

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 8, 1994

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20a.m.

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. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Prime
Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, and
Minister for the Civil Service)
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney
General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. 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 Labour⁴,
Community Development and Sports)
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, (Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing)
Mr. J. M. EDGfFILL
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. Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: This House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday
November 1, 1994.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to
move that the Minutes of the Honourable the House of
Assembly for November 1, 1994 which have been
circulated be taken as read.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

PAPERS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded
to lay the Annual Report of the National Housing
Corporation for the financial year 1992/93.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the Marriage (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1994.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South, Questions 1-6.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION RE THE BARBADOS TOURISM AUTHORITY

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: To ask the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment:

1. Is the Minister aware that the Barbados Tourism Authority is a most important corporation, particularly in respect of promoting, assisting, and facilitating the efficient development of tourism in Barbados?
2. Is the Minister aware that a Board of Directors of the Authority is established by law with responsibility for the policy and general administration of the Board, and that that Authority is required by law to meet at least once a month for the transaction of its business?
3. How often has the Board of Directors of the Barbados Tourism Authority met between September 7, 1994 and November 7, 1994, and if the Board did not meet what accounts for that state of affairs?
4. Who has been responsible for the policy and administration of the Barbados Tourism Authority during the period of September 7, 1994 to November 7, 1994?
5. From whom has the Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Tourism Authority been receiving directions and to whom has he been responsible for the execution of the Board's policy and management of its affairs during the period September 7, 1994 to November 7, 1994.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member for St. Michael South his question re areas in Bayville overgrown with weeds, *et cetera*.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing:

1. Inasmuch as areas along the southern stretch of Clarke's Avenue, Bayville, St. Michael, are densely overgrown with weeds, bush and grass, thereby creating an unsightly and potentially unhealthy environment for the residents in that

vicinity, will the Minister indicate what plans are under consideration for correcting the unsatisfactory conditions?

2. Will the Minister cause a team of workers to be assigned to the site to carry out the necessary work and to remove the trash and rubbish after the areas have been cleaned?
3. How soon does the Minister intend to correct the situation referred to bearing in mind the approach of Barbados' Independence Day and Christmas holiday season?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member for St. Michael South, his question on statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers August 1994 compared with August 1993.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: To ask the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment

Would the Minister supply the statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers, separately, into Barbados for the month of August 1994 compared with August 1993, including the following categories:

- (a) Country of residence, namely U.S.A., Canada, U.K., Germany, other Europe, Trinidad and Tobago, other CARICOM, other countries, and
- (b) actual change and percentage change between the two months?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member his question re statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers September 1994 compared with September 1993.

Would the Minister supply the statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers, separately, into Barbados for the month of September 1994 compared with September 1993, including the following categories:

- (a) Country of residence, namely U.S.A., Canada, U.K., Germany, other Europe, Trinidad and Tobago, other CARICOM, other countries, and
- (b) actual change and percentage change between the two months?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member his question re statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers January-August, 1994 compared with January - August, 1993.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: To ask the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment:

"Would the Minister supply the statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers, separately, into Barbados for the period January - August, 1994, compared with January - August, 1993, broken down into the following categories:

- (a) Country of residence, namely USA, Canada, U.K., Germany, other Europe, Trinidad and Tobago, other CARICOM, other countries, and
- (b) actual change and percentage change between the two periods".

11.30a.m.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 6

To ask the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment. Would the Minister supply the statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers separately into Barbados for the period January to September 1994, compared with January to September 1993, broken down into the following categories:

- (a) Country of residence, namely USA, Canada, U.K., Germany, other Europe, Trinidad and Tobago, other Caricom, other countries.
- (b) Actual change and percentage change between the two periods.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move that the Marriage (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1994 be read a first time.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Seconded, Sir.

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I wish to state that the Government of Barbados has appointed to the post of High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, the Court of St. James, with the Agreement of the British Government, Mr. Peter Patrick Kenneth Simmons.

Mr. Simmons was educated at the Lodge School in Barbados, the London School of Journalism, New York State University where he received his first degree in

politics, sociology and anthropology. He also studied at the Rutgers University advanced studies in anthropology and political sociology and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Certificate in Government Administration.

Mr. Simmons has been variously, over the years, employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Barbados at London, New York and at Bridgetown. He has been an Assistant Registrar of the University of the West Indies at the Cave Hill Campus between 1976 and 1979. Between 1979 and 1982 as Deputy Permanent Representative at the Barbados Mission to the United Nations. 1982 to 1984 he was Chief Development Planner Acting, in the Ministry of Finance and Planning at Bridgetown. 1982 he was appointed Barbados' Ambassador to Venezuela. 1984 to 1986 he was Director of Communications, Government of Barbados. And between 1986 and 1991 he was a Political Specialist working with the United States Embassy here at Bridgetown.

Mr. Simmons was a Fulbright Fellow in Communications 1985 and he is a member of several professional bodies - the Association of American Anthropologist, the Institute for the Study of Man at New York, the Society for the Study of Ethnic Minorities.

Mr. Simmons has also published, Mr. Speaker, Sir, *Redlegs Class and Colour Contradictions in Barbados 1976 - Studies in Contemporary International Development*. He is also the author of a 60 minute documentary film made for ITV London in 1986 of the Redlegs of Barbados which has been screened in 32 countries to an estimated viewing audience of some 70 million.

He has also authored "The Changing Face of Cricket" with Sir Garfield Sobers which is expected to be published in the summer of next year by Stanley Paul, London. He is the author also of several academic papers which have been published in the United States and numerous publications in Barbados, the Caribbean and United States newspapers.

In fact, Mr. Simmons started his working life as a sub-Editor of the Barbados *Advocate* in 1961. He is expected to assume his duties at the beginning of 1995.

I also wish to state, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Barbados Government has appointed to the post of Consul General at Toronto in Canada, Mr. Errol Humphrey.

Mr. Humphrey from December 1992 until the present has been Director of International Business with the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation where he has been responsible for planning and implementing the Corporation's overseas investment programme and directing the work of its overseas offices.

Between April 1989 and November 1992 he was a Deputy General Manager of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation. Between 1984 and 1989 he was its Director of North America where he was responsible for coordinating and directing investment promotion activities in North America including Canada on behalf of the Industrial Development Agency of the Government of Barbados. 1979 to 1984 he directed at Europe and was really responsible for the successful establishment of the European office.

Earlier he was the General Manager of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and was Manager of the Investment Division at one time between 1977 and 1978 of the Barbados Industrial Corporation. He has been variously a business insurance consultant, an economic analyst, statistician, and he too started out as a Sub-Editor in 1961 at the *Barbados Advocate*. That is purely coincidental, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

He pursued a B.Sc. in Economics at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus between 1962 and 1965 majoring in micro and macro Economics, Statistics, Trade and Industry, International Economics and Business Management and he pursued his MBA Finance at New York University Graduate School of Business where he majored in Corporation Management Marketing, Corporation Finance Banking and Financial Markets, Advanced Economic Analysis and Management Accounting.

Among his working and business experience, Mr. Humphrey has been a member of the team of experts to review the documentation of the SELA regional conference on industrialisation. He has been a member of several consecutive Barbados delegations to the LOME 3 negotiations. He has also been a member of the Advisory Council Governing Body of the Brussels based centre for the Development of Industry. He has also been a member of the Barbados National Advisory Committee of Export Promotion and has been a member of the expert group evaluating CARICOM'S allocation of industries in the LDC's.

He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Barbados South, a Member of United States of America Association of Black MBA Executives. He has been in the past an Executive Secretary of the Wembly Athletic Club of New York, a member of the University of the West Indies Economic Society, he has been President of the Lodge School Guild of the Debating Society and has represented Lodge in cricket and in soccer.

He too has been the author of several publications. He has authored two export marketing papers - Barbadian Rum in the United States and Prospects for marketing Barbadian made wooden furniture to the United States of

America. He has opened several magazine articles on Offshore Business in Barbados and written numerous papers - Integration and Industrial Development, A Look at the Commonwealth Caribbean, Transfer of Technology in Developing Countries, Job Opportunities in Industry and New Developments in the Formation of Barbados Captive Insurance Companies.

He has also authored, *Offshore Data Entry - A Part of your Future*, *LOME Rules of Origin*, *Industrialisation in Developing Countries*, *the Processing and Management of Information*, *Foreign Site Selection Some Criteria*, *Can a Caribbean Back Office Facility increase your operating efficiency*, *Investment Forms and Strategies*, *a Caribbean Perspective and Parity with NAFTA and other Trade Opportunities and challenges confronting the Caribbean*.

What has happened here, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that the Barbados Government has appointed two highly experienced, well rounded eminently suitable persons to the posts as I have just stated.

We have to bear in mind what is to be found at the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto for 1994. This document is already a document of the House and I quote from page 39:

"During the past 4 years far reaching changes have taken place in world affairs, communism has collapsed and the Soviet Union has broken up."

I would add that several other quite significant events have occurred in this last decade of the twentieth century. The Berlin Wall has fallen. The Palestinians and the Israelis have found areas for peace. 11.40a.m.

The South Africans have liberated themselves from apartheid and, even here in our own region, Haiti has finally found, we hope, its rendezvous with democracy. New and complex conflict situations have arisen in other places, Sir, which threaten peace and security. More importantly, there have been the rapid development of trading blocs, common markets, free trade areas and the conclusion after many years of a new GATT Agreement which provides for the setting up of a world trade organisation commonly known as the WTO. In the Barbados Labour Party, we feel that the foreign policy of Barbados must respond to this new order as we approach the end of this millineum and anticipate the 21st century. We said in this Manifesto and I quote:

"We will reorganize the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable it to coordinate the work of our development agencies abroad and our missions and consulate agencies to mobilize investment, promote

our trading interest and market Barbados as a centre of excellence for financial business and information services.

The Foreign Service will be staffed with the focus on a range of disciplines not usually emphasized in the recruitment of Barbadian diplomatic staff. It must be a flexible instrument designed to give leadership in the drive to win business and investment for Barbados".

Following upon that, the Honourable Prime Minister saw fit to widen the perspective of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to it he added Foreign Trade, International Business, Telecommunications and the Corporate Registry and the Maritime Registry as well. What is happening, Sir, is that we are in the process of re-inventing literally the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is more than just tacking on an economic dimension and the appointments to the Foreign Missions abroad are meant to reflect this. If this new economic thrust which is to be found in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is truly to get off the ground, our Heads of Missions have to be business-oriented and have to have some experience, and in these cases considerable experience in matters to do with International Business, Foreign Trade as well as Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is my Ministerial Statement

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 1 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF THREE PARCELS OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUMPING STATIONS FOR THE SOUTH COAST SEWERAGE PROJECT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the passing of this Resolution for the acquisition of three parcels of land for the construction of pumping stations to

facilitate the implementation of the South Coast Sewerage Project

The first parcel relates to 276.2 square metres at Palm Beach, Hastings, the property of R. L. M. Charles. The second parcel relates to 251.8 square metres at Maxwell, the property of Archibald Barrow. The third parcel relates to 255 square metres at Welches, the property of John Richards.

Mr. Speaker, this project was approved by Cabinet with the understanding that under the terms of the loan agreement the Government is required to submit to the Inter-American Development Bank evidence of legal possession of easements and other pertinent rights to the land required for construction of the project before bids are invited. Effectively, Mr. Speaker, the Government is unable to draw down funds until the lands required for the project are vested in the Crown. There are other lands in the vicinity of the area which will also be required at a subsequent date for the siting of manholes and the insulation of sewerage pipeline stations in determined catchment areas.

These lands will be required for the siting of the four lift stations, treatment plant and the affluent stations. All the relevant requirements have been met and I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to second the Resolution and, as the Minister of Health charged with the responsibility of dealing with the sewerage project, I would want to lend my voice to this discussion. I do not believe that the public fully understands the reason for a sewerage project and indeed the whole problem of waste management and the management of solid waste. There has been much in the Press and a lot of public discussion has been generated about the subject of solid waste management and a lot of it highly uninformed, but of course speaking with tremendous authority.

The idea of the sewerage project was started under the last Barbados Labour Party Administration. At that time a study identified that given the development of Barbados we had a need for a sewerage project and three specific areas were identified for sewerage projects: Bridgetown was identified as having the most urgent need for such a project followed by the South Coast and then the West Coast. The Barbados Labour Party Administration of 1976 to 1986 moved with speed and implemented the Bridgetown Sewerage Project. 11.50a.m.

It was a project completed within the deadline specified without cost overruns. In eight years the Democratic Labour Party administration had not found

it possible to implement the South Coast Sewerage Project, even though the need to do so was urgent and critical. The need to implement the South Coast Sewerage Project, Mr. Speaker, was urgent and critical because in the last few years there has been significant development on the south coast. Private residences have gone up and have been expanded; there has been commercial development; hotels and guest houses have been expanded and upgraded; private guest houses have been put up and in addition to that there has been other commercial development. And so the need was great.

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend some time explaining why exactly you need a sewerage project and what the sewerage project does, and why the acquisition is necessary. Specifically, Sir, the three parcels of land, the lands identified for purchase, will be the sites for the pumping stations which are essential to the functioning of the sewerage project. It had been reported in the Press, and repeatedly studies were done by the Ministry of Health, by other Ministries and Departments within their administration, which show that our coral reefs were being eroded, that beaches were being eroded, that coral reefs were dying...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will Honourable Members please desist from the asides, please. Continue, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: ... indeed, all along that coast by sewage. As development has continued along that coast, more and more sewage has been produced. The impact of that has been particularly severe with regard to the hotels.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member *for* St. James South, could you just hold it please? Honourable Members, I am finding much difficulty in hearing what the Honourable Member is saying. Would you desist, please, from the constant interruptions and so on? Let us have some order in here, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The effect of the raw sewage being pumped on to the coral reefs has been to kill the coral reefs off. It really happens in two ways. First of all, you have large particles of debris, which the technicians refer to as suspended solids, but that is what it is,...

Mr. SPEAKER: Could I ask the Honourable Member *for* St. James South a question, please? How does all of this relate to the land acquisition?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, I am going to show the background...

Mr. SPEAKER: You have to relate what you are saying to the Resolution that is before the House. We cannot entertain a lecture now about the sewerage project, you have to relate it to the acquisition.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: But indeed it is related, Sir, because the land being acquired is being acquired for pumping stations which are part of the South Coast Sewerage Project, and these pumping stations will form part of the overall project. They will become part of the other equipment and facility that will constitute the sewerage project.

Mr. SPEAKER: Right. That is the idea.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I was explaining, Sir, how the coral reefs are killed off and damaged. You have debris being pumped out by the hotels, by private homes and so on into the near shore water. As a result the solids in the sewage cover the water area thereby preventing the coral reefs from breathing. Eventually, the solids cling to the coral reefs causing them to die. It takes many years to effect repair, and in fact will take decades as a result of the delay by the last administration by not dealing with this problem as a matter of urgency.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I really do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member, but the Honourable Member in the course of her statements so far has indicated that this is an IADB project, and the implementation began some considerable time ago, so the Honourable Member is misleading the House if she suggested that there was delay. The project is in process, Sir.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves. The Democratic Labour Party came to office eight years ago, at which time it had already been identified that there would be a South Coast Sewerage Project and things had been initiated to have it. They are now out of office and we have had to come back to put this project in place.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is now misleading the House. There has already been a debate in this House, the money voted, the project is underway, it is in public knowledge...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member *for* St. Michael West That is no point of order.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The 198<x Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, Sir, I believe is already a document of the House, and I quote from page 12:

"The BLP's proposals for the Department of the Environment which was established on October 1, 1984..."

and did not function between 1986 and 1994 -

"... include:

Steps to halt erosion of beaches, and to ensure that the coastal area retains its pivotal role in the Barbados economy and as a recreation facility. The planned sewerage schemes for the South and West Coasts and greater Bridgetown are part of the action plan.

Action to be continued against the major sources of pollution along the coast of Barbados.

The Commitment to the preservation of marine life ..." and so on, Sir. That was as far back as 1986. Not only did we speak of it then, we are acting on it now. Between 1986 and 1994 it was given no priority by the last administration and that is why it was not put in place. Instead we saw wastage at Sherbourne and other examples of ego massaging but nothing to deal with priority areas.

Mr. Speaker, the coral reefs are important because it is the coral reefs that create sand and help to build marine life, which are used for diving, scuba diving and help with tourism. They are a very important part of the tourism product. We have to have proper beaches and if the beaches continue to be eroded because of pollution, that will affect our tourism product. In addition, the existence of live coral reefs stop waves from pounding the shore and allow us to continue to have the beaches for which we are popular as a tourist destination. It is therefore critical, Sir, and should have been a priority area of the last administration, that this project be put in place as a matter of urgency. 12.00 noon

I want to spend a little time, Sir, with your permission, explaining the status of the project because it is going to result in some dislocation to people living in that area because traffic will have to be re-routed. The project will run basically from Bay Street close to the Ministerial Building up to just about Oistin and will run 400 metres inland from the Coast. We anticipate that some 3500 properties will be connected to the project. It will cost us US\$73 million to implement this project.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, we know how the Honourable Member loves to inflate, as indeed every project under his Ministry became inflated out of proportion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: We will go through, Sir, four basic phases. Contract 1 is the sewerage treatment

plant which will be sited at the edge of the Graeme Hall Swamp. For engineering reasons it is best located there, but will not affect the wetland or the marshes of the swamp. In fact, it is going to be environmentally friendly. At phase 2, we will have the main collection system and this will involve some 40 kilometres or 24 miles of pipeline which the sewage will actually be pumped through. Phase 3 is a 1.1 kilometre long pipe known as the outfall which will take the treated sewage out to sea. Phase 4, the final phase will be the connection of private residences.

Sir, we will be setting up a committee that will involve the police, PR personnel, residents of the area who are going to be affected, MTW and the Ministry of the Environment in order that there will be the widest possible consultation, and with minimal dislocation.

It is important, therefore, Sir, for the development of the country and for our tourism product that this land be acquired in order to have the pumping station which will form part of this very important system. I am therefore delighted to give support to it. All the businesses along that area will be connected and I am happy to say too that we will also be connecting a business which the Democratic Labour Party determined was environmentally friendly. Thank you.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: As most of the lands that are being acquired fall within the area of my own constituency, I think I should rise not only to speak in support of the Resolution but to commend the speakers who have spoken so far. It is quite obvious, Sir, that they intend not to do like the previous Government and push this project on the backburner. All of us, in the south coast in particular, would like to see this project come to fruition. We Honourable Members who are acquainted with the needs of that area have repeatedly said that failure to execute this project by the Democratic Labour Party has resulted in a holdup, a significant retardation of development in a number of areas.

The St. Lawrence Gap area should have been fully developed by now. Honourable Members will recall that the area opposite the Pepper Pot was acquired and the houses were moved in anticipation of the development of the sewerage scheme because it was always envisaged that the St. Lawrence would be a major development area for tourism in Barbados. In addition to that, it is known that part of the reason for the malfunctioning of the sewerage facilities at Oistins is because of the fact that when the Oistins Fish Terminal was built it was built upon the assumption that the South Coast Sewerage Scheme would be in existence and all the effluence, human and otherwise, that arose as a result of that magnificent economic activity which takes place in that area would be properly seweraged.

That project was completed in 1981 and we are here now in 1994 and the South Coast Scheme has not been completed. Historically, Sir, the fact of the matter is that successive governments have identified the need for sewerage the low-lying areas of Barbados and it fell to us to implement part of the Bridgetown Sewerage project which I believe was started under the regime of a then Minister of Health who allowed himself to be bullied by international institutions to enter into an agreement, which agreement...

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, please stick to the Resolution that we have before us.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: We are all within the concept of the need. I think the Honourable Minister mentioned the question of preconditions, that part of this acquisition is because of preconditions.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Southern Plaza is nothing to do with this. Southern Plaza is built on coral formation. If the Honourable Member will pay a visit to that area he will understand that there are no sewerage problems at that point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John, you are interrupting this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: With no effect. Sir, I don't need any protection from him. I can handle him any place.

The basic position is that there are two points I would like to finish on. One is that it is obvious that there is need for a massive public relations programme by those who are responsible for the administration of this project. I myself have received many calls from people who live in the neighbourhood of this specific piece of land and I have had to go there with the project manager and explain to some of the landowners in the area that, in my opinion, nowadays modern designs are such that one can have a pumping station within a particular area and it very rarely has any effect upon the surrounding areas.

I have had to do that. Maybe I am sticking out my neck.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Honourable Member obviously lives in the sky. He has never lived on this earth so he does not have any land. He probably bums a piece of land from somebody else.

The basic position is that I feel that it is the duty of the project management to point out these things to the public. The second point is that every effort must be taken to ensure that the designs that are eventually accepted are designs which will not result in the unnecessary escape of odour in the area.

We have had problems with the Bridgetown Sewerage Scheme. Honourable Members will recall that there were problems right here in Fairchild Street. We don't want a repetition of those problems. Therefore we must ensure that the designs are such that the buildings are put on these particular pieces of land that are being acquired.

I am very glad that the Honourable Minister took the opportunity to speak on the Graeme Hall area because everybody knows that the Graeme Hall area is a sore point. It is a sore on Barbados. Part of the sewerage works, as I understand it, from the Honourable Minister, will be there and she has given us the assurance that that land and the environment will not be adversely affected. 12.10 p.m.

I do not think the Government has to acquire that land because it is already in the Government's possession. One of the difficulties is that nobody knows which Ministry owns the land or which Ministry is in control of the land. But I wish to invite the Honourable Minister of Health to make sure that a proper public relations programme takes place so that she can be assured of the support of all of the people through whose land this Sewage Scheme will go and who legitimately feel that they would want the assurance that the designs and the implementation of the project will take place in circumstances in which they will not be annoyed.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to congratulate the Minister of Health on her maiden statement in this Chamber and I think that she has spoken well to this matter of the sewerage of the South Coast, despite the ungentlemanly behaviour coming from the benches on the other side, quite out of tradition when a Member makes a maiden speech.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because when the Honourable Member for St. James South finished speaking I cheered, Sir.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy sits apart. He is excused.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter that we now in November 1994, have to be dealing with the South Coast Sewerage Project which is a serious indictment against the former Democratic Labour Party

administration. When the Barbados Labour Party left Government in 1986 all systems were in place for the implementation of the sewerage of the South Coast. It has taken in excess of seven years for us to get to this point.

