

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 20, 1995

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, March 20, 1995.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed., (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, G.C.M., J.P.
Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Prime
Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and
Minister for the Civil Service)
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney
General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Leader of
the Opposition)
Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TOLL, Q.C., M.A.
Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc.
(Econ.), (Minister of Tourism, International Transport and
the Environment)
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, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), Dip.
Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), LEG (Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)
Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of
Labour, Community Development and Sports)
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., (Parliamentary
Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and
Housing)
Mr. J. M. EDGHILL
Mr. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.
Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, J.P., B.A., Dip. Ed.,
B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)
Mr. H. F. LASHLEY
Mr. R. St C. TOPPIN, LL.B.
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of
Health)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Minister of
Education, Youth Affairs and Culture).

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, March 14, 1995.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Honourable, the House of Assembly for its meeting of March 14, 1995 which Minutes have been circulated be taken as read.

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

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

PAPERS

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

1. The Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.
2. Guarantees Granted Under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A to the following:-
 - (a) The American National Insurance Corporation
 - (b) Surewest Insurance Company Limited
 - (c) Beach Reinsurance Corporation
 - (d) Compco Insurance Company Inc.
 - (e) Eastbourne Insurance Company Limited
 - (f) Great Pacific Enterprises Insurance Limited
 - (g) Oxford Indemnity Company Limited
 - (h) Langevin Insurance (Barbados) Limited
 - (i) Langevin Holdings (Barbados) Limited
3. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1993.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the order of the day. Order No. 1.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1995

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Estimates of Expenditure before this Honourable House are intended to restore order to our system of public finances in a situation where rampant disorder has overtaken public finances, and to create the foundation for sustained and sustainable economic growth and national development in

our nation. For these reasons the composition of the Estimates, the priorities associated with the proposed allocation of spending, and the policies and strategies embodied in the numbers contained in the Estimates have to be evaluated against the background of the financial management policies and practices which obtained of late, and the economic development and management policies which have been invoked over the course of the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, it is beyond any reasonable dispute that fiscal policy, for better or for worse, is the most powerful instrument at the disposal of economic managers in small open economies. At the micro level, the distribution of public expenditure, Government's taxation and Government's incentive policies have a very profound bearing on the quality of life of individuals and households, as well as the viability of corporate entities and the distribution of benefits and wealth in the society.

At the macro level, the growth and level of Government expenditure and taxes, the size of the deficit, and the financing of that deficit bear very fundamentally on the rate of growth of the economy, on the level of employment, on the state of the country's foreign exchange reserves, and on the country's capacity to sustain the process of economic and social development.

In particular, Sir, the size of the deficit matters since the excess of Government's expenditure over Government's revenues represents the addition by Government to domestic spending power. In our very small open economies, where such a very large percentage of our spending power is devoted to the consumption of imports, great care has to be exercised in ensuring that our deficits are not too large and that they are properly financed.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the developing world, and now increasingly so some developed countries, are characterised with the bankrupt examples of countries where administrators have departed from the best precepts and the best practices of financial management. In our own case, there is more than ample evidence to suggest that financial disorder representing itself in large and unfmancable deficits has been the factor which above all else has undermined the economic and financial stability of this country when such instances have occurred, as was the case in the mid 1970s, the period 1980 and 1981, and the period between 1989 and 1991.

Of late, however, Mr. Speaker, new and more virulent forms of fiscal disorder have set in in Barbados and that is why I prefaced my discussion of these Estimates with the commentary that these Estimates are designed to restore order to our system of public finances. I say that of late new and more virulent forms of fiscal disorder have set in in Barbados. We have seen, unfortunately, the practice

of expenditure taking place in Government departments without the approval of Parliament and that is wrong. We have seen the practice of bogus budgeting, the setting of fiscal targets which seemed low and which are reported to be low, but which are accomplished only by the running up of arrears in Government departments, particularly arrears that ought to take the form of statutory expenditure and should have involved the payment by Government departments of funds to the NIS ...but at least, the Honourable Member for St Michael West is listening, the NIS and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. 10.30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also unfortunately, in this country, seen increasing support for showpiece capital projects, most of which have been improperly conceived and even more poorly financed. I think here in terms of Sherbourne, the St. Thomas School, the Ministry of Education Headquarters and the like, not to exclude Parliament, all of which threaten to be running sores on the Treasury and give rise to additional current expenditure which bears no relationship to the growth of current revenues.

There are no showpieces in these Estimates. I am not interested in monuments. I am not interested in memorials. I am interested simply, Mr. Speaker, in giving the taxpayers of this country value for their money. We have also seen, of late, very flagrant breaches of the Financial Rules involving the award of contracts for the carrying out of works and the provision of services.

But above all we have witnessed, in this country, a false financial and economic trade-off at the centre of fiscal policy where, over the course of the past few years, a programme of fiscal austerity has been put in place involving major cuts in expenditures and savage increases in taxes, all intended to serve one end and one end only, and that is to protect the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Our foreign exchange reserves matter but they do not transcend human considerations. I do not subscribe to the view that heroic levels of foreign exchange reserves must be attained, even if the price that we must pay for this is a high and socially disruptive level of unemployment and massive social deprivation. It is my judgement therefore, Mr. Speaker, that over the course of the last 3 years Barbados has been made the victim of an unfortunate trade-off. Rapid accumulation of reserves has been secured at the price of massive unemployment and reduction and deterioration in the provision of public services.

This debate challenges us to strike a better balance, to do things that will sustain our reserves at sustainable levels, while doing whatever is necessary to relieve the grief and unemployment that have overtaken this country.

What has passed for policy in the course of the last 3 years has been inspired by the International Monetary Fund and its dictation. I have come to this House to say that, in preparing these Estimates of Expenditure now before this Parliament, I have had to say "no" to the International Monetary Fund. And I want to repeat this, Sir, that in preparing these Estimates of Expenditure, and in arriving at the trade-off between the growth in reserves and the level of delivery of the public services and employment in the country, I have had to say "no" to the IMF.

An International Monetary Fund Mission visited Barbados in mid-December of 1994 as part of a regular, ordinary IMF Article 4 consultation. The Mission recommended that in order to boost our reserves even further these Estimates of Expenditure should have shown a surplus, that is, that Government's total expenditure should have been less than Government's total revenue.

On Friday the reserves of the Central Bank and the Government of Barbados stood at \$412 million. Some time in December last year when we instituted the monetary policy our reserves amounted to \$312 million. In the course of the last few weeks,...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: - Three hundred and twelve. They dropped to as low as \$312 million - Over the course of the last few weeks, we have paid back a bullet loan of BD\$40 million. But as of Friday our reserves stood at \$412 million and that is after paying a lot of debt in the first 3 months in the year.

You will be hard put to find a period in which our reserves have been at a higher level. I say that, not to say that we are fully out of the woods, but to make the point that to prepare a set of Estimates as the IMF would have required, which would have required us to run a surplus to add to reserves, to maintain our reserves at a heroic level and at a considerable human cost is policy advice this Government of Barbados could not accept and has rejected.

It has been our judgement, Sir, the judgement of those persons who have advised me in the Ministry of Finance, that Barbados' best interest at this time will be served by incurring a modest and manageable fiscal deficit. I am asking this House, through these Estimates, to support Estimates based upon a fiscal deficit that will not do violence to our balance of payments, will not lead to a reduction, but in fact, will lead to our being able to sustain the delivery of public services at a satisfactory level and allow us to embark upon the selective stimulation of the Barbados economy.

That brings me to the matter of economic performance. We have to set Estimates of Expenditure - and that is all that these are - and Estimates of Revenue in the context of an examination of where the economy has come from, where it is and where it ought to be going.

The facts of the matter are that, over the course of the last 4 years, the Barbados economy has found itself in the grip of an economic stabilization policy by the IMF, where austerity has led to recession and that, in 1993 and 1994, the first evidence of growth after that recession was realized.

I expect, in this debate and subsequent debates on the economy of this country, the Democratic Labour Party to take credit for the fact of there having been a 4% growth rate in 1994. They are entitled to do so. But I want to say this. I have said, at the outset of my presentation to this House, that these Estimates are intended to create the foundation for sustained and sustainable economic growth and national development. I have to say that, not to discredit the claims of the Opposition that they have done well, but to ask the House to reflect soberly on the growth of the last two years and to assist us, through collective discussion, in carrying this economy to a sustainable growth path.

The facts of the matter simply are that in 1994 the Barbados economy realized a 4% growth. But that 4% growth was fuelled and driven, not by market forces, not by investment trends or consumption trends that can be sustained, but the 4% growth was driven in large respect by special events in the nature of one shot activities, so much so that we could not extrapolate from the occurrences of 1994 any good reasoning or logic as to a sustainable growth path for this economy. I do not deal with propaganda. I deal with the facts.

In the first half of 1994 the tourism industry was driven by a 41.6% increase in arrivals from the United Kingdom. But that did not reflect a market pattern. It reflected a special event having to do with the fact that a large number of British visitors came here for cricket. And unless therefore, Sir, we are going to contemplate having an English test team come to this country every year, we will not be in a position to forecast a 41.6% increase in visitors from the United Kingdom every year. 10.40 a.m.

Equally so, Mr. Speaker, and this is more to the point, that whilst that was happening, the underlying trends in the tourist market should have served as a warning to the Government because, even while they were benefitting from the one-shot special events, such as the British visitors to cricket and visitors for the Global Conference, we were losing market share in our major markets and that is what defines whether a growth path is sustainable or not.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, a lot of developing countries have experienced the loose flow and the mirrors of one-shot private sector capital formation. I remember, Sir, having been in Jamaica in the early 1970s. I make that point to make the additional point that in the late 1960s the Jamaican economy realised a high rate of growth as a result of a one-shot expansion in investment by ALPAR, ALCAN and ALCO in establishing facilities in the bauxite industry. But what was unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, was that a cycle set in where people felt that the economy should continue to operate as if that investment programme were still in place.

We have seen it in other developing countries, Mr. Speaker, where the boost in oil revenue in one period creates a mirage of prosperity as happened in Nigeria and elsewhere and false economies try to attain a growth path that is simply not sustainable.

I suggest to this Parliament, Mr. Speaker, that last year Barbados benefitted from a one-shot increase in private capital formation in the form of over US\$100 million in investment for the refurbishment of luxury hotels. That programme, Sir, is now finished, but there was no commensurate or comparable programme by the planners of the day to sustain capital formation in other parts of the hotel industry other than the luxury hotels, Sir. Therefore now that process has come to an end, we now have to deal with the sustainable growth path of this economy.

It falls to us now, Sir, to engage our imagination and put in place a programme of debt relief, management of arrears and a development programme for the small hoteliers of the South Coast where the problem is, if we are to sustain capital formation in the industry with Ijeneficial impact on the growth of the economy in general.

I must also mention to the House that last year's growth was influenced by the fact that we had a 56 000 tonnes sugar crop but that this year the sugar output is scheduled to be at 36 000 tonnes and that all of these considerations taken together lead us to the point of view that last year's growth was not sustainable because they were too heavily influenced by one-shot special events. Therefore, it falls to us now, properly, Mr. Speaker, as a country, to put this country on a sustainable growth path and that is what these Estimates are about and that is what the Budget will be about.

We have had a 12% decline in this economy between 1990 and 1993. We have had a 4% growth in 1994 but it has not been based on market driven factors. It has

not been driven, Mr. Speaker, nor fuelled on factors that can sustain investment at the levels that were obtaining in 1994 and, therefore, when I say that these Estimates have to be set in that context, Sir, I am really, as far as I am concerned, trying to focus this House on the real economic challenge facing this country.

I am not, Mr. Speaker, going to respond to the taunts of Opposition Members and try to cause this economy to overheat in the short term. I do not believe that Barbados' best interests will be served by that I do not believe, Mr. Speaker - and the Member for St. Michael South Central is going to understand when I cite his experience in employment creation - I do not believe, Mr. Speaker that, in circumstances where we have not inherited a programme for employment creation, that we should be concerned with the criticisms about what has happened in the short term. What we must be concerned with is making this economy stay the course. In the course of this debate I am going to be dealing with the vexed question as to how this particular set of Estimates comes into contact with the question of employment creation on a sustainable basis over the long term and medium term.

I do not believe, Sir, in crash programmes. I do not believe in bus fares and lunch money approaches to employment creation. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, in taking on people today and firing them tomorrow. I do not believe that Government expenditure out of a very small tax base can sustain the increments to employment that some of them want us to create in the short-term. I believe that employment creation, Mr. Speaker, comes from two sources and two sources only, the expansion of existing enterprises and the creation of new ones and that it falls to us, as a Parliament, to begin to focus on how we can create the environment in this country in which enterprises can expand and new ones can be created. But it must be said, Sir, looking over the course of the last four years, that Barbados does not have the circumstances that can allow enterprises to expand and new ones to be created and the gut of employment creation has to do with our creating that environment.

These Estimates, Sir, will lend themselves to the creation of that environment. The Budget to come will add to it even more, Sir, and I will in due course deal with that particular issue.

Before I touch on those matters, Mr. Speaker, I want to deal directly with what the Estimates contain and discuss this year's Estimates as my responsibility against what was set out in the Estimates of last year.

Now, Sir, the budgetary programme for the fiscal year 1994 to 1995 was predicated on there being a deficit of

around 1% of GDP calculated in accordance with the IMF methodology. The fiscal programme which the Government presented to Parliament on 10th March 1994 presumed a current revenue and grants of \$1 022 million, a current expenditure of \$1 099.5 million, capital expenditure and lending of \$172.1 million with an intended deficit of \$249.4 million. That deficit, Sir, represented 8.9% of GDP calculated in accordance with the Accountant General's method of calculating the deficit but as I said, Sir, on an IMF basis if you took out amortisation and you were left only with the Post Office and Airport and others on a net basis, Sir, the deficit would have been estimated to be 1% of GDP.

Now, Sir, the out-turn has been somewhat disappointing. At the start of that financial year we said then that Government seemed to have underestimated its projection of its revenues and that, Sir, has been the case. At the start of the financial year Government projected that its revenue was going to be \$1.022 billion. It now looks likely, on the basis of existing trends, that Government's revenue is likely to amount to \$1.054.7 billion. Tax revenue is expected to increase by \$24.6 million and non-tax revenue is expected to increase by \$20.2 million. 10.50 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the salient feature of Current Revenue for the financial year to the end of March has been the near equal offset between the growth in taxes on goods and services, spurred by consumption, and the decline in special receipts as a result of the abolition of the levy revenue. If I may put that in simple English, Sir, the Government at the start of the year removed the payment of levies and it was intended that the growth in consumption based taxes should have offset the reduction in the receipts from levies.

Taxes on goods and services, Sir, are expected to grow by 9% to reach \$412.8 million for the financial year to the end of March, 1995. Consumption taxes were last adjusted in 1993 and therefore this growth in the receipts from consumption based taxes reflects a substantial growth in consumption in the economy during the course of the year, which might help us to explain why it became necessary for us, late in the course of the financial year, to introduce measures to curb the excessive growth of consumption in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, there has been, as expected, a reduction in the special receipts in the order of \$40 million, reflecting the full fiscal year's effect on the elimination of the health, employment and transport levies. In 1993-94 the levies, inclusive of the training levy, accounted for \$55 million of Current Revenue, but in 1994-95, as a result of the policy put in place to remove them, levies are expected to generate only \$14.7 million in revenue.

Mr. Speaker, if I may continue the report, taxes on incomes and profits are expected, in the financial year to end March 31, 1995, to generate \$300 million in revenue, that is, \$13 million more than collected in the previous financial year. Income taxes are expected to rise by \$9.5 million and this increase in income taxes is marginal when compared to the growth in income taxes in the previous financial year because, as you know, Sir, in the income year 1993-94, income taxes rose by some \$48 million, reflecting for a full year the DLP measures instituted to reform direct income tax. Those persons, therefore, who are interested in statistics and want to measure the effects of tax reforms are now in a position to compare how income tax has grown relative to the increase in the yield from revenue to be able to decide whether income tax has been neutral or not. I put that in that context, Sir, because that was the intention and we are all here to discuss these things, to discuss policy in terms of execution and effect

Sir, the marginal increase in 1994-95, as distinct from the savage increase in 1993-94, was not unexpected since no major change in the direct tax system has been instituted since 1993, and given the economy-wide freeze on wages and salaries since 1993, one could not feasibly expect a serious increase in the yield from income tax.

Taxes on international trade and stamp duty separately are expected to total \$83 million and \$87 million respectively. These out-turns reflect the growth in retained imports during the course of the financial year.

Property taxes are expected to grow by \$2.4 million in the financial year to end in March and approximately half of this increase reflects a reduction in land tax arrears.

Now, Sir, in the Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1995 we are projecting an increase in non-tax revenue of \$15 million to \$71.2 million, and this is based largely on a \$7 million increase in Central Bank profits which are, for the year to end March 31, 1995, expected to be in the vicinity of \$22 million.

Revenues from grants and from previous loans and advances extended by Government are expected to total \$14.4 million in the financial year to end in March, and chiefly responsible for this is the pre-payment to Government of the \$12.8 million that was lent to the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited earlier. As you will recall, Sir, during the period July to December, 1994 the Government had provided the BAMC with bridging finance of \$14 million and the non-tax revenue is therefore reflecting repayment of these things.

In relation to Current Expenditure, at the start of the fiscal year Current Expenditure was expected to be in the vicinity of \$1.099 billion and it is now, on trend, expected

to be in the vicinity of \$1.192.7 billion. In many respects this reflects our bringing to account some \$68 million in supplementary allocations related to items of Current Expenditure, all of which have been approved by Parliament and most of which took the form of our having to provide Government Departments in many instances with funds to pay the NIS or the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, or to pay bills that were beginning to accumulate disastrously in Government Departments. Some part of it reflects increased use of goods and services by Government Departments and an escalation in retiring benefits.

Retiring benefits as a component of current transfers were estimated to rise to \$49.9 million, but payments to outgoing parliamentarians and to a number of retiring top civil servants have been mainly responsible for the increase in the outlay for this purpose. It is now estimated that the number of persons receiving pensions has increased to 6 266 persons at December 31, 1994 as compared to 6 130 at December 1993. 11.00a.m.

Current transfers, Mr. Speaker, that is, transfers to such institutions as the National Assistance Board, the Child Care Board and the National Sports Council, are expected to rise by \$2 million in this financial year to March 31, reaching a total of \$287.2 million. This out-turn includes some \$46.9 million in supplementaries made to these various statutory and other institutions. I cite the point because it is a point of policy.

In formulating the 1994 Budget, the then Government took the decision to reduce current transfers by approximately \$40 million below the 1993-94 level in order to provide room for higher levels of capital expenditure. In doing so, Mr. Speaker, it under-provided for a large number of statutory institutions or, alternatively, many of them did not reduce their programme in line with the cuts in the subventions provided by Government.

As a result, Sir, arrears accumulated. Institutions did not pay the NIS or the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and, as I said, we had to come back to this Parliament to provide \$46.9 million in supplementaries in the form of transfers to these various state institutions, because we are satisfied, Sir, that there was no programme adjustment in the financial year to accommodate the \$40 million reduction that the Government slated for these institutions in the Estimates.

Debt service, Mr. Speaker, in the financial year to end in March is expected to total some \$357.2 million or \$29 million more than in the financial year 1993-94.

Now, Sir, in particular, foreign amortisation is expected to rise by \$14.7 million, in large part because of the early redemption of a bullet loan to City Bank, Channel Islands Limited in the amount of US\$20 million which we have in recent weeks paid.

I will come to wages and salaries. Sir. Wages and salaries for the financial year to the end of March are expected to increase by \$8.2 million to \$399.1 million. Statutory personal emoluments should represent some \$282.9 million of this and other personal emoluments, that is, the expenses incurred in employing temporary staff are expected to amount to \$116.2 million.

Now, Sir, supplementary allocations totalling \$7.2 million were approved by this Parliament in respect of wages and salaries during the course of the financial year. The wages and salaries increase therefore reflects in the main the reintroduction of increments at October 1, 1994, and in this respect it will be recalled that the then Government took the decision to reintroduce increments to workers at a level where the increments would have been had they not been held in abeyance. This has meant for some workers the restoration of up to 3 increments, and it is estimated that of the increase in the expenditure on statutory personal emoluments - \$4.2 million, and of the increase in the expenditure for temporary staff - \$2.8 million is due entirely to the payment of increments.

In 1994-95, wages and salaries outcome also reflects a modest increase in the civil establishment during the course of the fiscal year. In this respect, Sir, the Ministry of the Civil Service has reported that, during the year to the period of March 16, 1995, approximately 172 temporary posts have been created, of which 116 had expired, leaving a net increase of 56 temporary posts estimated to cost some \$1.3 million for the entire financial year. I thought, Sir, I would read that into the record since we have to be thorough in these matters.

On the capital side, Sir, capital expenditure for the year was initially set at \$172 million, but it is now projected that only some \$115 million will be spent on capital activity and this is notwithstanding the fact that, by the close of this fiscal year, a total of some \$13 million in supplementary allocations for capital purposes would have been approved by this Parliament.

That Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a sense, reflects the fact that there has been considerable sluggishness in the execution of capital projects, particularly capital projects which require financing from international institutions. It reflects the wisdom of the then Opposition which warned Government that it was ill-advised to include in Estimates of Expenditure sums for the carrying out of capital projects

in circumstances where it knew that tremendous policy differences existed between Government and those institutions; and that those policy differences would have stood in the way of Government being able to carry out the capital programmes intended.

Capital formation for the year, therefore, that is, for spending on projects per se is now - and if I may explain to the House, Sir, the capital budget is made up of the spending on projects, of capital transfers by Government to some statutory institutions to help them do capital works and of loans extended by Government to institutions. The capital formation part of it, that is, the spending on projects by Government is expected to total only \$62 million, some \$13 million below the 1993-94 level. The House will therefore understand that, if we are going to add a bit to employment creation in this country, we have to lift capital formation from as low as \$66 million and be able to finance that in a more satisfactory manner than was contemplated over the course of the past fiscal years.

Capital lending on the other hand, Sir, increased to a total of \$22 million and of that amount the Barbados Agricultural Management Company obtained a short-term, interest-free loan from the Government totalling \$14 million. Government also in the last financial year also extended a loan of \$6.9 million to assist the Barbados Development Bank in redeeming a tranche of its maturing National Development Bonds.

Sir, I have given the House a comprehensive explanation of the financial out-turn vis-a-vis what was intended. To come to the point, Sir, as regards the fiscal balance for last year, we are now expecting that the overall fiscal deficit should be about \$253.2 million representing some 8% of GDP on an Accountant General's basis or just under 0.7% of GDP on an IMF basis. The point I am making is that even while we were bringing the supplementaries to the House and trying to clear the arrears we were still conscious of our responsibility not to allow government expenditure, by whatever name called, unduly to run down the foreign reserves of this country.

For the member for St. Michael South Central, who has come late, I would just let him know that the reserves as of Friday stood at \$412 million, which we would recognise to be reserves that lie in a zone of comfort.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the financing, and I have impressed upon the House that we have to look at both the size of the deficit and the efficiency of the financing, for the fiscal year ending March, 54% of the financing was secured from domestic sources; \$137 million of the financing of the deficit was secured from domestic sources. Obviously, that situation could only continue if a situation of excess liquidity obtained in the domestic banking

system and the financing system generally. Therefore the efficiency of our financing of this year's Estimates is to be measured in terms of whether we want to continue having the highest proportion of the deficit financed from domestic sources in the context of tight liquidity. The House will see that we are this year trying to reduce the amount of domestic financing of the fiscal deficit

In relation to the projection for 1995-96, I have to be very careful in speaking to this House to say more than once that I believe that deficits that run as high as 2% of GDP are manageable and the record will prove that, Sir. I have told the House already that I have rejected the IMF advice that this year Barbados should have a fiscal surplus. Before making provision of a wage increase, and before seeking to do some other creative things with the reallocation of Government expenditures and taxes which will come later, we are bringing to this House a deficit which is just under 1% of GDP. 11.10a.m.

My colleagues and I believe that, in the context of the situation in which we know we are going to bring to Parliament a wage increase later, and where we are going to have to bring to this House a set of budgetary measures soon that are going to address the conditions under which businesses can expand and new ones created, we should run a deficit that reflects a restraint on our current expenditure to allow us to be able to accommodate those obligations as they fall due. Therefore, Sir, when I hear the financial gurus of the DLP, people who do not even know how to submit an election return on time, treating what comes to this House as the end all of Government's fiscal policy, I come to the view that the Opposition is accepting bad advice, and we can now better begin to understand why the DLP got itself in the financial mess it got itself into over the course of the last four years.

I am being told of my inconsistencies, how I said in Opposition that we could run a deficit of more than 1% but that the deficits in these Estimates are just under 1%, as if that was the end be all and all. We have already said that we have to make a provision for wage increases, and I have said as much, that we are going to do some creative things with taxes. I also am warning with certain expenditures to create a basis upon which enterprises can expand in this country and new ones can be created because, as I have said, I do not know of any other way to create permanent sustainable jobs than to have conditions existing in the country for enterprises to expand and new ones to be created. There are no other sources of new jobs. The Budget is going to address itself directly to that particular issue.

We were going to have 5-4-3 plans and 1-2-3 plans as compared to the Development Plan which said that the level of unemployment was going to be sustained at 22%.

But I have brought to this House a set of Estimates, the purposes of which are to try to maintain existing government services. When one goes through each Government Department Head by Head, I am seeking to maintain expenditure on the labour force in Government, and I will deal with the mischief of the financial guru of the DLP shortly.

You will find, Mr. Speaker, that in every one of the social enterprises of Government we are maintaining expenditure at a level that bears relationship not only to what was voted last year, but to what it was supplemented by, and that is the test of management.

Let me give you an example, Sir. Last year the Democratic Labour Party Government brought to this House Estimates for the National Conservation Commission of \$5.9 million, Estimates that could allow anybody, and I want to say this to the Barbados Workers' Union and others, to employ anybody at the NCC for more than three days a week, yet some had to go home. In the course of the financial year we supplemented them to about \$8 million. In this financial year we have provided the NCC with \$9 million to maintain services through that institution. In every instance where we have supplemented an enterprise budget during the financial year now ending, we are seeking to give them an allocation this year that bears a relationship with what they have got this year now ending in full because our intention is not to reduce Government's services, or to reduce employment in the public services of this country. That is not our intention and the Estimates reflect that.

We have found, however, that Supplementary Estimates for last year, and I am going to explain that, provide for acquisition of supplies, materials and equipment by Government departments, some of which are of a permanent nature. The House will observe, therefore, that our Estimates of Expenditure for this year reflect a modest decline in current expenditures resulting from an increase by \$13 million on our expenditure on wages and salaries. There is a decline on our purchases of goods and services.

All of my Ministers have been instructed that they must economise. There is too much wastage in Government departments. I have made it very clear, and I want to say it again. Do not bother to send me contracts that are not the lowest bid or, if they are not the lowest bid, cannot be justified by technical reasons. I will not approve them. I am saying that particularly to BLP supporters. We must all get competitive and efficient in this country. I want to say that loudly. There has been too much wastage in this country because of shoddy practices surrounding the purchase of governments' goods and services and it must stop. There has been a lot of fat and it must stop.

I have already had the opportunity to set my mind against situations where people could have wanted to have contracts that were not the lowest bids. I will continue to do so because we have a responsibility, if we are to set the conditions for sustainable growth in this country, to maintain an efficient civil establishment but to restrain the growth of expenditure on supplies and materials and other things where we know that there is considerable fat in the bureaucracy. These Estimates deal with that particular matter.

Let me take it systematically for you, Sir. Before making provision for wage increases, before the Budget, and in defiance of the IMF who told us we must have a surplus, we are reflecting a modest deficit in these Estimates of just about 8% of GDP. We estimate that current revenues and grants which will amount, we expect, to \$1 054 000 000 the current year, will rise to \$1 106 000 000 for the year to come, a \$52 million increase in revenues, and of that amount, just let me make the point very clearly that we have been working very assiduously with Government revenue collecting agencies, the Commissioners of Land Tax and Inland Revenue. The Commissioner of Inland Revenue is not yet able to identify all of the arrears but we have been able to identify all of the arrears of land tax. 11.20a.m.

We have classified them in terms of arrears by size and there is a programme in place to collect land tax arrears or, in the case of the hard core, delinquent defaulters, to take drastic action. There are some, in this country, who do not feel that they should pay land tax, nor consumption tax, nor the NIS, nor the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. It has been so with all Administrations but I am...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Just continue.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am not calling the man's name. But I feel, and I feel the Opposition feels that, generally speaking, the vast majority of Barbadians get in line to pay their land tax and to pay the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. Those hard core people who feel that they should not pay land tax or that they should not pay the Inland Revenue, or they should not pay the consumption taxes will find that they have a determined Administration to deal with.

I want to say this. Last week - I am not going to call the man's name - I assembled a meeting of the small hoteliers of Barbados with all of the heads of those revenue collecting institutions, including the Water Authority, and

we are putting in place a programme to enable those institutions to have a breathing space like the management of the payment of arrears. I believe that small hoteliers in Barbados who have borrowed from the BDB were hand done by the decision to capitalize the interest and the penalties that they owed forcing many of them to end up having to pay over and over and over again for a sum they had thought they owed to the BDB and that they are entitled, I feel, as a moral obligation, to a programme under which they can benefit by some sensible regime for the clearing of the arrears.

Last Wednesday, the Ministry of Finance's officials, the heads of all the Government departments responsible for revenue collection, met with representatives of the small hoteliers and we are going to put in place a programme to assist them from having to face the full severity of the collection programme because I felt that they had been hard done by, by the BDB in particular. But the rest of the country that is not at the centre of the export drive must understand that poor people in Barbados fear the tax man and are paying and those who owe must comply.

Therefore, the projected increase in Government's revenue by \$54 million reflects our determination to bring in some of the arrears of land tax. There are some folks who are saying that Government is unrealistic in that assumption but we intend to give it our best shot.

Sir, if I can go through the revenue assumption carefully, our revenue assumption is that the economy may grow by 2% this year with an additional increase in revenues coming from the arrears. We assume that the inflation rate for the year is not going to be more than 1% and that growth in retail imports should be in the vicinity of 7.6%.

More to the point, and this is a matter of policy, our revenue estimate is based on the understanding that the surtax on imported goods will be reduced from 100% to 50% from April 1, 1995. That policy is already built into the revenue Estimates. The surtax on selective goods imported from countries outside the Caribbean Community was introduced in March 1994, as the House would recall, to replace the elimination of non-tax barriers on imports.

The surtax was intended to be temporary and the commitment was given that the surtax would be reduced in the first instance by 50% in the first year and, in each subsequent year, by a half of the remaining amount until it was entirely eliminated. We will put that policy into effect. The reduction of the surtax by 50% is expected to cost revenue \$3 million in the course of this fiscal year.

Income taxes are supposed to grow, only modestly, because of the intended reduction in the income tax base as a result of the two measures that were introduced in

the Budget of 1994. As you know, Sir, income tax is payable and income tax rates have effect on a calendar year basis rather than on a fiscal year basis and in the March, 1994 Budget, two measures were introduced. The first was that an income tax allowance of \$1 000 per child up to a maximum of two children was to be introduced from this income year 1995 replacing the child allowance of \$500 per child. That tax measure is already in our revenue Estimates and will cost the revenue \$1.3 million in the fiscal year. An income tax allowance of \$3 000 for an individual who had no income in the fiscal year and who was, during the year, either wholly supported by his or her spouse was introduced and that will cost the revenue \$1.8 million. We will give effect to those things that were introduced, by a previous Administration, in good conscience. The public would already have made financial provision to accommodate them. We feel that good government is always that government that allows people to be able to make reasonable expectations about what a government does. We will carry it through, Sir, without prejudice to the other measures that we might ourselves want to introduce.

Import duties are expected to grow in line with retail imports but again, in the course of the next financial year, the import duties base is going to be diminished by two factors. First of all, in the financial year to come, we will have to face the full effects of the concessions that we gave to manufacturing and agriculture when we relieved those sectors of duties from October last year and those concessions are estimated to cost the Treasury \$10 million in a full financial year.

Secondly, as the House might be aware, under our obligations to CARICOM, we are committed to lowering the top rate of the Common External Tariff from 35% to 30%. CARICOM countries were given the latitude to choose a period between January 1 to the end of June in order to introduce the reduction in the Common External Tariff. Jamaica and Trinidad have already made the adjustment but we feel that it would be tidier to make the adjustment at the start of the financial year and, therefore, the reduction in the top rate of import duties from 35% to 30% is going to take effect from April 1, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, that reduction in the top rate of import duty is expected to cost the revenue \$2.9 million in the course of the full financial year.

I will not tarry the House on the other assumptions governing our revenue Estimates except to say, that in most instances, we expect that revenues will grow either in line with the growth of GDP or the growth of retained imports where that is the relevant bench mark or with the sectoral performance where that is the relevant bench mark. We have tried, to be as scrupulous as best we can, in giving a revenue estimate that the House can accept.

In relation to expenditure, as I said earlier, our current expenditure for the year to come is expected to decline by \$V₂ million, as compared with the projected expenditure for the year ending in March to amount to \$1 192 000 000. This result emerges from the virtual offset between a \$33.9 million increase in wages, salaries and debt service on the one part and a \$34.3 million decrease in Government's purchases of goods and services and in Government transfers. In relation to transfers this year, we are being assisted by the fact that we are not making a transfer to the St. Joseph Hospital nor are we making a transfer to Sherbourne. 11.30a.m.

In relation to wages, Sir, the wage bill for this year is expected to increase by \$19.1 million over the wage bill for the financial year to end on the 31st of March. Personal emoluments, Sir, are expected to increase by \$9 million.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I really believe that I have a responsibility to clear up a misunderstanding that has crept into public discussion of Government's intention arising out of statements by a spokesman on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party. Historically and traditionally, a large number of temporary posts, whether for the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Welfare Department and so on, have been funded under the vote in the Ministry of the Civil Service. I feel, Sir, that it is far tidier, if you know in advance where the posts are located, to have the posts and the expenditure for the posts allocated to the Ministry or the Department in which the persons are to be employed. If you know that a person is employed as a Deputy Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet Office, show that as a cost against the Cabinet Office vote. As a result, Sir, I have instructed that, in the preparation of this year's Estimates, where we know in advance where the temporary posts are to be located, they should be moved out of the vote of the Ministry of the Civil Service and transferred to the relevant Head so that we can do proper cost accounting.

Now, Sir, I have given the Leader of the Opposition a complete listing because we have nothing to hide, of every instance in which we have made adjustments, Sir. That alone accounts for the fact that the Ministry of the Civil Service - Other Personal Emoluments - vote is supposed to be decreased by some \$2 million. All we have done is to transfer them to the relevant Ministries. But if the financial guru advising the Democratic Labour Party, who does not know what it is to be able to submit an election return on time, had been doing his homework, Sir, he would recognise that the

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to hide. I have given the Leader of the Opposition the full and complete facts, so that he would have recognised,

Mr. Speaker, that there has been a growth in total personal emoluments including a growth in other personal emoluments.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The language of the Honourable Prime Minister is a bit imprecise, not intentionally. I want to make it quite clear to the House that he gave me ...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ... no, no, not that language. I agree. He is talking about a first class honours degree holder. He is a guru in his own right.

The document was given to me an hour and a half ago. I am only making it clear that I did not have prior knowledge and I could not pass that on to any guru, whether economic or otherwise.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, the Estimates of Expenditure provides an increase in \$7.7 million for the employment of Government's temporary staff. Of that amount, Mr. Speaker, \$2.2 million is to cover the cost of increments. A \$7.7 million increase in Government expenditure on temporary staff, of which \$2.2 million is for the payment of increments, cannot by any stretch of the imagination be consistent with an intention of Government to send home temporary staff. But it has been put abroad, Mr. Speaker, it has been put in the public domain that this wicked Government is looking, Sir, to send home temporary staff, when all that is involved, Sir, is that in the case of one Head of Expenditure we have asked, and I feel that it is tidier and I am sure that the House feels it is tidier as well, to let them go to the relevant Ministries.

Sir, I really must enter that into the records of this Parliament because there is no intention on the part of this administration to send home people. I will soon deal with the question of our latitude in using public expenditure to substantially increase employment. There is no intention on the part of this Government to send home people.

Equally, Mr. Speaker, the House will observe that we have so structured our transfers to the various Government Corporations as to reflect an intention on the part of this administration to maintain the quality of the delivery of public services by the relevant Government departments that depend on transfers through the Budget.

I speak, Sir, of various Government departments - The Barbados Investment and Development Corporation is to get a transfer of \$5 million in this financial year. That is more than was budgeted last year. Last year there was no subsidy for the Transport Board. This year there is a

subsidy of \$1 million as a transfer. The National Sports Council is to get a transfer of \$5.2 million. As I said, Sir, the National Conservation Commission last year was originally provided by the Democratic Labour Party Government with \$5.6 million to meet its operation expenditures. We had to supplement that to bring it to about \$8 million. Now, we are giving them \$9 million as a transfer to maintain the existing services.

Pensions, Sir, were \$62 million last year, we are providing before the Budget, \$66 million for pensions. Last year the Barbados Defence Force got \$17 million through the Estimates. It was supplemented. This year we are giving them \$19 million. The Regional Training Centre gets \$2 million. Schools and colleges get \$19.5 million. The University of the West Indies gets \$28 million, Scholarships and Bursaries \$7.2 million. Transportation of school children which we had to come to this House last year and provide a supplementary for, because none was provided, they get \$2.1 million. We are going to have a Barbados Youth Service that will attract \$3 million this year, a far greater increase than has ever been provided for any youth service in this country. As the Leader of the Opposition says, there never was one before but we have committed by way of Manifesto, Sir, to start a national youth service.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Youth Service was in planning for 13 years and I was the Minister who introduced it in 1991 within weeks of assuming office as Minister responsible for Youth. I am saying that there have been increases over time and therefore to say there has never been an increase of that magnitude before is quite correct. I have no problem with that at all.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I hear a lot of talk about our not bringing anything creative with the Budget, Sir. We intend to treat the problems of these young people very seriously and to try to get on top of the problems. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that there should be an organic relationship between the education of young people, their training and provision for the needs of young people, that the Ministry of Education, Culture and Youth Affairs should have a comprehensive holistic policy for the human development of our young people and that Youth Affairs belong organically, not in Community Development, but in the Ministry of Education where we can approach the human development of young people as one process. Therefore, Sir, we are going to have a Youth Affairs Division established there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to preempt the debate on this by the Minister responsible but I just want to say that this is coming from cash. I would like to

see more of the activities of that Youth Affairs Department take the form of activities that can attract loan financing because I am aware that the Minister has a programme larger than \$3 million that will allow us, Sir, to be able to deal with this matter. If in the course of the financial year we can identify loan financing 'for the rest of the programme we would want to bring it back to the House and ask the House's permission to support the rest of it because I think it is worthy of the House's support. We are serious about dealing with the problems of young people and we are making a start here. 11.40a.m.

The National Cultural Foundation gets \$1 million and I have asked them to prepare a business plan that we should have in hand within six months, because I believe that, if the National Cultural Foundation is seriously functioning, it could be a commercially successful enterprise. I feel, for example, that rather than give the Soca Village to private enterprise for private enterprise to report a loss on it, the NCF should run Soca Village itself and earn some money to help pay its way. I am sure the House agrees with me in this, because Soca Village having access to Land Reclaimers' land to realise a profit by a private sector organisation reflects poorly upon what the private sector can do. The NCF has been required to prepare a business plan. We have given it \$1 million and will assess the level of support for the NCF upon the basis of how it proposes to commercialise its activities, but we feel there is much more scope for it to raise more funds for its own activities. Therefore, the allocation in this year's Estimates reflects that understanding that we must have a businesslike approach at the NCF.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Tourism Authority is being given \$30 million this year. I must put that in context as well. Last year, and I will speak very briefly, the House was asked in the Estimates to vote \$28 million for the Tourism Authority. During the course of the financial year over \$4 million in supplementaries was voted, much of which took the form of arrears. We feel that a \$30 million programme for the Barbados Tourism Authority, properly structured and conceived, can serve the ends of Barbados' tourism. It reflects a \$2 million increase on what was initially voted last year, and we would do well in the course of this debate to exercise our minds as to how best this House can discuss the expenditure of \$30 million by the Barbados Tourism Authority in the context of a situation where we raised only \$16 million from the Hotel and Restaurants sales tax.

Mr. Speaker, the Welfare Department is to get \$9.2 million, Sanitation Services \$16 million, the Child Care Board \$8.4 million, the National Assistance Board in terms of Current Expenditure \$3.6 million, the National Training Board \$3 million, the Agricultural Management Company

is to get \$5 million and the transfers to other profit institutions, to individuals and to regional institutions collectively are to amount to about \$18 million.

Mr. Speaker, in the year to come, debt service is projected at about \$369 million, an increase of some \$12 million more than last year, and I will turn quickly now to the Capital Expenditure. As I said earlier, we project that, in the financial year to end in March, Capital Expenditure will amount to \$150 million. We feel that we can, without putting the external position of the country at risk, increase our spending on Capital projects with a view to stimulating some job creation, not large scale, as a result of Government's capital activity. I subscribe to the belief, as I said earlier - and I heard it said in this House earlier as well - that the age of showpiece projects is over and we have tried to put in place a capital programme in which there is but one big ticket item, and that is the sewerage project, which will account for some \$20 million in the Capital programme. But a large number of other Capital activities stretching all across the sectors and the Ministries, many of them \$2 million or \$3 million, to improve the quality of life and to deal with real problems, have been conceived to help stimulate employment to the extent possible through the Budget.

