THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 15,1994

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11:20 a.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, (Speaker)
His Honour R. D . MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), **J.P.**
Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
Mr. L. A. WEEKES
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TOLL, Q.C., M.A.
Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.), (Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment)
Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business) (Leader of the House)
Mr. J. O. TUDOR, J.P.
Hon. G. W. PAYNE, (Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing)
Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)
Mr. D. CARTER
Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, (Minister of Labour, Community Development and Sports)
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing)
Mr. J. M. EDGHILL
Mr. F. J. STUART
Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, (Chairman of Committees)
Mr. H. F. LASHLEY
Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, (Minister of Health)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture).

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, November 8, 1994.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Minutes of the Honourable House of Assembly for Tuesday, November 8,1994 which have been circulated be taken as read.

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

PAPERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay:

1. Atlantic International Reinsurance Company Ltd.
2. Atlantic Offshore Insurance Ltd.
3. European Atlantic Reassurance Company Ltd.

4. European International Holding Company Ltd.
5. European International Reinsurance Company Ltd.
6. Glenmaple Reinsurance Co. Ltd.
7. H.S.M. Insurance Ltd.
8. I. F. A. Insurance Company Limited.
9. Monticello Insurance Limited.
10. Phencorp Reinsurance Company Inc.
11. Standard Reinsurance of North America Ltd.
12. Union Excess Reinsurance Company Ltd.

What we are in fact laying, Your Honour, are guarantees in respect of the Companies just named.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Immigration (Forms and Fees) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1994.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution against the establishment of casino gambling in Barbados.

"Whereas the Honourable Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment has announced that he is favourably disposed to the introduction of casino gambling in Barbados and has stated that he questions the attempts of a "moral minority" to prevent its introduction:

AND WHEREAS the Honourable the Prime Minister has announced that Government will establish a Commission to inquire into the introduction of casino gambling in Barbados and to report thereon by March, 1995:

AND WHEREAS the Throne Speech delivered on 5th October, 1994 has not informed the public of Barbados of any proposals to introduce or consider casino gambling as the policy of Government:

AND WHEREAS *Her* Majesty's Loyal Opposition is opposed to the introduction of casino gambling in Barbados."

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS HOUSE

(1) condemn and deplore the statement by the Minister in support of casino gambling in Barbados

(2) reject the proposal by the Prime Minister to establish a Commission to inquire into the introduction of casino gambling.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLE Y: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make the following statement:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year the Ministry of Education causes Notices of Tender to .be advertised for persons to supply a variety of commodities for use in the School Meals Programme for the academic year.

On 16th May and 19th May, 1994 Notices of tender were published in the local daily newspapers. The Instructions to Tenderers included a clause that tenderers whose businesses and undertakings are required to be licensed *under* the Health Services (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 1967 must submit a copy of the relevant valid licence with their tenders.

After the closing date for tender, the Tenders Committee established under the Financial Rules, recommended on 2nd June, 1994 the award of contracts for various food items at fixed prices to a number of tenderers. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommended the purchase of certain other items on the open market These recommendations were made to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture as it was at the time.

In its recommendations the Committee also listed certain companies which, in its opinion, had submitted tenders but did not qualify for one reason or another. One such company, which was disqualified, purported to tender in the name of OMETA DISTRIBUTORS LTD. The Committee made the notation in respect of this alleged company "Ministry of Health Licence not submitted -non-conforming".

As is usual, Sir, the comments of the Manager, School Meals Department were sought in regard to the recommended contractors. The Manager commented on the performance of those nominees who had been awarded contracts in the previous year.

Thereafter, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture, who is also the Accounting Officer of the Ministry under the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Financial Rules, made a recommendation to the then Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Tyrone Estwick, that the recommendations of the Tenders Committee be accepted, subject to the comments of the Manager, School Meals Department. The recommendation, Sir, of the Permanent Secretary was made on the 22nd day of June, 1994.

The then Minister, Sir, disagreed with the recommendations of the Tenders Committee and the Permanent Secretary and so wrote. He wrote to

the then Minister of Finance, Mr. David Thompson, on 14th July, 1994 to the effect that he disagreed with the recommendations.

Mr. Thompson also disagreed with the recommendations and advised in writing that the matter of the award of contracts be taken to Cabinet in accordance with Rule 129 of the Financial Rules. This advice was dated 21st July, 1994.

A Cabinet Paper also dated 21st July, 1994 was prepared. Significantly, whereas the usual practice and convention is that the relevant Permanent Secretary prepares or is responsible for the preparation of a Cabinet Paper on this occasion the Permanent Secretary had absolutely no hand in the preparation of the Cabinet Paper and she has been careful to reduce her non-involvement in this matter to writing. 11.30a.m.

It is also noteworthy, Sir, that on the same day that Mr. Thompson advised that the matter be submitted to Cabinet, that is, July 21, 1994 the matter was in fact referred to Cabinet.

Cabinet then, Sir, decided that the tenders be awarded as recommended by the Minister in the Cabinet Paper and not as recommended by the Tenders Committee. Thus, Cabinet agreed to award a contract for the supply of certain items to one Ometa Distributors Limited even though the Tenders Committee had found that the tender of this company had not conformed to the instructions to the tenderers.

One of the commodities, Sir, for which Ometa Distributors Limited had purported to tender was the supply of Kola Syrup. It was the recommendation of the Tenders Committee that Kola Syrup be bought on the open market at $15.40 per gallon. Cabinet in its decision, however, agreed that Kola Syrup be purchased for the academic year from Ometa Distributors Limited at the astronomical price of $69.00 per gallon. This decision, Sir, is even more startling having regard to the then Cabinet's own caveat that monopoly situations should not be encouraged. In accordance with the decision of the former Cabinet, the Ministry of Education and Culture informed Ometa Distributors Limited by letter of July 27, 1994 that it had been awarded the contract to supply commodities including Kola Syrup for the academic year 1994 to 1995.

There are other disturbing features about this matter, Sir. If Kola Syrup had been purchased on the open market in accordance with the recommendations of the Tenders Committee, the cost to the School Meals Department would have been $415 800. However, the cost to the Department on the basis of the former Cabinet's decision has been computed now as $1 863 000, an increase of some $1 447 200. Having regard, Sir, to the existing appropriation in the Estimates, the result of the former Cabinet's decision is that the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture would soon be required to seek supplementary provision to its Estimates in an amount of $567 717 for the School Meals Department In fact, Sir, the total cost of all the contracts awarded by the former Cabinet amounts to $5 667 717.65 as distinct from the sum of $4 162 670.80 as recommended by the Tenders Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the foregoing matters have been drawn to my attention. They were referred to Cabinet and November 2,1994 Cabinet decided to rescind the contracts awarded to Ometa Distributors Limited. Cabinet's decision to rescind the contracts had been reached after the receipt of an opinion from the Honourable Attorney General. It should be noted, Sir, that at the time of tender Ometa Distributors Limited did not comply with the mandatory requirements in the instructions to tenders to submit a Ministry of Health licence along with the tender. In that regard, Sir, the Attorney General supported the view of the Tenders Committee that Ometa's tender had not conformed to the requirements of bidding.

What is more alarming, Mr. Speaker, is that when a search of the standing of Ometa Distributor's Limited was conducted in the Registry of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property it was found that:

(a) at the date of tender;
(b) at the date of the purported award; and
(c) at the date of the former Cabinet's decision,

the company purporting to be Ometa Distributors Limited did not exist as a legal entity in Barbados. On September 14, 1992 Ometa Distributors Limited and two other companies, namely N.S.R. Limited and Julie 'N Lady Care Limited were all amalgamated into a single company known as N.S.R. Limited whose directors are Neville Rowe, Rosalind Belgrave and Mohammed Kotchwala. According to the records of the Registry of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property, Ometa Distributors Limited does not now legally exist and, Sir, has not existed as a separate legal entity since September 14, 1992. At the date of the purported award of contract, Ometa Distributors Limited was not a properly constituted legal entity capable of contracting as a company with the Crown. There was no valid subsisting other party to the Crown to contract with.

It is clear, Sir, that the former Government acted capriciously in overturning the recommendations of

the Tenders Committee merely replacing them by a purported award to a company that did not exist thereby causing the Government's finances to become liable to depletion to the tune of $1.4 million for one single commodity.

In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, the purported contract to Ometa Distributors Limited has been rescinded by this Government and the individuals purporting to act on behalf of that company have been duly informed by letter of November 7, 1994.

The commodities, Sir, which had been awarded to Ometa will be re-advertised for fresh competitive bidding.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

The question that those Standing Orders be suspended for the rest of this day's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 11.40a.m.

ORDER NO. 1 - THE MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 1994

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Bill before the House is quite a short piece of amending legislation. It consists of two clauses and the clause with which we are concerned particularly is Clause 2, which is purporting to repeal Section 29 of the Marriage Act. Mr. Speaker, the existing Section 29 of the Marriage Act provides as follows, and I quote:

> "A marriage shall not, except the Minister in his absolute discretion otherwise authorises, be solemnised under the authority of a licence earlier than the third day after the date of issue of the licence."

The previous Government amended the Marriage Act earlier, but there was an oversight and Section 29 was omitted. So what is before the House now is a piece of legislation to clean up the situation. The intention had been to have Sections 20 and 23 of the Act amended and Sections 24 and 29 repealed. The purpose of that was to remove the three-day residential qualification before application for a licence and the three-day period between the date of grant of licence and the solemnisation of marriage, and that had been left out. Section 29, as I read, Sir, concerns the three-day period between the grant of licence and the date of marriage, and it is with a view to remedying the problem that now exists by reason of previous inadvertence that the matter is before Honourable Members.

The changes in the legislation mean that the application form also requires amendment and opportunity is being taken to have the form amended appropriately and I will do that shortly.

Mr. Speaker, it is part of the ongoing thrust of the Barbados Government, however constituted, to encourage foreign persons to come to Barbados and to marry and to spend their honeymoons here and so on. This is an aspect of tourism that ail Governments have promoted, and I am pleased to say that business seems to be good in this area. Indeed, on Friday, I think, or Thursday, when I went into Chambers first thing in the morning I counted 43 people just sitting, lined up, just waiting to get licences, so it is thriving. I asked for some figures to be computed and I am to report to the House that up to the end of August the payment of licence fees had contributed in excess of $183 000. I have no doubt that with the opening of the Sandals property and the new Heywoods, Almond Beach, whatever it is called, that more of this business will be attracted to Barbados. Couples will find Barbados a congenial place in which to many.

This Bill should not raise any considerable debate, and I am grateful for the opportunity to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General said we would not have any considerable debate on this matter, but I do want to raise one or two problems that arise in relation to the operation of the Marriage Bill.

It is good news to hear that Barbados is becoming a centre for visitors to come and get married. However, it is extremely difficult for Barbadians who want to many non-Barbadians who are in Barbados to get a licence from the Ministry of Legal Affairs. If a Barbadian man wants to marry a woman from overseas, who has come to Barbados, they must go to the Ministry of Legal Affairs for a marriage licence. They are told, in my view contrary to the provisions and the intent of law, that they must go to the Immigration Department so that the Immigration

Department can pass judgement on whether the visitor should be allowed to get married in Barbados or not. This has been going *OR* for a long time and I do not know who has been responsible for initiating it. What the Barbadian is often told is that if you want to marry this person from overseas the person you want to marry must leave the country, go to some other country and apply from that country to Barbados and hope that he gets a marriage licence. It is working tremendous hardship on persons in my constituency, for instance, because we have had a number of pa-sons who live around rural Barbados who have very little money, and they get into an association, a link, with somebody who has been living here for quite a long time. Quite often they are even living together for a number of years as man and woman and have Barbadian children who are going to school. When they decide they want to get married, they are sent to the Immigration Department and the Immigration Department tells the non-Barbadian partner, "you have to leave the country and apply and you may or may not get a licence." Something is wrong with that, particularly since the Attorney General has played up the fact that people who are visitors to these shores, non-Barbadians, can now come into Barbados and go and get a marriage licence in three days, up to now, and as the Attorney General is saying and I agree with the measure that is before the House, even that three-day wait is a waste of time. It is a nuisance. If people want to get married, why keep them waiting?

So two non-Barbadians can visit Barbados and get a marriage licence in one day, but a Barbadian who wants to marry a non-Barbadian who is here is told that his proposed partner must go overseas and take.pot luck, because you do not know how it is going to work out in the end. The alternative - and this happens from time to time to those who can ill afford it, and a lot of people who are in this predicament can ill afford it - is that they have to leave and go overseas and get married and then come back. They cannot get a licence in Barbados. The Barbadian man marries a Guyanese or a Vincentian woman or whoever... The answer is for the two of them to buy an airline ticket and go to some other country for a few days and get married in that country and then come back to Barbados. That can't be right. Something is very wrong with that. 11.50a.m.

Having said all of that, I understand that perhaps the reasons for all of this - although it is very difficult to get information out of the Ministry of Immigration up to now. I expect that there will be a significant change from now on - I understand that the reason for this practice is to prevent marriages of convenience. I understand that there are people who come into Barbados and who want to remain in Barbados and they get into a marriage of convenience so that they can stay here. That is an international phenomenon, Sir. That happens all over the place and Barbadians know a lot about it because it has happened for many decades in the United States of America with the Barbadians who want to remain in that country. I understand that, but what I don't understand is the ham-fisted way in which it is dealt with here.

I would like to urge on the Attorney General to take another look at that particular practice and see how in view of the fact that he is pleased to see that $180 000 odd dollars has been paid for marriage licences from these non-Barbadian visitors that he could see if he cannot get more than $180 000 by allowing Barbadians to marry the partner of their choice in Barbados instead of going to St. Lucia or Trinidad and these places and paying for marriage licences in those territories. It would also save us some money because when they go to these places they have to spend money.

Certainly Sir, to advance the argument one step further - this is not going to be long - there are certain moral, social and other considerations involved in the point I am making, because quite often when persons go to the Ministry and are referred to Immigration and the tortuous arrangement that they have, they change their minds. They don't bother with it. The result is that the Government is encouraging these people to continue to live in loose arrangements - I don't mean loose in the sense of morally loose -1 am talking about insecure relationships that do a lot of social harm, not only to the partners themselves, but to their children.

So I would like to urge a few thoughts on this matter, based on experience as a practitioner of law dealing with these problems on a regular basis. I would like to urge on the Attorney General that he takes a look at it and see if he can come up with a more fair and equitable arrangement to relieve these people of the difficulty of which I speak. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Opposition will not be opposing this measure, but there are couple of points I wanted to make with regard to it.

I would like to endorse the comments which were made by the Honourable Member for St. George South. I think he, like I, would know of the large number of people from other Caribbean territories who are spending their time ducking around throughout rural Barbados, particularly in areas like St. John, and this has been a recent phenomenon. In very many cases they do get into genuine relationships with Barbadians and when they are sent to the Immigration Department it makes them apply for an extension of stay. They do that under the threat that they could very well be asked to leave Barbados. What happens is that they then go and credit a return ticket from

a travel agency, go to the Immigration Department and get the extension of stay or alternatively use the ticket and go to another domicile. In recent times, one person from the Honourable Member's constituency went off to St. Vincent, got married to a Guyanese, returned to Barbados and then applied for the relevant status.

The real point is and it is true that the Immigration Department, in my view, has no right seeking to pass judgment and question. Marriages of convenience may very well be something we should frown upon because we have a concept of marriage in which there are certain moral elements which we attach to it; but that is not something for any officer of the Immigration Department to be sitting down behind a desk to determine. Very often, the kinds of things which they say to citizens of Barbados about their intentions are, in my view, very unfortunate.

It is a very serious matter the way in which people are treated in Barbados and the lengths to which they will go to achieve these ends. I have noticed in recent times, particularly since we have had people coming in before the last sugar crop, particularly in my constituency, some of whom have developed relationships, some of whom have children but have great difficulty because they certainly don't have the money to leave Barbados and go and get married or to buy a return ticket to get the extension and stay.

I believe that contrary to the impression, erroneous or not, which was given by the new Minister of Immigration in relation to Caribbean nationals that it is a matter of urgency that we need to determine. I think we need to demonstrate the kind of compassion in a matter of this sort and certainly a policy which seeks to create harmonious relationships with our other Caribbean and regional sister territories and their people.

That was not the substance of the point I wanted to make. I wanted to ask the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Immigration how soon the Government will be bringing the necessary amendment to the legislation which I know has already been drafted and was ready to be brought before the Cabinet regarding the right of the spouses of Barbadian women to acquire citizenship in Barbados. This is a matter on which a large number of Barbadian women write constantly to parliamentarians. It is a matter which I know the Democratic Labour Party had taken on board. The relevant legislation was already drafted. It is in the Throne Speech and it is therefore one of the very last items of the National Commission on Women which was held in the 1970s under the auspices of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

It is one of the last reforms which should be dealt with without delay and one of the reasons why it has not been dealt with is this same... I am not saying that it permeates the political class, but I think it permeates the system lower down - that bringing such an amendment will open the floodgates for further marriages of convenience. The implication of that would be that Barbadian women are more likely to get into marriages of convenience than men. But that is the view, in my view, of those who function in the lower tiers of the Public Service and of the Immigration Department on this matter. There still has been resistance to the introduction of that particular measure.

