficulty with that, Sir. Unlike many people who speak without knowledge, I was there. The point is whatever else might .be his foibles or whatever may be his difficulties I am saying that all of the Ambassadors we have had, Sir, on both sides of the House have served Barbados well. As a result Barbados has been able to hold its position in the International Community that is far in excess of its size and capability.

We have been elected to important positions. Apart from the regulation appointment to Vice-Presidencies which come with longevity, every 3 or 4 years, somebody is a Vice-President from some region and that is rotated, we have been appointed to that regulation position. But we have held positions as Chairmen of important Committees. We have participated in important Committees. I think the Record will show that Barbados has played a significant role in the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. As Chairman of the Committee responsible for the elimination of all forms of discrimination in sports or by some other name, the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Barbados was able to participate in assisting the ANC and the other African tribes and groups in South Africa to get a hearing in the United Nations corridors which allow the wider community to become aware, and which provided the background and the basis for the change in attitude of many countries in allowing South Africa to make tentative inroads back on the sporting scene.

Mr. Speaker, you are fully aware that it was through this route that South Africa was able to inch its way back into the International Community which is culminating in the greatest change in any entity in the International Community, certainly in the last 50 years where we see freedom coming to South Africa by way of one man, one vote. There has probably never been, in the history of the world, a more momentous decision than that decision to allow the people of South Africa to have a vote, equally, once they qualify as humans. Barbados played a significant role in that regard.

We have also played an important role in regard to United Nations finances and financial institutions. Again our present Ambassador, in his capacity as a member of the Fifth Committee and now in the ACABQ, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. That one, Sir, the one that is in fact responsible for overseeing the United Nations methods and approaches to the expenditure of funds. That Committee is a very difficult one to become a member of and Barbados was elected to that Committee and even now holds a position on it.

On the question of human rights again Barbados has been in the forefront in human rights. Barbados was elected to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the first Caribbean country to have been so elected, indeed the first country in the Latin American group to have been so elected. We have a Barbadian lady who is serving on the CEDAW, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. We have been participating at almost every level as a community and as a country. All of this because we have taken our responsibility in the United Nations very seriously, as we do in foreign affairs.

On another occasion, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity will present itself to discuss other aspects of our foreign policy. But I believe that the staging of this Conference in Barbados is the culmination of a quarter century of good work by the people of Barbados through their Representatives in the United Nations. I hope that at the end of this Conference we will all be able to say, whatever may have been the difficulties, that this was a manifestation if not the epitome of Barbados' foreign policy coming to a head in this United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States. It is in that context that we have brought this Bill here for this Honourable House to approve. I hope that Honourable Members will find themselves able to support not only the Bill but the objects of the Bill. I stand ready to answer any questions and give any details to any Honourable Members as they might wish, and, certainly, when we go into Committee I will be ready and willing to give even more details.

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

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker it is at a point when we should suspend the sitting. I therefore move that this sitting be now suspended until 3.00 p.m.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 1.55 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, only two weeks ago this Parliament was engaged in a fairly long debate on the UN Conference for small countries of sustainable development which is due to be held in Barbados in another few weeks. I think it was the first occasion on which the Parliament had an opportunity to debate these matters and there were several comments made by Members on this side. This for me, however the first opportunity that I will be having of adding my quota of comments to those already made on this side. I wish to make some critical comments though emphasising at the very outset that we on this side join with the Government and all right thinking fellow Barbadians in wishing to ensure that the Conference is a success.

Having said that, Sir, we reserve our right as a dutiful and vigilant Opposition to make critical comments which we make consistent with our overall objective in the hope that the public will be better informed and that the success of the Conference will be realised. It is only to that end that we speak critically.

The Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs who held the stage as it were throughout the pre-lunch session managed to achieve something for which he is well known in this Parliament, Mr. Speaker. In his long presentation, I think he managed somehow to obfuscate the real issues that concern fellow Barbadians. The goals of the Conference are not in dispute, Mr. Speaker, nor is the relevance of the Conference to small states in question.

The issues that concern Barbadians are other issues. I may add, before I deal with some of them, that there will be a declaration following the Conference known as the "Barbados Declaration" was to be expected even if the Conference is a near failure .there will still be a Barbados Declaration. But it is not a declaration that would rank in our history anywhere' near as important as the Oistins Declaration. So we must not overstate it. It is part of the routine of all UN Conferences whether there are Conferences of the Food and Agricultural Organisation or of the General Assembly having its meetings somewhere else there is always, partly out of respect for the country which hosts the Conference, a declaration. Whether it be St. Lucia/Castries Declaration or the Bridgetown Declaration, or the Harare Declaration, assuming that it is held in that part of Southern Africa, there is always a declaration. So that we must not overstate the importance of some matters which are part of the routine of every conference.

On the whole, Mr. Speaker, I thought that the Honourable Minister in his presentation, some of which I will concede readily most useful and which ought to be shared with the wider public. I think however that we still have not answered the question, what is going to be the real cost to Barbados? A secondary question as to whether the cost will not outweigh the benefits, we will come to that. To begin with we need to know what is going to be the real cost to Barbados?

Two weeks ago we passed in excess of $4 million in this House. I think that is correct. Much of that had to go to the cleaning up of the environment as part of the preparation for the Conference and in that Bill for over $20 million, if my memory serves me right, and I am open to correction on that, a substantial sum, which I thought was in excess of $4 million was passed to finance operations at the National Conservation Commission and other operations dealing with the preparation for this Conference. Today the amount that we are passing in this Bill is nearly $4 million. There is the sum of $2.8 million which represents the amount over and above what it would have cost the UN to hold the Conference in New York and then there is a figure of $1.8 million which would go to the purchase of equipment for the servicing of the Conference most of which will remain in Barbados.

Today, two weeks after, we are dealing with a figure of $4 million. We have not addressed cost in relation to transportation. We have not addressed cost in relation to housing. We have not addressed cost in relation to security. We have not addressed cost in relation to food. And there is every reason to believe, that is the view on the ground, that it will cost in the end some $20 million to host this conference here in Barbados.

I am hearing a voice on my side, the experienced voice of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South who is saying that that is before the overruns and we know sometimes that even after the most careful planning that you can have overruns in these matters from 25 to 50%. So there is a widely held view in informed circles in this country that this Conference will cost the Barbadian taxpayers in excess of $20 million and even though we on this side, to the extent that the issuing of the invitation to hold the Conference and its acceptance by the UN was presented to us as *a fait accompli,* we need to see the Conference succeed because failure will reflect adversely on all of us. We still reserve the right to ask the question whether it was wise of this Government, in the presence of financial and economic climate in this country, to be involving the taxpayers in an extravaganza such as the hosting of this Conference on Sustainable Development in Small Countries.

We do not need to have a conference of this nature in order to tell the people of Barbados about the importance and the necessity for balanced growth and balanced development. We have practised it for many years in this country and that is why we are near the top of the league and certainly top of the league among developing countries when it comes to the quality of life. We do not

need to have a conference for us in Barbados to know the importance of balanced sustainable development.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of elucidation. The Honourable Member in the course of his speech indicated that the last time we met, there was some $4 million toward the Conference. I think the Honourable Member may have been mistaken in that when a question was asked, what is the total amount of money the Conference is likely to cost, I said $5 million approximately. We did not pass any sum last week for $4 million for the Conference. We passed an Appropriation Grant No. 1. It was for $24 250 283 for a whole conglomeration of items. The Conference was mentioned in passing because there was a small sum included in that that was related to Sherbourne, but there was no $4 million passed for the Conference.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM; I am glad for the intervention of my friend, because as I indicated earlier I was not sure myself of the sum. I did not have my papers before me. I thought it was in that region but I think from what he has said it is perhaps under $1 million that we did pass on that occasion directly connebted to the preparation for the conference. It does not in any way lame the effectiveness I would hope, of the point I am seeking to make that 2 weeks ago we were involved in passing a sum of money slightly short of $1 million in relation to the conference. Two weeks after, today, we are involved in passing a sum just below $4 million and up to now no clear indication has been given as to what is likely to be the fmal cost of the conference and there is a view abroad that that cost is likely to run close to $20 million.

The point I was making, regardless of how careful we plan, it has been our experience that we always have major cost overruns in these matters, with the best will in the world and even after sitting down with the UN experts in relation to conferences and using the meanest pencil in relation to your numbers.

Even though we are here making provision for what it will cost over and above the cost of hosting the conference in New York, for example, and even though we are making provision for the infrastructure for the Conference itself, chairs and furniture and fax machines and all of the rest we still have not addressed the cost of food, we have not addressed the cost of transportation, we have not addressed the cost of security and the other related costs which are likely to swell this budget quite considerably. I was dealing with the wisdom, Mr. Speaker, and I think that we need to make that point even within the context of support for the conference, as to whether or not it was Wise for Barbados, in its present economic climate, to be attempting to host a conference of this nature that is likely to cost the sum such as I have indicated.

3.15 p.m.