If I may cite some of them, Sir, we are going to continue with the tax administration and the public expenditure management project and \$8 million will be spent on that this year. The Carlisle Bay redevelopment and the Speightstown Development Programme are two exciting programmes in which there need not be a lot of public expenditure but where the State can be a catalyst in the transformation of those two assets of Barbados. The one is the centre of heritage tourism, that is Speightstown, and the other, the Carlisle Bay Development, is the centre of our service activity.

I am pleased to tell the House that I wrote the Florida Cruise Ship Association, in my capacity both as Prime Minister and parliamentary representative for St. Peter, and brought to their attention the potential of Speightstown as a port of call for cruise ships and they have responded indicating that they are willing to put Speightstown on their list as a port of call for cruise ships coming to Barbados. The private sector is now active in exploring the possibilities of putting in a jetty and doing all that is necessary otherwise to make Speightstown....

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: ...I heard about it not being creative, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The private sector, Sir, is now taking the ball and a group is trying to take advantage of that initiative that is going to be created. We are putting funds in here not so much to spend on Speightstown, because the private sector will make the investment, but to assist in the studies. A Speightstown Development Programme is receiving funds and we will put in the Estimates \$200 000 to support studies intended to support the development of Speightstown.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, with Carlisle Bay. For many years the potential of Carlisle Bay to become the service centre for Barbados has been enormous and the last administration inherited a Carlisle Bay Development Programme which they have allowed to stay in abeyance. But a marina - and the development of restaurants and other facilities all through the Carlisle Bay area - is something that can create employment in this country. Government itself owns valuable real estate in the Carlisle Bay area, including the old Harbour Police Station - and we are prepared if necessary to sell them, to convert them into funds for housing - the old Welfare Department building and the Child Care Department, which need not be on a beach, and we are going to bring a new dispensation to bear on the Carlisle Bay Development as a way of creating jobs in the service economy. Again, Government itself will not be the spender. We will create through this money the studies as well as appropriate measures soon, the correct environment within which the private sector can rise to the challenge in this particular endeavour.

Mr. Speaker, the vendors, a problem for years. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing has, over the course of the last six months prepared a comprehensive report dealing with the problems of accommodation and facilities for vendors. We would love to be able to do it all at once, but we cannot. Again, this is coming from Government's cash. We have identified that it will take about \$2 million to do the Cheapside market. We cannot do all this financial year, but we are going to make a start, and there is \$1 million of Government's funds allocated to start work on the Cheapside market. We are exploring the possibility of having Venezuelan funds that were earmarked for other purposes used for the Fairchild Street market, but a comprehensive programme is being developed, including dealing with vending along the highways, which is going to be started this year, \$40 million Sherbourne, but small projects that affect people fundamentally in important directions. I expect, therefore, NDP support 11.50a.m.

Rural development. There are a large number of other activities contained in other Ministries that would affect where rural people live. Some will take the form of support

for polyclinics and for tenancies road programmes. We have identified that the needs of rural Barbados need to be treated as a separate and distinct sector activity. We came to office without even the modicum of the outlines of a recent development programme by the previous Administration.

For eight years they did not spend a penny on a rural development programme. We came and we put in place as one of our first acts a supplementary for \$200 000 for us to conceive and develop a rural development programme. This year, out of Government's cash, as the first step in a series of continuing steps to address the problem of rural poverty, we are providing in this year's Estimates \$3 million in support of the rural development programme.

I am going to hear that it should have been \$10 million as if we are cutting from \$10 million to \$3 million. But we are moving, Sir, from zero to \$3 million and the first step in. Again, Sir, as in the case of the Youth programme, I would have wished if we could have provided more because this is coming from cash. If in the course of the financial year we can attract project financing for other aspects of the rural development programme, we are going to bring it to Parliament and ask Parliament to supplement it because we are starting from scratch.

The \$3 million that we will get out there in terms of rural enterprises, development and rural community development, small agro-projects in rural Barbados will make a difference. Sir, it will take \$90 000 to provide 700 street lights in rural Barbados to relieve the problem that so many of us who represent rural constituencies face and it is those kinds of small projects that this Administration wants to execute rather than Sherbourne and the foolishness that has passed, which I say, Sir, has given rise to financial disorder in Barbados.

I say to the House that I would have been glad to have been in a position to say \$10 million; but we are paying for this out of cash and we have to balance the median of needs with financial prudence. As resources allow, we will increase this until a day will come when there are no longer two Barbados, when rural poverty as we understand it is put behind us once and for all and we can again have in Barbados a situation where people can earn an income and make a living in the communities in which they live. That is what we are seeking to do in this project and I am proud to be associated with it.

We are also providing funds for the refurbishment of police stations and the Fire Service. We have a \$7 million primary education project. We are going to finish the 7Aospitality Institute. That is going to cost us \$3 million. We are going to spend \$5 million on the St. Thomas

Secondary School and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we have had as a Government to deal with the question as to what we are going to do with those unfinished structures that the DLP started.

We are going to finish them as our resources allow and find a productive use *for* them. But we cannot start and finish all at once. We have determined this financial year, therefore, that we will try to finish the headquarters of the Ministry of Education because there is a pressing need for public accommodation and hence we are putting \$3 million for that.

We have approached the CDB. Even if we do not finish the projects, it is costing us \$40 000 a month to keep those projects in their present state so at some stage we are going to have to bite the bullet. All we are saying, Sir, is that we can, as our resources allow us, do these things only on a phased basis. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in terms of allocation of our priorities, we have had to prioritise.

We will deal, first, with the Ministry of Education headquarters and, perhaps late in the financial year, we are going to address the question of the St. Thomas Secondary School. It does not make sense our telling the taxpayers we are spending \$30 000 a month to keep them closed. We will convert that building into a school. The Ministry of Education is going to speak to that as a matter of policy. But, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we do not have the \$30 million to spend on Sherbourne. It would break us.

We have asked that Sherbourne's completion be recast as a new project and it is going to cost us money if it stays in its present circumstance. We have asked that it be recast as a project. When we get the project in its fullest dimension and we can see what can be done with it in terms of all the alternative uses that it can be put to, we will make a determination on the matter.

We have also investigated the circumstances of primary schools and the Government has come to the conclusion that the maintenance of schools is as much a capital activity as the building of new schools. We have therefore put primary schools maintenance together as one big project and we will do that, Sir, on a phased basis. We are now seeking financing for the maintenance of primary schools because the state of Barbados' primary schools is a crying shame.

While we are seeking that financing, we are providing resources of our own from Government's cash to the extent of \$1.5 million to start a primary schools maintenance programme in addition to the schools building programme that is going on, because we feel that the capital

programme should reflect our dealing with the small needs of this society rather than the big projects. As I said, Sir, the West Coast Sewerage project - \$20 million. We are putting funds in this year's Estimates to deal with solid waste management so that we will never again have to have a Mount Stinkeroo confronting us as a society.

We are providing money for a water resources study and, while I am at that, let me advise the House that it must discuss the \$1.9 million that we are providing for capital works for our water study in conjunction with an \$18 million capital programme that the Planning and Priorities Committee has already approved for the Water Authority while the study of its institutional development is continued, so as to get on with the business of detecting the leaks and repairing the mains, putting in a transverse station so that the districts in St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. Peter, St. Andrew and St. Lucy will no longer have to be adversely affected. An \$18 million capital programme for the Water Authority in our Budget! So the House has to see that as a complementary development.

We are putting in funds for road rehabilitation and the completion of Highway 2A. We are putting in funds, not as much as we would want to because we are now trying to define the parameters of a tenantry roads programme in full, but we have put in \$1.5 million for subsidiary roads. We have put in \$1.8 million for Scotland District special works. We have put in funds to finance studies in relation to urban renewal. Again, we have come to office inheriting a situation where there had not been an urban renewal programme. Urban Barbados, the inner city of Barbados, cries out for improvement, and we are putting funds in this year's Estimates to finance studies in relation to urban renewal.

In addition, Sir, the future growth of Barbados will depend upon our being able to expand the airport and the seaport, and this year's Estimates will provide \$1.5 million to finance a study for the airport expansion and \$2.5 million for the Bridgetown Port expansion.

We are also giving the National Housing Corporation a subsidy to assist its capital programme on the understanding that out of its own resources, the Housing Credit Fund resources, the Corporation is going to have an \$11 million housing programme to supplement the programme that the Government is also going to be trying to support it with. That is Government's projects.

In relation to Government's capital transfers, we are intending through the Estimates this year to provide assistance to the independent plantations to enable them to survive in the face of last year's drought and to enable them to plant with a view to assisting the country as a whole to lift sugar production from 36 million tonnes to 66 million tonnes.

Within this year's capital budget of \$165 million is to be found \$4 million for the independent producers to assist them in that endeavour. I want to say this from the Floor, Mr. Speaker, that formulae have been developed to calculate productivity in the sugar industry and it shows there has been an improvement in efficiency at both the field and the factory levels and the workers are entitled to a piece of that productivity, Sir. 12.00 noon

I want to send the message from this Parliament that we expect the independent growers who will come in possession of this \$4 million through the Budget to recognise that out of this \$4 million must come part of the productivity payments to the sugar workers at the field and factory level.

We are also providing \$1 million to the Barbados Agricultural Development & Marketing Corporation. When that Corporation was formed, the understanding was that it would be self-financing, that the profits of the BMC would have been used to support the losses of the BADC. It has not now turned out to be self-financing. Again, I have asked the Corporation to come up with a business plan with a view to our being able to determine its commercial future. In the interim, it is getting \$1 million on budget rather than what it has requested. When members read the Estimates they will find that there are a large number of other small capital activities contemplated in every sector to improve the delivery of public services and to create scope for increased employment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the intended financing of this year's Estimates is set out on page 8 of the Summary at the front of the Estimates. Before I come to those I want to deal with the question of employment creation. There is nothing that has excited public controversy more of late than the feeling that the Barbados Labour Party should have within six months solved the 30 000 unemployment problem that we inherited from the Democratic Labour Party. I want to say that it is an indictment of the Democratic Labour Party, and it will stand forever as the enduring monument of the bankruptcy of the economic policies pursued by the Democratic Labour Party between 1986 and 1994, that it left 30 000 Barbadians and more out of work and that people who now come to expect that we should solve it in six months and have left that enduring monument should be ashamed.

More to the point, Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party left no programme in place whatsoever to deal with the problem of unemployment. Their Development Plan called for unemployment in the short-term at 24%. I have searched the files of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and there is nobody who has ever heard of any 5-4-3 employment plan. There is

no evidence of it. It is as mythical as the St. John Development Plan.

The Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto, Sir, refers to their adoption of the Lewis approach and I want to deal with that because some time in 1994 I went to a Conference at Wiston House in West Sussex and a former member for Christ Church East Central was there. I lent him a Paper by Lewis - it bears my signature still - an address to the CDB in 1972 in which Lewis, produced a much criticized article of the day, if I may say so, because academics who are advising the DLP should have told them that William Demas took that model and lambasted it in a piece called "An Over-simplified Model of Managing an Open Economy". But the DLP now has so caught itself in a time warp that it has come now in 1994 to adopt a Lewis model that scholars in 1972, when it was being conceived lambasted. You should read what Demas and Owen Jefferson and others said about it.

All the Lewis model said at the time was that there were four things of importance in dealing with unemployment. One is productivity, the next exchange rates. If the DLP would read the Lewis speech of that day, in fact, Lewis said that he believed in an active exchange rate policy and devaluation, if necessary. He said that you should have money policies and that you should have trade policies but with an emphasis on protectionism. Those were the four variables that the Democratic Labour Party, through the inadvertent acceptance of the Lewis Paper of 1972, has said that, 22 years after Lewis prepared the Paper, they now accept as relevant. Anybody on critical acceptance of a piece of literature passed by the then Leader of the Opposition to Mr. Bobby Morris - he passed it to his colleagues and he said "Oh, we have something" although up to that stage the DLP employment approach had been guided by the Structural Adjustment Programme and not Lewis.

I want to say this, Sir. Anybody now who was asked to deal with the question of employment would not only focus on money incomes, trade, exchange rates or productivity but, in the context of the 1990s and the year 2000 and beyond, human capital. The quality of the human capital becomes perhaps the critical variable in determining whether you can sustain employment or not because the world is moving more and more in the direction of knowledge based on skilled intensive industries and the Lewis model does not even remotely address itself to the question of human capital development. That is why I am saying to the DLP that it is caught in a time warp when it accepts uncritically the Lewis model of 1972. Nobody would think in terms of adopting an employment strategy unless the rate of growth of investment is included as one of the variables either. The people criticised the Lewis model in 1972.

Nobody would think in terms of adopting an employment strategy unless the rate of growth of investment is included as one of the variables either. The people criticised the Lewis model in 1972. Those were the kinds of things even then that they were talking about. None of us today would speak in terms of an employment model unless we dealt fundamentally with the rate of growth of exports and the expansion of our international business economy.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The DLP, Mr. Speaker, speaks as a discredited, disgruntled party in relation to the question of employment creation. I say it is a shame. It is an enduring blot on the record of that party that it left office with over 30 000 Barbadians unemployed and that therefore ...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: ...I am not in any position whatsoever to accept any advice at all from the DLP because you do not have any to give me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed properly, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: So, Sir, the 5-4-3 model is a joke. It does not exist. It exists only in the mind of an economist who does not even know how to fill in an election return. The Lewis model is a model that only a party caught in a time warp would accept.

I want to pose again to this Parliament that, in dealing with employment creation, we have to accept that employment creation comes only from two sources, the expansion of existing enterprises and the creation of new ones, and that the responsibility of creating new jobs must be translated in creating the environment within which existing enterprises can be expanded and new ones created.

Sir, the National Democratic Party would want to speak on the matter as well but the NDP has a record too. The Leader of the National Democratic Party inherited an economy in which unemployment was 15.6%. By the end of June it had risen to 17.6%. Then it rose to 19.1%. By the end of December 1986, unemployment was at 19% despite the fact that the Leader of the National Democratic Party had by then carried out and put in place his entire package of economic measures.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, let me remind the House that, even after the NDP Leader had put in place his economic measures, the DLP was still called upon to create a task force on employment. On the question of employment creation, I do not know on record if I can be properly

advised by the criticisms coming from the then Government or the National Democratic Party. 12.10 p.m.

The Leader of the NDP Opposition left the post of Minister of Finance with unemployment at a higher level than when he went, despite having put in place all of the economic measures that he had in the DLP Manifesto.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I say that to make the point that that experience, in my view - and I want to speak to that experience - represents that, if you put in place economic measures to change unemployment, particularly to effect capital formation, you must recognize that there will be a gestation period between the conception of the measures and the results of the new investments.

I am saying that we came into office with no employment programme in place. We are comprehensively putting in place a new programme that will create the environment within which existing enterprises can be expanded and new ones will be created. It will involve capital formation. It involves the recasting of our human resource development programme. It requires us to redefine the way in which our international business companies operate. It will require us to computerize this entire society to make Barbados more competitive.

I want to say to the House that, even though there has been some increase in capital formation, in tourism in particular, fundamental problems still exist in relation to the competitiveness of Barbados' tourism operators. I will give the House an example, that of a 300-room hotel in Barbados as compared to a 300-room hotel in Jamaica. A 300-room hotel in Jamaica breaks even at revenues approximately equal to BDS\$8 million in Barbados. But our payroll for a 300-room hotel is about \$11 million, the payroll alone.

So that in terms of attracting new investments and being able to sustain investments in this country, we are at a disadvantage still in relation to the countries that we are competing with and therefore must work assiduously on the matter of creating the appropriate environment within this country in which enterprises can be expanded and new ones created.

I expect - and it is the Opposition's responsibility and in fact their latitude - the Opposition to taunt us on the question of employment creation. We did in fact say that Government's number one job was jobs. I expect the taunts to continue. But this Administration will not be deflected from its course. We will not be deflected from our course that the answer to unemployment is the creation of new

opportunities in the international business sector including tourism and informatics. We will not be deflected from our responsibility in creating new opportunities for small business. I want to touch on that, as symbolic of what these Estimates represent.

Mr. Speaker, these Estimates represent \$75 000 for the Small Business Association and the House is saying that is not a lot of money. But the facts are that the Small Business Association had gone into abeyance for a number of years. What we are doing in this year's Estimates is providing enough funds to be able to service a secretariat for the Small Business Association so that the Association can have an infrastructure in place that will enable us, by other measures, to be able to deploy more resources in their favour to support employment creation among small businesses of this country.

The DLP should have been ashamed to have allowed the small business sector to go into abeyance. They could not come up with \$75 000 even to put in place a secretariat for the Small Business Association when they were spending \$50 million on Sherbourne. That is why, in these Estimates, we are looking for the small things that make a difference. It makes no sense throwing money behind small business development if there is not a functioning secretariat in place.

What we are doing, therefore, is putting the secretariat in place and then move resources, of large quantities, to create the conditions under which enterprises can be created in the small businesses of Barbados. That is, generally speaking, how we perceive of the process of employment creation and we will not be deflected from our course.

Having said all of that, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to warn the House that the scope for employment creation through Government expenditure as the Estimates really are, the scope for Government expenditure in employment creation through the Estimates, is relatively limited, unless the other side wants us to indulge in large scale expansion of current expenditures which the Leader of the Mb? had said is not on. We all agree that we have to control the growth of current expenditure. The only real scope for expansion in employment creation through the Estimates is by way of capital activity. We have tried, in this year's Estimates, within the limits of fiscal prudence, within the limits of identifiable resources, to give the appropriate stimulus that Estimates of Expenditure allow to be given.

Other measures will come very soon, supplementary to what is contained in these Estimates, building on the foundation that these Estimates are intended to create and that will address the fundamental matters that are of

importance which I want again to repeat, that we must work assiduously in Barbados to create the conditions *under* which enterprises can expand and new ones can be created. Those are the only two sources of employment creation. It is not necessarily a 6 months exercise. We must work assiduously at it.

I give the House the assurance, Sir, that in every instance where we might depart or create a variance of our intention, we will correct it, because the House will know that we feel that enterprises expand and new ones are created within the context of an environment within which their cost of production can be kept low and stabilized, whether they be interest costs or energy costs or the cost of raw materials.

We have already moved to address the cost of inputs. We will have to do something soon with the cost of energy as it affects industrial and other production in Barbados. The question of interest costs will not go unaddressed either because we have to create the conditions under which enterprises can expand and new ones can be created. That is the best that we can do.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: That is our approach, Sir. The Government creates the environment within which those two things happen, limited as it is in its capacity to use direct spending as the basis of sustainable employment. That is our view.

If the other side feels that these Estimates should have been increased by another \$100 million to create short-term jobs then they have the obligation to tell us where we could find the resources. We made that a sustainable activity. We are going to hear, from the other side, that we should have increased rural development to \$10 million or we should have done this by increasing by another \$15 million and when you add it all up, they know deep in their hearts that what we are trying to do here is to create order and an environment within which things can function properly in this country.

I want to touch, and I must, on another matter that is addressed in these Estimates, our relationships with the international lending institutions. I have already said that in these Estimates I have said no to the IMF. When we came into office there was a representative of the IMF based in the Ministry of Finance, responsible almost on a day-to-day basis for Government's policy, determining how people in National Housing Corporation houses should pay rent and all kinds of other matters that fall outside the proper scope of the International Monetary Fund. 12.20 p.m.

We made it clear, Sir, that we would have preferred to try our hands at developing Barbados without having to rely upon an IMF programme, whether it would have been in the form of an enhanced surveillance facility as was being proposed by the former administration *undo** which you would have no IMF funding but the IMF would be here to set targets on a quarterly basis, *or* whether on the basis of standby arrangement. But we made it clear, and I spoke last year in my closing remarks in the Budget, I said the economic choice was in the nature of a referendum, the question as to whether we could conceive of a future of this country under the International Monetary Fund or outside the parameters of the International Monetary Fund. I said that the Barbados Labour Party felt confident that we could prepare our financial programmes and our development programmes without having an enhanced surveillance programme *or* a standby arrangement with the Fund in place, Sir.

I am pleased to report to this House, Mr. Speaker, that this Government has decided that we are not going to have any enhanced surveillance programme with the International Monetary Fund.

It goes beyond that, Sir. The previous administration, Sir, has so capitulated that it has even agreed with the Inter-American Development Bank that having an enhanced surveillance programme in place with the International Monetary Fund should have been a pre-condition to the Government of Barbados getting funds from the IADB by way of an investment sector loan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I need to speak to this because this is a serious matter. The Inter-American Development Bank is and will be a principal source of financing to carry out capital activity in this country. It has in recent years broadened the scope of its loan programmes to allow it to play a more active role in the area of social projects. It has also, Sir, broadened its role to allow it to be able to deal with things like micro enterprises, human resource development projects, projects affecting women, the provision of facilities for justice and the financing of good governance, but it has also embarked on what is called a process of policy base lending additional to its project base lending. Its policy base lending took the form of investment sector loans which countries involved in the process of restructuring their economies were to have access to, complementary to their access to IMF financing.

The IADB also developed another soft window called multilateral investment funds addressed particularly at small businesses and micro enterprises and at human resources development projects. But they too, like project loans, came with the condition of the country having an investment sector loan in place. The DLP administration, as part of its process of structural adjustment tried to access an IADB

investment sector loan, but with the condition that the country should have an enhanced surveillance programme in place with the International Monetary Fund.

For 2 years, Mr. Speaker, the DLP was not able to access the investment sector loan because it did not fully comply with all of the conditions of the IMF policy under its first standby arrangement and the IMF was unwilling to put an enhanced surveillance programme in place for it.

Mr. Speaker, I made it clear as one of the broad fundamentals of the Barbados Labour Party economic policy that we would seek to redefine and restructure our relationship with the multilateral lending institution.

I have made it clear, Sir, in past Estimates that I do not feel that money should be put in the Estimates in circumstances where there is an outstanding policy difference between the Government and the institution. These Estimates therefore, Mr. Speaker, do not provide for a human resource project that the World Bank was supposed to be funding because the DLP had agreed that in order to get access to \$18 million direct from the World Bank to set up the Tech-Voc Council, it would have been charging fees at the Polytechnic, the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies. We have told the World Bank "no", that those policies are not the policies of this Government of Barbados and they have gone back, Sir, and have started to revise the terms and conditions because the Government has said "no". We do not believe that fees should be charged at those institutions but the DLP would have money in the new human resource development project with the World Bank while it was not telling the public that it had agreed to charge fees at the Polytechnic, at the Community College and at the University of the West Indies.

The point I am coming to, Mr. Speaker, is that we made it clear to the IADB that we were not prepared to access the investment sector loans in circumstances where it would require us having to be involved in a programme with the IMF because we feel we can run Barbados' economic affairs without having the IMF tell us that this year we should have to run an overall surplus. The relationship, Sir, was pursued at a high level for progress to be shown.

I had a meeting with the President of the IADB in Belize during the progress of the Heads of Government Conference and I made it clear that the priority of the Government of Barbados is to clear all outstanding obstacles that stand in the way of our being able to meet the conditions of an investments sector loan with no IMF Programme in place. That has been accepted, Sir.

Some of the other conditions of accessing the investment sector loan were additional labour market reform to continue to change severance payments and unemployment benefits. That is now out because it does not constitute part of the policies of this administration.

Equally, Sir, the previous administration had said it would access the investments sector loan conditional upon it amalgamating the Barbados Development Bank and the Barbados National Bank. Now I have given the Barbados National Bank a mandate. The Barbados National Bank must be restructured into a commercial bank, pure and simple. It must be managed by bankers. It must have a portfolio that is commercially sound but the worst thing that you can do now ...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I really do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member because I am going to be speaking in this debate but the Honourable Member has attributed to the previous administration, an agreement to do a number of things for which no such agreement existed. There was no formal agreement between the Barbados Government and the IADB with respect to an investment sector loan. There were preliminary discussions on the nature of the conditionally for that, therefore there was no agreement to amalgamate the BNB or the BDB and there was no formal agreement on any other issue. We were still in the stage of discussing with various missions what were the elements of the reform that would be necessary to access the IADB loan. That is well known. There was no agreement

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the operative word is formal. It was the thinking of the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, and it was put out in a policy matrix that you had to do certain things to get the first tranche, the second tranche and the third tranche and at the end of it the Barbados Development Bank and the Barbados National Bank had to be amalgamated.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, so that the record is absolutely clear, the policy matrix was designed by the IADB, it was not designed by the Government of Barbados. The Government of Barbados did not agree to that policy matrix and we discussed in the Estimates last year, those things that we would accept and those that we would not.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is why I have said for the last two years that the Estimates were a sham because even though he is now saying that they had not agreed on the policy they were still shown in the financing of the Estimates because there had been an undertaking given. 12.30 p.m.

The point I am coming to, Mr. Speaker, is this, that we are clear in our minds that there should be no amalgamation of the BDB and the BNB. The DLP can express their point of view, but we feel on this side - and I certainly feel so *very* strongly - that a large part of the BNB's problem arose by its being forced to assume developmental functions that go beyond those of a normal commercial bank.

Aside<

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not concerned with that, Sir, I am concerned with what happens under my watch. If it pleases the other side, the former Barbados Labour Party administration did that, but this new Barbados Labour Party administration....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed orderly, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I feel so. I did not set it up but I have a responsibility now to say whether the mistake of the past should be reproduced and I do not feel that the BNB could be given a fair chance to evolve as a true commercial bank if you add part of a development bank to it. Therefore, I have given a clear mandate to the new Chairman and the Board of the BNB to let it develop purely as a commercial bank. The day will come when we can perhaps denominate its capital in the form of shares, have it trading or whatever we want to do with it when it has become a sound institution, but I feel that it would be a mistake to have it as a marriage between a development bank and a commercial bank. That has now been agreed between the Government and the IADB.

Mr. Speaker, the previous DLP administration also allowed itself to be wrapped up into having changes to the town planning system built into a loan condition, and the fact is, as you know, that even if you were to agree that you should change the Town Planning Regulations and the Town Planning Act, that has to be a policy consultation, legislative change, and that simply is not the kind of thing you put as a pre-condition for a loan that is supposed to be a pre-disbursement loan. It is those kinds of concerns that stood in the way.

As I said, Sir, there were supposed to be labour market reforms as well. The point I am making is this, that the IADB understands that we would like to have an investment sector loan in place to be able consequentially to access the multilateral investment facility and have access to all of the other project loans that depend upon there being an investment loan in place. A mission came to Barbados, arising out of my meeting with the President of the Bank last week, and I am pleased that we have

resolved almost all, if not all, of the outstanding obstacles. I shall be meeting with the President of the Bank again in early April to clinch the arrangement and the understanding is that we should have investment sector loans disbursed in the third quarter of the financial year. It is on that basis that you will find in this year's Estimates a provision for us to have access to the investment sector loans to be able to finance part of Government's operations.

So no IMF, Mr. Speaker, and these Estimates say no to IMF policies. We are not going to go back to the dark days of abject fiscal austerity where the Government of Barbados had no elbow room to lift the gloom that faced our people as a result of the strictures of IMF programming. But we are doing that in a context where, on the other hand there is no fiscal abandon. We will not be running an unsustainable deficit. At the end of the day the deficit will obviously be greater than the 0.9% that these Estimates imply, because we will be bringing other things to account, but above all we are re-ordering Government's priorities as reflected in the allocation of Government expenditure to try to hold a line on current spending, to cut out the frills, to cut out the big projects item, to cut out wastage in the expenditure of the public funds, to give taxpayers value for money, to begin to put in place a large number of small activities through Capital expenditure that can support an improvement in the quality of life whilst creating jobs at the level of micro enterprises, and all that, as I said in my introduction, with a view to restoring order to our system of public accounts and to putting this country on a sustained and a sustainable growth path and a path to national development.

It is in that context, Sir, that I commend these Estimates to the House as being sound in themselves, reflecting a sound and progressive policy, something that the Government can execute to give effect to its objective now and in the future, and I beg respectfully to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 1.45 p.m.

In moving the suspension, I should like to indicate that tomorrow and Wednesday we would like to break more like 12.30 for the luncheon interval. Other arrangements will be put in place for Thursday which I shall announce later.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 12.38 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Estimates debate for the fiscal year 1995-96 has begun and the Honourable Prime Minister has set out as best he can the parameters in which the draft Estimates have been presented to the Parliament of Barbados. As members of the Opposition, it is our task to analyse the information which has been placed before the House and to engage in a constructive debate on the issues which arise from the presentation of those Estimates.

I am finding great difficulty, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reading the words and the antics of the Honourable Prime Minister when he comes to the House setting out to Members of the House and yourself, Sir, the state of the Barbados economy. I must say that there is no consistency. He reminds me of a good friend of mine who won the Lotto and went down to collect the prize at the Lotto offices on Spry Street, and when she got down there, she told the Press that she was merely receiving the cheque on behalf of a poor unemployed mother of four.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the relevance of that is that the Honourable Member for St Peter has inherited what by everybody's description, consequent on any general election held in Barbados, is the best wicket, the best circumstances, the best scenario in which to perform. He and his colleagues are appealing for light from the time they go out to bat. I have never witnessed, in all of my years - and there are now many - of Estimates debates, a Minister of Finance so flustered by the mere supplications of the holder of a First Class Honours degree in Economics who seems to terrify the Honourable Member for St. Peter beyond recognition when he is responding to anything which that Honours Degree holder says.

On one occasion, he speaks to the legacy which was bequeathed to him by the forefathers in the Barbados Labour Party and extols the virtue of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and his predecessor as Barbados Labour Party Prime Ministers; but now today in this debate he has so viciously cut loose from that record and indicated never again will the Barbados Labour Party under his stewardship subscribe to any of those kinds of policies which his predecessors entrenched in the Barbadian society.

You must recall, Mr. Speaker, that a major change in the way that the Barbados economy functions occurred after the 1976 election. Those who followed politics before that, and who continue to follow politics after 1976, would recall that much of what the Democratic Labour Party tried to correct in the period 1991 to 1994 and much of what the Honourable Member for St Peter by virtue of these Estimates has had to correct as a result of that irresponsibility, that fiscal indiscipline, the political corruption and the other odious features of public administration and particularly the fiscal affairs of Barbados since 1976... That is when all the trouble began.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has been advised that he is to inherit the legacy of the late Errol Barrow, and we have no problem in sharing that legacy. The Nation's editorial says that he is the natural heir to it. So rich is the legacy of that great man, that if the Honourable Member for St. Peter seeks to imbue himself with those qualities, the wisdom, the prescience, the humanity, the statesmanship and the distinction of that great Barbadian leader, we are very happy to say that we commend all of those qualities to the Honourable Member for St. Peter.

He has cut loose today from the policies of those whom he once thought were his mentors. By implication, he has applied a tar brush, because he swung the cudgel today in a very veiled way, and not with malice aforethought, such as we saw members of former Barbados Labour Party Administrations slinking down in their chairs and almost sliding under the table as he reminded us of the odious practices to which they subscribed when they were members of that Barbados Labour Party Cabinet which ushered in that era of fiscal indiscipline in this country. They would have liked to put their tails, if they had them, if they had long enough backbones to have tails between their legs and scamper out of this Chamber.

I thank the Honourable Member for St. Peter for reminding us so graphically of the beginning of the financial and economic slide which this country faced. If everybody on the Front Bench is a modern day convert, washed in the blood of the Lamb, ready now to proselytize this new era of fiscal responsibility, this new era of doing the small things which those Administrations since 1976, as he alleged, had forgotten, then I hope they will do it with the same fervour with which they were engaged in the dismantling of the legacy of the great Errol Walton Barrow, because that fervour was never witnessed before in Barbadian politics.

Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed hearing the Honourable Member for St. Peter. There is an expression called begging off, Mr. Speaker. He got his baptism in the Press

over the weekend as various people sought to comment on the Estimates and he responded to that. I don't give gratuitous advice. Therefore, whenever I seek to give advice, instead of doing that, I seek to put myself in the position of the Honourable Member for St. Peter.

It would have been better if the person presenting the Estimates, the first Estimates since the victory of the Barbados Labour Party in 1994, could have shorn himself of the pressure of the perceived vitriol of his opponents and could have focussed on the substance of the mandate which was given his Government in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, in his introduction in the Barbados Labour Party 1994 manifesto, which on behalf of the people of Barbados I had the honour to make a document... Yes. I say "honour", because it seemed on your part to have been a dishonour to lay it. So I made it an honourable document, Mr. Speaker, by making it a document of this House. I couldn't lay it. The public of Barbados was promised that this document would be laid, as a working document and a commitment to the people of Barbados. It is still to be laid. I only made it a document of the House because I quoted from it, but that was a great honour for me because I believe that the people of Barbados should require of the Barbados Labour Party that they stick to the precepts of the social contract which they put before the public of Barbados, those who read it. But there are a few who always look bemused and bewildered, as if they were suffering from anabiosis, when one reads from this document. They look up bewildered or they say, "So what?" and it really means nothing to them already.

Mr. Speaker, this charter for change which the Honourable Member for St. Peter in his introduction to the manifesto set out, he said it envisages a transformation of the Barbados economy driven by our "unwavering confidence in the talent and the enterprise of the Barbadian people and of our young people." This is on page 4, Mr. Speaker.

This is on page 4, although I know you would know, Sir, which page it is on if not anybody else in this Chamber. His introduction went on to say:-

"Our key strategy is to unleash your creativity and energy and your enterprise, particularly the enterprise of our young people, by providing all of you with the means and the abilities to enable you to realise your immense potential, and to ensure that everyone of you is afforded the opportunity to be everything you aspire to be, and to ensure that no social circumstance should be permitted to limit the extent of your aspirations." 2.00 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You would like me to read it again? Mr. Speaker, I have no problem reading it again, not for the sake of repetition, only for emphasis. Those kinds of documents nowadays are written by spin doctors paid thousands of dollars. They fly in from elsewhere and they put words into the mouths of people. They languish and toss it around so that it sounds flowery and nice. But I accept that. If the Honourable Member confesses to writing it I accept that. Fine. So we can move on from there. I want to thank him for owning it, as we say, Mr. Speaker.

Since the Honourable Member has owned it, what he will not own in this debate, and this is the part that concerns me, although Hansard, my memory, and the memory of other members who were in here in the last Estimates debate will not let him forget it, is what he said in the last Estimates debate. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has now reversed himself on everything. I have no problem with that because as the pressures of office and the pressures of those who seek to lead with him are applied on his broad shoulders, he has to negotiate in the very difficult course which is set before him.

Two years ago, the Honourable Member for St. Peter frankly admitted that he was not sure what the next step in his life would be and I do not say that in a pejorative or negative way. He now has the opportunity to chart for himself and the people of Barbados what those next steps will be. He has had plenty of time. He has been afforded every facility and assistance by some members of the Democratic Labour Party who are not now in this House, to become what he is now and those holy and unholy alliances now provide him with the opportunity to tell the public of Barbados what this charter for change is all about but the Honourable Member for St. Peter has constantly skirted that issue.

I could not imagine, Mr. Speaker, that in this debate on our Estimates we could have a full-scale treatise from the Honourable Member for St. Peter, a former practising economist with one publication to his name, even though it says at the bottom, "Not to be published", and that is the basis for him to launch an attack on the Arthur Lewis model and say that because the Democratic Labour Party adopted a published document by Sir Arthur Lewis which six or seven economists attacked years ago, that we are wrong.

Mr. Speaker, there is a man in the United States called Newt Gingrich. He is resurrecting the doctrines of Adam Smith who died - whom the Honourable Member for St. Peter may know as the forefather of economic thought nearly 200 years ago - and that is now forming part of the diet of the American public in relation to

economic theory. There are other people, Peter Ormrod, who has recently written a book called "The Death of Economics" in which every single economic theory, including Sir Arthur Lewis' has been trashed as being misguided, wrong, irrelevant, *et cetera*. We are entitled as politicians, because we do not pretend to be the repositories of all knowledge. We accept differing viewpoints. We accept that there are differing economic models for differing times and every time there has been a change in Barbados one can characterise the policies of one - Government over another, as falling within some construct developed by some economic theologian or guru.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was accused of being a student of Laffer and the Laffer curve. Then David Stockman came along and wrote a book called "The Triumph of Politics" and unravelled the supply side theories and reoriented the curve. I am not an economist. I want to let the Honourable Member for St. Peter know I am not.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: However, like all of us on this side we read and probably one of the easiest things, in my view, to understand and assimilate is economics because economics is just about choices. That is what it is about. The Honourable Member for St. Peter would like to make it sound as though it is some kind of heavy, difficult technocratic exercise.

Mr. Speaker, there is no profession in the world, least of all the legal profession, to which the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is a member, which does not seek to make it appear that their profession has some mystique about it. That is the basis on which you charge fees. If an economist was like a fellow liming on a street corner he could not charge \$50 000 for writing a four page article as a critique of something for the Harvard Economic Journal or one of those other business reviews. If a lawyer did not dress up in a wig and gown and use language which was alienated from the average person and people were allowed to stand up in court and say what they want to say without pleadings being drafted, then there would be no need for the legal profession. So every profession has a basis for justifying its existence and in doing so they seek to make that particular profession more difficult, mystical and less understandable to the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I have not found anything coming out of the discussion which the Honourable Member for St. Peter had over the Arthur Lewis model. I only want to ask, what is the model which the Honourable Member for St. Peter is putting before the people of Barbados? What the Honourable Member for St. Peter has been telling us constantly is that that model has to be found

somewhere within the Throne Speech. His mentor the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said that because the word "unemployed" is used a few times in the speech here and there that that is the basis of a job creation strategy so we are supposed to distill it from a Throne Speech.

Now in this particular presentation the Honourable Member for St. Peter tells us that we have to understand the whole Estimates to understand the basis of his job creation strategy. There must be some way that he can distill from those Estimates the principal features of that job creation strategy. The fact that he has been unable to do so in a way that either places these Estimates on that economic trajectory or that a member of the public, as few as have come to hear this debate, although I am not supposed to recognise them. I do remember the Honourable Member for St. Thomas commenting on the paucity of the interest in the Estimates last year. I must say the paucity of interest is even greater than it was in last year's Estimates. I am surprised. 2.10 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: They were from Society School in St. John and they came down to hear me, thinking that the Honourable Member for St. Peter was going to deliver a very short introductory speech. That did not happen. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the paucity of interest, all the security paraphernalia has been dismantled. So that the thousands of people who wanted to come and hear the great Barbados Labour Party Government re-energizing the country, introducing the charter for change, the crusade to save Barbados would have the opportunity to do so.

Frankly they have not taken up on that offer and they are not going to get any offers coming out of this debate because the Prime Minister has not said anything in the course of that lengthy delivery which would indicate to them, in any way, how they are going to be pulled into the economic mainstream in Barbados. He made very heavy weather, and he is entitled to do so, about his plans for rural communities in Barbados. He was seeking to compare his lack of vision with that of the Democratic Labour Party.

We spent in excess of \$20 million on tenantry roads programmes in this country, in rural Barbados. There was a street lighting programme which, if you calculated it for the entire 8-year period, exceeded the sum of \$3 million in new street lights throughout Barbados. I am talking about private and Government installed street lights.

The Democratic Labour Party started a programme where in some developments where it was possible for the people living in the area, as far as I remember it, to have

their own street lighting programme for which they would make a contribution. I do not want to dwell on that.

There were all kinds of infrastructural projects put in place. The road network was improved, all of that was done under the Democratic Labour Party. In my own constituency of St. John, we negotiated a major road programme, Society Hill, Newcastle Hill, Stuart Hill, ...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am only talking about that part, I will get to the other parts. Three million dollars to do all of the other things. I want you to explain how it will be done. Guinea to Kendall I think it is...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: This is a road rehabilitation programme for existing major roads in Barbados. The World Bank did that. Those roads were in considerable disrepair and were part of our rural development programme.

All that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is telling us is this, that he is pulling many of those kinds of rural development projects, the provision of street lights, small business...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member said provision of street lights unless I misinterpreted him...Or in addition to that community programmes in which people will find work, self-employment, I assume, in their own communities under one Ministry. But you do not need to compare. The record of the Democratic Labour Party with respect to rural development is there.

I have sat in meetings of a parliamentary group in which criticisms were levelled because the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the MP of a rural area, was receiving what they viewed as most favoured status. Roads were repaved all over St. Peter and work was being done in St. Peter on a number of projects, under a Democratic Labour Party Government and Ministers of Government were being attacked because we did not have the money to complete other projects like the St. John Polyclinic and other rural projects throughout Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am only saying that people said so. We ignored them because we believe that Barbados should be developed holistically and we believe that every single area of the country deserves it. But

there is something known as parish pump politics. The Honourable Member for St. Peter had put Speightstown at the centre of his economic programme in tourism and that has as much to do with him being the MP for St. Peter as it has to do with him being the new Prime Minister of Barbados. He is reordering priorities to give effect to his own interest. That is why the Barbados Association of Journalists could find themselves getting a subvention not via the Head relating to information, but at the fiat and direction of the Prime Minister, a subvention is being given to the Barbados Association of Journalists out of the general administration Head of the Prime Minister's Office. Not out of information services where it should be located, where there should be some detachment; as if it is some gift or handout. The Honourable Member is reordering his own priorities. He is entitled to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, I think you are really treading on some very...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Do you wish me to quote, Sir? Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year there was no subvention for the Barbados Association of Journalists for whatever reason. I do not know that one was requested.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But if you look, Sir, not under information and media relations, do not look under Head 13, Programme 03, Subprogramme 01. Let me tell you where to look, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Look under Head 13, Prime Minister's Office, Direction and Policy Formulation Services, Subprogramme 01, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION SERVICES, Subprogramme 315, Grants to Non-Profit Agencies \$15 000 to the Barbados Association of Journalists.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am just on a point of order. Head 13 deals with the Government Information Service. If the Leader of the Opposition wants us to give a subvention to the journalists through the Government Information Service, rather than as a matter of general policy of the office of the Prime Minister, it is up to him.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: It is now petty nonsense.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am dealing with the tidying up. The Honourable Member for St. Peter says he believes in tidying up.