I too, have been a Minister of Health and in my time the sewerage of Bridgetown took place. All of Broad Street had to be ripped up. All of Swan Street had to be ripped up. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is perfectly correct when he said that an important and well-considered public relations programme has to be put in place so we would minimize the dislocation which would occur. Of course, in those days one had to dig up the roads. This, I understand, is a seamless system which does not need the kind of tearing up of the road surfaces as in former times. But in those days we executed the Bridgetown Sewerage Project within three years, within budget and within time. That was before the days of bursting the budget, going over time and going over budget.

I believe that this sewerage of the South Coast is going to take 3½ years. I am reliably informed by the Honourable Minister that it will begin in April next year and should be completed in April, 1997. I wish her and the Ministry well in the execution and the implementation of this Project. It is of supreme importance to the public health of this country and to the productive sectors, particularly the tourism industry on the South Coast.

Throughout the past several years, and particularly in more recent times, the hotel room density on the South Coast has increased, and many of the hotels have used what we call small package plants which broke down often, and for the most part were defective, so a lot of partially treated, and in many cases untreated sewage, was dumped on to the reefs of the South Coast. Many of those reefs are now dead.

We have to be vigilant in the rehabilitation where it is possible to pollute those reefs because once a coral reef is dead it is dead and I understand it cannot be resuscitated. We have to be very mindful now of how we pollute or how we do not pollute the inshore waters to be found around this country and particularly on the South Coast, which is the host to large numbers of visitors and tourists who come here especially to walk the beaches and to swim in those inshore waters, so everything must be done to sustain the environment, and particularly the marine environment, on the South Coast of Barbados.

I laud the Honourable Minister that in a matter of weeks, not to say months or years, she has been able to bring this to a point where implementation will get underway, whereas the Democratic Labour Party

administration in seven years failed and/or was unable and loitered on this job. By this time the sewerage of the West Coast should have been underway. I have absolute confidence that the Honourable Member for St. James South, the Minister of Health, will bring this South Coast Sewerage Project to fruition in the 3½ - year period and that the sewerage of the West Coast, which is as important as the South Coast in terms of environmental safety and public health considerations and the tourism and other industries around the coral coast of Barbados and I have nothing but goodwill to offer her.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, We on this side obviously will support the motion before the House. First let me say to the Honourable Member, if I did not applaud her in her maiden speech, I was absent from the House and I was of the opinion that she had made her speech before, as a result of that, I would have been the first person, had I known this was her first speech, I would have given her all the courtesy that I think a new Member deserves.

Secondly, Sir, this Resolution, as you rightly said, tends to turn into something far beyond what the real substantive Resolution is. I would say to the Honourable Members, and new Members, I will give you my experience that it is always possible to try to develop these kinds of arguments but most of them should not get into the habit of trying to abuse what liberty may be given. I have sat under these conditions and I have given room here and there but then I believe we should teach new Members the correct way to deal with it.

Now, a simple Resolution of this nature obviously reflects the ability of the Democratic Labour Party to see years ahead what is required for future development of the country. It was customary for the Honourable Member for the City, and even in recent times, to refer to pit toilets and things of that nature. We in this party have always set as our goal a high, social development, built around astute and proper planning and environmental development.

The Sewerage Project itself is not one of those things that you could take up one morning and determine that you will finish it in a day or two. We are talking about the entire island of Barbados being served by a particular project that must be properly laid out. One could reflect on the initial project, the Bridgetown Sewerage Project, which showed up a lot of difficulties which was necessary in order for us to learn how to manage projects of this nature.

It is not for me here to say to anyone that the Democratic Labour Party, or this Government, was the first to do anything. That is not important. What is important is to set something in motion that you know will have

to continue, and since as we started with the Bridgetown Project with all of its difficulties, and when we talk about P.R., Education, and that son of thing one can remember the difficulties the residents themselves had in understanding how to link up with the project in Bridgetown. They had a lot of difficulty. Some financial difficulty as far as I remember and that was due to the fact that some of the people themselves were not capable of really paying the cost for linking up. 12.20 p.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am on a point of order, Sir. There was a special fund built into the Bridgetown Sewerage Project which paid for the conversion and the attachment linking up to the Bridgetown Sewerage System. The people who live in the City of Bridgetown have never had any difficulty that the Honourable Member refers to.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: I am not denying that. What I am saying is that some people who did not understand felt that the cost to them was too much and they were unable to meet the cost, hence the fund was necessary. It played its part. And even though the fund was there some people did not take advantage of it.

What I am saying is that the whole concept of a sewerage system must go through a phase of development so that at the end of the day when you have completed, not only the South Coast Project but by reference to the Development Plan you will see that the West Coast Project is also on stream and planned in that son of way.

So we well understand the need for such a system. We know the environmental hazards that have taken place over the years. We believe that in a country such as ours where we depend heavily on visitors, and people who are accustomed to a high level of sanitation and proper environment that encourage them to feel comfortable in their own homes. But we know this has an important part to play and we are not going to steal anything that was done by the Labour Party as a continuation of what was done in 1981. We are not going to do that.

As a matter of fact I always got the impression that they were presenting a case for all of us, including members on this side. Sir, there is no division on the matter, there is no need to take any conflict into the matter. We have gone past that. We have gone into the area of development and we need to make sure that whenever the

project is finished or whenever we are able to get the project going that it will not create the kind of disadvantages that showed up as the Member spoke about the Bridgetown Project. We had problems with some of them.

I am sure that the officers who have dealt with this matter are conscious of the fact that they have to deal with these things -

- (1) as finance becomes available, and -
- (2) as the pre-conditions for the funds for the project are there

The conceptualisation is there, the efforts are there. The officers have made their inputs. All of these things are in place and all we need to say on this side is that we will follow the development of this project and hope that it will develop the country to the point where it is seen as some people see it, as what happens in developed countries.

We are long years behind developing a system like this. Not since 1981 but sewerage systems were in place for years but somehow perhaps developing the country did not really push us beyond that point but we are there. I am not going to take the Minister who seconded the Resolution for trying to highlight some of the aspects of this scheme. We know what it is already and we will give full support with the hope that no detrimental effects will occur, probably on the coast or wherever, and to some extent that funds will be available to assist those who should of necessity link up with this system. I hope the funds will be there.

It is very important to talk about the plant but the financing has always been a very important factor. We on this side will not get into who did this or who did that but we will say that we are part of a development which we are sure all Barbadians will be proud of, and most of all the country will continue to show that developmental growth based on perceptive ideas of good planning and putting in place a policy that will be continued even as mentioned by Members on the other side.

So what we are really saying is, it is part of the continuation of a well planned policy to implement into Barbados a sewerage system which we all agree will be to the benefit of everyone.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we precisely want to say but we have no difficulty with the Resolution and we will support it

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me first congratulate the Minister for introducing this Resolution. It is her first speech in the House and she spoke with

her usual vigour, vitality and warmth and erudition and I expect that we will be hearing many other presentations from her of a high standard.

I have risen principally to speak on the Resolution because my Constituency will be affected substantially by the construction of the scheme in the South Coast

As a matter of fact, Sir, a large number of the residences and commercial businesses which will be connected to the scheme will be within the coastal region of Christ Church West. The first parcel of land which is being acquired is situate at Palm Beach, Hastings, in the polling district known as ZA 1. That area of Christ Church has now become highly commercialised. It caters principally to the tourist industry. At Palm Beach there is still a substantial number of residences and local people therefore continue to have an interest in any development which takes place in this area.

The problem I have, Sir, in that area relates not only to the anticipation of noise from the pumping station. I anticipate that we will get some noise from the pumping station. There is the possibility there will be some smell emanating from the pumping station and I would hope that therefore the maintenance, the after construction maintenance, will be of the standard that would minimise any inconvenience to residents or visitors alike.

But I have an even more difficult problem on that part of the South Coast. The Minister is absolutely correct when she states that we have been losing our beaches at a tremendous rate, part of the reason being because we were not properly sewered. We have lost a lot of the beach in the area from St. Lawrence or Maxwell right down to the Hilton and even beyond.

In the Hastings area, between the building or the hotel known as the "Apple Experience" and the land of Mrs. Charles at Palm Beach, we have recently been losing a tremendous amount of sand and Honourable Members should be aware that in the last 6 months in particular we have had the problem where erosion has affected the foundations of some of the houses.

I have had meetings with the owners and with Dr. Nurse of the Conservation Unit, with the DELCAN International Consultants and others in order to examine the problem to find out from the authorities what steps will be taken to alleviate the problem and to elicit what long-term proposals should be put in place to completely eradicate this problem. The problem will also confront the Sewerage Authority because it is my understanding that the pipelines will run along this part of the coast and of the beach in particular and that the pipelines may be encased in

concrete. But it is my opinion that where they are encased in concrete that unless we deal with the wider problem of erosion we will find that even the sewerage lines will be subject to destruction as has happened to some of the homes. 12.30 p.m.

I have been advised by the Coastal Conservation Authorities that a project had been planned for this area of the South Coast and Hastings and it was very far advanced, but it came to naught because a land owner refused permission for a public right of way through his land. I have spoken with the land owner and confirmed that this is so. His reason for refusing is because actually it was bringing the public right into the dining area of the guest house which he runs. I have suggested, Mr. Speaker, and I wish again to suggest to the relevant authorities that the Government should acquire an area near to the Apple Experience or between the Apple Experience and Mrs. Charles' residence for the purpose of the public's use and at the same time to pursue the project of reclamation which has to take place even if the South Coast Sewerage Scheme is implemented, and that has some effect on erosion.

Sir, unfortunately, we lost the opportunity several months ago to acquire a bit of land that was up for sale. The owner of the house had died and the executors of the estate was selling that bit of land. As far as I understand, Sir, it went at a reasonable price. But there is another house which is up for sale. I do not know if that is suitable or not. But in addition to that, opposite St. Matthias Road there is another house and I understand from the Conservation Authorities that area will be more suitable. I will urge the Ministries concerned, because it will be more than one, to acquire this area so that we can satisfy the criteria which Government normally lays down when it undertakes work of this nature that the public will have access to the improved beach facilities. I do not believe that the Government will spend in excess of \$300 000 for acquiring the necessary land there.

I am also advised by the Conservation Unit that the Budget for the reclamation project for that strip of land would have been about another \$300 000. So we are talking roughly about \$600 000 to stop the slippage in an area where there is at least 5 if not six hotels and several residences and where we will also be providing access to the beach for a very densely populated area coming from Deighton Road, Kings Village, Lynch Gap, Brathwaite Gap, Dayrells Road, Medford Land, Harts Gap, St. Matthias and the other areas such as Balmoral Gap, Marine Gardens and so on.

Sir, we cannot do the repair job by merely concentrating at the area of Rockley. It is very significant, Mr. Speaker, that the Rockley pilot project which is

almost fully completed has led to some improvement in the accumulation of sand and the beach facilities at Rockley. But half a mile down the road we have had in effect where the sand in that area is now drifting out to sea and passing the coral reef and accumulating further at the Hilton Hotel. It is by the Hilton that you have this vast accumulation of beach to the detriment of the land in between the Hilton and the Apple Experience. I would say that it even goes as far as the Hastings Rock. The nature of the Barbados coastline is such that you have to concentrate on coals in selected areas and carry out a series of projects and not one main project if we are to reclaim and keep the asset of our beaches.

Sir, I am strongly suggesting that this may be a good opportunity for cooperation between the Ministry of The Environment and the Ministry of Health and that it should be possible to accommodate within the Sewerage Project pan of this expenditure since the Sewerage Project is benefiting and using anyhow the beach in this way and to accommodate within the Ministry of The Environment the other part of the expenditure. At the same time, we will be benefiting the public of Barbados at large particularly the large number of very lovely people who inhabit the polling districts ZA, ZC1 and ZD - (I cannot remember all the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South's districts who has pan of my area. I think it is XA1 or XA2. It used to be ZC. It is now called XA1 or XA2 or the sort) But this is a very densely populated area and we are an aging population in Barbados in general. It is very significant in this area that we have a lot of senior citizens whose recreation is either walking around the Garrison or going to the sea at the back of Hastings Rock. Some of them are finding the Hastings Rock difficult to traverse and would really welcome an improved beach facility in this area.

Sir, I think that I have said enough to outline the problems that arise here. I can assure the Minister that I have spoken at length in the Christ Church West area about the importance of the sewerage scheme and I have made the point that its establishment will not mean that improvements must come without some responsibilities. I would expect that it would have some additional costs particularly for commercial and business entities who are going to be connected to the scheme. I think that we should make it very clear to them from the start that this commercial cost, although coming out of their pockets, would be beneficial to them in the long run. It may well have some effect as well on householders in terms of the cost I am not sure of connection and maybe the administrative cost of the scheme. It is my understanding that we are not going to be faced with any large scale digging up of the roads in this area and that the connection will be done in a new and modern manner so that disruption will not be as significant as disruption was when the Bridgetown Sewerage Scheme was implemented. I hope that that engineering experiment will be successful. 12.40 p.m.

I also must make some reference to the acquisition in so far as it affects the Graeme Hall area, although my friend and colleague, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, has already spoken on it I think the opportunity should be taken to improve the drainage facilities at Graeme Hall Swamp.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I know that sewerage does not affect the drainage, but I am saying that the drainage at Graeme Hall Swamp at the moment is creating severe problems for people whose houses are near, particularly I recall one house - I have not given you the name of the householder, so I would not refer to the name - but in addition the stench sometimes that results because the sluice is not opened also affects the health of residents in that area. I believe in the planning of the sewerage scheme - I do not know whether there is a foreign exchange cost in respect of improving the drainage in this area - but I would hope that we could include that maybe as an ancillary to the scheme.

This project provides us with a tremendous opportunity to upgrade our environment, to preserve our assets, to beautify our island and to increase the economic benefits that^x we get from tourism. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the pumping stations will be beautified and that we will see trees planted around them to keep any unsightly sight out of the immediate gaze of the residents and visitors alike and that they will be properly designed, aesthetically pleasing to the eye and as well that the minimum amount of noise pollution will result from their construction.

I am pleased to support the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution that is before us. It relates to the acquisition of three parcels of land in the area of Palm Beach, Hastings, Christ Church. That is where one parcel of land is located. The second parcel is at Maxwell in the parish of Christ Church and the third parcel is at Welches, also in the parish of Christ Church. I support this Resolution because it is in fulfilment of a policy which both sides of this House of Assembly support

Let me say, Sir, that I would hope that very soon we will get out of some of the politicking that seems to be characterising our discussions in here, thereby making your task as Speaker a little more difficult, especially in areas where there is no division of policy. It is the nature

of Members to try to score political points, but on this particular matter there are no points to score. If you are dealing with sewage, there is no political point to score on sewage, treated or untreated. Why should we get into that kind of thing?

Let me join other Members who have spoken in offering congratulations to the Minister of Health on her maiden speech. Most of us did not realise that this was a maiden speech, because we would hardly think that one of the leading Ministers of this Government would not have spoken in here up to this particular time. So that initiation would have eluded us on the way.

There is nothing ungentlemanly in trying to correct the Minister if she is distorting the record. The fact that one is making a maiden speech does not absolve anyone in here from seeking to have the record correct

When I heard the Member I understood her to say that the idea - I think I wrote down the words, Sir - of a sewerage project in Barbados started with the Barbados Labour Party. That statement was so far-fetched that it needed to be corrected; and I have given a hint to the Minister that she needs time, because there are those of us who have been in here for a long time, and who know the background to this matter. I myself was Minister of Health, and signed a contract with the Inter-American Development Bank for developing the sewerage project which was to be the precursor of the development of an environmental programme for the upgrading of health conditions in Barbados. So when I hear the Minister making those comments, the Member for St George South, the Member for Christ Church South and the Member for Christ Church West - I am referring to Members who are part of this Honourable Chamber - can correct her, for they tried to tie the fact that I signed the sewerage project contract around my neck with heavy concrete. It was as though there was something very terrible to sign a contract to bring in foreign funds to provide for a sewerage system in Barbados. 12.50 p.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir, nobody on this side suggested anything was wrong with it. Our complaint has always been the cost of it, quadrupling the water rates in this country. That was the price we had to pay for it.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I am going to ask that Members on both sides be protected from these fraudulent points of order. No point of order has been made - and comments have been made about "ungentlemanly behaviour" from this side. I am sure that as

Speaker you would not permit any ungentlemanly behaviour in this Honourable Chamber, certainly, not when you are presiding. I have been impressed with your even-handed approach in presiding over the deliberations here.

Let me go on to make the point that these acquisitions are part of a complex process of putting down a sewerage system. Sometimes when I hear about speed, and delays, and whatever else, we tend not to take into account the complexity of the projects that we are talking about. This is not something that you take a decision on, and then you can just go about implementation without taking the issues and the matter step by step, in order to ensure that each problem that arises is properly examined and properly dealt with.

It is not only a matter of land acquisitions. There are other complex issues that come into play when we are talking about a sewerage project. I think, Sir, we will watch the Minister as she proceeds to carry out this particular project. We have the experience - our experience of the Bridgetown Sewerage Project - and we hope and know that those experiences will inform the work that has to be done in this particular project

Sir, the Member for Christ Church West referred to noise pollution. There is a lot of public inconvenience involved. There are traffic problems and there are other problems that occur. We will hope that in the implementation, including the reinstatement of the roads, everything that has to be done will be done in as satisfactory and as efficient a manner as possible.

A former Minister of Health, my colleague, the Member for St. Michael West introduced a particular concept to us. I listened to him very carefully as he explained the technical details of this "no-dig" approach. I hope that it works. I know that one of the most experienced and distinguished public officers, a public health engineer, is working with this project as Project Manager. I therefore expect and know that he will bring to bear on this matter all his experience, his knowledge, his skills and his expertise in ensuring that as good a job as possible is done.

For the benefit of all Barbadians, I hope this project can be implemented as efficiently as possible, and that all Barbadians stand to benefit, and will benefit, from the successful implementation of this project. That includes, Sir, some of my own constituents because, as I understand it, part of the South Coast Sewerage Project will involve the southern part of the constituency of St Michael South which I represent. I hope the project will bring benefits. I hope there will not be too many dislocations and inconveniences during its implementation.

I commend this Resolution and support it. We, on this side, do that. We hope that it will be implemented

as quickly and as efficiently as time and circumstances will permit. Thank you.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on hearing that the Honourable Member has in fact only now delivered her maiden speech it was cause for me to change the manner in which I would have spoken on this Resolution. I was not aware. Having been away from the Chamber for a couple of weeks, missing two sessions, I thought the Honourable Member had already broken her maiden and that we would be in a position to deal with her in the normal way.

I therefore first wish to congratulate her, Sir, on having made that speech in this House and I must say she made it with aplomb. She produced a good speech. I wish that her accuracy would have been as good as the fluency, but one understands these things.

I rise merely to put the issue of the Sewerage Project in perspective insofar as the record needs to be corrected. I believe that the officials who are advising the Honourable Member are the same officials by and large that would have advised over the last few years.

I just want to say the following. There has been no undue delay in the implementation of this project. In the first instance, it was necessary to have a project to determine where the sewerage project would be located. That in itself was a project that preceded this project. The acquisition of land is part of the process of the total project and that is why we are now meeting to acquire this land.

Prior to the acquisition of this land they had to determine where land would have to be acquired. That project was put in place. It was agreed to. It was discussed in this House more than 2 years ago and in fact, a company in Canada won a contract - it is on public record - where that company then completed the project that determined that the outfall would be to the west of the Hilton Hotel some 1.3 miles out. There were three sites that were identified for the location of the major pumping station and one had to make a very tough decision to place the pumping station just on the eastern rim of the Graeme Hall swamp and that itself required some very delicate examination before coming to a conclusion. All of this happened during the period to which the Honourable Member, the Deputy Prime Minister, referred.

I was really very surprised to hear that a woman of such consummate skill could have misdirected herself on this matter as it appeared to me as I heard her make...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this House we are all Honourable Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael West, I believe that you are going a bit far in your sarcastic kind of remarks. All Members are Honourable Members.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I didn't say anything that suggested she was not honourable, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You didn't say, but your remarks tended to...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I said she was a woman of consummate skill. I withdraw that, Sir. I clearly made an error in assuming any such thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't be sarcastic, please. Mr.

B. M. TAITT: Sarcasm is permitted. *Asides.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member *for* St. Michael West continue please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, let me proceed, please. I believe the Honourable Member was not listening and just thought that she should jump in. After she has been hearing my voice for a certain time she feels that she must put a paragraph in. 1.00 p.m.

You wish me to refer to you as he?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please. Continue.

Mr. B.M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is a she, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member for St. Michael West address the Honourable Member as "the Honourable Member", please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I was disappointed that the Honourable Member, in seeking to lend weight to her colleague, would have made the statement about delay. I would not go any further on this because it is an acquisition, but the time will come.

Mr. Speaker, after the project for determining where the out-fall would go, there then was the necessity to have the international bidding for the main project. Then there was the delay at the Inter-American Development Bank as they refused to give us the money because they wanted to have open ponds in the Christ Church Area and the sticking point, and the point which has already

been discussed in this House in the last session, was that the Government, and more specifically the then Minister of Health, refused to budge from the position that there had to be an odour protective manner of doing the South Coast Sewerage Project. An additional \$3 million, which the IADB did not wish to give to Barbados on the basis of their contention that we ought to use the system that had been identified by some man from Peru which would have had us having open ponds...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. It would never have called for an open sewer. It would have been a system which would allow for an open pond. It has to be an open pond. The top of the treatment tanks down at Chapman Lane is open to the sky. It has to be for the sun to do what it has to do for the physical properties...