Fortunately, the *former* Minister himself and the Democratic Labour Party thought it was such an important amendment that we sought with all speed and alacrity to have the amendment drafted and I know for certain that it is on or should be on the desk *of* the Minister of Immigration and that the particular amendment which is long outstanding should be brought without delay to this House so that we can have it dealt with. 12.00 noon.

I think it is a very important matter on which the Democratic Labour Party feels strongly and on which, one assumes from the Throne Speech, this administration feels equally as strong about

The odious practices then which are being carried out by the Immigration Department in relation to Caribbean nationals in Barbados, some of which cannot be sanctioned by the laws which exist on the Statute Books of Barbados, are in need of investigation and review. I am not talking about the practices which they carry out that are perfectly legitimate in terms of the laws, but it is a harrowing experience, not only for Caribbean nationals, but sometimes for Barbadians who are pilloried and accused of harbouring aliens, and who are treated in a most despicable manner by that Department There is a lull sometimes and then the scenario emerges once again.

As I understand it, there was a recent attempt to round up a large number of them living in rural districts, including St. John. As I say, some of them - and the Immigration Department should carry out an investigation - have commitments in Barbados. They have children and they tyave started to develop families. Therefore, I think the investigation which the Department carries out should be more thorough and should not be subversive of those relationships which have developed.

With those few words, Sir, we will not be opposing this amendment.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I too rise to support this amendment to the Marriage Act. In so doing I want to say that the amendment merely speeds up the whole marriage process and it does away with the need to

be resident in a particular magisterial district in Barbados for a period of 3 days before actually getting married.

There was never anything magical about the 3-day requirement. It is not a substantive amendment but I believe that the amendment when it passes, will realise substantial gains. The only thing which could have been said for the 3-day requirement was that it would have allowed certain departments to do their paper work in the 3 days' time. That is all it did. Departments such as Immigration would have examined certain documents which the parties would have had, or they might have had to issue certain documents to them. As I said, all it would have done is to attend to administrative matters. But this is a period where we have telephones, fax machines and where those paper obligations can be discharged in a matter of hours. Therefore, there is no longer the need for that 3-day requirement. We can do that, as I said, in hours with a high level of efficiency.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we must also remember that in this day and age, it is quite possible for one partner not to have an awfully long time to stay in Barbados. A lot of people are working and very often time is really and truly of the essence and people want to get married with the minimum of delay.

I must also say, Sir, that we must not bury our heads in the sand like the proverbial ostrich. There is a lot of foreign exchange, as the Honourable Attorney General said, to be gained in this area, especially from promoting Barbados as a marriage centre or a honeymoon centre. We have to familiarize ourselves with what is going on in places like St Lucia and Antigua. They have built up a reputation in this area. They have virtually monopolized this situation and marriages and honeymoons are a lucrative source of income in those territories.

Mr. Speaker, regional competition for us is very stiff. Regional competition is very real and we cannot pretend that it does not exist. It exists in almost every aspect in our social development. If you would permit me briefly, Mr. Speaker, to divert just a little to say that 20 years ago we could very well be boasting that we would have won a regional cricket championship for 6 or 8 consecutive years. We could have boasted that we had approximately 8 cricketers on the West Indies team, but look at what regional competition has done to us and you will see that now we cannot even win the championship. We are lagging somewhere at No. 4 in the rating, and we hardly have anybody on the West Indies team. Equally true, Sir, is the fact that we lost the ARC race, the race across the Atlantic. That is what regional competition did to us so we have to get up and...

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: If we get back to the debate, Sir, the point I want to make there is that just as we had no monopoly in regional cricket, just as we had no monopoly on the ARC race, so too we have no monopoly on the marriages of visitors.

We also have to realise that very often some of the persons who come to Barbados come here and they also have on that trip two or three other stops in other territories in the region. What happens is that they come to Barbados, then they go to St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and so on. Therefore, what we have to realise is that if we cannot accommodate them with their marriages, somebody else will and we are going to lose out. What this amendment is seeking to do is to bring us in line with those other territories who are making a mint out of these marriages of visitors.

The Honourable Attorney General has brought enough figures to show, and I would hazard a guess that if at the end of August we could have been showing $183 000 in licences alone, that in any one year we could come very near to making $250 000 on licences.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that it is not only in the area of licences that we make money through these marriages. The people have to pay a magistrate. They stay at a hotel or guest house, sometimes they even use a Barbadian photographer. They go on the Atlantis or the Bajan Queen. They bring friends to their wedding and they will recommend Barbados to their friends. We just cannot allow the opportunity to make Barbados a marriage centre to just go by.

Mr. Speaker, we amend laws when pressure is being put on existing legislation. The fact that we needed to amend this law would tell us that it was not just one isolated case of somebody asking for it The market is there. Pressure would have been put on the office for us to have this amendment. 12.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that we may even need to look at having an annual first anniversary prize *or* something, a return trip to Barbados for some of these people. Do anything that we can to encourage the people to return to Barbados or to bring back people with them when they come for their anniversary.

I must also support what the Honourable Member has said because it is a concern to me, in my capacity as Minister of Women's Affairs, that there still exists this policy in Barbados of permitting a non-Barbadian woman who has married to a Barbadian man to automatically apply for citizenship while, on the other hand, no such right attaches to the non-Barbadian man who has married to a Barbadian woman. Her husband has to live here for

a number of years before applying for status. I know it causes a tot of concern for these people especially when the couple is.purchasing property. The wife seems to be affected psychologically because it is like telling the husband, they like they do not want you around here. She is very concerned.

I must inform this House that I have got queries, since I was sitting in the seat of Minister of Women's Affairs, on this very matter. They are concerned about it. Therefore I believe that the time has come when we will definitely have to do something to redress this particular question.

The whole question of how we seem to dispense with this right to apply for citizenship to our Barbadian women, the spouses of the non-Barbadian women seems to smack of discrimination and they are up in arms against it. We preach equality so we have to try to promote the right of women. Obviously as long as I am here I will be trying my utmost to see that it is done. I believe that the least that we can do in this particular area is to stipulate that anyone who is married to a Barbadian may apply for citizenship. We can make it as broad as that so that it would embrace the husbands as well as the wives.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have said enough to convince someone that Barbados must, at this stage, do all that it can to promote itself as a honeymoon or as a marriage centre. As I said that is what the Amendment in the Act sought to do. I have the greatest pleasure in supporting the resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I really only need to make a couple comments. One arises from the role performed by marriage officers and I wonder whether the Minister can tell us whether he has had any complaints recently about the fact that some marriage officers have not been returning the marriage certificates to the Registry as required by the law. Certainly the Honourable Member for St. George and myself, in our experience, have come across cases where this has happened. It seems to me that some tighter supervision is required of marriage officers.

Marriages have various legal consequences, some of which can be substantial. For instance, a marriage immediately revokes an existing will. Very often people are not conscious of the legal effects of marriage. I recall very well that one of the reasons why a waiting period of 3 days was instituted. The Christian Council, at the time, felt that there needed to be some waiting period so that officiating Ministers can satisfy themselves about the genuineness of some of the proposed marriage. The law provides of course for a marriage in extremis where a person is dying or ill and one has to be satisfied that he or she is not forced to marry all of a sudden because of the effect it can have on the devolution of property. There are safeguards in the Act to take care of some of the ill effects *of* quick marriages.

Although we are supporting the amendment one should not minimize the well-known cases of marriages of convenience that are documented, not only in our country but in several other countries of marriages of convenience. Marriages of convenience sometimes cause great suffering and expense to the person who has been misled into such a marriage. Marriages of convenience are sometimes used as a way of by passing the other legitimate laws of a country, including the immigration law. Whilst there is no easy solution to the problem, one has to find a mechanism, within the law, which prevents those breaches from occurring.

The courts, in some Commonwealth jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, have struck down marriages on the basis of being purely marriages of convenience. They have denied persons to such marriages the benefit of the immigration and other laws.

I respectfully suggest to the Honourable Minister that to maintain a balance between the human rights aspect of the matter and the recognition that some marriages are not genuine we should use the experience of other countries and establish in one law the appropriate safeguards. I am also deeply conscious of the lack of sensitivity which is sometimes shown by persons dealing with immigration matters. The establishment of a Review Committee has gone some distance to help to modify the sometimes ill-considered decisions that are made on immigration matters. Some decisions fail to take into account humane considerations. I have, on several occasions, had to deal directly with the immigration officers in respect of applications of persons residing in my constituency and who have established a genuine relationship over a period of several years. Children were born as a result of those relationships. One or other of the partners came into Barbados originally on a permit for 7 days and overstayed the time, never went back to the immigration and technically has been here illegally. But during this time that partner has established a good *bona fide* relationship and has not been in breach of the law. These are the cases which call for a humane approach. The Review Committee provides an opportunity for that approach to be taken, particularly where the officer who made the initial negative decision had merely stuck to the letter of the law.

I think we have to be humane in the administration of our immigration laws whilst being conscious of the fact that Barbados is a land of small physical space, that we do have serious problems of unemployment and that we do need, wherever possible, to ensure that those who

come to us have skill or investment potential for improving the quality of life of ourselves and of our country. We must also bear in mind that Barbados is a party to various international conventions and we have a duty to honour those conventions. 12.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I always boast about the Barbados Labour Party is that after the War and during the War we did urge the then colonial administration to give comfort to some of the Jews who suffered from the Hitlerian and Mussolini despotism. Again when we formed the Government in the period 1976 to 1986 we announced and implemented a policy of regularising the status of Commonwealth Caribbean citizens.

I recall that at the time of the election of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown the Party's platform enunciated the policy that persons who had been here for several years, without having their status regularised would be permitted to regularise their status. So the Labour Party does have a history of deep concern for these human rights issues and international conventions and refugees.

We do take a humane approach on these matters. But we also have to balance that approach with our deep concern about those who would flout the law, particularly in circumstances where people would pay money to enter into a marriage of convenience and use the opportunity just to get a foot in.

Mr. Speaker, the Party has in its Manifesto and in the Throne Speech, and I am not anticipating final debate, committed itself to implementing the changes that are necessary to our Constitution and to our laws to equalise the status of Barbadian women with that of Barbadian men in so far as it appertains to citizenship and immigration rights.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I look back at the period of 1966 when this provision in the Constitution was being fashioned and recall that those of us in the Labour Party saw the wisdom of having a provision which would have achieved equality but it was argued then that we would be opening the floodgates. It was a period when men were even more extremely chauvinistic than some of them are now. Many men in those days saw women not really as equal partners but in another guise and as subordinates.

I myself, Mr. Speaker, have suffered at the hands of some of my legal and other colleagues for having had the vision, the foresight and the strength to make the fundamental changes for my Party and to inspire the fundamental changes that have taken place in the status of women in this country.

The Norma Forde Commission, of which a Member from the other place was the Deputy Chairman, produced an outstanding report and many of those recommendations were implemented during my tenure as a Minister. I am sure that the few that have not will soon be implemented. And it goes to the credit once again of the Barbados Labour Party that we had the foresight to see the necessity to make those sorts of changes.

Mr. Speaker, the records of this House, Hansard, will reflect that when I first brought a Resolution to this House for the setting up of a Commission on the Status of Women to look among other things into the reform of the marriage laws, the Democratic Labour Party voted against it; and, what is even more distressing for me, looking back in retrospect, is that one of the Members who spoke strongly against it was the then Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. History is a funny thing. Sometimes we take stances and we do not take those stances on principle or with vision and they come home to haunt us as part of our historical legacy. This was a classic example. So many of those people who have now become convinced that it is right to bring women up to the same equal status as men - so many were at that time not convinced about the reforms.

I had to bring the Resolution a second time. Elections were around the corner and on this occasion the Resolution was unanimously approved by the House. There was a change of Government and I had the honour to set up the Commission to inquire into the status of women, and the opportunity to implement many of its decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I recall these matters, not to heap partisan political criticisms or to blow my own trumpet: Although I do recall the graphic statement of a former Leader of the Opposition from the other side who once said if you do not blow your trumpet whilst you are alive do not believe that others will blow it for you when you are dead. He was blowing his own in a speech in the House.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I raised the subject because I believe that the House seems to be in a mood for understanding the fundamental human rights issues which are relevant to the discussion. Members seem to appreciate their impact and are willing to explain the ramifications to the country, without fearing the backlash that necessarily follows from some of our citizens who may say, well look, Barbados is overcrowded already, what do you want to do with Barbados. And also the backlash from those of our citizens who may be out of work and who may be tempted to say, "Look, home drums must beat

first". I recognise that home drums do or should beat first in all those things but I also believe that Barbadians are humane and are sympathetic to genuine cases of refugee.

We must also recognise that many Barbadians have likewise suffered when they have emigrated. We are a nation that has a long history of emigration. At the time of the building of the Panama Canal for instance, Mr. Speaker, 40% of the male adult population of this country went to work in Panama. Some of our descendants still live in Nicaragua, in Panama, in Costa Rica and in Cuba. So we have a long history ourselves of being immigrants and we should therefore appreciate that there are others who will come to us in similar guise, some without being properly legally clothed. And if they comply with our laws and the conditions warrant it we should then show the magnaminity required, without at the same time destroying our own social fabric. I am much indebted to you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this debate has evolved into the kind of debate that requires some input if for no other reason than the record. It is impossible for any one to represent for any significant time a constituency that borders the urban areas of Barbados and not be aware of the very human difficulty which is attendant upon those persons who in pursuit of a better way find themselves in Barbados from different countries bordering Barbados and who have had the difficulties already articulated by those who have spoken. This particular amendment which we are doing was in fact referred to by md as the tourism amendment because originally the impetus *for* its passage came from the Ministry of Tourism, or the Tourist Board which sought to get this nuisance removed from the Marriage Act and their reasons were in fact, as the Attorney General has outlined, to allow those persons who wanted to come to this idyllic little place in the Eastern Caribbean to tie the nuptial knot to be able to do so without hindrance. In fact, as we have heard from the Honourable Member for St. George South, we have been able to discuss a very urgent and important issue relating to those who come to Barbados from within the Caribbean and who are not normally regarded as part of the tourist product or part of the tourism scene. That is where the difficulty usually lies. 12.30 p.m.

I agree with most of what has been said and do not intend to repeat it. But I wish to say that my own experience is heightened and gets into an acute state of sympathy, because not only have I had the experience of representing a constituency such as the one I described earlier, but prior to that I had the opposite experience of being the representative in a foreign country for opr nationals. I know very, very well the difficulty and the plight of Barbadians in the United States who were seeking to do many of the things which people from St. Vincent or Guyana seek to do in Barbados. I know of many cases where the Immigration Authority in the United States in the first instance sought to bring down their administrative guillotine on those persons who would fall foul of the laws of the United States.

In response to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the answer to finding a mechanism for the marriage of convenience is in fact to put a penalty for marriages which subsequently have been found to be marriages of convenience. That is how it. is dealt with in United States law, if a person on immigrating or seeking to immigrate to the United States is found subsequently to have engaged in a marriage of convenience - and they put a time limit on the marriage. In the arrangement for permanent immigration to the United States, a declaration has to be made that any accompanying marriage is not one of convenience. That is one of the experiences which the Attorney General may usefully look at if he comes to do a more fundamental reform along the lines recommended by the former Attorney General, the Member for Christ Church West. But there ought not to be anyone sitting at a desk, who many times is no more than a mere clerical officer, making decisions of such import in the lives of humans and making decisions as referred to where a person decides to get married and that person is then subject to what can only be described as harassment when that person has to demonstrate that they really and genuinely wish to get married and is not getting married for some other reason.

Sir, I think that is humiliating. There can be nothing more humiliating than for a woman to have to justify to some perfect stranger that she wants to get married for legitimate reasons. I do not think, Sir, in a strange way that the officers in the Immigration Department are anymore difficult or inhuman than anybody else. I think, however, they become part of a culture. If you work in a law enforcement or other similar environment, the tendency or core of the Department is always to assume that the persons who are making application are trying to trick the Department. In more recent times, I had the opportunity and the experience - I think it was a privilege to serve as part of the administrative system at the level of Tribunal. I speak, Sir, of the Immigration Review Committee. It is one of the better pieces of legislation which we have passed in here, the amendment that brought in the Review Committee. Because that Review Committee does provide for a cooling off period. It does provide an aperture, if you will, Sir, to allow decisions that have been made in the past to be reviewed at a more distant and in a more dispassionate way. Very often, and this is the gravamen of my intervention, Sir, the problem is a lack of an appropriate administrative system. I would make bold to say, without any undue criticism of any individual, that the Immigration Department has been in need of administrative

reform for some considerable time. The very question of systems in the Department was absent and that occurred because there persisted for a long time in Barbados, and I may say under both administrations perhaps, a belief that you have to be a policeman to understand immigration and that in order to function properly in the Immigration Department you ought to have had some police experience. I think that has created a difficulty which is still inherent in the mores of the Department. So that everyone who applies to the Department for something is perceived as a person who is a potential "breaker of the law".