I am suggesting that rather than the Prime Minister perceive it as his remit to hand out subventions...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am going to get to all I have to say. Do not worry. But I would say what I want to say when I want to say it.

Instead of putting it under the Head where it belongs, Information and Media Relations, he is placing it according to his priorities. I am not criticizing him. I am drawing it to the House's attention. He does not have to defend anything.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has spent an entire morning defending but nobody has attacked him. As I said, on a previous occasion, we have not even yet accused him of being an economic genius. He does not have to defend anything yet. The time will come for that defence when the criticisms on this side are so palpably honest and clear that he needs to respond to them. But there is no need for him to get excited.

I am saying that the Honourable Prime Minister has ordered his priorities. He has given priority to Speightstown where there was no priority before. All I am trying to say is that he is giving, in his comparison of the record of the Democratic Labour Party to his record, the wrong information to the House. He is misleading the House. Because there had been substantial investment, by the previous Administration, with respect to the rural areas in Barbados.

There was a project going on in Barbados, which has been very beneficial and Members on that side acknowledged it when they were in Opposition, in which disused public baths had been turned into community centres in communities in rural Barbados. There had been a programme in which most of the community centres themselves were upgraded, unless they were in such a state of disrepair that nothing could happen to them. I, as Minister of Community Development, opened many of them. 2.20 p.m.

There were a number of rural projects taking place in Barbados which totalled together amount to more than \$3 million. But how could \$3 million, Mr. Speaker, Sir, which as I said could not even build 10 tenantry roads in Barbados properly, with all of the facilities, make any appreciable impact in regard to bringing rural people into the economic mainstream in Barbados? That is all I wish to ask. I am not telling the Honourable Member to spend more money nor am I telling him to philosophise. All we

wish to know is how the \$3 million is going to make that impact because what we are talking about is a charter for change which reorients the priorities of Government and the expenditure of Government funds. If the Honourable Member for St. Peter can set goals and say that \$3 million can meet these goals and he says that is a priority, he does not need to say what the previous administration did. We will accept it from him and wait until next year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1994 the Honourable Member for St. Peter made very heavy weather about the international business and financial services unit. This is one of the examples, Mr. Speaker, Sir, of this amazing *volte-face* which the Honourable Member has gone through in recent times.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I like to trust your judgement but I used the words earlier, Mr. Speaker, and they did not jog the Honourable Member for St George's memory so I thought he was suffering from anabiosis. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were all for the international business and financial services. Listen to what an economist, speaking in last year's debates, said about that particular unit. I think the House should have the benefit of the speech of the Honourable Member for St Peter on this particular point because it is symptomatic of the fact that even now that the Honourable Member has full control of these particular areas that he does not even follow his own advice on them.

I am quoting from page 4772 of the Hansard. I am quoting the Honourable Member for St. Peter, a respected economist, then Shadow Minister of Trade, International Business and a whole string of other Ministries which were taken from his colleagues and placed again on his broad shoulders at short notice and which in response to that elevation he said as follows:

"Secondly, Mr. Speaker, there can be no doubt that there is tremendous scope, not only for foreign exchange but also for employment generation in the offshore financial sector provided the Government were to put the adequate amount of resources behind it. From as far back as 1989 a Mr. Langer did a report for Government that recommended that there was scope for new activity in areas such as international trust and a diversification of the mix of financial services operating in Barbados. The Government has been slow in implementing the Langer Report.

What we have is a situation this year where the Government is spending, so the Minister of Finance tells us, over \$106 million on capital development but

it is spending only \$406 000 on the development of the offshore financial sector. In particular, Sir, the same Ministry of Finance that is spending, or proposes to spend \$8.8 million this year in tax administration, cannot find it possible to spend more than \$406 000 to expand the possibilities of developing the offshore sector in this country.

I am calling upon the Government, if it is serious about creating new jobs in this country, to take some of the funds that are here earmarked for tax administration and expenditure control, some of the \$8.8 million and devote it towards doing what is necessary by way of promotion, the settlement of double taxation treaties, the bringing into this House legislation for thrusts to make sure that new jobs can be treated in the offshore sector."

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: He says he is going to double it, Mr. Speaker.

If we turn, Mr. Speaker, to the relevant Subhead, the Minister has made funds available \$977 409 and brought other matters under its purview. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing in this for promotion. If you read very clearly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of the items are listed but not one single cent - this is my concern, you can triple the Budget. If fact you could give them all of the \$8 million, but, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern which the Honourable Member for St. Peter had and which I understood him to be having about the International business and financial services unit was the question of promotion of Barbados. Well, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sum of \$977 000 has been provided.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please let us hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you were to compare it, unless the cost of promotion has changed over time... I do not wish to go into the details of the Estimates. Page 154 of the Estimates and then you can turn over...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I have page 154 before me. Page 154 says that Head 212 provides for promotion and advertising of Barbados as an offshore financial centre and the Member has just told the House I have provided no money promotion. \$328 000 which is almost as much for promotion as they gave to the whole centre last year, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, operating expenses \$328 000. The Honourable Member is giving the impression by all that he said last year that the particular area that needed attention was the area, he said, devoted towards doing what is necessary by way of promotion, the settlement of double taxation treaties, the bringing into this House legislation for thrust to make sure that new jobs can be created.

The new legislation has not yet been brought -

- (a) funds have been provided in the Ministry of Finance for double taxation treaties. I accept that. I saw the figure this morning and I will be asking questions about that I am very concerned about an element of that

With respect to the operating expenses of this financial services secretariat from which one assumes the promotions are coming. The increase is an increase from \$258 000 to \$328 000 an increase of less than \$100 000 and that can launch a major initiative, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in promotion. What the Honourable Member was criticising the Government for last year was a difference of \$70 000. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were coming ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I want to make my position clear. Would you believe that the Honourable Member was saying last year that a substantial part of the \$8.8 million should be devoted. That is what he was saying in effect that instead of spending the \$8.8 million on tax administration and bringing in all of these foreign consultants he was opposed to them. He said we had local expertise and the money should be used for other more pressing needs. That we should be voting that \$8 million to promotion. What we are getting is about \$70 000 more for promotion in this sector which by their own manifesto was supposed to be a high flown sector with about 3 or 4 Ministers, a number of other accoutrements attached to it to do all of these great things for Barbados. So we went from zero to \$406 000, just like the Rural Development Programme went from zero to \$3 million. We went from zero to \$406 000 and we go from \$406 000 to \$977 000 this year, Mr. Speaker, the increase in respect of this area most of it is in professional services. 2.30 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, I wish the Honourable Member luck with that. It is not your Ministry and I am not holding you responsible. We had a lot of fancy talk about the legislation being here by November. I had letters written to me saying the legislation would be

passed by November and this is now March. I received letters from the Unit and from various other Government Departments as Leader of the Opposition saying that the legislation should be perused because it was the intention of the Government to have it before Parliament by November. A conference is about to take place in San Francisco next month, the U.S. RIMS Conference. It will be followed months later by the Foreign Sales Corporation Conference, it will be followed two months later by the Canadian RIMS Conference. I went last year to those conferences, Mr. Speaker, and promised the people that we would have legislation in place. I am going back in another capacity, but I hope that I will be able to find some way of disguising myself. I do not blame the Honourable Member for St Peter, I know who to blame in these matters, but you will make no headway even if you spend \$10 million on that unit unless the requisite legislation is put in place as a matter of urgency. Mr. Speaker, that is very, very important

We heard a lot of talk about providing all of these resources. Every Government has to place at the centre of its economic programme certain initiatives, and just as we should have been congratulated for bringing the international business and financial services budget from zero to \$406 000, the Honourable Member for St Peter dismissed that as a joke, a token vote. I am saying that \$3 million, even if it is from zero to \$3 million, for rural development programme to bring people into the mainstream of economic life is a joke because it will have very little impact whatsoever. That is all we are saying.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St Peter has to be under siege in this debate because he has rested his ability as an economist constantly on what he perceives to be his strong point as an economist, which is forecasting. Every Estimates debate the Honourable Member for St Peter told this House that in the 1970s it was his remit and responsibility to forecast the price of....

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I wish it was yams, they are a bit more difficult than that. He said in 1993:

"There are a lot of people in this House who believe that forecasting is a form of soothsaying....." He was referring to me, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell you who the soothsayer was in 1994.

".... I do not believe that it is. There was an occasion in Jamaica when I was the Director in Economics and Financial Analysis of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute and the responsibility of my Department every year was to forecast the price of aluminum worldwide to be gazetted in Parliament by April 15."

The Honourable Member said his Department had the responsibility. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I accused the Honourable Member a little earlier of having one publication which had on it "Not to be published", but he has a second publication by the Jamaica Bauxite Institute. I remember standing up....

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am just correcting the record, Mr. Speaker, and I am not being negative. I said I read another publication, an interesting one, on bauxite which was carried when he was Director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute or whatever, and a copy of it was in the Cave Hill Library.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Deal with her? I cannot deal with her. I always pick on people of my own size and disposition and the Honourable Member does not fall into that category.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John. Could you get on with the debate, please?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Estimates is a wide debate. If you do not wish me....

. Mr. SPEAKER: No, you proceed. Do not just grab at all the asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I read the Honourable Member's contribution to the journal and it was to do with bauxite. I do not remember what it was, but I did read it, so it is not true to say that he does not have any publications. He has a few trifling ones here and there. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, he said his Department had the responsibility to bring it within one cent per pound.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, please. Would you desist from speaking across the Floor and interrupting the Chamber, please? Would you proceed?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for the City would not know if anybody has published anything, because she does not read. That is acknowledged on that side as well as this.

Mr. Speaker, let me please continue. "My Department had the responsibility to bring it within one cent per pound and we had to get it to the House by April 15," and he indicated: "That record is outlined in the Jamaica Bauxite Institute Journal Vol. I 1980" and he read into the record at that stage the prices for ingots, *et cetera*. The following year the Honourable Member took us through his qualities as a forecaster. He said the key consideration that concerns him as a professional economist,

"there was a time when I used to make my living as a professional economist, but the accuracy of the forecast that I had to send to the Jamaica Parliament on the price to be paid by the aluminum company. My fascination with forecasting is not only because it is part of my discipline, but fundamentally too many decisions to tax in this country and to penalise the poor people of this country through increases in stamp duty and consumption taxes have in the recent past been the result of just lousy forecasting."

I may accept that, but even on the basis of the forecasting, outside of aluminum prices the Honourable Member for St. Peter's techniques are questionable. I say that because heavy weather was made in that Estimates debate and the Budget debate about the possibility of 2.7% growth. The Honourable Member for St. Peter in fact went as far as to say that the economy would continue in recession. He said the factor that would be responsible for that was lack of confidence in the political leadership which was contributing to a situation where the country would continue in recession.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Sir. I cannot let the Member mislead the House in the way in which he is speaking now. My forecast last year was that Government was under estimating the revenue, because there was no relationship between Government's statement of the growth and the revenue, and the record will show that the revenue that was projected at 122 has turned out to be 1054.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is his interpretation of what he said, but the record does not bear that. The record is very clear in the comments which the Honourable Member for St. Peter made with respect to the possibility of growth. I did not myself mark it, but I will find it. It is not a problem, because these debates are not going anywhere and the Hansard is going to be available to all of us over time and I want....

Mr. SPEAKER: This one does not seem to be going anywhere.?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I agree with you, Mr. Speaker. I will find it.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That was your problem, that you were too worried about what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was saying, that you could not keep the Government together and ended up losing your own seat in the election.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter made the point in that particular Budget debate that the factor that would contribute most to the failure of the Government to attain the levels of growth which it had projected was lack of confidence and that in particular he poured blame on the Honourable Member for St Michael South and said that his leadership of the country would ensure that we did not attain those levels of growth. I don't know if the Honourable Member is trying to fancy up his own presentation. When we got 4% growth by the end of December 1994, that 4% growth flew in the face of everything which the Honourable Member for St. Peter had projected for the Barbados economy. So he lost his touch as a forecaster at that point even though I felt he had lost it long time before that 2.40 p.m.

Now he tries to rationalise it *ex post facto* and what the Honourable Prime Minister says to the House is that the reason why the Barbados economy grew as it did in 1994 was because of special events, as if the then Government had no control over those special events. Would you believe that the Honourable Member for the City could be saying from her seat it is a fact, when she herself and other members of her party were opposed to some of the things which the Democratic Labour Party Government was then doing by way of special events, like the Global Conference and so on?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. It is not true to say to the House that I was in any way opposing the Global Conference. I even wrote a paper to the Global Conference. What I was opposed to was the wastage at Sherbourne.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point has been made.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Budget came to the House, the then Government did exactly what the Prime Minister, by implication, is saying should have been done. We acknowledged that the levels of growth which the Barbados economy attained in 1994 were partly due to those special events. That is why we put before the public of Barbados such a tight fiscal scenario, so much so that we were accused by the then Honourable Member for St. Peter of placing a further stranglehold on the people and that we should have freed up the economy even more; that we should run a deficit higher than... Well,

he didn't say the exact amount, but let me tell you what he said about the deficit because again he is in this particular debate tidying up his past errors.

Let me tell you what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said about the deficit, the appropriate size of a deficit, page 4766.

"This year, Mr. Speaker, again the Government of Barbados is following an IMF policy which says that the deficit should be no more than 1.3% of our GDP."

I should pause, Mr. Speaker, to reflect on that statement because the Honourable Member is not under anybody's tutelage now. He has dismissed everybody, moved their furniture out of Government's headquarters down to ICB, thrown people who were previously in those departments back to their old departments and dismantled the entire apparatus relating to the international institutions.

Mr. Speaker, consequent on dismantling all of that, the Honourable Member for St Peter now comes to this House with absolutely no hesitation whatsoever in telling us that he thinks that the appropriate size for a deficit in Barbados is less than 1%, meaning that last year's deficit which the IMF, according to him, told the Government it should have, was more generous than the deficit which he is imposing on himself.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Member is misleading the House. I have made it abundantly clear in this debate that the deficit for this year has to take account of the fact that we have not yet brought to book a wage increase which is going to come this year nor have we yet brought the Budget where there are going to be other creative measures. I have said that as clearly as we can and what we have here is not the final word on the deficit

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what kind of economic madness is being put before this House? The Honourable Member for St. Peter who, year after year, attacked the Democratic Labour Party for bringing Estimates to this House which did not reflect the true financial picture, is now telling this House that these Estimates which we have before us do not reflect the true financial picture for the operations of the Government of Barbados for 1995.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Member is again misleading the House. It is impossible to include in the Estimates amounts for wage increases until they are agreed. Historically, whenever a wage settlement takes place after the Estimates are

prepared, Estimates have always been brought to the House without the wage increase. I cannot include in the Estimates wage increases until they are agreed to, unless I am accused of short-circuiting the collective bargaining process.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not even going to keep noise about the wages because that point is taken. The Honourable Member said in the course of his presentation and just now that there were other creative things which he would be doing, and I am submitting to this House that if he is going to commit the Government of Barbados to expenditure in this fiscal year, he must bring it under the ambit of the laws of Barbados and he must present it in the Estimates. I say that for this reason, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. He is misleading the House. Other Ministers of Finance have brought increases in expenditure by way of the Budget. It is quite proper to do so and to cover it by way of supplementary. This person who was a Minister of Finance does not know these things. This is embarrassing, Mr/Speaker.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the reason why I have to raise it....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Let us have some order, please. Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not relenting from the foolishness which is emanating from the Government benches on this point. We need to make this point very clearly. The Honourable Member in the course of his presentation indicated that he would be making the sum of \$1 million available to the National Cultural Foundation contingent on the National Cultural Foundation presenting a business plan to this House which would make it into a commercially profitable institution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the course of supplementaries coming to this House over the past few months, I indicated that there were several occasions in which in the preparation of the Estimates we could not have given final figures in respect of the subventions, the subsidies for the Transport Board, and there were two other areas, the University and so on. When last Estimates we put before the House that there were a number of Heads for which provision had been made, which provision was not adequate to meet the operations of those entities for the fiscal year, the Honourable Member for St. Peter constantly said, and he was buttressed in his position by speeches from the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, that they are not participating in afty exercise in this House where they are voting either for money to supplement a Head where the money had already been spent or

alternatively where there are not accurate accounts presented by those statutory corporations which give a true and accurate reflection of their operations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless the Honourable Prime Minister is saying, and if he is saying that, I will have to accept it, that the National Cultural Foundation can function effectively on \$1 million alone for this fiscal year, because if we have to come back to this House for a supplementary, one would understand the dangers of these premeditated acts by the Minister of Finance in underestimating the cost of operation of certain enterprises on the basis that he believes that they can put in place a business plan in 6 months which would solve their financial woes and let them exist on the basis of provision which he has determined is adequate. 2.50 p.m.

That, Mr. Speaker, would mean that we are going through an exercise here of old talk on these Estimates in which we are carrying out a debate which is neither based on accurate forecasting, which the Honourable Member says is his forte and his expertise, nor on prudent accounting principles. I am saying to the House that the implication from what the Honourable Member for St. Peter is saying is by and large these Estimates do not accurately reflect the financial operations of Government for this fiscal year. That is of great concern to me, Mr. Speaker, because the Estimates should at least give us a clear indication of the kind of programmes which the Government is seeking to put in place until the Financial Rules are changed. Now if the Financial Rules are changed such as to permit that kind of flexibility and creativity, until such time that that happens, the Minister of Finance is bound by the Laws of Barbados.

I am saying to you that based on the statements which he has put before the House, the practices which he has inherited and wants to continue to adopt, and the well spring of knowledge which is available to him, he has come to the House with imperfect Estimates and the forecasts in those Estimates could be safely dismissed. But I am not on that point yet. You would not get me there. I am sticking to the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member said that the IMF forced the Democratic Labour Party to have a deficit of no more than 1.3% of our GDP. He has brought it to less than 1% of the GDP, according to him, not on anybody's dictates. That is his own premeditated act.

He goes on to say:

"I want to put this in context. On our side from as far back as 1983 I stated a position to which I have remained committed to in public."

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am reading the Honourable Member. You must ask him about that grammar, not me. I learnt my English and I am merely quoting what I see here. I know that the Honourable Member for St Peter crafted the statement very carefully. I know him well, Mr. Speaker. He said:

"I state a position to which I have remained committed to in public. This position is contained in a paper that I presented when I was a Research Fellow at the University of the West Indies, a paper that looked at Barbados' programme with the IMF in 1981 and I said then, Sir, that..."

And he quoted as follows:

"The fiscal content of the programme with the IMF in 1981 was to reduce the overall fiscal deficit from 9% of GDP to 2.5% of GDP in 1985. This is very much an equilibrium sized deficit (this is less than equilibrium size) for it represents that level at which public spending can be sustained without disruption to either the internal or external balances of the economy.

From as far back as 1983 I was of the view that this country should not accept any programme from the IMF that says there should be zero deficits or 1% deficit but that the prescription of a reasonable deficit of this country should be a deficit that allows the Government some elbow room in order to do creative things in this economy."

Mr. Speaker, it followed part of the theology of the Barbados Labour Party to go around this country...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not missing the point about the appropriate size of a deficit. The appropriate size of a deficit is something that falls within the purview of the Minister of Finance. But the Honourable Member tells us in this Chamber what informed his choice of deficit. He first of all had to tell the IMF "No". The IMF told him to run a surplus and he told them "No." The next best thing if you are not running a surplus, Mr. Speaker, is to pull it to near zero.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter is well tutored in the policies of the Barbados Labour Party in that period after 1981 in which measures were put in place before they went to Washington. People were sent home right after the election, school meals workers, all kinds of economic policies were introduced that brought

this country to the brink so he is well tutored in that approach.

I am submitting to this House that the Honourable Member for St Peter is still following the dictates of the international institutions and that the economic policies which he has put in place now are a direct result of his efforts to put this country to succumb, appease and lie prostrate to the positions of the international institutions.

The institution knew that there is no way that the Democratic Labour Party would have persisted with the kind of stringent policies. Last year we took that approach because we said then and we maintained that it was necessary for the policies to appeal to the workers but what the Honourable Member for St Peter is telling us is that there is a substantially reduced role for the State, which is one of the things he has never said before, that a deficit at less than 1% of GDP is desirable, all of a sudden...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member has room to manoeuvre and I will tell you part of that room. You look under the financing. The Democratic Labour Party put in place a Public Enterprise Investment Fund in this country. We sold Heywoods Hotel which the Honourable Member for St Peter, dressed up in his Sunday best, went down there and opened up a few nights ago and sang glowing praise of the work. His colleague, the Honourable Minister of Public Works, dressed up in his Sunday best, though he equalled and surpassed his Leader, went down to Heywoods and praised the Barbados Shipping and Trading for constructing parking facilities and a road to the beach which the Democratic Labour Party had insisted should be part of the terms and conditions of the sale of Heywood's Hotel.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph, I know he did not see it because he was one of the sharpest critics of the Democratic Labour Party. He said they were stopping people from using the beach facilities at Heywoods and that his understanding was that one of the conditions of the sale of Heywoods was that the public accesses to the beach would be closed.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, No. A clear statement was made. And yet, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for St Andrew lavished praise on that bastion of white economic power - and those were your epithets before the election - to which I sold Heywoods Hotel. 3.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, I suppose you are getting back to the Estimates.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am on the Estimates, Sir. Yes, Sir. Very much so.

There is a privatization unit and there is a Head for Public Enterprise Investment Fund. There is a Head for paying the Minister of Public Works and he is accountable to the public of Barbados for the things that he says and it is this Estimates debate which holds him to account. We sold Heywoods Hotel. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has in excess of \$20 million. I think it is something like \$26 million or more. But he has taken out \$26 million of that Public Enterprise Investment Fund which was to be used either to repay public debt or to be involved in new investment. But more particularly in a programme of refurbishment of hotels on the south coast of Barbados, joint venture operations with Government which, together with the clearance of tax arrears, NIS arrears and so on, would put those hotels in a sustainable position to attract finance.

The Honourable Member is... Mr. Speaker, I do not know, what word to use. Just like he pulled in the US\$30 million, which we had negotiated, within one month of becoming Minister of Finance. He travelled the world and pulled in the full tranche - the Honourable Member talks of foreign reserves - and he came back to Barbados within a month of being Minister of Finance. He went to talk to the investors. But we had laid the ground work already. The prospectus was prepared under the Democratic Labour Party. The initial discussions took place. He pulled in US\$30 million.

If you look, Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outturn figures or the financing to date, you will see that those figures went from, foreign commercial, we projected \$36 million and it went, the Revised Estimates, to \$99 308 800.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We did not need it. The reserves were at record levels when I last went to the office of the Ministry of Finance. You have it at \$412 million now but you had better check them on my last day in office.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The records will show that the reserves fell in the last 3 months of the DLP's term of office and it is false and misleading for the Honourable Member to say that they were at record levels.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will get to that in the Budget debate. I am not letting the Honourable Member sidetrack me.

The reserves reached record levels when I was Minister of Finance and when the Democratic Labour Party demitted office. All we had borrowed, up to that time, on the foreign commercial market was US\$20 million as part of the global medium-term loan programme. Within a month the Prime Minister, frequent flier and yachtsman as he now is set off to the capitals of the world.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Just let me give the official figures, Mr. Speaker, to the figures that the Honourable Member thought that he left the reserves at. They are contradicted by the Central Bank. In fact the figures in June, 1994 were \$405 million and by September, 1994 they had dropped to \$353 million.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a monthly average. The Honourable Member does not even know how to read it I said on the day. I did not say for the month. I made it very clear.

The Minister of Finance is in possession of a daily print out and I was very familiar with that because during the course of the campaign I made reference to it and it was not contradicted. Anyway, I am not sticking to that.

The Honourable Member pulled in millions of dollars in foreign financing - a facility left to him by the Democratic Labour Party and can now boast of these high levels of reserves. Twenty-six million out of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund. I do not know the word to use to describe that. Because when that money, he says it must be spent, but it is a pity because we were accused of selling the family silver. That is the proceeds of the family silver which should be used for productive investment in Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter is pulling in more than three quarters of what is in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund and is going to blow it on his misplaced priorities, instead of spending it on the kinds of investments which, together with the private sector, can be beneficial to this country.

In the course of this debate we would have heard a lot about what the Honourable Member for St. Peter felt about the hand the Democratic Labour Party dealt to him. He said it was not a good hand because it was based on 5 000 coming to Barbados for cricket and it was based on the Global Conference. But were it not for that, the Democratic Labour Party, it appears, the implication from what he said would have dealt him a weak hand.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House, in every material particular. The international business sector was growing at a phenomenal rate. The agricultural sector was in growth, sugar. The manufacturing sector had grown by 5%. That had nothing to do with people visiting Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you read the Economic Review which the Central Bank put out to the end of December, 1994 you would see that it was not only tourism. Therefore the Honourable Member for St. Peter is misleading the House thoroughly where the impression is sought to be given that the Democratic Labour Party dealt him a temporary hand of prosperity when, in fact, the hand that he was being dealt was a hand of recession or negative growth or whatever.

Inflation was negative. The reserves were at record levels, so much so that the Honourable Member for St. Peter walked around boasting that he had paid off foreign loans and still had money in the bank. He came in here today again with that. When we made those kinds of statements the Honourable Member for St. Peter in 1994 when reserves were improving was in here saying do not get too excited about that, the reserves are still precarious.

If the Honourable Member for St. Peter were to read the Debates in the House on reserves, he said that it is important that the House takes cognizance of the position of the reserves, because in the absence of a strong balance of payments position, there is no justification, whatsoever, to believe that the programme with the IMF has worked.

He was saying then that the justification for an IMF programme was improved reserves. But today the Honourable Member for St. Peter is telling us, in this House, that the price to pay for that improved balance of payments position was the wrong price and that we could have done without that improved balance of payments position and should have paid attention to other things. The entire debate in the period 1991-94 was about that.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has gone on record in this House as saying that he would support those initiatives which he understood to be taken for the avoidance of the valuation of the Barbados dollar. He supported an incomes policy. He said, even if his other colleagues did not want to support it and even if they applied censure to him he was going to support it because of the defence of the exchange rate in Barbados. That is what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said. 3.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Now he is saying to this House, Mr. Speaker, what I always knew about him that as

far as the Honourable Member for St. Peter is concerned defence of the exchange rate is not uppermost in his mind, that comfortable balance of payments reserves should only be pursued if the other costs at the end of the day are not high. So if he came to the sober judgement that it was not desirable to cut public sector wages, that it was not desirable to pare down the size of Government, that it was not desirable to implement monetary policy, the Honourable Member for St. Peter, we can only conclude, would have come to the conclusion that it would be preferable to devalue the Barbados dollar. That is the only conclusion that one could come to from the statements that he would have made before the House today. You have to therefore judge him, Mr. Speaker, on the commitments which he has given the people of Barbados and those commitments one after the other are being reversed. And he has no embarrassment about it, Mr. Speaker. He has no embarrassment about spending the money which he got from Heywoods. There are other Ministers of Finance ...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter made great store last year about the then Member for St. Michael South saying he was going to use his conscience as his accomplice. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South said he would use his conscience not just as his guide but his accomplice. And the Honourable Member for St. Peter poured scorn on that theory. But, Mr. Speaker, it must mean that the Honourable Member for St. Peter has no conscience whatsoever. That is all I can say. I can say that because he is not even going to use his conscience as his accomplice. He is bold facedly taking up the proceeds of the sale of Heywoods Hotel...

Mr. SPEAKER: What about the part, "he has no conscience"?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is not unparliamentary. A lot of people do not have a conscience. Your conscience is not always better than your own judgement. Sometimes it is, but there are some people who have a conscience which is worse than their own judgement. I believe that if the Honourable Member followed his conscience the decision he takes would be worse but I do not wish him to follow his conscience.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member has bold facedly taken up that money and included a substantial part of it for the financing of his operations. And this comes after he stood up in this Chamber with the Honourable Member for Christ Church as his accomplice and said that fund would be used for politicians to reach deep into the pork barrel and that there were no fetters, that it was slush fund. Those were the words which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South put before this Chamber.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir, it has gone far enough, Sir. The Public Enterprises Investments Fund, was established under Act of Parliament for the purpose of repayment of the public debt. The public debt has not ceased. Proceeds from the sale of other Government enterprises was used for the repayment of the public debt. There is a public debt to be paid this year. It is also to be used, and I am citing the Act, for the rehabilitation of enterprises in the public sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit to the House that the purposes therefore for which funds are being drawn from the Public Enterprises Investment Fund to help repay the public debt and to rehabilitate enterprises in the public sector is entirely consistent with the provision of the Act and this debate therefore, Mr. Speaker, is entirely misleading the House. We are not going to use that fund for any purpose other than for that specified in the Act and if all \$26 million was used for the repayment of debt it would be in keeping with the Act and it would be no more than was done by the Democratic Labour Party when it sold its shares of BET to repay public debt. So what is argument about, Mr. Speaker? Foolishness.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not dealing with the law now. The Honourable Member has flexibility under the law. I am dealing with the moral appropriateness of a Barbados Labour Party Government. The appropriateness, the morality, the political morality of a Barbados Labour Party Government taking up the proceeds of the sale of those assets and using it, not just to pay debt, the Honourable Member is not using it just to pay debt.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You cannot say it either. That is the point. I am not foolish about how Government funds its operations and that is the point, that the Honourable Member has assumed a level of financial arrogance which is giving the impression that only he knows what the Financial Administration and Audit Act says. That only he knows what an Act which I piloted through Parliament says. I am saying that he has identified financing but the fact that he has identified it, it goes into a pool or a pot. He cannot say that it is being used for the repayment of public debt and I am saying that that money needs to be earmarked by the legislation for specific activities. It cannot form part of the general financing of Government operations. Therefore the Prime Minister if he is to comply with the Act* must fall within the four corners of those three areas and identify how every single cent of that \$26 million is being* applied in respect to Government's operations. That has to be done and I am not asking for any gratuitously. I am saying to the Minister that he must abide by the law. I am tell[^]s *^e Minister that he must comply with the provisions of the Act. I am not

asking for any favour and therefore when I said this debate had to be predicated on the basis that we know how much is in that fund and how it is being applied I am saying so, Mr. Speaker, on the basis that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is required by law... I have not seen a report of the Public Enterprises Investment Fund yet, a fund which holds nearly \$30 million for which an officer is supposed to lay a report in here on a quarterly basis. We stipulated that in law. \$30 million with a wide discretion in spending those funds and not one effort has been made to have ... And we were talking about accountability before the September elections, how Ministers

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You had better check when the fund came into operation. The Honourable Member for St. Peter had better check when the Public Enterprises Investment Fund came into operation.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, up to now somebody in the Ministry of Finance, one of the senior officers, I believe it is the Accountant General. The law says the Accountant General but I am saying the Minister must demand of the relevant officer or take responsibility for the failure to account for \$30 million or more of taxpayers money, the proceeds of the sale of so called family silver.

The purpose of establishing that fund was to segregate that money so that it would be used for productive investment. Little would I expect that the Honourable Member for St. Peter who made such a big hue and cry over that fund could find it possible and politically moral to put that fund as part of the financing operations of Government. There should be a \$26 million programme for the refurbishment of hotels on the South Coast or a \$26 million programme for rural development in Barbados, or a \$26 million programme for small business operations, or to rehabilitate the Barbados Development Bank. That is where that money should be going but instead of that, Mr. Speaker, that \$26 million is going to be frittered and squandered away by the present Minister of Finance. I am very concerned about that, Mr. Speaker, Sir, 3.20 p.m.

I am very concerned about that, Mr. Speaker, because for the amount of criticism which the Democratic Labour Party received for the sale of those assets to imagine that the proceeds would be used in this way is nothing more or less than disgraceful in my view. So, Mr. Speaker, if you were to judge the Honourable Member for St. Peter by the tone which he set himself in last year's Estimates to what he has done this year, he is but a shadow of himself, policy wise, in the level of his political morality, his

conscience, because the charter for change was to abandon all of these precepts. The charter for change was to embark on a new Barbados, led by the Honourable Member, in which the talents of every individual would come to the fore, and all we are seeing is the adoption of the very precepts which the Honourable Member for St. Peter spent hours in here talking about

There is a book called *Cannibals and Christians* by Norman Mailer. I am not an existentialist myself, but I was a fan of the work of Norman Mailer when I was at school. In that book he talks about the Democratic Convention 1960, I think it was, and he was backing one of the Democratic candidates and he talks about politicians and their ability to do an act one night, well he likened them to dancing girls, that they were able to do an act or a few tricks one night, people would throw money at them and the next night they would come back and do a few more. We are very close to being characterised in that way by the people of Barbados because of the capitulation of politicians from the ideals which they so vehemently, and one assumes sincerely, extolled from political platforms and walked around.

I know the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has to have difficulty voting for these Estimates, unless he falls into that category which Norman Mailer described, because there are specific things which he has constantly since 1991 bitterly criticised, and when we get to trade reform and the position of Barbados within Caricom I am waiting to hear him, because he gives tutelage in that room every Tuesday but it looks as if he gave the wrong tutelage on that point because the results have turned out the very opposite to what the Honourable Member for Christ Church South thought was desirable within Caricom, so I want to hear. I am going to wait on the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, if not I will have to read him out.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I cannot trouble the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, I want to get to the substance of this and that substance rests on this point about political morality, because the Honourable Member for St. Peter stood up in this Chamber year after year, Budget after Budget, giving the impression that there were certain ideals which he clasped and held close to his heart, and he has jettisoned those ideals with such facility and apparent humility and, Mr. Speaker, he has an accomplice. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is his accomplice if he does not vote against these Estimates. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South would also have jettisoned some of his strongly held and articulated beliefs, some of which I accepted. I amended the Public Enterprises Investment Fund Act

because of the Honourable Member's intervention that the Minister should give directions to the Accountant General on how the money should be spent I always felt that the Minister had it within his power to give directions to the Accountant General on how the money in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund should be spent, and I therefore set up a committee in the Ministry of Finance, because I felt there should be arm's length dealing on this issue, which consisted of technocrats, people in the labour movement and people from the University, to advise the Minister on how best this money could stimulate investment in Barbados. If I leave it to my judgment I will do exactly what the Honourable Member for St. Peter is doing, throw it into general revenues and boost my financing and engage basically in the same kind of pork barrel scenario which the Honourable Member for St. Peter has indicated is part of the past, so this \$26 million is going to be squandered.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South must not be an accomplice in this act, he must cut loose. Even though he has been sharply rebuked today by the present Prime Minister he must not let that stop him from cutting loose from odious practices whenever he sees them and continuing to be in the vanguard of the professional class which he represents and which is, by and large, holier than the rest of us, or so they want to make it appear in this Chamber. He must defend those people some more, because they, the professional class out there, believe we are all thieves, so the Honourable Member for Christ Church South must once again ensure that that class which he so admirably represents does not have cause to believe that we are falling into some trap which could spell some kind of gloom and disaster.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I think I have dealt enough with what the Honourable Member's previous positions were. He is free to sleep with his own conscience and he can use his conscience as his accomplice, his guide, he can jettison it, pull it back in, listen to it, ignore it; he can take tutelage from those who sit next to him or others, he is free to do what he wants to do, because he is now the Prime Minister and nobody in this country, least of all me, wishes to begrudge him that status. It is your job to do what you promised to do. The problem is I do not know what you are doing and that concerns me, Mr. Speaker, because every occasion that presents itself to the Honourable Member for St. Peter to point out to the people of Barbados what strategy he is going to pursue to achieve those ends, he fails.

Imagine, the Honourable Member for St. Peter addressing the issue of the creation of 30 000 jobs. He said 30 million by accident, but I know those big numbers fly out of his mouth with great facility, because when he

went to New York he was not about to say 30 000, and he always made the point it was not a promise, it was a dream, that we should dream big dreams and work towards these big dreams. He said he was not making any commitment, he said at that point that it was something we should aspire to, something like an ideal or a dream that he had. Let us assume he had the dream and the Honourable Member has now made that dream into part and parcel of the political vernacular of Barbados. The Honourable Member realises that the rest of us are not dreaming like him, so that when he says 30 000 we think of 30 000.

Mr. Speaker, it was an act which bordered on callous disregard for his own supporters when the Honourable Member for St. Peter went to a meeting of the St. Michael East Branch of his party and told his supporters - the 20 or so of them who were there, but the cameras and the statement that he issued after the meeting to the Press - that the 30 000 jobs were not an immediate attainable goal, because the Honourable Member for St. George South had said that already. The Honourable Member for St. George South went up in Edge Cliff, St. John and said: "Not me, I am not promising a single fellow a job in this election." While he was saying that the Honourable Member for St. Peter was in New York saying he was promising 30 000. But those persons are not dreaming, they cannot wait two years. We were told in the last Budget that the tourism sector could not wait two years for the VAT, even though it is not coming this year, they have to wait another two.

Mr. Speaker, those people cannot wait two years for jobs. Those that come out of schools like the O'Level Institute will be like a revolving door, 8 o'clock every morning they are going to be back down at the O'Level Institute looking for somebody of prominence to assist them with a job. It will be like a revolving door for the next five years.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have great respect for that institution and its Principal. I am not ingratiating myself with anybody, I am talking about education. But they will be revolving and Honourable Members on that side will be running for cover. Not the Honourable Member for St. George South, because in all frankness he knows what the good society is about, he is the sober and urbane one and he has been around a long, long time. If they gave him the job strategy to implement he would let them know exactly what to do with it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the 1995-96 draft Estimates therefore have been presented on the basis that the Honourable Member has not yet been able to identify in a cogent way what this job plan is about, and I said he has had several opportunities. He has decried the

one-in-every-family approach of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. He has decried the 5:4:3 plan, even though, if he were to carefully monitor the unemployment statistics to date, the achievement of the first phase of that plan was well in hand, and the Honourable Member knows it. 3.30 p.m.

He decried every single private sector investment which would have brought jobs to this country and many of them have turned their backs on Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Not K-Mart, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: He has found all kinds of excuses and reasons why that private sector development will not take place. What he has promised in these Estimates is that he is focussed on a number of projects which the private sector will be involved in. I want to make the point very clearly. We came to an understanding in this Chamber a couple of weeks ago and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, again speaking off the top of his head, said that he would never support another initiative brought before this House where the private sector is given opportunities to have access to resources when it is not on the basis of a tender system. That is what the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said. Yet I can read in the newspaper that there are all kinds of initiatives about to take place in Barbados in the Carlisle Bay, Bay Street area in which Government property is going to be made available to the private sector.

There was information recently given that the Harbour Police Station was going to be given to the private sector. It was in the newspaper.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Again, Sir, the... Mr.

SPEAKER: On what do you rise, Sir?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Government has no intention of giving public property to any private sector. Those things should not enter the record of Parliament. Foolishness!

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want that kind of commitment. That is a puerile commitment which makes no difference to me. The commitment that the Prime Minister needs to give is that he is not going to cut any deals on behalf of the Government to make any arrangements available to them.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ... which will make beachfront properties owned by Government, whether in Bay Street or in the Carlisle Bay area or elsewhere, available to them without the process going to tender, because we all agreed, and what he must do is that those who want access to those things... I am not blaming the Prime Minister. I am saying that the private sector now feels that they are on some kind of joy ride and gravy train so they are saying that all kinds of buildings are going to be made available to them *for* projects in the tourism sector and we need to be sure that those matters are going to be transparent and that they are going to be going out for tender.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. John, you mentioned "to cut any deals", is it possible that you could just rephrase that? I think the language is unparliamentary.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: To cut a deal? A deal in itself is not something bad. You can make an arrangement to facilitate. It does not mean that it is done in secrecy. You can cut a deal to settle a matter. You can cut a deal in any area. The Honourable Member cannot assume that I am referring to him in that regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will notice that I did not stop you. I first allowed you to continue because I wondered how you were using the word and that is why I asked you then to rephrase it.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON; Well, I have rephrased it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Once that is acceptable that there will be no arrangements made which are not transparent. I only say that because the Honourable Member for St. Peter himself has always called for this and that kind of transparency and he needs to focus on ensuring that even if joint venture operations are in place that they are on the basis of transparent arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter made it very clear in the course of his presentation this evening that we were taunting him about the jobs... Nobody is taunting you. We are requiring of the Member for St. Peter to do what he said he would do. It is not a joke business where people are taunting you and singing nursery rhymes with a skipping rope. We are here to do the people's business. We are requiring of you, the Honourable Member for St. Peter, that you perform according to the promises that you made to the people. It is not as simple as a taunt. It is a demand made by an Opposition Party which

is to ensure that the Government keeps its pledges to the public of Barbados and it is nothing less than a demand. It is not as trivial as a taunt because we don't have time for taunting. There are too many people that need those jobs and too many of those people out there who find themselves marginalised by the economic circumstances which exist in Barbados today.