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, you have made your point of order. An open pond and an open sewer, you are saying that the open pond is the same thing or different?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Vast difference. The pond would not have sewage in it. It would be treated and we chose not to have that at a greater cost. That was the choice under that Government.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, this matter has been debated in here. I really do not wish to demonstrate that the Honourable Member is so far off. I hope that during the lunch period she would check with the officials and not make a spectacle of herself in this regard. I do not intend to continue down that line. Suffice it to say that what was being recommended was, in fact, rejected by almost every Honourable Member from Christ Church. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South had indicated that he would not be in favour of the kind of system which was being recommended. It had everything to do with an open sewer.

The Treatment Plant was going to be a series of ponds which would rely on the atmosphere at the ground level to cure the stench, and while we were waiting for that to be processed, the people in the Christ Church area would be dying from the same kinds of activity that the people in St. Thomas are alleged to be dying from.

The Honourable Member really should contain herself, Mr. Speaker. She should. Ignorance must not be displayed all the time, every time, every day.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. That is exactly what the Honourable Member is doing, displaying vast ignorance, the size of a sewage treatment pond. There would be no scent. There would be no smell

because there would not be sewage. If you had open ponds with sewage in them it would be a health hazard. There are to be found all over the world. Barbados chose not to have that system and chose to have a more expensive system. That was the choice made by the Democratic Labour Party administration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is so far wrong, Sir, that it frightens me. It frightens me that the Honourable Member is in a position of authority in these matters. I hope that that is not an indication of how she arrives at conclusions for...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, I would like you to continue with your presentation focusing please on the Resolution before us.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am working on it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the Honourable Member is taking on too many asides. Just continue and make your point and let us proceed, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I was hoping from you for the protection, especially from that Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not heard. I can only protect you if I hear.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The fact is though, Sir, that subsequently the delays had to do with the differences between the IADB and the Government of Barbados on the question of whether we were going to have the deodorizer. Let me put it that way. I am sure that the technical details of this have been repeated over and over again and I hope that the technical officers in the Ministry of Health will make known to the public the facts concerning the difference between the two systems. I hope so, Sir. It is very necessary in the circumstances that that be done. I hope that the Minister will, in fact, let it be made known to the public the difference between the system and what really caused the delay in our getting the \$73 million from the IADB because that information is public. I brought it to this House last session.

Those are the reasons for the so-called delay. We established a public relations programme that has been doing nothing else but sensitising the people on the South Coast to the need for this particular project to proceed differently from how the one in Bridgetown had proceeded.

We have, in fact, incorporated the connections as part of the project so that the question of the cost of engineering for individuals would now be subsumed in

the totality of the Project. We spent a lot of time making sure that some of the pitfalls with which we were not familiar when we implemented the Bridgetown Sewerage Project would not dog the South Coast Sewerage Project

Finally, Sir, in order to ensure continuity of our total approach, we attached the beginning of the West Coast Project as part of this Project so that when this Project is at the point of being completed, the West Coast Project will begin. The pre-feasibility study for the West Coast Project has been included in this Project so that there will be a dovetailing. These are the facts that have been made known before and are available to all people of goodwill. The delay was not because of any recalcitrance. The delay, as I understand it, and up until the time I had responsibility for it, was because of the meticulous and careful planning that was considered necessary in the implementation of a project that was (a) so vast in terms of the cost and (b) so important in the life blood of this community that we wanted to make sure that the Project when it came to fruition, would be one that was capable of implementation and that would have the blessings of all the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied and I am sure the Honourable Minister is satisfied from what I heard, that all that could be done, has been done, to make this Project compatible with what is desirable for Barbados. I am satisfied that every effort will be made to bring this Project to fruition in as quickly a time as possible. I will finish, Sir, by talking about the "no dig". The "no dig" concept was part of the so-called delay. This "no dig" concept which I explained to the last House of Assembly and which I have no difficulty explaining again, allows for the excavation to occur without in any way disrupting the road where the excavation is likely to occur. So that part of the time in the implementation of this project was spent surveying and examining all of the land from the Aquatic Club up to the point where this sewerage project is going to go to determine to which part of it the "no dig" will apply. 1.10 p.m.

Those studies indicated that about three-quarters of the project can benefit from the "no dig" concept. In order to ensure that the "no dig" concept was applicable in Barbados the technical people journeyed to the United Kingdom, they then journeyed to Germany and elsewhere because the "no dig" concept is one that is implemented mostly in Europe and Britain and in fact they came back and indicated that it is possible.

There had to be new discussions with the Inter-American Development Bank on the "no dig" concept because again they were of the opinion that this was increasing the cost of the project unnecessarily.

Finally they agreed that it was desirable. And so Barbados will be the first country in the Caribbean that will have excavation going on, the traffic will continue to flow more or less as it was flowing before and there would not be the kind of disruption which normally accompanies this kind of whole scale development

I look forward to observing it as it goes on but I hope that we will not again have to have a discussion in which we are seeking to establish facts that are so reasonably ordinary that the simplest mind could absorb it. I hope I do not have again, Sir, to explain any matters relating to this unless they are matters of a different substance. I believe that the facts are sufficiently well known and have been sufficiently churned up that everybody should know them.

I really do not think this is a matter in which we should be seeking to get political mileage one way or another. The sewerage of Barbados is a matter that requires goodwill on all sides. I do not intend to seek to score any political points on it. But, Sir, like any good trooper, if points are sought to be scored you have to respond. That is all one will do. I am grateful to Your Honour.

Let me repeat that the only reason that one did not in the initial stages cheer as the Honourable Member sat down is because one did not recognise that it was the maiden speech and therefore I hope the Honourable Member will recognise that there was no intention to deviate from the traditions of Parliament.

I hope the Leader of the House will continue to show the kind of patience and sagacity that comes with that particular responsibility that will allow us to get on with the business without unnecessary contention.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Seconded, Sir.

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

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, as I came to this Chamber this morning, Sir, I had no intention of taking part in this debate.

But as one listened to the speeches of Honourable Members whether it be on this side or on the other side

one realises that one has a right and a rightful reason to represent those people who are constituents of a rural constituency. And now, Sir, that we are dealing with land acquisition and the sewerage plant we must also be *aufait* with the workings of the sewerage plants that have been built or are about to be constructed in this country.

One would have to find out, when this plant is completed how it is going to be financed. We have to be sure that we do not find ourselves in a situation where a sewerage plant is constructed and we the constituents of rural constituencies find ourselves in a situation where we have to help finance a project without any direct benefit to ourselves.

When this debate first started, Sir, there was discussion whether sewerage plants were the ideas of the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party. But as the debate went on we heard of years like 1974 and we heard the word "environment". It is quite interesting that in 1974 you would have heard of the word environment because I want to say to you that the Democratic Labour Party has always been a party setting a lead and a standard for other countries to follow and it is quite interesting that in 1974 we would have been looking after the environment of Barbados by building a sewerage plant. And, in the 1990s the word "environment" is a big word just like the phrase "rural development" is a popular phrase.

We on this side will be supporting this Resolution. We do not have any problems with it but we also have to answer a couple questions. We are hearing about \$72 million for this project and as far as I know this is to do with internal sewage. In a day and an age like this, Sir, we have to ask ourselves if we are going to spend US\$72 million on internal sewage, how much are we prepared to spend on external sewage? When we are hearing situations where people are saying "over their dead bodies" and some people are saying to me that I must be prepared to take some external sewage I will have to ask the relevant Minister how much money are we prepared to spend on external sewage? I am dealing with sewage, Sir. I would like to know, Sir, that in 1994 why is it that we must be arguing in this House of Assembly which constituency would have to deal with the external sewage.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I have been really trying to follow the gist of your presentation. I did not want to interrupt you. But could you focus on the Resolution? It is really not so clear, the gist of your presentation.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: First of all do you want me to answer what is external sewage?

Mr. SPEAKER: First of all you are talking about \$72 million for sewage. You are talking about sewage or sewerage? What are you talking about?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On the sewerage plant, Sir. That is what I am talking about. Anyhow, Sir, I am saying that if we are going to external garbage and internal garbage - is that what you are saying, Sir? 2.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: You proceed. Proceed. Proceed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Yes, Sir. What I am saying, Sir, is that we need to find out from the Minister that in the same way we are going to spend US\$72 million, how much is he prepared to spend on the other plant? Because we cannot find ourselves in a situation where the urban and suburban areas are prepared to spend US\$72 million and where we have come to this House of Assembly prepared to spend this money.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to cross you again. But you are talking about this plant and the next plant. Did the Minister mention another plant this morning?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, I am linking the two, Sir.
Mr. SPEAKER: What are you really referring to? *Aside.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am hearing an aside now that St. Lucy is the ideal place for the other plant.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there another plant now?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am hearing that from the other side, Sir, in an aside. But I am saying that it cannot be in St. Lucy because we are near to the sea and, when leachate goes into the sea, the leachate will come to the South Coast so St. Lucy will not be the place for it, Sir...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Right, which is near to the cement plant. You are right. But that is also near to the sea, Sir. I am saying that we are dealing with the Sewerage Plant and the problems with the sea. We cannot put it in that quarry, Sir.

I am saying to this House that we cannot have a situation that when you are dealing with the urban and suburban areas you are quite prepared to spend a lot of money, Sir, but when you are dealing with rural constituencies or other areas, we are not prepared to

spend the money. I am saying that, if an incinerator is the right thing for Barbados and I am hearing the figure from the other side of \$130 million, in the same way one sewerage plant can cost US\$172 million and Bds. \$130 million for the incinerator that we should be prepared to spend Bds. \$130 million to look after a problem that is nationalistic or islandwide, if you want to say that So that my friend in St. George South would not have to worry about the Workman's landfill. I am saying to this House that we must be serious and we must be prepared also to look after the problems of the rural constituencies. That is why I am asking the relevant Minister or the one who led off the debate properly if they are prepared to spend \$130 million to look after the whole of Barbados or if they are going to come everytime to ask us to vote \$72 million or agree with them to finance a project for \$72 million for a particular area. We are hearing about three plants and three by 72 is US\$216 million which is Bds. \$432 million. As I said before, Sir, we have no problem in looking after the environment because since 1974 we have been doing so, Sir. So we have no problem with that and we are saying that we should not be arguing whether we should have landfills or not My argument is that \$130 million for an incinerator is a good figure for the whole country and we should be prepared to come into this House and make a vote for that figure so that the country would not have to worry whether the landfill is going to St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. George or even to St. Peter. We in St. Lucy have had our fair share already and I will not be supporting anything for a landfill in St. Lucy.

Thank you very much.

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

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the last speaker who just spoke did not really give me anything to respond to. As I was about to wind up shortly before the break, I will do so now. I would just like to say that from the statements which have been made by Members on the other side it is obvious they have conceded that they have been delinquent during the last administration. I would like to give Members who have been effected in their constituency by this acquisition that the relevant roads will be fixed as soon as possible. Obviously, we are looking at the completion of this sewerage plant which will be somewhere down the road in the future.

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 2 - TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF LAND AT
ALLEN VIEW, WELCHMAN HALL, ST.
THOMAS FOR THE LAYING OF
UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL
CABLE AT HARRISON CAVE

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution to acquire 1068.50 square metres of land at Allen View, Welchman Hall in the parish of St. Thomas to facilitate the upgrading at Harrison's Cave. The present arrangement, Mr. Speaker, for bringing electrical power to Harrison's Cave via an overhead pole is quite precarious and presents a safety and accessibility problem which will cause serious difficulties in the National Conservation Commission's efforts to upgrade and expand the facilities at the Cave.

The laying of these cables as advised by the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited is of urgent necessity particularly since an increase supply of electrical power is required to operate two additional trams which will be supplementing the National Conservation Commission's fleet

The land in question, Mr. Speaker, is the remainder of a parcel of land from which 840.93 square metres were acquired from the estate of Florence Carrington for the development of the Cave. Since no title deeds to the land are available, it is considered that acquisition should take place under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 instead of by private treaty. Approval for the acquisition of this 1068.50 square metres of land was given by Cabinet and the relevant notices required under Sections 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act have been executed.

I would also like to state, Mr. Speaker, there are also other lands in the environs of this particular acquisition which will also shortly be acquired by Government because of the fact that there have been complaints about seepage in the Cave and the officials of the Barbados Water Authority have confirmed that the water has been contaminated as a result of one of the residents in the Welchman Hall area owning a pig farm with 25 pens in the area.

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

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: In seconding the Resolution, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to indicate that the Caves are the most popular of the tourist attractions on the island and it is very desirable that the trams be functioning efficiently at all times. As I understand it, Sir, this Resolution seeks to ensure that the land on top of the Cave can be used freely for the routing of electrical wires and electrical poles. As indicated by the Honourable Minister, that is not the end of the problem and very

shortly another Resolution will be coming to the House which has to do with the compulsory acquisition of another parcel of land again effecting the Caves on which there is situated a piggery. The seepage from the piggery has been discolouring the stalagmites in the Caves and also discolouring the pure water which we used to know flowing through the Caves. That, Mr. Speaker, is a very serious matter indeed. It is an important national treasure, and a national asset and I think we must do all in our power to ensure that it is preserved and maintained and in no way damaged, particularly as it is feared it may now be damaged irreparably because of the existence of this piggery and the seepage of the water for some time past 2.35 p.m.

The House ought to know too, Sir, that the trams have not been working at the Cave for a considerable while. The previous Government made attempts to secure two new trams from Miami. It is as though the contract was given to a man operating under a tamarind tree. The first tram that was built turned out to be wrongly designed and just did not work. The maker insisted that he had to be paid in full for the second tram even before he repaired the first. Then contact was completely lost with this supplier, so much so that Mr. John Connell, then Chairman of the National Conservation Commission, had to head a delegation to Miami in search of the man. He led a search party in order to find this man. I am told this is the very latest information, that the trams are now available and that it is expected that they will shortly be here. We can only hope that they function, because the winter season is about to commence and we can expect another heavy use of the Cave throughout the winter season, both from the land based tourists and those who come by way of the cruise vessels, and it is going to be very important that the Cave be functioning properly.

It is also important that the Cave be made more attractive, particularly in the waiting area and outside. We are not the only country in the world that has caves and it is suggested that we ought to study the experience of the State of Virginia where there are two or three caves that are very attractive and very much used by tourists. There are so many attractions, so many shops that you are guaranteed to be lifted of all your money to these legitimate and attractive activities that we ought to ensure that those who have to wait, particularly with trams not working properly, for an hour or more for the use of the trams and for getting into the caves that they be given every incentive to spend their money and leave it with us. So that we can expect that through the initiative of the NCC steps will be taken to ensure that the caves are made more attractive and that the trams are made to work properly.

Someone from the other side did ask whether I saw the trams myself. The answer to that is that I did not see

the trams and I very much hope that the report reaching me is an accurate one, for it would be a pity indeed if for the second season running the trams are not functioning properly.

With those remarks, Sir, I give my full support to this Resolution before the House.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, we will be supporting this Resolution and certainly would like to see the initiatives which the Democratic Labour Party had taken when it was in office brought to their full fruition. These are some housekeeping matters which the Honourable Member is seeking to resolve.

I am very grateful to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph for saying a bit about his views on the operation of the Cave. Before I get to the substance of my remarks, which will be very short, I want to say that it disappoints me that sites such as Harrison's Cave and St John's Parish Church, which thousands of visitors visit, are not sites which are properly developed to accommodate more vendors and persons selling specialty items, ice cream and the establishment of other kinds of small businesses, and I hope that attention will be given by the Government to Harrison's Cave and also, if it is possible, to secure Town Planning permission also to develop that site at St John's Parish Church. But I do not want to stray too far into that, Mr. Speaker, I will link these developments and show the symbiotic relationship between the volume of visitors who visit Harrison's Cave and the volume who visit St John's Parish Church on the same tour.

It is important for attention to be paid by the National Conservation Commission to that, but of greater significance is that the Chairman of the National Conservation Commission, which is the owner and operator of Harrison's Cave, indicated very clearly about two weeks ago that the Commission would be rehiring all of the workers who had been displaced in 1991, including those who are working at Harrison's Cave.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member *for* St John. I am not going to let this debate at this point digress too far. I would be grateful if you would focus on this compulsory acquisition Resolution here which has to do, as the proposer was saying, with the laying of underground electrical cables. Do not let us go so far now. We have had a long morning and there are a lot of things to be discussed. There is nothing here to do with employment of people.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The concern has not only been the operation of the trams, but there are grave concerns about the number of persons employed at

Harrison's Cave to operate the Cave as a whole. Due to the severe cut backs in 1991, Mr. Speaker, which the Government had no choice to implement, the staff complement was reduced and I fear very much that this work would be carried out at Harrison's Cave, the land would be acquired, the electrical cable put in, the seepage from the piggery and all of the other concerns and yet Harrison's Cave will not reach its full potential because the new Government reneges on one of its major promises to re-employ over 500 people who were displaced in 1991. The reason why I say this is because I happened to be passing by the National Stadium, which is in your constituency, Mr. Speaker, or near to it at least, about two weeks ago and saw people, including some who worked at Harrison's Cave, in a line from the NCC stretching right back to the Stadium, looking to get back their jobs at the National Conservation Commission and a lot of them are people from the constituency of St. John and they must be given priority in the re-employment policies of any National Conservation Commission or any Minister. That is what all of us expect

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point. Proceed now to the Resolution.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have cut out that article, Mr. Speaker. I am very concerned about Harrison's Cave and I would like at the appropriate time for the Minister to indicate very strongly what the disposition of the Board of the National Conservation Commission is in relation to the staffing of all of its operations, but in particular Harrison's Cave. I would like to hear that at the earliest possible opportunity. We will be giving our full support to this particular Resolution.

Thank you, Sir.
2.45 p.m.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: In winding up this debate on this Resolution, I am somewhat surprised that the Honourable Member for St. John was in Parliament since 1987 and was in the Cabinet since 1991, was seeking to become Prime Minister of Barbados and did nothing at St. John Parish Church, and is expecting miracles.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew is really misleading the House. There have been three applications before the Town Planner to develop the field opposite St. John's Parish Church for a car park and for a facility for vendors. All of them have been rejected by the Town Planner. So efforts had been made and there is nothing I can do.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I am still somewhat surprised that he did nothing during the period and he is expecting miracles in two months.

I do not remember seeing anywhere in the Barbados Labour Party manifesto anything about 500 jobs. I remember seeing something about a 5:4:3 plan somewhere.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It was on the front page of the Sunday Sun two weeks ago at a tree planting ceremony where a company called REMAC had donated trees to the NCC. It is a shame that an attempt is being made to deny that that statement was being made because there are hundreds of people who are looking to get their jobs back.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John, your point of order has been repeated.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I wouldn't worry to irritate the Honourable Member for St. John anymore. With those brief remarks, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for the day and I now move that Private Members' Business be the instant order of the day. In that regard, I wish to remind Honourable Members that last week we had agreed on both sides that we would devote the session hereafter to a consideration of the Speech from the Throne.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West has a Resolution under Private Members' Business and we are prepared to deal with that Resolution, at least start it today.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, among one of the traditions which have been handed down from the Parliament at Westminster is that of moving a Resolution of thanks. In the case of Westminster, Her Majesty the Queen, in this House, to the Governor-General, whenever a speech from the Throne is delivered. That tradition has not been followed, in my experience in this House, with any consistency.

I first entered the House in September 1971 and in my parliamentary experience I can only recall one occasion other than this on which the Resolution was debated. I recall other occasions on which such Resolutions were

placed on the Order Paper but were never followed through. In the Houses of Parliament in the United Kingdom it is usual that the Resolution is sponsored in both Houses of Parliaments, the House of Lords and the House of Commons, and that the persons who are introducing those resolutions in both Houses are usually chosen and agreed on.

There is a set procedure where the scope of the debate is also practically agreed on. The first day is usually taken up in a debate in a general way on the Speech from the Throne and the Government's policy. Then the Opposition indicates selected subjects that it would like debated for the second day and on the final day the debate is then confined to other selected subjects.

I would hope that our tradition would evolve and reflect some of the concerns of this Parliament. One of the things you would have noted, Mr. Speaker, is that therefore the Resolution which is before the House is one in the standard form of that which is used in the House of Commons in England and in the House of Lords or even before other Commonwealth Parliaments but it is a Resolution which asks this House to take note of the speech of Her Excellency the Governor-General at the opening of Parliament and of the determination of the Government to implement the provisions referred to therein.

I will, however, Mr. Speaker, before the debate is closed and most likely before I close my remarks, ask that the Resolution be amended so that this House conveys to Her Excellency the House's thanks for the speech which she had delivered. That is a tradition that I think we should follow. It shows respect for the office which she holds and at the same time establishes that she is as much a part of the Government of Barbados as this Parliament is part of the Government of Barbados, used in the general sense of the word "Government".

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Government on a Throne Speech that is not only well written but which contains many matters of great importance to the people of Barbados and which outlines a programme which, if implemented, would make a difference to the future of the quality of life of Barbados in a most positive manner.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in the minds of most Barbadians that the public at large had become turned off with politicians. There was a great distrust of our words and a growing cynicism in the country about matters political. If there is one thing which the change of Government has achieved it is to give the opportunity to restore confidence in the political system and to give the politicians a new opportunity to re-establish a connection with the people. 2.55 p.m.

I am therefore pleased to see in the speech the emphasis which the Government has placed on strengthening and broadening democracy and creating a genuine and vibrant participatory democracy in Barbados. It is most important that the Barbadian public at large must consider themselves as part and parcel of the day-to-day governance of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I cast my mind back to the 1960s when I returned from university and remember that in those days, even up to that time there was probably a wider participation of the people in the day-to-day running of governmental affairs than there is now. Certainly we had more institutions which allowed people to look after matters that were closer to their community. All these matters were not handed over only to Members of Parliament or members of the Legislative Council as it then was. We had a system of Local Government.