Sir, in my capacity as Chairman of the Review Committee, I saw some very interesting decisions that were made on the basis of advice given to the Minister responsible for Immigration. When one seeks to examine, Sir, the Committee cannot go behind the decision of the Minister. But in the course of reviewing the circumstances the Committee can ask original questions and very often by careful examination one was able to find a number of instances where the decisions made were not necessarily based on either (a) factual information or (b) humane considerations. Even where the factual information was not there, Mr. Speaker, very often the person who ought to have given the factual information is the immigrant himself or herself and the immigrant was in such fear on the occasion when called to the Department that the immigrant either failed to give information or gave information that was not accurate which operated to the detriment of the potential immigrant rather than to the immigrant's benefit. These are some of the things which one should take into consideration when we are looking at reform of Departments.

I believe that an acquaintance with the law in the broader sense is very desirable and, without being invidious, I hope that we will see a pattern by which more and more of the senior officers in the Immigration Department in Barbados persons who have had some more than passing acquaintance with the law, and I do not mean in the sense of having been a police officer. That is not to say that police officers are not capable of becoming good Immigration Officers. In truth, what is happening in the Police Department is that they are now getting the wider legal education that will assist them better to carry out their responsibilities. But at the end of the day, Sir, this amendment to the Marriage Act will satisfy its needs. Whatever the mischief to be corrected will be corrected. But I hope that it will not be long before the Minister responsible for Immigration will be able to articulate a policy that is crystal clear. I wish to believe that the amnesty arrangements which were first put in place by the Barbados Labour Party, which have been continued by the Democratic Labour Party Government, will continue in place such that persons can know that there is a fixed period within which, even if originally you were in breach of the law, you will not be harassed once you can come to the Immigration Department, give information, and make it clear that you have been meeting all your obligations in Barbados. 12.40 p.m.

Now, there is another point, Sir. There are persons who live together in Barbados who, under another Act, have been declared by the law and by the courts in Barbados to be spouses. The courts have determined that if you live together and cohabit over a certain period of time, you are two spouses. It is impossible for a spouse to be uprooted and sent out of the country under another law without doing some disservice to both Barbados and the people concerned. And it has happened. Those who practise law know that that is a standard thing, and those who represent people know that you have to go sometimes and beg. You have to demean yourself in order to save some people from inhuman treatment. When you are a representative for a fairly long time, you sometimes have to do that. You sometimes have to beg people that you would rather not ask a favour not to do something in order to save someone from pain.

I know of a case, Sir, of a husband and a wife. They were not husband and wife for about seven years, but they were living together for seven years. When the time came for them to become husband and wife, they went through the same identical problems which were earlier articulated here. We managed to manoeuvre around that Then they had between them children and then each child went through almost the same identical set of harassments until it came down to a single child. Now when all of the things started back down the road, as it were, that particular child was a minor. By the time they had reached the point where everybody else had been settled, that particular child had passed the age. So the issue moved from where it was before to one of "this person does not now qualify because this person is no longer eligible as a minor". I believe that that was pettifogging. I believe that was being unnecessarily harsh and I believe that is the kind of case which a review committee must always give careful consideration to.

Mr. Speaker, it is not an immigration debate and therefore I will not abuse Your Honour's graciousness in allowing us some latitude, but I thought that since the Minister is going to be responding to some of these things he would wish to hear this. As has been said, this is an amendment which started with us and there is not likely to be any rejection of it from this side.

I am grateful to Your Honour.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a brief comment, not on the legal merits of this matter, but principally to note my agreement and

the fact that I welcome very much the general attitude of this Honourable House as so far expressed by various speakers on the fact that the amendment to this particular Act would facilitate the development of a healthy, morally acceptable aspect of our tourism development, encouraging young strong people who often have significant amounts of disposable income, not infrequently made available by their parents, to come to Barbados and join in Holy Matrimony and continue to enjoy themselves whilst they are here and spend some money in this country.

I really had a good feeling about this Honourable House to recognise that it was giving its full and unqualified support to a morally acceptable aspect of tourism development. I sincerely hope that that moral grounding which seemed to inform the speeches here today will be applied across the board as debate in these areas come before this Honourable House. I would not wish to broaden that aspect of the debate any further, but I am quite sure Honourable Members fully appreciate what I am speaking about: A funny thing about speaking, Sir, is that silence on a matter sometimes speaks far louder than words. It is a most interesting thing about speaking. However, Sir, in this Honourable House we are required under the Standing Orders to speak and at all times to use the English language, but we cannot also speak by body language or by implications or otherwise.

I want to advert to two points made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I was searching my memory, Sir, and I was wondering why it is that during his stay as Attorney General that whole matter of equal status of women and men did not occupy the attention of the House.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. I am not sure if the Honourable Member was in the House, probably that is why his memory does not help him, but the equal status of men and women did occupy this House on several occasions. The Honourable Member may refresh his memory by reading Hansard.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I do not know if my memory could be that bad. I am quite sure that I was in this Honourable House during a significant part of the period when he was Attorney General and I do not remember this particular aspect of equality between women and men occupying the attention of the House, because, quite clearly, if it had, it would not be here today.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Again, Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member should go and read the statement which I matfe as Attorney General when I laid the Report of the National Commission on the Status of Women in this House. He should also read the debate on the Family Law Bill, he should read the debate on the Status of Children Bill and many others, and then he would be in a position to understand what was happening.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is quite possible that the Honourable Member may have mentioned these things, but I guess this would be another instance of the gap between words and action which would have resulted in my lack of remembering any action being taken by him in this matter. I must congratulate the new Attorney General, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, who has indicated that he will be bringing down legislation to deal with this matter in the not too distant future. I believe that is correct. 12.50 p.m.

I would like to support the Honourable Member *for* Christ Church West and I think that, whereas it is nice to reduce the waiting period, people in Barbados are rapidly getting to know that marriage revokes existing wills and as a medical practitioner I note that I am being called upon with increasing frequency in circumstances where persons may want you to make certain certifications as to the competence of individuals and so on.

From time to time, it seems to me that relatives get wind of impending marriages and have enough time to mobilise some kind of officialdom to try to put a brake on the marriage. If that waiting period is eliminated, I suspect that we might see some more interesting marriages in Barbados.

I recall, Sir, some years ago I had to give evidence in a matter before the Courts. I think it was a landmark case. I think it was the second of its kind in Commonwealth countries, the decision that was handed down here relating to the annulment of a marriage. I believe that Sir Lionel Luckhoo, the late Frederick Penniston and others appeared on one side and Mr. Jack Dear and others on the other side.

One of the key issues in determining the validity of the marriage was an interpretation of the word "umph", when the question was put, "Will you have this woman to be your lawful wedded wife?" The person is supposed to have said "umph" and died immediately. The man said "umph" and died in the Intensive Care Unit here in Barbados. This happened in the 70s.

I am not quite sure what were the elements that led to the reversal of the decision, but what I do recall is that there was very little legal precedence for the annulment of a marriage which apparently is regarded as pretty sacrosanct in law and there was a lot of high-powered legal argument in order to have that situation addressed in the courts of Barbados. I think there was only one precedent in the English-speaking commonwealth and that was the

second one that occurred here in Barbados. Am I correct? I think that is what happened.

Sir, I think that we have to be always careful that whilst it is desirable on the one hand to reduce the waiting period or eliminate it significantly, at all times as legislators we have to remember that there are people out there who are ready to take advantage of any changes that are made in the Law.

As I said, I am not competent to address this matter with the full range of legal skills which one needs to have to really look at the full implications, but that whole business of the immediate revocation of wills by marriage is something that needs to be looked at to see whether or not this reduction in the period might not give further stimulus to that kind of activity.

Now, Sir, in some cases that I have come across it seemed to me to be a legitimate desire to give expression to the wishes of a particular individual. Certainly, I have come across instances where it seemed to me that there were others trying to take advantage of that situation in order to get access to the estate of an individual through the mechanism of marriage revoking a will that has been made previously by the individual. So it is something to be looked at and I suppose like all legislation there are always pros and cons but I think the important thing is to be always in a position to recognise any disadvantages that might arise.

The Barbados Labour Party, in particular, has a very severe weakness and the weakness is this. Unless you get up, Sir, and support everything that they say about a piece of legislation, even if you invite them to look at any disadvantages they get very upset and then they say you opposed the legislation. Sir, they say that you oppose the legislation because you point put to them any negative aspects either inherent in the legislation or as a result of your experience that could develop and which might give them the opportunity to improve the specific legislation before the House or certainly, to be aware during their period on the watch of any difficulties that might develop. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am assuming that no one else wishes to speak on the Second Reading and I am therefore winding up.

Mr. Speaker, I am entirely grateful to all Honourable Members who have spoken, some by way of advice and some by way of criticism. Nothing wrong with criticism at all once it is fair and based on reasonable facts or assumptions. Generally, everybody has been very constructive in their contributions and what has become clear as a result of the extension into other areas not directly pertaining to the amendments but which are germane to . the whole business of marriage by non-Barbadians is that there is a dichotomy of attitude. Certainly it seems that we have two types of practice that have developed over the years where non-Caribbean couples are not subjected to the hassle and indeed the humiliation at times of having to go to the Immigration Department *for* the Immigration Department to have a look at them to determine whether they are the types of person who legitimately wish to get married or whether they are only about to perform a sham marriage.

I am grateful to the Honourable Member for St. George South who highlighted the apparent discrimination where the policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the past has been to require Caribbean people who wish to get married by licence to go to the Immigration Department as it were for checking out, and the same does not apply by way of Home Affairs policy to non-Barbadians.

I am advised that the reason behind the practice because it is not sanctioned by Law... It is a practice. Indeed it may have been a policy in the past. It is not sanctioned by Law. 1.00 p.m.

I am advised that the requirement to go to Immigration has only developed in cases where the other party, the foreign person, has been in Barbados recently and has not been properly documented for immigration purposes. Now, I would have a difficulty in accepting...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said I was advised and I made phone calls, as Members may have picked up. I do not accept that is necessarily a good reason because the persons from outside of the Caribbean who come here to be married are not in any better position. We do not know who they are.

I wish to give the House the assurance that I am not in favour of the former practice. Indeed the matter was discussed last week at a meeting of the Immigration authorities at the level of officials and soon, rather than later, I will put an end to that practice. I am not prepared to preside over a department which indulges in practices that are discriminatory and have the potentiality for being unconstitutional. I am not prepared to preside in circumstances where Caribbean people are disadvantaged. As I said in here last Tuesday, I am fully cognisant at all times of the recommendations of the Ramphal Commission, the West Indian Commission, and I know what the objectives were that have been set for us as a region.

I may not achieve the targets ultimately set by that Commission because the achievement of some of

those objectives would require unanimity by Heads of Government in certain areas, but so far as I can move Barbados a little way towards the attainment of those lofty ideals set for us at great expense as regional people by the Ramphal Commission, I will play my part.

I give the House the assurance that the matter will be drawn to the Chief Immigration Officer's attention as urgently as tomorrow. In due course, a full policy in relation to immigration matters will be articulated and published. We are working on it now. Some of the matters are of a policy nature and need to be informed by statistical information which is being got from within the Department itself.

In regard to the citizenship problem, Sir, the Status of Women Commission looked at this matter years ago, in 1978,1 think. Their comments appear on page 98 of the Status of Women Report, certainly paragraph 184 of that Report. As I have also indicated, without necessarily waiting for the establishment of a Constitutional Review Commission, and its findings and recommendations, I will be taking steps to have the present anomaly removed by necessary legislation. The Chief Parliamentary Counsel is now back from overseas. The matter is on my desk *for* referral to him as I indicated to the House last week, and yesterday on a programme. I will refer it to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel tomorrow.

Now, Sir, I am not aware that certain marriage officers are not making returns to the Registry. Nothing has appeared before me. This is the first time I am hearing of it I give the Honourable Member for Christ Church West the assurance also that that will be investigated. What I can say is that within the past 2 weeks I approved the appointment of a number of additional marriage officers recommended by various denominations.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West made a very helpful speech. The impetus for this amendment did come from the tourism sector beginning with a letter from the Hotel Association on July 7 last year and followed up by the then Minister responsible for Tourism, the Honourable Evelyn Greaves, as he was at the time.

Apropos to what the Honourable Minister of Labour said in his contribution, I think Members will find the points enunciated by the Honourable Member for St. Philip North being relevant when I read what Jamaica was advertising in the trade at about this time last year. I am not going to read the whole thing but they were promoting Jamaica as a no problem country where you could get married quickly and come on a honeymoon and so on. Under the Rubric requirements, they published in their brochures this kind of information. I suppose the Tourist Board here does that. I do not know.

> [11] You must be on island for 24 hours before applying for a licence which costs $10 at the Ministry of National Security and Justice, Block 4, Ocean Boulevard, Kingston, or through appointed Registrars in each town. For a list contact the Tourist Office once you are on the island, or in the States, the Jamaica Tourist Board, 866 Second Avenue".

There was competition for Barbados, not only from St. Lucia but from Jamaica, and no doubt other Caribbean territories. We are falling in line with this amendment and doing in respect of the fears of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, perhaps even better than Jamaica. They only require 24 hours. We are doing better than they with this new amendment.

Sir, I accept that consideration should be given to an amnesty. I did indicate as much last week. Just for the record I wish to reiterate that in respect of persons who have been here before a certain date, I would like to see amnesty for immigration purposes offered to that person. What I have in mind, I must not be taken to have made a decision. The matter is being worked out at the level of officials. I have indicated what I would like to see. I have asked for certain information but what I am thinking of is a cut-off point, let us say some point in 1992. All persons who were here before that date must apply. They will be given 6 months at least to get their documentation from overseas and go in and get regularised. 1.10 p.m.

Persons who have been here after that would be in a different position. I am not going to guarantee anything to them at this stage. But there will be a cut-off point We have to look at it and deal with it in a humane way because I think, as was recognized last week, one of the problems has been that what we call illegal immigrants have been here for many years contributing, not being charges on the state but they have been afraid to go and get documented because they feel that if they go into the Immigration Department they are going to be arrested and sent back.

I think we owe it to our Caribbean brothers not to let them live under that kind of stress and strain. That is the kind of framework in which I would be operating. I have already given my guidelines and ideas to the department to look at these matters in a compassionate and humane way. But in due course, as I say the policy will be determined by Cabinet and thereafter articulated and published.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, an immigration review committee has been appointed. It was one of the first committees, or boards or whatever appointed. The Chairman of that is the Honourable Minister of Labour and the other 2 persons are Mrs. Carol Bishop and Mr. Adrian Massiah. That committee ought to be functioning.

I take into account the observations of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and he can refer to the Family Law Act to ascertain the grounds upon which a marriage may be declared a nullity. Those grounds include bigamy and not complying with the *lex loci celebrationis*, the law of the place of celebration.

I do not think that there was anything that I left out, Mr. Speaker. I do not think there is any Member that I did not respond to and in those circumstances I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

This House is now in Committee. *Clauses 1 and 2*

inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would beg leave to recommit Item (g) Government Notices.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections from this Honourable House, the House will now revert to Government Notices.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am much obliged to Your Honour. I would wish to give notice of 2 Resolutions:

A Resolution to approve the vesting in the Barbados National Bank of a parcel of land at James Street in the City of Bridgetown and a Resolution to approve the vesting in Vivian Mayers of a parcel of land at Tweedside Road in the parish of St. Michael.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.20 p.m.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 1.20 p.m. 1.20 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr. SPEAKER:

This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to move that Private Members' Business do now resume.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESUMPTION OF THRONE SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in debating the Throne Speech I want to focus primarily on the issues arising within the Ministry of Health. I start, Sir, by dealing with the Sanitation Service Authority which has by far attracted the most public attention since I assumed this Ministry.

There are two issues which fall under the management of the Sanitation Service Authority which have engaged public attention over the course of the last two or so months. These, Sir, relate to the collection and disposal of garbage and the landfill at Mangrove.

Indeed, Sir, both those matters relate to the wider issue of solid waste management. The collection and disposal of garbage is part of the problem that many Barbadians have complained about - garbage piling up in their district for many days and some people have complained for many weeks, with all of the attendant problems of odour, of the possibility *for* rodents, for dogs to interfere with the garbage and pull it around the neighbourhood and the attendant health problem and problems of aesthetics. Part of that problem arises out of the inability of the Sanitation Service Authority to perform its duty as a result of a cut in its subvention

which was part of the whole cutting back anti-structural adjustment programme of the last administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is for me a source of great distress that a function as important as this to the community, to the health of Barbadians as a whole, indeed the Honourable Member *far* St. Michael South East has had to write me on more than one occasion in the last eight weeks to say that within his own constituency this presents a great problem was not treated by the last administration with any seriousness.