The second point that he made in relation to jobs was that the Barbados Labour Party Government had no intention of sending home people. Sorry. He said, "I have no intention of sending home people."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairman of the coalition of staff associations and trade unions has come out very strongly in a statement this weekend in which he has said that he is predicating his discussion with the Government of Barbados in relation to an incomes policy essentially on a reversal of a trend in which people are being sent home and laid off from Government establishments. Now either the Prime Minister does not know or pretends that he does not know or is consciously misleading this House. He knows and ignores it. But there are people who have been sent home, some with compensation and some without. The Honourable Member for St Peter says he has no intention of sending home people, but they just sent home people from SL Joseph Hospital in his constituency. You mean you don't visit St. Peter anymore?

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That has nothing to do with the fact. The Honourable Member just said he is not sending home anybody and I can list a number of other areas in which people have been sent home or sent on short week like the National Conservation Commission. There are staff at the National Conservation Commission who were enjoying a 5 day week who in the past 2 months had been given a reduced work week by the Barbados Labour Party Government

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You hear that, Mr. Speaker? It is "your hospital". It is "your managing". This is the same responsible government which the Honourable Member said he is leading, in which as a responsible government he has to carry out certain projects. 3.40 p.m.

The Honourable Member said he has to finish the Ministry of Education Project He has to finish all kinds of things but when it comes to laying off people, the Honourable Member says, it is your hospital. It is your managers. That is the kind of duplicity which we are faced with in an exercise like this. The Honourable Member

will continue to say that people's credibility is on the line. He can continue to say that if he premises it on the wrong basis and I am going to get to the international institutions in due course. If the Honourable Member premises it on that basis, the Honourable Member's credibility must be on the line in this issue. Are the people from the St. Joseph Hospital going to be rehired and re-assimilated in the Public Service? If so...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Oh, they are? I will sit down if he wishes to say so. If you have the courage of your convictions you can say so. I am not stopping you.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I thought the Honourable Member was going to rise on a point of order to say that I was misleading the House because I am saying that the Barbados Labour Party Government has no intention of re-employing those persons who have been sent home from the St. Joseph Hospital.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Oh, thank you. I now see how the ball is swinging. You understand, Mr. Speaker, what kind of people you are dealing with in these exercises?

The National Conservation Commission: Attempts are being made - I have said so already that while the Prime Minister was in the middle of the retreat seeking to build bridges in the Public Service to send home other public officers, there are public officers who have been sent home. But worse than that is that in a column written for the Barbados Labour Party appearing in a newspaper on Sunday, a former Cabinet Minister made it clear that a statutory corporation under the direction and control of the Minister of Finance, and Prime Minister of Barbados, has hired people at that statutory corporation without advertising it, that it has also put people in positions at that statutory corporation without permitting persons employed in that corporation to apply for those positions.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: A former Cabinet Minister who writes in the "*Sunday Sun*".

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Oh, he is an independent? I did not realise that. He is in moth balls, Mr. Speaker, as they would say. He is a political moth ball like

the Ark Royal and those other vessels which became diffused with time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing now that I can say. There is no length to which the Honourable Prime Minister will not go to implement the policies of others. There is no length to which he will not go. That is the clearest piece of evidence that he is willing to implement the policies of "whomsoever will may come". That is an unfortunate trait but not one that I can attack at this time.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation which is under the direction and control of the Prime Minister has carried out employment practices which have been bitterly criticised in the newspaper and elsewhere as usual.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are just a few more things I wish to deal with. I need to deal with the issue ...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Prime Minister says he is restoring fiscal order. That, Mr. Speaker, as the Trinidadians will say, and as I have said is ole talk, he can repeat it as many times as he wants. It is good material on which editorials are written every week and ...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That does not bother me because I can reply. The Commissioner of Human Rights or the Statute, whatever it is called, acknowledges that in a democratic society the right to respond to views is a human right and as long as the newspapers in Barbados give me the right to respond, I will be happy. I do not want to tell anybody what to write. I want the right to respond and that is what I demand. I have been calling the Managing Editor to get an apology and some money for a Barbadian corporation which they defamed, not to do with the editorial policy of the "*Advocate*". I want money for my client for the foolishness they write.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: What I need to talk about is this concept of fiscal disorder. The Honourable Member has parroted it time and time again and he wishes to be known as the kingpin of fiscal responsibility in Barbados, cut loose from everybody else's policies and he is about to implement a regime of fiscal order. That fiscal order rests upon the utilisation of funds from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund without first indicating to the House how they will be utilised. That fiscal order rests upon a budget being given to statutory corporations which the Minister

of Finance full well knows cannot support the operations of those entities for the entire fiscal year. That fiscal order rests on a new arrangement with the IADB, the conditions and details of which the Honourable Member for St. Peter has not yet put before the House. He has told us what it does not include but he has not had the foresight, nor does he carry the precept of accountability so far, that he feels it is necessary to tell us what conditions have been agreed upon.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of hue and cry has been made in this House over time about what the Honourable Member perceived as the failure of the previous administration to make available the conditionalities for loans which were disbursed and I am going to get to that. But I am saying that the Prime Minister has to make, if he is going to follow his own advice to others, available to the public of Barbados the information relating to the conditions for accessing the IADB loan. I will get to the substance of the loan in a minute.

The second point he says is that there will be no more showpiece capital projects which are improperly conceived and not adequately financed. Nobody on this side has any objection to that. Capital projects are built to serve the interest of the people. There are going to be differing views on the purpose of capital projects.

The Honourable Member rests every single cent he spends by comparison to the cost of Sherbourne but that money has now been spent. I would like to know in 1996 what you are going to compare your new expenditure to. Every cent that the new Government spends they compare to what was spent on Sherbourne. The point is that Sherbourne is being utilised. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph had a very mature and responsible debate in here. At the end of the day one hopes that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph will adequately manage the entity such that it becomes a viable business operation as we had anticipated.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter does not need to preach to this House about the days of showpiece capital projects coming to an end. Other than Sherbourne, the Honourable Member for St. Peter needs to identify the other showpiece capital projects.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, if the Honourable Member identifies that as one...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: He did? The Central Bank Building? Let us go right back, Mr. Speaker.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, No. I have no objection if you go back. You can go back to 1961 if you want to. I know that there will be a lacuna or an intellectual leap that you are going to take between 1986 and 1987. As far as I am concerned you should try to go back and identify those kinds of projects which the people of Barbados are not entitled to because in every single Estimates debate the Honourable Member for St. Peter^k continually made the point that there is a role for the State in developing those kinds of projects whether it is the Central Bank building or other office space, the National Insurance building, or whatever. 3.50 p.m.

He gave his full, unqualified support to those kinds of projects. The only bugbear he has had is Sherbourne. There is no other major capital works project executed in Barbados, but the St. Thomas Secondary School, which the Honourable Member can identify as forming part of this showpiece capital project. So the country must have no national symbols whatsoever? It is important. Honourable Members on that side may say, well we should have a statue of Gary Sobers, somebody may say, a statue of Frank Worrell, somebody may say, a statue of Louis Lynch, somebody may say, one of Desmond Haynes.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But there are no other showpiece projects. Related to the polyclinic in St. John, eventually I will get to the stage where I will do like the former Right Honourable Member for St. John and I will say, if you do not want to put anything in St. John, that is your affair.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just let him speak, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. Peter wishes to lead a Government which excludes the people of St. John, they have been excluded before and you are only excluding another generation of them. That generation of people who were so warm and hospitable to the Honourable Member for St. Peter do not deserve that kind of treatment. But if the Labour Party wishes to treat them in that way, that is fine. I have no problem with that. It is not going to cause any lost sleep for me. But I will still be continuing with my community programmes up there and the other things that are relevant to the development of my constituency. I do not worry about that, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph knows how long-suffering and understanding people in rural areas can be. They have a sense of proportion.

If you do not want to finish the St. John Polyclinic...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in last year's Budget I identified the sum of \$1.1 million.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Because I indicated in the Budget then that I would start construction again in December of 1994. That was the Ministry of Health's plan. The Minister conceded that and said that it had been revised, that she was not starting. I have no quarrel with that. I am not fighting on that issue. If you wish the building to fall down, that is your affair.

But I cannot imagine that somebody who is committed to new forms of financial prudence, rural development which involves everybody, a new programme to lift people in rural communities could be so heartless and mean spirited as to come to this Chamber and not at least say what is happening with the St. John Polyclinic.

There is a valid reason why it was not completed then. Like the St. Thomas Secondary School, the Ministry of Education and the many other projects which were not at that time cut back. But I leave it to the Honourable Member for St. Peter. He has to live in Barbados and if he is Prime Minister of 10 parishes and not 11 parishes that is the Labour Party's affair.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Barbados Labour Party did not stop the St. John Polyclinic. Work on the St. John Polyclinic had been stopped since 1991 by the Democratic Labour Party. For a period of 4 years no work has been going on at the St. John Polyclinic. All we are doing is...

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point has been made. Let us continue, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that appears to be the end of that because instead of the Honourable Member giving a commitment that it would be completed, he is saying that it was stopped by somebody else. That is the farce, the paucity of commitment which the Honourable Member brings to public life in this country, and talking about rural development with a big, long story. He actually got a bit excited about that, about his plans for rural development lifting life in rural community. One project in the middle of rural Barbados and the Honourable Member for St. Peter cannot give a commitment on it.

I cannot go any further.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you. That experience, as I said, teaches me a good lesson because, as Minister of Finance I never viewed St. Peter as being separate and apart from Barbados. I never viewed any other constituency. The Democratic Labour Party put the school in St. Thomas during its tenure in office.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But that did not stop anything in St Peter. There were many other things done in St. Peter during that time.

Mr. Speaker, I rest my case. I have not even made a case. If you wish to expunge all that I have said about the St. John Polyclinic from the record, feel free to do so. The onus is on the Government to complete it and they must complete it in a time frame that best suits their interest, their priorities, their preoccupation. The people of St. John will rest easy with that decision. They do not expect anything and therefore if they do not get, they would not be disappointed.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter made very heavy weather, in his presentation, about the fact that he said no to the IMF, as if he was the first Prime Minister and Minister of Finance ever to say no to them.

The point is very clear that the Democratic Labour Party also said no to the IMF on a number of issues. That is nothing new. It is your job, as the Minister of Finance, to determine what is in the best interest of this country. If you feel that another international institution can design a macro economic programme which is in the best interest of Barbados, without the IMF being involved, that is a calculated decision of the Minister of Finance.

The Democratic Labour Party made it very clear the basis on which the IMF programme was going to be put in place. The IADB indicated to us that they do not have the technical competence to develop a macro economic programme for a country. They are a Development Bank and the ISL supports a structural adjustment programme or comes after a programme of macro economic reform put in place by the IMF. The IMF programme has been put in place and if the Honourable Member for St. Peter can now access those resources, that is fine.

What the Honourable Member for St Peter has constantly done in this country, and it is a crying shame, is to give the impression that the Democratic Labour

Party agreed to conditions for an ISL, even though it was unlikely that we were going to source that ISL and that we agreed to those conditions, made provision in the Estimates for financing from the IADB.

Let me make it clear. We had a debate last year for 2 days on the BDB. For 2 days this House debated the BDB and at no time did the then Democratic Labour Party Administration say that it was going to amalgamate the Barbados Development Bank with the BNB. If the Honourable Member for St. Joseph recalls, we put all of the options before the people of Barbados. The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows that there were 3 options, close down the BDB altogether. Amalgamate it with the BNB or, alternatively, to take out the loan analysis section. The BDB apparently has a very good risk analysis section that meets with you and determines the viability of your project and they thought that this was a very good section and that this should be extracted from the BDB and established as an independent agency on which financial institutions in Barbados would rely for advice or whether to support a particular investment or not. But there was no agreement to amalgamate the BDB. The Honourable Member constantly repeats that particular assertion and he knows that it is untruthful but still repeats it time and time again. The Barbados Government had before it 3 options. We did not agree on any of them.

The second point is that the question of the Barbados National Bank was also up for consideration. When we came to that Head, we discussed the future of the BNB. I made it clear in response to a question asked by the Honourable Member for St. Peter that we would not be employing a Managing Director for the BNB until we had established the role and function of the Bank. The BNB had to determine whether it was going to compete with other commercial banks, on the same basis, whether it was going to become a savings bank or whether it was going to specialize in some other area or whether it would be shut down or privatized. Those were the options. None were agreed to. The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows why. The financial system in Barbados is still... 4.00 p.m.

Aside.

MR. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well you could put it that way. I would say it is not mature enough. We have two private commercial banks out there that are not functioning on a sustainable basis and on top of that the Barbados National Bank. The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows that one of those commercial banks, its viability rests on Central Bank deposits and National Insurance deposits, and that Bank is trying its best to make ends meet.

The Honourable Member also knows that the Barbados National Bank is not as strong a bank as it appears for the simple reason that the Barbados National Bank, by and large, holds the deposits of Government institutions. It is not out there getting new business from the private sector. The Barbados National Bank's portfolio, its deposits, are based by and large on National Insurance Deposits, on bonds which it holds from the sugar industry and Government securities. It is not a bank that is out there in active commercial business and he has to determine whether the BNB can in fact compete with other commercial banks under its present legislation.

So when I hear all the talk about bringing in a manager from overseas and paying him all of that money, if you are going to pay the Manager what normal commercial banks in Barbados get at that level then you have got to free him up from the BNB Act. That kind of reform is the kind of reform that we were considering. You have to re-charter the Bank and in essence in re-chartering it you have to privatise its operations. When I say privatise I want to make the point that privatising the Barbados National Bank does not mean selling 100% of it and the Honourable Member is right. That capital can be converted into shares and the credit unions, instead of putting their money in Barclays Bank and so on need to shift some of those deposits into the BNB and have a major shareholding in the BNB. This is what I had envisioned for the Barbados National Bank.

Now the point is, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that those reforms have to be put in place now and we gave no commitment on that. On the Labour Market reforms, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter has already come in this Chamber and has accused the Democratic Labour Party of seeking to implement the Downes Report. We refuted that by saying that we rejected the Downes Report and said it needed to be augmented by another report before we examined other issues relating to the National Insurance Scheme. We came to no agreement. Unless the National Insurance has now received the other report, I certainly never saw it. No decisions were made relating to severance payments or labour market mobility.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter again misleads the House when he gives the impression and he has done it on about three occasions publicly, that the Democratic Labour Party and it is wilfully misleading the public of Barbados, he said that the Democratic Labour Party agreed to change the Town Planning Laws. That is mischief because it is totally untrue. The Democratic Labour Party was in discussion with the IADB on a land use policy for Barbados. The IADB, like many other people, some inside Barbados and some outside, believe that land should find its highest use in this country.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South always makes a point about the value of land in Barbados and that if all of that plantation land was sold at its highest use, if the development rights in accordance with the physical development plan were applied to that land and it was sold at the market rate for the purposes which were most desirable for that land and most economical for that land that they could pay off all the sugar industry debt and the IADB shares that view. They feel that the constraints in respect of land use in Barbados are too stringent, that the prohibition on taking agricultural land out of agriculture should not be in place and that there should be a more flexible arrangement for determining land use which does not rest solely on the Town Planner or the Minister of Town Planning. They said other people should have an input. That is all. So you would change the framework for Town Planning to give other interests a right to comment on land use application. That was their view. We never agreed to it.

The Minister of Agriculture, the same week the IADB team came here, put out a policy document and the Honourable Member for St. Peter must have access to that document in which they zoned land in Barbados and said it was not to come out of agricultural use where it was in a particular zone, livestock rearing in another zone and so on. So we made it clear to them that we were not about to change our ideas about land use in Barbados particularly where you were making a significant investment in the sugar industry. It would be incompatible with what we were doing.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Peter, is a good example of the Town Planning Act gone awry and I am going to tell you why. You have at Greenland a scenario in which the Government proposes a particular land use for a particular area. I do not know if an application was made for change of use or if it is necessary, but let us assume that it was necessary and somebody made an application for change of use, even before that application was heard the Minister for Town Planning was down in St. Peter telling the public that as far as he is concerned that a particular land use is appropriate for that spot. That would mean that anybody who is about to make an application under the principles of administrative justice would feel it is no point

Now, the point I am trying to make is that the Minister feels strongly about that land use and he is entitled to feel that way but if I were an objector and I heard the Prime Minister, as Minister of Town Planning say, look it is Greenland, full stop, then I would not bother to make any objection because the final decision in relation to Town Planning would rest with the Minister or the panel which he appoints. So the point I am trying to make is that they are saying, to avoid that situation you need to have a

more transparent system. And there are many other scenarios in which that may occur.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Precisely. That is the point, Mr. Speaker, Sir. However they are saying that it would be better if the Minister could feel free to speak by delegating the decision to other entities. I am not saying it is right or wrong, and I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and I share completely different views on that subject. You too, the two of you all have a symbiotic relationship on that, but participatory democracy which the Honourable Member for St Peter subscribes to means that you must put the Opposition on Boards, you must get all of these other interests involved, so the IADB is on his side, they are not on our side. 4.10 p.m.

With regard to town planning, what they want to do falls squarely within the precepts which the Social Justice Commission and which the Prime Minister believe should be put in place in Barbados. They believe that Ministers are grubby-fingered people. I am using the Honourable Member's expression. The Honourable Member for St. Peter talked about these grubby-fingered Ministers who are bringing casino gambling to Barbados. They believe that Ministers are grubby-fingered men and women who are taking kickbacks and making decisions based on that. The problem is that the Honourable Members, even though I have views on participatory democracy which may be slightly different, I am not taking any dictates from the likes of some of those people who the Honourable Member for St. Peter has elevated to the Social Justice Commission. I believe the Honourable Member for St. Peter is very sincere in many of the things he does. I think he felt genuinely that these people could contribute, or somebody recommended them to him, because I know the Honourable Member for St. Peter well enough to know that they are not his buddies, nor mine.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Nor are they people who you know much about, so the Honourable Member has appointed them on various bases - I do not know what those bases are - to advise him on this, and some of them have a valid contribution to make to Barbados, but some of them have been coasting and loafing and loitering around politicians for too long. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South does not have time for those kinds of fellows.

The point I want to make is that this concept of participatory democracy is such that they believe that those kinds of decisions should not be the Minister's

decisions, and the IADB has come down here with this. I ask the Honourable Member for St. Peter, for the second time, to read the report from the IADB's expert on the BNB. Do you know what their principal concern is about the BNB? That the Minister of Finance has to approve loans above a certain amount. I was Minister of Finance for a year and a half and I only ever saw one file where I was required to approve a loan above a particular amount. I do not know how many files you saw as Minister of Finance - I am referring to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South - but they do not come on a daily basis. Their argument was that the private sector has no confidence in the BNB, because if they want a big loan they have to go and see the Minister. Read the report. Then they had another report which they wrote for the people of this country in which they said that the principal constraint to private sector development in Barbados was the fact that files remained on the desks of Ministers for lengthy periods, so for example, they cited Immigration, IDC and all of these agencies which they said were constrained because all decisions had to be made by the Minister. So they have reduced every single reform in Barbados to taking away power from elected officials. The only people in Barbados other than Presidents of clubs and so on who are elected, take the power away from them and vest that power in other people. That is what they want, and I am saying to the Honourable Member for St. Peter that that is why we told them no on that score too.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I did not say that, I gave an example which they used of the type of working, the injustice that can be worked where the Minister has a final decision to make but is like you, let us say the leader, who has a strong view on a particular issue. Their view, and there are other Barbadians who share that view, that the Honourable Member for St Peter should have waited, let the debate rage on Greenland, when it comes to you as a final issue you then make a decision. You have opted to make a decision. The system of Government permits that and that is life in Barbados. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I am not dwelling on that but there were two more things.

The Technical Vocation Educational Programme - I am disappointed in a debate we had here a couple of weeks ago. We have carried out extensive research on the issue of the fees at the University. I do not require any politician on that side to be charitable to this Government. We do not need to be charitable. The Honourable Member for St. Peter must not be misled by people whose experience is a shadow of his own. I ask the Honourable Member for St. Peter to go and read the Cabinet Minutes, and if the Honourable Member can come in here and say that the Democratic Labour Party gave a commitment to increase fees at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the

Community College or the University of the West Indies, as distinct from a decision that the Government would explore...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the reason why that is important is because the Honourable Member for St Michael North East indicated, quite rightly, that she is also going to be exploring it, so what was wrong with the Democratic Labour Party saying that it was going to explore it? Would you believe that the impression was given to the public of Barbados that we agreed to increase fees at the University, at the Polytechnic and at the Community College? That is a dastardly lie which was put out by those...

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

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, order please. The Honourable Member for St John, I am suggesting that you rephrase it.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I did not say anybody in here, I said a dastardly lie put abroad. If you wish me to re-interpret it, I would use the language of the Honourable Member for St Thomas, it was a terminological inexactitude of the highest proportions. You have used that expression in here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, we agreed to explore it. If the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East wants to say that, I would accept that, because cost recovery does not mean exclusively increasing fees, it could mean a whole range of other considerations. The accusation was an increase in fees, and let us assume that is what the Cabinet agreed, the Cabinet, like the Barbados Labour Party Cabinet, agreed to explore it and there is nothing wrong with this agreement to explore it. What is happening in this country too often is that every time a public administrator takes a decision to look at an issue, whether it is the Severance Payments Act, Casino Gambling, University of the West Indies fees, the impression is being given that merely by considering it you are agreeing to it. That is setting a bad precedent, because it is going to make it very difficult for the Barbados Labour Party to review serious issues. As soon as you start to talk about public sector reform, even before you get to the results of that, the Trade Unions are going to be keeping noise. We do not yet have this culture in place which accepts that to discuss an issue does not mean that you agree to it. All I am saying

to the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the fact that you set up a Commission on casino gambling, even though I said it was irrelevant, I have not made the deduction that you wish to introduce casino gambling. But there are thousands of Barbadians that by that mere act of setting up a Commission believe that you have already decided to introduce casino gambling and that by setting up a task force that the previous Government had agreed to establish casino gambling in Barbados. All of these issues were at the stage of discussion and the Honourable Member for St. Peter knows that. You cannot fire those shots anymore, because we took the blows for a year. Get to the substance now! 4.20 p.m.

My advice to the Honourable Member for St. Peter is to forego that. Nothing was agreed to. Nothing binds the Honourable Member for St. Peter. He said he has jettisoned all of those things. You are now unshackled and free. Get to your job! That is what the Honourable Member for St. Peter needs to do.

Mr. Speaker, you are free to tell the World Bank to go and forget the increase. The Honourable Member is free to say whatever he wants. The substance of the point I want to make is that our understanding of investment sector loans was that a macro economic framework had to be in place in a country which was in conformity with whatever the World Bank or the IMF thought would be desirable. That is what the IADB said to us.

We do not make the rules. If the Honourable Member for St. Peter as a result of changes in the rules on negotiation of a new ISL has come up with new arrangements, that is entirely within his discretion. However, the Honourable Member for St. Peter needs to tell this House that since that loan is to be drawn down over a period of time that there must be some target which he has to achieve and he needs to tell the House what those targets are because there is no... Well, let us not say targets. If you prefer a different word. There must be certain reforms on which that loan is contingent. A policy based loan of necessity, unless you are implementing all of the policies, had to be based on some policy reform.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter needs to come clean with us and tell us what are those policy reforms. That is all we are asking for, Mr. Speaker. To pretend that I went up to Belize, sat down with the President of the IADB who is as much politician as you in case you didn't know it.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We always met with Miss Nancy Birdsall the Vice President. I never met with any

petty bureaucrats. Miss Birdsall is the United States representative. She is the person who makes the decision at the IADB. The Vice President of IADB is an American and we all know in the international institutions who deals and calls the shots. So we had our own strategy. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has his. Mr. Iglesias whom he met with was always willing to help. There was never a time that I met with him and never a time that the Honourable Prime Minister met with him...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ... The Honourable Member for Christ Church South understands it. He is always ready to smooth over the cracks. That's his job. He needs to be re-elected and he knows what to do. The technocrat, the person who understands the technical issues is Miss Birdsall. The Vice President for the IADB, when you get into that office and talk with the Vice President, is not interested in platitudes. The Vice President of the IADB, the new one, when last we met with her said to the Barbados Government, "Listen, the international institutions agreed that those French African countries would not have a devaluation of the dollar and look what has happened to them. The same week they had mass confusion."

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The United States Government's position on Barbados was very clear. The Government of the United States had a very clear position on Barbados that so long as we did not resist graduation - that was their view that Barbados needed to be graduated right away - that they would facilitate Barbados' way in the international institutions. As you know, the U.S. Government, once you have completed your end of the bargain - the Honourable Member for Christ Church West knows these things - the U.S. Government then pulls another tack on you and re-interprets their own position.

Their position for Barbados under the Barbados Labour Party and under the Democratic Labour Party was that as long as we did not resist graduation from concessionary lending they would facilitate us in the institution.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The reality out there is something else. I have asked the Honourable Member for St. Peter what are the conditions and he said he would make them available and I will wait and see. He said he would draw them in the third quarter of the financial year. There is a book called the Lords of Poverty by Graham Hancock and there are some others too. I don't have the power to dispense national honours or medals, but if I

did, and the Honourable Member for St. Peter is able to get whatever tranche he said within the third quarter of this financial year from the IADB, he will receive an encomium from me which is similar to a medal. I don't know which kind of encomium I will give him. One that he and I would enjoy. Nothing fancy.

The only reason why I am saying that is because the IADB has always found it difficult in every country in the Caribbean... Study it carefully! The Honourable Member for St. Peter has more intelligence than that Foolishness about because of this body and that body! They are not as petty as that. That is the kind of politics which people in Roebuck Street practise, not there in these international institutions.

I want to say to the Honourable Member for St. Peter that the IADB has been notorious in its inability - as with many of the international institutions after the agreement stage, the *aide memoire*, as they call it, sets out the conditionalities and then to go through the other 5 stages, takes more than 18 months. I would like and I want to make it clear the Democratic Labour Party position is that we would like you to be able to access those funds. We will put no stumbling blocks in the way of the Government because we think that that money is important. You say elbow room. We would have liked that elbow room. We didn't get it. We don't begrudge you getting it. If you get it, we will congratulate you, monitor how it is spent, because we are not giving you any open... We will be very happy for the Government and people of Barbados.

I want to make that clear. When we talk about the IADB we do not talk about it out of any jealousy. We talk about it because we still feel that the Honourable Member for St. Peter, new as he is to this, and I don't mean it as a criticism, needs to understand that every "skin teet" in international circles is not a laugh, and that sometimes when you think you are making headway the fellows carry you to the wire, and then they sit down and say, "Well you know there were just a few things that we had discussed."

You remember that road project the day Tom Adams died? Big in the newspaper the day before - "Road Thing Come Through". The next day a letter written saying sorry. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South must remember it, the ABC Highway and the Minister was running around Barbados with that letter in his hand, saying, "You see? I get through. We got the thing in the bag."

He came up here running around with it and when you hear the shout...

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed with the debate.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The road was built, and I don't criticise the building of the road, but I am saying one needs to be more cautious so that if the criticism that we should not have had it in the financing is valid it may be a valid criticism. It may be that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is too premature in including this in his financing.

I believe that once the global market settles down as a result of the crisis in Mexico that the Honourable Member for St. Peter can go back to that market. We have a good profile on that market. The Honourable Member knows that. It took a lot of work for us to get there and the Honourable Member for St. Peter should credit those technicians and politicians who are responsible for that. We draw on that market. Once conditions in Mexico settle down... Because there are private sector companies in the Caribbean now which are following that trend and they are also going on the same market so I am familiar with what is happening out there and they will be going on the same market too. So Barbados stands a good chance. 4.30 p.m.

Now, the last point. The Honourable Member issued another one of his famous injunctions, "Do not send me any contracts which are not the lowest bids."

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Technical grounds are not an issue for a Minister. At the level of technical grounds they do not even come to the Minister.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That was not a technical ground. That is why I have to answer this issue because it is very important. I do not worry with the Honourable Member for St. Peter because my family did not make any syrup anywhere nor sell it to anybody. I was not the Minister who introduced kola syrup to the school children in Barbados. I know who was, I know why and that information will become available.

There were some teachers who were very shocked when this kola syrup debate became known. They came and told me, "Could you imagine that we heard the Honourable Member for the City was in the House keeping so much noise about kola syrup? You know the true story about kola syrup?" I need not get into it now. I have a debate and I intend to exercise my...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for the City has a remarkable fascination with corruption.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue with the debate, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not know what happened in her political life ...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member... Could we have some order over here, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I cannot talk about polyclinics. I cannot talk about any of those things. If I have to produce the Speaker with the relevant information I am not allowing anybody with any mealy mouth pretensions dictating to me what my morality is. If I were to judge myself by you...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, please. The Honourable Member for the City, could we have some order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I will not be long on this point or go much further in this debate. As I have said, I do not judge my political morality nor do I allow others to judge it for me. It is a conscious decision that each politician has to take and stand by it. While Honourable Members, and there are some who have a fascination with this idea that by and large because the people who come in this House sometimes come here without strong backing of business, or strong family line of business, the concept is that most of us have to be thieves at the end of the day if we achieve anything in life. That message leaves this Chamber and goes out there because other people believe that what we say about each other is true.

Certain remarks made by Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the records.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City, please. Let us continue the debate on the Estimates.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, the point I want to make relates to this idea of contracts. We have had a long history in Barbados in relation to this matter. It came to a head with the COW Williams case. The COW Williams case only decided one issue so far. It has gone no further, which is that some decisions of the Cabinet are decisions that are reviewable. I have always

been of that view as well because it is a statutory function which the Cabinet is undertaking. It was not a big thing. That is all it has decided. It has not decided whether the contract should have been awarded to one person or to another on any basis.

When I heard that that matter was being settled as a result of that decision, I was very concerned. I hope that is not so. I do not know who said it but this issue came up that the matter was likely to be settled.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not ascribing it to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas because I never heard who said it but there was an article in the paper all about it saying that the matter would be settled. The point is that the law is very clear. Government Departments are aware of the procedures which must be adopted. When we come to the No-Confidence motion I am going to clarify it in their minds.

Where the Tenders Committee makes a decision and for some reasons, not just technical reasons - there are other valid reasons why a contract should not sometimes be given to one business over another, not just price. The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows well that many of the large corporations in this country have been built on patronage and that patronage has been based on the intervention of Ministers of Government to award contracts to them in relation to certain matters historically.

Mr. Speaker, from time immemorial - I do not know when the Financial Administration Act was passed - but there are some ungrateful businessmen - there are some in the Labour Party too - who have built their businesses on patronage but who pretend that their business has been built purely on their ability.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, why does this debate upset the Honourable Member for the City? Something is wrong.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order, please.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City...

Asides.

Mr. Speaker stands.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please. I think at this point we will suspend the House for 15 minutes. 4.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. Before we begin, however, I should just like to say a few words to Honourable Members. I should like us to proceed observing the dignity and decorum of this Honourable Chamber, please. I will remind you that, of course, I am entitled, under the Rules of the House, the Standing Orders of this House to ask any Member who disregards these Standing Orders to leave this Chamber.

For the remainder of this sitting, I am going to be asking Members to behave at least in a manner that is befitting of this Chamber, please. I should not like Members, for the remainder of this sitting, to continue to shout across the Chamber at each other. I should like us to proceed orderly and, as I said, I will enforce the Rules this afternoon. Let us continue orderly, please.

The Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I would not be long. I still think that this point needs to be made. I was trying to get to the substance of this point. I am not making this point on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party, and I am not saying that we belong to any club, but we have certain common interests.

We have our own collective integrity to defend and we also have perspectives, as politicians, which when they come under assault we need to join together in defending them. I am not requiring anybody to defend practices that are wrong. When the Opposition or the Government finds out practices that they think are wrong, you are entitled to raise them on either side.

But let me say, from the outset, that I do not agree with any concept, by any policymaker who says that the only decision, other than technical reasons is cost because there are several other important factors. I will get to that.

Before I get to that, I want to say that there is a large number of people who have benefitted, substantially, from patronage but who, when it suits them, like to bring in the argument of cost, as though cost is the only issue. Let me make this point. I was getting to that.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows that the South East Asian economies were built, substantially, on

conscious decisions being taken by policymakers about selecting certain individual companies and giving them preferential treatment by way of licences to import, while they were building up their manufacturing capacity. The trade-off was that...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I will get to all of that. Do not worry. ... the policymakers viewed it as their remit to help the manufacturers get to a sustainable position by giving them other sources to finance their operations and their cash flow, other than loans and so on.

They had a system of patronage in place, some of which was helpful in building those economies. It was not as transparent as it should have been, but it is one of the major factors responsible for the growth of some of those mega companies out of places like Japan, Singapore and so on. Patronage in itself is always used as an argument by the private sector to give the impression that any time a policymaker makes a decision, it is not based on sound reasons.

There have been a number of issues which have come to light in the newspaper about decisions varied by the Minister of Finance, under the Democratic Labour Party. As I understand it the practice in the Public Service, prior to the COW case, was that the Minister in the relevant Ministry used to deal with contracts - I do not know if I am correct - where there was a variation that, very often, the Minister brought the Cabinet Paper to the Cabinet for variation of the Tenders Committee decision.

As a result of the COW Williams case we put in place a procedure where the Minister was required to write to the Minister of Finance and say, Minister of Finance, I disagree with the Tenders Committee decision for these reasons and you would get the reasons. Very often for completeness and to save time, the Minister would also attach his Draft Cabinet Paper on the assumption that you would have agreed with his reasons so that when you say approved the matter would go straight to Cabinet and would be before Cabinet sometimes in a day. Very often once the Minister explains the position, the matter could be dealt with in a day.

I remember the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East reflecting on the speed with which the School Meals contract was dealt with. The Permanent Secretary or the relevant officer could have indicated to the Minister that, as the Minister of Finance, I dealt with those matters in a day. I always told the Ministers, attach your Cabinet Paper. If I disagree with it, you can write it over. Once I agree, it is already on a computer. I will approve it and let us get it to Cabinet right away. That is something

that should be lauded. I am not asking for praise for me. But I am saying that because I recognized that the procedure was one in which the Minister of Finance before did not always intervene until the COW Williams case, the speed with which those matters were attended to is something that should have been lauded. It is not because of any odious practice.

Mr. Speaker, there have been several occasions on which contracts came before the relevant Minister. There was one relating to the duty-free shop at the airport. I am going to tell you what impacted most on my mind with respect to that. That is nothing to do with patronage.

About 2 years ago the Honourable Member for Christ Church South pointed out that there was a system in place at the airport where, because of the tendering system, the owners of the duty-free shop high-priced the liquor. I do not know if the Honourable Member for Christ Church South remembers that. For them to make a profit, they have to price the liquor at prices which are uncompetitive with the rest of the Caribbean. If you go for the highest bidder, it is almost automatic that that person is going to increase the prices of liquor at the airport shop because, in becoming the highest bidder, you are eating immediately into his margin.

The point is that when we looked at it, they carried out the analysis, they said that of all the companies this is the position. If we went with this one the prices would increase by X% because it is almost calculated to a fine art. They went back with the old contender. The old contender also had in place a bond and had serviced the operation satisfactorily. The previous operator of the duty-free shop is well known to myself and the Honourable Member for the City - the previous operator prior to the one who is presently in operation - the Honourable Member wants to deny that but she knows the person. The person was my legal client...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I would not get rugged but it is a good friend of the Honourable Member for the City.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The contract was awarded to that person on several occasions. I do not know if it was awarded on the basis of the highest bidder. The person who operated that shop before the present operator. It was not awarded on the basis of highest bidder. Check the records. I do not wish to get into that kind of debate because

nobody is going to demean me and encourage me to get into any exercise in determining who operates the duty-free shop and whether it was the highest bidder. There is a rational reason for it. If those persons who are affected by those decisions as a result of the COW Williams case, under the Administrative Justice Act, can now write and ask the Cabinet to give reasons for its decision - I hope the Honourable Member for St. Thomas agrees with me on this - it is possible now that a person who is aggrieved by a decision of the Cabinet can now write and ask the Cabinet for a statement of reasons of its decision not to award the contract to them. Perfectly legitimate and transparent. If the Minister of Finance were asked why the contract was awarded to a particular company with respect to School Meals, the answer that would have been given is that the then Minister, as he said in the newspapers, recommended it on the basis of quality, the avoidance of monopolies...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It was not just kola syrup. This is an error that is being constantly made. The impression is being given that what came before the Minister of Finance was a contract for kola syrup. What came before the Minister of Finance was the entire allocation of commodities for the School Meals Department for that year. It is not for the Minister of Finance to examine every one. A Minister of Finance is entitled to rely on the judgement of the Minister who is making the recommendation and he in turn is entitled to rely on the judgement... 5.10 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is improper for an Honourable Member to discuss in general debate a matter which is already subject to a special and potential debate of No-Confidence ...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not dealing with any kola syrup that is a matter that is being dealt with. I am dealing with the award of contracts in the School Meals Service. The two years previous to that, the then Manager of the School Meals indicated that there were concerns about reliability and the quality of the commodities which were being delivered to the School Meals Service.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The comments relating to the reliability and the supply by the Manager of the School Meals Service had nothing at all to do with the recommendation as made by the Chairman of Tenders Committee for the supply for 1994 to 1995. It had to do with previous years.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is what I said. I said the previous two years.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, before you continue, I know you are responding to a point made by the Honourable Member for St. Peter relating to contracts and so on, but I do not think that we will allow this debate to degenerate into a debate about the logistics relating to awarding of contracts. I believe that a lot of the specifics of course will come up under the Heads and so on and I believe it is necessary for you to proceed to conclude the particular point that you are making in response to the Prime Minister's statement.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The point I am making is this, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that there are many other issues that are relevant to determination as to whether one company or individual over another is entitled to a particular contract and the citizens of Barbados are entitled by law to the reasons why the Cabinet came to that decision. That is my understanding of the Cow Williams case. I am saying therefore that just as the Minister of Finance says that he would be bound by the decision of the Casino Gambling Commission, or will adhere to its recommendations, before he even knows what his Members in here feel about it, I am saying it does not make sense to say, do not send me any contracts where it is to vary a decision not to award it to the lowest bidder outside of technical reasons. I am saying there is no need to say that. Nobody is accusing you of anything but in fact, in point of law you should understand, as an administrator, decisions made by administrators cannot be made only on financial reasons. Even the Administrative Justice Act says that sometimes, and you will find that there are cases in which financial reasons will be irrelevant, that there will be other more compelling reasons.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The fact that the Administrative Justice Act says, for example, that you should not take into account irrelevant considerations, there may be circumstances in which the lowest bidder is irrelevant to the particular contract or the Minister may be able to establish that the bid is irrelevant, that what is relevant is other issues. I am therefore saying to the Honourable Member for St. Peter that there is no need for any grandstanding by any of us on this issue. The Minister must take into account all of the relevant considerations.

Some Ministers feel that redressing of past economic imbalances is relevant and I challenge anybody to say that that is not a relevant consideration.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is asking whether that is a relevant consideration for Barbados? I feel you should look around and talk ...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you. I think the Honourable Member is...

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you should address the Chair.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I believe the Honourable Member for St. Joseph should address that question to the Honourable Member for St. George South who would point out as he did in Carlisle Car Park, many months ago, why the good society demands that those who have been marginalised are actively brought into the mainstream by conscious decisions of politicians.

So that I am not justifying the decision of any previous Minister. I can justify every single decision that I took as Minister of Finance under the Financial Administration and Audit Act and I believe that the Minister so far can do so. But there are contracts that have been awarded in recent times that have not been awarded on the basis of the lowest bid and the Honourable Member knows that. For example, I doubt very much that the National Housing Corporation has awarded a contract to complete the houses at Cane Garden in St. Thomas on the basis of the lowest bid. I do not even think bids have been taken with respect to that but yet to the best of my knowledge three people have been given the right to complete construction of those houses at Cane Garden in St. Thomas.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member says they are redressing historical imbalances. Fair enough. Thank you. I could take my seat at this point on this particular issue. No contract has gone out for tender. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South may have a bit of difficulty with that but I do not know, he can be pretty, I do not want to say wishy washy because that is unparliamentary. He is shifting about.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope the Honourable Member for the City knows about this. I would like to enlighten her. But, Mr. Speaker, even better than that or worse is that contracts have been awarded with respect to the printing of bus tickets. We have a whole list of them. I have the note somewhere because the Honourable Member for St. Peter always says that I

fool people around. It is a company in which a Cabinet Minister, in his previous incarnation, I like to use that word, had some interest. I am not saying he still has interest. He may very well have divested himself of all of those interests and his decision making but it certainly did not go to the lowest bidder and it went to a company which, as I said, had some other factor and may have been responsible *for, or* dominant in the decision to award the contract. Let us not fool ourselves. Let us not be more sanctimonious and holier than thou than is necessary.

What concerns me about the award of contracts is where those contracts are being taken away from emerging black businesses in this country and are being placed right back in the hands of those who already consolidated their wealth on the basis of patronage. If a fellow says, I am putting up a building in this country and investing in this economy the sum of \$50 million, I give that as an example, I know that the Minister of Finance would have to take that into consideration as well if he is making a decision about the allocation of contracts to supply commodities because that investment is critical assuming that it is to the development of the country and where a fellow is making an investment like that, I am saying that it is incumbent on the Minister of Finance to be sensitive to that and to say, well look, this fellow is making an investment in Barbados, he is a Barbadian, he is interested in employing Barbadians and therefore some consideration should be given. I am not saying you are to give him the contract but that is a factor which should be taken into consideration.

I am seeing it in the hotel sector. In all the sectors there are factors other than the lowest bid. There are sometimes contractors where projects do not involve foreign funds who have exercised great forbearance with Government. There are people who have done work for Government who have had to wait two or three years to get their money. Some have never been paid. There must be consideration sometimes given to them if they are still in business with respect to the award of contracts.