It is difficult to sell it to fellow Barbadians while one-third of whom in the labour force find themselves out of work. It is hard to sell it to them that this is somehow a priority and that this could represent the wise thinking of a compassionate Government. This Conference will consume considerable resources not only financial resources but organizational and planning resources. There are a lot of omissions and weaknesses in Barbados that those resources could have been diverted to address. That is a point which I think we would be failing in our duty were we not to make. If the energy and determination that is being given to this Conference could be given to the housing sector for the provision of more housing facilities in Barbados which has not been addressed in the last 7 or 8 years, we would make a big leap forward. If the same sort of purpose and urgency could be given to address a lot of areas of need in Barbados including the whole of disposing of human and other waste, we would be doing very much better than we are currently doing. I think, Mr. Speaker, we would be lacking in our duties as a vigilant and attentive Opposition were we not be making the point that it is important to question the wisdom.

Aside.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am hearing a voice of the past. I know you would not wish me to be distracted, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Neither would I want anybody to distract you either. This is a warning to Members on that side.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The point ought to be made that CARIFESTA took place some 13 or 14 years ago and we are still hearing the voices of the past addressing the extravaganzas of CARIFESTA. It came in an entirely different economic climate. Most Barbadians were at work. There was no anxiety and distress resulting from the 8 per cent or from a near $33^{1}/_{3}$ per cent unemployment. Nothing so was effecting the climate of the day.

Mr. Speaker, we ought not to spend too much time on dealing with CARIFESTA, an event of some 13 or 14 years ago that did Barbados proud. As I said earlier, Sir, much of what the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs said this morning needs to be shared with the wider Barbadian public. It is a fact that in the past when there was a big event at Ilaro Court such as the hosting of a function for Independence with 2000 people in attendance those events led, for example, to major traffic dislocation for the 3 or 4 hours that the function lasted.

Now this is an event that is likely to last some ten days and when you take two days before for

the preparation and the trial run you may say that this is a two-week event. There is no doubt that there will be major traffic dislocation and that those who live in the immediate radius of Ilaro Court, the Village of Hope and so on may have to undergo a security regime such as they have not known before. Even to get into one's own home, assuming that you are living within 100 yards of Ilaro Court or maybe more, you may have to be wearing badges and have to identify yourself and even remind security personnel that you are the third or fourth house up the road.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that if we are to get the maximum cooperation of our people both those who live in the neighbourhood of the Conference and those who normally have reasons to be using the roads around the Community College or around Ilaro Court as part of their daily travel, if we are not to cause offence to the Barbadian public, I think that we need to mount a campaign as early as now on the radio. I have been hearing that starting in another few days there will be some radio pieces emphasizing the importance of cooperation in these areas, telling us why it is important to cooperate and also emphasizing that it is nothing new in places that have acted as a host for conferences of this sort over the years. I have no doubt that our Barbadian people will cooperate, but as a pre-condition I think it is fair to say that they need to know what is involved and what role they have to play. I am not sure that that work has already been done.

A lot of what was said here in respect to the history of the Conference and when the UN first addressed issues of the Environment and so on a few people will be interested in these matters. But generally speaking, that is not what is of immediate relevance. The people will need to know the ways in which they will be affected, what sacrifices in the two weeks they will have to make and some explanation as to why the sacrifices are necessary at all. I think that should be the emphasis of the radio programmes that we are having rather than all the -Resolution's Roman Numerals that have been passed by the UN in different parts of the world relating to the issue of sustainable development and the whole question of the environment and so on.

Mr. Speaker, there has been considerable concern expressed with respect to the advices that have been made in the preparation for the Conference. There is a feeling that we are running late and that we did not give ourselves enough lead time for preparing for the Conference and that if we are not careful there could be aspects of it that could fall down causing us as a people serious embarrassment. Now we are concerned to see that the Conference be a success. But I would like to be reassured by the Minister, as I think most Barbadians would like not out of concern in any to cause people not to be focusing on these matters or even unwittingly to mislead. But I would like the Minister to be in a position to say with confidence that the preparations are so well advanced at this stage that baring the unforeseen Barbados will stage a successful Conference.

I would like to know, for example, that the infrastructure that we are passing money here today for the conference equipment that will remain in Barbados has already been ordered and perhaps even in Barbados and that it is only a question of actually taking it physically to the premises and hooking it up. I would not like to know that just weeks away from the Conference we have not placed the order as yet or that these furniture, fixtures and pictures remain to be shipped and that there is a delay of the shipment for any reason, or that the equipment will arrive two or three days late. Barbados needs to be assured, Mr. Speaker, that arrangements and the preparations are far advanced and that baring on unforeseen circumstances we can be assured that Barbados will not be let down and that we will host a successful Conference.
3.25 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is a viewpoint to the effect that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic may have to be used as part of the Conference facilities. If that is so, it is not only the people who are in the Howell's Cross Road area and also those who live below Ilaro Court who will be subjected to this security regime of which I speak, but also people who live in some parts of the Pine. All that I am saying is that a public relations effort is needed on a, one to one basis where, for example, people going to the homes should knock and speak to the head of the household or all those who are residing therein in so far as they can be found together at any one point. A kind of canvassing, Mr. Speaker. I think you understand that quite well. You go to the household and you speak to the residents with respect to what is involved and the sort of co-operation that you are expecting of them. I think that is very important and I would hope that apart from the general information campaign on the radio, that those who. are likely to be immediately affected, those who live in the immediate neighbourhood, that the Government should set about sending persons to the homes and explaining to them precisely what is involved.

The Honourable Minister who spoke today, and indeed who spoke on the last occasion on this matter, did not seem to be too well aware of the role of this National Committee with respect to the Conference, the one that is headed by the Honourable Minister responsible for the Environment. We are hearing, Sir — and we would love to be reassured on this matter — that there is a great jurisdictional dispute going on between the Cabinet sub-committee chaired by the Honourable Minister and the National Committee chaired by the Minister responsible for the Environment, that there is a quarrel with respect to turf.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. I do not even wish that to get too far abroad. There is no dispute between any Committees.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I think that if the Minister is to make an intervention with conviction, he will need to tell us much more than he has told us. I think, for example, he will need to tell us what exactly is the role and the function of the sub-committee of the Cabinet which he heads and the role and the function of the National Committee headed by the Honourable Minister responsible for Labour and the' Environment. Perhaps if he were to give us the role and function of these respective Committees we would be in a better position to determine whether there is likely to be the sort of collision of which there is considerable talk on the ground. So I think that when it comes to the winding up that is an issue which the Minister may usefully address if he is to bring a halt to the currency which this matter seems to have abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister spoke at considerable length about the benefits of this Conference. I have already indicated that in my view the cost, certainly in the short run, and even in the run will outweigh the benefits which will accrue directly, or even indirectly, to Barbados. Barbados does not need a conference of this magnitude and cost for knowledgeable people around the world to know that Barbados has an excellent telecommunications system. The 300 to 400 thousand visitors who come here – the long stay visitors, I am not talking about the cruise ship passengers – every year know that of Barbados, and it has been known by millions of people around the world for many years. That is part of what we sell when we promote Barbados as an ideal location for offshore industries of a wide variety of complexions, not only manufacturing but service industries too.

We do not need a Conference of this magnitude and of this cost in order for people to know that Barbados is a kind of model developing country. Wherever I have been in my travels, both as a private citizen and as a public servant, people have met me with that news and that knowledge. They have said: "We have heard of Barbados and of the great strides it has made in many areas." So that to emphasise these features as among the gains that Barbados will achieve from this Conference I think is to overstate and to mis-state the benefits. That we, for example, will get considerable coverage from CNN, there are several events in Barbados, including the Gold Cup and the surfing at Bathsheba, which are fully covered by the CNN, the surfing in particular, for upwards of 20 minutes and half an hour programmes.

Aside.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am told that even the consecration of the Bishop, Mr. Speaker, was on, so that all advertising of a good sort, where there is a good story to tell, helps a country. I am not saying it is not a good thing, but Barbados is not unknown in the International Community. We are not a country that is trying to make people know about us. We are well known. We could be better known, and to suggest that we need a Conference of this nature in order to put us on the map I think is to overstate and to mis-state the sort of advantage which we are likely to derive from hosting a Conference of this nature.

Aside.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am told that *even* the matter of the strippers has reached the BBC. *On* a serious political note though, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that this Conference makes the Democratic Labour Party Government more sensitive to environmental matters. I think that some part of the speech made by my friend, the Honourable Member for St. George South, two weeks ago was devoted to making precisely that point, that it is somewhat of a contradiction – unless there has been a conversion along the way – that the very Government that was to undo a lot of the good work in terms of having an organisational focus by way of environment in the Ministry that the Barbados Labour Party did should now be seeking to host a Conference of this nature. If as a result of the Conference the Democratic Labour Party Government is sensitised to environmental issues, that would be among the great gains we have achieved.

Perhaps when next he speaks on the advantages of hosting the Conference, he may wish to mention that it has made "us in the Democratic Labour Party more aware of the relevance, the importance and the necessity of environmental considerations as part of our planning focus". I hope the Minister will take note of that and include it in his speech for future as among the advantages which Barbados is likely to achieve as a result of hosting this Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to give way at this point because I am sure there are others on this side who would wish to make their contributions on this issue, and I have a time limitation too, but there is just one final point I would wish to make. It has to do with the agreement of which the Minister spoke and a copy of which he has promised to lay on the Table of Parliament.