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, it is a problem of tremendous distress for me as the Minister to find that the last administration did not prioritise the Sanitation Service Authority and its functioning to the extent that though the Authority is funded completely by Government subsidy and subvention that that subvention was reduced, making it impossible for the Sanitation Service Authority to have the resources necessary to carry out its functioning in relation to the collection and disposal of garbage. Specifically, the Authority does not have the number of staff which will allow them to carry out this function. Some 56 or 58 garbage collection units or trucks form part of the Sanitation Service Authority's fleet, almost the majority of the fleet is incapacitated, unable to work because the cuts in the subvention have made it impossible to buy parts to service the equipment and the few trucks that they do have in service are made to do several routes, thereby working them harder than their normal capacity can carry and they then in turn collapse. That is why many Members in this House today, when they look around their constituencies would have reason to complain that there is garbage in their constituency and it is not being collected. It has to do with the neglect of the last administration and indeed, Sir, the failure of the last administration to protect the health of Barbadians and to recognise that there can be no development, Sir, unless our people enjoy good health.

When our people are sick, man hours and production time is lost. When there is a problem resulting an epidemic or problems in relation to health, tourist arrivals can be adversely impacted. It is therefore critical that the Sanitation Service Authority receive adequate funds to allow it to carry out its functions and I, Sir, have prioritised giving them the funds that will allow them to bring their fleet back up-to-date and to carry out the function in relation to the collection and disposal of refuse adequately.

In addition to that, Sir, the new Board, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central has been mandated to carry the Authority in a new direction and that has to do, Sir, with helping to make itself self-sufficient.

We have gone beyond the age when Government can subsidize every activity and completely fund all of its departments. It is therefore incumbent on us to look for new ways of collecting revenue and of finding the resources that we need. The Board will therefore be going in the direction of revenue collection and looking at ways of generating revenue and implementing projects that can be carried out by the Authority which will bring revenue into it and reduce its dependency on Government.

Also, Sir, we see a further example of the way in which Government's failure - and by Government here, I mean the last administration - to give adequate financial support again to the Sanitation Service Authority has caused tremendous discomfort to the Barbadians living at Arch Hall and Bennetts within close proximity of the landfill.

Again, Sir, this is not only a case of Barbadians in a particular geographical area being adversely affected by the landfill because its poor management has resulted in tourism being adversely affected in two ways:

1. that maps are now being made where Mount Stinkeroo is specifically identified on the map as a mountain of garbage and the height above sea level is being defined.

It does not do the country well and its image on the international community ...

Mr. B. M. TAUT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member may be misleading the House. I think that the credit for the definition and determination of that particular landmark properly belongs with the Attorney General. That is a fact, Sir.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: We have reached the stage in Barbados where before as a primary tourist destination our reputation is now being sullied by the fact that the last administration refused to have the landfill at Mangrove adequately and properly managed and as a result people as far down the West Coast as far as Sandy Lane can smell the landfill on its worst days. As a result, in a world that is now environmentally conscious and aware and that maps are being made where a mountain of garbage is now being identified and that is part of the redefinition of Barbados that was wrought under the last administration. And, Sir, it upsets me, as the Minister of Health, that I can learn that the Sanitation Service Authority was not given adequate amounts of money to make sure that the material needed, ground cover or soil to cover the garbage and keep the odour down that they were given no money because that was not seen as priority. That one of the former Ministers specifically ...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member is misleading the House to say the Sanitation Service Authority would not have enough money because at

the time the Highway 2 was being constructed and they had all the cover material they needed from Highway 2.1 think the problem with Sanitation, Sir, is not a problem of money but it is a problem of management.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: But even that would be a concession, Sir, because if the Honourable Member knows that the problem at Sanitation Service Authority is one of management, why didn't they deal with it in order to ease the burden suffered by the people of Arch Hall/Bennetts and the adverse impact on the tourism industry. They concede that they know what the problem is. 2.35 p.m.

Sir, I was saying that part of the problem is that they did not have adequate money to buy the equipment, traxcavators and other heavy duty equipment needed to properly manage the landfill, and that they did not have enough money to secure the amount of ground cover needed to keep the odour down. They got into a situation where they did not view it as important to have the periphery of the landfill policed and secured in order to prevent illicit dumping on the boundary, which is part of the problem why the landfill smells so bad. Some days it is not the landfill at all that smells, but it is the illicit dumping on the boundary that is not secured and it is not policed in any way which causes the problem.

I want to report, Sir, that my Ministry has taken steps to ensure that the boundary of the landfill is going to be guarded and secured 24 hours a day in order to ensure that no illicit dumping takes place. The law in relation to illicit dumping is going to be applied.

But I go further, Sir. It has to do with the fact that that administration did not perceive,it as wrong to have raw sewage being dumped on a two acre lot adjacent to Mangrove and they did not see that at this stage of our development it was wrong to be tipping truck after truck of raw faeces day after day, many hours a day in a district where people were crying out constantly.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The records cannot show that the administration approved the dumping of raw feces in a neighbourhood. /

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I am making the point, Mr. Speaker. The point requires that I make it in a particular way.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not made it yet?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Explain. Go ahead.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The question of the dumping of raw feces does not occur on "Mount Stinkeroo". The question of the disposal of certain kinds of sewage to which the Honourable Member is referring requires a certain technique which has been worked out and which they dig the trenches, put the thing in the trenches and cover them. It is wrong to suggest that the Government approved the dumping of raw feces. That is absolutely not true. The Government could not have possibly approved that. It would be a criminal act.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I think the Honourable Member has made my point and indeed that is why they sit where they do now. It was criminal that the last administration...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is saying that we sit over here because we are criminals. That is what the Honourable Member is saying. I want the Honourable Member to withdraw that

Mr. SPEAKER: I agree. The Honourable Member has to withdraw that.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It should be expunged from the record. Do not get carried away. Take your time. You will be all right.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member will withdraw the remarks that were made referring to the Opposition Party please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I withdraw, Sir, but make the point that on September 6th the people of Barbados determined that the behaviour of the last administration would no longer be tolerated. I will let it to be determined in other fora the nature of the behaviour. I see the Honourable Member smiles now. But indeed, Sir, it really is quite tragic that the last administration made provision for the dumping of raw sewage two days a week at the site, a two acre lot adjacent to "Mount Stinkeroo" which causes part of the odour problem. It was to their certain knowledge that sewage was being dumped daily but they took no steps to deal with the daily dumping. They dealt with it only two days a week.

I want to move beyond that, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could you address the Chair please?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: My apology, Sir. We have reached the stage in our development when we have to look now to solutions for the problem of solid waste management We have a situation in Barbados where people are not sensitized to what are the environmental issues in garbage collection and waste disposal. Ministry of Health will shortly be implementing a public awareness programme to inform the public as to the role of the Sanitation Service Department It will seek to sensitize the public to issues of garbage disposal and we will start in Barbados on a programme to separate and recycle various types of garbage. If that is done, a lot of the stuff that is dumped at "Mount Stinkeroo" and which in fact causes unpleasant odour could be eliminated from the dump altogether and we are going to move in that direction.

In addition, Sir, we have set up a Committee of Ministers of Cabinet to look at the issue of solid waste management The choice is between a new landfill site or an incinerator or a combination of both. I wish to announce today, Sir, that "Mount Stinkeroo" will be closed and the people of Arch Hall, Bennetts and the surrounding districts who have been made so uncomfortable by its continuation in the last few years will be compensated. Until such time as it is closed, Sir, the Ministry of Health is going to ensure that it is properly managed until the date for its closure is announced.

I think this whole matter of garbage disposal and collection must engage the attention of'this Honourable House and the country and that we must be responsible in our attitudes towards it It is irresponsible for persons to suggest that a landfill being sited in their constituency or in their district constitutes punishment. Solid waste must be disposed of and it has to be disposed of somewhere in Barbados. We have to educate the public as to the need for solid waste disposal, how it will be done, and how the landfill can be effectively managed. But it is entirely wrong, misleading and irresponsible for Members of this Honourable House to say to the public that to site a landfill in their area constitutes punishment Therefore, when one says that a landfill can only come to your area over your dead body, then perhaps one should be invited to look for a casket.

Mr. Speaker, each individual in Barbados is generating 2.2 pounds of garbage daily. That is too much and we have to stop it. The Ministry is therefore going forward to make sure that the garbage generated by Barbadians is reduced. I will not say anymore on the landfill today, Sir, because I believe it is the sort of matter which we should take to the public and discuss in a broader and wider setting so that in fact we can have the input of the public.

I just want to make the point, Sir, that while there have been cutbacks by the last administration in the critical areas of the management of the landfill at Mangrove and the collection and disposal of refuge, there has been tremendous wastage of money at places like the Hillside Home. This was formerly a hospital for lepers, Sir. Much of the compound that was originally used has now gone into other uses. Sir Shridath Ramphal has an office on the site. The Archives are located on the compound. Three people remain in the Hillside Home - a woman in her 90's, a man in his 70's and a third patient who is also past seventy. 2.45 p.m.

These three people are attended in a building on a compound that could house 20 *or* more people. They have a full complement of staff, including gardeners, maids, general workers, cooks and nurses, and the last administration put every year half million dollars into looking after these three people.

Sir, my Ministry is currently looking at resiling these three people, who have not had obvious leprosy for many years now, into other locations and utilising this compound for use either as a geriatric facility or as a sort of respite home for the handicapped. There are several handicapped people in Barbados who cannot get into homes and whose parents cannot care for them within the setting of the home. There is a long list of geriatric patients.. ..

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, please do not interrupt the Honourable Member. I have given her permission to speak.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of oider, Sir. I apologise to Your Honour, but she is just so overwhelmed with the possibility that she has somewhere to put the three lepers, I wanted to know where she plans to put them, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us keep it orderly, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, subject to the approval of Cabinet, this facility will now go into new use. There is a waiting list of some 300 people trying to ge(into the district hospitals and the geriatric facility and these people must be accommodated. This compound has several acres of land that could hold a separate and new facility and the Ministry is looking at ways of properly utilising this space and to properly spend half million dollars a year, but it cannot be spent on three old people who are not ill.

But let us go beyond that, Sir, because another area of further wastage by that administration was the St Joseph Hospital. This hospital has a staff of 106 persons.

It never has more than nine patients at any one time, including four resident geriatrics. The staff bill for this hospital is $160 000 a month. The hospital makes a revenue of $20 000 a month. It costs the Government close to half million dollars a month to keep that hospital open for ten patients. Mr. Speaker, it cannot be allowed to continue. The real tragedy of what the hospital has become is the fact not only that people have been drawing money there for years for virtually doing nothing - because we know that a lot of the staff there were the personal imports of a former Minister - but there is a drug rehab centre down there which currently has nobody in it, but ten staff members who report for work day after day. When I toured the facility three weeks ago I was told that a new set of people were coming in for treatment the following morning. The following morning has not yet come. We cannot allow this to continue.

The roof down there is leaking and has collapsed in many places, the plumbing is bad, most rooms have no furniture and they say that $11 million went into it. No plan has ever been drawn up to determine what is the best use of the facility, no plan has ever been drawn up to determine what mix of services would be profitable or what mix of services could best cater to the needs and the health care needs of Barbadians at that hospital. It has just been done on an *ad hoc* basis. The latest project going on down at the St. Joseph Hospital, approved by that administration days before the election, was that they should build a gym for the use of ten people. The initial price of the gym was $40 000, it is now costing near to $400 000.

Sir, the new Board has been mandated to set up a study to find out what mix of services could best be carried on at that hospital at a profitable level. We are looking at renting out, because it is a massive facility, part of the facility to an independent body for carrying out health care there. In addition to that, we are going to be looking towards health tourism, bringing in geriatrics from overseas, other ill persons from overseas for treatment there, retirees and so on, who can come and be treated in what really is a very comfortable atmosphere, good grounds and so on. But in the meantime, Sir - and I will be talking about the St. Joseph Hospital in this Chamber at length very shortly - we need to investigate everything that has gone on there and where in fact the $11 million has gone. There is still about $1 million in outstanding bills for which invoices cannot be produced and nobody knows where the things allegedly purchased and brought to the hospital have gone.

It is enough, Sir, in summarising what has gone on at the St. Joseph Hospital - and I will say that the last Board was never allowed to visit it - to use the words of a present Board member, who was also a last Board member, Mrs. Sybil Leacock, who toured the facility with me for the first time about three weeks ago. She, as a member of the Board, knew the sort of expenditure that had allegedly gone into the St. Joseph Hospital. She stood in the foyer after the tour, Mr. Speaker, with her head down. I walked over to her and said to her, 'What is the matter?" She said, "My God, I have never come down here before. If we say that we spent all these millions down here, then we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." That, Sir, is the greatest criticism of the last administration that one of their own members and former candidate could make. If they say that millions were spent down there, they deceived themselves and tried to deceive Barbadians and the truth is not in them. But all of that is going to be dealt with.

Another problem falling under the Ministry of Health which it now falls to me to deal with is the matter of the Lions' Caribbean Eye Care Centre, of which they bragged so much, and you would have thought, Mr. Speaker, that since it was scheduled to be opened in November of this year that they would have put aside some money to open it, but not a cent, Sir, so the Barbados Labour Party administration now has to find all the money necessary to open it. But I will shortly be dealing with that, as indeed I will be dealing with the St. John Polyclinic which we are paying interest to contractors on every day and which the few blocks of cement have cost $3 million so far to put there, and for three years it has been sitting down there doing nothing. The rationale behind that was to build a tribute to Enrol Barrow and in here we must question the reasoning and the conduct of the last administration .....

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The rationale behind the construction of the St. John Polyclinic was to offer to the people of St. John, a rural district in Barbados, the same quality of health care that other taxpaying citizens in this country have, and that is the only rationale.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, it is that I now want to address .....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has two minutes in which to conclude, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: . . . . that the plantations in St. John were in large part sold off to CLICO, allowed to go out of agricultural production and housing development was to take their place. The rationale was that the people who would be in CLICO's housing developments would have gone to this new polyclinic, when in fact the siting of the polyclinic is not on any bus route. . . .

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The plantations which were purchased by the company CLICO are in Zone 1. They are prohibited in terms of building houses on them. That is monumental ignorance. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Indeed, I agree that it was monumental ignorance for them to sell off our plantations to CLICO, especially because the plan was that they would put in sewerage treatments plants and have up-marketing housing facilities that the polyclinic was then intended to service. The polyclinic is not on any bus route or not in any catchment area where it can attract large numbers of clients. In fact, all independent studies show...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member must give way. Certain courtesies must be extended in here. The Government of Barbados, the then Government, nor this Government ever owned any plantations in St. John other than Bath Plantation. The persons who sold plantations to people were owners of those plantations and are private citizens and we still have freedom to contract in this country up to now, unless the Honourable Member is suggesting that that is something which should now be curtailed.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. John has gone on record praising the qualities of CLICO and we have all seen in the newspapers one of their senior managers leaning down through a car window whispering - I wouldn't say sweet nothings - but certainly whispering into his ears. We know that CLICO had the ear of the last Administration and that it was in fact their intention to facilitate CLICO in this large housing project.

Sir, this Barbados Labour Party Administration will shortly be moving to train nurses at the Hospital and to upgrade...

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member wind up, please. The time has expired.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: ... the Hospital and to make sure that the 3 operating theatres which were closed down under the last Administration are reopened in order to facilitate surgery there. We will be moving towards respite care for the handicapped, domiciliary care for the geriatric, a proper substance abuse programme, an AIDS hospice and upgrading of the Psychiatric Hospital where we are soon going to have in the region of 25 new employees.

Time does not allow me, Sir, to elaborate on more that is going on in the Ministry of Health, but much has engaged my attention over the last two months and the Ministry of Health will shortly be moving to have a more healthy Barbados as part of the Government's overall plan for the development of Barbados.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make a few remarks with regard to the Throne Speech. First of all, I would like to examine the role of community development, especially community development officers in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a time in Barbados when communities used to function and interact with other communities and do a very wonderful job. The communities development officers at that time used to spend more time in the community working with the community than at this present time. What has happened is that there are a lot of problems in Barbados associated with youth.

What I am saying is that if the Communities Development Division and their officers get into the community and work with the community councils - and there is an enormous amount of community councils springing up in Barbados, therefore a lot of the problems that are currently existing in Barbados in relation to our youth will be solved.

Sir, at this point in time, I would like to make a special mention of an organisation within Barbados called the Pinelands Development Council who have done tremendous work in working in this constituency that I represent and helping to turn back the reputation that was placed on that housing area of Pinelands. I am saying at this point in time that the Pinelands Model which is in the constituency of St. Michael South East should be used as the model of community development in Barbados.