I am not saying that if they come in with the highest bid that you automatically give it to them. I am saying the fellow is reasonable and your tenders committee says, well this falls within a range, you have a right to do it, so long as the administrator can justify his action on a basis that is sensible and sound and transparent, so long as everybody has the right to tender, so long as the Minister uses his discretion, brings into consideration all of the relevant issues, including the economic development of the country, I stand by that.

If the Honourable Member for St. Peter feels I am paving the way for him, I am doing it I want to tell you

that I am interested in some of these small businesses getting opportunities in this country and whenever the opportunity stands for me to take a contract from somebody who has already consolidated their wealth and there is somebody else who is within a reasonable range of that and I think that they need that kind of assistance, that they are contributing to the economy, that they are employing Barbadians, that they are a company of integrity, I am going to consider them as well. There is going to be no monopoly of operations in Barbados. I only want to say that I do not know about the past, the ones that I dealt with, Mr. Speaker, I dealt with on that basis. If the Minister said to me that there are valid reasons, I gave consideration to that. 5.20 p.m.

Now I want to therefore say to the Minister, I do not wish you to retract it, but I am going to forget that the Honourable Prime Minister said those words. I am not going to hold it against him, because I do not want him to implement that policy at all. It will be wrong, it will work an injustice, it will be unfair. It is not part of the process of economic democracy and it does not make sense in a modern Barbados. We are social engineers, not technicians. The lowest bid is but one issue. There are other relevant issues that as politicians we have to take into consideration, and as decision makers we must take into consideration all of the factors, so if I am disappointed about a previous scenario which we will come to debate in due course, I am only disappointed because the impression was given that the only relevant factor in awarding contracts is price. I am saying to you that is not the only consideration. That is my philosophy. I give everybody the right to have reasons. The point is that where you do not give a contract to X, they must be given reasons for that decision. If you decide to award it to A as opposed to B, all B has a right to are reasons, and when B sees those reasons, if you are acting in good faith you have no problem. It is only if you are acting in bad faith, if you have considered irrelevant things, if you acted out of your jurisdiction and the other lists of issues under the Administrative Justice Act that you have a problem. So long as your conscience is clear and you are acting in good faith as a public administrator, you are entitled to consider any relevant reason in awarding contracts. I hope this issue comes to an end now.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph wishes to put other fetters on it, he can do that. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South agrees 100% with that, all these mutterings I am hearing down there. He knows about that kind of thing and modern Barbados has been built on that. There have been odious episodes. I have not been part of any, but there

have been some once or twice where a fellow may have gone awry, but by and large I believe that the tendering system does not provide enough room for the kinds of profits which people allege are made and which are supposed to be thrown around.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not dealing with the Cane Garden thing, because as I said there may be other reasons. I know when the boys visited they had a sympathetic ear, and validly so. The houses needed to be finished. They had better do them properly. That is all I can say. It was so with the houses at West Terrace. The contracts were not awarded on any tendering system. I worked for contractors who built houses at West Terrace and some of them were sworn, valid supporters of the Barbados Labour Party. Some built good houses, some built rubbish.

Let me just go to the Barbados Youth Service. I do not like long speeches, Mr. Speaker, but the Honourable Member for St. Peter got so excited at the end that I know he wants me to respond. I congratulate the Government if it is going to provide these funds for the Youth Service. The Youth Service is a real young organisation. It has not been around for 50 years, it was started in austerity. The Youth Service was one of the only initiatives, together with the Youth in Business programme, that we were able to start to mitigate the impact of the adjustment programme and to get the youth policy going. They were therefore started in difficult circumstances. I accept that it was not what we anticipated. The programme that we wanted to develop was to have the Youth Service operation and then to have another organisation called the National Youth Forum, because the Youth Service could only accommodate 100 recruits. The National Youth Forum would now generate another 500 which, on a part time basis, weekends and during camps, would be involved in the activities. Regrettably, the Youth Service began and as always happens with new initiatives got caught up in all kinds of red tape. Sometimes they could not get the stipend, the Ministry and the Youth Service people were fighting because they had no flexibility, it was very difficult sometimes among public officers when you have a new project to get that project going. It seems as though the persons in the central administration do not like to see those new projects happening. They think that the people who we pick to work in them are favourites, and we had hell for the first few months to ensure that even the stipends were being paid. Anyway, we got past that. Then I do not think enough attention was paid to spreading that module out into the other groups. I do not think the answer is to pull in another 500 recruits, but I leave it to the planners. I cannot think there is any group in Barbados that is subversive of the interest of the youth, by and large I

think we all have our youth at heart and would like to see them develop those personal skills, patriotism and so on that are necessary.

I believe there is a genuine need to devote resources to the Youth Service. I am happy to hear the announcement that it is to be located at St. Lucy, which was one of the proposals of the Democratic Labour Party.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. There were in fact proposals for the establishment of a Youth Service at Harrison's Point that were done before the Barbados Labour Party left Government in 1986.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not in any battle. I said already I pick on people my own size in politics. I am talking to the Honourable Prime Minister and you, Sir, in this debate. I am responding to what he has said. The proposal to actually function from the Harrison's Point came way before the Democratic Labour Party launched the Youth Service. The proposal for launching the Youth Service - I was a fifth former at school and it was Mr. Glenroy Straughn that refined that proposal, and for 13 years it sat on the desk of successive Ministers. There was an idea at one point for us to use Buttals House as well. I am saying that the actual definitive decision to use Harrison's Point for the first camp and also for the operations of the Youth Service was a decision taken by the Democratic Labour Party. The Honourable Prime Minister as he then was, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, dealt with the first passing out of recruits at Harrison's Point in St. Lucy and therefore, Mr. Speaker, the National Youth Service programme was initiated in 1991 on that basis. We have no problem with that, we would support that.

The last few points I want to make relate to the commercial enterprises. I make this point again. I have never felt that the NCF is a commercial enterprise, if the Honourable Member for St. Peter feels so. I notice there is a recent focus about the Arts and earning money. I think that is important, but as long as you start to mix the artists up in that you have confusion. You need to have a different focus. It is true the NCF is a developmental organisation. 5.30 p.m.

The NCF, rather than being involved in more activities like Soca Village and commercially viable activities, needs to find itself involved in retaining people to do work on developmental projects such as NIFCA and things like that. The society has developed to the extent that there are entrepreneurs involved in this kind of thing who can run those things. The NCF does not need to be competing with them.

I know the Honourable Member only said that off the top of his head because he wanted to respond to me and I know it is not a serious recommendation. This point I want to make. The Honourable Member for St. Peter knows my view on this already; but it is not a commercial enterprise. I don't think it should be a commercial enterprise. The NCF needs an exceedingly small staff and it needs to remain on a contractual basis, those artistes who are going to be involved in the specific projects which it deems as necessary. That has worked well because you can set targets and you don't have a dance expert sitting down at NCF headquarters all day long or you don't have a drama expert sitting down. You can actually get the artistes themselves involved and they can earn some additional money through that purpose. That is the Democratic Labour Party's perspective on that issue.

As to other entities like the BTA, we are surprised to hear that they can function within that \$30 million budget that flies in the face of all that the Honourable Member for St. Peter has previously said, but I cannot stop him from reversing himself on that. I hope the costs will be controlled there. You have some private companies in which Government is the principal shareholder, in which horrendous costs are being paid on all kinds of trivia. There are some people who draw more in travel allowances when they travel with Ministers than the Minister or the Prime Minister. I urge the Honourable Member for St. Peter to check very carefully as it has been happening in recent times and it is something that needs some attention.

Apart from the \$30 million with respect to the Barbados - not one of your friends. Apart from the allocation to the Tourist Board, we hope that there will be a serious initiative during the course of this fiscal year to arrest the decline precipitated by negligence of the Minister of Tourism and his Board, the dippy-doodling in the appointment of a Board for months and months. You cannot blame the Minister for that, because I understand that every recommendation he made was properly turned down by the Cabinet and therefore one should blame the Cabinet for the failure to appoint the Board.

There are some issues about the expenditure of money during the time that the Board was not in place. I do not know if there are parliamentary questions on that matter. There are some parliamentary questions. We cannot start to conduct serious economic and financial debates in this country unless those kinds of questions are answered. Money was expended by the Barbados Tourism Authority that was not in accordance with the relevant legislation. Now there are circumstances that sometimes give rise to that but, in this case, it was the negligence of the Minister in not appointing a Board in time and that negligence is partly responsible for the dismal showing of tourism during the winter season.

I hope that the Minister will not visit on the people of Barbados such a dismal performance in future. He is very good at numbers. He doesn't always get the total picture, but he was able to push sugar production high and I want him to get visitor arrivals at that level. However, I hope that this particular allocation can achieve it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Peter has the opportunity in this Estimates debate to put before the people of Barbados the vision. George Bush called it the vision thing. He was right to call it that. It was not within his head at that time and the skin doctors didn't think it sounded right coming from him. That would be like asking the Honourable Member for The City to put the vision thing. We don't expect that from her. We don't think she has that temperament or ability. But the Honourable Member for St. Peter, grounded as he is in a working class upbringing, having attended the University of the West Indies and having had a Caribbean experience, a qualified economist, a person who rose through the ranks of the Barbados Labour Party, who was by and large in the right place at the right time - but there is nothing wrong with that. Politics is that: seize the moment. Even in those circumstances, the Honourable Member still needs to identify that vision because while lawyers are notoriously weak at that kind of thing, and I notice the Honourable Member filled the Cabinet with them, that is why the Honourable Member should be shining because of the vision thing.

What is it that is going to take Barbados into the 21st century? We heard in the last Budget debate the Honourable Member for St Peter set out 10 principal things that he was going to do as a matter of priority. These Estimates do not reflect those 10 items, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Then he set out before the Rotary Club the principal things which he was going to do. I have looked through all of them. I am not going to throw them back into anybody's face. I am waiting for the vision thing. I have to wait for the Budget. I will wait then.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter needs to get that part of it right because apart from the 30 000 people and others who will be looking for jobs there are those people who would have been taken in by the rhetoric of his subordinates and minions. A lot of them walked around Barbados talking about the poor and the underprivileged and how they were going to set in train mechanisms to deal with them and to pull them into the economic mainstream. All of that talk. That rhetoric has dissipated, but it mustn't dissipate from the Honourable Member for St. Peter because some people view him as being the only hope in a landscape that is by and large barren. So the Honourable Member needs to seize the moment and needs to ensure that he uses occasions such as these to put in place that vision which is vital to take the country forward.

He doesn't need to destroy a 5:4:3 plan to build up the 30 000 job plan. He does not need to destroy Arthur Lewis' philosophy to build up his own, particularly where he doesn't put in an alternative. You don't need to get bothered by your critics. What you need to do is to step forward and play with determination and gusto all of those shots which you have been promising us for so long. You have been talking about it and we now seek to understand what Barbados under the Honourable Member for St. Peter means. Those who cannot follow in that mould need to be jettisoned quickly. You can't allow that train in which you allege is moving to be slowed down. So we are waiting for the vision thing and for economic reality for Barbadians so that more people are pulled in to the economic mainstream, that jobs are provided, that the old and the indigent can be given improved resources by way of increase in pensions and other kinds of welfare assistance, that educational opportunities and opportunities for retraining can be expanded, that in rural Barbados there is a serious effort, well founded and well coordinated, to upgrade rural life in Barbados, that with respect to the City - the Honourable Member talks about rural poor but there are large pockets of poverty in the City which are even more significant than the rural areas. 5.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have canvassed the St. John constituency but it was only when I got into some parts of the City that one realises the extent of that poverty. The Government needs to address that as a matter of urgency. The Government does not need to shut down the St. Joseph Hospital to prove a political point, and to shut down the Students Loan Revolving Scheme, or suspend it. There are some people in Barbados who only look...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House again. There has been no attempt to shut down any Student Revolving Loan Scheme. In fact, the Students Revolving Loan Scheme will be lending from April 1 again, but had stopped lending because they as a Government, never put in officers to raise the money they lent out.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point has been made. Continue.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, I am always amazed at the folly and the hole that is being dug deeper and deeper.

Mr. Speaker, I want to continue. The Students Revolving Loan Fund falls under the Ministry of Finance.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am talking to the Minister of Finance. Provision is made in the Ministry of Finance for the Students Revolving Loan Scheme and I am addressing that. I wish to say that more opportunities need to be available. We need to expand those opportunities and not reduce them. We need to expand the health care for our citizens and not reduce them. We need to have a sensible environmental policy which takes into consideration the views of all Barbadians.

I want to make one minor comment about that, Mr. Speaker. Heavy weather has been made about Barbadians who have threatened to write to the international institutions to express their views on particular projects. That is not a new phenomenon. In the history of the international institutions they have carried some of the most destructive projects, damming rivers to establish hydro-electric plants, resettlement of people in Africa, wiping out entire agricultural districts, the wiping out of the Amazon rain forest, all of that environmental degradation has essentially been funded by the international financial institutions. It is in response to that that they had to come up with an agenda for the environment.

Any citizen of this country should feel free that it is within their right if they think that a project is inimical to the interest of the people of Barbados to write to any international financial institution and state their views. I find it very uncomfortable that somebody who says that they want to take such a course of action can be accused or be the subject of the most virulent criticism in this country. I think it is wrong.

When in 1991, Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party had entered into programmes with the institutions, people wrote and expressed their views. People distributed flyers. The Honourable Member for St. Peter travelled to Washington to discuss with the international institutions his views on the economic development of Barbados. He was entitled to do so. Nobody ever said that he was not entitled to do so. Nor did anybody ever see him cut any secret deal. What we said is that he said, and he has never denied this, that if Barbados wishes to pursue that particular line in its economic strategy that the day of reckoning will come and that was in the context of the incomes policy and a whole range of other things.

I do not have the document here before me but the Honourable Member for St Peter had his discussion. Nobody accused him of making a secret deal. I am saying that he had a free unfettered right to go to the institution and express his views so why should not another citizen? I am not making a case for anybody. I am making a case for democratic rights. If he feels that he is wrong he can

do like the Leader of the Opposition and travel to Washington or write to Washington and give his views because, as I have said, there are many examples where the financial institutions have raped the environment by high priced projects...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I think I need to rise on a point of order because I need to say for the record that the conditions under which I was invited to Washington to discuss matters with the institution was on the condition that nothing pertaining to the business of the then Government of Barbados should have been the subject of discussion. It was a general getting acquainted. We were particular not to discuss anything pertaining to any policy or programme of the Government of Barbados. That is why it was always very clear that I could not go on a mission to be cutting any secret deals or of promising to devalue the Barbados dollar. It would have been improper for the international institution to invite the Leader of the Opposition to discuss Government's policy.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member always raises it. It was in yesterday's paper. Every time the Leader of the Opposition says something the Honourable Member for St. Peter raises that as a test of credibility. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter should not join with anybody who gives the impression that it is wrong for any citizen of this country to express his views to an international institution.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am just saying you should not. I am not saying that you did. I knew you would not join that foolishness. That is arrant nonsense. There is also errant too, an errant act.

Mr. Speaker, I think citizens should feel that it is within their right to express those views. We need to have a sound environmental policy. We need to have sensible financial policies which, as I said, are geared at economic democracy, at providing for those who are least well off, at boosting the role of the private sector as redefined, a private sector which includes bringing more into its numbers and providing more opportunities for self-employment and self-sufficiency, an agricultural programme which seeks to bring sugar production up to those levels that we can supply our domestic demand and our quotas, and a general agriculture programme which can feed Barbados to the extent possible. Those are all part of the policy strategies that the Democratic Labour Party will support. Where these Estimates follow those guidelines we will support them. Our job is not to ask the Government to spend more money on anything. Our job is to criticise the priorities, to criticise the allocations and leave it to the Government of Barbados to make its decisions.

In summary then, our job is to act on behalf of the people of Barbados and give them the protection, particularly the minority interest, which they deserve and particularly those who cannot speak for themselves and who may have legitimate concerns about the way forward for Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I was a little late in arriving here this morning, 10 minutes or so. I really made a desperate effort here to be on time because I wanted to hear the Honourable Member for St. Peter present his first Estimates in his new capacity when one would have had the opportunity to see unfurling an array of talent, a talent which many Barbadians believe that he possesses and one thought one would see some evidence of that in the Estimates.

Now, Sir, my problem in trying to get here late is that I have looked at many Estimates over the years and I searched these particular Estimates first of all with the naked eye, then with my ground bifocals, and then with a microscope because I really wanted to see how these Estimates:

- (1) differed from the Estimates of last year under an IMF programme;
- (2) how it made contact with relieving the many burdens on poor people which were articulated so eloquently by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, myself and others; and
- (3) how they addressed the very pressing problem of job creation in Barbados. Because I believe that it is reasonable for me to say that the economic agenda for debate in this country, over the next 5 years, has been set by the Barbados Labour Party, has been approved by the people of Barbados and that that agenda centres around the creation of 30 000 jobs. It is an agenda which no one who believes in the democratic process can readily ignore, nor do I think that I can seek to replace an agenda which is set by the Government of Barbados and approved by the people of Barbados.

5.50 p.m.

If the Honourable Member for St. Peter thinks that anyone is being unreasonable by focussing on such an agenda that has the authoritative stamp of the people of Barbados then I think he would be mistaken because no one in this Parliament can resile from that requirement.

I was unable, quite honestly, looking at these Estimates, to find out what the difference was. I thought that it would be very essential *for* me to listen to the Honourable Member for St. Peter to see what is his perception of the difference and so on. Therefore I came down here with great expectations. I am still in a situation where I really do not see the difference between last year's Estimates and this year's Estimates. I think it is because the Honourable Member is between a rock and a hard place. He knows it

I listened very carefully to his presentation today and it was essentially diversionary and did not deal with the core elements of what one would normally associate with him in the presentation of the Appropriation Bill on this occasion. I understand, quite clearly, why he played his hand the way he did. I will not be drifting down that line. I will be looking at other areas.

The first point I want to make - and I must express my concerns in this area - is that the Honourable Member seems to me to keep quarrelling with his inheritance. Sometimes you see people who inherit fatal diseases and although they know that they have inherited a fatal disease from a mother or father, they are so happy that their parents had, in fact, created them, that the life they enjoy, and whatever they enjoy was due to the fact that they were their parents. They were quite happy to accept the good with the not so good. But you cannot keep quarrelling about your inheritance day after day, especially when you are in a situation where you knew what your inheritance would have been on the one hand and you made every single effort in order to access the inheritance. Therefore I think the time has come for the Government to stop quarrelling, moaning and groaning about what it inherited.

I say it for this reason, Sir, that when you look at the Economic Review of the Central Bank of Barbados - this is readily available to Parliament - this is the Central Bank of Barbados Press release, January 20, 1995, in truth and in fact, despite the apologies which the Honourable Member for St. Peter tried to make here today, the reality is that in 1994 there was an element of economic recovery in Barbados.

"Economic recovery in Barbados" this document says:

"gained momentum during 1994. Real GDP expanded by an estimated 4.0% compared with 0.6%. Tourism was again the main engine of growth expanding by 11.6%. The 4.8% rise in manufacturing output which went mainly to foreign markets, was the first positive growth for 5 years.

Wholesale and retail trade, construction, business and other services grew an average of 3.6%. The economic recovery resulted in some job creation. The rate of unemployment averaged 22.3% between January and September compared to 25.5% for the corresponding period in 1993."

The net international reserves of the Central Bank rose by approximately \$117 million. Net capital inflows were the largest since 1990. The overall deficit amounted to 2.8% of GDP at factor cost compared to ratios of less than 1% during 1992 and 1993.

The point I am making is this that there can be no doubt that Barbados had gone through a very difficult economic period between 1990 and 1993, that there were extensive job losses, there was a considerable amount of hardship on the people of Barbados but that in 1994 that situation had started to turn around. It is very important that the Honourable Member for St. Peter should accept that, because if he does not accept that then, in point of fact, I think one would not be telling the total truth in relation to the situation. That truth is very necessary when you begin to construct Estimates.

As I understand it, Estimates for example on the revenue side should represent a reasoned expectation of the revenue that would accrue to Government in various Heads giving the existing level of taxation and the projected levels of economic activity and so on. On the other side, the expenditure Estimates should give a fairly good idea of how Government is prepared to allocate or reallocate the resources of the country. Therefore, from that perspective I would be seeking to look at one or two major problems, as I see it, in relation to these Estimates.

First of all, I have one or two problems with the revenue Estimates. It would seem to me that unless there is an expansionary, a budget that involves significant expansionary policies that these revenue goals will not be achieved. In other words, it seems to me that revenue is over estimated. I say that when one takes into consideration that present trends in the economy would suggest to me that growth certainly would not be as robust as it was last year on the one hand. 6.00 p.m.

Secondly, the rate of inflation which was reported, I think, at a minus rate of inflation last year. I did say minus but I should have said reportedly minus. I would simply say that there seems to me to be a rather low rate of inflation reportedly. Therefore that low rate of inflation is likely to continue into this year. But given those two factors, a relatively low rate of inflation and also the fact that there is unlikely to be the same level of robust

economic growth this year I would think that those revenue estimates are somewhat over-estimated.

That, Sir, has serious implications. It has serious implications in terms of our trying to work out what is happening in relation to the Estimates as a whole because the reality is, Sir, that the deficit -1 do not have time to go into all the details - but the deficit as projected in these Estimates for 1995/96 that deficit is not significantly different from the deficit of a year ago. They are both roughly the same.

The revenue as projected here would show a slight increase and on the expenditure side which is very interesting indeed it would seem to me that there is a slight cut back in projected current expenditure but I think we are going to run into some problems. These are the problems as I see them, Sir.

If we do not achieve this revenue level, is the Government going to be able to pursue its expenditure on the capital budget as projected in these Estimates? That is the first question I want to raise. Secondly, or is the Government going to accept a larger deficit as a result of that? Because if they do not achieve the revenue then you are going to have a larger deficit. Is the Government prepared to live with a larger deficit? If that is the case then, Sir, how is the Government going to finance that deficit?

One slight change, Sir, I think in these Estimates is that there is a higher percentage of foreign financing of the deficit this year than last year and where you have a situation where there are uncertainties in relation to your ability to draw down on your foreign financing, some is project related and therefore that would depend on the speed of the project on the one hand. On the other hand, I think there is an investment loan also involved there so that it would seem to me that that is a bit dicey to maintain this level of deficit To carry out the existing programme it would seem to me that you have to be able to draw down that money in a very timely manner during this particular year.

The other matter, Sir, that is of interest to me, is the fact that in the light of the known problems in liquidity in Barbados and the expected problems with liquidity, how does the Government intend to raise this significant amount of money here locally without resorting to Central Bank financing. I think I see a zero somewhere along here under Treasury Bills. I think it shows a zero in their finances and it is going to be very interesting to see what is going to happen.

I say this to make this point, Sir, that basically, and Barbadians need to be told that these Estimates do not

portend any major change for the vast majority of the suffering people of Barbados and unless these Estimates are significantly supplemented by a Budgetary instrument that targets these critical areas which are very necessary to get job creation, taking the burden off the people, putting more money in the pockets of the people and so on, then we have a problem. I do not think it is fair to say that these Estimates do in fact represent any major change away from IMF policies and so on.

As a matter of fact it would seem to me that whereas the Honourable Member for St. Peter has been very careful to say that these Estimates were prepared without the assistance or without the guidance of the IMF, yet he sought very carefully to make sure that he remained within the kind of guidelines which would be acceptable to them, because honestly I do not see these major changes here. But, Sir, there is another fundamental problem I have in relation to these Estimates.

Now one of the very surprising things when I looked at this figure recently is to see that for 1994/95 the projected nominal gross domestic product at factor cost for this country was \$2 881.3 million. If you were to look at the size of the tax effort in this country, the level of taxation in relation to the gross domestic product of Barbados, this country remains over taxed. There cannot be any question about that. So long as it remains over taxed you are going to have a problem in being able to generate the kind of levels of expansion, the kind of levels of growth, the kind of environment for the expansion of existing enterprise or the creation of new enterprises which you yourself say is very fundamental for job creation in this country.

We have to face the reality and the reality is this that Barbados is an over-taxed country, and we cannot continue extracting this kind of revenue. The task before us, over the years, is to make sure that the percentage of revenue accruing to Government, as a percentage of GDP declines year after year from now on if we are serious about really getting the kind of stimulus into the economy to make sure that one addresses the question of job creation and so on.

Conversely on the expenditure side, to my mind I do not see here any evidence of the kind of savings which one would like to achieve at the macro level. We will go through the Heads as we go along and see if we can identify areas where I think we can make some cuts. 6.10 p.m.

The other areas that is of some concern to me are one or two areas of revenue yield. I was amazed to see a projection here where Government is expecting increased revenue from property taxes. I say this because I would have thought that the last place the Honourable Member

for St. Peter would be looking for any kind of increased revenue would be the area of property taxes. He knows why and I know why I make that statement. I have in my hand a document which is entitled: "Upwards and Onwards - the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto for a better Barbados", for 1991. It says:

"The Road to Economic Reconstruction
Special Proposals
Abolition of Land Tax on residential properties of a value not exceeding \$150,000."

That, Sir, was a proposal that captured a philosophical position articulated again and again on the Floor of this House by the Honourable Member for St. Peter where he says that in a developing country like Barbados he thought it was wrong in economic terms, it was wrong in moral terms...

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I think I had better make the point, Sir...

Mr. SPEAKER: On what do you rise?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Elucidation, Sir. He has already given way. I think I should make it clear to the House that the Land Tax Department has classified the arrears and the largest proportion of the \$60 million in arrears owed to Land Tax is for houses and properties far in excess of \$150,000.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In my view, Sir, this was not just an idle promise, it was supposed to be a manifestation of a deeply held philosophical position by the Honourable Member for St. Peter. Now, I agree with him from a philosophical point of view; I do not agree with seeking to extract more and more taxes by way of land tax from the people of Barbados. It disturbs me that the Honourable Member seems to have moved so rapidly away from a strongly held philosophical position. My position is that instead of looking to be getting more and more land tax over the years - I have no problem with collection of arrears - that one should be looking towards a gradual reduction in land taxes in this country. I think it is very critical and I think we should not be looking at this area as an area to gouge more and more taxes out of the people of Barbados.

Another area of revenue collection that seems to me rather surprising, I do not know how the Honourable Member expects to get more from the Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax this year than last year in view of the fact that you have had a decline in the tourism sector. I also note a fairly significant increase in Government property rentals. These are not housing units, these are Government properties that are rented out, so I imagine all the tenants

in Government properties - not the National Housing Corporation properties - can begin to look forward to being soaked/These explanations will come.

Another area that has disturbed me in terms of these Estimates has been the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where I see now that one is projecting revenue increases from \$3.2 million or thereabouts to \$5 million this year. Already there are a lot of poor people being terrorised in the Hospital by the Accounting Department asking them to deposit sums of money that they have never seen in their entire lives, more than their pensions, and that kind of thing must be brought to a halt. It is one thing trying to get more and more money by way of user fees, but at the same time you have to remember the kind of hardship that is being inflicted on people. There are many people who are requiring critical examinations and they have a problem with being charged huge fees to have these examinations done.

These are things that will have to be discussed later in the Estimates, but it is a problem, it is causing a lot of hardship to people and I do not think that the solutions that are being attempted really deal with the origins of the problem. The bottom line is that a lot of poor people are being caught in this situation and there is nothing worse for a poor person who is admitted to hospital, and who do not have a cent, the next morning somebody comes to them and says they have to deposit \$375 or whatever and for their entire stay those people feel that they should not really be there in the Hospital. That is something that will need to be addressed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: But, Sir, I have just begun. Anyhow, Sir, I will try to deal with a few things. I should like to draw to the Honourable Member's attention the very distinct probability that he will find interest charges being significantly higher than what is projected here, because with his own local interest rates policy which would have put up the interest rate charges, and the fact that much of our debt is denominated in U.S. dollars, and it looks as though the chances are that U.S. interest rates will continue to rise over the next fiscal year, so that he may find that an increased amount of his expenditure will have to go towards debt service.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is still a major opportunity within these Estimates to open, maybe, a thousand windows to help poor people in this country. It is still there, but I do not know whether or not the Government is focussed appropriately. Let me give you one example, Sir, before I sit down. The Government is building and has built a highway from the Airport

which, along with the extension of Highway 2A, will be going right up into the north. That is an area where you get a confluence of agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and other activities. Private businessmen have already seen the wisdom of trying to establish businesses adjacent to it. 6.20 p.m.

I would suggest to the Honourable Member for St. Peter that he take some of that \$3 million that has been allocated for rural development and build 2 or 3 markets at strategic points with Town Planning permission, well landscaped, in order that poor people can get in on the ground and compete on their terms with the other big businesses that are taking place. They need help, Sir. This is a great opportunity.

As I travel around the world, I see many of those developments on highways and they open great opportunities for agriculture, manufacturing, tourism. You will find that all of us will find it useful to go to those markets and sometimes even prefer to go to them. I say, Sir, that this could be a priority. It would stimulate agriculture. It would certainly give small businessmen an opportunity to feel that they are a part of the overall development taking place. The fact that it is a suggestion from the NDP should not disturb you. You have not bothered about so many suggestions from the NDP.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. We must not believe that these ideas only reside in his head. Only yesterday I was saying to him that the Barbados Labour Party was discussing that at Roebuck Street. His suggestion is not original.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I believe that \$1 million of that \$3 million spent in that way would do an awful lot for a larger number of people and help with the kinds of problems that you are having here in the corporate area of Bridgetown and elsewhere. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, I will get opportunity later to speak in these Estimates.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, my view is that the Estimates of Expenditure should, among other things, identify the priorities of government spending, avoid wastage in government spending, set about to achieve programmes with a sense of economy and prudence and balance spending between economic activities and a measure of social activity.

In complimenting the Honourable Member for St. Peter and Minister of Finance and Honourable Prime Minister in his first presentation of the Estimates, I believe

that he has been able to strike a prudent balance between a policy designed to stimulate some economic activity and at the same time to attain a measure of achievement for the social sectors.

I am attracted to the policy in the Estimates on small business where the Government is committed to allocating \$75 000 direct assistance to the Small Business Association, the aim being clearly to stimulate economic activity among small businessmen and to fill in a default and omission which the outgoing Democratic Labour Party Administration was guilty of. At the height of the structural adjustment programme in this country, the Democratic Labour Party had ample time and had an excellent opportunity to have educated the public on the notion of self-reliance and to have captured that spirit of enterprise which was very much in the air, notwithstanding the decline of the economy between 1990 and 1993,

This Government, enlightened in its policies towards making sure that an economy with a high amount of private sector economic activity is going on, has allocated a good enough sum for a start and in the process has allocated a fairly significant capital vote of \$4.8 million for industrial development and a substantial amount for consultancy services for small businesses.

I believe that that aspect of the Estimates, as presented by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, represent a bright and promising start. Not only did the Honourable Member for St. Peter set about to encourage economic activity among small businessmen, he has hinted that he was about to give \$4 million to the independent plantations while at the same time assisting the activities of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company.

Aware of the contribution that a sugar economy can make to Barbados, the Honourable Member for St. Peter has set about on a programme designed to increase total sugar output while at the same time as he does so, bearing in mind the need to enhance sugar output to a point where our earning from sugar can be increased beyond what we expect this year...

We have also seen the Honourable Member for St. Peter prudently introduce in his Estimates a number of projects, none too great, none too heavy and expensive, none too daring to the point of posing a problem of wastage on the economy. Aware of projects like the St. Thomas School, of Sherbourne, the Ministry of Education's building, the Honourable Prime Minister has decided that those projects that are to be introduced will be realistic projects not involving huge amounts of expenditure. At the same time, the Honourable Member, to his eternal credit, has projected a deficit at a level that is most manageable.

Mr. Speaker, among economists there is a theory that a deficit of 7.5% of the gross domestic product can be manageable. I do not necessarily subscribe to the view that a deficit of 7.5% of gross domestic product is manageable especially where the total national debt is high. In other words, I am contradicting that school of economists that makes the bland statement that a deficit of 7.5% of gross domestic product is manageable, because that particular assertion does not always take into account the fact that when you say so you have to bear in mind what the debt position of the country is.

I believe that by projecting a deficit in the region at this stage of \$1.5 million the Honourable Member for St. Peter and Minister of Finance is on the right course because it gives him sufficient elbow room to introduce a number of programmes that will inure to the benefit of Barbados.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I should mention something about the notion of deficit, because in any situation where the Government runs a deficit too high the first and most obvious evidence is that that is a sign of something in the way of a burdensome national indebtedness. A government deficit is always linked with a high amount of government indebtedness and a high amount of government indebtedness, when not properly backed and secured can often have implications for the foreign reserves of the country.

I believe the Honourable Member for St. Peter is very prudent to keep the deficit at the level he is projecting for the reason that in doing so he will obviously be protecting the foreign reserves.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. John say that the Honourable Member for St. Peter has no commitment to the protection and the defense of the exchange rate. But implied in the policy of a low and manageable deficit is a clear commitment, because of the size of the deficit, to a policy that would make sure that there is no pressure on the currency of the country. As the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, a former Minister of Finance and designing to become a small farmer, I believe, through the stimulative measures that we will introduce later, will tell the Honourable Member for St. John that the greatest pressure on a country's currency often comes when there are dwindling foreign reserves, an insurmountable national debt, an imposingly high fiscal deficit and then the country's position can be compromised. 6.30 p.m.

I take exception and offence to the allegations by the Honourable Member for St. John who says that he can see no commitment on the part of the Honourable Member for

St. Peter towards preserving the integrity of the currency value of Barbados.

I want to say this that the lengthy peroration of the Honourable Member for St. John gives us one view in terms of its end result and in terms of the positive aspect of his contribution when the Alpha and Omega of what the Honourable Member for St. John said was that there is a term called "economic theologian". That represents his innovation to this debate. The only point he has made is that he will be able to go down in history as being able to coin a term "economic theologian" the meaning of which, I believe, he is not clear about anyhow, but that was the sole contribution of the Honourable Member for St. John to this debate.

I want to say, Sir, in response to the last point raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who mentioned that the highways represent captive grounds for markets, that how the Barbados Labour Party as it is constructed now, and the thinking among BLP parliamentarians as a whole, will incline heavily in favour of a system of marketing that takes into account modern requirements.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was clear when he said the ABC Highway was a prime area to consider the establishment of markets. The Barbados Labour Party Administration has commissioned my Ministry to do a study on the ABC Highway and the feasibility of vending along the ABC Highway. Next month the Government will have the benefit of a submission from my Ministry on the feasibility of vending along the ABC Highway.

I must say, Sir, that at the moment some people vend along the ABC Highway. Even though our policy in this party is never to discourage small businessmen from earning their fee, we still have to realise, based on prior experience, that orderly vending must be a system of vending that we encourage. We cannot have a situation in Barbados where chaotic vending threatening traffic, passers-by, attempting to lead to a situation of dislocation on the Highways would occur. The Government, mindful both of the fact that vendors should be given an opportunity to sell along the highways, and mindful also of the fact of its responsibility of maintaining law and order in this country, has commissioned a study on vending on the ABC Highway. I would like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to note that.

In addition, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party Government has been looking at the question of markets and market facilities in Barbados. This year we intend to commence a major refurbishment redecoration of the

Cheapside Market. In time too, based on the availability of foreign funding, we shall also be doing something to lift the face of the market at Fairchild Street.

Mindful too, Sir, of the contributions manifested in the large amount of fish catches in the north of Barbados, the Barbados Labour Party, as part of its long-term strategy, has already started to look at the feasibility of an ultra modern market in the north of Barbados, possibly in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Peter.

The Eagle Hall Market, Sir, is one that we have been looking at but because of a proposed ring road through the Eagle Hall Market, we have put that on hold pending the assessment of the need for the ring road. I believe Honourable Members of the former administration would be familiar with this.

I just want to make the point, Sir, that the Barbados Labour Party is mindful of the fact that proper markets properly run can, in a way, stimulate economic activity while, at the same time, providing an economic habitat for small businessmen. We are committed to evolving a cadre of indigenous small businessmen in Barbados. I have already adverted to the allocation given to the Ministry for small business.

I am heartened too, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member for St. Peter was able to make reference to the Youth Entrepreneur Scheme which also stands as one of the major planks in the Barbados Labour Party policy. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture, we have every confidence that we will be able to channel the creative energies of young people under a programme where their natural enterprise would be so guided that they would, at the end of the day, have available to Barbados a cadre of youthful entrepreneurs, or a good few, who are able to run businesses along proper commercial lines. How can anyone in his right sense fault the Honourable Member for St Peter for giving encouragement to such a policy?

The question of rural development has elicited some response from those who have spoken so far in this debate. Rural development at its highest can involve notions of cultural development, community development, notions which spread far and wide. The immediate programme for rural development will see some concentration on sites and services like street lighting, the provision of better sanitation facilities in rural Barbados, while at the same time encouraging a number of agro-based and agro-centric private sector businesses.

To the extent, Mr, Speaker, that the agro-based business activities will be private sector managed, the total

amount of funding to be made available will not be high because this Government as a Government will not be taking any initiative as a direct investor in rural development at the level of taking part in any commercial activities. Yes, we will provide the infrastructure. Yes, we will provide the framework and the environment in which the programme can go, but the Barbados Labour Party is aware that a number of commercial ventures in Barbados flopped and failed under Government's provision precisely because empirical observation has shown that Government as an investor is often delinquent, is often wasteful, sometimes not well guided in its investment plans and such like. We are running a Government that will regulate and facilitate, but the time has gone for Government to waste its money in costly ventures that bring us to grief.

You will no doubt, Mr. Speaker, I believe in the context of your interest in political developments, realise that one such wasteful venture cost us \$31 million to earn \$600 000 and I make reference, of course, to the St. Joseph Hospital. It grieves me nothing, despite the fact that I come from the north of Barbados to see no allocation for St. Joseph Hospital for it has been a den of iniquity and wastage, standing to the condemnation of members of the Democratic Labour Party, working alongside the ill-conceived Sherbourne Project, working alongside many a project that we saw abandoned between 1991 and 1992.

We saw the Democratic Labour Party begin and stop projects. We saw the Democratic Labour Party finance projects for the poor man, build up the foundation and stop for four months, come back two stories, stop for a few months. Like a poor man, the Government built projects at tremendous and economic costs. We have had a spectre of a so-called St. John Polyclinic which has attracted a lot of attention in St. John where they claimed initially that the captive population was expected to rise about 50% from \$8 000 to about \$14 000.

The point about these Estimates, Mr. Speaker, is that they represent a particular approach to a mature, sound financial judgement. A Government that encourages a bunching of costly capital projects will almost in every case inflict an enormous national debt on the country, in every case bring about an unmanageable deficit, put pressure on the foreign reserves and invite the national institutions like the IMF to our doorstep to dictate for us. The experience of Honourable Members on the other side would have been instructive in that regard.

I cannot understand for the life of me, Mr. Speaker, how the Honourable Member for St. John could have spoken for the length he did, to make the point that all the Government needs to do is to watch how it carries out its programmes.

I am also very much happy for the thrust that these Estimates make in terms of infrastructure. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has referred to a road programme. He has referred too to allocating \$1 million by way of subsidy for transport. He has also allocated money for seaport and airport development.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you would allow me to make some comment on these infrastructural activities. No economy - and the experiences of countries like Dominica will verify this - ever takes off properly in an absence of proper infrastructure. Even transport, the means by which you take people or goods from one point to another point is extremely important to economic development. I believe that this Government will be able to make use of that \$1 million subsidy for the Transport Board in such a way as to improve national transport in this country. In an era where tourism is so critically important, any improvement at the airport and the seaport and any money expended to improve the airport and the seaport would be money very, very well spent. I must also react to a charge, not made by the Honourable Member for St. John but made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. The Honourable Member for St Michael South Central continues a tune he always sings when he is in Opposition, that Barbados is heavily overtaxed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, in every speech he has ever made on the economy, when in Opposition, always talks about Barbados being heavily overtaxed. 6.40 p.m.

The Honourable Member should know that early in the Administration of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the Honourable Member for St. Peter introduced a policy which cost the revenue \$5 million where the Honourable Member eased the taxes and duties on the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. He will want to respond to the charge made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central that Barbados is overtaxed. What this Government will be doing, apart from the tax relief it has given to manufacturing and agriculture, is looking at the system of tax collection. Anyone who has served as Minister of Finance will tell you that, in the absence of an efficiently administered tax system, Government will get all of what is Government's. This Government will be doing its best to increase the efficiency with which tax is collected.

In addition we are looking at the whole question of the imposition of tax in Barbados and the question of how fair and equitable it is. We are looking to see how quickly we can introduce a programme of tax reform which will be fair and just and which would yield enough to the public purse.

Other areas of the Estimates, as introduced by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, suggested that notwithstanding the fact that the Prime Minister was concerned to ensure no wastage of public funds, he was still able to do something which I believe the Democratic Labour Party should take careful note of.

In 1992 the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South, in his Budgetary presentation... I remember that in 1992 he made one Budgetary presentation and in 1991 he made 3 or, one supplemented by two more that brought in taxes. But in 1992 I remember the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South indicating that his Government was going to introduce something called structural adjustment mitigation with some emphasis on improving the social condition of the poor. I believe the Right Honourable Member would remember that.

What we have done, in these Estimates, is to look at pensions, look at the funding for the National Insurance Board, look at Welfare and believe you me, in a situation where we will not be reckless in the spending of Government funds, we are still able this year to provide more in those areas than the Democratic Labour Party ever provided either last year or the year before. They would have been the ones who have spoken about structural adjustment mitigation.