3.35 p.m.

What are the elements of the agreement? I think that he owes it to us to tell us that. He indicated that it covers the cost over and above which Barbados has undertaken to pay over and above what it would cost to host the Conference in New York. I think the agreement consists of more than that one dimension and even before

the agreement is laid, I think the Minister owes it to Parliament to say what really are the elements of this agreement of which he has spoken. I just want to say, speaking for the Opposition and myself, that we wish the Conference well. We would be embarrassed, as indeed all right thinking Barbadians, if the conference were not to be a success; but we wish to be assured by the Minister that things are in place, the organisational arrangements, and that the shape of the present is that it will be a splendid future.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs treated us to an hour and a half I think. One got the impression that he either had been instructed or had determined that he would speak until 2 o'clock and we were forced to sit and listen to this diatribe. I did not enjoy it. There was a great deal of it, Mr. Speaker, Sir...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member does not like the unparliamentary use of diatribe.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Diatribe? That is not unparliamentary.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not say it is unparliamentary. I said he does not like the use of it.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Nobody cares what he likes.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is imputing improper motives in that she is suggesting that I may have been directed to speak until 2 o'clock.

Miss B. A. MILLER: There is nothing improper about that.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, no one can direct another Honourable Member on what to say in the House of Assembly.

Miss B. A. MILLER: We know you are all under the starter gun. You operate in a petty dictatorship. You do as you are told.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of what we heard, in my opinion, would have been better suited to public releases of a different kind. The things which we needed to hear in here as parliamentarians the Honourable Member has carefully not addressed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, one thing that the Honourable Member said that is perfectly correct is that this Conference on sustainable development scheduled to take place in Barbados next April is a very important meeting but it is important in a a larger context. It is part of a continuum.

Asides.

Miss B. A. MILLER: We can go back to the 70's or 80's but I would start with 1990. There was a World Summit for Children at which the political leaders of the world -gave a solemn commitment in respect of the high priority which they were going to attach to goals for the development of children through this end decade of the 20th century. Then we moved on as the Honourable Minister said to the 1992 UNCED Conference in Rio and then last year it was the World Human Rights Conference in Vienna and in 1993 we must remember that that was the year of the World's Indigneous People. We must not forget that this year is also the Year of the Family and that there is another very important conference which is going to take place in September of this year the International Conference on Population and Development which is going to take place in Cairo Egypt.

Yes. This is a big one. I have the honour to be chairing the Planning Committee and will chair the Global Forum in Egypt in September in respect of Non-Governmental Organisations. It is in this connection that I am planning to cater to some 7 000 people. When I was selected for this chairmanship nobody told me I would have to raise the money for this Conference. I discover now that I have a US$2 million budget which does not include airfares- getting NGO's to Cairo, and a whole host of other things. That is why I kept calling and I call now formally for the Members on this side to see the agreement. We are entitled to see a copy of the agreement which this Government...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. In the course of my speech I gave the House the undertaking that I would lay a copy of the agreement on the Table when it is signed. You want us to bring it before it is signed?

Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes. Now, Mr. Speaker, there are 2 other conferences in 1995. We are going to see what is now being called the Social Summit in Copenhagen and of course the 4th World Conference on Women will take place in Beijing in 1995. It is all part of a continuum and it is important that Barbados keeps that momentum going.

I am concerned, Sir, that there are a number of important matters which the Honourable Member has not addressed, some of which are the subject of this supplementary. We still have not heard and we are entitled in my submission to hear what is the overall cost of the Conference. We heard from the Honourable Minister that there was going to be a meeting of Eminent Persons and that Barbados was hosting it. That means that Barbados has to pay for that, Sir.

I have just come back from a conference of Eminent Persons in Japan. The Japanese government paid

for my fare first class and put me up in a fancy hotel in a suite, all at their expense, and provided a limousine with a driver all at the expense of the Japanese Government. If we are having an Eminent Persons' meeting in Barbados the cost attached to that is part of the overall cost of this Conference, not only what we are voting here and we have not finished voting money yet. Monies were voted a couple of weeks ago. Now it is almost $5 million, $4.8 million today.

In the Estimates we are already advised and cautioned and warned by the Minister that there are going to be more monies voted because you see, Sir, there is no Ministry of Environment in Barbados which has within its portfolio all of the various interests that make up a Ministry of Environment. So even as we see in the supplementary today there will be hidden in various Ministries monies for public works which have to be done, monies to go to health for sanitation which has to do certain works. The Environmental Unit which is in another Ministry and it goes on and on.

We are entitled to know what the overall cost of this meeting is. At least to know what is estimated and not only costs associated with the environmental conference. There is a huge NGO forum coming here as often happens nowadays with NGO meetings. The Village of Hope is part of that. Sustech is part of that and Government has to have some input in preparation for the meeting of NGOs as well.

I am formally demanding to know at this stage what is the estimated cost of this meeting because it is my belief that Barbados is notI going to recoup what it put out. 3.45 p.m.

There is going to be...

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Cairo is not going to recoup either but I cannot be making a case for Cairo. I am an M.P. in Barbados. I have my job to do and I am getting ahead with it. I have to walk about the world now begging for U.S.$2 million.

Mr. Speaker, I would wish to know of the Minister, or some Minister over there, what plans the Government has for cost recovery, or for revenue raising in respect of these two meetings which will be running concurrently in April. There must be some proposal for cost recovery. I expect people are going to be paying registration fees. I expect that to some extent there will be a certain amount of commercialisation that certain corporate interests will want to advertise, promote or sponsor in some way. We are entitled to know what kind of budget is attaching to this. I do not believe the $5 million price tag that the Honourable Minister is putting on it. If he believes that he is fooling himself.

Now, we heard a great deal about what post Conference benefits Barbados might hope would accrue to it. Again, I do not have a lot of confidence in what I am hearing coming from the other side of this House. I have to ask the question that many Barbadians are asking. Are we simply sprucing up Barbados because this Conference is coming here or are we really planning to make Barbados an ongoing model, not only for small but for large developed and developing countries as well, in other words, for the whole world? This is not a Barbados Conference. This is not a Caribbean Conference. This is a global event which happens to find itself with a venue in Barbados.

Like other Honourable Members on this side, I have heard the gossip that Barbados...

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: You cannot help listening to it because you hear it. I hear it at the UN as well that Barbados put itself up to be a venue for this Conference not at all appreciating all that it entailed. I do not want to see it fail. Many of the people who are coming to the Prep Com, for my Conference in April in New York, will be coming down to Barbados directly from it, and many of them have suggested to me that they cannot wait to get here. They understand the linkages between population and sustainable development. I am not hearing in Barbados, either from the NGOs, nor from the inter-Governmental planners for this Conference, that there is a large enough appreciation of that linkage between population and sustainable development. If there is one thing that Barbados is a model for everywhere in the world it is for our population policy, albeit an unwritten policy, that is an area in which we are held in very high esteem and have been. This is going back to the 1960s.

I hope that in Barbados we are not going to make the same mistake that they made at Rio, to imagine that you could have a Conference on sustainable development and not have a proper consideration of the population dynamics. I hope that is not going to happen here but I am not hearing any word yet.

Mr. Speaker, other Members have asked about the status of the National, either Planning or Preparatory, Committee. I do not know what it is called in Barbados and I do not know what it is called because I share with other Members the view that it really has never properly met. I have no doubt that yet another meeting is going to be summoned. It is incredible that at mid-February almost, for a conference that is going to take place at the end of April, that the National Preparatory Committee has not properly met and does not have this matter within its grasp. But I believe there are reasons for that.

To say that it would provide a great deal of publicity for Barbados, this is a very high price to pay to get additional publicity for Barbados and that cannot be a rationale or part of the rationale for Barbados hosting this Conference. One of the reasons for hosting this Conference cannot be that we are hoping to get extra publicity or more publicity for Barbados. What you are saying then is that the Ministry of Tourism, as we well know, and as the Honourable Minister will know better than most, is failing in that part of its role and function which requires it to publicise Barbados as a destination for tourists.

We cannot be spending millions and millions of dollars on this Conference and expecting it to do this. The kind of people who are coming to this Conference for the most part cannot afford to be tourists, nor NGOs who are coming paid for by monies begged and borrowed from organizations across the face of the Globe. I know whereof I speak.
3.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to suggest that CNN will do some promotion. That is no big thing. As Members on this side have pointed out CNN is always reporting Barbados, sometimes not so favourably. But it is not a big thing.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: I am saying that cannot be the rationale for it. The rationale for this has to be something far more important and something which has to do with the whole concept of Sustainable Development, not that CNN will come here. I was on CNN two weeks ago, is that a big thing? The Honourable Minister was so in extremis that at one stage he was heard to say that it was the largest Conference of its kind ever held since the beginning of time. They are really too much.