I do not believe many people recall that the abolition of Local Government was carried out by the Democratic Labour Party against the advice of Dr. R. N. Jackson as he then was, who was put up as a Special Commissioner to enquire into the working of Local Government, and whether we should have continued under the three District Councils - two District Councils and the City Council - or whether or not we should have centralized affairs in the manner that we have done.

The Maude Commission of 1948, or thereabouts, had recommended a modification of the system of Local Government. We modified it, that is, the Barbados Labour Party in the 1950s. There were some problems with it like most systems where from time to time you have to revisit, reform, reshape and re-fashion. Then the Democratic Labour Party came to Government in the 1960s with the intention, I would say, of abolishing Local Government. It saw all of the ills and none of its virtues. It invited Dr. Jackson, who was one of my professors in Cambridge, to do the special enquiry. Dr. Jackson rightly came up with the recommendation that it should be modified, but not completely abolished.

Those were the days, Sir, when the Democratic Labour Party had fallen out with the Conservative Party - I think it was then the National Party - and I believe the then Leader of the Democratic Labour Party was wont to say that since he could not get Mottley out of the City he would get the City from Mottley. Historians believe that the abolition of Local Government had a lot to do with that sentiment, therefore, we found that rather than widening the participation of people in the day-to-day governance of their country, we reverted to what most people considered an over-centralization and a hiatus between the governed and the governors.

I am pleased to see too, Sir, that at the centre of the objectives for reform in order to strengthen democracy will be reform of our Constitution. In Barbados today there are only, I think, about five or six of us who participated in the Constitutional Conference in 1966. In this House I believe there are now two of us - the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and myself. The other Members were the former Honourable Member for St. Michael North, Mr. Philip Greaves, the then Honourable Member for St. George, the late Mr. G. Miller, the father of the Honourable Member for the City, the late Honourable Member for St. John, former Prime Minister, Mr. Errol Barrow, a former Honourable Member for the City, the late Mr. E. D. Mottley, whose grand-daughter is now in this House, and Mr. Louis Lynch who represented the City. I think the other members who are alive is a former Honourable Member for St. Lucy, Sir James Tudor and other than that the others died, including the late Honourable Member for St. Thomas, Mr. Tom Adams. Those are members. There are some advisers who are still alive, the Honourable Mr. Jack Dear, Sir Denys Williams, the Chief Justice, Sir Roy Marshall who was the legal adviser, and Mr. Keith Hatchett, who was an adviser to the Government.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to reform the Constitution. Some of the problems which have surfaced are problems that were foreseen, but they were reasons given to us or accepted by the British Government, while certain provisions which still are in our Constitution are now seen as widening our participation by the public and are seen as weakening rather than strengthening democracies which still exist.

I wish particularly to speak about section 26 of the Constitution which surfaced in the speech of Her Excellency at the Opening of Parliament. The Government has given an undertaking that it will cause the necessary amendments to be made to that section of the Constitution to prevent any Government in the future unilaterally reducing salaries, as was done in the Democratic Labour Party's time.

Now section 26, for the purpose of the record, figured in the discussions in London. I must place it for historical purposes on the record of this House that the Labour Party at that time argued that there was no necessity to keep the section 26 provision in the Constitution. We were advised that because of the number of laws that may conflict with the fundamental provisions of the Constitution we would need time to revise and review that legislation and hence the necessity for section 26. The then Government had given an undertaking that the process would have taken - I think they said - five years. When I became Attorney General I found that nothing had been done about it And I again approached Sir Roy Marshall as the files will

reflect to ask that they review that legislation in order to look at all of the Laws of Barbados that offend the fundamental rights provision. 3.05 p.m.

We did a bit more. We also set up a Constitution Commission known as the Cox Commission to look at the whole Constitution. Unfortunately we did not get the cooperation of the Democratic Labour Party. They were invited to join in the review of the Constitution but refused. I would hope that on this occasion we would see a different approach.

I feel very deeply, Mr. Speaker, that the Constitution is the most important legal document and the most important law governing the affairs of this country. I believe strongly that the approach which we should take to constitutional reform should not be a partisan one.

I believe that our political parties should reach the stage that we should be mature enough now to be able to approach constitutional matters in an objective fashion, looking only for the best of Barbados, drawing from our own experiences and from the experience of other Caribbean Countries and from the Commonwealth and outside of the commonwealth in order to establish a constitution that would give maximum participation by the people as a whole, safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms and allow an effective and efficient democratic country to function in order to achieve a higher and better standard and quality of life at all levels for the people as a whole.

That is why, when the Constitution is set up, I am sure the Government will approach the matter in the broad manner of which I have spoken and I will hope that we will see a different Democratic Labour Party approach from that which we saw at the time of the Cox Commission.

Although the Government has now the constitutional majority to amend and reform the constitution. It seems to me important that our amendments and our reform should be as broad-based as possible and I would hope that there is cooperation from both of the political parties represented on the Opposition Benches.

The speech from the Throne was even more detailed in some of the objectives for strengthening democracy which the Government has set out for itself. Some are matters that have been referred to in this House down through the years but we do not seem to have either the time or the will or the determination to follow through on them. And yet they are important if we are to recapture those who have become cynics about the political system.

Mr. Speaker, they are set out in the speech and I do not want to go through them in a detailed manner but I would hope that we would see the Parliamentary Committees of this House functioning more effectively than they have functioned in the past.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, when he was Speaker, would know that any occasion that presented itself to me in this House, I would speak on the necessity for strengthening this Committee system. I believe that we should have more than the normal committees we now have under our roll. We have a Standing Orders Committee, Committee on Privileges, Committee on the Library, the Management Commission, but Mr. Speaker, we ourselves must recognise that our committees do not function in the manner that we would expect.

I want also to say, Sir, that we should involve the public more in our work. I believe, Sir, that the Committees' work can be open to the public. There are very few matters being considered by Parliament at the Committee level that need to be kept confidential. The Parliament's business should be an open book.

Mr. Speaker, not only should our committees' work be open but I believe that we are late in getting to broadcasting the debates of this House.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I have used every possible opportunity during the years I have been in the House to try to push the House into broadcasting the debates. The new Members who have come into this House, I am sure the Honourable Member for Christ Church South will recall occasions where Members of the Labour Party had to take drastic action in order to be heard on the airwaves. I speak of a former Honourable Member for St. Joseph, the late Mr. Lloyd Smith, who brought in a pair of pliers and threatened to cut off debate if he was not given a chance to be heard over the radio.

I do not believe that in this day and age we need that and that is why I welcome the undertaking of the Government to see that the broadcasts of the debates of this House, not merely budget debates, not merely debates of the 350th Anniversary of Parliament but all of the debates of this House and of the other House should be broadcast so that the public has the option and the choice whether to watch them on television or to listen to them. And I say to the House that a lot of the criticism of Honourable Members, even about the manner in which they go about their own parliamentary business as representing their particular constituencies would be lessened because people will see that Members are in here, generally speaking, arguing on behalf of their constituents and trying to find a

way to achieve a proper system of governing the country as a whole.

I would hope therefore that the promise would be quickly fulfilled. I was heartened indeed to see the Minister of State from the other place report a few days ago on the progress that is being made to implement this promise. That is why my Resolution is drafted in this manner because I have seen not only the promise but although it is just over 2 months I have seen the promise becoming performance by the Government and I hope to see that particular promise fully undertaken. 3.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be able to deal with every item that was mentioned. As I said, they are very comprehensive proposals and Members would want to select and speak on particular areas. But I consider democracy and the strengthening of democracy and the maintenance of a parliamentary democracy to be the bedrock on which all of our institutions are founded. We fought too hard and too long in this country for the right to vote for people of all classes, colours and creed to participate in the day-to-day management of this country now having had the legacy, not only to hold it but to improve on that legacy. That is why I believe that this promise of the Government in the Throne Speech must be taken seriously and must be implemented as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to move from that and to look at some of the wider issues that the Government intend to implement I consider that the Government's promises under its monetary and fiscal policies will go a long way towards improving and reversing in fact the disastrous three and a half years of economic management in this country. None of us could be happy about the reversal of our economic fortunes as manifested through the 1990's.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue orderly please. Let us hear the Honourable Member please.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: None of us could be happy about that, Sir. Not only was there a reduction in the wages of civil servants...

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

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: ...But there was a reduction in the standard of living and economic activity in the country as a whole. In those circumstances, there was time for a change and the Government has set out in the Throne Speech a very detail programme towards receiving

monetary and fiscal reform and development. I believe that the Government's concentration on human resources development is one of the most important planks of that policy. Our human resource in a small country as Barbados is an asset that we must not only cherish, but it is one that we must develop. I regret very much that even in the area of training, for instance, we found ourselves collecting from the public \$12.5 million and spending back on training \$5 million a year.

I do not believe that the last Government brought to us a report undertaken by the World Bank, I believe, from Mr. Marshall...

Mr. SPEAKER: Could you wind up, Sir?

Mr. H. deB. FORDE:...to show where our training programmes were defective and going wrong. I, therefore, welcome the undertaking by this Government to place renewed emphasis on the development of our human resources. I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to participate in that exercise.

Mr. Speaker, the rules do not allow me to go beyond half an hour. It has gone very quickly, Sir. But the Government even when it has finished its programme will not run out of ideas. The Government's Manifesto which has been made a document of this House is replete with new innovative ideas which will be good for this country. I am sure that when our promises and performances are dealt with at the end of the five-year period that the public will be well satisfied that this is a Government which understands the social contracts that it signs with the people in its Manifesto...

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time has expired.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE:...to be prepared to perform within the terms of that contract.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move...The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is so anxious to second the Resolution. Before I sit down, he is on his feet. I know that he is anxious to join in something that he enjoys.

I beg to move that this Resolution stand part and I would seek leave, Mr. Speaker, in my winding up to say and include the relevant form of words for conveying this House's thanks to Her Excellency for her speech.

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

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second this Resolution and wish to give my wholehearted support to the policies and programmes contained in the Throne Speech. In fact, Mr. Speaker, over the last few years there

was definitely a very> very heavy and dull feeling hanging over this country and at times it felt as if the country had indeed come to a standstill. But at present, Mr. Speaker, subsequent to the recent change in Government the country now has a very fresh and light feeling and I am happy and indeed I am sure Barbadians as a whole are happy that a plan has now been outlined to ensure that this country once again fires on all cylinders.

I cannot possibly go into all the details today, Mr. Speaker, and discuss all aspects of the Throne Speech. I am going to speak to the question of housing, an area which was dealt with in the Throne Speech and in particular the question of housing in relation to low income earners or what we sometimes in Barbados refer to as the housing areas. I have the honour, Mr. Speaker, to represent the constituency of St. Michael North and this is a constituency which has three housing areas: Grazettes, Eden Lodge and Cave Hill. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that any other Honourable Member can say that he has more than that number of housing areas in his or her constituency. I have spent a lot of time going around these areas and I have seen a number of the problems confronting the residents of these housing areas. The problem perhaps that is most visible is the question of over-crowding of these units. This over-crowding in my view is one of the strongest, if not the strongest, indicator of the fact that in Barbados we now have a shortage of Government housing units for the poor people of this country. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would go as far as to say that with the exception of unemployment the most pressing social problem in Barbados today is the question of the shortage of Government low income housing for the people of Barbados. I spend one day every week, Mr. Speaker, in my constituency office which incidentally is a first for St. Michael North because never before was there a constituency office for several years in St. Michael North. That is one of the problems most complained about, the shortage of housing units in this country. I am happy to see that this Government has committed itself in writing to the resumption of the construction of housing units for the people of Barbados. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it will redound to the eternal discredit of the last Democratic Labour Party administration that while it could have spent so much money recklessly, as it did, it in fact did not see it possible to build more than 100 units - I am told it is less than 100 units - over the course of eight years. 3.25 p.m.

Asides.

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

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: I am told 50 by the Honourable Member for St. George North. They could not build more than 50 units to service the housing needs

of the people of Barbados and alleviate the problems faced by people in Eden Lodge, Cave Hill, Grazettes, St. Stephen's Hill and other areas around Barbados.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, and recognising that perhaps 90% or more of the occupants of housing units are low income earners, I believe I have to make a comment or two on certain comments that were reported recently in the Press by the newly appointed Chairman of the National Housing Corporation. He has made some statements about the need to get tough with tenants in these units in relation to the arrears of rent. I recognise that the Chairman has been put there to do a job and he obviously intends to operate within the confines of the law and do the job to the best of his ability. I am not to be taken as defending any tenant in any housing area who would deliberately not pay his rent I am not defending anyone who would do that, but at the same time, as has been said before, and correctly so, Government cannot always be run solely on a business basis. Government must be human and it must have a heart. In this area of Government housing, Mr. Speaker, I am saying there is some scope to invoke that principle.

As I said, I spend a lot of time in housing areas in my constituency with the people there. They constitute over 60% of my constituents and I can assure this Honourable House that there are many who are willing to pay the rent but who simply cannot in the circumstances. Many are still reeling under the cruel and disastrous measures of the previous administration which resulted in so many of them being put on the breadline in St. Michael North and all over Barbados. If it were parliamentary, Mr. Speaker, I would have said the murderous policies of the Democratic Labour Party, but I cannot say that

There are not many who are deliberately not paying. I believe that there is a need for a proper policy to deal with rent arrears and basically there is a need to deal with each case on its own merit. We need to see who genuinely cannot pay as opposed to who are deliberately not paying. I believe that we can now depart from the old ways of the National Housing Corporation and have a National Housing Corporation that is vibrant, involved and energetic, so that from as early as a few months after tenants fall into arrears they can be called in or visited by the officials at the National Housing Corporation in a humanitarian way to get to the root of the problem. That is how any normal private landlord and tenant situation would operate. I believe that after a proper examination of the circumstances at that early stage, or indeed at any stage, you may well find that the situation warrants a decision to ease the tenant, to defer payment or even in some cases to write off the payment of rent over a certain period of time.

I will go further, Mr. Speaker, and say this. Once a Government accepts that it has to provide housing for those who need it most, the lower income earners of Barbados,

the inevitable reality is that those very people who need the housing will not be able, consistently, to pay their rents in a timely manner, for the simple reason that they are the ones who are first and worst affected by any changes in policies that affect unemployment or affect the cost of living in Barbados.

I am looking forward, Mr. Speaker, to the dawning of a new era in the area of the provision of Government housing units. I hope that in future it will be recognised that in that area, as I said earlier Government cannot be run strictly on a business basis, it must show the humanitarian element. Of course the problem will be alleviated when tenants opt to purchase their housing units, which is another policy the Barbados Labour Party is committed to, but until then there are going to be these difficulties and I respectfully ask that the new Government just consider the approach I have just mentioned in relation to these tenants in the housing units.

There is also the treatment of tenants, how they have been treated in the past by the National Housing Corporation. I drive through areas like Grazettes and Eden Lodge and I am called in by tenants who show me dilapidated conditions, floor boards in need of repair, I ask: "When last have you called the National Housing Corporation?" They tell me weeks ago, months ago, sometimes years ago, and no one has come to help them fix that problem. Nothing has been done. I understand that there is some rule, unwritten of course, that if you are a tenant in arrears...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member in silence, please. Give him a chance.

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: I am not even hearing them, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there is some unwritten rule that if a tenant is in arrears he no longer becomes a priority in terms of his complaint, and that is of concern to me, because that will inevitably lead to confrontation between the National Housing Corporation and the tenant. They are going to be caught in a vicious circle where the tenant will say, "If you don't fix my house I am not paying you." The Corporation will say, "If you don't pay me I am not fixing your house." In the end of course the tenant will be the only loser in a situation like that.

Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, tenants clearly are not always treated in a humanitarian way, or have not been treated in a humanitarian way by the Government of the day, and I am hoping under this new administration for a welcome departure from that sort of approach to handling the question of housing for low income earners in

Barbados. Even when it comes to painting a housing unit, the Chairman of the National Housing Corporation said that the units will be spruced up, and I am glad to hear that, because the last time and the only time since I have been heavily involved in the constituency of St. Michael North that I have seen any painting done was a few blocks in the Eden Lodge Housing Area just before the 1991 election. Never before, Mr. Speaker, and never since have I seen any work done in terms of sprucing up the housing units in St. Michael North.

A lady in Eden Lodge told me on Sunday morning - and incidentally, Mr. Speaker, she was not in arrears - that she knew it is so futile to wait for Government to do it, that when she could put her hand on a few extra dollars she will buy a tin of paint and paint the house herself. 3.35 p.m.

That is how bad it has got. I look forward to seeing, Mr. Speaker, the dawning of a new era in the area of housing and I heartily embrace the proposals set out in the Throne Speech and in our manifesto and as espoused on our platform throughout the campaign.

While on this question of the dawning of a new era and before I sit, I would just like to make one last point in relation to housing and it is this. As I go around the housing areas in my constituency I notice that there are a number of units that are empty. The reason given for this is that they are being kept for emergency cases, usually fire victims.

That policy was all very well and good in the days of the Barbados Labour Party previously when so many housing units were being built on a yearly basis. When you have a situation where over the last 8 years the previous Administration could only build SO there is in my view no place for a policy like that. When you put the possibility of an emergency before an immediate case there can be no room for that situation as happened over the last 8 years. Until we once again witness the large-scale construction, which will happen under the Barbados Labour Party, of many housing units all across this country, once again I am asking that that policy be reviewed.

I get numerous calls and I am taken and shown the empty houses and they are just lying there empty waiting for an accident to happen for somebody else to occupy. I cannot agree with that policy, Mr. Speaker and I am asking that that policy be reviewed.

This present Minister of Housing and indeed the Parliamentary Secretary in a very short period of time have both shown their extreme competence in the area. I am confident that under them and under this Barbados Labour Party Administration the housing needs of poor Barbadians

will be properly addressed and in a humanitarian manner. I thank you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I think I will adhere to the tradition of not taking any hostile note of the maiden speech of a member.

However, I believe that I find myself in agreement with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West in that there is no tradition in this Honourable House, either as to the tone or the level, at which a Throne Speech is addressed. Therefore, Sir, I think that it is incumbent on us this evening to begin to establish that tradition. It certainly Sir, does not seem to me, in the context of the parliamentary traditions that I know, that this is an occasion for parish-pump politics. Nor, Sir, is it an opportunity or should it be regarded as an opportunity to slide, or should I say, Sir, degenerate into that worse form of parliamentary exercise practised so eloquently by the Barbados Labour Party, the art of self-congratulation.

I believe, Sir, that this is an occasion on which one should seek to express one's gratitude to the Governor-General for delivering the Throne Speech and we should seek to analyse and engage this speech at a level consistent with what a Throne Speech is about. That is, national issues.

Now, Sir, one of the most interesting things about the Throne Speech is that if you read it from front to back or from back to front the result is the same. It just happens to be a series of paragraphs put together so that you can read it from back to front or from front to back, something that is usually not associated with any particular theme. I am not surprised because I see very little here that seems to me to represent a theme consistent with what the Barbados Labour Party held itself out to represent at the general elections.

Let's take for example - and I want to look at this very carefully - I have been looking for the word "jobs" and I have been looking for the number 30 000. I searched this thing from back to front and from front to back and I found "jobs" on one occasion almost in parentheses and one or two references to employment in terms of job opportunities and employment opportunities and on one occasion did I see the word "jobs". Now, I thought, Sir, that Job No. 1 was jobs, but it seems now that it was not, because when I read this, certainly it does not come across to me that there was any deep and profound concern about jobs. 30,000 not mentioned. I did not see jobs as a serious effort. I saw employment opportunities and I would be very glad, Sir, if the Honourable Member for Christ Church South can point out to me where there are 30 000 jobs mentioned in this document and I will discontinue my speech.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is an offer I am making to discontinue if he shows me where 30 000 jobs are mentioned.

My concern is that not only it is not mentioned, but I honestly do not see any programme or any combination of programmes as set out in this Throne Speech that would lead me even to suspect that there is any possibility of 30 000 jobs being generated by what I see presented here as the outline of a programme of the Government for the next five years.

The question that arises in my mind is whether this business of 30 000 jobs was a gimmick. I believe that this country has great expectations and I think they are reasonable expectations that one of the major problems here, the question of joblessness, will be solved by the present Government. I was hoping and I tried hard today to see whether or not I could see a policy, a combination of policies or any kinds of programmes, that would signal to me that they were making any significant dent in the unemployment situation, and I see none.

The people out there want work. The people out there, Mr. Speaker, want money and they want the burden off their backs. That is what they want I recognise that a minority of voters supported the Barbados Labour Party but that is not a problem. That is the way the parliamentary system works. I also recognise that a minority supported me. 3.45 p.m.

I also recognise that I stand here with 15 000 souls voting for the party that I represent and that is a very significant development in the politics of Barbados.

But, Sir, I will not be deflected. Thank you very much for warning me. I read your body language extremely well so that even before you speak I know exactly what you are going to say.

Now, Sir, the point I am making is that you cannot continue to run a government with words. Fair enough in the NDP we said we would give you six weeks. We have had millions of words, millions of promises and so on and it is about time that the Government gets down to some kind of action. I will tell you why. Listen to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, as usual. Every time anything is introduced by the Barbados Labour Party it is new, it is revolutionary, it is a matter of a new dimension in development. But the reality is this. I am going to tell you what is going to be new. If you continue to frustrate the people of Barbados with words of promises and inaction, that is where you will be sowing the seeds of true revolutionary change in this country.

The people out there expect something to be done for them. They are not impressed with the courting of special interest groups and promoting their interest in this country. They wish a share of what is going on in Barbados. I want to impress on the Barbados Labour Party that they have a duty now to begin to come up with programmes.