Every old age pensioner in Barbados has hope tonight. Every person whose house could not be repaired in the bad, old days of Democratic Labour Party misrule now has an expectation that at the urging of the National Assistance Board he or she as an aging person can have his or her house repaired under the aegis of the National Assistance Board. Every pensioner, Mr. Speaker, Sir, except former Honourable Members of the Democratic Labour Party who were cut short, except former Honourable Members like Mr. Brathwaite and Mr. Morris and such like can expect an increase in pension.

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the *sotto voce* sounds of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South and the political posturing of the Honourable Member for St. John, in these Estimates you will notice an allocation of \$11 million for housing under the National Housing Corporation.

Ask the Democratic Labour Party how many housing units emerged in the last years under the Democratic Labour Party. Ask the Democratic Labour Party where, apart from Church Village, St. Philip they set up one NCC unit or provided any substantial amount of house spots especially in rural Barbados, Sir. I am heartened that the

Honourable Member for St. Peter and Minister of Finance and Honourable Prime Minister was able to categorize the Estimates in terms of an economic thrust to the Estimates in terms of preserving the major economic sectors and enhancing them while, at the same time, doing a measure of what the Honourable Member for St. John would call social engineering.

I am also attracted to the plans for a capital works programme for the Barbados Water Authority. We are, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, a worthier scarce country in which I believe 80% of the surface water that falls vanishes and is not available for use and a country to which the drought of 1994 was most instructive. Against that background, Mr. Speaker, the Government is on the right path when it sets about to try to maximize and optimize the total amount of output of water in Barbados, while at the same time the Government would be wise to educate the public not to waste water.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I must say that the presentation of the Honourable Member for St. Peter represented a presentation of Estimates that have been very well planned, represented a presentation of Estimates, Mr. Speaker, which seek to avoid and even eliminate wastage. Estimates also which project realistic capital projects. Estimates to provide better welfare and social services than what were provided by the Democratic Labour Party.

I must commend both - commend the Honourable Member for St. Peter for the quality presentation and the content of the Estimates especially in view of the fact that these were his very first Estimates. I want to say that I have every confidence that these Estimates will represent some innovation to the Barbados economic and social landscape by way of the emphasis on reducing and curtailing areas in which wastage could have occurred. I believe that any Honourable Member who heard him and who was able to get close to them would tell you that they are well conceptualized. They are the product of mature judgement and I should like, like the Honourable Member for St. Peter to commend them to you.

I have no difficulty whatever, Mr. Speaker, in supporting these Estimates at this time.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'the time being just 10 minutes before seven, I would wish to move that this House be now suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning, Tuesday, March 21, 1995.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly at 6.50 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear to me that the Honourable Member for St. Peter had some little difficulty while putting the Estimates together because he had, in the first instance, to produce a set of Estimates that would give a proper impression that change had occurred or is about to occur in the method by which things are done in this country.

It is clear that the Honourable Member, faced with the statements and positions which he would have taken as the leading spokesman for the Opposition in previous years, would have a tremendous difficulty of staying within the 4 corners of what he would have articulated in the past, while seeking to maintain the concept of having been presiding over fundamental and significant change in keeping with the propagandists approaches which the Barbados Labour Party had had in the past, and especially, in the last few months.

In the final analysis, the Estimates which have been presented here, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas have indicated are a molehill rather than a mountain. These Estimates demonstrate an approach to fiscal and monetary policy that is going to follow very closely the approach to fiscal policy which the Democratic Labour Party had carried out in the last 2 years or so.

Mr. Speaker, it is not without significance that when one examines the deficit of less than 1% and when one looks at the programme for capital spending which has been articulated and demonstrated in the numbers of the Estimates, it is not without significance that in spite of the thunderous noises made by the Minister to the effect that these Estimates were prepared without guidance and/or assistance of any international agency that, they are, in the final analysis being prepared for acceptance not so much of Honourable Members in this House and indeed the Barbadian population but for the international community.

It is significant that the Honourable Member is choosing to go to the international markets to make significant borrowings. There is nothing in the essence of that that is inherently wrong. But I think that for an economy the size of Barbados that the Minister of Finance should be particularly careful not to turn too rigidly or too sharply toward the international markets. For it is

now accepted, on both sides, that if there is one single issue which can be identified as having caused the debacle in the Mexican economy, it is the sudden, brutal withdrawal of the capital market investors from the economy of Mexico. That sudden, brutal withdrawal has reverberated around the world and, as a result, there is a measure of instability in the international monetary community which will have its effect even on economies the size of Barbados.

I do not regularly get involved in the economic debate in this country because, more times than not, it is a case of who can say the same thing in a different way the most and who has the most public relations outlets for essaying their particular views in being regarded as the masters of knowledge in this area.

But there are certain trends which have been developing and which have now, apparently, settled in all of the major economies in this 1990s era, the result of which is a new fear which is manifested in new dictates by Governments from the Congress of the United States all the way to the Diet in Japan - to say nothing of what is happening in Europe.

There is a fear of social services. There is a cry which is going up from the governors to the governed that we must cut taxes, we must reduce the deficit and we must reduce the cost of social services. Sir, in economies the size of the United States or Japan, or Germany, these are good, esoteric points on which politicians and social commentators can hang their words and be successful.

But I hope, for the sake of the people of Barbados, who are yet emerging, a people who are still at the stage of emerging that we do not have any approaches which seek to reduce the level of social services in this country.

Barbados is now identified as the 20th most desirable place on earth to live. It is considered by the human development index of the United Nations Development Programme as being first among Third World countries. As I have had occasion to say before, Mr. Speaker, that did not come easily. It came because there were people, over the last 50 years, especially who had the vision to point Barbadians in directions where Barbadians themselves might not even have known that they wanted to go.

The decision that this should be an independent country was not an easy decision and did not come easily. Yet, as we look back nearly 30 years later it is hard to imagine that we could have existed not being an independent country. There are a number of institutions which have been nurtured, some of them created, all of them enhanced in this country which 20,25 years ago were unthinkable and unheard of.

Yet, today, they are taken for granted as part of the pillars of the economic and social structure of a country that could boast its high position in the rest of the international comity. Mr. Speaker, I am saying that to dispel a certain theme which I heard struck by the Honourable Member for St. Peter as he delivered the Estimates and which no doubt will form the nucleus of his thoughts for the Budget.

That theme seems to suggest that we are to have no more "grandiose" projects. We are to have projects that will • appeal to the... It is hard to classify it without seeking to be supercilious and I do not wish to be. But I got the impression that he was suggesting that some of the projects which had been designed were ill-conceived and unworthy. 10.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, let us examine one dichotomy in the presentation. The Honourable Member said they are going to spend money or they are going to begin the process of spending some real money on rural development. Now, I have always found that amusing in Barbados. To talk about rural/urban in a 21-mile long country has always been somewhat amusing because, Sir, with the possible exception of St. Andrew where some economic madness is about to occur, where for reasons which would take much longer than I have time to explain, there is nowhere in Barbados that is so far from anywhere else that you cannot reach it in 20 minutes. The network of roads in this country make a mockery of any attempts to divide the people of this country.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misquoting the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister made it clear that he was no longer interested in monuments. I think the Honourable Member is misleading the House too by implying that there is not a distinction between rural and urban in Barbados. There is. It has nothing to do with distance. There is a world view and understanding of the distinction between what is urban and what is rural.

Mr. SPEAKER: What really is your point of order?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The point of order is that the Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Today I am not going to put up with any of that. What is the point?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The point I was making is that the Honourable Member is misleading the House when he is putting the point that in Barbados, because we are a small country, there is no distinction between urban and rural, and there is.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, for as long as I have been in this House I continue to be amazed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please. Would you ...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, it is part of my presentation. My amazement, Sir, stems from the fact that it does not matter how long some people remain in this Chamber their attitudes do not seem to change.

Mr. Speaker, I am making a point. I did not at one moment quote the Prime Minister. How could I be misrepresenting the Prime Minister? I did not quote the Prime Minister. I am saying that I discern a theme in what he is presenting. But, Sir, I am speaking in English so that may be a problem.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us continue orderly this morning, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It may be a problem, Sir. When I speak sometimes it is difficult for some people to understand. I am going to crave your protection, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue with your presentation, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I am making the point that in this country of 166 square miles, for any one to seek to profess that there is such a substantial difference between the rural and the urban as to require a specific programme for rural development is merely to gloss over some of the fundamental issues which the country is facing. But since, Sir, the Honourable Member wishes to emphasise the need for rural development, let me draw to the Honourable Member's attention that some of the areas in which the Honourable Member may give careful consideration include these: that there are some young people in Barbados who do not have access or who have not had access to certain specialised skills partly because those skills are not easily available. I think for instance of such things neo-natal care. I think of such things as the opportunity for young women between the ages of 11 and 17 to have early access to specialist skills of Obstetrician or OB-GYN qualified personnel.

Mr. Speaker, even today as we turn toward the 21st century, the level and number of young people who are able to have pap smears in this country is still not at the level that is desirable and appropriate for Barbados. It is in that context that when one established a primary health care system one sought to make such services available in what are deemed to be the rural areas of Barbados through the significant placing and spacing of quality facilities for dispensing primary health care.

It is beyond the slightest shadow of doubt that one of the best things that can be given to any community is access to high quality health care.

Now, the polyclinic at St. John was not designed as part of a political pork barrel. It was designed as part of a network of high quality primary health care delivery points in this country. The people who live in St. John and the surrounding areas and some parts of St. Philip now get the delivery of their primary health care in a unit that is unacceptable in 1995. In some ways the Honourable Member for St. John in a spate of pristine honesty as Minister of Finance thought that it would be desirable to leave his own constituency for the last, in spite of very stringent and cogent argument to the contrary and if the Honourable Member had not sought to prove that in this respect he was holier than thou the Honourable Member would not have stood in the way of the provision of proper high quality primary health care for the people of his constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I invite Your Honour to visit the place where the sub-clinic of St. Philip, which is located in St. John produces primary health care for the people that live in that part of the south of this country. If we are going to have rural development, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to have real rural development and not political grandstanding, then we have to examine those issues in their context. The St. John polyclinic and the new Black Rock Polyclinic and a polyclinic for Belleplaine were the final pieces in the provision of primary health care at proper locations. This is not a matter that accrued to any one political party because the polyclinic that now is established in St. George, the Glebe Polyclinic, was put there as part of this programme.

The Horse Hill polyclinic, Sir, the land was identified for acquisition so that at the end of the day we would have had a modern polyclinic at St. John, a modern polyclinic at Horse Hill, a modern polyclinic in Belleplaine, a modern polyclinic at Black Rock and that would have completed the scheme of things for presentation of primary health care in this country at a level and quality that is commensurate with what is desirable for the people of Barbados.

I have promised myself, Sir, to say nothing about the mean-spiritedness which may have informed certain decisions with regard to other aspects of health care in this country. I do not accept that the construction of the St. John Polyclinic is part of any grandiose scheme. It is part of the health care system and programme that was designed a long time ago on the best advice possible. But if that is how they wish to proceed, let them proceed. 10.25 a.m.

There is another area, Sir, which I would like in the time allotted to me to comment. It has to do with

the development of industry in this country. Much is said on a daily basis about the poor industrialists and what is happening to them. The truth is that not all of them deserve to be defended. There are some of them that are beyond defence. Not everyone who sets up a company, or sets up an operation is entitled by virtue of having setting it up to benefit from it, they have to put some real work in it. There is no one who can get any enterprise to be profitable by merely setting it up. Having said that, however, there are a number of Barbadians, some in this Honourable House, who have put their hard earned money into enterprises which promised, and had every reason to promise, that they would be successful enterprises.

I think, Sir, and I speak here and declare an interest, because contrary to a lot of people's views, I am one of those persons that put my money where my mouth is, and way back down in the 1960s when I was inviting people to invest in this country, I too put my money into investment. I invested in a hotel on the south coast, Sir, a substantial investment at the time, and I have watched that hotel go literally down the drain, lost every cent, so I can speak with impunity on the matter, but there are other Barbadians who have put substantial monies into hotels, for example, on the south coast and most of them have fallen a cropper because of debt to the Barbados Development Bank. There is a methodological approach of the Barbados Development Bank which provides almost everything else but development. It does not matter which Government is in power, the Barbados Development Bank like 'Ole Man River' keeps rolling along.

You take a small hotel on the south coast that has 30 or 40 rooms. There was a time in this country when the price of money was so high, money was so difficult to get and the situation was tight, and it is at that time that bankers come to the rescue of their clients. Some people got rescued, Sir, but a vast number of small properties on the south coast were caught in a vise grip of governmental institutions which brought them almost to nothing. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister wishes to give some relief to the businesses on the south coast, in the same way that countries go to the G7 and ask for debt forgiveness, I want to recommend to the Minister - not for me, mine has already gone - that he give very serious consideration to debt forgiveness. I do not mean token debt forgiveness, I mean real debt forgiveness.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He does not have the chance now, he is not the Minister now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please continue to address the Chair.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It does not matter what the last Minister did. I heard the Honourable Member myself say

that this is a new dispensation. He cannot on one day say it is a new dispensation and then keep looking back. You have to give real debt forgiveness. I am saying that the hotels and the small manufacturers, those who are efficient, need some measure of relief and such relief as they can get now is the time to give them relief. You are not receiving the debt anyhow, you are not collecting a cent anyhow. If you are not now collecting, remove the burden from the books both of the Development Bank and of the small businesses.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It can be assured that had we the responsibility for it now that is what we would do, that is what would bring relief to the small businessmen in this country. It is no point talking about protection. If a man is not producing, what is the point giving him protection? Protection from whom? Protection from what? There are some that you are to allow to go through the eddoes. If you are in a competitive situation, some businesses will go through the eddoes, but those that look like they have some potential, now is the time for the Government to come to the aid of the businessmen; real debt forgiveness.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: One of the things I am comfortable about, Sir, is that when I was the Minister responsible for industry and there is anyone - I can give you a list of them, Sir - they will always say that the Minister was in there fighting for the small, black businessmen and the small, white businessmen. Many of the white businessmen who have grown today....

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute, please. Honourable Members, I am asking you today let us proceed orderly, please. The Honourable Member may continue, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The point I am making, Sir, shortly is this, that the Minister of Finance can now make a difference to the small business community. He has put money into the accounts, he has said that he wants \$75 000 to provide a Secretariat. You must choose quality people to work in the Secretariat.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, when I say "you" I do not mean you personally, I mean the Government should see that proper people are put in the Secretariat and not business as usual. There are too many non-managers in manager positions. You cannot forge forward into the 21st century with business as usual. You are going to have

to make real substantial changes in the approaches. In some ways the personnel are capable of redirection but there has to be change in attitudinal approach to these matters.

Mr. Speaker, I feel able to speak on these matters because on more than one occasion in the past I have been part of such revolutionary change, and it occurred in spite of a large number of people. One of the great things about the late E. W. Barrow was that he dared every now and again to do something that everybody else said should not be done. I was disappointed when the Honourable Member dropped out all the leaders that followed him because one or two of them, including the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, were not such bad leaders that you can drop them out of the equation. I have suddenly realised that they have started to draw a straight line from Barrow to the present Prime Minister. I do not understand that, because at least two of those leaders made decisions, and I cannot understand how suddenly they can be falling out of the panoply of stars in the Barbados Labour Party. Anyhow, that is a matter of internal politics which they will have to work out.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. The point I making is that we have an opportunity without raising interest rates. This is the other point, Sir. Wendell McClean has been saying for a very long time that this community can function without high interest rates. Let us give him that. We have tried almost everything. I think that McClean's theory on low interest rates can be given a try.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member for St. John tried and was going toward low interest rates, and I am putting in a plea that the Minister of Finance must not be taken in by some of the people who seem to believe that they have knowledge about these matters but who only talk about them because they took over some legacy and were able to get some profits in businesses which they have. They are not financiers, they do not know about these matters and the Minister must not allow them to force him into high interest rates to satisfy their craven desire to make more money. 10.35 a.m.

The small people in this country need a push start. Seek out those who are efficient! Let the dead bury their dead! Carry them with you up the hill! It will be a burden, but it is a burden worth carrying. There are too many people in this country who feel that small black people are only to have ideas and then those ideas are to be washed ashore to be gathered by somebody else who then goes and sells them for money.

I want to finish, Mr. Speaker, with this note. We discuss corruption fairly often and each time it has a way of settling in a particular area. There is a form of corruption which happens in this country of which I spoke about 7 years ago, and I want to speak about it again today.

If a small man brings a project into a government agency, it is no business of any official in that government agency to be holding the small man off while at the same time calling somebody else to give that somebody else insight into what the small man has come up with. This second point is not related to the first, but is germane to the point I was making. I just want to establish that I am not criticising the department, but the Patent Office, and those kinds of government offices must be given the facility either by changing the personnel, increasing the numbers, doing whatever is necessary so that they can function at the level which is required and necessary if we are to have the kind of economy that this country must have going into the 21st century.

It's an economy which must have built into it the views and inputs of all the smaller people in this community. The economy will not function if it is dependent on any 6 or 8 or 10 people to do the right things, because when those 6 or 8 or 10 withdraw you are back to the same old business that we used to be in 35 years ago. It is necessary for us to bring along some of the others. It is called economic democracy sometimes, but economic democracy is more than lip service. It is the political will to change things and the Honourable Member says that this is an Estimate for change and no doubt he will bring the Budget for change. I see my role, Sir, as to insist that the changes occur. Thank you.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, in these Estimates I have responsibility for Heads 28, 29 and 30 and I want to take the opportunity at this stage to deal broadly with the work of the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Home Affairs, what we have done and what we intend to do as reflected in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1995-96.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, there has been a problem over the last 8 years with the various departments in these two Ministries in that the physical conditions of the properties have been allowed to deteriorate and it has been very distressing and upsetting for the staff who work in these various departments.

I should also have mentioned the Post Office whose estimates are annexed. I also have responsibility for the Post Office. When we did some tours in September and October last year too many of the properties which are subsumed in these various departments, the story

of neglect, the story of lack of maintenance, was almost critical and so one had to devise strategies for the refurbishment, rehabilitation and renovation of these projects. Now that was approximately 5-6 months ago.

I think you will appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that the repair and refurbishment of government property is not only a question of financial ability, but it is a matter which requires detailed planning and, on top of all of that, you had the tendering process which itself delayed the implementation of projects. Early on, the strategy which was adopted in the Ministry was to eschew the construction of new and large projects because there was not enough time to allow for the proper planning and implementation of new substantial projects. For example, it is clear that in developing the police force we must move towards a system of community policing and the establishment of police outposts in communities.

I see the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East looking at me. The district of Wildey in his constituency is one that immediately lends itself to the establishment of a community police force because of the rapid development of housing in that district and a need to relieve District A Station Hill of the pressure of having such a vast span of coverage. Similarly, the police station in St. Thomas was allowed to fall into ruin. It is now totally dilapidated, about to fall down. A good high wind is what is needed now to save government the use of bulldozers, and that will quickly crumble. There is no police station in St. Thomas. Land has to be identified and we have to plan for the construction of a new station.

Similarly with fire stations. It is clear that we do not have coverage evenly distributed throughout the island that the existing fire stations have been there in their present locations for probably 30-40 years and that no satisfactory account has been taken by successive governments of demographic changes. No one can deny, for example, that St. Philip needs to have a fire depot. Somewhere like Six Roads - I am not saying that it will be - because there has been over time a vast development taking place from Union going further east right through Ruby Park into Wellhouse, upper St. Philip and so on. You have the oil fields at Woodburne nearby and you cannot rely on coverage from the station at the Airport because that has to remain fully manned and equipped at all times. So there is a case for a station, let us say, in St. Philip. The North is poorly served. There is only a little station at Weston. We need to look at providing additional coverage at some point in the North. In regard to St. Lucy... 10.45 a.m.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have not identified any site yet and I do not feel like going so far out North as St. Lucy.

Post offices, the same thing. The Post Office at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip was built at the time when that development took place in the middle 50s near to Princess Margaret School. That has now proven itself too limited of capacity and we have to expand that. The Post Office in St. Peter needs to be removed from its present location and be relocated elsewhere. All of these are matters for planning and development over the next few years.

Now to properly implement a phased programme of new construction requires detailed planning early so these Estimates reflect a decision consciously made that in the new financial year 1995/96, we will do the planning for those types of activity of which I have spoken - redevelopment of Police Station, Post Office, Fire Service and so on.

In the meantime, beginning I think it was about November last year, we thought that it was necessary to do urgent emergency works at particular police stations and fire stations. We started with the debushing programme because the grass and weeds had enveloped many yards of police stations. We completely debushed District "B", District "C", Crab Hill, District "E", District "F", Hastings, and Worthing, all of them. In touring also we found out that there were several properties which needed to be treated for termites. We have done the termite treatment at many of these properties.

I just want to say that I was very shocked indeed when we toured the new Post Office at Hometown in November - that had been opened, I believe September 2 - and by November there was evidence in the kitchen area of substantial termite infestation wood ants. In two months and we saw these trails of termites.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. Do not think I am overstating it.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am entitled to talk about the Post Office because we have money in here for that.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh, it is not new? Renovated, or whatever. It looked like new. It was the renovated Post Office at Hometown.

Mr. Speaker, we have developed in these Estimates a programme for the refurbishment of the various properties and we have prepared a chart for the start of work on each property. Like we will do if we were running a JCT

form of contract, the contractor would have to give a schedule of work where he intends to be at various points. We have done that for each property. I can let Honourable Members see the type of chart that I had prepared. We intend to do the maintenance on a systematic basis.

The Honourable Prime Minister spoke of the general policy of doing small capital works. In the Ministry this is what we are embarked upon as from April 1 although we have done substantial work between November last year and March 31 this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going into details because it would not be proper on a second reading speech but I just wanted to give a broad overview of what is happening.

Now yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. John mentioned that there were two bits of legislation that he was wondering about. Apparently when he was Minister of Finance he had given assurances to the offshore sector that legislation would be coming and he has not seen it yet. I wish to state that the Society With Restricted Liability Bill and the Exempt Limited Partnership Bill have been out for comment by -1 think it is called the Advisory Council. I think it used to be called EFSAT. It has been out for study by IFSTAT and we have had a lot of difficulty.

On January 19 we thought that the final meeting had approved the Bill and had made the final comments. Since then there have been at least three meetings. Every time we redraft in accordance with the recommendations, they come back and say, "Well we want to change this, and we want to change that". Now, that has to come to an end. I have instructed the Parliamentary Counsel...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of elucidation, Sir, if the Honourable Member will give way. With respect to all of that legislation including the Trust legislation, the Opposition has commented and written formally to either your Permanent Secretary or the International Business and Financial Services Union and given its comments, scant though they are, because they are policy issues and not issues that one would need to comment on. We have responded.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I really was not accusing the Opposition in any way of blame. Thus far when we have sent legislation out to both sections of the Opposition they have responded expeditiously. I must say that that is at variance with the conduct of other persons to whom legislation has been sent so the Opposition has not held up anything.

There has to be a cut-off point and I have instructed the Parliamentary Counsel to come with the two Bills in

their present form and over time experience will show whether we need to amend them and we will amend. We cannot keep to-ing and fro-ing and this inability to make up one's mind otherwise the Bill will never see the light of day. Shortly those two Bills will be introduced in the House.

I will be sending out for circulation and for comment the Insurance Amendment Act. There are substantial amendments being made to the Insurance Act. There is a Bill called the Business Corporations Bill which I am changing into a Shipping Corporations Bill. That is a massive document that is drafted. We are waiting for some comments from a specialist to whom it has been sent and shortly that one will be coming.

The International Trust Bill and the Exempt Mutual Funds Bills are ready and they will be in circulation within the next two weeks. Those are Bills that are drafted. 10.55 a.m.

In addition the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Bill is with the Judicial Council and the Bar Association. We are waiting for comments to come back from them. It has been there since October last year.

The Defamation Bill will shortly be circulated for comments. I thought I could have had it out about a month ago. But in the meantime, we came across recent legislation from New South Wales which we looked at and we wanted to incorporate some of the features of that legislation in the Defamation Bill. There has had to be some redrafting but within 2 weeks, I expect the Defamation Bill to be circulated to all interested parties, including media houses.

Limitations of Actions Bill has been drafted and is ready for circulation. Bail Bill has been drafted and is ready for circulation. Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill has been drafted and is ready for circulation.

I wish the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who has the Labour Party's Manifesto will look and see that all these that I am calling are mentioned in the Manifesto and we are doing them.

That brings me, Mr. Speaker, to the question of these Estimates and their relationship to the promises of the Barbados Labour Party. Because this is the opportunity that we have to put our slant to the Estimates to back our Manifesto promises by the provision of money.

I should like, quickly, to summarize what has been happening over the last 6 months in the 4 departments, including the Post Office, for which I have responsibility. Page 21 of the Manifesto promised that we would

secure the salaries of public officers. The Constitutional (Amendment) Bill was brought in fulfillment of that promise.

Page 34 of the Manifesto -

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Misleading the House, what? - called for the establishment of a task force on crime prevention. That has been established and will be functional as from the first week in April at offices in the ICB building on Roebuck Street.

Page 34 calls for the provision of additional Special Constables. Forty have been enlisted and approximately another 30 is to come. That has been fulfilled.

Page 35 committed the Party to the provision of the improvement of physical amenities of the Royal Barbados Police Force. Work has started and I explained that we are going to do it systematically.

Crab Hill has been renovated. District "F" has been renovated, Worthing has been renovated. You will also have seen in the papers recently tenders for District "B", District "C", Four Roads Fire Station and so on.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Crab Hill is finished. We did yours first and got rid of you.

Page 35 called for the computerization of the Police Force. Members will recall that we voted the \$1.6 million...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is in the Labour Party's Manifesto at page 35. We have done it. Page 35 also called for a steering committee on penal reform. Within 2 weeks, that steering committee will be established. I am just waiting for approval for the Chairmanship of that committee. But Honourable Members will see provision in the Estimates for funds for the steering committee on penal reform. I spoke of the Bills already which we committed ourselves to drafting in the Manifesto. At least 5 or 6 of them have been drafted.

We committed ourselves at page 35 to expanding the work on the prison farm. Two hundred and seventy thousand dollars is voted in the Estimates for that. I have been speaking to the UN Office in Vienna and the UNDP Officer here about getting external funding to help the development of that farm.

We also promised on page 35 more Prison staff. The million dollars more that the Prison is getting this year compared with last year, much of that is to pay for additional staff. Seventeen are almost ready. I think 14 have been interviewed and another 3 have been selected. Seventeen will shortly be engaged.

We also committed ourselves to training the Prison staff. As a result of my attendance at a UN Conference in Naples in November, I established contact with the UN Office in Vienna and recently was visited by the inter-regional adviser. He had a look at the Prison and we have been able to mobilize other Caribbean brethren for a Conference here at Dover Convention Centre of senior Prison Officers in the week beginning the 9th April and running until the 14th April. We are going to bring two or three prison officers from around the Caribbean. They will be trained by 2 experts from overseas and each territory will be handed a manual for use in their respective territories.

In addition to that, on the 22nd, that is tomorrow, there will be a hook up of all these prison officers through UWIDITE and the UN office in Vienna and the trainers. A preparatory meeting by the UWIDITE system I think is scheduled for an hour or an hour and a half to prepare and then we go into the Conference on the 9th April. That is one element in training.

After that has happened, we want to train the 17 new ones who are coming on and we want to have a system of continuous training for prison officers. What has happened, over time, with both Governments was that a prison officer would be recruited, and sent off start work green. That cannot be right because we are dealing with a security institution. We are going to make sure that every intake is trained and then that there is a period of continuous training.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you want to be a Prison Officer? There will be continuous training.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we committed ourselves at page 36 to preparing for continuous Assizes. 11.05a.m.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Work should have started last week. I had not had a chance to check but work should have started last week, using the Ministry of Transport and Works as the executing Ministry to renovate what is currently the Court of Appeal Registry into two new and smaller courts and of course when they are staffed we need two additional judges I believe. When that happens, and it

should be completed in another two months, we will be able, hopefully from July we might want to start in October because we would have some work to do also at the Registry and the High Court in August and September. We might want to start from October 1, but provision is being made and work is going on for the establishment of additional courts which will facilitate the holding of continuous assizes.

Mr. Speaker, I just wish to finish by saying that the Law Reform Committee to which we pledged ourselves at page 44 has been established. I wish to announce the Members of the Law Reform Committee. It is headed by Mrs. Bourne-Hollands, Chairperson and comprises Mr. Moore, Chief Parliamentary Counsel; Dr. Sonia Richards; Ms. Marva Clarke, Magistrate; Senator Lindsay Bolden; Mr. Peter Williams, Q.C.; Mrs. Beverley Walrond, Q.C., President of the Bar; Ms. Leslie Ann Walcott of the Faculty of Law; Mr. Theodore Walcott; Mr. Michael Beckles, Mr. Floyd Phillips and Mr. Colin Williams, Q.C.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we committed ourselves also on page 36 to the ...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Should the Law Reform Committee consist only of lawyers?

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, because they only know about law reform.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Only yesterday Mr. Glenroy Straughn asked me, this is a point of elucidation, Sir, whether or not other people might not be able to make a contribution in terms of language, in terms of social content of legislation.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give the Honourable Member the assurance that the Law Reform Committee will function in a very democratic way and that there will be scope for discussion between Law Reform Committee members, and interest groups, members of the public and so on. They will have a free hand to take inputs on law reform from a variety of persons who have inputs to make. But in respect of Mr. Glenroy Straughn you will be pleased to know that we kept another manifesto promise and established the National Advisory Council on Drugs and he is on that. This is the first time that Government is really backing a commitment to rid this country, as far as possible, from the scourge of drugs with money and \$300 000 is included from our funds and UNDCP is putting up another \$300 000 of counterpart funds and the National Drug Resource Centre which is the executing arm is being housed at Trents, St. James.

We are just waiting for the telephone lines to be established but all the equipment has been bought. This is

Dr. Delph's Committee. They are functioning and functioning well. They are out in the communities already working on projects. Check what is happening at Deacon's Farm.

We are talking to the people from the Pinelands Creative Workshop about the establishment of 30 micro-business in the Pine area and projects are going to involve Gall Hill and Silver Hill, principally of a sporting nature because that is what the community says they want. They want to be involved in football at various levels and money is going to be put in the communities.

I just want Honourable Members to appreciate that even though we may be bringing legislation to deal at one level with the problem, for example, of harassment, at the same time we are going into the communities and doing work,

- (a) through the task force on crime to establish profiles and to get information and
- (b) in the area of drugs we are committing money in the communities.

Thank you, Sir. I will remember your constituency.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am joining this debate of the Estimates for 1995/96 and I would want to express some comments regarding those Estimates which were laid in the House last Tuesday. I must start, Sir, by indicating that I was somewhat amused by the fact that the Honourable Prime Minister came to the House yesterday and in his second reading speech we could observe the difficulty that he was experiencing in having to lay estimates that were similar and certainly no evident departure from what has been prevailing in Barbados over the last 3 or 4 years.

The Honourable Prime Minister did not surprise me with his reference to the cleaning up of the financial disorder or accounting procedures that have been prevalent in the system for the last 20 to 30 years and his actions were consistent to positions that were taken by members of the Public Accounts Committee headed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was a member, the Honourable Prime Minister himself was a member and on this side, I was a member of that Committee and the other members have fled this Chamber.

We all took a position then, having recognised that there were breaches occurring within the system, that some statement to the effect that those practices should not be allowed to continue, would take some shape. A lot of those discussions occurred last year and I was not surprised

that the Prime Minister in fact took a position to address that area because I think it is necessary and we certainly support the call. I am sure other Members on this side support the call that in the management of our accounting within the system, we must have proper and prudent management of our financial resources. Sir, I was not surprised and I support the call that he made in that regard.

I would of course want to note that the Prime Minister in one breath has been making a significant amount of promises to this country. He was severely critical of the Right Honourable Lloyd Erskine Sandiford when he presided as Minister of Finance. When the Right Honourable Erskine Sandiford, during the period of 1990 to 1991, found himself in a scenario where the economic environment of that period did not allow him the elbow room that the Honourable Prime Minister can now boast of in 1994 because the economic situation has changed significantly and clearly as a result of measures that were implemented in this country to assist in the stabilisation of Barbados and then to focus on the structural development and the infrastructural development of Barbados which we did through our physical development plan. 11.15a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the difficulties that we went through in 1991 were against the background - and I will quote from a book published by the Government Printing Department, "Governments in Recessionary Times" which I believe is a document of this House, and I am going to quote from page 99. The structural adjustment programme was introduced against the background that we were trying to protect the parity of the Barbados dollar in the first instance, and this is what the Right Honourable Prime Minister of 1991, the Minister of Finance, said in that debate. He said:

"Mr. Speaker, all programmes involve risks. The current one is no exception. If we truly wish to avoid a change in the current parity of the exchange rate, we must respond to the challenges of the new policy environment with enthusiasm and imagination. We must not continue to behave as if we believe that the world owes us a living. Nor can we afford to fritter away our potential as a small, well-educated and progressive country which has, hitherto, demonstrated its capacity to overcome domestic and external shocks by bemoaning the loss of special concessions, exemptions, and privileges which we can no longer afford. We have never doubted our future, in the past. We cannot now do so, in the present.

Mr. Speaker, the programme with the IMF will therefore involve four components: reduction in expenditure; increase in revenues; rebuilding of the reserves; resuscitation of the productive sectors."

In 1995, Sir, as we examine the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue, we notice that there has been no real departure from those objectives and we certainly recognise that the Government in its wisdom has, despite the promises they made during the campaign, despite all of the promises the Honourable Prime Minister has made to the population, at least had the good sense to continue the programme which effected growth in this economy from 1993, with a significant increase through 1994, and they have sought to continue those measures with a tiptoe approach to new capital development in this country.

Now, I want to speak very honestly and openly about what we have achieved and what we in fact have to do. I have heard a lot in this debate centred around facilities like the police stations and other buildings. I have no problem with tiptoeing and patching up here and there, but there is no real focus on the development of the real concern in this country, and that is on the development of our people. Our people have suffered for the last four or five years and in order for us to effect growth that will have the impact to assist in their well-being in the future, there are certain basic infrastructural changes that must occur in this country if we are in fact to do that. I must commend the former Democratic Labour Party administration, because even though we were in a structural adjustment programme we still had the good sense to recognise that there are certain vital factors that are necessary for the development of Barbados.

We are talking about growth. I am going to be very fair in this debate. I like what the Honourable Prime Minister did with regard to indicating that he would give concessions to create the environment for new investment as a whole. That is laudable. I think that is one aspect of it. I understand the focus, but the Democratic Labour Party also recognised, even though we were in a structural adjustment programme, that there were several factors prevailing in our physical development that will have an impact on the capacity of this country to develop. The critical position of our water, our water resource base. We have a problem with the sewage along the west coast and the south coast. We had problems with our roads - and I will pay credit where it is due - the former Barbados Labour Party administration were part and parcel, even though they have taken credit for the ABC Highway as their project when in fact it was a project that was conceived in the 60s, and they have sought to take credit for the road and believe it was a concept of the late Tom Adams, but my research tells me that that was part of the Development Plan as early as the 1960s. I stand to be corrected, but that is what my research tells me. I will give the party the credit for having progressed the project during that time.

Asides.

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, we could go on and on, we can blame the Barbados Labour Party for their excessive borrowing during the period 1976 to 1986, we can deal with the international recession that occurred during the period, we can blame the Gulf War, we can blame everybody and we can continue to blame the Right Honourable Erskine Sandiford, but the bottom line is that there are some realities which we have to confront if we in fact want to continue the proper development of this country.

The area that concerns me, and I am going to make mention of it, Sir, is that rather than us as parliamentarians fail to focus on the fact that unless we prepare the wicket for future development in this country, all of those persons who find themselves unemployed - and I think they now number some 32 000 and not 30 000, and in another couple of months they will probably increase to about 35 000 - because the Honourable Prime Minister has said that Job No. 1 is still jobs, which means that he has done absolutely nothing up to this point, because Job No. 1 is still jobs and his objective to somewhere two years down the line, so we expect that he will start to do something in that regard in another two years' time. He has not got into Job No. 1 as yet, so he has not yet done anything and we accept that.

Unless we take a very serious look at the infrastructure that has to be put in place, so that we can attract investment to this country, we are wasting our time and we are misleading all of those young people outside who find themselves unemployed and we must recognise that the Democratic Labour Party, even though we were going through a difficult period, sought to put in place a water resource programme that would increase the capacity of Barbados to have a water resource base for further development, because at present where we have a situation where 93% or 94% of our water resource base has been allocated, with new development and at the present growth rate, which I think is about 3% or 4%, we will shortly be unable to expand any new businesses in Barbados because we will not be able to provide water to them.

The second problem is that we cannot attract new investment to Barbados if we are unable to have a sewerage programme in place which will make sure that the marine environment around Barbados is not contaminated, as the signs are now showing that it is likely to occur. 11.25 a.m.

So the foresightedness which was heavily criticised during the last year's Estimates by the Barbados Labour

Party when they were in Opposition at that time was because they did not understand that the basic infrastructure had to be put in place before we could progress with investments. It is all well and good to give incentives. It is all well and good to say you will do this or do that, but we have to prepare the wicket in order to do that and Barbados has as a matter of policy to take stock of where we are.

The Honourable Prime Minister - and I want to make a passing comment as far as this is concerned - spoke about the capital programmes that were put in place by the Democratic Labour Party and he referred to Sherbourne Centre which was maligned all over this country in the Press and incidentally, Sir, they have significant control over the Press. I am a little concerned about that aspect of it. One of the objectives that we had on page 21 of our manifesto, which is a document of this House said:

"Access to information in a timely manner is the best bulwark of DEMOCRACY. A DLP Government commits itself to the establishing in consultation with media houses, media workers, and other broad-based organizations a mechanism to ensure that debates of the HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND SENATE are broadcast live.

A DLP Government commits itself to enhanced competition in media ownership and control as the most effective means to protect peoples' right to know, and upgrade the quality of service provided to the public. In this regard a DLP Government is unswervingly committed to issuing a license for a privately owned and controlled television station [and we still stand by that] as well as other radio stations. In order to ensure that the new facilities do not increase concentration of ownership of media facilities, a DLP government will attach conditions to the issue of a license which will ensure that any additional facilities will be owned and controlled by broad-based organizations..."

[and we gave a few examples].

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, what I will indicate is that I have been in contact with professional analysts in the cable network industry and they have indicated to me that there is a company that is interested and has been functioning in conjunction with a group of business persons in Barbados, some of whom have connections to the Barbados Labour Party. What those analysts have said to me is that the company is being considered, and I am issuing a warning to the Government it is a company

that is registered in Canada. I understand that it is a reputable company that has issued public shares and is a subsidiary of a company that was owned and registered in Wales.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the words "is being considered" and the fact that the company is linked with the Barbados Labour Party is what I am worried about, because the Member is misleading the House, and I am saying to the House that no application for television licenses of all the eleven is being considered. We are awaiting guidelines from the Barbados Broadcasting Authority before we go into the business of even evaluating licenses. We are not considering any license for anybody called Fundy to give them a license in this country nor are we considering...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: ... to Clico? Mr. Speaker, this Barbados Labour Party is not in the business of considering applications. Foolishness. 11.35a.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,...

Mr. SPEAKER: Before you speak just let me make an observation. I am understanding the Honourable Member for St. Michael East to say that from what he understands that this matter is being considered which is a little different from what the Honourable Prime Minister is saying. Could you continue, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. Sir, it seems to me that there is some confusion developing in this House. There is no Barbados Labour Party in this House. We are here as individual Honourable Members and a Government. You can say anything you want to say about the Barbados Labour Party. Anything is in order provided you do not use abusive language. You can say anything you want to say about any political party in this House. You cannot say it about the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your point has been made. The Honourable Member is quite correct. All Honourable Members are here as representatives of constituencies and there is no party here. I have heard the Honourable Member refer though to the Government. Let us continue, please.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, what I was also going to indicate was that the company, or any other company for that matter, they may want to entertain, that there is foreign exchange investment that should be involved in this regard. I have no difficulty with the introduction of cable television because it is something that

we support. It is something that if we are talking about cultural penetration I am not worried about the cultural penetration because there have been calls in Barbados recently even for us to have our emergency number changed to 911. Everything we do in this country is imported from North America, or whatever...

Asides.

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I am not worried about the cultural penetration. If we are talking about a new Barbados with all of the telecommunication techniques available to us, I think the time has come for us to have cable television in Barbados. I do not know why the Honourable Prime Minister is getting hot under the collar because I am simply issuing a warning to him. The Honourable Member has indicated that he wants to be transparent in whatever he is doing. The Honourable Member has said that he wants to be above board. He wants to come clean and I am just warning the Honourable Member.

I am not the only Member concerned, Sir. The Association of Journalists has also made a call for some consideration to be given to them in terms of considering these things because I do not want to live under a Barbados again where the media is controlled to such an extent by any one political party where they can propagate whatever they want to propagate in this country to the demise and proper development of this country.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please, order.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, Sir...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute, please. Honourable Members I have given permission to the Honourable Member to speak. Let us hear him, please. Whatever he is saying, we still have to hear him, please.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, to addition to that, the fibre optic cables that are being used in the cable network are the same cables that are used for telephone communication lines and we can see a situation developing if we allow a group to have that kind of control with the capacity to also have piggy-backing on it a network of telephone lines. We can see the dangers that may arise from that.