In addition, Sir, what I want also to say is that there is another organisation because in all the communities we have so many different people from different areas being thrust into communities like Pinelands, Silver Hill, Gall Hill and Haynesville that I find that the problem of just juxtaposing people into one area what has happened is that a lot of crime has been eliminated from these communities.

I want to give another credit to another organisation in Barbados and strange enough it is the Royal Barbados Police Force public relations department. When there was a high number of crimes existing in the communities, this arm was formed and they set up different outposts within the different communities.

Sir, I want to note that when these police outposts were set within the communities, crime probably with the exception of St. Michael South East which has always had its own internal programmes, has considerably diminished. You remember at a time there was talk about so many gangs in Barbados, Haynesville, Gall Hill, Silver Hill and as soon as these police outposts were placed the policemen became actually community development officers working in the interest of 'he communities. Therefore they

would have dealt with the cause and not the effectThat is why I heartily support the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in his Outreach Programme to the community in establishing the drug awareness programme and getting the communities to work along with it.

Sir, it is at this point in time that I would like to make mention to the Government that it should consider the possibility of placing community leaders, especially from the community councils in Barbados on statutory boards. It is very important.

Sir, the reason why I say that there is a development now in this country where a number of community councils are springing up all over and what is happening is that they are so well organised that they have a large following among the people from within their respective areas and the community leaders are respected by the people living within those environs. Therefore, Sir, the role of the community leader within the community is becoming very important. I, myself, Sir, am an example of that.

Sir, I would like to switch away a little from community development and just go over to the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and make a simple observation. I know that they are creating a Hall of Fame and at this point in time I would like to make mention of two persons, two Barbadians that I would like to see when that comes into being.

First of all, I would like to see an independent committee set up to look at the persons we will be inducting into this Hall of Fame. Right now I would like to propose that Suki King be one of the first persons and the late Reuben Bailey who was from my constituency. By the way Reuben Bailey won one of the first gold medals at the CAC games. I hope when they look at the introduction of the Hall of Fame that these two people be given priority.

Sir, in Barbados we have to look for other means and ways of getting the youth and stimulating their interest. If you go up in St. Michael South East - and I will keep on referring to St. Michael South East because it is my vision and always was that it become the capital of sports and culture in Barbados - outside of the National Stadium, the only community in this country that plays soccer at night is in St. Michael South East. Hundreds of youth from all parts of Barbados come to St. Michael South East to watch night soccer.

The reason I make that point is that if we could find extra activity, especially at night, for the youth to get involved then the level of crime would be drastically reduced. We have to become innovative and we have to make sure that our youth are stimulated to do things. 3.05 p.m.

Sir, in addition to that I would just like to look at the area of culture. I agree very much with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East in that when we look at NIFCA we find that more schools are participating in NIFCA and the artistic things they do on stage are repetitive every year. I am asking the Government to look at the possibility of establishing a National School Theatre Festival which would include drama and dance but would be primarily for Primary and Secondary Schools.

In addition, I would also like to see because writers, as far as the arts are concerned, are a scarcity in Barbados. I would also like to see that Government pay a little attention to the re-establishment of the Creative Writers' Workshop or the Writers' Guild. It is very important that as we fastiy approach the 21st Century that we look at this aspect of getting our school children to start learning to write short stories, plays, etc.

In addition, Sir, I feel that as in the island of Trinidad we should establish a Best Village Competition throughout Barbados. In Trinidad it is noted as the Prime Minister's Best Village Competition. I certainly have no qualms in having it in Barbados named, if it is adopted, the Prime Minister's Best Village Competition because it is going to benefit everyone. You will have the different parishes and communities interacting and competing with one another then in the final analysis they meet on a stage, probably at the Stadium and the best of Barbados would be on show for the Prime Minister's Best Village Competition.

Sir, I work a lot with the elderly in Barbados and there is a problem that is developing, and developing at a very fast rate as far as the elderly in Barbados are concerned. There are too many senior citizens in Barbados living alone and cannot help themselves. Only recently - again I can only refer to my own particular situation in St. Michael South East - a senior citizen living alone was smoking a cigarette at night and nearly burned himself. There are a number of senior citizens living alone in Barbados. The time has come, Sir, when we have to look at building at least two more Homes to accommodate our elders. Our elders have built our nation and, as they say, every time a senior citizen dies, a whole book is lost, so we have to care very much for the pillars of this nation.

Finally, Sir, I am calling on both sides here in Parliament to embark on a joint national effort to help this country, especially our youth, to save them from themselves. Not only should it begin here in this Parliament but it should also inculcate the private sector and all the different organizations in Barbados, especially the community councils, and let us all on matters of national interest, both parties, Opposition and Government, sit down together and work out what is tangible and beneficial for this country and not only get in Parliament and get involved in a great deal of verbal horse play.

Sir, again I am saying in the interest of this country there are times when we have to meet and discuss matters of national interest and on matters of national interest we should work both hand in hand.

Mr. Speaker, thanks very much for allowing me the time.

Mr. D. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution before the House. For a long time we in this country were paying a lot of lip service to sportsmen. I believe the time has come whereby we have to throw that away and take sportsmen and sports in general seriously. In this country at the weekends we have over 3 000 cricketers giving the people of this country free fun. I would like to see very shortly whereby sportsmen of this country would have the same support as other people and other sectors of life.

The Barbados Labour Party in its wisdom has decided in its Manifesto to give sportsmen the opportunity whereby, for the first time in this country, they can buy sporting goods at a reduced rate. As we all know, there are a lot of mothers and fathers who would love to have their children enjoy sporting activity, especially after they have had a hard week in their respective schools, and certainly because of the crime rate and the things that go on in the block, it would be a wise thing to have people gainfully employed in sports.

This administration in its wisdom has decided that for our sportsmen goods would be reduced at the level whereby young people would have an opportunity to perform and perform credibly. Years ago, there were a lot of people, even in this Chamber, it would appear who had the ability to go further but basically because of the hardships they then had to revert to other things.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in this country we have just had a phenomenon, which the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East just referred to, in Ronald Suki King. I think he should be a shining light to most ordinary Barbadians whereby on his own initially, and with a little help from business places, he has reached the top in his profession.

I started by saying that we do not want to have anymore lip service in this country for sportsmen. Here again, the Barbados Labour Party in its Manifesto had decided to establish a National Hall of Fame and Suki would be one of the first people I would love to see reach that height. Suki is to draughts what Gary Sobers was to cricket. As we look around Barbados for the young people we now have a man we can emulate and push our sporting fraternity to even greater heights.

Quite recently in this country we had an increase in the tourism sector and certain people, the technocrats, were beating their chests, talking about how tourism had increased significantly but I just want to show to you what sporting organisations can do for this country, for instance, cricket again. During the English tour the amount of people that came here, the majority of them came through the organisation of the Barbados Cricket Association, the West Indian Cricket Board of Control and all the things attached to cricket. In saying that, Sir, I just want you to see what sports can do for a country like this, especially the tourism sector.

I would like in the very near future that we can give back something to sports. It is a fact that every team that leaves here that represents Barbados has to pay airport tax and the other duty on airline tickets. I believe it would be a progressive step if we start to give back this sporting organisation something in the line of waiving that duty on the airport tax and also on the airline ticket.

In this country the Barbados Cricket Association over the year just ending, gave away about $54 000 to sporting organisations as well as to people employed in sports. If an association has the will to do such things, I believe the Government in its will should do something to assist organizations like that. 3.15 p.m.

In relation to the Lawn Tennis Association the Hockey Association has played a very significant part recently. Every year they bring over 6 000 to 7 000 visitors here. I would like to say that, here again, the Barbados Labour Party and its Manifesto has decided that in the very near future we would have an astro turf for the Hockey Association and for people playing hockey in general. It is my view that with such an improvement, it would encourage more visitors and more sportsmen to come to this country whereby it would create foreign exchange.

It is also true, Mr. Speaker, that all of the children of our society may never, ever be academics and it is important that we push all aspects of sports to the hilt. I know that over the other side the Honourable Member for St. Michael South in his formative days was considered as a budding sportsman but because of his academic brilliance he was able to make the grade in life and forget his sporting activities.

The point I am making is that outstanding sportsmen in this country can earn as much money as the academics of this society and it is for us to try to help them wherever possible. In the Sports Council where I have the honour to be Chairman, there is a lot of technical assistance which is given to respective associations

but I believe the time has come when some more money should be given to the Sports Council whereby they can advance their work there.

Mr. Speaker, it is a known fact in this country that a lot of the sporting organizations have gone astray in their managerial skills. It is a fact that because you are a great sportsman, you may not be a great manager. I believe that if money is put in the right direction we would be able to assist the respective associations in their managerial work. It is also true that we have got a LOTTO in this country and all I should like to say is that the Government should take a critical look at the LOTTO system here whereby money should be dispensed among more sporting organizations. There is no big sin and small sin. I know that LOTTO is a type of gambling. I also know there are some people in this Honourable House who believe that there is a big sin and small sin in gambling but I am one of the people who regularly buy my LOTTO ticket.

But the point I am trying to make, Sir, is that if we as I said can tap that resource to LOTTO I believe that the financial gains would be given to the sporting organizations and, in so doing, it would help them to develop more.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I was talking about some technical assistance to the National Sports Council. The National Sports Council is here to guide and direct all of the sporting organizations. We can only give that guidance when the national organizations do the right thing. It is a fact that they should make their figures available to the National Sports Council whereby we in turn can do the necessary things to help and assist them in the future.

I strongly believe that with organizations as I mentioned like the Cricket Association, the Lawn Tennis Association and the Hockey Association which has brought so much foreign exchange to this country the time is ripe now whereby we should do everything in our effort in order to repay them for their hard work.

Lastly, Sir, it would be remiss of me if I did not mention that in Christ Church East Central where they obviously have the greatest football team in Barbados, the Pride of Gall Hill. I think that in the near future when people are brought to this country to see various things here in the hotel sector. I believe that scouts should be brought in on a similar mission where they have the opportunity to see the football that is being displayed in this country and in so doing they, as independent people, would have the opportunity to invite the young sportsmen, especially footballers go in the field for trials. I know that cricket has always succeeded in that area but the time has come where other disciplines especially football should be given the opportunity to go abroad and display their skills.

Without any further ado, Mr. Speaker, that is my contribution to the debate. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution brought to this Honourable Chamber by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West relating to the Throne Speech which was delivered by Dame Nita Barrow.

Since there has been a change in the Government of this country there has been a sense or wind of optimism blowing throughout the length and width of this country. Many of you will remember the last 8 years or so of the Democratic Labour Party Government and moreso the last *Ifa* years when havoc was created as a result of the implementation of all these draconian measures brought on to the people under the auspices of the IMF, the International Monetary Fund.

All of you would very well remember the 8% cut in public workers' salaries. All of you will also remember the stash in unemployment benefits and severance payments benefits as well as the massive lay-off in both the private and public sector which were brought about by all these draconian measures implemented by the Democratic Labour Party Government

You would see that our speeches on this side would have reflected all of these chronic evils brought upon this country by that Administration and we are now seeking to improve the lot of the population of Barbados by bringing to you a Charter for change. The old age pensioners in this country for the last several years have been given a raw deal by the last Administration and we on this side plan to increase their pension as soon as possible.

I know that you all will agree with me that many of these old people have worked hard to see this country grow. And we on this side feel that their pension should be increased from time to time so that their disposable income would never be reduced. So to this end we are going to increase the pensions of old age people. 3.25 p.m.

We are also going to keep their grants and allowances under review so that their standard of living would not fall. We are also planning to provide, Mr. Speaker, domiciliary arrangements for these old people so that they would not necessarily have to go to the hospital where care is expensive. We are also planning to upgrade and expand the home help service whereby many more of these old people will be taken care of. Right now I am not satisfied that sufficient of these old people are being well taken care of and it is very important that any caring Government should look after the needs and well-being of its senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we should realise that the old age pensioners constitute approximately 10% to 15% of our population and as far as I am concerned that is a significant amount of persons we have to look after.

What is also of concern to me was the fact that not a single rental unit for poor people was built in the last 9 years. We on this side ...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I really should not interrupt the speech of a new Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are on a point of order?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am on a point of order, Sir. The speaker is misleading the House when he says that no new units were built within the last 9 years because some were built in St. Philip North.

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL: I said for poor people. Most of those units are rented at approximately $100 per week and as far as I am concerned they are more suited to middle income people and not poor people.

Unlike the last Government, we are planning to build many of these units. We do not plan to be a big landlord so we are planning to sell, where required, these units to these people and the cost of these units would be minus the rent which they would have paid. In other words the rents which they would have paid is going to be taken off from the cost of the units so that in many cases people who were renters of these units for a very long time would have to pay a very nominal fee for the units.

A matter of concern to me, Mr. Speaker, pertains to the housing units. There are many poor people who rent these units. They have been put out of work mainly by the last administration and they have been getting all types of eviction notices from the National Housing Corporation.

I feel that the National Housing Corporation should set some system in place whereby the persons who are not working should be given a chance until they are working to pay their rents. I also feel that in certain cases the arrears could be reduced to make it easier for many of these poor people.

We are also planning to have a comprehensive road repair programme done during the next 5 years and this is going to affect the constituency of Christ Church West Central to some extent because there have been very many roads in a total state of disrepair. There are many secondary rbads which have not been given a face lift in the 8 years of the Democratic Labour Party reign and I am looking forward to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew fixing the road^ in Christ Church West Central and more particularly areas like Silver Hill, Vauxhall, Maxwell Hill, as well as Sargeant's Village so that many of my constituents would be able to get to their homes easier at night.

I would also like to see a better drainage programme being instituted because there are several areas in my constituency, especially in the Cane Vale area where, as soon as there is a sudden downpour of rain there is flooding.

Something that we also plan to do, Mr. Speaker, is to improve generally the services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because in the last seven or eight years things have deteriorated to such an extent that you cannot even get toilet paper and ordinary linen at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

'We, on this side, plan to bring back all of the operating theatres into use so that people in Barbados would not be given the turn around. I know of many situations where people sometimes have to wait three months and six months before they get an operation.We also plan to extend the professional services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital so that certain cases which sometimes have to go overseas could be dealt with locally. We also intend to increase the amount of nurses at the hospital. Right now there is a shortage of nurses at the hospital and as a result of that the morale among the nursing profession is at an all time low.

We also plan to install earphones in all of the ambulances so as to facilitate the treatment of patients where possible on the way to hospital. We are also planning to increase the fleet of the ambulance services and decentralise the service so that emergencies could be dealt with better now than previously. In other words we feel that there should be a group of ambulances, not only in Bridgetown but also maybe in Oistins, Speightstown, even St. Lucy so that these ambulances would be able to respond quicker to emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, we are also planning to close down Mount "Stinkeroo" which has been a health hazard, especially to the people in Bennetts and Arch Hall. I think it is also important too, Mr. Speaker, that we start to think in terms of incinerators whereby we will be able to dispose of the garbage which is around 400 tonnes a day. We feel that if we had to go to incinerators, and it is true that we will still have to use a landfill, the residue from the incinerator will be reduced considerably. As a matter of fact, it could be about 6 to 8 per cent of the 400 tonnes which we dispose of daily. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to see the fleet of the Sanitation Service Authority be increased. As a matter of fact, we plan to increase and make better the fleet

of the Sanitation Service Authority so that the collection of garbage can be done in a better way. There has been a great deterioration over the last few years in the collection of the garbage. So we are planning to increase as well as to mechanize the fleet of the Sanitation Service Authority.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on presenting this Resolution to this Honourable Chamber because we feel that, as I said earlier, there is a charter for change. I think that we have been well supported by the Honourable Member for St John who has already made the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party a document of the House. So in actual fact, it shows that it has been well supported by the Honourable Members on that side.

In closing, I would like to thank Mr. Speaker for allowing me to make a contribution and I look forward to doing this more often in the future. Thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not without significance that this debate takes place in the month of November, the month in which patriotic Barbadians and from that category I exclude those callous and insensitive businessmen to whose respect Santa Claus lays greater claim than the national flag, focus their attention on the nature and meaning of independence. Significant too is the fact that this debate takes place just upwards of two months after a new Government has been installed in Barbados after a controversial General Election in which the Democratic Labour Party was called upon to answer a sweeping indictment of many counts alleging acts of social, economic and political wrong-doing. At the social level, we were told that the country was in a state of drift. We were told that crime was on the rampage and that this crime was caused by the negligence of the Democratic Labour Party. On the economic front, we were told that the economy was functioning on none of its cylinders and, on the political front, we were told that a Burnham-like dictatorship was creeping its way into the public life of Barbados and that only the alchemy of a General Election could transmute this situation into a golden opportunity for Barbadians.