But the worst part of all, Sir, was when the Honourable Minister suggested that this Conference would profile Convention facilities. Again your slip is showing, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados desperately needs conventional facilities. The one thing that this Conference is going to show up to our detriment is that we have none, no convention facilities. This needs a discussion of its own. The Barbados Labour Party, of course, has its own proposals for convention facilities. We were told that this Conference was going to showcase the natural environment in Barbados. There are some of us who hope that it would not go to Arch Hall in St. Thomas. I hope for my sake and for the Minister's sake that it does not go into Passage Road. I hope they do not go into Chapman Lane. I hope they do not go down Kensington New Road and I hope, Lord please, do not let them go to the corner of Beckwith Street where the garbage is.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. John is hoping they go to St. John's Parish Church. You had better hope they do not want to see the Polyclinic up there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, showcasing the business environment again, in effect, what the Honourable Minister is saying is that those bodies, those organizations in Barbados which are responsible for promoting Barbados as an offshore centre are failing in their role and function. What can this Conference hope to do in that connection? All of this is what I call flannel and fuzz. This was just filling out time to lead up to 2.00 o'clock. This was not worthy of him.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: For 2500 people? Twenty-five hundred people go up to the Garrison and watch the races any Saturday afternoon.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: I cannot speak to that. We heard, Sir, that the equipment would belong to us. There is reference to it. I would like a little more information on it but there is reference to this equipment in the Addendum. Several Ministries are going to need equipment. Mr. Speaker, that is no big thing. It is going to belong to. us because we are paying for it. That is the argument I am having with the Egyptian Government now. They want me to pay to put the equipment on the ground that will stay there: I have said to them this will redound to your benefit, pay for it. That is another reason why I want to see the Agreement. It is very important for Barbadians to know and certainly for us on this side, as Representatives of the people to know what exactly is it that Barbados is agreeing, on its side, that it will undertake as host? What is it that the UN is going to undertake as well?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this whole question of sustainable development, population, the status of women, the status of children as this Century draws to a close becomes a matter of great and urgent importance. It is very important because the decisions that the International Community of which Barbados is a part *will* take over the next several years as we move down to the year 2000 and have already taken in the years leading up to the Barbados Conference, whether those decisions lead to action or to inaction they are going to have very profound implications for the quality of life for the people of the world and for the people of this country.

I should like to raise a few other concerns which fall under this Head. We are told that there are Other

National Planning Committee. Much of the planning is done at the sub-committee level with the support of staff at the Conference Secretariat.

The purpose of the National Planning Committee is to provide guidance in planning for the Conference. The purpose of the Cabinet Sub-Committee is to provide policy guidance and to expedite decisions made by the Planning Committee where appropriate. There is no collision course between the National Planning Committee and any other subordinate body and the Cabinet Sub-Committee because the Chairman of the National Planning Committee is a Member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, which I indicated in the speech.

Mr. Speaker, I know that one section of the Opposition would be happy if there could be a conflict but I wish to give the House the assurance that there is no conflict in any aspect of the planning of this Conference. There is vigorous intellectual exchange of views from time to time. There have been disagreements on aspects of the Conference as would be expected among intelligent people who are planning any organisation for a conference of this size. There have been differences of opinion and that is one of the reasons why it exists and one of the ways in which such conflicts at the lower levels might be solved is at the Cabinet Sub-Committee and of course if necessary the Cabinet itself. So there is no aspect of conflict and I wish to ensure that that does not go abroad as one of the things about the Conference.

Secondly, Sir, the Honourable Member for the City is really much ado about nothing. The Honourable Member is able in the most vacuous and vaporous way to utter words in a deep tone, Sir, to give the impression that what she is saying is important. I do not know how it is important to this Conference what she has done or has not done. I could not believe my ears when the Honourable Member asked the question, what are we doing about cost recovery? The Honourable Member either does not understand some of the concepts which she hears when she goes travelling around the world, or she is being obtuse. This is a United Nations Conference. How can Barbados be doing cost recovery for a United Nations Conference?

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: A registration fee for a United Nations Conference? I think Honourable Members on that side must be embarrassed that anybody could get up and say they have international experience and then raise the question about registration fees for a United Nations Conference. The United Nations is an Organisation of States. States become members of the United Nations and they are assessed. They attend conferences. I have difficulty understanding how anybody could get up and ask seriously about a registration fee. It is not a non-governmental conference.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: That is their privilege. That is why they are non-governmental.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TATTT: The only hidden cost, Sir ...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: When I hear good counsel, Sir, I take it and move on.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I give the House the assurance that every effort is being made to ensure that the Government benefits from errors in the past for conferences which might have been arranged by the Government, under the auspices of the Government, or in any way the spending of public moneys.
4.15 p.m.

I have a lot of difficulty, Mr. Speaker, in recognising a question of the kind raised by the Honourable Member. The implication was that there may be costs which the Government knows of but the Government is not putting on the table. I wish to give the assurance that that is not so.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, the suggestion that the publicity which will accrue from this Conference is a manifestation of failure of any other agency could only be the statement of a person who has not thought through the implication of what that person is saying. Let me repeat what I have said and what has been said before. This will be enhancement of any publicity activity which is going on through the agencies. I put it to Your Honour that this will probably be the first time for Barbados when coverage from every knQwn telecommunications and communications' agencies will be focused on a single solitary event. The opening of this Conference and the activities of this Conference will bring a focus from around the 184 States that make up the United Nations with interest which will not be generated by any public relations agency, Ministry or any single Government.

Mr. Speaker, it is unthinkable that an Honourable Member who lays claim to the experience which the Honourable Member does could fail to recognise that having the entire world community focusing on a particular event in a particular country would redound to the benefit of that country in terms of publicity. To talk

about CNN having carried other events and therefore it is no big thing in her language is silly. The point I made, Mr. Speaker, was that CNN was allocating two million dollars extra over and above its other activities to cover United Nations events related to the environment; and that they were going to be using the Conference in Barbados as the benchmark. That is the point I made. That is the reference to CNN. It is something worth noting that information has been carried by CNN around areas of the world other than Barbados, because it is the first time that any of the major networks in the United States have devoted...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: You cannot even interpret for the people in Passage Road. You go and put the people in Passage Road on the same basis as the mount in somewhere else. When last were you in Passage Road? You are so busy in Cairo and Brussels and everywhere. You do not have any time for Passage Road.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the CNN and the whole concept of public information arising out of this Conference is not something to be taken lightly. I am surprised that the Honourable Member would seek to reduce the impact of this Conference on the total world community or the attitude which the world has now to sustainable development. I am surprised that the Honourable Member would seek to reduce this Conference to those levels.

The Honourable Member said that the $5 million price tag is not believable. I have no way of making it believable to the Honourable- Member. We have come to the House with the figures. These are the figures that we have. The Honourable Member has raised questions from her chair about the Eminent Persons Group. As I understand it, it is not necessarily being sponsored in terms of cost by the Government of-Barbados. The Honourable Member asked for information on which contributions will be made and, while I was making my speech, I pointed out that it was not possible at this time to give an indication of the sources of additional funding. I can say that the UNDP has already contributed $50 000. I can say that funding will possibly come out of the ACP/EEC Fund in Brussels but the totals have not been agreed upon as yet. Therefore, it would be premature for me to be giving this House any indication. I gave the assurance thr.: as soon as the information was available I would bring it to this House before the date of the Conference. I find it difficult to understand therefore how the Honourable Member can be implying that there is an attempt at obfuscation of the issue relating to funding.

Now the Honourable Member for St. Joseph raised the question of obfuscation in relation to "real issues" as he puts it. He said that the real issue is what is going to be the real cost to Barbados. Again, we are back to the same issue which I have dealt with regarding the Honourble Member for the City. The Honourable' Member for St. Joseph asked the question whether it was wise to seek to have this Conference in Barbados at the time of economic difficulties. The short answer is "Yes, Sir". It was wise because at the time when the Right Honourable Prime Minister as head of our delegation offered Barbados as a venue, was a clear indication that in spite of the fact that Barbados was like all other countries around the world going through some difficult economic times the fundamental infrastructural, capacity of Barbados to hold this Conference was not effected by what was happening. The fact that the United Nations by its Resolution approved and accepted the offer after examination is evidence that the United Nations has faith in Barbados. Contrary to some of the information that has been put abroad by people who do not necessarily have this country in their good graces...I would not be so ungracious to name names...the United Nations and its surrounding agencies and its satellite agencies were able to state categorically, and influence countries to vote unanimously for Barbados as a country where this Conference can be held. The major benefit, for those Honourable Members who do not understand it, is the confidence. Those Honourable Members have been trotting up and down saying what is lacking in this country is confidence. Well, now here it is the World Community is saying that "we have sufficient confidence in the ability of Barbados as an organised society to host this Conference". That is the confidence. The substance of it you would like to pass off. The Honourable Member raised the question: What is the real benefit? The real benefit is that the rest of the World Community after having perceived Barbados over a quarter of a century has come to a conclusion that Barbados is capable of putting on this conference. What we call on the Honourable Member for the City and the other Honourable Members and every Barbadian to do is to help to justify that confidence.

4.25 p.m.