I recall, Sir, an Honourable Senator from the Other Place, Mr. Phillip Goddard, speaking in relation to the costs of overseas telephone calls and making the point - he may have been speaking from a privileged position - that the likelihood of using fibre optic cables and so forth would be able to compete directly with Bartel if the situation was allowed to occur. Again we have that concentration if that is allowed.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to dwell on that. They have interrupted me and really took me off my tracks as far as that was concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am going to give you extra time so proceed.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I wanted to deal, Sir, with the Public Enterprise Fund. This Fund is as a result of state assets that we have sold and that money has been held in a fund earmarked the Public Enterprise Fund. The intention of it and as stated in our Manifesto was to assist in the refurbishment of the South Coast Projects.

Now, my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, has already in this debate spoken very eloquently about debt relief, and about the conditions that should be granted to those hoteliers. I share his call because right now those properties are so cash trapped and demoralised that they are even now accepting rates from the tour operators in the vicinity of \$20, I understand, for three persons in a room. I believe why they are doing that is their attitude is one where it does not matter, they can as well take the \$20. They can do no better. This is what they have to take. The properties are not to the standard that they can command their fair price on the marketplace.

The Honourable Minister of Tourism has gone on record as saying that he wants to upgrade the product in Barbados and he certainly would want to make sure that what we are offering to the public is attractive, affordable and certainly not the old rundown buildings. I hold his hand in that regard.

What concerns me though, and I wanted to speak under this Head of Tourism just very briefly, is that in the Estimates this year there seems to me to be a lack of funds provided for the type of marketing programme that has been envisaged by the new administration. I think that if we are going to achieve the results that we need to achieve in tourism that we are going to have, and the Honourable Prime Minister in his command of the Ministry must seek to allocate additional funding to the tourism industry in the short term because they have made significant promises and I would be very surprised if they are able to achieve that from what I have seen in this existing budget.

As far as the Public Enterprise Fund is concerned, Sir, I would like to see those hotels on the South Coast

benefit. Whether you give them debt relief or whatever you do to assist them, make sure that those properties are able to be viable in the short term.

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I just want to deal finally with the workers of Barbados and in particular those persons who find themselves unemployed, or those who were laid off. Apart from the Democratic Labour Party making sure that there were infrastructural changes in this country, we sought to embark on an exercise for workers who were displaced. 11.45 a.m.

I heard the Honourable Minister of Education indicate, only this week, that a large number of school children are coming out of school, some 70% of them if I can quote her, and she has indicated - and I have known that for a long time - that a lot of these persons who have come out of school have no certification, have no skills and are not properly equipped for the job market. Even though we were in a structural adjustment programme, even though we were able to lay off persons... I kept a lot of noise as far as defence of my constituents and I was rewarded because a significant number of my constituents were sent to the National Training Board, over 400 of them. They were given skills which they are able to use today in a rehabilitation programme.

I would conclude now, Sir. They have made promises that there would be 30 000 jobs available to people. That is laudable because there were 30 000 people out of work. I have no problem with that. But we have, as a matter of urgency, to seek to expand Barbados with new investment to make sure that we are able, through this new investment and through an expanded Barbados, to absorb a large number of these unemployed persons into the system. If we fail to do that, we are going to have a continuing decline in the moral standards in this country, and even though the Honourable Attorney General has been indicating that he is keeping law and order we can see crime taking place in Barbados that we have never seen yet in the likes of Barbados where people are driving about shooting and, at the Stadium you can see the rioting that took place the other night. A total decline. We have to stem it.

I will support the Government's efforts in terms of trying to stabilize the situation as we did for the last 3 or 4 years. I compliment them for continuing the programme of the Democratic Labour Party and hope that we will be able to achieve the goal that will absorb all of those disadvantaged persons into the system.

Thank you.

Hon O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to wind up the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any other Honourable Members who want to speak? The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to give my full support to the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure which have been laid in this House and introduced by the Honourable Member for St. Peter. It was indeed refreshing to listen to a speech on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in which the Minister was able to speak without even as much as a note and to speak for two and a half hours without a set brief written for him by the public servants.

The conclusion I drew is that he understands the subject and he is able therefore to speak as freely as possible in this House from his deep knowledge and the experience which he has gained in shadowing the subject, over the years. I believe that we should feel happy and proud that we have brought into this House someone with the capacity to understand the economy of Barbados and who, at present, is in a position to guide the country correctly. I found a certain schizophrenic approach, by the Opposition, to the question of the Estimates this year.

The Honourable Member who has just spoken has told us that these Estimates are following the principles and the practice of the Democratic Labour Party. On the other hand, his Leader, the Honourable Member for St. John was critical of the Estimates. He said that they made no difference, that they were ill-conceived, all sorts of things.

Unfortunately the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central expressed his confusion because he wanted to know, how they were going to relieve the suffering of the poor? I think that was the only point that he made. He asked a question rather than offer any valid criticism.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member, unfortunately, is so dull that he cannot even see points when they are made. But we will have to let him understand.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, would you not like to rephrase that?

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Rusty, Sir. He is so rusty that he really does not understand when points are made.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rusty sounds a little better than dull.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Let me begin, Sir, by answering. I want to answer because this is a debate. Members cannot just get up and make wild statements in this House and believe that they are going to go unchallenged in this House and that there is going to be no response to those statements.

The first attack that was lodged against the Estimates is that the Government has chosen to bring Estimates that speak to a deficit of roughly 1% and, that in this regard, there is no difference between these Estimates and the Estimates of the Democratic Labour Party.

Secondly, Honourable Members, particularly the Honourable Member for St. John is saying that the Member for St. Peter has gone back on the views which he expressed during his period of Opposition over the last 5 years. That shows a complete misunderstanding of what is contained in the Estimates.

The Minister has been absolutely clear for several weeks now, if not months, that the Government has recognized that the public service of this country has carried the main burden of restructuring and a hard period from 1991 until now and that, therefore, the Government will enter into serious negotiations with the public service for a real increase in wages. That will have a money cost.

It is not possible, at present, in the absence of those negotiations for them to be reflected in the current Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. According to the proper Financial Rules applicable in those circumstances that revenue, except to the extent that it is statutory, that revenue will eventually be voted on in this House and will obviously increase the Government's expenditure for the year and will obviously add to deficit that might occur.

The Honourable Member for St. John also wishes to see the Estimates provide for areas in which, at the moment, no expenditure has occurred. I believe he does not understand.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is right. There are some things that I do not understand.

I always assumed that, under the Laws of Barbados, all revenues had to be raised by statute. I should like to know if he would like to elucidate the difference between statutory revenue and non-statutory revenue based on the statement which he just made in this House.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member should know that we do not vote the part of the

Estimates that are charged on the Consolidated Fund. The Honourable Member understands that. He should understand that.

The point I am making, Sir, is that there will be an increase in expenditure which, eventually, will increase the level of the deficit. 11.55 a.m.

The Honourable Member wants to know how I know that. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central either doubts the Minister's word and he obviously doubts the position of the unions on this matter. It is the fulfillment of a promise that we made to the social partners and the public service and it does go to improve their standard of living and it does go to help particularly those people who have had to carry the heavy burden of adjustment in this country.

The Honourable Member says *sotto voce*, I am making a case for a bigger deficit. If there has to be a bigger deficit by virtue of increasing public sector wages at the moment there will be an increase in the deficit to that extent.

The Minister has been very clear in his mind about that. The Honourable Member will realise that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure have been predicted on certain assumptions, an assumption of growth, real GDP growth, not merely nominal growth, of about 2.6%.

Now once the economy expands, obviously you will see an expansion as well in the revenue side and it is nonsense to get in this House and argue and to put abroad that there is additional taxation because the overall figures show about a 4.9% growth in revenue under certain heads other than land tax. So one must answer these points so that the country is not misled.

There is no provision in the Estimates that I have seen where the Government is proposing to raise additional taxation by increasing taxes. Therefore if you take into account the natural growth that I think is a realistic figure which the Government has in mind and which I think the country can achieve I can see that the projection of revenue seems to be absolutely realistic.

Now I want to talk about land taxes. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central again gave the impression that the Barbados Labour Party, as a party and now as the Government, was going back on its position on land tax and intends to increase the rates. It is absolutely clear, as the Minister has said, that there is a tremendous amount of arrears due to the Government, \$60 million I believe. With improved collection it should be highly possible to get in \$20 million in that tax this year.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, at no time did I mention anything about increasing the rates of land tax. What I said was that I was surprised that the Government was leaning heavily on revenue from that source given its commitment to abolish land taxes in Barbados.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member obviously is not in favour of getting in arrears due to the Government. I do not believe that people as citizens should exist in the country without carrying their fair share of the obligations. You cannot have all of the privileges without carrying the fair share of obligations. The position that we have in Barbados today is that the Government is owed in various areas close to \$400 million in revenue.

Now let us begin from there. The Land Tax provision is \$60 million. The Water Rates is \$23 million. National Insurance without levies and interest happens to be \$50 million. Honourable Members must know that if you have concern for creating jobs, for reducing taxation and for helping the poor, the first responsibility we have is not to grandstand but to come in here and say to people that they have an obligation to pay up what is due to the Government.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: What the Government owes the people must be paid and that is one of the reasons why we have been clearing up the mess that the Government left by not paying people timely and on time. That is why we have been clearing up that mess. So do not come in here and grandstand and give the impression to the public of Barbados that this Government does not consider the poor and is not concerned about them. But at the same time the Government has to collect its revenue that is due so that it would be able to use the revenue for the purposes of developing the country.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute, please. Honourable Members on this side, please. Yesterday I made it quite clear that it is my intention, as long as I am here, to enforce these rules. I want you to desist from interrupting the Honourable Member and shouting across the Roor. You will have a chance to speak. Let me hear the Honourable Gentleman, please.

Aside,

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I will make sure that I am not as big a fool as the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Member has to understand that you cannot just go out and say that you want measures for the poor. You have to have the revenue to be able to deal with the problems of this economy.

Now, Sir, it is likewise untrue for Honourable Members who have spoken to say that there is nothing in here to assist with stimulating the economy and getting jobs going. The capital expenditure which the Government is proposing to expend over the full year is 44% higher than last year. The Honourable Member knows that. He can see the figures. Some \$50 million more. If Government itself is going into direct expenditure, the Government is going into projects over the whole area of the economy that will have an effect of creating not only direct jobs but in the long run will stimulate the economy as a whole.

Although the Minister of Tourism has not spoken yet, if you look under the Heads of Estimates and Revenue for tourism you will see two things:

- (1) an increase in the 'amount being given to the Tourist Board so* that there can be greater promotion;
- (2) you will see money being put in place in order to pursue expansion at the Airport and refurbishment there.

Obviously there is long-term planning for an increase in traffic at both ports because also in these Estimates there is provision for further expansion at the seaport as well. Both of those have an effect on jobs. What the Government has not done, for which the Honourable Member would want to castigate us if we did, is to come in here, print money through the Central Bank as was done by the last Government, create artificial jobs on a temporary basis and run the economy into trouble again. 12.05 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: You would not understand it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Address the Chair, please.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: That is not a scenario that this Government will face.

I have heard the call being made for debt relief. This Government has already started on debt relief, almost on a daily basis. We have been negotiating in the National Insurance Board with establishments that have got into genuine difficulties and have set up a rescheduling programme for them without closing them down. I do not believe that you must close down an establishment willy nilly and put people out of jobs in those circumstances, so that Honourable Member must know that we are not putting people into receivership. We might have to deal with some who....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member would give way, on a point of elucidation. Sir, the Honourable

Member is discussing what has been going on with the National Insurance Board almost from its inception. What I called for was genuine debt forgiveness, not rescheduling of debt. Wipe the debt off the books.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: If the Honourable Member wants to know as well, this Government has been looking at a case by case position where debt forgiveness is justified. We have to be very careful how we do that as well.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I will leave you to deal with the Honourable Member for St. John, Sir. He speaks of just what he is, so I will leave it at that. We have been dealing on a case by case basis with requests for relief where it is justified.

Sir, I believe I represent more of the south coast hotels than any other Honourable Member in this House and that therefore their cases would be much nearer to my heart and to my knowledge than to any of the Honourable Members. I believe that where there are genuine cases one should reschedule debt and that the area the Government can deal with is the area of penalties and interest. Let me make the point for the Democratic Labour Party, because they have very short memories. The Democratic Labour Party was the party that brought into this House the increase in substantial penalties on interest payments when you are in arrears, and they compounded the payments. I have argued with the former Right Honourable Member for St. John that it was not fair for a Government to be charging interest at over 1% per month on arrears of income tax and capitalising the sum when it owes taxpayers refunds, will take months to pay them and then to give them no interest. The Democratic Labour Party would forget that, but the Minister has said, and I take his word, I accept his word, that he has been negotiating with the hoteliers and others concerning the substantial debt owed to Government institutions and to the Government itself, and that over a period of time he will be coming with measures in order to give the relief. So what are they shouting about? We are ahead of them in conception and in planning and will be ahead of them in execution as well.

Now, Sir, I want to talk a little about the informatics industry, because the Honourable Member for St. John says that all we have put into the Estimates is \$70 000 more for promotion than they had placed last year, although we criticised them. Once again I say that his memory is short. We came to this House for a supplementary, for instance, and we had a long debate on it on ways to improve the Corporate Registry in order to make us more efficient, so that people who are doing business with Barbados in the offshore sector....

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, I made no statements at all in the course of my presentation about the informatics industry, My comments were directed at the international business and financial services sector and the international business and financial services allocation under the relevant Head in the Estimates.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member does not even understand the portfolio which he used to shadow. He honestly does not understand it, Sir,

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I am sorry he did not shadow it, The Honourable Member obviously does not understand what he was shadowing. We made the point here, Sir, we brought in and passed half million dollars and between September and December, we were able to implement the project. That too shows that the Government is serious in this area. I can say as well that already there has been an increase, since we have come into office, in the number of jobs which are being provided in the whole area of the telecommunications and informatics sector. I believe that during the next year, with the son of activity I see from the private sector, the Government could look to a creation of certainly not less than 600 to 800 jobs in this sector, because once you stimulate the economy and once confidence has been restored, as confidence is being restored, to this country, the private sector itself will be one of the engines of growth for creating jobs. I much prefer to see jobs that are going to stay and not jobs that are there for election purposes. I recall very well the Honourable Member for St. John in the lead up to the election pulling jobs out of the hat. I pass every day by Bussa, Sir, and I have not seen these thousand jobs he was going to have near Bussa.

This Government intends to deal with the problem of job creation in a systematic and consistent way, so that in the long run there will be lasting and permanent jobs and the problem of unemployment, which we have dealt with before in an earlier term - we took it over from them at 20% and reduced it down to something like 10% or 11%. It went back up and by the time we were going out in 1986 we had brought it back to 15% and that Government doubled it in its 8 years in power. 12.15 p.m.

Sir, I want to answer two of the points made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, He said that there were two things necessary to stimulate the economy, one was the South Coast Sewerage Scheme and the second was proper water development. I don't want to misquote him, I am taking his word.

The South Coast Sewerage Scheme. When we left office in 1986 we had already done negotiations with the American Development Bank.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Go and look, Sir. We had done the negotiations with the American Development Bank.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member knows that. I don't know what he means by "they had done the negotiations" it is not true,

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order, please.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Read your manifesto. He had read the manifesto at the time, Sir. It took that Government more than 6 years, 1986-1994, and the project was not executed so it is left to us to execute it. It is just like the other gentleman who said that they had in thought the ABC Highway in the 1960s. Eighteen years of gestation. You all are worse than an elephant when it comes to conceiving and gestating and bringing forth. Worst than elephants, Sir.

Let me talk about the water resources as I end off. When we left office in the 80s we had \$30 million in order to deal with the question of water and development of the water resources in this country. I was in this House when the then Rt. Honourable Member for St. John said that they were hiding money and he was going to put it in the Consolidated Fund, brought in... He didn't do that? They wasted it then, Wasted it because Barbados found itself with its pumps dry.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. The Honourable Member continues to make that accusation and it was pointed out in this Honourable House on more than 3 occasions that the money that was being held by the Water Authority was being held in government debentures, fixed deposits, and it is still probably being held today. It was earmarked as our contribution for the same sewerage project that is now in place.

Mr. SPEAKER: You made your point.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member has conclusively proved the incompetence of the Democratic Labour Party in office. You allowed the problem of all the busted mains. You allowed the problem of no new wells. You allowed the problem of bad conservation of water resources to occur. You allowed those to grow up during the time and...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

The Honourable Member knows full well that before we left office that there were 3 new wells that were in progress.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The problem is that the Democratic Labour Party allowed the whole system to break down and the result is now that this Government has to do more than a repair job to set the country right. I am glad that they acknowledge that we have a competent core of people here in this party on the Front Bench and on the Back Bench and that we are capable of doing the job and it speaks volumes to their trust in our competence and the trust of the public that their expectations are so high that you want us to complete it within a period of 6 months.

Realistically, no matter how good we are because of the fact that we are human beings it will take a bit longer, and the public of Barbados understands clearly that we will keep our promises by the excellence of our performance. Thank you very much.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 1.30 p.m. in the afternoon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting. 12.23 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, over the last day or so we have been hearing about the expectations of Government with their financial programme. We heard from the Honourable Member for St. Peter about the programme for Speightstown and the surrounding areas. We also heard him saying in this Honourable House that he has allocated \$3 million for rural development. I want to reflect on something I said earlier in this session and I will not quote the exact words so I would not find myself in trouble.

When this House first dealt with rural development, we dealt with a subsidy for \$200 000 and I said at that time that what we should have been dealing with for the half year was probably \$2 million and not \$200 000. If in the beginning as we were dealing with \$200 000 and it should have been \$2 million for half a year I cannot see how I can honestly support any Resolution, Bill or whatever for \$3 million for one whole year.

Let us be serious, Sir. Speightstown or St. Peter is the key area for development in the North of Barbados. You heard the Honourable Member for St. Peter say that he wants to see a jetty and there is need for a marketplace. I have no problem with that because the Democratic Labour Party set up a programme and a project at Spring Hall called the Spring Hall Land Lease Project where we encouraged farmers to lease land from the Government to grow their produce. I honestly believe that Speightstown would provide that place where these farmers could grow their crops, reap their produce, bring them into Speightstown and display their produce. Not only would the farmers be able to use that marketplace but the fishermen would be able to use the marketplace. The people in the handicraft industry through rural Barbados would be able to come into Speightstown as that central point where we would be able to sell our produce, whether it be to the locals or the tourists that would be coming into Speightstown whether they would be coming by the cruise liners, taxis, ZMs, BTs or the Zs.

Mr. Speaker, when you have a situation where you are asking people to focus on Speightstown as the focal point, then one can understand why in the early 1970s Mr. Barrow decided that he wanted a hotel to the North of Speightstown, the one that we now call Heywoods. One would understand why Mr. Barrow went for projects like the cement plant and this is all part of rural development. One would understand why he also had in his Manifesto a small airport for the North of Barbados.

Sir, when we the Democratic Labour Party are speaking about rural development, we are speaking about true development and no token vote can do all that is needed in rural Barbados. I am saying to this House that the \$3 million that is in the vote for rural development cannot even repair all the roads in St. Lucy. It is interesting. As I am always saying to this House, when you are dealing with roads in a rural areas, you are not talking about highways because whenever you build a tenantry road it means that you are making provision for about 10 or 20 houses. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew will agree with me on that, or the Honourable Member for St. James North, or St. Peter. When you are talking about a rural programme you must come back and agree with the policies of the Democratic Labour Party. Our policy, as was stated earlier by me in here on roads is we had promised that we would have finished all the tenantry roads by the end of 1995 which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas agrees with me, and it is in Hansard,

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, I am not in the habit of agreeing with foolishness. I never agreed that the Democratic Labour Party could finish all the tenantry roads by 1995. For eight years they did

nothing for me in St Thomas, not one. They never completed one tenantry road for eight years in St. Thomas.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is in Hansard as saying that the Democratic Labour Party had planned to construct all the tenantry roads by 1995 to win an election. I would like to know how come he is in Hansard saying that but the Honourable Member does not understand the importance of tenantry roads. That is why I am going to tell him now that once you build tenantry roads in rural Barbados it has a different effect than in urban Barbados because you build tenantry roads in urban Barbados for houses that are there already and you build tenantry roads in rural Barbados to encourage more houses and more development.

I am saying, Sir, that it is very important that you have roads in rural Barbados. It is very important to have marketplaces. I know that once you have these facilities in rural Barbados then those in central Barbados would be able to have facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and they would not have to compete with us from rural Barbados because we would still have the St. Joseph Hospital which would be playing an important part in the health services of Barbados.

Under a proper rural development, Sir, a place like St. Joseph Hospital will be important. I cannot understand how the Honourable Member for St. Peter could allow the Honourable Member for St. James South to close St. Joseph Hospital when he has such a nice programme for rural Barbados, according to his pronouncements before the elections. I cannot understand. The Honourable Member has good plans for marinas. He has spoken to the Florida Cruise Association to get cruise liners into Speightstown and at the same time allows the Honourable Member for St. James South to close down the Hospital when we could have easily used the St. Joseph Hospital as a marketing tool to convince everybody in the world that the place to come to in Barbados is in the north of Barbados, rural Barbados.

It is amazing. I cannot understand how the Honourable Member for St. James South, who is part of rural Barbados, could close down a hospital in a rural constituency. We must be very careful for the simple reason that when we are looking at development in this country, we must make sure that we are not interfering with anything that would affect the progress of rural Barbados. 1,40 p.m.

We have to be careful for the simple reason that when we are looking at development in this country, we must make sure that we are not interfering with anything that would affect the progress of rural Barbados. I want to give

you a couple examples, Sir, I see nothing wrong with the Prime Minister transferring some of the Government services to Speightstown. In this day and age of modern technology, there is nothing wrong with that. I do not see why anybody from rural Barbados whether it be Crab Hill, Mile-and-a-Quarter, Bawden, Horse Hill, Oxnards or even Paynes Bay...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is part of rural Barbados. You are close to urban Barbados. You do not think you are in rural Barbados anymore. Why should they have to go to Bridgetown to get a passport or to pay their Driver's Licence or even to get a Police Certificate of Character? I believe they should be able to go to rural Barbados, Speightstown and get those services. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South would agree with me on that because he knows the meaning of divesting some of these services and projects in Oistin.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: He can understand why the Honourable Member for St. Peter would want some of these services in Speightstown. I have no problem with that. I will support him.

I am also saying that the Honourable Member for St. Peter should ask the Honourable Member for St. Joseph to make sure that the project for the Naval Base Facility down at Harrison Point, the land base cruise facility down at Harrison Point be completed as soon as possible. Because if you are going to attract cruise liners to Speightstown, you are going to need those facilities.

It is very important to state in this House. You check and see the sites that the cruise ship passengers go to and you will see that nearly all of them are in rural Barbados.

When you have a marina in St. Peter and something happens at sea, the people need to know that they still have the St Joseph Hospital to go to. I am calling on the Prime Minister, even if he needs to make a Cabinet reshuffle that he does what is necessary to make sure that we still have our hospital in the North.

I want the Prime Minister to understand that there were plans under the IADB. We negotiated with the IADB to have a polytechnic down at the Naval Base Facility as well. At the same time we negotiated for the Youth Service to have a permanent home at the Naval Base Facility.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Read the records as you always do. I do not know if someone hid that file from

you but I know you would check it out and you will make sure that you come back and admit to me that we did that.

I am asking them to go back, look at and see all of those projects that we had for rural Barbados and I should like to see them implemented like yesterday, not tomorrow or next year, Because when you have such sound plans and policies, you do not expect any Minister to come and decide that the main plank of development that he or she is going to take away from the development.

What I should also like to see for Speightstown - I know that it is not in my constituency but I am not going to be selfish because it is very important to realize that Speightstown is abutting and abounding, in some way, to St. Lucy, St. Joseph, St. Andrew, whatever you want to call it. I should like to see Speightstown expanded to the east so that we would not have to worry about people bypassing Speightstown, so that there will be commercial development to the east in order for us to have an expanded Speightstown so that the commercial activities in Speightstown would be to the benefit of the other rural constituencies.

Speightstown is the focal point in the north. Do not let us deny it. We need to put finances into Speightstown. I cannot understand when we should be spending \$10 million to \$15 million, how we could be spending \$3 million. I cannot understand how any committee that is about to be formed now could pretend it was formed 6 months ago. I would not say much about that now. I will leave that until the relevant time. I am not trotting now. When I stan to trot, I will deal with that.

Sir, we must see places like River Bay, Cove Bay, Barclays Park, Farley Hill and all other areas in rural Barbados that are playing important roles and are important to the development of rural Barbados. We cannot afford to continue to provide these services and not get our fair share of the cake. It is no sense telling me that you are providing me with Highway 2 or the Duncan O'Neal Highway. We want to see some tenantry roads. We want to see a lot of tenantry roads, not one or two. I want to see them go and complete the programme left for them by the Democratic Labour Party, the tenantry roads programme.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Pardon me?

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Have we not built roads in St. Lucy? I wonder if you know St. Lucy.

Aside.

Mr. D. St E. KELLMAN: I want to see a situation in rural Barbados where my son or your son-in-law, Sir, would not have to travel...

Asides.

Mr, B. M. TAUT: On a point of order, Sir. As you know, I always try to get the facts. I do not really understand. Am I to understand the Honourable Member to be saying that his son is your son-in-law?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have a daughter. I do not know.

Mr. D. St E. KELLMAN: Right now there is no provision for a subsidy for the Transport Board, Sir. If there is no provision for a subsidy for the Transport Board, I have no problem. If you are going to tell me that you are going to put all of the necessary facilities and services in the rural constituencies that they need not travel out of the rural constituencies to Bridgetown or the urban area so that it would not put pressure on the transportation system. Is that what you plan to do, Sir? Am I to believe that the people from St Philip North and St. Philip South would have all the necessary facilities that they would not have to rely on the Transport Board anymore? That is rural Barbados too.

We on this side have no problem with subsidies to the Transport Board. We have always financed the Transport Board whether we did it at the end when there was a need to or whether we did it up front

What I want to know is if \$3 million is supposed to do everything that is expected by the people in rural Barbados?

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Rural Barbados is important and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would understand that. That is why we will make sure that - sometimes people from rural Barbados would not understand, they would criticize it - we develop all the necessary infrastructure in rural Barbados to make sure that rural Barbados pays for whatever it wants.

It must be stated that a hospital is not important only for rural Barbados but polyclinics are important. I want to know if the Honourable Member for StAndrew is going to sit back and ignore the fact that in our Manifesto on page 31 we had a polyclinic for St. Andrew. And if he is not going to make noise about that polyclinic not coming to St. Andrew. We would also like to know about the one for Horse Hill, St. Joseph and the one for St. John because when we speak about rural development these are things we talk about. There is a myth in this country that

rural development has started 6 months ago. That is not true. Rural development has always been part of us. 1.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, rural development was so far advanced that we would believe that in the seventies the late Mr. Barrow was talking about an airport for St. Lucy and he was serious. It so happened that by 1976 the Government changed and of course rural Barbados suffered for that. The same plans we had for the St. Joseph Hospital to make sure that the poor people of St. Lucy and other rural constituencies, if there was a major accident that they would have a hospital. 1995 came and things have changed the hospital has gone again.

We have enough evidence to prove, Sir, that whenever there is change of Government in this country and there is a change from DLP to BLP, rural Barbados suffers for that. We do not think we should pay for that, Sir. We are contributing enough to Barbados. And I am going by the Honourable Member for St. Peter and I will repeat it, if we are to attract tourism and cruise ship tourism in St. Peter, we must have the infrastructure. I am saying to the Honourable Member for St. Peter that he must not allow his Minister to only come for a vote for \$3 million but he should ask his Minister to come for a vote for \$15 million because it would also help the Member for St. James North ...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Pardon me. \$15 million, Sir, because there is enough evidence that with a \$15 million investment in the North of Barbados that the Government would get a better return than that.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is nothing. That is my constituency. I have a right to speak about that. If you do not want anything for St. James North tell me so now.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I know that. If the Honourable Member for St. Joseph wants to say that the Honourable Prime Minister has cut it from \$15 million to \$3 million he must say that but I am not going to say that because I know the Honourable Member for St. Peter would like the same \$15 million to develop the whole of St. Peter. Honourable Member for St. Joseph if you are saying that it is the Honourable Member for St. Peter that cut the Budget, I would not know that, you would know because you would be privy to that.

Sir, we want to see also a link of certain roads that are also important for the development of rural Barbados.

We would like to see a road linking Hope Road and Bishops because when that road is linked you have a situation where it provides a beautiful site for tourists and Barbadians alike. You can see all over St. Lucy and even some parts of «St. Peter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, do not start it up now.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It can be regarded as a tourist attraction. We are not in Government now, Sir, so we have to ask the Government to provide these things. We know what we were planning to do and by Budget time, Sir, I will provide my manifesto to the people of St. Lucy to show them that we had sound plans for the people in the rural constituencies.

Sir, once the necessary facilities are provided in rural Barbados and the cruise ships come into Speightstown, passengers would be able to do their shopping, go on nature tours through St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. Lucy, St. Joseph, St. Philip, even St. Thomas and if we had the St. Joseph Hospital and they were sick they would be able to go there and not have to compete with the patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Since they do not have that facility now, Sir, so I do not know how the Florida Cruise Ship Association would look at this proposal by the Prime Minister but I hope that it would be favourable because it would help the people in the North of Barbados and the other areas.

I have no problem in supporting a supplementary vote, maybe later down in the year, whether it be \$7 million or \$12 million for rural development I want to assure the Prime Minister that once he is doing anything for rural Barbados that he will have my support and I would say to him, all he has to do is to adopt the plans of the Democratic Labour Party and he would have no problem in finding support for his plans.

We heard a lot about vendors and I was rather surprised sitting in this House of Assembly to hear that the Barbados Labour Party has plans for vendors. I cannot believe that this is the same party that nearly every evening for the last year or two was criticising vending. I do not believe it, Sir, but if they have now realised that vending is important and it can help create jobs I have no problem. There are times when we need to repent and if they are repenting now, Sir, I am prepared to give way to them, Sir.

I would like to see them continue to allow the vendors to have proper markets along the highway. They have created those markets. All I would like to see them do is to provide the necessary infrastructure. If they do that...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. I would want to refer the Honour-

able Member for St. Lucy to page 9 of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto. It has a whole section dealing with vendors and to remind the Honourable Member so that he does not any longer mislead the House, that this Barbados Labour Party had plans for vendors in the old Marshall Hall Building on Hincks Street which was in our Manifesto of 1986. Eight years later all we have at Marshall Hall, Hincks Street is a burnt out shell. The red pencil was put through that by the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member for the City for reminding me that they had plans of giving Marshall Hall to the vendors so I hope they will make haste and construct the building down at Marshall Hall and give it to the vendors because we will be looking forward to that promise. Now I can afford to tell the vendors in the urban areas that Marshall Hall belongs to them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, keep it orderly please.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You see, Sir, when I look under the Head, Rural Development, all I am seeing is agriculture. I want to let the Government know that rural development means more than agriculture. I cannot understand how people can associate rural development only with agriculture, Sir. Sir, even though I would like to see the Honourable Minister do a lot more for the farmers at Spring Hall, I would like to see him put in the necessary irrigation for all the farmers at Spring Hall. It is not fair that there are some farmers at Spring Hall with irrigation and there are some new farmers at Spring Hall who are still waiting to have irrigation in their plots. I am saying to this House that I am looking forward for the Honourable Members on that side coming to this House of Assembly, for a larger vote for rural development and I will assure this House that if they come with a larger vote and the pronouncements are correct I will support them on that. 2.00 p.m.

Thank you, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is now my 27th debate on the Estimates of Barbados in this Parliament and down through the years, whether in Government or in Opposition, I have tried to distill some of the lessons that should be applicable for this country of Barbados and its development. If I start a little philosophically, Sir, it is because some of these basic lessons apparently have to be learnt and re-learned as we progress in this country.

First of all, Sir, we are seeking to appropriate, according to this draft book that has been laid, namely the Barbados Estimates 1995-96, just over \$1 billion for Current Revenue and \$1.3 billion as total expenditure, leaving a deficit of \$251.4 million to be financed somehow or another. We are told that this is about 1% of estimated Gross Domestic Product.

Sir, there is one basic economic fact that we have to appreciate in this country, and it is that whatever our desires may be, whatever plans we may generate, we can only fulfill those plans and meet the aspirations of all sections of this country if we are able to pay our way in terms of our local economy and in terms of our international economic relations. In terms of the first aspect, that means that we have to bring our expenditures into a reasonable synchronisation with our revenue, and that is what we have been seeking to do down through the years.

There is a traditional method of measuring how we succeed in this particular area. If our expenditures are far in excess of our revenues, that spells tremendous difficulties for our country and ultimately for the exchange rate of our dollar; so we have to be very prudent, and keep or bring and maintain some kind of order in our fiscal balances. That is why I can have no quarrel when the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance says he is seeking to keep the deficit around 1%. I do not think he said what figure he was thinking of; he said it is just under that now, and with some other measures which he might bring, that would put it over the 1%. I do not know if it will go up to 2%, to 3%, or even to 4%; but I cannot have any quarrel, and we over here cannot have any quarrel, with the objective of keeping our fiscal deficit within a reasonable range of around 1%.

That brings me to my first problem, Sir, and it is that I really did not know whether to cry or to laugh when I heard the statement; for no one should think that this is the first time we are seeking to bring order into our fiscal arrangements. That has been our policy down through the years, and it is time that we stop dressing up those kinds of statements as though there is some new-found theology. One of my distinguished predecessors struggled with that particular problem of bringing some order into the Estimates, and it is a matter of record that the most ungovernable set of fiscal arrangements in Barbados occurred under the Barbados Labour Party Government when the fiscal deficit reached 9.1% of GDP. That is a matter of record. If we are talking about fiscal mismanagement, let us be faithful to the record. The peak was reached in the year 1981-1982. Fiscal arrangements were completely out of control, reaching the highest point on record in Barbados. I see some of the Members on the Front Bench, and all on the Back* Bench, looking with some incredulity because of the statement I have made. That is why I say that we have to learn these lessons,

because if we get in this country and preach from a basis of misinformation, we will continue to mislead the country. The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is on the right track to try to keep the fiscal balances within a reasonable range. That is why I have to cry when I recall the rhetoric which the Barbados Labour Party Government put forth in this country when my government was trying to deal with the fiscal imbalances. 2.10 p.m.

Sir, that leads to another issue and it is that a lot of people in this country made sacrifices so that we could get to this position, and keep the value of our Barbados dollar in terms of its existing parity with the U.S. dollar. The public servants of Barbados were asked whether they would accept a pay cut as a contribution to the exercise of fiscal prudence and, overwhelmingly, they said they would accept the pay cut.

I am saying that that was a programme for some 18 months, certainly the programme of stabilisation in association with the International Monetary Fund; and we kept our word on that even though the very persons who at the outset opposed the programme were in the end urging that we should continue it for a period longer than 18 months. I resisted that.

I believe that there should be a recognition of the role played by the public officers of this country in this matter. I believe that they should be given some financial instrument, some kind of financial asset, some bond or certificate or something like that. That is my view, Sir. We were discussing bonds at the start and I believe that the time is ripe now that they should be given a financial instrument to hold which they could pass on to their children or whomever, and which would be negotiable.

We are saying it now that if the Democratic Labour Party had been returned to office, that is what we would have done in recognition of the work of the public servants of this country. I am making an open call for that

Mr. SPEAKER: Can we have order.

Aside,

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You can laugh.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rt. Honourable Member, continue please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, I will go on to another point. Productivity is at the centre of our efforts in this country to pay our way, both locally and in the external sector, that is why we took the initiative to set up a productivity board to assist in this

particular area. We would hope that the instruments and measurements for assessing that productivity should be in place or will be in place shortly.

On the basis of that productivity, the public officers in this country and workers in the private sector as well should get an increase in pay based on that productivity. That is the second proposition that I am making. There should be a salaries' increase based on productivity. Sir, those are two positions, one dealing with the past..

Asides.

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It is very difficult, Sir, to continue when Newt Gingrich is here trying to interrupt. That is our Gingrich in here. Do you think we are waiting on the U.S.?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please let us continue orderly.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, the important point that I wish to make is that we have to get the correct macro-economic framework in this country. We have to get that framework right and this has nothing to do with any external body or anything like that. It is for our own requirements and for the good of Barbados.

I do not understand why persons on the other side seem to get upset by the International Monetary Fund or the Inter-American Development Bank or any of the international institutions. Why do we get upset about them? We have to frame a set of policies in Barbados, and in the end the policies are not the IMF policies. They are not the World Bank policies. They are not the policies of the Inter-American Development Bank. They are the policies of the Government of Barbados and we have to own paternity of those policies. That is what we did. The policies were the policies of the Barbados Government.

We joined the international institutions because of the advice that they may be able to give; but it is only advice because we are a sovereign independent country and we can take the decisions and live by the consequences of those decisions. The advice may be sound and we may take it. It may be wrong and we may suffer from it, but in the end the policies are our policies. 2.20 p.m.

Aside,

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If you are so dissatisfied with them do not get into their claws. This country has made arrangements with them twice. We

went there because at the prevailing times in the early 1980s, and again a decade later, they were offering the cheapest money that was available for Barbados. That is a fact. It was cheaper than on the capital markets. That is the situation, Sir, and we have to understand it.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, when the Honourable Prime Minister was speaking I did not interrupt him. At least he has done me the compliment to indicate that he would come in and listen to me. He is sitting there listening to me. I hope he is learning too, Sir, because that is very necessary.

We have to get that macro-economic framework correct. That is why the fiscal deficit, productivity and all of the other macro-economic areas have to be set right. I hope, Sir, we will learn the lesson, but we cannot build on the basis of misinformation. We must have capital formation in this country. We must have capital works' programmes. The size of that is a matter to be determined by the Government of the day. Sometimes we come up with some very high figures and then our capacity to implement the programme proves to be inadequate for one reason or another. Bottlenecks may occur. Resources may not flow in as timely a manner as we would expect, or not at all. Some will dry up. It is the accounting at the end of the period that is important. It is the same officials who have to do the forecasting. I know some very harsh things were said on the Floor of this House in past debates about forecasting. I will wait to see what improvements are made in that particular area because history has a strange way of repeating itself. We will just wait because we are dealing with a science that is not an exact science. We are only dealing in certain quantities and making certain assessments.

Sir, there are a number of issues which I have to address in terms of the Heads of Estimates themselves. I have to clear out of the way some heretical views which are being propagated in relation to education, health, and our cultural artifacts. Even in the area of our capital works programme the Attorney General seemed to have fallen into some belief that when he goes and renovates a police station that that is the be all and the end all of his stewardship. The stations were renovated, before and they will need renovations again. The point I am making is that this is a continuing, Dn-going programme and you will discover that There is no point getting up and saying you debused here, or drove a nail there, or anything like that. You will do it now and next week you will have to do it again. That is one of the lessons I would like you to read, learn and inwardly digest

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay. Could we proceed orderly, please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, it seems as though one only has to mention Sherbourne and there is some belief that this is an example of some misapplied project or misapplied funds, or something like that. I am going to clear it up but not here because I am just waiting for the exact words of the Prime Minister himself. I hope he will be as helpful as he said he would be and let me have the exact words he used during a debate in here about Sherbourne being started as an examination centre and continued like that, or some such words. I do not want to misquote him because I would give him that courtesy of being accurate in terms of what he said.

There is another newspaper called the "Advocate". I think that is what it is. It has seen better days. They have talked about Sherbourne in very scathing terms and they are entitled to do that. But we will deal with that in due course. Let me say this. Sherbourne was a sound project. I have heard a former Minister of that Barbados Labour Party Government, now languishing on the back benches - he is still a very good friend of mine - speak about expenditure for the Arch in Barbados. He is not a Philistine like some of the others - not in here, elsewhere. We will put out in detail information on Sherbourne both in terms of object, scope, its financing and what our plans will be because it is a project which will have to be completed.

When I hear the Minister of Tourism, the learned gentleman - he cannot answer my question yet though. I do not know what is wrong with him.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: You cannot answer Parliamentary Questions under Heads.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed orderly, please. The Honourable Member, please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Not you, Sir. I apologise to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am suggesting to you that you should continue to address the Chair.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh, yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not hearing any asides. I hope you are not hearing any.

Rt. Hon. L. E. S ANDBFORD: I hope not too, Sir. I do not even know what are asides.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue, please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, the Honourable Minister, I believe, said that there was not even a business plan for Sherbourne. The first time that that term "business plan" came into the legislative framework for Barbados was when it was mentioned in the new Barbados Tourism Authority Act I speak under correction. 2.30 p.m.

I want to know how you are going to get a business plan for an incomplete structure. The priority is to complete the structure and then you will know, when that is on the way, how and what you are going to market. Not under construction when construction had stopped. The main point I am making is that the idea of the business plan was brought into the legislative framework by me. Priority number one is to finish that structure.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please. I notice that you are into a little detail about this.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Run into what, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Detail.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Oh, Sir, detail.

Mr. SPEAKER: You were going to raise this under Heads.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No doubt, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Because I was going to remind you of the Standing Orders which relate to something that has been passed already. You were referring to something that was stated that has not been stated, as far as I know, yesterday or today when a motion was passed. You know that according to the Standing Orders, that is not allowed.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I know that you are very alert, as you should be, although I did not say when it was said. You probably know better...