I have been looking very carefully to see how the words I have been hearing have been matching performance. I raise this question of jobs because there are few measures that have come before this Honourable House in the past month or so of an economic nature. The major one of an economic nature, in fact, forecast a 50% reduction in jobs in that particular area and I am talking about the sugar industry. That is one of the few economic measures that have come before this House and, in fact, it projected a 50% reduction of jobs in one of the major sectors in Barbados. That is the reality. That is the difference between talk and action. That is why I think that the occasion of this Throne Speech should not be a recitation of words. Anybody can get up and say they are going to do this and they are going to do that, and the other, but when we see this being translated into action and we look at the bottom line and we recognise that you have said, and we agree with you, that the bottom line must be more jobs for the people of Barbados, we now see a different bottom line being written out before this Honourable House.

I speak, Sir, not because I want to be particularly critical of the Government on this occasion but because I want them to understand that it cannot be business as usual. Business as usual is going to create serious social problems in Barbados. The young people out there are not going to continue to tolerate a situation of joblessness with all kinds of pious words and promises emanating from a new Government of Barbados.

Sir, I look at the area of manufacturing. That was where another economic measure which was introduced before the House met. I thought it was the correct thing to abolish the taxes on manufacturing inputs and so on. What other measures have the Government taken to make sure that that step translates into jobs? As I understand it, the first step, of course, is going to be for the majority of companies to try and get their balance sheets in order; therefore, it is a matter of time. As I see it, there are many other complementary measures that have to be taken in respect of manufacturing and the disposal of manufactures in this market and beyond that need to be put in place if that measure is to translate in a significant number of jobs in this country. That is why I say there is little inside there to suggest that the Government has any plan or any idea about jobs far less 30 000 jobs other than the gimmickry of trying to win an election.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will not be disturbed in anyway, Sir.

Now, Sir, when I look at the Government's words on tourism as set out here, I was somewhat impressed. It talked about the development of marinas, conference facilities, facilities for duty free shopping, heritage tourism, sports tourism and health tourism, - bountiful ideas. The only problem is they were ideas that were around for a long, long time.

I have two problems, Sir. Problem No. 1 - a Government is allegedly serious about tourism and this is now two months since an election and cannot get a Tourist Board in place. They have been travelling all over the world too frequently to pay attention to that basic, lawful requirement. That is a possibility. But, nevertheless, I share the view of a Member of the Front Bench of the Government as reported to me, and I have no reason to doubt it, that the Minister should be told that if he does not have a Board in place in two weeks he would be fired.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Now, Mr. Speaker, I also searched this section on tourism very thoroughly and I was looking to see whether or not it was possible that a Government could invite the representative of the Queen, the Governor-General, to come down to this Parliament and read a speech relating to tourism just two months ago and then two months later we hear from New York that a "major" dimension to tourism is being introduced by the Government, namely, casino gambling.

This House would wish to know what is the Government's policy on casino gambling in relation to tourism. There have been several reports in the Press undenied...

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: On a point of order, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I called your name?

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Quite implicit in what the Honourable Member is saying relates to remarks recently made by me and widely published, Sir. I just want for the record to say that at no time did I indicate that casino gambling would form a major component of Government's policy with respect to tourism.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central must desist from making any record of this House depend on any reports in any newspaper without any kind of source. 3.55 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two points I want to make. I am not a lawyer, Sir, but when I hear a lawyer rise in the House and say, I did not say that X was a major component of a tourism development policy, I understand that very clearly, Sir. And I can assure you, Sir, under the Rules of the House I do not propose to make any newspaper a document of the House. But like all living creatures, Sir, I can only get information by tactile stimuli, oral stimuli, visual stimuli or aural stimuli. Oral or aural, either one.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to assure the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that this House thrives on truthful stimuli.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much. That is why I would not make any newspaper a document of the House. But I will also say this, Sir, that anyone who insults the majority of people in this country by implying that they do not have the moral fortitude to take a stand on casino gambling should be condemned. And when a Minister of the Crown makes a statement that has such an implication outside of Barbados, he should be called upon to apologise to the people of Barbados. It is a matter of conduct. It is a matter of respect for the people of Barbados and when you start talking about only a moral minority takes a particular position the implication is very clear that the overwhelming majority have no moral basis for their considerations of the particular matter. That kind of thing I consider to be an insult. It is an insulting remark - an insult to the people of Barbados and the Minister should have the decency to apologise to the people of Barbados. Or the Prime Minister should be calling on him as rapidly as possible to apologise for that statement. It was coarse, it was vulgar and it was highly inappropriate of a Minister of the Crown and we must try to get this particular Parliament off to an appropriate footing.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: All I am telling is that the people out there ...

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member has to sit down when a point of order is being taken. He has forgotten the Rules.

Now, Sir, on a point of order, the Honourable Member in referring to the Prime Minister must call on a Member and a Minister of this House to apologise or to

withdraw what he calls vulgar language. I am not dealing with the word coarse, but to accuse an Honourable Member of vulgarity, even in that sense, in my submission is unparliamentary.

Asides.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: It does not matter, Sir. The Honourable Member cannot make a libellous statement...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member ... Would the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central take his seat please?

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member cannot take a libellous statement that is made somewhere else and repeat it in here. The Honourable Member has no right.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I am warning you, do not interrupt this House, please.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: He went out for bad behaviour and he comes in here with the same bad behaviour, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, you have risen on a point of order. Have you made your point of order?

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: A point of order I am making, Sir. The Honourable Member has said that the Prime Minister must call on a Minister and Member of this House to withdraw a speech which he alleged the Honourable Member made and which he said is vulgar and therefore he is implying and saying that the Honourable Member has made a speech that is vulgar. I submit it is unparliamentary. It does not matter where he made it.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I am asking you to withdraw your words referring to the speech of the Honourable Minister. You stated that the words were vulgar and as far as this House sees it, I believe those words are not acceptable and they are unparliamentary as I see it here now. I am asking you to withdraw the words in your description of the speech. Put it another way, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I always take great pleasure in obeying the Chair and I can assure you, Sir, that I will withdraw the words, "vulgar" and "coarse" and substitute the words "not in keeping with the usual forms of decency". Instead of "coarse" I will say "not fine".

I will move on, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was also looking, Sir, at the area of health and I was wondering, Sir, what the Government's policies were. I am rather unsure, Sir, on certain particular areas.

Now, I believe, Sir, that one aspect of Health that is causing some concern to the community is the drug service. I wonder, Sir, whether the Honourable Minister has made any progress whatsoever in the promised investigation into the racket involving the sale of drugs owned by the drug service to clients in Trinidad at considerable profits. And whether or not the Minister has as yet recovered from the outburst when she first heard the news, namely: "Oh dear look we have to have another by-election".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I am a little puzzled as to how this relates to the Throne Speech.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, Sir, the drug service is an important component of the health service as I understand it, Sir.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I rise on a point of order, Sir, I have not had any conversations with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. He is purporting to mislead the House by quoting me verbatim in a matter that I did not respond to in that way. He is quoting a comment which I have never made and putting information before the House as a fact which is not before the House. It is a fiction. I do not know if it is a fiction of his creation or otherwise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point of order is made.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member must withdraw the remark.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member withdraw the remark, please? You did refer as if they were the exact words.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am responsible for the veracity of my statements.

Mr. SPEAKER: You did not say that to this Honourable House. You quoted ...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is a fundamental assumption, Mr. Speaker, that an Honourable Member is responsible ...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I have made a ruling. You have to withdraw those remarks.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Which remarks? Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The remarks which you attributed to the Honourable Member for St James South that she did make that particular statement. That is what this House heard. 4.05 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, if you insist that I withdraw those remarks, I withdraw those remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central let me say something. This House has certain standards. No Member can come in here and attribute any kind of statement to any other Member knowing full well that that Member is not on record as saying that statement at anytime. Let us proceed.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the rules of Parliament is that a Member is responsible for the veracity of his statement and he is solely responsible. That is why he is an Honourable Member and the fact that another Member gets up and says that I did not say so does not mean that a Member did not say so.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central will you take your seat? You will take your seat. The Honourable Member will understand that because the Honourable Member comes in here and says that any Honourable Member in here said something, that does not lend any veracity to it. Let us proceed with the debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, it is my certain knowledge that in the office of the Drug Service certain remarks were made and I have no reason to doubt it. My information is good and my information is solid. I say that we have to have some basic understanding that because a Member gets up in here and says that "I did not say so and so", that does not mean that a person who said so is telling a lie. Otherwise, Parliament will become nothing and nobody can come in here with any accusation if somebody is going to get up and say that I did not say so.

Mr. SPEAKER: But this Parliament must not be based on hearsay.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: But Parliament is not a court of law, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue with the debate.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I will continue but we have got to get the rules right. We have got to get the rules right, Sir.

Now in the area of transport if I may move on, there seems to be some confusion in Barbados and, by the way, Transport was hardly mentioned in this Speech. Sir, I believe the public out there want to know who is telling the truth on the matter of the increase in bus fares.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Let me tell you something. I think we have to establish some rules in this Parliament otherwise I will break them up. Never mind. Let us move on because a whole lot of things would go on in here if we do not have that. There have been conflicting reports out there as to what a Minister of the Crown responsible for Transport has said in relation to increases in bus fares. It does not matter whether one read it in the newspaper, whether one heard it on the telephone or where I got it from. I can bring any information you want me to bring before this House and I am responsible for that I would like to know whether or not it is the Government's policy to increase bus fares. People out there want to know and we have seen remarks made and denied, and there needs to be a clarification as to what the Government's policy is in relation to increases in bus fares.

Sir, this is a very short period of time that the Government has been around. It is amazing, Sir, how in a matter of a few weeks this Government can make such substantial slippage. I urge the Government, a Government which still enjoys some goodwill on my part, to begin to put its act together. You are slipping. You are not performing. You are not doing the things that you told the people you will do and it is about time that you substitute action for words.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You better shut up in here. Winding up? I have not started to wind up yet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the half an hour that is allotted, I wish to take the opportunity to say that in relation to the Throne Speech delivered on October 5th I have responsibilities for matters appearing on pages 15 and 16 specifically of that Speech. In due course, matters which appear on pages 2 and 3 will also come into my purview.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member in silence please.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Today is for one fellow and tomorrow for another, Sir. Whoever is running with the headline needs to be sufficiently credible to run a team of 21 and get more than one. That is what you talk about credibility. You have to be more credible in three years than to take 28 men out in a boat and drown all in the political sea.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now can we get back to the issue please?

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. We have been hearing from the back bench on the other side as though a Government of two months is in fact a Government of 22 months. I understand that the expectations of the general public, the expectations indeed of Members on the other side and particularly in the NDP are high for this Government. But they have to understand that Government, and I think that I said this last week and I repeat, is a continuum and before you can go forward, you have to clean up what has gone on in the past. There are matters that were left over necessarily from the last Government which have to be completed. That is in the nature of good Governmental housekeeping. However, Sir, I think it is time that the Barbados Labour Party explains to the public in some detail what it has been doing in the last two months. Indeed a programme on television Sunday night showed quite clearly that among three members of the Press at least there is a great misunderstanding of what has been happening and a great lack of appreciation of what are called "issues". Everything that was done for those three journalists in the last month was characterized as an issue.

I wish, Sir, to begin by reminding the House that in relation to the Throne Speech, Her Excellency said:

"My Government as a consequence, will increase the numbers of men and women in the Police Force; integrate special and island constables into the regular Police Force; speed up the process of computerization and communications; provide a forensic laboratory; enact a new Code of Discipline for members of the Force; and establish an independent police complaints authority." 4.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, today's debate gives me the opportunity to review quickly what my Ministry has been able to do in the last two months. I must point out that the Ministry which I now head was formerly the responsibility of two Ministers. Most of the time it was Mr. Maurice King and Mr. Keith Simmons or Mr. Maurice King and Mr. Philip Greaves. If Job No. 1 is jobs, I am doing one job that was formerly done by two men.

Nevertheless, let us start first with the legislation. As a result of confusion in the Democratic Labour Party Government, certain legislation was proclaimed on 1st September without the necessary companion legislation being in place. Members will recall therefore that I brought recently a Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure (Amendment) Act - I am not sure if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West was in the House at the time - to tidy up that bit. Notice was given today on my behalf by the Leader of the House of the Marriage (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill. There is a Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Bill in circulation, this big, thick one, Sir. The Society with Restricted Liability Bill is in circulation with relevant interest groups and the Exempt (Limited Partnership) Bill is also in circulation with relevant interest groups.

I mentioned in circulation with relevant interest groups, because the Throne Speech did say that the Barbados Labour Party would send draft legislation to relevant interest groups as well as to the political parties, and Members on the other side will confirm that they have copies, in pursuance of that promise, in fulfilment of that promise, of this legislation to study and to comment on.

That is legislation out there, Sir, which will shortly be in the House, before the end of the year. There are various Bills being drafted now in relation to the offshore sector and I am not going to give a list of them at the moment, but they include the Business Corporations Bill, Exempt (Mutual Fund) Bill, International Trust Bill, three that I can think of. Those are being drafted now.

Let me turn next to the police, for whom I have responsibility. I did a series of tours to familiarise myself as a Minister of Government and at first hand with the conditions of police stations. I had had some acquaintance with them from my private practice. As a result of those visits it was very clear to us in the Ministry that there has been almost criminal neglect of the police stations in Barbados. They are all in dire need of immediate refurbishment and rehabilitation. I cannot in the balance of the financial year, between now and the end of March, bring all of those stations up to the highest possible standards of rehabilitation, but I can certainly make an attack on the present conditions as a matter of urgent, necessary, emergency repairs. In the next two years, beginning fiscal year 1995-96 and 1996-97, I will seek to have programmes of substantial maintenance to repair all of the properties under my control on a phased basis. I say as a two-year programme of planned maintenance repairs, but immediately to give some relief to the police officers at the various stations around Barbados, to give them more habitable conditions to live and work in, shortly a number of notices will appear in the newspaper by way of invitations to tender for persons to tender to repair

these stations. Some are going out to tender because they are over the limit. I cannot, of course, since they are going out to tender, give the ball park figures even that we are looking at, but I will say for the record that District A Police Station, in your constituency, Sir? Station Hill? You will be pleased to hear, Sir, that starting in your constituency there will be substantial work done, starting from the roof of that police station, going through, repainting all the walls and sides...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, the old part of District A, not the Task Force building, the existing District A Station. There will be specific work done at District A. That is going out to tender. District B, Boarded Hall. Disgraceful! From the yard with the grass growing all around where people have to stand up. Debushing will start within five days. That station will be completely painted and we have to build an Exhibit Room, replace windows in the dormitory, the kitchen in the Station Sergeant's house. Total repair. District C, same thing, almost as much work. Worm eaten windows and doors, electrical fittings, the ceiling in the Station Sergeant's house, paint the whole station, replace the tiles. That will be done. District E in Speightstown, that is going to be done. District F, we have to do work both at District B, Boarded Hall and at District F in regard to the Magistrates' Chambers. They are quite disgraceful. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy would be glad to hear that we are doing some work at Crab Hill Police Station. 4.25 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have to take it in a holistic way but, in the meantime, people are suffering down there getting wet. There are a lot of bees in the place, not the Barbados Labour Party, the real stinging bees and there is so much bush that when I went down there the policemen were complaining that they were bitten at night by insects and they were not mosquitoes. So we have to get it treated.

Belleplaine. Terrible state. A lot of money will be spent on Belleplaine and a lot of money will be spent at Hastings also, Oistin - the only one that we have not got to is Black Rock - even a Drug Squad building at Oistin, Worthing, the Airport Fire Station, Worthing Fire Station, Four Roads Fire Station.

The reason why at the moment, to date, we have not heard anything about the Courts is that I am only dealing with the police stations. Black Rock is not included because in the existing vote there is only between the Attorney General and Ministry of Home Affairs about

\$600 000. It would not be fair to do all of those stations and leave out Black Rock, so we are going to come with a supplementary before the end of the financial year to allow us to do Black Rock and a couple of the courts and the Registration Department. This is the first effort to relieve some of the problems that the police have urgently.

In the meantime, Sir, we are actively preparing for the computerisation of the Force. The Barbados Labour Party committed itself to a new code of discipline for the Police Force and we are studying a draft at this stage and it has been forwarded to the Ministry. That appears on page 15 of the Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, I think your own experience would have informed you, apart from anything you may have read from experts in the field, that there is compelling evidence that many of the problems of crime in Barbados are associated with drugs. I, therefore, wish today to announce a new thrust..

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I wish to announce a new programme in relation to drugs.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed orderly, please.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party spoke of the creation of a National Advisory Committee on Drugs. Cabinet has approved the establishment of a National Advisory Council on Drugs on Narcotic Drugs. The Drug Service drugs will be dealt with later on. Mr. Speaker. In the manifesto of 1991 the only Party that pledged itself to establishing an advisory committee or council on drugs was the Barbados Labour Party and we have followed through with a repeat of that commitment in this manifesto of 1994.

There is in the Estimates \$300 000 for the Ministry to embark on a drugs programme. The understanding was that the United Nations Drug Control Programme, UNDCP, would contribute equally with the Government of Barbados in establishing programmes for education, demand and reduction and so on. I have to inform the House that as of today UNDCP has not contributed its counterpart funds but I am not waiting on UNDCP. If they cannot honour their commitment it is a matter for them. The Government of Barbados is proceeding. We have established the National Advisory Council on Drugs. The Council will be chaired by Dr. Yvette Delph and invitations have gone to a number of other persons. I won't reveal their names today because we invited them and we are awaiting their responses of acceptance.

I would indicate that many of the invitees are persons who are community minded who are engaged in community activities with young people in Barbados and I think when their names appear Honourable Members will be quite satisfied with the members of the Council.

The Council will have several components. First of all below the Council we are establishing a National Drug Resource Centre. In all probability it will be at Holders Hill. There is space at the back of the present station and we will use that. There will be something like a Director/Administrative Officer/Clerk/Typist. That kind of structure.

Among the programmes that are being offered to the Council for them to develop more fully are these. There will be in the secondary schools of Barbados shortly a questionnaire for completion by secondary school children by the last week of term to try to identify students' attitudes, practices and knowledge in regard to legal and illegal drugs. It is based on similar questionnaires done in other parts of the Caribbean.

I want to say that the questionnaire has been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Department of Statistics and the Data Processing Department. In addition to that, Sir, we want to give recognition in a meaningful way to young people in Barbados and we are proposing therefore a system of awards for young people called the Trident Awards to recognise the contributions of young people in various areas - culture, languages, sports, vocational skills, environmental contributions, efforts and so on.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I think what would be of interest to Honourable Members is that we have also selected 6 districts in Barbados for the efforts of the Advisory Council to be concentrated to develop programmes in those districts to help the youth in those districts. Let me say that the programmes which will be operating in those districts are programmes developed and designed by the youth themselves with some help from the seniors. The youth want to get involved in these projects and I think I have a responsibility to tell the House what these projects are*. The first project at Deacons Farm will involve the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West. He will be pleased to hear that. That will involve computer... 4.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will Honourable Members listen please in silence.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS:...carpentry, cookery, needlecraft, to be conducted in the former Deacons Primary

School which is to be refurbished out of the funds which we have.

At Pinelands, of interest to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, we will establish a business resource centre in that area comprising 30 micro-businesses each managed by three young persons. That will be an extension. I will discuss that with the Honourable Member and involve him at the appropriate time after the Council has started functioning. That is an extension of the cultural activities which the Honourable Member has going somewhere.

In Gall Hill/Silver Hill in Christ Church the youngsters in that area are very keen on sports and they wish to be engaged in football principally. We think that we should encourage them to get involved in other developmental activities but basically they want promotion for three football teams, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16. They will be playing as youth against drugs. That will be their motto, a play as youth against drugs.

In Haynesville in St. James South the alternative activities there will include skills training leading to gainful employment and the creation of a cooperative movement to market the products of those skills.

Finally, at Eden Lodge we are adapting a Jamaican demand rejection strategy model for implementation in Eden Lodge with the Eden Lodge Community Development Committee, they call themselves. They will be more involved in the development of micro-business and so on, less emphasis on games in that area. The other area is the Chapman Lane/New Orleans districts in the City.

These are the main components of the programme that will shortly take off after the Council has its first meeting. I have asked the invitees to let me know by November 16 whether they accept the invitation and as soon as they say yes I will have a first meeting with them and they are off. We have some money. As I said, money is not a problem in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, the Task Force on Crime - I have been in contact with Miss Vivian Stem of RPI, Rights International, a group who were here recently. They have recommended that perhaps I could consult a Miss Coombes or Professor David Downes at the London School of Economics. I have been speaking to a Barbadian lady who is exceptionally well qualified as a criminologist and not only a theoretical criminologist, but a practising criminologist also of LSC, an old school guy, but now working in New York. We are negotiating with a view to setting up the Task Force on Crime from February 1 next year.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, of course. He will be on the Task Force.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I ought to say a word, Sir, about Immigration. We hope to complete the computerisation of the Immigration Department, and indeed, the computerisation of the Police Force. We want to complete the computerisation of the Registration Department so that you have Corporate Affairs, Immigration, Police and the Registry, all using the same systems in due course; but work is going on now.

I wish to say, Sir, that some reports were carried over the weekend about the arrest, if you like, of illegal aliens. I indicated then to the "Advocate", who called me on Saturday afternoon, that we are developing a policy. The Immigration Act has to have substantial overhaul. It really is a bad piece of legislation. It needs modernising. We have to amend the Immigration Act. We have recently got approval, it came through this House, for additional staff to work with the computerisation.

In the performance of my duties, Sir, I have several responsibilities and several considerations to bear in mind. I have to bear in mind always the social and economic ramifications of alien illegal immigration into Barbados and the impact of that on Barbados. I have to bear in mind, however, the considerations and recommendations of the Ramfael Commission. I have to bear in mind that for some time now both parties have had an approach to amnesty. I am not going to advance in this matter ahead of Cabinet. A paper in the usual way is being prepared for submission to Cabinet so that Cabinet as a whole can make a policy on illegal immigration.