Let this not be a DLP conference. The Democratic Labour Party hold their conference at George Street and the other Honourable Members over there hold their conference from time to time, from place to place, usually up at a school – the Polytechnic. This is where the BLP hold their conference and that is where the DLP have their conference and I believe there is another entity that has a conference over at a place.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, this is not that kind of conference. This is a conference about and for Barbados, about all of us. Every single one of us has a stake in the outcome of this Conference. The Opposition has a right, Sir, to ask every conceivable question, although we

on this side, even though we know we ought not to expect it, could still hope that such questions as they will ask would both be relevant, cogent and in good faith at all times. We know, Sir, that there would be questions which are specially designed as the Honourable Member said when she was asking one question, "I know the answer. You tell us." Now the Honourable Member obviously knows something I do not know but she would bring it to this House...

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I said they have given... Now, if the Honourable Member knows that the UNDP is giving us some more money and she was in the patriotic mood that she is in when she is in Cairo she would come into this Honourable House and say, "Well, I happen to know that the UNDP is giving another $150 000" or whatever it is. Now that would show up the ignorance of the Minister in relation to the UNDP but no, Sir, she wants to suggest that the Minister knows and is refusing to tell the House.

Mr. Speaker, you know that if I knew how much more the UNDP was giving I would be in a position and I would tell you even if I did not tell the Honourable Member for the City. But quite seriously, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this question of the Conference being a success is something which Members on the other side really wish for as well and I take the point of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph when he said he wishes the Conference well. I hope however that they will transmit this to the rest of the population who may feel bound to listen to them and in spite of the problems which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas feels that he has with regard to the Mangrove Landfill that there will be a separation of the difficulties relating to certain issues such as our capacity to dispose of our solid waste and the recognition that this Conference has riding on it more than the odd political plus here or political minus there.

Mr. Speaker, the question of the agreement. The Honourable Member for the City said and sought to suggest that somehow we should bring the agreement to the House before it had been negotiated. I think that even...

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not say that or even intimated that it should come before it is negotiated. How can you lay it before it is negotiated?

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: What I am able to tell the Honourable Member is that the areas in which the agreement was being negotiated the heads would be the place and date of the conference, participation in the conference, the premises, utilities and supplies. The Government shall provide on its own expense, for as long as required for the conference, the necessary premises, including conference rooms, delegates and interpreters' lounges, suitable office space, storage areas and other related facilities and requirements, etc.

These things that the Government will provide have in fact been looked at by the United Nations team and the Barbados team and together they have been able to specify what they need in each room for interpretation, for connections etc. Indeed, substantial changes were made to the design of certain electronic equipment capacity and it is in that context that the amounts passed for Sherbourne and the amounts passed, for example, equipment for the kitchen. Honourable Members will notice that there are tenders out for the equipment for the kitchen and the bar, etc. and these all form part of the agreement.

One article will require medical facilities adequate for first aid in emergencies which the Government will provide at its own expense. We do not need to pass money for medical emergency. If it is one thing that Barbados can supply is medical services. Accommodation. The Government has to provide adequate accommodation in hotels and residences and we do not pay for that. Transport, police protection, local personnel. There are privileges and immunities which are standard.

Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member had been listening to me, I indicated the types of persons who will be coming down. Security on the premises of the United Nations will be provided by the United Nations.

Security provided by Barbados is the same security that Barbados would provide whenever persons of a certain kind come. I specifically indicated that there were some items...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Right. All the rest is included. Finally, the staff list of the United Nations officials. These are the persons who will be moved, Sir. Approximately 101 persons for the office of conference services. The department of public information will have another 29 persons; the office of general services will have 25 persons and a few others another 65 persons. They have gone to the trouble on the office accomodation requirement of specifying exactly what will have to be supplied as is always the case with the United Nations and other similar International Agencies.

I hope that the Honourable Member-is satisfied that every attempt has been made to have the kind of agreement and have heads of agreement which are standard. When the agreement is signed, as I said before, it will be laid before this Honourable House. I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

HEAD 35 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS – $2 856 000

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to move that Head 35 stand part.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 35 stand part, Honourable Members in favour please say "Aye"...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point just to settle one question. I think that there was an amount circulated, an amendment to No. 1 Supplementary Appropriation, (No. 2) Bill, an additional amount of $180 000 so that the amended figure should be $3 056 000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman,... *Aside.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister had indicated that there was an amendment so it would have to be put as amended.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I just want to make a very brief intervention, Mr. Chairman, just to correct any impression that may have been conveyed by the Member for the City relating to what she heard that someone said that I had said. I really cannot deal with that kind of statement. But I ,want to make it abundantly clear that I have never raised any question about my chairing any conference.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please. In committee all Honourable Members will have the scope lo speak when the Chair recognises them. I do not want to have any loud asides across the Chamber. Thank you.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have learnt, Mr. Chairman, through long experience to be very careful on these matters because there seems to be a proclivity — the Honourable Member for St. George South would like that word, Sir — for spreading what may not be true. I want to make it abundantly clear that I have never raised that question.

Normally a conference of this type at the opening the meeting itself elects a Chairman and Vice Chairman or President and Vice President of the proceedings. I would also like to make it clear, Sir, that in Rio I, as the head of the Barbados delegation...

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I will come to that point shortly. I know the Honourable Member for St. Thomas will be listening very carefully. This is not at the level of any calypso lyrics or things like that. That kind of level was not down there. This is high material.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, in Rio I was elected as one of the Vice Chairmen of that Conference and actually presided over a session of that world Conference. So I do not have to raise any matter as though I am suggesting, hinting or indicating that I wish to be the chairman. I would like to pay a tribute to the officials who attended the Rio Conference and who did an outstanding job, not only in preparation for the Conference, but also in the inter-Conference negotiations, and also in the arrangements that have led up to the position where today Barbados is - preparing to host this Conference. It is something that we should all be proud of.

Sir, let me come to this other point. Not every delegate can get up and capture the essence of a conference, particularly of this type, in poetic form. This may be a little unusual, but I will express my own disappointment with this supplementary in that as far as I can recall there is no provision made for a second edition of the "ode" for circulation to delegates attending the Conference!

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has a duty to the country and he wishes to maintain a certain level of relations with the other delegates.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I hope, Sir, in spite of that we will make arrangements for this particular poetic piece! It is widely circulated already throughout the world! This, again, will bring great honour to Barbados!

I am indebted to you, Sir, for your indulgence.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Chairman, I wish to raise under this particular Head some concerns which I have, and the question of the inconvenience that will obviously be caused to people living in areas other than those living in the immediate area of the Conference Centre. I know the area very well.

I was informed that a meeting was held a week ago with some residents about some security aspects. Now, I want to raise not only the question of security but there is a question of the inconvenience it will cause, not only to traffic flows, but to residents. Persons living east of the Conference Centre, Sherbourne – I am talking about east...

Aside.

Mr. DeL. 0: BRADSHAW: ...and west, the Prime Minister. I have to speak for him. 4.45 p.m.

I do not know if the Prime Minister and his family were involved in this meeting. I feel that since they are living within the area that they should have been involved. I am appealing to this Committee that it should not take it for granted and that the common courtesy should be extended to the Prime Minister's family.

The other point is that people who live east of the Conference Centre Sherbourne going just to the corner of Chapel Gap are within very close vicinity of that Conference Centre. I have not heard whether the Committee has met with those persons to discuss the inconvenience with them. The co-operation of those residents will be absolutely necessary. I hope that the Committee does its job and does it properly because it would not be fair to meet with persons living on the other side of Ilaro Court and not meeting with those persons who are nearer to the Conference Centre than those persons.

I am also concerned, Mr. Chairman, with the aspect of traffic diversion. If you were to travel along that road, on or around 3.00 o'clock to 4.00 o'clock any day you find that there is a lot of backup in that area. I feel that the problem is going to be compounded now that the Conference is going to be held. I am asking the Minister if he is in a position to tell us what provisions are made for traffic diversion. If you are going to divert the traffic just west of the Community College sending them through the Tichbourne area or if you are going to divert them just south east of BARTEL, the Telephone Company sending them right across Pine Road and up to MTW. In that case, I have my concern because my constituency will be affected.

What I am saying is that there is going to be a traffic problem and do not let us get away from it. Around 3.00 o'clock to 4.00 o'clock and early on mornings between 7.15 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. there is backup of traffic along that road. The only way that you are going to handle that particular problem, because you are putting more traffic in the area, is by diversion. I want to hear the Minister address this particular problem because, as far as I know, you will have to do something like that if the people are to get there on time.

The other thing is the question of transportation. I saw, in the newspaper of two days ago, the tender out for transportation. I am asking the Government to consider using the Transport Board. I am going to tell you why. They could do with the money. The Transport Board can do with an injection of funds so that they could provide the 20 or so buses to assist. The money will be well spent. I am just asking the Government to look at that. They can do with the refurbishing of 20 or so buses, maybe a few hundred thousand dollars. But that money would go towards a very wise investment. If you do that what in fact you would be doing is killing two birds with one stone. You would be enabling the Transport Board to benefit from whatever money it could gain from Transporting. At the same time, you would have invested money that would be used on the buses after the Conference. I am hoping that the Minister takes this point very seriously because we are talking about investment.