On September 6, 1994 the people of Barbados found the Democratic Labour Party guilty as charged and on October 5, 1994 Her Excellency read the Speech, the contents of which are the subject matter of today's debate. This Speech, therefore, represents the intended practice of the new Government of the Barbados Labour Party. I believe it was that formidable African scholar, Kwame Nkrumah, who once said that practice without thought is blind and that thought without practice is useless. I understand what the estimable doctor meant, but I prefer for the purposes of this discussion to modify what he said and say that practice without theory is blind and that theory without practice is useless. Of course, by theory I do not mean aimless and leisured speculation as the Platonists used the word. I rather mean theory as a tool of explanation, generalisation that attempts to specify the conditions under which things happen in a social and economic environment; that seeks to explain why they happen under those conditions; and that seeks to construct patterns of probability, to arm people with the capacity to predict what will happen in their social, economic and political environment. One of the indispensable prerequisites of a stable society is the capacity of people to see down the road and to determine what is likely to happen in their lives. When they can see down the road and can determine what will happen in their lives, it saves them from wild prophesying and allows them to plan their business and personal affairs with a little more certainty. The distinction between prediction and prophesy, of course, dates back to the year 1948 when Professor Carl Popper delivered a famous address entitled, "Prediction and Prophesy In The Social Sciences". Now I am not a Popperite. I find fault with many of Professor Popper's conclusions and I certainly do not share his world view. But the distinction between prediction and prophesy is well enough made to justify, half merit my intellectual embrace. So I go with the distinction made by Professor Popper.

Sir, against this background faced with this situation, I feel able to say that the intended practice of the Government is weak because it is bereft of any commitment to theory as a tool of explanation. The question one might usefully ask at the start of this discussion is: To what new and hitherto unimagined horizons does this Speech purport to raise nation's gaze? What vision of man as he lives and moves and has its being in Barbados does it purport to adumbrate? 3.45 p.m.

I trespass on Your Honour's patience to look at the social, political and economic components of the Speech that presently engage this House. The mover of the Resolution, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, spoke with some passion about the speech's commitment to the institutionalisation of participatory democracy. We will know this democracy when we see it, because we will be seeing more Green and White Papers. We will be hearing about more referenda. We will have an expansion and an increase of the number of parliamentary committees. All of those things are supposed to indicate that the level of participation in the democracy of Barbados will be heightened.

Now it all depends Sir, on what one means by democracy. If one adopts, in my view, the empty and meaningless definitions that came out of 19th century America - "Government of the people by the people for the people", a definition that targets nobody and that

defines nothing, then it is possible to argue that there will be an increase in the level of participation by the population as a result of the measures outlined in this speech.

I reject that definition of democracy because, as I said, it defines nothing and it targets nobody. I prefer a definition that basically targets those elements in this society that cry out for participation and for the right to influence the decision-making processes here. A definition, therefore, that says that democracy is an agreed method by which those who are deemed to be politically relevant are allowed to influence the decision-making process meets more with my approval because it forces us to confront the issue, who do we consider to be politically relevant.

If one wants to influence the decision-making processes then it seems to me that one must have the means whereby one can make one's demands effective. That distinguishes between the democracy endured by the mass of the population of Barbados and the democracy which is the privilege of a minority in Barbados. The latter groups contend that they have the means whereby they can make their demands effective. They don't need another parliamentary committee. They do not need any referendum. They do not need any Green Paper. Whenever they want to influence the decision-making process in Barbados they have the wealth. They have their fingers stuck into the jugular vein of the society and the economy in such a way that whenever they want decisions that are consistent with their interests they can get those decisions, and that is real democracy.

So a participatory democracy that is meaningful must contemplate the redistribution of wealth to arm people to secure the results they want. I therefore think that the democratic processes in Barbados are limited and do not extend far enough. If participatory democracy is to mean anything, it seems to me that this Government must commit itself to the redistribution of wealth in this society.

When we move from the political dimension to the economic what do we find in this speech? The speech commits itself to the creation of a vibrant private sector and service sector. With these ideals I can find no fault. The Democratic Labour Party also committed itself to a vibrant private sector and to the development of the service sector. But in 1994, when the expression "private sector" is used it still does not mean a large enough number of the people. The expression connotes a minority of people who milk the society or are perceived to milk the society. It means therefore that Government, when creating a vibrant private sector, must contemplate a meaning of private sector that embraces the small businessmen, new businesses that give the term a broader and more meaningful and national definition.

The traditional private sector of Barbados cannot be heard to complain that it is being hard done by, for successive governments of the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party have invested large sums of money in the traditional private sector of Barbados. Behind the disguise of words like incentives and concessions these large businesses have benefited substantially from the generosity of the Government. Whenever the Government of Barbados has transferred funds to public corporations like the Transport Board and the National Assistance Board the complaint has been that the Government is being paternalistic, that it is practising welfare and the Government is investing in enterprises unprofitable by definition because of poor management.

These businesses complain that by interfering in the economy in that way market forces are being disturbed and that Government should stay out and allow private sector to run the economy and be the main engine of wealth generation. This argument does not hold true when Government interferes and transfers to the private sector. But when it transfers wealth to the public sector the accusation is that the Government is propping up inefficiency. If Government had recently transferred $5.3 million to the NCC there would have been howls of protest raised in Barbados that you are propping up inefficiency and the same would have been true had it been to the Transport Board. But when those sums are transferred to private businessmen, Government is congratulated and told that although it helped it did not go far enough. I do not know of any private sector in this region or anywhere else in the world which has ever had enough from any Government.

I think the time has come in Barbados when Governments must contemplate investing in the creation of a new type of private sector - the genuine entrepreneurs, who are just not white collar shopkeepers, who are committed to applying their minds and their entrepreneurship to the creation of new wealth in this society. New businesses in that sense must mean black businesses for it is this section of the population which has not yet benefitted in the business sense from the beneficence of successive Governments. 3.55 p.m.

While I agree with the creation of a vibrant private sector, Mr. Speaker, it is my view that that private sector must be a new private sector that embraces a larger component of the national population. I do not accept that Governments can continue to invest as heavily as they have done in the past in the traditional private sector which uses foreign exchange, but spends little or no time in its creation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the point has to be made that the essence of business is profit making. I believe that

the patron saint of free market economics, Adam Smith, is on record as saying that it is not out of the benevolence of the brewer, the baker, or the butcher that we get our dinner, but out of their regard for their own profit. So profit underpins and undergirds all business activity.

I do not accept, Sir, that any businessman making any claims on Government looks out on a wrecked world in which there is a loss of faith, hope and charity and decides that he is going to start a business in order to create jobs. It is just not true. A few jobs might result from the creation of the starting of a business but it is not the motivation of the businessman to create jobs. Therefore, I contend, that the creation of jobs must continue to be a matter of concern for the Government. It is not fair to the masses of Barbados to have politicians shout in their ears, "Vote for us. We will give you jobs", 30 000 or otherwise, and then abandon the creation of those jobs to private businessmen. It just does not work. Government must commit itself to staying in the economy and assisting with the creation of jobs if our unemployment problem is to be solved.

When one turns from the private sector to the service sector, what is the picture there? Again, as I have said earlier, the Democratic Labour Party has made its own contribution to the improvement of the service sector in Barbados. But we are talking today, 28 years into our Independence, and the question which we must confront is, are we doing the right thing in investing so totally in a service sector? What is our vision of Barbados in the 21st Century? What is our vision of Barbados as we step on the threshold of the 21st Century? Do we see a Barbados which is no more than an international service station at which vehicles from larger and wealthier nations pull up when it suits them to refuel, to get their windshields cleaned and their oil and water checked, then to pull off with patronizing expressions of gratitude after leaving a tip, sometimes large, sometimes not so large, or do we envisage a Barbados in the 21st Century which seeks to influence the course of international events and to get the world to respond as we want it to respond? We cannot have a limited view of our own capabilities as a small nation.

As my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East was speaking and then as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central was speaking, I reflected that there might be some kind of psychic unity between those Honourable Members and myself as they focussed on the achievements of the Barbadian Suki King, for here is a young man who stepped onto the world stage and redefined the game of draughts so that hereafter whenever anybody sits down to play draughts that person must ask, how would Suki have done it? He did not allow himself to be constrained by the size of the country of his birth. He understood, as Prince Henry the navigator understood at the end of the 15th Century, that though providence would have decreed that he be born in a small country, that same providence gave him the whole world in which to live and in which to die and he stepped on to that world stage and redefined a game which was not of his own making.

I ask the question, Sir, if an unpretentious young man from Barbados could do that, is it beyond the capacity of our economists, for example, who boast so many letters behind their names, and who have benefitted so substantially from the efforts and sacrifices of the workers of Barbados to make their opportunities possible, to confront some of the iqore established orthodoxies of economics, for example, equilibrium price-auction theory that creates and spawns monstrosities like recession, depression, and stagflation and more recently jobless growth, monstrosities that exclude large numbers of people from the mainstream of economic life? Is it beyond the capacity of our learned men to make contact with some of these problems and to ensure that they redefine them in such a way that the world gets a different view of solving social, economic and political problems?

These are the challenges facing Barbados as we contemplate entering the 21st Century. What I am saying is not worldly. It has happened before. Those Honourable Members in this House who have been exposed to the ancient classics will know that about 2 500 years ago a small city state at the best of times with a population barely larger than that of Barbados, and at the worst of times with a population smaller than that of Barbados, created a body of thought from which to this very day we in this part of the world cannot extricate ourselves.

When a man argues with his wife, he argues in the logic of Aristotle. When a man goes to build a house or a road he is influenced by the geometry of Pythagoras and Euclid. Our views of religion and God and how a society should be organised are the views of Plato and Aristotle.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has two minutes to conclude. 4.05 p.m.

Aside.

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

Mr. F. J. STUART: It happened before, Sir. All I am saying is that we should not be constrained to believe that it is beyond our capability to redefine issues for the world. It is possible for us to get out of the syndrome of believing that we are small with no natural resources and that we are just takers; we cannot be givers. It is possible for us to step on to the world stage and by the utilization of

the brains, of which we boast, to reshape thought in such a way that we can get the world to respond as we want that world to resppnd.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I briefly touch on the issue of social problems in Barbados because in the Throne Speech reference is made to law and order. I just want to say that as far as I am concerned there is no necessary link between law and order. I do not accept that where there is no order, there is no law and that where there is order, there is law.

It is my view that a problem like crime is really a social problem and not a legal problem and that what we as a country and a Government have to do is to solve the social problems that spawn crime rather than resorting to the belief that if we pass the requisite amount of laws our social problems will be solved.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member would have to conclude now.

Mr. F. J. STUART: I am grateful to Your Honour. Other occasions will arise for me to tackle some of these issues but that is my thinking and that thinking is consistent with the thinking of the Party whose spokesman I am.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to say a few words on this particular Resolution in particular because I wish to get this matter from remaining as the chore which it is and getting my comment on the Throne Speech completed as a matter of priority.

I should like to begin by congratulating the Honourable Member for St. Philip South for speaking in such a clear, concise manner on this Throne Speech and in seeking to locate this speech in the place where things like Throne Speeches and Manifestoes and the incidents which we use to give pointers to our philosophical direction should be located.

The fact that the Honourable Member for St. George South was confused by the presentation and has not yet been able to extricate himself from the limits of that lack of understanding, I hope that when he rises he will be able to respond to the challenge. Because many months ago I sent him a copy of a lecture delivered by a very famous ^economist on the good society in The Guardian newspaper. I only remembered the other day I sent it to him but he delivered such an outstanding presentation in Carlisle Car Park that it was only when I read the lecture again and saw the linkages, important as they were, between that lecture delivered then by John Kenneth Galbraith in one of his last lectures and the presentation of the Honourable Member for St. George South. But I am glad that you are on that particular train because many of the points which he made about the good society, in which that lecture was considered to be his last public lecture, are points worthy of note. And I am glad that just as the Honourable Member for St. Philip South brought some of these matters to the attention of this Parliament, that you sought to redirect your Party on a path, which would have made sense, in the context of a general election taking place in 1994 in Barbados and for which, all things being equal, the next election in this country will be taking place months away from us stepping over the threshold of the next century.

However, based on what I have read in the Throne Speech, that particular presentation on the good society which is so worthy of emulation has been completely lost on .the leading lights of the Barbados Labour Party and instead of that we can be faced, in this country, with the leadership of the Labour Party touting all kinds of catch phrases like, "the decisive difference" and "the choice for change" and all of this other political clap track but that when we get to the substance of the proposals, Mr. Speaker, and one reads the Throne Speech which is not even a collection of platitudes and if it were even that would be welcome from me.

What the Throne Speech is, is a disjointed set of sterile, anodyne statements essentially about the continuation of policies which the Democratic Labour Party in its first phase of restructuring this country and its economy had undertaken. In other words, what was missing from that presentation was what one would call the next steps in the restructuring profile of Barbados. So that the Labour Party could seize upon all of these initiatives which we really considered in our kind of thinking as a political party to be just the first steps in the process of stabilizing or restructuring this economy and could parrot these ideas as if they were going to be the things which would propel this country into the 21st Century. It has disappointed me considerably. I wait with baited breath to hear the speech of the Honourable Member for St. George South and I hope he will relocate his Party somewhere because right now it is a Party adrift and it threatens to take this country on that drift with it, except for the fact that a very powerful Opposition is going to ensure that those policies which are important and critical to the development of this country are continued and that the next steps which are so vital to our development will proceed.

I could not believe, as I sat in the chair in the Other Place that in the Throne Speech delivered on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party that these words could find themselves in that Speech. I am sorry that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is not here because I do not wish to say anything behind his back that should not be said in front of his face because if I were his age and at his stage in politics I wouM have to ask the Lord to direct me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Keep it in order, please. Continue.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I said I would have to ask the Lord to direct me as I do in other things, but especially if I were at his stage in politics. That is not an insult.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It is not even pejorative. It is a statement of fact that if I were at that stage, that is what I would do. That is not a negative remark.

Imagine that after the vicious criticism which emanated from the Barbados Labour Party and was heaped on the Democratic Labour Party in the last Estimates Debate, followed by a presentation by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, in the Budget Debate, about wasting millions of dollars, being beholden to the international institutions, allowing foreign consultants to come in this country and direct the Ministry of Finance and that the tax administration and expenditure management project was a project which should not be continued, that one of the principle features of the monetary and fiscal policy of the Barbados Labour Party is that the tax administration and expenditure management project which is already in progress and which is designed to improve financial management of the public sector will be fully implemented. 4.15 p.m.

We were told months ago that it was a monumental waste of public money. That there were people in Barbados who could do it and that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Economic Affairs then did not know what was going on and were allowing people to come in this country to take over the administration of public affairs.

We have had enough time in this country for the Minister of Finance to sit down and to identify the direction which he wishes to take in relation to our economic affairs and he is not going to absolve himself by launching attacks on the principal economic spokesman of the Democratic Labour Party in the other place nor on me or any other Member on this side.

We do not expect graciousness from him but what we expect is that for the salary that he is drawing every month and for the choice which the people made of him over us that he is going to pay serious attention to the issues which he says were so vital.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member ...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Peter. On the one hand, one heard that the financial institutions and in particular the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund were exerting too much influence in economic planning and development in Barbados. Yet there has not been a single occasion since September 6, 1994 when the Minister of Finance has been able to say unequivocally what his position will be in relation to those institutions.

I say to you that contrary to the impression the Honourable Member for St. Peter gave that he has more weighty things at home to deal with and could not attend International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings, I am saying that he was frightened and terrified to go to the World Bank/International Monetary Fund Meetings because he himself has not yet determined what particular course the economic management and development...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John, your language seems to be suggesting certain things about the Honourable Member for St. Peter who unfortunately is not here to defend himself. I would suggest that you withdraw those words about the Honourable Member being frightened and terrified, and that you put your point a different way.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, since that is your direction and I am always willing to accept the direction of the Chair, perhaps I should use other words and then you can tell me whether they fall within what is parliamentary.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, then that he was afraid to attend the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meeting because up until that time and to this date he does not know what particular economic course he wishes to chart for this country, and that there is no decisive difference. There is no change and there has been no serious consideration of a new and alternative economic policy.