I wish to assure Members, however, that we must not impede the work of the Investigations Department in tracking down illegal aliens. What happens after they have found a person who is illegal depends on a number of factors, including how long that person has been here, whether that person has made an application and so on. In some cases you are finding, and there is need for amnesty, if only for the reason that a lot of people who have been here six and seven years are afraid to go into the Immigration Department because if they go they suspect they will be arrested and thrown out. Now, I want that fear to subside.

I have been dealing with the matters in a humane way. It is only where we find that people have been involved in crime and drugs, I am taking no explanations,

no excuses whatever. You are gone. Outside. Once you are involved in crime and drugs and you are illegal, go. I have no place for you here.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said aliens, you know. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition not having been born in Barbados still thinks of himself as an alien.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could the Honourable Member wind up now, please? Your time has expired.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, just before I sit down I want to explain also that there is a little pressure to know what about the people on death row. I want it clearly understood. The people who are there have certain rights and they may be pursuing cases to the Privy Council and International Human Rights Commission. They must have due process and I will not be acting in defiance of due process. But there will come a time when the Manifesto commitment and what is in this Throne Speech will be honoured, Sir, but after due process.

Much obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to speak to this Resolution which has been so eloquently introduced by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West I wish that time would permit me to address some of the themes on which he dwelt which has to do in the main with the strengthening of our democracy here in Barbados. It is not widely appreciated that one of the great appeals to Barbados, not only as a tourist destination but also as a centre for those from abroad doing business, is the fact that we are a healthy and functioning democracy, but from time to time it is necessary to revisit our democratic institutions and remodel and refine them in keeping in touch with emerging trends. I think that as has been rightly pointed by the Honourable Member who introduced this Resolution, the time has so come in Barbados. I think we are right as a Government to look at re-fashioning our Constitution and *lock* at other ways of ensuring that the health of our democracy is improved and that we continue to be respected both at home and abroad as a healthy and functioning democracy. 4.45 p.m.

Before going on to deal with the area falling under my Ministry I would like just to deal with two or three points which were mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central who spoke earlier. He began, Sir, by attacking the Throne Speech as lacking in specifics and failing to mention the 30 000 jobs which our party, the Barbados Labour Party, had committed itself to in the course of the campaign.

The first thing I wish to say, Sir, is that the Barbados Labour Party remains committed to the realisation of that fact. Unlike the Democratic Labour Party it does believe that a Manifesto is a social contract. The Barbados Labour Party accepts a responsibility, grave and serious responsibility, as expressed in the Manifesto and as far as we are concerned that is the mission and target of this new Barbados administration - the creation of 30 000 jobs.

The second thing I wish to say, Sir ...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Democratic Labour Party as a party, has never, ever taken the position that a Manifesto is not a social contract. And since you wish the veracity of the record to be pure and clear you must either state the source of that statement...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I said the Democratic Labour Party, as a Party.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: This is not the first time, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member has sought to criticise the leader that he has just succeeded. He will learn that in the eyes of his own party colleagues that that will not be accepted. That is not the first time that you have contradicted the Honourable Member for St. Michael South whom you have just succeeded and I reckon it will not be the last time either.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, the Honourable Member did not refer to a statement by any Honourable Member. He said the Democratic Labour Party. I am saying he is misleading the House. The Democratic Labour Party has taken no such position. You may talk all the fancy talk that you want, you are misleading the House and if you have said, Sir, that you wish the record to be pure, I wish to know the source of that statement and I wish the Honourable Member to make it clear where he is quoting or referring to when he says that the Democratic Labour Party has said that a Manifesto is not a social contract. That is all I want.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph you seem to be referring to a particular Honourable Member who it is alleged has made a statement. Could you, for the record, state clearly what you have to say and let us move on, please?

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I propose to move on simply by saying to the Honourable Member who has just taken his seat that that was one of the issues before the

public in the last election and the public determined that issue out of the favour of the Democratic Labour Party. And as far as I am concerned that matter has been settled out of their favour and I do not intend to spend any time on that issue.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I understood your ruling in this Chamber earlier very clearly and I wish to make it clear that though it is a new ruling, it is one that I expect Honourable Members to adhere to. If you are going to make a statement under this new ruling then that statement cannot merely be contradicted by me putting the opposite position. What the Honourable Speaker of the House has ruled is essentially that you must back up the veracity of your statement or withdraw it. I am therefore calling upon you, Sir, to rule in this matter because I have already made it clear what the position is to the Democratic Labour Party but the Honourable Member must abide by your ruling to this Chamber that he must produce the evidence to support the veracity of the statement which he is making to this House or withdraw those statements. Therefore I expect you to rule, after you have considered on this, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Joseph I have suggested to you that you seem to be referring in your speech to an Honourable Member and I would suggest that you make your point and proceed.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Yes, Sir, purely out of deference to the Chair I can well understand how the Honourable Member for St. John who is now Leader of the Democratic Labour Party wishes so badly to disassociate himself from those remarks

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph, please.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: That is one of the Albatrosses around the neck of the Democratic Labour Party. The point that I was making, Mr. Speaker, is this. It was not fair to indicate as was done by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that the Throne Speech did not indicate in a step-by-step way how the employment targets set by the Government would be realised. A Throne Speech is not an indicative plan. It is broad in conception and sweeping in articulation and it does not set out in any step-by-step way as an indicative plan does, how you realise your target.

In many respects however a fine job has been done in this Throne Speech in the sense that we have managed to combine broad notions and large general themes relating to the future direction of the country by the Government with specifics in many areas such as were identified and

indicated by the Honourable Attorney General who just spoke. So that to introduce criteria of judgement such as would indicate that there were no specific indications as to how our targets would be realised is really to import measuring sticks with respect to the evaluation of a Throne Speech is really irrelevant.

And the third point I wish to make again in response to the remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central who was his usual exaggerated in his style, defamatory, distorted, competing with the real opposition, and trying to grab the headlines, the point has got to be made to him is that we have just been in office two months.

I am satisfied that the Government has been sure-footed in its approach. It has been hard working and it is setting about to do a lot of the remedial work which is a necessary pre-condition if the gross wrongs of the Democratic Labour Party Government over the last 8 years are to be corrected and if we are to move forward in the interest of the people and in the interest of the country.

I want to turn first of all to tourism and I think that the Government has rightly identified it at page 5 of the Throne Speech as the lead engine of the Barbados economy. It is well known to everyone, Mr. Speaker, that tourism is not only the main employer of labour in this country but it is also the sector that is the biggest earner of foreign exchange, at present in excess of \$1 million and it is also the biggest buyer of goods and services from the rest of the economy and the mission and the responsibility that I have been given by the Prime Minister is to ensure that tourism continues to make rapid strides and reach new heights, not only in visitor arrivals but also in foreign exchange earnings. We are committed in many respects to the indicative plan which was published by the Barbados Tourism Authority prior to assuming office. I am not to deprive you of any marks - that is not my nature or my style - which you set a foreign exchange target of \$1.2 million, in which you set visitor arrival levels at half million land based tourism within the last 3 years. You set no target with respect the extent to which you would improve the performance of tourism as a buyer of goods and services from the rest of the economy but I think it is fair to say that that has not been mentioned in any specific way thus far. We know that it is the biggest buyer of goods and services from the rest of the economy but exactly how much it buys has not been specifically mentioned. That methodology has not been put in place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, over the last two months I have had occasion to travel twice to the North Atlantic in the discharge of my responsibilities as Minister of Tourism.
4.55 p.m.

I think it is important to point out, Sir, that tourism really operates in two arenas. There are a lot of pavilion players in Barbados, people who do not know about the state of the ground or the state of the wicket because they ^ have been off for a lot of years. Yet, they give the impression that they are the authorities. They do not make the point, and many people in Barbados have been misled, as to the responsibilities of a Minister of Tourism. You have to operate within the domestic arena. You have to be concerned with the state of the product on the ground and the level of your hotel accommodations and the quality of it You have got to be concerned with the commitment of your own people towards tourism, the level of the training of the workers, the extent to which you are diversifying the attractions on the ground and strengthening your tourism structure, and motivating your own people. All of that is important But equally important, if not more important, is the fact that you have got to go to your principal markets and make sure that you are doing enough to generate the interest in Barbados and have the visitors come here. In the last two weeks, that is precisely what I was doing.

Now a very specific circumstance caused me on the first occasion to be abroad. It has to do with the fact that, when I asked my advisers to do a review of how we stood in relation to the forthcoming winter market, I was advised that we had lost Something like 4 per cent seating capacity principally in the United States and in Canada. Now the point has got to be made, Mr. Speaker, that air transport/air ^ lift to Barbados constitutes the most fragile point of Barbados' tourism and it is the greatest threat to its viability for the future. It makes no sense doing all that we are doing on the ground, strengthening our tourism structure, adding to the diversification of our product, strengthening the commitment of our people towards tourism, investing new funds in marketing abroad and then the would be visitors cannot get the seats to come to Barbados. So that air transport constitutes the greatest threat to the future viability, expansion and growth of Barbados' tourism. I need to put that in some context in relation to our principal gateway and source of business up ^ to now which is the United States of America.

Sir, there was a time, and I believe the Honourable Member was then the Minister of Tourism in 1989 or thereabouts, when Barbados realized a high point in terms of our visitors out of the United States of America's market something like 160 000. But since then there has been a slide for the last 7 years. It is only now stabilized where now we are only at 112 000 visitors out of the United States of America and the United Kingdom's performance is so good over the course of the last year that it is threatening to surpass the United States of America as our ** principal source of business.

The point that I wish to make, Mr. Speaker, is that several factors have been responsible for that decline. One of the most important has been the fact that we lost

two major carriers - Eastern and PanAm out of two major gateways and out of Miami alone we lost something like 96 000 seats on an annual basis when those two carriers collapsed. Even though American has come into the market, we have not recovered our lost capacity. We did not only lose capacity out of our principal gateways of New York and Miami, but we also lost the route reach which those carriers brought.

It is very important, Mr. Speaker, if we are to recover lost ground in the United States of America's market that we first of all try to get new schedule and non-schedule carriers out of that market. In the last two months, I have concentrated almost exclusively on talking to airline presidents and airline officials in the United States, Canada and in England too with respect to getting new schedule and non-schedule carriers to come to Barbados. That problem of air transport must be addressed and must be addressed early. I am to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the prospects are that we will get perhaps in the next 12 months two new schedule carriers into Barbados. We are hoping that one will come out of the Washington/Baltimore area and that one will perhaps come out of the Mid-West. I do not think that any useful purpose will be served, Mr. Speaker, at this point in calling the names of those carriers, but in one respect we are expecting that an announcement will be made sometime by the end of the first quarter next year. Sir, that is not all with respect to the United States of America's market. It is true that the economy went soft in the United States of America and that a lot of would be travelers had no income such as would allow them to travel as they were doing prior to the recession. But it is also true that our marketing has been over-concentrated in the North East and in the Mid-Atlantic States. Barbados continues to treat the United States of America's market as though it is only Boston and New York, Philadelphia and New Jersey. There has been too much emphasis on the Northeastern seaboard as though that is the only area of the United States of America.

The truth is, and these are the reports from the marketplace, that Barbados' message is not getting through. I want to tell the House something, Mr. Speaker, that I discovered in the course of my last visit where I went to Montreal, Toronto and New York. Barbados is paying US\$2 million to a public relations company to advertise Barbados, the B & B M. I found in the course of reviewing their activities that the message which they put out in the name of Barbados as an up-scale destination directly conflicts with the message which our sales people try to put out on the ground. That is that Barbados is a destination affordable to all and the person who wants to come here by Concorde and stay at the villas and be serviced by two maids with a diving instructor, gardeners and limousine service is as much welcome as the person who is working for \$300 a week because we have eating houses and accommodations that can accommodate all

pockets. Now that is very serious indeed and it helps to explain why the wholesalers have been complaining that Barbados is not selling as it ought to be. That is why many places in the Caribbean alone such as Cayman Islands, the wider Caribbean, Costa Rico and several other places are selling and Barbados is not moving. The image is abroad in the United States of America market-place that Barbados is a destination for elitists. Barbados is not a place for all pocket sizes.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, there is a further problem and it has got to do with the fact that we have too few people constituting our sales force in our principal markets. The system which has been practised by successive Governments of appointing Barbadians, some of whom had never traveled, and putting them in the United States of America and giving them diplomatic status, concentrating them in New York and hoping that after a year or two they would adjust to the environment and know the road system and go out there and promote and market Barbados must come to a dramatic halt. 5.05 p.m.

One of the new initiatives of this Government - and a supplementary will be coming to Parliament very shortly to help finance it - is that we are trying to put 40 people, sales auxiliaries, to work across the United States of America market, and that for the most part they will be non-Barbadians, persons recruited from the market-place abroad. You do not have to spend money sending them there and housing them and giving them an orientation, they are already familiar with the market-place. They will be given a small salary and asked for the most part to work on commission. We hope to put a new and serious injection of energy into our marketing and promotion in all our principal markets.

The word is that Barbados' marketing has been lethargic, that Barbados in the market-place is an inconsistent name and that its business has become fiercely competitive in a way that it was not 10 and 15 years ago, and that if we are to recover lost ground, particularly in the North American market, we must have a massive injection of energy in our marketing and in our sales promotion. We have decided that we are going to put additional resources behind our tourism efforts and that immediately we are going to add a large number of new bodies to the marketing effort and to the promotion effort across North America. We will not only be concentrating in the mid-Atlantic states and in the north east, but that we will to some extent spread our efforts beyond that into the mid-west and into the south east and try and tap some of the other markets that are also available to us.

Mr. Speaker, that is the first and major new initiative which the Barbados Labour Party is taking with respect

to our marketing and promotional efforts out of our still the principal market, if you combine the United States and Canada. We are at 112 000 visitors from the United States of America. As I said, we have to recover the lost ground and go back in the first step to 160 000 and set new sights beyond that. But in Canada too we have not done as well as we ought to have done. Again, we are perceived there as lethargic in our marketing and we do not have enough sales people on the ground.

There was a time, Mr. Speaker, when we were strong in Quebec, particularly in Montreal, and equally strong in Ontario. Over time we lost our standing in the Quebec market. A lot of the wholesalers who used to bring business here, principally to some south coast hotels and to the Sunset Crest area, have dropped out of the market. When they dropped out of the market Barbados' name dropped off the shelf too. We did not make new friends among the tour operators and the wholesalers. In addition to that, Montreal and Quebec had its own problems, peculiar financial problems, and it is a very price sensitive market. But we always had the capacity, given the combination of accommodations which we have, to put packages together that would have attracted visitors still from Quebec, but *for* one reason or another we allowed ourselves to literally drop out of that market and now, according to the last figures, we are getting some 49 000 visitors from Canada, 80% coming from Ontario.

We have decided that we have to go back to Quebec and we have been talking to one of the principal carriers out of that region. I think they are called Air Transact and Air Transact Holidays, with Air Transact Holidays being the tour operators. They have given us the assurance that the President will shortly be visiting Barbados and they are working with us as early as now putting together a programme for 1995.

We have decided too that we cannot concentrate on Ontario alone, that we must go to the west. We must go out to Vancouver and to Calgary and to the border states of the United States of America, near Canada, such as Washington State, and we have been talking to carriers with respect to coming out of Vancouver-Seattle-Barbados. The point that I wish to make is that serious remedial work has had to be done in the last two months by the Ministry of Tourism and by the Minister in order to make sure that we would not be at the disadvantage in relation to the forthcoming winter, and I am happy to say that our most recent analysis, based on the assurances that we have been given, and based on the commitments, our most recent assurance is that we are likely to have 4% more seating capacity next winter than we had in the last winter.

Our efforts in the Ministry have moved from transforming our position from a minus one to a plus one, and it will be necessary from time to time for ministerial

leadership to be provided not only in the United States of America market, in the North American market generally, but in all of our principal markets - the United Kingdom, Germany and the markets of Switzerland and Italy, and to a lesser extent France, that we are seeking to cultivate. I am happy with our efforts out of Germany. It represents a growth point, and for the forthcoming winter we are having three new scheduled carriers out of Germany. Condor is scheduled, LTU is scheduled and Maitinair, which came in yesterday for the first time, and which is really out of Amsterdam, but also serve the border states of Germany, that too is a scheduled carrier. So that in many respects the position in Europe is much more satisfactory than the position in North America. North America continues to be a point of concern, but I can give the House the assurance that the Ministry and the Minister will give attention to every detail, but the House and the public must know that you cannot be an effective Minister of Tourism providing the leadership, which I propose to provide, by remaining at home at all times, because we are operating within two arenas, the local and domestic arena and the arena of our principal markets.

I just want to say, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that as far as I am concerned the Throne Speech is a thoughtful and realistic document. It is refreshing, it is realism and it is an attempt to tackle the fundamental problems in the Barbadian economy and in the Barbadian society. I believe that it has gone down well with the public of Barbados. It will be in many respects in terms of broad themes our guiding charter and I look forward to playing my part in the Ministry of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment in helping this Government realise its objectives. 5.15 p.m.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some remarks with regard to the Throne Speech. I would first like to indicate that the Government by way of presentation of the Throne Speech has to some extent endorsed the programmes that have been in place over the last 3½ years by the Democratic Labour Party Administration. It clearly demonstrates that the Government recognises a responsible programme was in place and is seeking by way of the Throne Speech to endorse the programmes of the Democratic Labour Party. They have more or less repeated in this speech precisely what every single Ministry within the Democratic Labour Party Administration was in fact doing.

There are a number of areas that I would want to turn to in this particular address, but I would want to deal precisely with the area which I am shadowing and I will not deal with other frivolous areas that some Honourable Members attempted to ostracise me when I functioned properly as a Minister of Public Works in the past I

will not deal with those areas at all. Anytime I have need to deal with it I will be dealing with it, precisely, honestly and to the point

Sir, I have some concerns and it has to do with the fact that this Administration has become a government on one of the main premises that they would provide 30 000 jobs to the public of Barbados. They have not stated any specific time period and they have indicated that tourism is the main plank on which they would want to develop these 30 000 jobs. I have seen nothing in their programme to date that suggests that there is anything in place in their immediate plan, certainly not within this speech, that they have any attention of addressing the unemployment situation as far as Barbadians are concerned.

In fact, Sir, to suggest that they are even going to avoid employing Barbadians to market Barbados is an insult to Barbadians because Barbadians for the last 20 or 25 years have been the ones who have sold Barbados as a destination and have brought us to the point that they have brought us today. If they have been able to do that in the past, I think they can do that in the future. What we in fact should be doing is using the Barbadian community in the United States and in Canada and encourage them to have travel agencies that are loyal to Barbados because what has been happening, even though it is true to say that the generic advertising on television or the media has in fact been triggering people towards Barbados, is that we have been losing out at the point of sale simply because of the price of the Barbados product.

I think that what we should be doing is trying to encourage Barbadians out there who would be more loyal to Barbados than say, a North American sales person who would run at a bigger commission from some of the other destinations. You know that that happens. We have to develop some loyalty and we must not insult the Barbadian public, especially when you are suggesting that you are going to be employing 30 000 of them, that they should not be involved in the marketing of Barbados.

I think that we are going to have to caution the Minister. I must say the Minister seems to be taking unilateral action functioning without a Board and I am very concerned that it is fine for that Minister to function in that manner when they would want to accuse other Ministers who function within their own authority as well. But it is fine for them to do that now.

I am calling on the Minister without delay to make sure that he puts a Board in place. It is against the law. You are breaking the law.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just desist from the asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I will suggest that you make no further delay in naming that Board. I empathise with you because you are not getting your choice. I can live with your choice.

I think it is important to us to note that when the Democratic Labour Party took the reins of office in 1986 that we in fact rescued this country from the hands of the Barbados Labour Party who up to that point during their 10-year term of office between 1976-86 had literally destroyed the tourism industry. I really do not understand why they are trying to convince anybody that they have any new plan about marketing tourism. Nothing the Honourable Minister has said is creative, new and innovative and would suggest that we are going to have any big turn-around in tourism.

What we have in fact seen, Sir, by the Democratic Labour Party is a significant increase in tourism arrivals both in cruise ship arrivals as well as long-stay arrivals and we have been able to do that by target marketing and in particular the U.K. market where the Honourable Member for St. Michael West when he was the Minister at that time...

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I hate to contradict the Honourable Member but the statement that the last Administration increased tourism is not true. Out of one market alone, the United States, you lost 50 000 people in the last seven years.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, that is true, but I am talking about the overall. I will be very fair. The difficulty we had in Barbados is that Barbados was marketed as an up-market destination when in fact, many of our hotel facilities - I would say at least 80% of them - were not suitable to be deemed to be up-market properties. What we had was a number of persons coming to Barbados expecting to be in that kind of environment and then giving Barbados some bad publicity overseas when they were put in properties they were probably not comfortable in.

It is true that Barbados has properties that will cater to the up-market, the middle of the road and the down-market but 80% of our product is down-market product and we had to address the marketing of Barbados in relation to the type of facility that we had to offer in Barbados. That resulted in 1986, between 1986 and 1987, in a distinct and decisive programme for specific marketing where we attracted the Air Tours programme - there was Marriott's and a couple others - where we went *far* specific marketing to marry arrivals to the type of plan we had in Barbados. It was during the term of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West

The product in Barbados in 1994 is very little different to what it was 5 or 6 years ago. I know it is in the Throne Speech and I endorse it where the Government has promised in relation to tourism that it will reduce and subsequently remove taxes on inputs with a view to making the sector more competitive and to increase its profitability. It also indicates that the Government will introduce a new Hotels Aid Act that will broaden the concessions for investment, a new plan and provide concessions for the refurbishing and expansion of existing facilities.