If you have private concessionaires or this transportation goes out to private tender what you may find is that the money that you are giving to these private people – In fact I doubt that any one person would be able to supply all this transportation as was sought under the tender. I hope that they would consider the Transport Board so that they can use the buses.

I want the Minister to understand that when the traffic backs up in that area and you divert them on to the Pine that it is going to cause some inconvenience to my constituents. I have a duty to draw to this Honourable Chamber the concerns of my constituents. I would hope that the Government takes these points as very valid because it is all right us sitting down in here to say that we have covered everything, we have met with some people in Embassy Garden but you have not met with the people east of the Sherbourne Centre. These are people too and I am saying to the Government unless you talk to those people...

Aside.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I hope that the Minister. would address these problems because I would not want to hear the complaints coming from my constituents at a time when the Conference was going on. I know that the Government is appealing to this side to co-operate. Yes, we are prepared to co-operate. But what I want to make abundantly clear is that I cannot and will not

co-operate with people who would not take advise to alleviate some of the problems which will become problems and concerns to me during the course of this Conference. I want them to understand I am prepared to assist them. I want them treat the people in that area with courtesy by going to them and informing them – as you have done to some residents because they too would be affected – and asking them for their co-operation. This is something that has happened in Barbados over a period of time, that we think some persons are persons to meet with and discuss things with and others you just turn a blind eye to. I feel that if you are going to make a success out of this and we want to alleviate most of the problems that you should make sure that all of these people in the area, the immediate environs are spoken to and have this matter discussed. I hope the Minister will make every effort to take into consideration my concerns that I have raised here.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the Honourable Member would seek to represent the people from Chapel Gap east of the Conference Centre because he knows very well that nothing happens within the boundaries of my constituency where I do not seek to represent the interest of those residents.

The residents of Chapel Gap, St Barnabas...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

Mr. J. 0. TUDOR: The residents from the entire area surrounding the Conference Centre were invited to preliminary discussions about what would be happening at the Conference and giving them an indication as to what would be expected of them with regards to traffic problems movement of people at different times during the day *et cetera.* At no time did any of the agencies who were summoned indicate to the residents that there was going to be any serious disruption of any of the residents. We made it very clear' that as far as we are concerned that the residents must be free to move in and out of their homes without any major disruption.

We are conscious that the Conference will be on view, Barbados will be on view to over two hundred million (200 000 000) or some three hundred million (300 000 000) people. The kind of exposure that Barbados will be getting from the Conference I think it is only fair that we must appreciate the benefits that would be derived from the exposure of Barbados as a result of the Conference. I am sure that the residents as they did in the previous meetings and I expect they will do in the follow-up meetings, will co-operate, because many of them understand the benefits that will be derived for Barbados' hosting of the Conference. I certainly do not need anybody else and certainly not the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East to represent the constituents of St. Michael East. Any problems that may occur will be dealt with by this Representative.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me just respond to two queries raised on the question of the residents in the surrounding areas.. I take the point made earlier and made again that the residents ought to be sensitized and I want to give the assurance that every effort is being made to sensitize each resident that appears to be in the ambit of the Conference to help them to understand what is happening and to make the Conference as smooth as possible.

On the question of transportation there is a sub-Committee dealing exclusively with transportation that has looked at all the ramifications of transportation. It should be in the newspapers today – the tender for the supply of transportation services for the UN Global Conference ought to have been published in the newspapers today and it will read that:

> "The tenders are invited for the award of concessions to supply transport services to approximately 2 500 delegates who will be attending the UN Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and other activities during the period April 18 to May 6, 1994."

4.55 p.m.

I said this is what will be in the newspaper if it is published today as it should be. How do you know I am reading from a newspaper?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the Honourable Member address the Chair.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South, as I have always known, has insights into certain aspects of life in this country which I lay no claim to. But the whole idea is, Sir, that we are going to make the arrangements as palatable as possible for all concerned.

The Honourable Member, Sir, must know more about this. I do not know what is the point of my going on if Honourable Members know already that the thing has gone out to tender. But the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East and my colleague and good friend the Honourable Member for St. Michael East who has a vested interest in what happens to the individuals concerned, can rest assured that not only will we in the Conference Secretariat and the sub-committees seek to sensitize but we will enlist the support and assistance of the two representatives to participate in the sensitizing activity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to invite all Honourable Members of this Committee to seek to participate in a tour of Sherbourne. Honourable Members in this House ...

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

Hon. B. M. TAI'T: Honourable Members of this House can have an organised tour of Sherbourne and the surrounding areas so they can see the stages at which the preparations are progressing. I think if Honourable Members wish to do it *en bloc or* if they want to do it group by group, arrangements will be made for Honourable Members to have an organised, no holds barred, tour of the Sherbourne facilities because we wish Honourable Members to be fully seized that all kinds of activities will be made available to the Honourable Members. That is the position.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Sir, can I enquire of the Minister if he can intimate at this point how many Heads of Government are coming? How many Ministers are coming to the Conference? How many delegations from the 184 countries he has mentioned will be attending? Whether liaison officers have already been selected and is there already a programme for training of liaison officers or are we going to let loose a lot of innocent, naive people on high powered delegations without even knowing how to carry on a conversation of any merit with them? Now this is not to put a slap around the head of anybody but I do know that a number of public officers from time to time, when we host conferences, offer to be liaison officers for no other reason than it gives them a chance to get away from the Ministry and its work for a period of time.

I also would like to know whether the Minister, in view of the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a very small Ministry in terms of numbers, they have quality, but in terms of bodies it is very short, whether the Minister, in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs has put in this big lot of money he is asking for, is he putting any money in it to bring home from the Missions overseas, experienced and knowledgeable foreign service officers to be of assistance during the period of that conference? If you look at the Missions overseas you will see a number of people who have had a lot of experience and exposure and who can bring to bear, their experience on this particular venture.

I read in today's paper that Dr. Hackett, who is a Barbadian, attached to the United Nations is involved in some capacity in the Conference. There are also a number of Barbadians who are members of the United Nations Secretariat and who on a day to day basis deal with the kind of situations that will obtain at this Conference and who will be ably, if they were brought home, perhaps at the United Nations expense, because I think representation can be made to the United Nations that these people on their staff are Barbadians and it would be useful to have them in Barbados because they will bring a perspective that will not be the same as United Nations personnel who are not Barbadians.

I speak, Sir, from some experience in this matter, limited though it is. When we ask the Government to try and share the problems with us they take it lightly but we have hosted conferences when we were the Government. Big conferences have been held before and we know the kinds of dangers and difficulties that one would encounter.

I am a little concerned, from what I hear along the line, and I would prefer to hear it from the Government officially, that adequate provision is made for the housing of the senior members of delegations, the Ministers and Prime Ministers and other heads of delegations. One of the things that has to be borne in mind is that these people ...

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: They are Ministers, Mr. Chairman, so they understand what kind of *prima donnas* Ministers can be. There will be Ministers who will be coming to Barbados and they are going to be comparing notes. You cannot put some Ministers in suites in 5 Star Hotels and other Ministers in double rooms in B Class Hotels. You cannot also provide a certain quality of transportation for some Ministers and a different quality for others because they create an enormous amount of ruckus about these things.

I know, Sir, that we do not have enough of similar accommodation or indeed transportation for all these people but we have to at least see the problem before we meet it to determine how we are going to handle it.

I want to ask one other question in relation to this because I made my intervention on the Conference two weeks ago and I raised a number of issues, some of which have not been adequately answered but that is a matter for the Government.
5.05 p.m.

I would not want to go back to the question of the National Planning Committee. I have been reliably informed that the National Planning Committee has not been meeting and doing the work of coordination that it should be doing. That, indeed, a number of subcommittees in specialist areas...

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I do not care how many heads get shaken. That is exactly why I am asking. Why should people put out misinformation on something like this.

I do not want to score any political points over whether the Government holds a Planning Committee meeting or not. There are bigger issues for me and the public to be concerned about when I am talking partisan politics. But I have been informed and I am not satisfied that the National Planning Committee has met any three times such as the Minister said today and the Minister said that he was informed. He has no better sources of information in this country than I have and I understand that is not so.

Mr. Chairman, I am not even going to pursue that. If the Government is satisfied that the National Planning Committee and the Subcommittees are meeting and doing the work, I am willing to accept that.

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I could repeat the first four questions because I really believe the Government would do itself a great deal of good to concentrate on those things. One relates to the question of the bringing home of experienced personnel from overseas missions to assist. One relates to the inquiring of the United Nations whether they will allow the Barbadians to do that. The other one relates to how many Ministers and Heads of Government were coming to Barbados for the Conference if it is not too early to know that, and the fourth one relates to how many of the member states of the United Nations' Organisations will be attending the Conference in Barbados.

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

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention in this debate. I just wish to have it on record that I would like to wish the Conference well. But today is February 8th and I wish to say that I have very grave doubts as to whether we as a country can be properly ready for this Conference. I know that they are hustling and working overtime. I just want to put it in the records of this House of Assembly that I have my records whether we can be ready. That is point number one. Point number two relates to the appeal by the Prime Minister the last time we met and the Minister of Foreign Affairs about my stated position of demonstrating with the constituents of St. Thomas about the condition of the dump. Nothing has happened since then to cause me to resign from that position. I want that clearly understood, Sir. I know that having said it the people responsible for this Conference have been putting all kinds of procedures in place. I said that in here on a Tuesday and by the Saturday morning at a funeral in Rendezvous I was told that if me and my people demonstrate they will put us all in Mapp Hill. I am not frightened for that. If they want to frustrate the people of St. Thomas for drawing attention to their plight by feeling that they are going to put us on the fringes, I will also have to operate my own alternative strategies.