So that what essentially I am saying to this House is that the Labour Party's pledge of it being a choice for change is fraudulent. It is a fraudulent pledge and we can say that because our arguments are buttressed by the timidity and the indifference which that administration demonstrates in showing where those changes, if they were so necessary until September 6, 1994 are going to come from. And every single proposal which is outlined

in the Throne Speech is essentially a continuation of those policies which the Democratic Labour Party ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member again, please, you are alleging that the Barbados Labour Party is fraudulent or appears to be fraudulent in its statements within the Throne Speech. I am understanding from that that once again your inference seems to be not a very parliamentary kind of inference about the Party and I would suggest that you say what you want to say in a different way.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for your guidance in this matter but I have never been one to strain myself with the English language to find easy and comfortable ways to put the concerns of the people of Barbados and therefore I understand your concerns. I share that concern when I look at the Government Benches but if you wish me then to retreat from that position and use language which is more comfortable to Honourable Members, I would do so but in this particular debate we heard an onslaught from the Honourable Minister of Health. I do not know how to characterise it, Mr. Speaker. I heard a presentation by the Honourable Minister of Health which defies logic, defies intelligence, defies what I am accustomed to, even as a strident debater in this Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Menlber for St John, I am asking you to withdraw the word "fraudulent" which you used to describe the actions of the Government party of this Honourable House. That is all I am asking you to do. I am not asking you to comment on any decision of the Chair.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I withdraw the word "fraudulent" and therefore I will say that the choice for change, the expression decisive difference is a hoax, a cloak. It is a hood-wink, it is deceitful, because nothing that has happened since then, Mr. Speaker, in my view, can be characterised as change and nothing that is said in the Throne Speech can indicate that there is the prospect of change for the people of Barbados under the Barbados Labour Party administration.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we feel very strongly that the Throne Speech should have been an exercise in outlining that new charter for change which the Labour Party said it had sought to herald. But none of this has happened. Imagine a Throne Speech in 1994 being delivered which does not identify, contrary to what the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said, a forceful and energetic policy for the creation of jobs in this country. Contrary to that there is every single indication that this new administration has been doing all in its power to frustrate every single major private sector industry in this country.

We have seen it today when one of the major black corporations in this country has come under the assault of the Minister of Education. We have seen it on other occasions, Mr. Speaker, when we discovered that the Kingsland Golf Course was no longer going ahead and all of a sudden Members of the Labour Party in their cloak rooms, except the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, were saying that it was never any project in the first place it was a joke business, and it was not the kind of investment which anybody would undertake in Barbados. Similarly, there are other private sector initiatives which the Barbados Labour Party Administration is seeking to find excuses now to say that they are now not taking place. For example, Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party never established that the development at Bushy Park in St. Philip was contingent on the establishment of a casino and no concession was given in relation to any casino. No permission was given by the Cabinet. If you check the Town and Country Planning Office's book in which the decision of the Chief Town Planner is written, you will not see the word "casino" appearing anywhere. Yet, it is now being used as an excuse for the monumental incompetent and lack of confidence in the administration of the Barbados Labour Party by the Minister of Tourism who is now giving the impression that investment will not take place in this country in the tourism sector unless there is casino gambling. His views are being supported by a flurry of activity by the Barbados Labour Party to seek to demonstrate that projects which investors are now having cold feet over were in fact contingent on all kinds of other matters we never knew of. 4.25 p.m.

The Value Added Tax - there is not a single Member on that side, least of all the Honourable Member for St. George South who would not have commiserated with the Democratic Labour Party when the onslaught was led by the then leader of the Opposition on the question of the introduction of the Value Added Tax and, in particular, the views which he expressed about its impact on the tourism sector. Yet, one can read essentially that the Value Added Tax is going to be introduced by the Barbados Labour Party.

Not,a single change in the restructuring of the sugar industry. The Prime Minister came in here, as I would have as well and I admit that, and threw his hands up in the air and said that I do not know what to do about the sugar sector. That was essentially what he was saying in his presentation, Mr. Speaker. Yet, during the course of the month leading up to September 6, 1994, we heard that the entire restructuring programme was wrong. No alternatives have been presented and again Honourable Members who were most vociferous sat in silence. I cannot remember, Sir, if intellectual dishonesty is unparliamentary. But I will therefore refer to myself only that, if I were in

that position, I would expect people to characterize me as intellectually dishonest That is the principal concern that one has to have when one sits on this side and hears the Barbados Labour Party fulminating on issues and making excuse after excuse in their failure to introduce those things which they said they would introduce. But I was on the job plan. Could you imagine having a Throne Speech in 1994 in which an administration said that the number one job was "jobs[11] and the presentation had a few fleeting references to how those jobs will be created? An election campaign in which the leader of that political party touted from every single platform in this country that he was going to put in place a strategic plan which would ensure the development of the services sector in this country. He identified a whole range of areas on television and elsewhere where those jobs were going to be created. But when the Throne Speech came he could not identify the language which was presented for dissemination. He could not identify one single major initiative which would take place in this country under that new administration to create jobs. So we have a Throne Speech which, as I said, is a half dead exercise not even a platitude - because it does not even rise to that level in disconnected statements, not pulled from the Labour Party's Manifesto. I challenge the Honourable Member who said that this was a distillation of the Manifesto. If this is a distillation of the Labour Party's Manifesto, something is wrong. This does not deal with the good society and the ideals which that good society should exemplify. This does not deal with the number one job which is creating jobs. The only thing this deals with that is new is a change to Section 29 of the Constitution as a result of the Ophelia King Case which the rest of Barbados knew about anyway and something on rural development. What else is new?... A Youth Entrepreneurial Scheme. We already have a Youth In Business Programme in Barbados established by the Democratic Labour Party.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Where? In the Pine. Well, you do not pass around there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue please. You continue.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Youth Service, which took 13 years in this country to get going but eventually got going even in the most stringent of economic time, was established by the Democratic Labour Party in 1991. All of these things are trumpeted in this Throne Speech as if they were new ideas to be implemented.

The second area where there is a new initiative is in the area of rural development and we have spoken of that already. I want to say to the Labour Party this. There is presently a road programme going on in die constituency of St. John where the major roads are being re-surfaced. It is a project for which the Democratic Labour Party negotiated the money and planned under its Road Work Programme.

Secondly, we did not have in train up until 1994 a Tenantry Road Programme. We did not have the resources for it. But if the Government says that it is going to introduce a Tenantry Road Programme and as the representative for the people of St. John, I make no apologies for saying that I am going to ask for priority to be given to my constituency. So you can get your friends to write as much as you wish in the newspapers everyday.

I will restate my position clearly. I expect, Mr. Speaker, as part of the Tenantry Road Programme which is identified in this Throne Speech on page 10, that I want once again to reiterate that in my constituency I expect tenantry roads to be done. I am not asking or begging for anything. Just like the St. John Polyclinic, the Honourable Minister may consider it to be bricks. That is her right to feel that way. I cannot stop her. But there are people who live in rural areas that when it rains like in Gall Hill, St. John have to walk through mud and water to get into the Polyclinic and there are health professionals working in the Gall Hill Polyclinic who work under water, practically, when the rain falls. Therefore, if the building of a monument for Errol Barrow, as the Honourable Member for St. James South calls it, cannot be conceived by her as an important addition to the health care facilities in Barbados then stop the project. The administration is free to make that determination and forever stand by those kinds of decisions. Because I cannot imagine that I can put on my television on September 4,1994 and see the school at St. Thomas and the St. John Polyclinic and hear the voice of the Honourable Member for the City in a television broadcast talking about that polyclinic - and what the Honourable Member for the City was then saying was that it was going to be finished and it is a national disgrace that it was not - and yet within two months her colleague on the front bench can get in this Chamber and give the impression that it was simply a monument to Errol Barrow, a bunch of bricks and for all I know may never be completed by the Ministry of Health. Now the word "fraudulent[11] cannot be put in the record, Mr. Speaker, even in relation to the Barbados Labour Party. So I will once again repeat my position that, if I took those positions one after the other, I would have to be described as being intellectually dishonest and it concerns me. It concerns me. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, they built all... 4.35 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let's have order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for the City knows a lot about polyclinics.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let's have order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Her friends are not building policlinics now, and that is what had her annoyed. So polyclinics for a house: that theory doesn't work any more.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just continue, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: This Barbados Labour Party Administration, in my view, based on that path which it has taken so far, can only be described as an Administration that is adrift. In June 1994, nearly every single Member who was returned of the 10 members who were then the Opposition were hot and sweaty in this country, like the rest of us, over the issue of the Barbados Tourism Authority. It could not dawn on me, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that for 2 months after, going on to 3, after the September 6, 1994 General Election a Board could not be established for the Tourism Authority and I am going to go as far as to say this because we have evidence of it: that acts of illegality were being committed, because people were authorising expenditure in excess of that approved for which the Board had authority. And a Board was not in place and yet that expenditure was being approved. We will be bringing that information to the House very shortly. I believe the Honourable Member for St. Michael South has already asked a question about it and we will wait for the answer, but an opinion was given and if that is the kind of opinion given, it means that something has to be wrong in this country and I want the Honourable Member for the City to take the opportunity to read that opinion because she likes to jump up and down in this...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, just keep it orderly please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for the City likes to jump up and down dealing with issues of illegality, unlawful expenditure of money and such like.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has 2 minutes left.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Therefore when we have to bring to this Chamber those specific acts of illegality which were committed during the period between September 6, 1994 and the date on which the instruments were given to the members of the Board of Tourism I hope that the Honourable Member for the City will not retreat from the very high ground on which she pretends to stand *on issues of this sort.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. I take great exception to the last words pronounced by the Honourable Member for St. John. He has a style of sniping at people, talking down to people. His style verges on the abusive. He is always ready to tell somebody that they are ignorant, that they are stupid. I will not have it said that I am pretending to do anything. I am a plain spoken woman. If I think you are a fool I will tell you you are a fool. I don't pretend to do anything.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, I am asking you to withdraw those words, where the inference obviously is very clear.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I withdraw. I am not sure which words you wish me to withdraw, but I will withdraw the word "pretend" since that is the word that is apparently causing great offence.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I had 2 minutes and there was an interruption and I always understood that time should be given. I am making a request for an extension of time to complete the point within the 2 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Go ahead.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The last point that I want to make relates to the song and dance which the Barbados Labour Party Opposition made on the issue of divestment and privatisation. As I said, like nearly everything else in the Throne Speech, it came as a monstrous shock to me and to the rest of Barbados that the Barbados Labour Party Administration could say:

> "My Government believes that enterprises which perform purely commercial functions will benefit from divestment.
>
> However it will ensure that priority is given to employees, non-traditional small investors, and local institutions, including credit unions, in the sale of equity."

And yet at the same time the Privatisation Unit which was in place to carry out the programme of economic democracy in this country to take the financial institutions and place them in the hands of the credit unions and small investors in this country has been disbanded, and the Barbados Labour Party has no intention of carrying out any programme of economic empowerment in this country because it does not even form part of the principal features of the Throne Speech.

In any event, it has to be a hoax for a party which took a position so vehemently against privatisation, even of commercial enterprises like the Barbados National Oil Company and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. These were purely commercial enterprises - Heywoods, Arawak Cement Plant and yet 2 months after an

election, their definition of government which the Honourable Member for St George South was so careful to point out was wrong...

Mr. SPEAKER: Could the Honourable Member now wind up, please?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes, Sir. Thank you very much.

... now constitutes a major platform for the Barbados Labour Party. Something has to be wrong, and that is why we on this side have to characterise the Throne Speech and initiatives which it heralds, when contrasted. with the position which the Barbados Labour Party took during the Election campaign and prior to it, as a major hoax on the people of Barbados; but it is our job as an Opposition to expose that for what it is.

We will continue to do so in the months ahead and ensure that, particularly in relation to economic policies, this country continues to be guided by prudence and intelligent financial planning. That is the remit of the Opposition and we certainly are not going to allow the hoax to continue. We will be exposing them at every cross and turn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in this debate to commend the Government in respect of the Throne Speech; but before I start to do that I would wish only to say that it is very difficult to believe that a person who is the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition could deliver of himself a speech in respect of the Throne Speech and not articulate one iota relating to his vision as to how Barbados should develop or be governed over the next 10-20 years.

Sir, it really means a lot, particularly having heard the speech of the Honourable Member for St Philip South who has clearly become the *de facto* leader of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of his capacity to guide the Democratic Labour Party philosophically and intellectually in terms of developmental issues. 4.45 p.m.

It is unfortunate, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St John should have spoken so soon after the Honourable Member for St. Philip South clearly highlighting the shallowness of the remarks of the Honourable Member for St John, and clearly highlighting his penchant for vitriolic abuse of even Honourable Members of this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St John, could you just put yourself to order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I would have been very surprised if you, as the Presiding Officer of this Chamber, would have allowed me to engage in vitriolic abuse. Therefore, I believe that the Honourable Member for St Michael North East, at least for the sake of the integrity of the Chair, should withdraw those remarks and have them struck from the record.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I will withdraw them and put it a different way - his efforts at vitriolic abuse which the Chair in its wisdom sought to stop when he tried to do so.

Nevertheless, Sir, I really do not intend to be sidetracked by the speech of the Honourable Member for St. John except to say this that it is amazing that having sought to place a hoax on the public of Barbados in respect of alleged statements made by the now Prime Minister, that the Honourable Member would still in this Chamber seek to mislead this Honourable Chamber by indicating that the Throne Speech which we are debating contains absolutely no new policies, and does not contain policies articulated in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party.

To begin with, Sir, all of the policies identified under Education and Culture, and quality of life on pages 10 and 11 can be found in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto at pages 19,20, 21 and 22 whether it is from the Common Entrance Exam being continued but being based on a system of continuous assessment where children would be allowed to sit the Exam when they are ready. The mechanics and logistics of that flexible transfer are currently being worked out so that we ensure that nobody is disadvantaged by those arrangements because we understand that children develop at different rates and therefore it would be fallacious to expect that each child would reach the same level of ability at 11 years old and to ensure that each child is required to sit that exam at age 11 regardless of other considerations. That is contained in the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto.

The Honourable Member said that the only new policies were the repeal of section 26 and the Rural Enterprises Fund. We have also included in here a programme that articulates the establishment of a core of youth commissioners on the ground that will work in conjunction with the Community Development Department in ensuring that children and young people out there on the ground receive access to constant monitoring, supervision and, indeed, programmes to help them harness their energies in a way that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has already spoken in this debate.

Sir, I suppose I should not be surprised. Once I remember the greatest bluff of the 1994 campaign then I should not be surprised that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has spoken in the terms in which he has spoken. As if that were not enough, I really believe that I would have never lived to see the day where he

would be attacking the Barbados Labour Party or speaking at all on the issue of privatization and divestment his having presided over a Ministry of Finance, having had the opportunity to empower and enfranchise people in this country, but each time the decision was placed before him to do so, to take the route that allowed for the empowerment and the enrichment of big businesses in this country over the interest of the credit unions, the small investors and all of the other persons that they said in their 1991 Manifesto that they would seek to empower and enfranchise in this country. That is why I say that perhaps the Democratic Labour Party really needs to ensure that its leadership is found in the bosom of St. Philip South instead of St. John. Let him go a little further south.

Sir, in respect of the rest of the Throne Speech, I would wish to address my speech to the question of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture. We have had in this country an educational system which, over the years has, to a large extent, served us well. Having said that, when we look at the history of the development of education in this country we will see that a system which, to a large extent ensured the education of persons at the primary level, I believe to 7th Standard for the most part with limited access to persons over that, responded largely to the needs of an agrarian society as we were for centuries.

When the whole question of further development started to take place in this country post 1950, we saw then the educational system in an incremental way starting to respond by ensuring that the system then concentrated on a level of learning by rote to prepare children for the major thrust as it was expected to be that of industrialization. Since then, to a large extent the biases and the emphases on the educational system have not changed. We today find ourselves placed in a global market economy where, perhaps, for the first time since the 18th Century, the global market economy favours Barbados' profile, one that favours a profile of a heavy knowledge base and skilled intensive industries which, I believe, the Labour Party has submitted that we are excellently poised to be able to take advantage of.

Sir, we have not made the adjustments in our educational system to meet that challenge. I believe that part of the mandate facing us is to be able to ensure that those persons who we educate in this country are in a position to be able to make the decisive difference, the comment which the Honourable Member for St. John has difficulty with, in terms of our economy and in terms of the human resource development which will fuel the development of our economy. Indeed, Sir, there is an element of creativity that must now be harnessed and allowed to flourish in this country because there are a number of areas which pertain to the intellectual property rights which now gain much currency on the global market economy that we need to ensure we can tap into.

I speak, of course, Sir, of software development. I speak of the ability to fine tune the design process and indeed the courses of design offered at the Barbados Community College, among other institutions. I speak of the performing arts. I speak of the fine arts. I speak of work in science and technology. We believe that *if* there are a few strategic things which have to be done, one of them has to be the encouragement of that creativity so that we are capable of going after that sector of knowledge based on skilled intensive industries with a high value added as opposed only to the low value added sector of it which relates, for example, to data entry and things of that like. If we are part and parcel of the process of the creation of the product then we control the rights that go with it and we control the rights that at the end of the day are the ones to which money attracts itself. But that is in terms of an over philosophical basis.

We also believe that the educational system must respond to the needs of each individual in this country. It is insufficient for us to look at the whole question of how many persons got scholarships this year, or how many persons passed for certain schools at Common Entrance because if we are not prepared to commit ourselves to the task of treating each child as an individual, and we have the resources to do it, both teaching and otherwise, we will find that we could as well be ensuring that these children are passing through a conduit and that our role then becomes irrelevant to their lives, and hence we see figures rising at Glendairy from 350 in 1988 to some 750 odd in 1994.