Sir, I can endorse that. I have no difficulty with that. I think that that is laudable if it does it. It is a step in the right direction because for the tourism product to be developed we have to do something with the plan in Barbados first. 5.25 p.m

I do not expect the Government can come and make these hairy fairy promises that they are going to snap their fingers and just dump people in Barbados just like that because there is a lot that has to be done. If we have to be honest and fair, the Democratic Labour Party has sought to do a lot of local awareness programmes to address the local product and we have been trying very hard with the limited resources at our disposal to try to improve the product locally.

Many of the local hotel owners have had financial difficulties during this period. Many of them owe the Barbados Development Bank in many instances a couple million dollars. I am not pointing any fingers at anybody but there have been difficulties in the system. I would not want to pressure the Government. I understand what the problems are. I think we have to try to make Barbados more attractive. We have to offer more facilities to the visitors.

I will not deal with the question of casinos as everybody now wants to deal with it because my position is very clear. I have taken a position in this Honourable House already. I have no difficulty as far as the introduction of casinos is concerned, but I have a difficulty with local people being able to frequent them. I think that should be made very clear so I am not going to hassle the Government as far as that is concerned. There is a divide as far as that is concerned on this side of the House. I guess when that debate comes that Honourable Members would want to take their own individual positions.

Mr. Speaker, I am having some difficulty as well with the Board in terms of the people they are using for the marketing of Barbados. I have a difficulty with it. The U.K. market showed a tremendous increase when we used the company operated by George Hinds. I do not remember

the name of the actual company but they were very effective in the U.K. market. They did very effective campaigning. I personally am sad to see that company not still marketing Barbados in the U.K. and Europe and I want to state my position.

The company that is presently marketing Barbados in the U.K. is paid a whopping U.S. \$2 million a year. The budget that is available for tourism marketing represents about 40% of the total budget of what is done for administration and marketing. When we have the addition of 40 sales reps it is going to significantly reduce the amount of money available...

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: It will significantly reduce the amount of money but I understand from the Honourable Member that they are seeking to increase the resources. I have not seen it as yet. At present some attention must be paid to the administrative cost of tourism because we are spending a lot of money in the administration of tourism, we are paying a lot of money to the marketing agents, and then when we have to spend money for actual television ads we find that the budget is a mere pittance of about half a million dollars which would probably buy us about 16 hours at peak time which is almost a waste of time because we are swamped out in a market where other destinations spend as much as \$50 million ...

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: From time to time, Sir, I am going to be speaking on this area because I do believe it is an area that can assist in the development of Barbados. I suspect that the goal of reaching 30 000 jobs is certainly laudable. I hope that the Honourable Members understand that I represent a constituency that has a large number of very talented individuals, some fantastic young persons who are properly trained in tourism. I would hope that without too much delay I am able to at least draw the 1 500 jobs that should be allocated to my constituency. I expect I will have a minimum of 1 500 allocated to St. Michael East and I will be monitoring this sector because I suspect that this is an area we would have to dwell on.

I wish the Government well. I wish that the Minister would proceed quickly and without delay in putting the Board in place. He will have my support in areas that are responsible because I think we have to look at tourism not necessarily in a partisan context but we have to look at it for the good of Barbados. I certainly will be addressing this area from time to time in this Honourable House.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, since we are on the area of Tourism I thought I would stand to speak. I have heard Members speaking from authority on this area and I know that they have, perhaps, been looking at some of my ideas so I believe I should have the opportunity to expound on them a little bit more.

Asides.

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

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that tourism is vital and if we are talking about the creation of jobs, I think we have to talk about such sectors as tourism and I am glad that the debate has started to focus on this key sector.

Turning to the Throne Speech, Sir, I particularly like the idea of a reduction of taxes on inputs in the hotel sector. One of our problems over the years has been one of pricing and anything that could be done to assist us in our pricing we should wholeheartedly support.

Aside.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Hotel, room rates, food and all of that We know what we are talking about.

I also like the idea of the development of marinas. We know too well that the ARC left Barbados and found a home in St. Lucia. We were talking about a marina for the past 10 years and I think it is about time we seriously look at the introduction of a marina. When I travel in the Caribbean and I see...

Aside.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: We are talking about a marina for yachts such as we see in places like Antigua, St. Lucia and all through the Caribbean. I believe that is something we should speedily work on if Barbados is to have its rightful place as a key tourism destination.

We are also looking at facilities for duty-free shopping, Sir, and this is something that we see throughout the Caribbean. It also will help us in our pricing as well and I wholeheartedly support this idea.

But, Sir, I want to make a few points, and in making these points I want to look back at the track record of the Democratic Labour Party. I wish to say that while on paper there were a lot of good ideas, in reality, a lot of things were not done and I want to take the time to mention a few of the flopped programmes under the Democratic Labour Party.

You recall, Sir, there was a programme called "I Am Backing Barbados", a programme that started years ago with Mr. Maurice Foster. The idea started then. The Democratic Labour Party tried to implement it, and there were just a few cocktail parties in New York and a few other places and fishcakes and that was the end of that programme.

There was also another programme to give incentives to travel agents to encourage them to bring tourists here. For that incentive they were talking about giving trips, and when they came here give them hogsheads and sugar and that sugar remained in the Tourist Board as it then was for years and my wife ended up buying some of that same sugar...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Sir. The programme that the Honourable Member is seeking to speak about was a programme prior to 1986, before the Democratic Labour Party came into office. Those programmes started around the period of 1983-1984. We came and found them and we also found the sugar. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. 5.35 p.m.

And they decided they would give sugar in hogsheads to travel agents when they came here as pan of their I am saying, Sir, that programme flopped dismally, that the hogshead and the sugar remained in the Tourist Board as a wastage. This is the point I am making. I am not finished, Sir. We can forget that one because that is not the big one.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is seeking to indicate that it was a flop on the part of this administration when in fact, Sir, it was the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East, I would like to find out from you what is all of this leading up to. How does this relate to the Throne Speech?

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am trying to ...

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not made any connection in any way.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: We are talking about programmes but programmes cannot be looked at in a vacuum. Execution of the programme is paramount. The difference, I would hope, between the Democratic

Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party is that while the Democratic Labour Party might have the programme on paper, a programme that they cannot execute, but we will make the difference. We will make sure that we can execute the programme. I therefore want to mention again about failure of execution, the Barbados Extra inclusive programme, a lot of computers, all kinds of things to bring people here and adding on extra packaging and all kinds of expensive packages which was an abysmal failure as was admitted.

Then, Sir, we had a sports tourism programme which started under the Barbados Labour Party, which started to take off and then low and behold instead of going up they went down and we had events which were scheduled, some which did not come off, some events which disappeared and there was other chaos in this sports tourism programme.

The records are there ...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The sports tourism programme that has been in place at the Board of Tourism for the last 6 or 7 years has reached the point where there is now sports hockey festivals that are very successful. There is cockspur horse racing, yacht racing, there is the Sir Garfield Sobers Cricket competition. There are a number of programmes that are expanding every year, and it is not a fair comment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken. Continue please.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe I can speak with authority on this programme and I believe the Honourable Member wanted to egg me on but I will be egged on, Sir. I was the officer at that time who developed the sports tourism programme at the Board of Tourism in 1983 so I know the programme very well, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: The sports tourism programme. There has been no addition to the sports tourism programme. It is a good idea, Sir, but execution of the idea is what I am looking at, Sir. I am saying, Sir, that execution of programmes under the Democratic Labour Party left much to be desired and I am making the point that attention needs to be focussed on the execution of programmes. In this regard, Sir, I need to make a point

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: I need to make the point that the question does not hang on how many agents you get overseas, the question hangs on the management of

tourism in this country and that must be faced fairly and squarely - the management of tourism is what it is all about, the failure to execute what were good programmes. I therefore do not believe that we should accept that that is what it should have been and therefore decide now that we are going to recruit non-Barbadians to sell Barbados.

I am here to speak on tourism as one who has worked in the area and one who was closely associated in the area for 1 1/2 years and I do not believe that I should stand here and decide that because there was poor management of tourism at the top, Sir, a lack of motivation coming from the Director of the Board of Tourism, and that is where the problem starts and that is where the correction has to be done, right at the top.

I have to call a spade a spade. I have worked with it and I am going to speak. I owe an obligation to this country, Sir. The problem starts from the top of the administration of tourism and that is where the question has to be fairly and squarely addressed. We are not going to make a bad situation worse by recruiting expatriates, non-Barbadians to sell tourism.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear him please.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: The Board of Tourism has a non-Barbadian selling tourism in Canada. Ask anybody who knows what the experience was. Anybody who does not feel the pain of Barbados cannot sell Barbados tourism as effectively as anybody who knows the blood, sweat and tears of the people in this country. Therefore, Sir, while I would admit that there can be a mix of Barbadians with non-Barbadians I cannot in any wholesale way decide that our people have been failures when indeed the failure has been at the top, has been at the level of the top of the management of tourism over the past 8 years. This is the point I need to make.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church East, could you ... Honourable Members we are getting ragged at this point. Please, in the corner there, Honourable Members I am hearing you. You are disturbing the House, please. Could we have your attention?

Continue please.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I am allowed to continue I need to make the point that the environment is also another question that has to be looked at I travelled to many countries and I notice that we have clean environment in tourism destinations. We have to work very hard to ensure that our environment is spotless and I would wish we would want this to be the focus of our attention to make sure our environment is spotless. When we talk about places like Canada we notice that the environment is spotless and this is an obligation not

only to the Members of Parliament but also of the people of Barbados that if we are to be a premier destination we have to give great consideration to the environment and this is something we need to focus on.

Not only the physical environment, Sir, we need to look at the social environment. We need to *look* at how we treat people, not only tourist but how we treat ourselves and our brothers. That is very important, so that when the tourist comes into the hotel or restaurant he feels that he is in a home away from home. That is important. As long as we do that, as long as we have good management, a clean environment, we will be on our way to ensuring that tourism makes a major input into this country and leads to the creation of a great number of jobs. I sincerely believe, Sir, once we do these things we can create jobs.

I just want to refer back to a project which was submitted to the Board of Tourism some time back on using Barbadians overseas to sell Barbados. They had the thought but they did not put it into practice. The idea of meaningfully executing a programme where Barbadians overseas can sell Barbados and I believe that we should meaningfully revisit such a programme to get Barbadians who are committed to Barbados to sell Barbados overseas. If we do this, I believe that we will be on our way to doing well in tourism.

I also feel that this sports tourism programme should sit very well with Barbadians. We are sports-loving people and that programme needs to be revisited. It needs to be executed well. It needs the commitment of our people to see. It is no mock sport. I recall that when we started the hockey programme there were some overseas offices saying it could not be done. They could not find hockey players and all kinds of excuses and then in came a certain gentleman, I cannot call names in this Honourable House, and he worked on the programme and within a year there were endless teams coming to Barbados for the hockey tournament. I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Thomas knows about that as well.

Asides.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: He would know.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let him continue, please.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: The Honourable Member would know how a certain individual was able to bring a lot of hockey players to this country. So I am saying, with good organisation, we can bring a lot of hockey players, footballers, golfers, we can bring all kinds of sportsmen to Barbados but we have not really worked

on the programme. We are just fooling around with it, Sir. There are other programmes like these that we can put in place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just wish in my remaining few minutes to also make the point that Barbados needs a lot of community commitment at this point in time. I therefore like the section in the Throne Speech which speaks about the encouragement being given to promoting community developments through the establishment of councils within districts to generate resources for self-development at the grass roots level.

You heard about the demise of local Governments and I believe that such community councils can replace local government. In this regard, Sir, I have already been speaking to some individuals in my constituency about the establishment of a Christ Church East Community Council and this is something which I think should be done in every area so that we have a system within each community to look after the environment, to give recognition to people who have done well in the area. To give assistance to the needy, to develop sports and culture within the areas, to localise problems, to make an effective linkage with the youth, to look after the establishment of craft markets and things like these. I believe that with proper organisation the community councils can serve a meaningful role and you just need to look around at those people who are doing a good job in their communities and if we can harness those resources as some of us have done, I believe that these community councils can serve a meaningful role in this country. I therefore want to salute groups like the Parish Land Community Group which have given awards but I believe it needs to be augmented to include other groups, such as in my area, so that we can have an all embracing community council to provide meaningful leadership and guidance especially to the young people who need this kind of guidance at this time. 5.50 p.m.

Sir, in 1994-95 Barbados has a number of challenges facing it. I believe that all of us in this House should support these challenges with great seriousness and great application that we must do what has to be done in the interest of Barbados.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South. You caught my eye earlier. Are you giving way to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy this afternoon to see a recurrence of something which I thought had finished on September 6th where the back benchers seem to be taking a role which is

different than what I had expected. In other words, the back bench is telling the front bench what to do, Sir. I am very surprised to hear the back bench criticizing...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ...in the name of democracy and I hope, Sir, that no one will criticize the gentleman for being democratic in his speech.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: We have never fired anyone, Sir. We were criticized by the other side that we should have fired him, but we did not fire him, Sir. It seems that the Throne Speech has taken on a new level and the Throne Speech seems to be about tourism. I have something to say about tourism and I hope that when I say these things that they will be taken seriously.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just forget the asides and continue please.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, we hear about Cuba and we never want to talk about French Canadians and they did not use the phrase "French" in reference to the Canadians in this House of Assembly. In the early 1960's and 1970*8 the tourism market especially on the west coast was good because they had a lot of French Canadians coming to this country. Because the French Canadians came to Barbados and they mingled with special people in Barbados, Sir, we had certain Barbadians who went to Canada and criticized those French Canadians and stopped them from coming to Barbados. This evening when the Minister was speaking I thought that he would have said that, Sir, because he is aware that that was one of the reasons why they stopped coming to Barbados. I am saying, Sir, that there is a special relationship between Canadians and Barbadians and any serious Minister of Tourism will have to have a new approach to the Canadians. I feel that if we adopt a new approach to the Canadians, Sir, we will have no problems of getting tours from Canada to come here.

Sir, during the oil crisis and the Gulf War, the Canadians were coming to Barbados while the Americans were staying away. We must ask ourselves - why is it that Canadians keep coming to Barbados and everytime you hear a Minister of Tourism one hears all about Americans? We are neglecting our key people, Sir. I am saying that if we put the same emphasis on the Canadians we would not have to worry.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I know Canada well. But usually when people talk about North America, they are normally talking about the United States. I am saying that the Canadian aspect of it is important and that is the aspect that we must rely on because they have been faithful. If you check the evidence, Sir, you know that the Canadians do not like to be associated with North Americans. You know that is a fact even though they are from the same area. So when you say that Canada is part of North America, I know that Canadians do not like to be associated with Americans.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am saying that we must concentrate on the Canadian market and we must be serious and put more funds in marketing that market. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East would like to tell me about tourism, Sir. But I will let him know that Canadians are people who like to live on a one-to-one basis. I deal with them on a daily basis and I know how they feel. They even complain sometimes when they see prices quoted in American dollars and not in Canadian dollars.

I am saying that we must change some of our policies to accommodate those people because, when there was the Gulf War and the Americans decided to stay home and the Canadians decided to come here, we have a commitment to people who are prepared to be committed to us.

I am also saying, Sir, that the people we must target are the planters from Canada. They are people who come here for 6 months per year and there are some here right now and they will stay up to April or May. I am saying that, if we are talking about long stay tourism, those are the type of people we need to get in Barbados. The important thing is that you know once you get them here they will keep coming back.

All inclusive tourism, Sir, I have a problem with that. I am not saying that Barbados cannot have all inclusive tourism on a limited basis. But if one were to study the history of tourism in Barbados, we cannot see how any serious Minister can get on air and talk about all inclusive tourism is the way to go. Our tourism is people's tourism and all inclusive tourism cannot afford that concept in Barbados because they will go in coaches and they will go to specific areas. We in Barbados are accustomed to tourists where they visit the rum shops...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN:...Right! No, I have to speak on behalf of the Honourable Member for St. Peter because he is not in his seat I know that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is a Northerner like myself and we have small people who benefit from tourism. If we allow

the all inclusive concept to come to Barbados, then we will have to look after the interest of our constituents. So I have no problem in speaking on behalf of the Honourable Member for St Peter. So if the Honourable Member for Christ Church South wants me to say something for the Member for St Peter, I will because we have a lot of things in common because we went to Coleridge & Parry together and we are from the North.

I am saying seriously, Sir, that this all inclusive concept will work in Barbados for a short period of time, but it will destroy the tourism industry in this country. We had a good example, Sir, with the beach sellers. Previously, the guys with the jet skis and the other boats were allowed to operate on the beaches and they had no competition and then you had no harassment. You had a situation where the hoteliers got involved in water sports and, from the time you brought the hoteliers and other big businessmen involved in water sports, you had beach harassment. In other words, it is a process of marketing and the small beachmen who operated the jet skis and so on had to increase their marketing and they became very aggressive but not in a negative way. They got forceful and people called it harassment.

I am saying, Sir, that if you have all inclusive tourism in Barbados the same people who used to criticize the beachmen will now have a situation where you will find people who are involved in restaurants, rum shops and other areas, all small vendors or whatever you want to call them getting involved in marketing what they are selling. Then everybody will say that Barbados is a country where you get harassed. In order to stop a situation that is ahead of us, Sir, I am saying to the policy-makers to stop in your tracks and have a firm decision. There is nothing wrong in limited all inclusive tourism. But if you want to have a wide scale all inclusive concept, you are going to have problems in Barbados. You cannot say to a small man that he must contribute and at the same time say to him that he cannot gain the benefits of something which he has built up in this country. I am saying that we in Barbados have always been a sharing people, but all of a sudden I am seeing a situation where selfishness is stepping in and we must put a stop to this.

If people are expecting us to be good citizens, at the same time they must do the things that they would expect us to do, that is, they must share so that we can share with them. 6.00 p.m.

I honestly believe that tourism is our basket and hoe. It is an agricultural phrase, but I can use it also in tourism and I believe the Minister of Agriculture would allow me to use that term.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Everybody knows I have an interest and if you are going to have all inclusive it would affect me. There is no problem with that. We must be serious about our tourism. I know the Honourable Members on the other side agree with me, because they have constituents who came from the tourism concept and they know that the all inclusive concept would have an effect on small people. Even the Minister agrees with me that there will be problems, but we also agree that Sandals has a concept and we might be able to fit in Sandals, but at the same time we cannot have a wide scale all inclusive concept.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It is interesting that the comment has been made. I will tell you that if all inclusive tourism is inclusive in Barbados you will not get the Canadians coming to Barbados, because they do not like it. I know the Minister knows that The Americans would like it but not the Canadians. I keep telling you that the Canadians do not like to associate themselves with Americans, so if they see a speech by me associating them they would be angry with me.

Mr. Speaker, I have already said what I had to say on agriculture and rural development. On transport, I do not intend to get involved in that debate at this time. I will say that in the transportation system in Barbados there are certain problems, but we must give people time to iron out the problems. I am not going to be in this House of Assembly criticising for the sake of criticising, all the problems that are there will be solved. I believe the Honourable Minister has his hands full and he will look after that situation.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second this motion and at the same time I wish to point out that a number of speakers who have spoken so far have really been attempting at so early a stage in this parliamentary session to distort the record of the Government. In particular I wish to address the question as to the suggestion that the Government is reneging in some way on its commitment to accept the challenge of unemployment in Barbados which, at the time when that commitment was made, it was estimated that there were 30 000 jobs that were needed. The more I read the Throne Speech, Sir, the more I am convinced that the Government has re-dedicated itself in a number of sentences in that Throne Speech, and I will demonstrate that the re-dedication has been backed by action in the short of period of time.

If one looks at the first page of the Throne Speech, the commitment of Government is re-affirmed. In the third paragraph before the end it is specifically stated -

"My Government is committed to the full economic empowerment of every Barbadian, and to the creation of sustainable job opportunities for our citizens, especially for our young people."

You could not want a clearer statement. That is consistent with the history of the Barbados Labour Party. We are not the political party that sold out the national heritage in this country in the last three and a half years by doing what even the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has discovered, that is, by placing Barbadians in a position in which, as he said here on the Floor of this House very recently: "We have gone so far back that we in the position, far from empowering every Barbadian, we have reinforced the economic power of that small group in Barbados whose power..."

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Honourable Member's party has done that. I feel that it is unfair of the Honourable Members to say that.

The methodology of achieving that objective is set out in the subsequent paragraph, Sir. In particular I draw Honourable Members' attention to page 4, the penultimate paragraph, under the heading Economic Policy, where it is specifically stated:

"My Government is committed to pursuing policies designed to achieve a strong, stable, export oriented economy with a vibrant service sector, in which unemployment is reduced to negligible proportions.

Our key strategy will be to unleash the talent, energy and enterprise of our people by providing them with the means and abilities to compete in the international economy.

To this end a Ministry of International Business has been established and charged with the responsibility for ensuring that Barbados achieves its fullest potential in telecommunications, captive insurance, informatics, off-shore banking and other financial services."

That, again, is consistent with the policies of the Barbados Labour Party. It is a continuum, started long ago when the first major restructuring of our economy took place, in the early 1980s.

I want to say, Sir, that if one looks again at page 5 one will see:

"An important feature of the reconstruction of the economy will be the rehabilitation of the traditional and mainstream productive sectors, particularly manufacturing and agriculture, whose contribution is essential to the economic health of the country.

In this regard, my Government has already brought some relief to those sectors by waiving the duties and taxes on raw materials, packaging materials, machinery, equipment and spare parts."

Now, Sir, action has been taken to effectuate an objective. I want it to be clearly understood, one of the major causes of unemployment in Barbados has been the foolish, short-sighted policy of the previous Government in the imposition of taxes on the inputs to manufacturing and agriculture, and you will never be allowed to forget it in here. The mere removal of those duties, in my humble submission, will result in investment activity taking place in those sectors and in the creation of employment in those sectors. 6.10 p.m.

So don't talk any foolishness in here that the Barbados Labour Party has not done anything. We have reversed the irresponsible, stupid policy introduced by the Democratic Labour Party and what makes you primarily responsible, the former Leader of the Opposition and the Party on that side is that you were repeatedly warned that he was practising contrary to the interests of Barbados in succumbing to the International Monetary Fund's stupidity in saying that we had to put on duties on inputs.