Sir, I wish it to be understood that the intention is not to be an embarrassment to the Government and the Government can do something about it. If they do not want to be an embarrassment, they can show me between now and then positive action to resolve the problems. I want from the floor of this House to issue an invitation on behalf of the people of Arch Hall and Bennetts who contacted me early last week to the Minister of Health, the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for the Environment to let us meet soon at the site at the dump in St. Thomas as a group in a consultative way not an argumentative or quarrelsome situation, but to put our heads together with the technocrats or technicians to see what we can do about it. I cannot be more reasonable than that. I do not want to be fogged off with no low level functionary. I know this Minister unlike the previous Minister would come. The previous Minister came to open the new dump but not when the old one was kicking dust. He did not want to face the people but this Minister will come. But more importantly, I am not unreasonable. I am truthful. I would like the Prime Minister also and the Minister responsible for the Environment to let us fix a time convenient to everybody, more particularly the Prime Minister and his Ministers. But let us meet soon up there on a Saturday morning or whatever and have a look at the problem and see how it turns out. I am throwing out that suggestion in an attempt to head off any future conduct. I would leave it to the Minister of Health to decide who from Sanitation Authority he would want to bring. I have already called for the firing of the Manager of the Sanitation Authority and perhaps I was a little unfair to him. Let me say on the Floor of this House because I have subsequently found out that it is not only the Manager, it is really the position of the Board that the management of the Sanitation Authority as vested in the Board of Directors, if you like, are the ones to blame. The kind of policies that they set for the Manager to carry out are shocking. Now I did not know last time when we debated in here a few weeks ago $1 million for paying arrears that in truth and in fact this Government and the Sanitation Authority owe the Rayside Group of Companies $3 million in arrears. I did not know that. I thought it was only $1 million and somebody from this side asked if the supplementary included all'the arrears and we were told yes.

5.15 p.m.

They owe $3 million and they are paying rent. They cannot keep up with the rent for equipment they are using. So the arrears were built up to the point of $3 million and they have about 5 pieces of equipment up there belonging to the Sanitation Service Authority which they made no effort to repair. I cannot blame the Manager for that...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want the Honourable Member...

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The whole Board of the Sanitation Service Authority should be fired. The whole Board of the Sanitation Service Authority should go and I make that call.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Member will not listen to the Chair I will know what I have to do. I just want to let you know that I do not want you to expand your debate to a sanitation service matter for which this Head does not cover. I can understand you would want to mention to it.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I apologise. I did not hear you. It is only because I could have dealt with this matter under the next Head, Environment, but in light of the Minister's statement that I should reconsider the position I thought I would do it now. The only 2 points I wanted to make are that I have doubts for the Conference and I feel the Board of the Sanitation Service Authority should be fired also.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the Honourable Minister want to respond?

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I am not sure I could sit and not say something when the Honourable Member for St. George South indicated that many of the persons working as liaison officers only volunteer in order to get away from their offices. I am not able to support that. I do not feel that that is fair to the number of liaison officers who over the years, many of whom have worked conscientiously and contributed to the good name of Barbados.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I don't ,make any apologies for anything I say and there is no point referring....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

Mr. L. R. TULL: I am on a point of order, Sir. Give me a moment, Sir. It is a misrepresentation of what I said by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I did not say that all of the persons who volunteer to work as liaison officers just want to get away but I stand by my words that a lot of them do. There is no point challenging me on that. I know what I am speaking about...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is made.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, as a Minister, it is my responsibility to defend the public officers who volunteer to be liaison officers and the Honourable Member has been a Minister and he knows it is not right for him to get in here and attack anybody who has been a liaison officer who cannot respond to him. The odd officer may have done him something and now he is coming in here and casting aspersions on everybody who has been a liaison officer. Nobody knows which one. Therefore anybody who has been a liaison officer and they walk along the streets now people will say, "Look at you. You are a liaison officer because you don't want to be in your office."

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order. Will the Honourable Member give way?

I have already drawn to the attention of the Honourable Members they will be permitted to speak when they have permission from the Chair. I do not wish to hear loud asides when an Honourable Member is on his feet.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: The answer on the question of the appointment of liaison officers is that it has not yet been done. The process, is being engaged in and I believe it will be done this month and all the liaison officers will be trained as has been the custom but we are insisting that they be given special training on this occasion. The training will start in March and the trainors will come from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Barbados Tourism Authority, from the Customs and the Immigration Department. The need for well trained, informed and sensitive liaison officers has been appreciated and we will seek to have high quality trainors.

I hope we will be able to bring a different sense of what is required to this. As regards to how many members will attend, there are 184 members of the U.N. and it is difficult to assess how many members will actually attend. Some of the information I have had from Ministers and colleagues speaking to me suggest that we will have a bumper attendance but then again economic times are rough and those countries from far off might have some difficulty. I know that the ACP/EEC will be funding some delegations out of the Caribbean and Latin America and I know that some other agencies will be funding some for this Conference and they have earmarked ECUs to fund some delegations. The Pacific countries take this Conference very seriously and all 100% of them are likely to come in strong measure. So I would say of the 184, in excess of 150.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Are you going to quarrel over one? I do not understand the Honourable Member for the City.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Since you left they bring in one every week. Everytime you look around there is a new one in. While we are talking — I may be wrong — it is 185, and they have names I cannot call.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: But I am never wrong about you. You notice how the Honourable Member is wearing Nehru suits now, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN; I have a problem as to what the Honourable Member is referring to.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I apologise, Mr. Chairman. I. was drawing your attention to how the Honourable Member is now looking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Honourable Member for the City feels a bit uncomfortable it can be ...

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On the question of the training, I believe that steps will be taken to begin as soon as the liaison officers are selected. Insofar as to which Heads of Government and which senior people will be coming it is too early to tell. I have already received indications that at least 3 Deputy Prime Ministers will be coming and I know there will be one Head of Government who will be part of the Eminent Persons who may be coming. There are some other high level persons who are coming for what is called a high-level segment of the Conference. This is the part at which those at the very highest level are expected to function.

As soon as we have better details after the PrepCom we will have a clearer picture of those Heads of Government who are coming. Also for security reasons we would not wish to announce those Heads who are coming from the Floor of the House but we would be able to share with the Opposition information regarding such persons that are coming.

On the question of bringing home those members of missions overseas, I think it is likely that one or other members of the Mission at the U.N. will be home for the Conference but it has to be remembered that in keeping with our need to cut back that our overseas offices were pared to the bone and it would be difficult for us to bring any more of the overseas people home specifically for the Conference.
5.25 p.m.

Let it be known that most of the officers who are now functioning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, indeed, more than 95% of them, are all persons who have already been posted abroad and who, therefore, are capable of and will be put into functioning for the ancillary as well as the substantive part of the Conference.

I might say in passing, Mr.Chairman, that as far as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is concerned, this Conference has been put as priority No. 1. I have so directed the Heads of Missions overseas that they must regard this Conference as a- No. 1 priority and they are functioning in that regard. All of them have reported back and are doing all they can (a) to publicise the Conference and (b) to spread the anticipated results of the Conference so as to generate interest in it.

On the question of adequate accommodation for Ministers, I have to make the point that this is a UN Conference and the Ministers are going to make their own arrangements except in the case of a very few people who would be invited as guests of the Government of Barbados for the opening of the Conference. All of the others will be paying their way to come to the Conference just as the delegations from Barbados pay their way to go to conferences at the UN. What kind of accommodation they stay in will be a determinant of what kind of accommodation they wish to stay in.

What we are seeking to do is to ensure that such accommodation as is made available satisfies the classes which we give to the people as the class of accommodation available. In other words, there would not be any guest house passing off as an "A" class hotel, etc. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Conference Secretariat will, in particular, be seeking to ensure that such information sent abroad is accurate information. We will be using the Barbados Tourism Authority's classification system to determine the hotel and the cost. The actual cost to persons coming will be the hotel low season which would have begun by the beginning of the Conference. High season rates should not prevail and we will see to it that high season rates do not prevail.

There is one question which the Honourable Member raised which, on the face of it sounds easy, but it is not so easy. Those members of the UN Secretariat who are Barbadians are not under the jurisdiction of the Barbados Government and therefore we have to be careful not to appear to be giving the Secretary-General any direction on the deployment of his staff. That notwithstanding, let it be said that the officer in the United Nations who is head of the Conference, for all practical purposes, is an officer who hails from Guyana. He understands, therefore, the nuances which those Secretariat staff members from Barbados would be able to appreciate in relation to some other staff members.