These are the things we need to seek to avoid because they entail far greater expenditure when the Ministry of Home Affairs has to deal with it, when the Ministry of Health has to deal with the problem and when the Ministry of Labour and Community Development has to deal with it. We believe that if we have the right attitude at the point of delivery of education we can decrease the overall level of expenditure in dealing with the same young persons of whom we have been speaking here today.

To that extent, Sir, we have announced our policy commitment to the whole question of flexibility of transfer on the basis, as I have said, in recognition that each child develops at different levels and at different rates and to that extent there will be some who will be gifted who will be able to sit it before age 11 but there are those who will need the additional help.

One of the things about education is, Sir, and to a large extent everybody has an intimate knowledge with the education process because they either have gone through it themselves, their children going through it, their family going through it and to a large extent each person believes that he or she has a modicum of understanding in relation to education which is healthy. 4.45 p.m.

But having said that we would have heard the general comments over the years that the primary school system is not serving us as well as it has served us in years gone by where, to a large extent, many a person who gained education up to seventh standard were far more competent than persons who in fact are gaining up to secondary education. Those are the kinds of criticisms that we would hear emanating from persons on the call-in programmes or as we go about our business. To that extent we believe that we have a task to ensure not only that we address die individual needs of each child but that each child has the opportunity to receive the fundamentals that are necessary for acquiring further knowledge in life, that each child receives the fundamentals that are necessary for ensuring that it is readily retrainable at any stage of their development and to ensure either self-development in terms of their own acquisition of knowledge or better still from other facilities out there that are equipped to give them that knowledge. To that extent we are concerned that those children who currently gain below 30% in the 11+ need far more intensive work at the primary school system to prepare them for that Common Entrance Exam than currently exists. We believe that there needs to be intensive diagnostic and remedial teaching at the primary school level so that we can easily and early identify the problems as to why that child may not be learning as well as he or she might otherwise be. These range from a whole host of reasons relating to learning disabilities, relating to physiological problems and learning and hearing disability, dyslexia. There is a whole host of reasons indeed even traum$ where that child emerges from a social situation or family situation that is particularly difficult.

We would hope therefore, Sir, not only to be able to provide the diagnostic and remedial teaching in an intensive way at the primary school system but to ensure that those persons who are already in junior secondary school and those persons who have already passed the secondary school system but who are still in structural environments like the Barbados Youth Service be the recipient of that type of diagnostic and remedial teaching as well. In addition to that we also believe that the whole issue of taking a holistic approach, a total view of those children both in primary and secondary schools environment must also be a priority of the day. One of the consequences of the Democratic Labour Party Government abolishing the partial zoning policy which had been the policy of the Barbados Labour Party up until 1986 was that 2 or 3 schools all of a sudden started to get those who performed least in the exam. All of a sudden these 2 or 3 schools became the gathering house, for want of a better expression, and those persons who obviously had clear difficulties with learning. You place them all in one institution then and then wonder why there is bad press, wonder why there are difficulties pertaining to these institutions without realizing that all of the current thinking in education goes even so far as saying that even children who have serious learning and physical disabilities wherever possible must be mainstreamed with children who have the ability to learn. Because part and parcel of putting them in that environment - and these are matters with which Your Honour are well aware given your own experience in these areas - with other persons who learn that they respond quicker and better to any efforts at teaching them.

What we are saying is that one of the consequences of the abolition of partial zoning has been the creation of these difficulties in certain schools. To their credit, Sir, some of these schools have been trying to perform in spite of the hand that has been delivered to them and schools like St Lucy Secondary and Princess Margaret have been doing extremely good work, and the St George Secondary is coming up, in the remedial programmes that they are trying to put on the ground. But the time has come really for the policies which the Barbados Labour Party has always been committed to, that of partial zoning to take effect again. As with everything else we have to work out the logistics and the mechanics as to when we can introduce this because one does not want to send the system into chaos simply by reverting to it

That also has other implications. We also find that a large percentage of those children who perform poorly in the exam come from economically disadvantaged homes. I believe that I can find favour with the Honourable Member for St Philip South on the basis and on the premise who I know and he shadows this area for the Democratic Labour Party that those children must be given every opportunity to be able to participate on an equal and level playing field with those other persons who may not be as economically disadvantaged. To that extent it is necessary that those diagnostic and remedial programmes be put in place while ensuring at the same time that they are allowed to interact with persons who have had a history of performing better in the school system.

In addition to that we have also been meeting extensively with the secondary schools. One of the things we have asked each of the 22 Government secondary schools to do for us is to identify an area of excellence for which each school will become renowned nationally. The reason for this is simple. We believe that the whole question of building confidence among our children is as essential to the task of allowing their creativity to flourish particularly if we are going to be on the cutting edge of those things to which intellectual property rights

attach. They must have the confidence to know that they can learn and they do well and that they can be creative in their own expression of self. These areas of excellence will range from academia to technical, vocational areas, to sports, to areas in the arts to areas particularly within academia like linguistics. We have found that there has been a decreasing number of persons being interested in foreign languages. And at a time when we are about to participate in the association of Caribbean states with the heavy involvement of the Latin American countries, we find this particularly disturbing since I believe rather than seeing a decline in the interest of linguistics, Sir, we should be ensuring that as the Barbados Labour Party commits itself to, that each child is exposed to a foreign language at primary school level. We would hope that within a few years that this would be the case at primary school level.

In addition to that we need also to review the whole question of what is there to work with, the physical school plant. Unfortunately the Democratic Labour Party Government stopped providing funds for maintenance of school plant during the course of tenure of Government in this country. This year was the first year that the Democratic Labour Party Government voted substantial funds and those substantial funds were only $1.5 million for the refurbishment and the maintenance of the school plant.

Over the course of last week and this week I have been visiting a number of those schools particularly the very bad ones. In the Honourable Member for St. Thomas' constituency, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew's constituency, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy's constituency and the Honourable Member for St. Peter. Those are the 4 parishes that are acutely affected by the absence of maintenance in those plants. Indeed up to yesterday the Honourable Minister of Health went with me because of concerns by the Ministry of Health in respect of one school from Clifton Hill/Southborough which was in the papers last week and which, incidentally enough, we had visited long before anybody went to the press and had taken action on long before anybody went to the press because we are in the process of treating those schools that are most urgent, over the next few weeks, while at the same time ensuring that there is an audit done at all the Government primary schools so that we can properly identify what work has to be done at each school, while at the same time ensuring that there is an audit done of all of the Government's primary schools so that we can properly identify what work has to be done at each school and to phase a programme over the next two to three years to ensure that each primary school is brought back into a fit and habitable state of occupation, Sir. 5.05 p.m.

These are matters that concern us greatly, Sir, because at the end of the day they have consequences for the children and in the circumstances where you have large numbers of children in small areas, one is prone to be more concerned about matters of a public health nature than they might otherwise be. So that the issue of the school plant is one that is going to cause us great concern, it is going to put us to great expenditure too, Sir, because a lot of matters that could have been solved over the years by small amounts of maintenance may now require large structural work.

Clifton Hill/Southborough as I said is one that we have already taken option on. We are about, Sir, to do the same in St. Thomas primary school where the bathroom facilities, as they have been at most of the other schools I visited, were in an appalling state of condition and really cannot be allowed to continue, Sir.The other school that we are dealing with as well is Indian Ground primary school. Once again there are difficulties there with broken windows, extremely bad bathroom facilities, grass overgrown blocking the entrance to the bathroom facilities.

St Clements school where there is a problem with the roof and indeed one classroom has actually been vacated. The only thing there, Sir, is that we are going to fix the roof temporarily and we are just awaiting permission from the church to allow the infants of that school to be housed in the church pending the completion of the work. The truth is, Sir, is that there is a new construction for St. Clements that is due to start in January but we cannot allow the children to remain in that building for the 15 or so months that it would take for construction to complete and hence the need for the urgent remedial work.

The other issues, Sir, which are of concern to us, have been the question of funding the level of arrears that we found in respect of the University of the West Indies. Sir, I remember very clearly that in August of 1993 the former Government came for a huge supplementary of $24.3 million which at the time they said would have cleared the arrears to the University of the West Indies having voted $35 million in the Estimates of that same year for the University of the West Indies. I remember it well, Sir, because there was there the debate from which I was put out of the Other Place so I am not going to forget it.

The point is this, Sir, having gone into Government now, we discovered that far from clearing the arrears we found we were in a position where almost $24 million in arrears was still to be cleared in addition to the current contribution of $35 million which is required from us and of which we said we could only meet $22 million this year.

What has been happening, Sir, is that for some reason the Ministry of Finance was dealing with the University of the West Indies without reference to the Ministry of Education. But then again, Sir, that may simply

be answered by the fact that all roads led to one. And we have had, Sir, to deal with the issue of these arrears because it is important, we believe, to put the University of the West Indies on a level playing field so that it can adequately meet the task of educating the peoples of this region, in particular Barbadians.

We have had, Sir, to meet with them and I believe the Prime Minister will shortly be announcing, as the University has announced when we met with them, that we have committed ourselves to the clearing of these arrears. We have committed ourselves to being current with contributions to the University and to sitting down and rationalising as they are now doing, having taken and adopted a Resolution to implement the majority of the recommendations of the Commission on Governance which was established under the Chairmanship of Sir Neville Nicholls some 2 years ago. So this is a matter, Sir, that we found particularly difficult because it has offset our own capacity to deal with our own agenda.

The last Government dealt with these arrears by issuing Treasury Notes and Treasury Bills and once again we believe that issuing paper to the University will not meet their needs and indeed will not give them the cash flow that they need to put them on a level playing field. I believe the Government of Jamaica has cleared their arrears to the tune of over some Jamaican $700 million and we intend to do the same so that the University can have the opportunity to be able to put itself in the position to attract foreign funding because one of the disturbing things is, Sir, that Governments of the region contribute as much as 75% of the funding towards the running of the University of the West Indies whereas when we look at countries like the United Kingdom the Government there only contributes up to about 50%.

If, Sir, we deficient and derelict in our responsibilities, what it means is thai when the University goes overseas to try to raise funds as they are presently about to do in North America, persons will ask them, let me see your financial statement and when the financial statement shows the level of arrears they will say, go and collect from the Governments first. We are not going to give you anything when you have this money outstanding. So we need to put them on a level playing field, Sir.

May I also say at this stage too that despite many denials the last Government of Barbados committed itself to the issue of cost recovery at tertiary institutions under an agreement with the World Bank and if you want to talk about things being deceitful, Sir, is that those things were denied during the length and breadth of the 1994 campaign by the last Government, that they had committed themselves to implementing cost recovery at tertiary institutions and what is more to giving the World Bank a detailed plan of action by December 1994 of the cess necessary.

We found, Sir, that they had also committed themselves to a study by the World Bank as to the possible avenues and how this cost recovery could come about, Sir. We have not made any policy statement on it yet, Sir, and we will not make any until we see the results of those studies because the truth has to be told in terms of duplicitas nature of the last Democratic Labour Party Government when it came to the issue of cost recovery. They who pride themselves on this issue of giving free access to secondary and tertiary education were put in a position where they committed themselves to moving against the very philosophical basis from which they started. But these matters will come out in the fullness of time, Sir, and I would not wish to prejudice the decisions of this Government by speaking any more on this matter since we are awaiting the results of the study in respect of cost recovery at tertiary institutions.

In respect further of the issues of special education we are committed, as I said, to ensuring that each individual child has specialised treatment in our educational system and to that extent, Sir, we do not believe in marginalising those persons in the senior and composite schools or those who are presently at the Learning Centre and various other institutions of special education. A comprehensive review is currently being done to see how best we can cater to the needs of those children who need that additional bit of help if we are going to be faithful to our Constitution and ensure that each child has full opportunity under our educational system. Not that they have equal ability, Sir, but equal opportunity to be able to learn according to their abilities and facilities that are designed for that.

I would only wish to end by saying that I believe that the Throne Speech sets the pace. We speak here of the issue of education in its broader sense. We speak also of the establishment of being firmly committed to tertiary and other levels of education. We speak, Sir, of the establishment of a Teachers Service Commission. We speak, Sir, of the necessity to ensure that there is a deadline placed to the negotiations between the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies in respect of any adjustments that have to be done to ensure the accreditation of the programmes of the Barbados Community College. Because at the end of the day, Sir, what must guide us as a fact that at the time when we are being asked, because of commitments of the last Government, to look at the issue of cost recovery in tertiary education that we need first to ensure that we are managing the resources that we do have to the best of our ability, and where we are paying for persons at the Community College and paying for persons at U.W.I., it must be in the interest of the Barbados Government to ensure that those

negotiations between those two institutions reach an end and that the level of adjustments that have to be done to both programmes are done to ensure that those persons can get benefit if they go to the University of the West Indies. This is consummate, Sir, with the Commission's Report on Governance which has said that part of the work at the University of the West Indies in respect of Undergraduate Education must be undertaken more and more by tertiary institutions in the region like the Community College, like the Sir Arthur Lewis College in St. Lucia, like Cass in Jamaica and other institutions of a similar ilk. So that these are questions that we must face because at the end of the day too, Sir, we believe that the nature of the University's mission to educate and develop critical thinking must be preserved while being able to expand the Barbados Community College which is designed for more training of an applied nature for the job market pursuant to constant reviews of the job market, so that we can better ensure that our resources are spent properly. Because at the end of the day, Sir, it costs us $8.3 million for the maintenance of the Community College to educate 2900 students while it costs us $35 odd million to educate 2300 at the University of the West Indies. That is not trying to say, Sir, that we do not recognise the value that a university must play in the development of critical thinking, in the development of other aspects which unfortunately have perhaps lagged a bit behind but which in the Commission of Governance, Sir, it will undertake as a serious mission in the future. 5.15 p.m.

Sir, I have not even had an opportunity to speak about Youth. I have not had an opportunity to speak about Culture yet, Sir, but the critical development of our human resources is going to make the decisive difference in our ability to keep this economy on the cutting edge at a time when I say that the global market economy for the first time since the 18th century favours the profile of Barbados and favours our ability to remain on the cutting edge of all countries whether developed or undeveloped in being able to make those creative differences.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With those words, I commend the Throne Speech.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg that further consideration of this motion be now postponed.

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

The question that further consideration of this motion be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until December 06, 1994 at 11:00 a.m.

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

The question that this Honourable House do now adjourn until December 06, 1994 at 11:00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly. 5.20 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 236

Confirmation of Minutes of Tuesday, November 8, 1994.

PAPERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 236

Guarantees under the Exempt Insurance Act, 1983 section 32:-

1. Atlantic International Reinsurance Company Ltd.
2. Atlantic Offshore Insurance Ltd.
3. European Atlantic Reassurance Company Ltd.
4. European International Holding Company Ltd.
5. European International Reinsurance Company Ltd.
6. Glenmaple Reinsurance Co. Ltd.
7. H.S.M. Insurance Ltd.
8. I.F.A. Insurance Company Limited
9. Monticello Insurance Limited
10. Phencorp Reinsurance Company Inc.
11. Standard Reinsurance of North America Ltd.
12. Union Excess Reinsurance Company Ltd.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS..... 237

The Immigration (Forms and Fees) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1994.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON 237

Resolution against the establishment of Casino Gambling in Barbados.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 239

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 - THE MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 1994 239

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 239, 248; Mr. L. R. Tull, 239; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 240; Hon. R. N. Grcenidge, 241; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 243; Mr. B. M. Taitt, 245; Dr. R. C. Haynes, 246.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss. B. A. MILLER 250

1. Resolution to approve the vesting in the Barbados National Bank of a parcel of land at James Street in the City of Bridgetown.
2. Resolution to approve the vesting in Vivian Mayers of a parcel of land at Tweedside Road, St Michael.

RESUMPTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson, 250, 252, 254; Mr. B. M. Taitt, 252; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 251; Mr. H. F. Lashley, 255; Mr. D. Carter, 257; Mr. J. M. Edghill, 258; Mr. F. J. Stuart, 260; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 263; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 268.

SUSPENSION 250

ADJOURNMENT..... 273

Miss B. A. Miller, 273.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

CARTER, Mr. D. (Christ Church East Central)
EDGHILL, Mr. J. M. (Christ Church West Central)
FORDE, Mr. H. deB. (Christ Church West)
GREENTOGE, Hon. R. N. (St Philip North)
HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St E. (St Lucy) LASHLEY, Mr. H. F. (St Michael South East) MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown) MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A. (St Michael North East) SIMMONS, Hon. D. A. C. (St. Thomas) TAITT, Mr. B. M. (St Michael West) THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St John) THOMPSON, Hon. Miss H. E. (St James South) TULL, Mr. L. R. (St George South)