We pointed out that in Jamaica they had an IMF programme; in Guyana they had an IMF programme; in Trinidad they had an IMF programme and none of them had done what they had done.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, please, would you desist from interrupting the House.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: It is absolutely nothing to do with devaluation. The fact that the Honourable Members do not understand that it has absolutely nothing to do with devaluation is only an indication of the fact that the electorate was quite right in judging the Honourable Members on that side and deciding that they were going to put a government in power that would remove that iniquitous activity. They can never get away from that In this respect I want to continue, Sir.

On page 6, Sir...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Members over here, please you are interrupting the House. I am asking you to desist from making those loud asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised at the asides, Sir, because the Honourable Members do not wish us to point out the damage that they have done to this economy over the last 4 years. Thank God the electorate saw it.

The removal of duties and taxes. I am continuing from this speech, Sir. Instead of studying and reading this speech and seeing where they made their mistakes they are coming in here trying to discredit it.

"The removal of duties and taxes will enable those sectors to regain some of the ground which they lost during the past four years and will in due course result in additional employment opportunities.

Further measures will be implemented to deal with the importation of inferior and dumped products, the reduction in energy costs, administrative impediments, transfer of technology through the promotion of joint ventures and other areas critical to increasing efficiency of the business sector."

Now, Sir, in the two months I am in a position to testify that this Government has made decisions upon matters which were on the desks of Ministers of the other side for as long as 8 to 10 months previously and were held up because of the lack of the capacity of some Honourable Ministers on that side to make up their minds. Many, in the Ministry of Finance.

I have a situation, Sir, where a small businessman in Christ Church who makes his living as a water-sports operator brought in a 16 foot catamaran and had to be faced with 150% duties. An application was made to the Minister of Finance on January 8.

Asides.

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I will give the Honourable Member his due. He promptly replied saying that he would have the matter processed. To this day, Sir, up to the time when he left, it had not been processed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because the person is his client and his client by-passed him and spoke directly to the Ministry of Finance and on several occasions came to the Ministry, and rather than refuse the

application we continued to discuss the possibility. He was not in a position to get a waiver because he is no different from anybody else who pays taxes on those kinds of things in this country. You don't come in here to...

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay. The Honourable Member has made his point.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Honourable Member has not dealt with the validity of the point. The point is that up to the time the Honourable Member left, no decision was taken by the Honourable Member. He did not even...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order... Sit down!

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: No! You can't tell me to sit down.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON; You must sit down. I am on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I know you have had a long day. I am asking you to let us continue orderly, please. •

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would you make your point of order relate to what was said by the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member is saying that no decision was made in the matter. The Honourable Member can consult the file and can ask the Minister of Finance to show him the file that the Minister of Finance took a decision on the matter, but because his own client by-passed him and did to want that to...

Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the point of order.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ... and continued to discuss it with us that is why it was not formally communicated to him in writing. That is something different, but a decision was taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue, please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That's all right, Sir. In typical action and incompetent fashion the Honourable Member took a decision and was not man enough to communicate the decision. That is the problem we are dealing with.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South, you are saying that a decision was taken?

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Not taken. No decision. And the Honourable Member has confessed that. That cannot be a point of order in here.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. Let us proceed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is only a trivia. Sir, I just want to make it clear...

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. Let us proceed. Is this a different point of order?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes, Sir. The point of order arises from what the Honourable Member said in the course of his responding to you. He said that no decision was made. I am saying the Honourable Member is misleading the House. A decision was made. That must be in the record because a decision was made. If it was not communicated that does not mean it was not made. I am trying to explain, Mr. Speaker, that his own client was in touch with the Ministry of Finance because he did not want us to refuse. He was still in the process of asking for the decision to be reviewed and the Honourable Member knows that I wrote to him on the matter.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The Honourable Member did write to me and told me...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just continue.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: He wrote to me in January. The Government left office in September and by September he did not write back to me and tell me that a decision was made, nor did he write the client and tell him that a decision was made. So what are we talking about? The basic point is the situation should never have arisen in which you have to pay duties.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know that the Honourable Member is a Minister that gave tax relief to a stud horse coming into Barbados rather than a poor businessman who was trying to make his living out of water-sports. I commend the Honourable Member for St. Lucy for criticising his own Party on the grounds that as far as... Yes. For a stud horse. He gave a stud horse tax relief.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. The policy to grant tax waivers on horses was a policy which predated me as Minister of Finance and

I permitted the policy to continue. It began with the former Honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Mr. SPEAKER: So you are saying that you had nothing to do with the stud horses.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue, please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I just want to make it clear that in my scheme of things I think it is more important to give encouragement to small businessmen who operate a healthy activity such as providing...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not mean to get involved, Sir, but could the Honourable Member explain what is a stud horse?

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of explanation, please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: A horse that is not the equivalent of the Honourable Member, Sir. 6.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed, please.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Sir, I just want to make it clear. I regard this a very serious matter. I think it was a very fundamental mistake in this country to have consumption tax, stamp duties and surcharges on inputs for the tourist industry. That is what I am saying. Part of the reason for the lack of competitiveness in the Barbados Tourism Industry arose from the fact that we had a regime of indirect taxes which did not provide differentiation between inputs to the tourist sector and ordinary consumption. Therefore a lot of mechanisms were attempted to be put in place to deal with waivers but the machinery was cumbersome notwithstanding the valiant efforts of the Hotel Association and the Ministry of Finance. I am saying that the Government is committed, quite rightly, to the removal of these impediments.

Now, Sir, we have also had a lot of other talk about tourism. I am not going to go into detail to that. It is quite obvious in Barbados that Barbados has some assets in tourism which have to be marketed. Among those assets is the fact that in Barbados we have a great diversity of accommodation. We also have a better night life than many other countries. We have also an infrastructure, a road system, a series of ground tour operators which other countries do not duplicate. It is true that tour operators, particularly from Europe, like to say to Barbados that they can get in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica and St. Lucia the same standard of accommodation, or a higher standard of accommodation for less money. But the acid

test is this that when you actually talk to the tourists, you will find out they will tell you that they have tried those destinations and they have found Barbados to be a better holiday resort than in those destinations. Many of them tell you straight that you can talk to our workers in the hotel industry and understand what they are saying. They tell you that, particularly the English tourists. That is something that has to be used as a marketing tool. It is a fact.

I want to say this. The greatest disaster that ever happened to Barbados is the formation of the Tourism Development Company. I say that because whereas before you had a single approach between the Ministry and the Board of Tourism, and all of the people who had an interest at the private sector level were represented either in the Tourist Board or in their private council, and you did not have the three-prong signals that you get in Barbados now, the Tourism Development Company doing one thing, the Tourist Board doing another and the Ministry doing another. That has to be reconciled. The Tourism Development Company is doing many of the things the Ministry used to do before.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St JOHN: I know it is true. I knew you never agreed with your Government's policy in this relation. Since they moved you from Tourism you know all hell broke loose. You know that too.

Many mistakes have been made. I am not surprised that the Minister finds himself in the position he finds himself in because when the Tourism Authority Bill came down here we pointed out that in a country like Barbados where you had a subject as important as tourism which demanded a Minister, that it would be wrong to remove the policy making functions from the Minister and put them in the Authority. The law should come down here. I think the Minister should make that a matter of urgency, bringing down a repeal of that section of the law. That is what should be done. That is a real priority because the economic impact of tourism on the economy of Barbados should not be the study matter of a study by any TDC. That is a matter for the Central Bank and the Minister of Tourism. That is of too much importance because we know Barbados. I know it and I know the vested interest in Barbados will do everything to ensure that the *status quo* is improved and enhanced. They are financing their efforts out of the taxpayers money. There is only one person who can spend the taxpayers money and that is the people who are elected, not anybody else, and that is my view.

Now, Sir, the question of the airlines is a very important point Barbados always had a problem with the fact that we are a major tourist destination. We have to be very careful that the means of bringing tourists here that we have some measure of control. Barbados in conjunction

with the other countries in the Eastern Caribbean must have an aviation programme which will ensure that we are not subject to the vulnerability of any foreign decision-makers. You have to do it. We tried our best to rationalise the approach in the Eastern Caribbean.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: This is a regional matter and it is a matter that you cannot evade.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. Do not let us get disorderly again. It is going very nicely, let it continue like that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: This is a very important point and I know that the Government is conscious of this fact. I know the programme of the Government will be such that they will try to ensure, consistent of course today with the fact that no Government can afford to subsidise any particular company. The world airline industry in the last four years lost something like \$7 billion a year. That is a fact. It is only recently that a little bit of backing has come back into the balance sheets of the world airline industry. Look and see how many are in Chapter 11 of the United States of America.

We must consistently try and work out a policy that will give us that measure of security. We also have to ensure that Barbados has an open skies policy. The days of protecting a national airline owned by your citizens is dead as a dodo. You do not have that anymore. Within Europe you have competition in the European field. In the United States of America you have deregulation. Within the Caribbean I feel that you would need to have something of an open skies policy. It is in the interest of Barbados to promote itself as a regional hub.

Now, there are going to be difficulties in getting these matters implemented. What I am uncertain about, and I know that a decision will have to be taken is, who is going to be the principal agency to get it implemented. My understanding of the position is that that principal agency is the Ministry of Tourism, headed by the Minister, who is responsible to the electorate for this subject matter. All the rest must fall in underneath that. Once it is clear that policy matters come from the Ministry, I think that everybody will fall in line.

Now, I want to say, Sir, that many efforts have been made at trying to deal with the American market, including the disastrous effort of Best of Barbados. That is a programme that millions of dollars were spent on. This is a very serious thing. This House does not know that the Tourist Board invested millions of dollars in equipment

which is now parked at a private house in St George. This House does not know that the Tourist Board had a programme...

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not saying whose house. I am saying that the Tourist Board appointed a subcontractor to carry out the Best of Barbados programme in which 12 people came to Barbados under it, the one with all the list of things you could get and the options. The computers were paid for out of the Tourist Board vote. Those computers were not lodged in the Ministry of Tourism but they are up there in a house in St. George.

I regard that as bad administration. I think the Minister should regard it as one of his primary functions to find out who are the people responsible for that decision because, in my opinion, if you make that kind of decision I cannot have any confidence in you. I cannot do it. This is Government money that was spent on a programme and that is one of the kind of disasters we had.

It is no wonder that my friend from St Lucy has a difficulty. He has the Canadian farmers who come here. I can take the Honourable Member to Scarborough in Christ Church and show him a number of houses in Scarborough that the Canadians rent for six months in the year. They even work on plantations here voluntarily. They made friends with the small farmers in Christ Church and you see them up there teaching them how to grow carrots, but they are the lower end of the market. They do not have much money to spend. They are living on their pensions. I am not saying that they are not useful.

Now, Sir, it is fairly obvious that a Government which has made a commitment like we have made, will need some time to be able to implement its programme.
6.30 p.m.

I am satisfied in my mind that the Government's Throne Speech sets out in a very clear and detailed way its objectives and the methodology that is needed to implement those objectives and I heartily give support to this Resolution.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider it an honour to rise in this Honourable House to make a contribution to the Throne Speech by Her Excellency, the Governor General of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I see this Throne Speech as a precis of the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. The Manifesto which was brought by the Barbados Labour Party to this country because of the behaviour of the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, that Manifesto seemed to find favour with the Member for St John because he came to this House and he tabled it as a document of the House. He jumped the gun.

Sir, if we look at the speech from the Throne and we see here under National Objectives that my Government is committed to transforming Barbados into a dynamic, prosperous and stable democracy capable of sustaining a high quality of life for its people. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to do that

After the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, made an onslaught on the people of this country...

Aside.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: Sir, I am not scared of the Honourable Member. Sir, they took the people in this country to task. They came in here, Sir, they brought all kinds of programmes. Sir, the first thing they did was to increase their salaries. That is what the Democratic Labour Party did, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: I will get back to that and the permits soon, Sir.

I understand what they are trying to do, Sir. After they increased their salaries, they cut the salaries of the civil servants of this country. Then they went on to indiscriminately send home people, sometimes both providers of the house.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the same party, the Democratic Labour Party that always talk about providing for small black people and when they open their mouths they are always talking about black like them. And that is what those people did to the people of this country that is why we have the Barbados Labour Party as the Government of this day, because of their behaviour.

Sir, when we lode at the copy of the Throne Speech, we talk about the strengthening of .democracy. A democracy is weakened or shaken when people begin to live in fear and Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we go back and look at the case of Gladwyn King Vs. The Attorney General we will see when the democracy of a people was shaken. We had an Attorney General who made laughing fun and was happy when the decision was reversed by the Council.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could I advise the Honourable Member. I believe you are going down the wrong track, Sir. Please proceed.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on the Throne Speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just connect it and let us proceed,

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: I have it here in front of me, Sir. Page 2 of the Throne Speech says, "The recent decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of GLADWYN OPHELIA KING vs THE ATTORNEY GENERAL devastated the morale of the public service." What I am talking about, Sir, is about democracy being shaken in this country and the Barbados Labour Party is prepared to make sure that democracy is restored to the people of this country, and we say that the Barbados Labour Party Government will make sure that the Government salaries are never cut again in this country and Section 20 of the Constitution will take care of that 6.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I may continue and look at some of the things that were taken away by the Democratic Labour Party from the people of this country. We say as a Government and it is written in our Manifesto and part of our Throne Speech that we will restore those things to the people.

Mr. Speaker, a thing like mortgage deduction where, if a person is working and paying a mortgage of let us say \$1 200 a month, in the early stage of the mortgage about \$1 000 a month out of that mortgage is repaid as interest towards the mortgage. Sir, if one is in the 30 per cent tax bracket, that person...

Aside.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: If we look at that 30 per cent tax bracket, that person has a saving of \$300 a month in income tax. The Barbados Labour Party Government is prepared to make sure that we give back to the people that mortgage interest deduction. We are also prepared that the deduction given to the people of the money which they spent on home improvement and repairs to their house will be given back to them.

Sir, insurance premiums paid on house insurance was taken away under the Democratic Labour Party and that will be given back to the people of this country. I would like to make a case for the life insurance people of this country where the premiums that they pay on life insurance can be given back to the people also so that they will have more take home pay.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that we are embarking on an idea through our Manifesto again where we can offer people 60 years and over in this country the opportunity that any interest they make on their savings in the bank will be free from taxes. Secondly, where the retired people are concerned, I am glad to see that we can look at them and tell them that the pensions of \$3 000 a month or less will be free of income tax.

Sir, I want to take a look at the housing situation in this country. When a young person starts to work, he or she wants to have a home. There are not many people in this country that would be in a position to own 2 or 3 houses like some of the Honourable Members on the other side. They may never be in a position to renovate a bathroom or a study for \$70 000. Mr. Speaker, by the time a young person reaches the age of 40 or 45, there is not much scope for that person ever achieving their own home. I know of people who are 40 and 45 years and still living at their mother's house. I am quite sure that the policies of the Barbados Labour Party will make sure that those people will be in a position to get their own home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you that the young people of this country and the Barbados Labour Party will be given also an opportunity where they will be able to put aside a sum of money which will go towards purchasing or building their own home.

Aside.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: Sir, I just want to look at page 27 of the Manifesto where the Barbados Labour Party said that we will stimulate interest in home ownership particularly in young persons by tax concessions in respect of savings specifically for the purpose of owning their own home.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party realized what took place in this country during the last two years when under the Democratic Labour Party many persons lost their homes through foreclosures. I am glad to see that we can say to the people of this country, Sir, that we will be introducing a Housing Mortgage Insurance Scheme to be administered by the Central Bank of Barbados as a protection against foreclosure of the mortgage in circumstances where the mortgagor's inability to pay results from loss of employment.

Mr. Speaker, we will pledge as we have done in our Manifesto to keep down the mortgage interest rates. We are also preparing to offer to the people of this country mortgage where they can pay over 30 years instead of 20 years. This Barbados Labour Party has always cared about people. We also will be introducing compulsory home insurance and, regarding the old aged and the retired

people of this country, we will be making sure that we assist them in paying those premiums.

Mr. Speaker, when I look at the physical infrastructure of this country and I look at what is happening out there with our roads, I am proud to represent the constituency of St. Michael West Central but we have some problems there. I am quite sure that with the Barbados Labour Party Government in place we will be able to alleviate some of those problems where the Roads and so on are concerned.

Sir, we have an area in Upper Wavell Avenue which is a tenantry that is owned by 3 or 4 different landlords. I am quite sure that under our Urban Renewal Programme that we will make sure that we put in the amenities. Right now if there is a fire or major disaster in that area, Sir, I am quite sure we will have loss of lives and plenty of injuries to the people because of the problem which that Urban Renewal Programme will take care of for us in the constituency. We have in the St. Stephens area Yearwood Land where people have been living in that area for over 30 years and the road was never fixed. During 1991 the then representative came and he brought in some people and they put down some measurements and started to measure. At the end of election, stake pulled up, measuring tape has gone and everybody is gone. The Barbados Labour Party under our Urban Development Programme, I am quite sure, will take care of that

Sir, I just want to touch on the environment where in the same constituency we have a quarry which is formerly known as Ellis Quarry. When that quarry starts to burn, we have plenty asthmatic people living in that area who suffer. The children at the St. Stephens Junior School and the Ellerslie Secondary School have to bring out their inhalers and many of them have to be taken to the hospital to go to the asthmatic bay, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, as we go on into the environment, two things come to mind. When I look at those vendors on the highway, some talk was made sometime ago of removing those vendors. But why would you want to do that to those people? How would they make a living? There is plenty of space on that highway off the road. The curb is there and we can go back off the road and put some kind of shelter there for them. So that when the cars drive and park on the curb they can purchase their corn, chicken or fish and get back in their cars and go their way. You do not have to remove the people from there. All you will be doing is to encourage people to go and steal. 6.50 p.m.

Another thing I would like to look at When I pass the highway and I see school children trying to cross from one side of the road to the other side. Cars speeding pass on mornings, people trying to get to work and children trying to get to school. It is dangerous for those children. I would like to see some method put in place, be it traffic lights on the highway or if you are going to use a walk over, it is up to the technical people to know exactly which is better for the people of this country. I would like to ask that attention be paid to these things.

Mr. Speaker, before I sit I just want to mention that if we look at the real book of this world, and we look at the Bible, Sir, when Jesus came to this earth he was accused of being many things. He was a wine bibber, he was this, he was that. Similar things were said about the Honourable Prime Minister of this country by the Members of the Opposition. I do not expect that our Honourable Prime Minister can save this world, he is no Jesus, he is no Son of God, neither as no one else on that side is the son of Tom, and I would like to say that I have all confidence in the ability of the Honourable Prime Minister to put what he has stated in this Manifesto into being. I wholeheartedly support every measure of the Resolution from this Throne Speech.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution on the Throne Speech be deferred.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, the 15th day of November, 1994 at 11 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 6.55 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER..... 182

Confirmation of the Minutes of Tuesday, 1st November, 1994.

PAPERS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE 182

Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the financial year 1992-93.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD 183

Question No. 1 to the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment requesting statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers for the period January to September, 1994 compared with January to September, 1993.

Question No. 2 to the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment requesting statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers for the period January to August, 1994 compared with January to August, 1993.

Question No. 3 to the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment requesting statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers for the month of September, 1994 compared with September, 1993.

Question No. 4 to the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment requesting statistics on tourist arrivals and cruise passengers for the month of August, 1994 compared with August, 1993.

Question No. 5 to the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing requesting a team of workers to be assigned to Clarke's Avenue, Bayville, St Michael to remove trash and rubbish after the area has been cleaned.

Question No. 6 to the Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment requesting information on the Barbados Tourism Authority.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER..... 184

The Marriage (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1994.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER..... 184

Appointments of Mr. Peter P. K. Simmons as High Commissioner to London, England and Mr. Errol Humphrey as Consul General for Barbados at Toronto, Canada.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 186

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 - COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MAXWELL, CHRIST CHURCH 186

Hon. G. W. Payne, 186, 199; Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson, 187; Mr. B. M. Taitt, 187, 195, 196; Hon. H. B. St. John, 188; Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 189; Mr. L. A. Weekes, 190, 191; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 191; Rt. Hon. L. E. Sandiford, 193, 194; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 197.

ORDER NO. 2 - COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ALLEN VIEW, WELCHMAN HALL, ST. THOMAS 199

Hon. G. W. Payne, 199, 201; Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 199; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 200.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESOLUTION THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE TAKE NOTE OF THE SPEECH OF HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AT THE OPENING OF THE PARLIAMENT OF 1994-99 201

Mr. H. DeB. Forde, 201, 204; Mr. R. St. C. Toppin, 205, 206; Dr. R. C. Haynes, 207, 208, 209, 211; Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 212, 213, 214; Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 215,

216; Mr. J. O. Tudor, 219,220, 221; Mr. W. C. C. Callender, 222, 223; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 224, 225,226; Hon. H. B. St. John, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230; His Honour R. D. Marshall, 231, 232.

SUSPENSION 197

ADJOURNMENT 233

Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 233.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

CALLENDER, Mr. W. C. C. (Christ Church East)

CHELTENHAM, Hon. Dr. R. L. (St. Joseph) FORDE, Mr. H. deB. (Christ Church West)' HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central) KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy) MARSHALL, His Hon. R. D. (St. Michael West Central) MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown) PAYNE, Hon. G. W. (St. Andrew) SANDIFORD, Rt. Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South) SIMMONS, Hon. D. A. C. (St. Thomas) ST. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church South) TAITT, Hon. B. M. (St. Michael West) THOMPSON, Hon. Miss H. E. (St. James South) THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St. John) TOPPIN, Mr. R. St. C. (St. Michael North) TUDOR, Mr. J. O. (St. Michael East) WEEKES, Mr. L. A. (St. Michael North West)