Again, though, we will be governed by the kind of expertise which is required. There are not many Barbadians who are functioning in the area of expertise that will be required. But to the extent that West Indians can come I am sure they are going to be on the team.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas says that he had very grave doubts as to whether we,

as a country, can be properly readied. I cannot do anything with his doubts. He has doubts. I have tried to give him the information which I have. I myself have visited the site of the Conference, Sherbourne, and was, in fact, impressed with the speed and attitude of both the Chinese contractors and the local contractors in seeking to finish the facilities well in time for the Conference. They all indicated that they were ahead of schedule, or on schedule, as I said earlier. In these circumstances all one can do is take the word of the contractors even while looking for oneself.

I extend the offer again for Honourable Members to seek to visit Sherbourne so they will make themselves familiar. It would be better for all concerned if this could be done on an organised basis. Since we do not have jurisdiction over the site it would be improper for Members to turn up on their own to go on the site, but we would be happy to make arrangements for Honourable Members, for example, of St. George South, St. Michael South East...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I did not think they needed any. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas said that with his stated position, nothing has happened to make him change his mind. These are matters over which I have no jurisdiction and therefore cannot speak to them. I will say this: I was a little disappointed that the Honourable Member in making his points concerning the landfill did not find it in his heart to be gracious to this Honourable Member in recognising that this Honourable Member on the only occasion when he sought to have a meeting was out of the country and did send what he thought to be the most competent persons at the time. He had handed that out to one or two of his cohorts in the constituency but I understand that as constituency activity. I understand that very well when he gave them the impression that the Minister did not care otherwise he would been there. That is constituency activity which might be acceptable but I do not think he should tell this committee and other persons that the Minister did not come. He said words to the effect, *"unlike* the last Minister." Well, the last Minister was out of the country and it is the only reason he could not come. The Honourable Member knows that the last Minister went out of his way to keep him informed. The last Minister tried to have a scientific landfill that was almost foolproof *for dumping* in the way it was.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Enough of the landfill now.

The question that Head 35, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 — MINISTRY OF LABOUR, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT — $1280 035

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 42 — MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION — $515 950

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 42 stand part.

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

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

Clauses 1 — 4 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 5.35 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. E. E. GREAVES the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CANEWOOD, ST. THOMAS FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Order No. 7 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Canewood, St. Thomas for road improvement.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, in seeking to pass this Resolution concerning the acquisition of the parcels of land as described in this Resolution I would want to state that this Resolution has to do with the acquisition of 64 parcels of land at Canewood in the parish of St. Thomas for the purposes of road improvement. The road improvement has, basically, to do with the works which are being done on Highway 2A, Phase 2 Clermont and Canewood. As I recall, Sir, this work was started during the fiscal year 1992-93, that is, this fiscal year and it is all part of a road project financed by the World Bank. We are therefore seeking under this Resolution to acquire the areas of land described in the Resolution in the various Schedules which are attached to the Resolution. Basically the general procedures have been adhered to, the

Notices are being published in accordance with Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act and the Resolution is now before Parliament for approval. I should like to state to Honourable Members that the maps of the various areas to be acquired are available to them and I would ask the Clerk to pass them around if Honourable Members so desire.

This is all part of the project to improve the roads in various parts of the country and certainly when this acquisition is done and the road in this particular area in Canewood is completed, Honourable Members would see a vast improvement in the access and the quality of road in this particular area.

I therefore beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. B. M. TAIT"T: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is only part of the remedial work that has to be done in the parish of St. Thomas in respect of roads. This was on the drawing board, as it were,, for quite some time now. I believe that they were hoping to do this improvement to coincide with the development of the housing area at Cane Garden where we have the Venezuelan shells. But even though this would bring much needed relief to the people of St. Thomas and Bibby's Lane exchange and so on, people who use this road, I must try and impress upon Government two things, Sir. Just north west of this road, the Canewood road is Jackson. I have brought a question *in* this House already which I cannot remember if it were answered. I suspect it was not answered or if it were answered, it was answered very vaguely. But in the bottom of Jackson itself that area is prone to flooding and no real attempt has been made to alleviate the flooding to which the area is prone by, for example, the digging of new and additional wells. I want to encourage Government to put in some wells in the Jackson area to take off the water that comes rushing down from Shop Hill and finds its way down in the bottom of Jackson. July to October can really be hazardous.

In addition there is a number of tenantry roads in St. Thomas which require urgent action. Content Tenantry Road is one such road. I have complained year after year about two subsidiary roads off Shop Hill which is near to this area. Those roads also require work to be done on them. That is the one by the Nazarene Church and the one a little higher up the road.

Highland Tenantry Road requires substantial work. I mention Highland specifically because later this week on Thursday a new aspect of the tourism product is going to be opened at Highland. They were on television last night, the people who are doing these tours through agricultural areas, farms and so on, developing that kind of tourism. That is going to start effective Thursday 10. In the area of the plantation itself at Highland is the tenantry road which is of considerable length. I would be grateful if the Ministry, if it cannot put down a paved road, surely they can repair the road satisfactorily to remove many potholes that are in the road. I am just asking Government to pay attention to these areas which have spinoffs. That area, as I said, Sir, will now help to diversify the tourism product. The area in Jackson is a main road and on either side of the main road, servicing several different constituencies there is the likelihood of flooding. I will promise to write the Minister responsible for roads a note before the Estimates about these. But I raise them today because they are inter connected with the development at Canewood.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT KENDAL HILL, NEWTON, KINOS[S]L A 4 AND LOWLANDS, ALL SITUATED IN CHRIST CHURCH, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUNDABOUTS ON ADAMS-BARROW-CUMMINS HIGHWAY

Order No. 6. was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Kendal Hill, Newton, Kingsland and Lowlands, all situated in Christ Church, for the construction of roundabouts on the Adan ,s·Barrow-Curt ns Highway.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, in 1989 the Government took a decision to establish additional roundabouts along the ABC Highway at Kendall Hill and Newton junctions, As a result of that it was necessary to acquire 11 parcels of land, the property of Newton Plantation.
5.45 p.m.

The whole idea behind this was the fact that the Ministry of the then Transport and Works, recognition of the increase in the number of accidents occurring on the ABC Highway, decided that vehicular traffic preceding on to the Highway from minor roads should turn left only. As a result of that decision it meant that persons desirous of using the ABC Highway were forced to travel long distances to roundabouts or seek alternative routes so as to reach their destinations which were formerly easily accessible via the ABC Highway. Basically what we are now trying to do is to complete the acquisition

for those areas of land which were used in the construction of the roundabouts mentioned.

As a matter of fact, just to indicate, on January 26, 1990 a contract for the construction of the roundabout at Kendal Hill and Newton was awarded to Rayside Asphalt Company Limited in the amount' of $848 331.63 and as all Honourable Members are aware, those roundabouts have been completed and are functioning. Really what we are seeking to do here today is to regularise these particular acquisitions and I therefore beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that concludes the business of Government for this day, Sir. I therefore move that the House be adjourned until Tuesday 15th February, 1994 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that the House be adjourned until February 15, 1994 at 12 o'clock was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

5.50 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, January 25, 1994.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES 4251

Loan Contract between Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank. (Bridgetown Roads and Safety Improvement Project).

Thirty-third Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Board of Tourism for the year 1991/92.

The Immigration (Forms and Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON 4252

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1994.

Hon. D. W. BOWEN 4252

Miscellaneous Controls (General Open Import Licence) Regulations, 1994.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES 4252

The Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1994.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES 4252

Suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the sitting.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 10 — THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1994 4252

Hon. B. M. Taitt, 4252, 4255, 4263.

RESUMPTION
ORDER NO. 10 (resumed)

Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 4264, 4267; Hon. B. M. Taitt, 4271, 4273; Miss B. A. Miller, 4268, 4270.

HEAD 35 — MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS — $2 856 000 4274

Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 4274; Hon B. M. Taitt, 4276, 4279, 4280; Mr. DeL. 0. Bradshaw, 4275; Mr. J. 0. Tudor, 4276; Mr. L. R. Tull, 4277; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 4278.

HEAD 39 — MINISTRY OF LABOUR, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT — $1 280 035 4281

Hon. B. M. Taitt, 4281.

HEAD 42 — MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION — $515 950 4281

Hon. E. E. Greaves, 4281.

ORDER NO. 7 — RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CANEWOOD ROAD, ST. THOMAS AND ST. MICHAEL 4281

Hon. E. E. Greaves, 4281; Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, 4282.

ORDER NO. 6 — RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TIDE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT KENDAL HILL, KINGSLAND AND LOWLANDS, CHRIST CHURCH 4282

Hon. E. E. Greaves, 4282.

SUSPENSION 4263

ADJOURNMENT 4283

Hon. P. M. Greaves, 4283.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BOWEN, Hon. D. W. (St. Micahel South Central) BRADSHAW, Mr. DeL. O. (St. Michael South East) CHELTENHAM, Dr. R. L. (St. Joseph) GREAVES, Hon. E. E. (St. Lucy) GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St. Michael North) MILLER, Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown) SANDIFORD, Rt. Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South) SIMMONS, Mr. D. A. C. (St. Thomas) TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West) THOMPSON, Hon. D. J. H. (St. John) TUDOR, Mr. J. O. (St. Michael East) TULL, Mr. L. R. (St. George South)