Mr. SPEAKER: It was not said today. Anyhow, proceed.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said it. That is important But thanks for your admonition. I will get back to my speech.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not let them continue to take up your time like that. Your time is going.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, did you say I have one more minute?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no, no, no. You have more than one.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Let me avoid the details and get back to those macro-economic points that I was referring to. We have got to ensure, whatever the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance may think, that if the financing of these Estimates before us is to be realized, we have to come to some agreement with the principal financing agency. That has to be on the basis of a programme that is generated and crafted in Barbados, but that falls within a framework that is acceptable to the financing agencies. That is a fact. We have got to get that framework right for our own benefit and that of the people of Barbados. Because, in the end, it is the people of Barbados who stand to benefit or lose if we do not get it right.

The present Government starts from the basis that the economy had been stabilized, that it was recognized by me and my Government and right thinking people in Barbados that stabilization, while necessary, was not sufficient. It was necessary. It was essential. But it was not sufficient to bring about the economic recovery of Barbados. That recovery depended on the productive sectors because, in the end, we have to produce enough goods and services inside of this country to satisfy our needs, and with something left over to purchase those goods and services from abroad that we deem necessary for our own development. This depends on the productive sectors, Sir. That calls for effective and efficient production and it calls for productivity. I believe that is a lesson which we all must understand.

The productive sectors I refer to are: agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, business and financial services, and there are some other ancillaries as well.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Right Honourable Member has 2 minutes to conclude.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Let us not seek to score cheap political points in this exercise. Let us have a true appreciation of where we are and how we are going to progress to the point where we wish to reach.

Let us take the manufacturing sector, Sir. No Government - and you can check whatever I say, check it against the record - has made as many concessions to the manufacturing sector as was made by the Demo-

cratic Labour Party Government I am not talking about what was announced a few weeks ago. That is a small step to get back to the point where we were. We had to pull in our expenditures because of the economic situation. That is what it was, Sir.

Let them check the record and let him start to educate his Members on the economic history and the economic situations in this country. This book here, "Governance In Recessionary Times" should be required reading for all of them over there.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Let me declare my interest as author of the book, Sir. That is the position. Sometimes some levity comes into debate. However, the essential point that has to be made as we seek to appropriate sums of money for this country, let us understand, is that there is no greater task facing us than that of seeing that we get it right in these Estimates.

In closing, let me say I regret that, once again, we have this separation between the presentation of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and the Budgetary presentation. I believe that, for sound financial management, we should be working towards bringing those two processes together because the Estimates deal with the flow of resources from existing sources, whereas if there is a deficit or if there is some correction to be made in any of the factors within the economy, the Budget would be a corrective antidote.

Thank you. I am indebted, Mr. Speaker.
2.40 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to wind up the debate, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, the debate on the Appropriation Bill is one of the most important debates on financial matters that can exercise the attention of Parliament. We are, through this exercise, Sir, trying to determine how taxpayers' money should be spent and that is effectively what the Estimates of expenditure are about. In this debate the House is being asked to support the Appropriation Bill because we are seeking to spend the taxpayers' money well.

Sir, before I go on to respond to the points that were made during the course of the debate I just want simply, Mr. Speaker, without going back over ground that has been covered, to say that I have always believed in fiscal discipline. Throughout my career, whether as a professional economist or as a Member of the previous Government or in opposition, I have always preached the discipline that

manageable fiscal deficits are part of the most important aspect of economic management of a small open economy and that the most important economic task before economic managers is to set a deficit that is manageable.

Again, Sir, I have gone on record in saying that in my view in our kind of economy, given the structure of our financial system, that deficits up to 2.5% are manageable and that once we go beyond that as a rule we will get ourselves into trouble.

I have presented to this House, Mr. Speaker, deficits that coincide with my view of the best precepts and practices of financial management. They do not depart, Mr. Speaker, from philosophical positions that I have held, positions in relation to management that I have held and I am commending these estimates to the House on the strength of their soundness as an expression of Government's economic policy. I give the House the assurance that I will be true to my belief that we will not, in this country run unmanageable fiscal deficits.

This country's economic progress and prosperity, Sir, has rested largely on our stability. People can believe in the Barbados dollar because they believe that we are a country where economic policy is known. It is relatively certain that we can predict, apart from the odd cases, for example, when the Member for St. Michael South is in charge, we can predict what is going to happen. The maintenance of a sound fiscal position underpins the economic stability in Barbados.

Now, Sir, the arguments ensuing from the other side have to be, if I can put it as simply as it can be said, are that these Estimates are similar to their Estimates and that they are ill-conceived and in a way one finds it difficult. The Democratic Labour Party has said in this debate, two things: that these estimates are similar to the estimates that have been put to Parliament by the DLP in the last four years. They have said that out of one corner of their mouth, Sir, and out of the other corner of their mouth they have said that the estimates are ill-conceived and do not reflect financial nor economic sense.

Now, obviously the Democratic Labour Party has a difficulty with itself because it is very difficult, in my view, for anybody of sound mind to come to the House and say the estimates bear a resemblance to estimates that they would have presented but the estimates are ill-conceived. And we can, once we understand that as the basis of the Democratic Labour Party policy, understand how the country got itself into problems over the course of the last 4 years.

The Member for St. John spoke for four hours and I really have to say this, Sir, I have myself been a

shadow spokesman for finance in this House for many years and I know what is involved, painfully so, in having to prepare oneself for the estimates, Sir, but I really must confess that a level of absence in expertise was reflected in what passed for the remarks by the Member for St. John. He obviously constructed his speech when I was speaking. The Honourable Member for St. John spoke from notes that he jotted down when I was speaking, but if the people of St. John had to depend upon the Member for St. John as the leading spokesman for finance in this country to have gone through these estimates carefully as a leader or Government's spokesman on finance should, scrupulously analyse them head by head as it should be done, to determine whether the taxpayers' money was being well spent or not, they would have been failed once again by the Member for St. John.

There was no effort in his presentation to come into contact or even minor collision with the estimates as estimates. His absolute inexpertise was reflected, Mr. Speaker, most wonderfully well in the astonishing concession that he did not know that if a wage settlement had not yet been agreed to with the unions that you could not include them in the Estimates if at the time of the preparation of the Estimates a settlement had not been reached. It staggers me, Sir, that a person could have been a Minister of Finance in this country and was not in a position to know that if at the time of the preparation of the Estimates a settlement with unions had not been reached, that he could not put in the Estimates a wage increase since the numbers would not have been known. But one of the strictures against these Estimates was that we did not reflect the wage settlement where the wage settlement was not known.

I am being reminded by the Member for St. George ... that he can be forgiven because he does not himself know what it is to bring a wage increase to book because he has never presided over a wage increase for public servants, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I really feel I have a responsibility to clear up one point, that the Estimates of Expenditure are prepared to project Government's revenues and expenditure at existing wage rate and where expenditure is concerned at existing tax rates. I say that for the benefit of Members of the House who have never dealt with Estimates but more so to the wider public since there is a confusion that Government's payment of revenue suggests that there is not going to be tax relief this year. Tax relief generally comes through the presentation of the Budgetary Proposals where the Minister of Finance, having set out what the revenue would be at existing tax rates decided whether tax changes are justified and warranted in the light of certain policy objectives that Government would want to bring to Parliament.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I hate very much to interrupt the Honourable Member but he is misleading the House. My comments about the Estimates in not presenting the full picture related to one particular reference which the Prime Minister made about the National Cultural Foundation for which he was providing \$1 million in the absence of a business plan. The question of wage increases was a matter which the Prime Minister raised in counter to my assertion.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the record is clear. I rose twice. I rose on the NCF. I also rose when the Member was lambasting me for not having included...

Mr. SPEAKER: Lambasting?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Criticizing, Sir. I rose twice and the record will show that, Sir. If the Member now is embarrassed I can understand but the truth is, Mr. Speaker, I have careful notes of everything that has been said by the Member for St John and the truth is that in a 3-hour presentation there is not one issue on which I feel challenged on the economic and financial nature by the Member for St. John that bears any resemblance to what is contained in the Estimates and he is going to be badly served in this respect, he is going to badly serve the country in this respect. Dealing with the Estimates is not about speaking about secret deals with the IMF. It is not about saying about the BLP having entered an arrangement to give somebody a licence, as he said, in the election campaign a licence to operate a TV station for a known price that he knew of. These things are about going through these Estimates carefully, reading them carefully and being able to contribute to good governance in this country. 2.50 p.m.

I am saying that we are under no pressure whatsoever from the contribution of the Member for St John, because he has not read the Estimates. It is a shameful thing, Sir. I hope, for the sake of good governance of the country, that in future years the Member would put us under a little pressure by speaking to the Estimates as estimates. There were some years when we as Opposition had to tell Government from the Floor of the House: "You have made provision in these Estimates for the completion of a Capital project, but you have not made any provision whatsoever for the running of the institution." We did that in 1987. That is what an Opposition has to do, peruse the Estimates and determine if the taxpayers' best interests are being served. He has not done his homework, Sir, and it is sad.

I must say though, Sir, that the Member for St. Michael South Central did try to reflect upon the Estimates as a reflection of Government's economic and financial policy. We need not disagree with what he said. In fact, he spoke in terms of my rich inheritance. I just want

to remind him that he also has an inheritance. It is set out in the Economic Review of September, 1986. This is what he inherited. It says:

"The Barbados economy maintained the first quarter momentum into the second quarter with real output for the first half rising by 4.5% over output for the first half of 1985."

So we left an economy that was growing by 4.5% in 1986.

"All major sectors contributed to the higher economic activity during the first six months of the year. Tourism arrivals increased, the manufacturing sector grew by 14%, the growth in agricultural output was concentrated in the sugar industry, with sugar output amounting to 111 000 tonnes."

Would we had that today, Sir. Then, Sir:

"Nearly 8 000 more people were employed at June 1986 than at June 1985."

That is, the Member for Christ Church South, as Minister of Finance, presided in his one year as Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of this country over the creation of nearly 8 000 jobs. That was the inheritance of the Democratic Labour Party in 1986.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The trust the Honourable Member would also recall that in relation to my inheritance I said: "Praise the Lord!" I hope you will say the same thing in relation to yours.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, in the face of this inheritance he went on to try to convince the public of Barbados that the economy was in deep crisis, that the problem was that there was not enough money in the people's pockets and then in July, facing the economy growth by 4.5% with its 8 000 jobs in the course of one year, all the sectors were good, he proceeded to put in place a budget that he had to reverse in short order, a budget that if it was intended to create jobs, by the own admission of the Democratic Labour Party at that time was ill-conceived, because after he put his measures in place they had to create an employment task force to deal with the task of employment creation, 'since they did not feel that his budget would suffice in the particular matter.

Sir, the Member for St. Michael South has just spoken and he has spoken about the need for fiscal prudence. I can only say to the House that I would have been glad if fiscal prudence had been the only and constant star that had guided the Member for St. Michael South throughout his stewardship as Minister of Finance. The truth is that when we go back to an examination of what

happened to the deficits, they were kept to modest proportions - 1983, \$104 million; 1984, \$167 million; 1985, \$159 million - and so it went, and then in 1990-1991 the deficit shot up to \$336 million on the eve of the election, inspired only by the philosophy of the then Prime Minister that he was not going to do anything that would have caused his party to commit political suicide.

Sir, I am asking this House to support a deficit of \$251 million, in the context of an economy that is larger than it was then, but it has to be said that in 1990, in the context of a much smaller economy, great and devastating ruin was visited on this economy by the deliberate political decision by the Member for St. Michael South in seeking to pad this economy against all of the trends and against all of the tradition incurred a whopping deficit of \$336 million. Therefore, I am not to be guided by him on the precept of sound management. I am not to take his word when he speaks in terms of giving the civil servants a bond either, because that comes now as an empty gesture from an Honourable Member who, when he was Minister of Finance, put the relationship between his Government and the multilateral institutions in peril, as his Members know, by saying one thing to the institutions about the wage cut, saying another thing to his Cabinet and then doing something else. It is a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, that the institutions were led to believe that the Democratic Labour Party was not going to restore the 8% wage cut, and all of the confusion.... He will rise now to speak, Sir.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Earlier today, Sir, you were wont to ask a Member on this side to produce the evidence for what he was saying. First of all, I am denying categorically the words of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and would ask him to produce the evidence for what he is saying. If not, he should withdraw the words he has said. It is not only implying, but stating definite improper and pejorative motives against me, the Member for St Michael South.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I have produced evidence over and over in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please. In keeping with my ruling, as was stated earlier, I agree and I would like you as you proceed to give us some proof of your allegations.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I have not said I have a document in my possession now, but I give the House the assurance that I will bring the document to the House.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, in previous debates in this Parliament, and the records are there to be checked...

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not withdrawing them, not withdrawing them at all.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Again on a point of order, Sir. If the Member cannot produce the evidence now, he should withdraw his remarks and when he has the document he can make the allegations then, but he should withdraw them now.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, if the Member for St. Michael South wants me to speak only to the document - because he is not denying that he did it - but he wants the document produced now. They are two different points. I will produce the document, Sir, but I want to say this, because I do not have to have the document for this, it is the understanding of the multilateral institutions that the Member for St. Michael South committed himself and his Government not to restore the 8% cut, and all of the bad blood between the IMF and the then DLP administration was that he told them one thing and he did something else. That is why the programme ended with the Government of Barbados not being able to draw down the last tranche, Mr. Speaker. That is a fact. 3.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Peter, are you saying that you have the relevant documents?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Oh, yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: And you will produce these documents.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Absolutely so, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: So until that time could we just leave that?

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am also saying that as a matter of fact that I have already made a document of this House a collection of minutes of a meeting at which the Member for St. Michael West, the Member for St. John and the former Deputy Prime Minister, participated with the NUPW, when the Member for St. Michael West was speaking in terms of the difficulties that would be faced if they gave back the money to the civil servants and was saying that they should be asked to give up 3% more. I made that document a document of this House already and I will make it again because they were all then speaking in terms of their commitment not to give back the 8%.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me make a ruling on that, please. Am I understanding from what you are saying, Honourable Prime Minister... I didn't hear you to say that you were referring to a document which they did.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: No.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you are saying that you do have a document which states what you have said. Well, what I am going to suggest is that until that document is produced that such what you stated earlier relating to the communication between the Honourable Member and the agencies be struck from the record until you are able to produce the relevant documents.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to refer to that again but I want to say Sir, that the relationship between the Government of Barbados and the Democratic Labour Party...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Honourable Prime Minister, one minute please. Let us proceed orderly. Nobody is influencing the Chair to make its ruling. I made a ruling this morning and I am being consistent.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party under the stewardship of the Member for St. Michael South distinguished itself and Barbados as being one of the few countries that ever had a programme with the IMF that ended the programme without being able to draw down on the full amount of the funds provided. Mr. Speaker, that is a matter of fact. The fact is that the Democratic Labour Party was unable to draw down the full amount of the funds because it refused to comply with the conditions set in order to be able to access those funds.

In addition to those

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, The Member for St. Peter is misleading the House again. The records of the international agencies are replete with examples of countries which have failed to complete their programme.

Mr. SPEAKER: So what is the point of order, Sir?

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The point is that he is saying that Barbados is one of the few countries which have not been able to do this and it is not true.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to ask him to produce the evidence, Sir, nor to produce the document by which that misinformation is put because I know he doesn't have it. But that is not the point I am coming to. The point I am coming to is simply this. It is a matter of public record that one of the reasons

why the DLP Administration was not able to draw down the funds under the IMF programme was because of its non-compliance with its commitment on an incomes policy. That is a matter of public record. It therefore now rings false, and I cannot use any stronger term, that the same party that cut people's wages, that was disinclined to give back the wages, that came to this House and voted against the...

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. Again the Member for St. Peter is misleading the House. The programme was not completed or the final tranche or part of it was not drawn down, had nothing to do with any incomes policy. It had to do with the very things that you are talking about in relation to statutory boards, the labour market reform, the Transport Board and those issues and similar issues. It had nothing to do with incomes policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point has been made. Continue, Sir.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same DLP that put in place a programme to cut people's wages came to this House and voted against our removing from Government the power to cut wages, did not have a word to say in their manifesto about giving back the wages, far less giving a wage increase, have a nerve to speak in terms of giving a bond to civil servants. It is the greatest piece of financial inconsistency and hypocrisy that I have ever heard in this Parliament. I think it is unworthy of the Member for St. Michael South, and all I can really do is to interpret it to mean that in point of fact the alliance between the NDP and the DLP has now been formed and it has been formed at the level of the NDP leader and the Member for St. Michael South.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I want to remind the Honourable Member for St. Peter that I called for refund of the 8% in the coin of the realm, in cash, in Grantleys, in Barrows. These are the things that I want to give to the public servants.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I want the record to show that once again the Member for St. Michael South Central has had on the Floor of this Parliament to confirm that he will have absolutely nothing to do with any of the financing policies of the Member for St Michael South. Once again.

Sir, a number of matters were raised tangentially in this House which I would want to touch on. The whole question of Government's debt management strategy. Mr. Speaker, Sir, although we have not been pressed on it, I just want to state that our foreign commercial borrowing is related to a debt management strategy that we are going to endeavour to roll over the foreign component of amortisation and that is what is there in the Estimates.

We are going to raise foreign loans equivalent to the amount of the foreign amortisation component of the debt. That is all I am saying. We have a debt management strategy and it will be a way therefore to stabilise the growth of the foreign commercial debt. I must also tell the House that we have already started the approaches to the market. We have already spoken to the brokers in relation to the raising of the amount included in the Estimates for the purposes of accomplishing that purpose. I will give the House more information in due course.

Therefore, when we have included in the Estimates an amount for foreign commercial borrowing, it forms part of Government's debt management strategy of the nature that I have just explained.

I must also say that the issues with Barbados in the market are still trading at a premium despite what Members on the other side have said about the catastrophic consequence of the market arising out of the Mexican matter. The bond issues put by Barbados in the market have been trading at a premium and we are confident of being able to...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Yes. I understand the caution. But the fact of the matter is that in circumstances where there are situations like the Mexican situation, there is always a flight to quality. I am told that the "Institutional Investor" has said that there is a dip in our credit rating because of the drought. If that were so, that is not a policy rating dip because if somebody is reflecting on our credit rating, so I am told, because of a drought... 3.10 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: No, No, not my interpretation. The Press today approached me with the statement that there is an indication that the "Institutional Investor" is saying that Barbados' credit rating should fall because of the drought in agriculture. That is a specific matter that has nothing to do with policy but is related to an occurrence and does not affect Barbados' standing in the market because the truth is that our bonds are trading at a premium.

Now, Sir, in these Estimates although we have tried to keep within the context of a manageable overall fiscal deficit, there has been a drastic change in the composition of Government's capital expenditure in particular. That change again stems from a policy to which we are seeking to give effect. I do not believe that we can look to Government expenditure *per se* to make any major contribution directly to employment creation.

On the current account side we are constrained by how much we can spend to create temporary posts for people. On the capital side what Government expenditure can do is if not create a lot of jobs directly it can be a catalyst in so far as it can be used to create the conditions within which new enterprises can be created and existing ones expanded. The composition of our expenditure pattern has been therefore influenced by the policy position that we must use Government's expenditure as a catalyst for creating the environment within which job creation can take place.

Let me illustrate, Sir. I do not believe that it will be the Government's responsibility to spend large sums in the Carlisle Bay Redevelopment. We do not have to, but we can use some modicum of Government expenditure by doing the studies and developing the policy guidelines to create an environment within which activity can expand in that area with a major impact on job creation in the country. Do not look for a \$50 million investment by Government in Carlisle Bay but we will make investments in that area of activity and use other instruments to stimulate private sector activity. Similarly so with Speightstown and equally so with rural development.

We believe that the expenditures we will make in rural development will also stimulate the rest of private Barbados to want to create new forms of economic activity in rural Barbados leading to higher levels of employment.

In these Estimates of Expenditure, Sir, nobody has drawn reference to the fact that we are for the first time putting in substantial sums to train the bureaucracy in the use of computers because we feel that if this country is to become fully competitive that the Public Service and all of the private sector must become fully computer literate. It may seem like a small amount but year by year by year we will be making allocations in the Estimates directly to train public officers who do not know how to operate fully in the use of computers because that is going to be one of the major ways by which productivity can be lifted in the public sector. Equally so, it is going to be one of the major ways by which a more efficient public sector can remove the encumbrances that now stand in the way of the investment decision making for the society as a whole. Again, it is not a lot of money but it is intended to make a qualitative difference by changing the manner in which the society functions.

Sir, the question of the Public Enterprises Fund was raised...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am looking forward to the experience, Sir. I am not ashamed to say, Sir, that I am

inviting all of my colleagues both in and out of Parliament who do not know how to operate one. Come and let us go. We have to lead by example. I am inviting all of the rest of Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to say that a number of the leaders of private sector institutions want to be part of the exercise and members of international institutions as well want to be part of the exercise.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, it is those kinds of small changes which can make qualitative differences that we must include in the Estimates.

On the question of the Rural Development Project I want to react to a point that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West raised. We are not trying to make an artificial distinction between rural Barbados and urban Barbados. If the Honourable Members would look carefully - and you must read the Estimates - we have also put in the Estimates this year a provision for urban renewal.

Now, Sir, our approach to it is that we have to begin to recast public expenditures, particularly capital expenditures, to reconcile themselves to the fact that we do not have a system of local Government and that while a large number of major infrastructural and perhaps super-structural projects have already been undertaken, unless we can make sure that the needs of the people at the level of the community whether in urban or rural Barbados are addressed, no matter how much we spend on the large projects, there will always be a degree of alienation of the people from the process of development in this country. We are addressing it in rural Barbados first because the needs in rural Barbados are more urgent and are broader, but we are also going to address it in urban Barbados because, as I said, in the absence of local Government we must have a mechanism to ensure...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Now, Sir, if we can get efficient statutory institutions that service communities properly and address the needs of the local communities through projects such as these, we will not have, in our view, to create another tier of Government and that is the view of the Barbados Labour Party. The Rural

Development Programme and the Urban Development Programme have been conceptualised by us to make sure that the little things that matter that affect fundamentally how the people in the urban ghettos of Barbados and in the villages live, are addressed in much the same way as we have shown the capacity to build roads, airports, and so on.

We are giving priority to the rural society because it is our judgement that there is far more to be done there. The instances of abject poverty are stark, therefore, we have a responsibility to deal with the most pressing needs first. Therefore our Estimates reflect a commitment to begin to build up spending on rural Barbados and that we have made provision to plan a programme of urban renewal so that come next year you will see included in next year's Estimates a provision to also start dealing with the problems of poverty in the urban communities as well.

Mr. Speaker, these things not only take time but we came into office inheriting no programme for urban development and no programme for urban renewal. We have had to spend money planning rural development. We will now spend money planning urban renewal. 3.20 p.m.

The Member for St. John tried to confuse the issue. What we would be spending on rural development is additional to what the Ministry of Transport and Works spends on its normal tenancies programme.

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I thought I was stressing the point because the Member for St. John has fled, as usual. But I would stress the point that what we intend to spend on rural development is not a substitute for existing programmes. It is an addition to existing programmes, that there will still be a tenancy roads programme under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport and Works. But in other rural development the emphasis of the tenancy roads programme would be one more link to agricultural productivity. We will be selecting those that are feeder roads predominantly.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: There was a rural development programme before, under a former Barbados Labour Party Administration. Yes, it will be. But it will farm out the work. That is included in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want the House to understand two things as well that we will be systematically building up expenditure on rural development and urban renewal.

Secondly, Sir, that we will be looking as well to draw out of those programmes projects that can be put to agencies for funding.

What we have this year is a start and it is a start being made out of Government's cash resources and hence we have had to be bounded, not so much by what we would like to accomplish quickly but by the limits of fiscal prudence imposing on us at this time. The House had the assurance that we would welcome discussion by this House of a urban renewal programme for Barbados that addresses the problem of urban poverty and sees increasing allocation of state expenditure for capital programmes into the relief of urban poverty. And also, Sir, we would welcome discussion on the scope and character of rural development.

When I hear therefore that these Estimates do not have things in them that are new, when we are setting the stage in these Estimates for this society to become computer literate, when we are setting the stage to remove poverty from urban Barbados and from rural Barbados, when we have made provision in these Estimates as well for public service reform. We have put resources in the Estimates as well for the development of the small business sector.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member would give way. The Honourable Member is addressing the question of urban and rural. He was not in his place when I spoke earlier today. I made the point that distinctly placing urban and rural in apposition to each other is a return to the days when people at secondary schools in St. Michael used to refer to country boys. We have passed that stage. We need to look at the issues relating to communities. A community in Brereton Village is no different from a community in Carrington Village any more. That is the point I was making.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a responsibility to address a particular matter that arose under the DLP. In 1989 when there was a full fledged tenancies programme, a road reconstruction programme the DLP determined that it would be better in the St. Michael area.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Aside.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member knows that there was a \$56 million tenantry programme borrowed from the Venezuelans. He also knows that the Thomas Gap project and the project at Oistin were projects designed by the Barbados Labour Party which the Democratic Labour Party continued. It is not proper for him to suggest that the DLP did it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member had mentioned 1989. Are you referring to the time?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. Mr.

SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Democratic Labour Party came into office in 1991 and continued the projects. The Member for Christ Church South can confirm that, Sir.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the matters raised in the debate, at some length, by the Opposition was the question of the Public Enterprises Investment Fund. The Democratic Labour Party tried to cast the impression that they were earmarking resources for the small hotel sector. Nothing of the kind. No application had been made by anybody from the Democratic Labour Party. In fact, the Public Investment Fund should have submitted reports to Parliament in March 1994 and in June 1994. It never did. I am reading from the files.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The last time that Parliament in the previous session met was on June 7, 1994. The Public Enterprise Investment Fund would have been due to make one report some time between I think February and June.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that the same year?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes, Sir. Of the same year.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The point I am about to make is that there is no record that I can find of the Democratic Labour Party putting in place any programme of assistance for the small hoteliers on the south coast.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. I am only correcting the Honourable Member because obviously his knowledge...

Mr. SPEAKER: Make your point of order, please.

Mr D. J. H. THOMPSON: The files would not show that. What would show it is the introduction of the Bill on the Public Enterprise Investment Fund, the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party and the Minutes of the first

meeting of the Advisory Committee established to advise the Minister of Finance into the way in which the funds in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund should be invested. Those 3 sources will provide the Government's policy, in detail, for the Honourable Member...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:... if he wants the truth.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying again and I am going to be very careful about what I am saying, Sir, that the record will show that no provision was made to draw from any Public Enterprise Fund to invest in the small business sector. No plans were drawn either. If those plans were drawn, they were drawn without the knowledge of the* small hotel sector because last Wednesday evening the Ministry of Finance's officials and the officials of all of Government's revenue collection agencies met with representatives of the small hoteliers of Barbados to try to put in place a programme that will assist those enterprises to get some sense of relief on the payment of the debt and also to discuss with them, for the first time, a programme of assistance for them.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The present President of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association, together with their Chief Executive Officer, along with one of the economists in the Ministry of Finance came to the Ministry of Finance some time in early 1994 and made such a proposal and the details of a programme of assistance for that sector were discussed and, as a result of that, a proposal was made in the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto and also, efforts were being made to establish the indebtedness, by way of penalties of interest of those entities so that such a programme could be put in place. Therefore, it is not true to tell the House that this is the first time that any such initiative had been made.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Member for St. John was so busy giving tax relief to people who wanted to establish enterprises to sell jewellery in Barbados, he was so busy dealing with the fiction of the K Mart coming to Barbados, he was so busy giving away the duty free area to the large businesses in Barbados, he was so busy dealing with the large projects on the west coast that no programme was put in place to assist the small hoteliers on the south coast of Barbados. You were too busy otherwise.

It now falls to this Administration... If we are to understand that the problem of small hoteliers was so urgent that some of their properties had been put into receivership and are being sold out. If it were so urgent it would have to be a dereliction of responsibility on the

part of the then Minister of Finance that met with them in early January, 1994 knowing that their position was urgent but did not lift a finger to help them. But he went through the election campaign telling us how he was going to bring K Mart here.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed, please.
3.30 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, the Member for St John will go down in history as the Minister of Finance who did in fact put the private sector on the kind of gravy train that he is warning to avoid putting it on.

All of the Port and what has happened at the Port. The extraordinary concessions granted for certain lines of activities that should be taxable are all...

People should pay taxes for selling jewelry in a country. If you do not pay taxes on selling jewelry what are you going to pay taxes on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: They are profitable enough to recover the capital cost but you have the small hoteliers paying taxes on their buildings, the furnishings ...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I have never ever as Minister of Finance waived any taxes on jewelry for sale in Barbados. There is a duty free scheme which has been in place from time immemorial. What in fact happened, Sir, was that in the process of developing the duty free sector we gave a 50% waiver on the materials which would have to be imported and used in the refurbishment of those properties which are involved in the sale of duty free goods.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am saying as well that is true, that duty concessions were given for furnishings and fixtures for duty free shopping. The Minister of the day intended to give 100% and he had to be cautioned by his technicians that he was going too far. The record shows that, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member, I am sure on reflection I am just giving you the chance, Sir, to reflect. The Honourable Member would wish not to, as a Minister of Finance, succeeding another Minister of Finance, to come to the House and give details of advice given by technicians. He knows that is contrary to the system.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, it is important...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The first point of order I wish to make is that the decision in relation to the extent of the duty free concessions was made by the Cabinet of Barbados and not by the Minister of Finance exclusively.

The second point which needs to be made, which is critical, is that rather than rely on the advice exclusively of the technicians I relied on the advice of the private sector which included the present Minister of State in the Ministry of Trade, Foreign Affairs, and International Business.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, all that the Member for St. John is saying is that he said he was foolishly a captive of the private sector of Barbados and we all knew that and we are glad for the confirmation today in Parliament. The point is, Mr. Speaker, that a public enterprises fund has been lying there for more than a year. The Member for St. John said that a report should have been brought to Parliament from as far back as March last year. He met, he said, with the small hoteliers, agreed to a programme to help them from the fund, Sir, and did not lift a finger, and while the grass was green, Sir, the horse was starving.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I rise on another point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is on a roll this afternoon. If he checks the record with the Ministry of Finance the Honourable Member will see that there are several instances where specific proposals were made by small hoteliers with regard to the penalties and interest eligible on taxes, arrears of taxes or other kinds of imposts and that we gave relief on a case by case basis in the absence of a formal policy. That is all.

Mr. SPEAKER: So, in other words not all of the horses are starving.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is right. That is the point.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, granting waivers of taxes on the application of persons in Barbados, whether small hoteliers or otherwise, has nothing to do with the point of issue, which is that there was a Public Enterprises Fund established under the governance of

the then Minister of Finance. Two separate things altogether and the grant of waiver, Sir, is something that has been going on historically, has been granted to all sectors of the economy, but the DLP would now want it to be made to appear that they were in the process of, or had a plan for relief of the small hoteliers from the Public Investment Fund. There are two separate things. He is trying to confuse the issue. What I am saying, Sir, is there no record of it and he could have acted, when he had the chance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to report to the House that there will be a programme put in place by the Land Tax Department, the Barbados Water Authority, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, as well as the Barbados Development Bank to assist the small hoteliers of Barbados to manage the payment of the arrears to those institutions in such a manner that the small hoteliers will have a breathing space and will be able thereby to collect enough funds to undertake a programme of refurbishing to improve the quality of their facility, so that what is now happening on the West Coast can also start to happen on the South Coast that people can be able to provide quality and get good prices for quality.

There is also, Sir, going to be a development programme supported by the Government and the private sector to deal with the problems of financing and otherwise - management, marketing of the small hoteliers of the country.

In relation to the Public Enterprises Fund, Sir, lest there be any confusion in the public's mind as regards the purposes to which that fund can be put I just want to say that the Act, as drafted in 1993, says that the application of the resources of the fund would be to provide for the financing of the repayment of the public debt, the reallocation of enterprises in the public sector and the financing of specific investment projects.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this administration were to use proceeds from the Public Investment Fund to repay the public debt it would be in keeping entirely with the provisions of the Act. If we were to use, Mr. Speaker, funds from the Public Investment Fund to undertake "the rehabilitation of certain public sector enterprises, Sir, it would be in compliance with the Act. We are drawing up a list of the specific investment projects in the capital programme to which the proceeds of the Fund would be applied.

I just want to make this point, Sir. I feel it should be a revolving fund and that Government should take funds out of it by way of loans. What we should seek to avoid is the situation under which the Government sold all of the shares of the BET and B ARTEL and used the funds to pay

debt and at the end of the day we have nothing to show for the facts that those assets have been disposed of. I believe that the proceeds should be drawn down from this fund by way of loans and that we should use the sale of public assets in one period to build up a revolving fund that can support continuous capital investment in the country over a considerable period of time and I would like to see the legislation change to make it...

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, all I am really saying is, even if the private enterprise wants to get funds from the public investment fund, it should be by way of a loan and the fund should be a revolving fund so that the assets sold in one period and the proceeds of the assets sold in one period can be used for continuous capital development of the country as a whole.

Now, Sir, there is one last matter I want to deal with before I close and it has to do with a matter raised by the Member for St. Michael East and the whole question of transparency in the issue of Government licences for radios and television. I want to say this, Mr. Speaker, that this administration has received a number of applications for TV and radio licences. The Barbados Broadcasting Authority, even before the question of licences is considered, is in the process of developing guidelines that will serve as the framework within which the applications are to be considered. Those guidelines have not yet been presented to Cabinet and therefore it is folly to say that any one particular application has been considered or otherwise by the Government. But I need to say this, Sir, that before September 1994 a number of entities made applications to operate radio stations in this country. None of them, apart from one, received a response and the only entity that received a response in 1994 to their application to operate a radio licence in Barbados was CLICO, which made an application to the Broadcasting Authority for a radio licence on 26th July and received a favourable response on 28th July, but all the other entities - you talk about cutting deals - that had submitted applications to operate radios and get licences received no response from the Broadcasting Authority, but CLICO made an application on 26th July, 1994 and received a response from the Broadcasting Authority on the 28th. Sometimes one can hypothetically ask the question why was it then that the President of CLICO had his finger in the face of the Member for St. John in St. Peter? Because his application was swiftly attended to. 3.40 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us keep it at a higher level, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: There will be no deals, Sir. To my best understanding, Mr. Speaker, and I have

enquired, there is an enterprise called FUNDY, a company that has been a major beneficiary of the Democratic Labour Party through time, whether it had been at the Marine Hotel, Harrison's, at the Port and at the Airport, it has benefited.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am hearing reference to the Broadcasting Authority, a statutory body for which I had responsibility until the change of Government. I am unaware of the matters of which the Prime Minister is speaking. Some application coming in on 26th of one....

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, are you telling us you did not know anything about the application?

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Nor any approval, Sir, in case he is referring to me. I want to make it absolutely clear,

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the records to which I have access do not indicate that the then Prime Minister knew anything about the matter. I just want to say that there has been a large number of applications for tenders to operate things involving Members in this House as Directors and Members out of this House. I believe that it is a bit improper for people to come and cast aspersions about a company, because that is really what is involved here, Sir. The aspersion was cast that there were some "cahoots" and we can draw that inference, Sir, but they have made an application, as I understand it, like a large number of companies in Barbados have made applications. There is no crime in making an application, any more than there is any crime in a company like J & R making application to do certain things.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. When there was a point of order raised by the Prime Minister who had responsibility for the subject, the Honourable Member said that the Prime Minister was not aware of the matter. An ordinary person hearing the Honourable Member prior to that would believe that the Government had made some decision. I have here, Sir, Cap. 274B, Broadcasting, which sets out the responsibility of the Broadcasting Authority, and Section 4(1) among other things indicates that the functions of the Authority are -

"(a) to advise the Minister on any matter within its knowledge or in respect of which the Minister seeks advice;

(b) to advise the Minister in relation to the terms and conditions subject to which licences to which this Act relates are to be issued;...."

Having been a Minister myself in that Government, I just wish first of all to establish that I know of no such

decision, know of any such advice having been sent to the Minister which was passed on to the Cabinet, and therefore I deny knowledge of any such information, but I would like in the point of this to ask the Minister whether he can indicate whether any other Minister, according to his information, knows or knew about this decision made by the Broadcasting Authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is far from being a point of order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir, I made the point of order. I was wondering, since I had licence in you, Sir, to ask whether he would let us know in passing if there was anything we should be aware of.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just for some clarification of the Chair, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South did state that he was the Minister at the time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, he was the Minister responsible for the subject.

Mr. SPEAKER: And he has stated that he was not aware of what was happening.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He knows nothing about it, but there was an inference.

Mr. SPEAKER: So I am not quite clear now. You were Minister for what then?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, I was a Minister in the Cabinet. I can help you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a little puzzling to the Chair.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is puzzling to me too, Sir, because the Honourable Member then suggested by inference that the Minister was being sidelined. You see, Sir, you have to get the details. Having made that suggestion of being a member of the Cabinet, I just wish to be certain that the Investigator or some such other rag will not be able to say that the Minister indicated that some Minister or Ministers knew and sidelined the Prime Minister in this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Oh, you are saying that nobody in the Cabinet knew.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying that I did not know, Sir.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, this happened during that period in the Democratic Labour Party administration when the Prime Minister wrote things on

file like, for example, there should be no casino gambling and nothing should be done to suggest otherwise, that people were still setting up foreign exchange and task forces through the Foreign Exchange Committee despite the statement by the Prime Minister. I would not be surprised therefore that things were happening and the Prime Minister did not know, because he was a beleaguered man fighting for his political life.

Sir, I would like, in closing on this point about CBC, because it has been entered into the record again by the Member for St. Michael East, to say that when the Member for St. John said in the course of the election campaign... When the Member for St. John said in the course of the election campaign that it was his certain knowledge that the Barbados Labour Party had entered into a deal with a company in Barbados to grant them a T.V. licence, it was a blatant lie. It was a total untruth. It was a misrepresentation of the facts. The Barbados Labour Party, before the election nor subsequent to the election, has not granted any licence to anybody to operate a TV station in this country. That is a matter of fact, Sir. It was scurrilous to cast the implication that we had been paid for a TV licence in circumstances where CLICO submitted an application on July 26, 1994 and received a favourable recommendation from the Broadcasting Authority on the 28th. All the others, Sir, no response. 3.50 p.m.

I want to close because it is symptomatic of the approach of the Member for St. John.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I have to deal with it, Sir, because it may seem like a small point, but two Members on the Other Side have referred to this business about deals and the cutting of deals. It reflects upon the integrity of the Cabinet and the Administration that I lead, Mr. Speaker. There are no deals, the Member for St. John spoke in terms of cutting of deals and he wants me not to talk deals. ^x

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is discussing integrity. There is a rule in this House that you cannot reflect on public persons in their official capacity without the information having been passed to Your Honour. The Broadcasting Authority has on its membership persons in this community who are known and who cannot defend themselves. I think the Minister has a duty not to cast aspersions on the decisions of the Broadcasting Authority...

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point has been made. May I remind the Honourable Member for St Peter that yesterday I did ask the Honourable Member for St. John to withdraw

the words "cut a deal" when he was referring to Honourable Members. I remember clearly that he did use the word "arrangement". Some arrangements were made. Let us proceed orderly, please, and let's not impute any dishonourable motive to any Member.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is through the insinuation such as has issued from the Member for St. Michael East that politicians come to gain the reputation of being corrupt. The Member for St. Michael West spoke strongly about the image that we cast ourselves in and it comes from insinuations such as that. That is why I am meeting it head on in this debate, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no cutting of any deals over any issue of any TV licence. There was none before the election. There will be none now. When the guidelines of the Broadcasting Authority are finished they will be discussed by Cabinet and a policy followed by the Barbados Labour Party. We are going to that extent, Sir, and I want to enter that into the records as they put it out to the public. There will be no cutting of deals. I am dealing with it only because it has been raised in this debate.

I want to conclude Sir, that I agree...

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I rise Sir, on a point of order. I had the responsibility for the Broadcasting Authority and I am unaware of any deals that were cut between that Authority and any individual, partnership, company, corporation or any other kind of entity, and I certainly would wish that any such imputation either against the Minister who was responsible for policy or the members of that corporation individually - I believe the phrase is, or severally - that any such imputation should stand on the record of this House. I would ask you, Sir, to request the Member to rephrase or withdraw any such imputation.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I could reply to the Honourable Member, from what I heard and understood, the Honourable Member for St Peter was stating that there will be no cutting of deals and there was none before nor will there be any after. He did say before the election. I don't believe the Honourable Member for St Peter will want it to go on record that he is imputing any improper motives to any of these Honourable Members here.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said as clearly as I could that there is no record that the Minister then was aware of it

Asides.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am commending these Estimates to Parliament on the grounds that I believe they reflect sound policy.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: This is an exceedingly serious matter. As Governments of Barbados, we ask persons to serve on Statutory Boards, whichever government is in office, and we cannot come in here, Sir, and by slurs and innuendos seek to cast aspersions and invidious imputations on the characters and reputations of these people unless we are prepared to put the information on the table.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is within the power of the Minister. I wish I could fire you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to defend my Minister and just to say simply that she is Deputy but she is not the Deputy Director of the Barbados Tourism Authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed with the debate please.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, just one word to say that I am commending these Estimates to the House on the grounds that they reflect a sound and implementable policy. They are within the limits of what I have always consistently regarded as good fiscal deficit. We are making provisions for them to be properly financed. We have changed the composition of Government expenditure to enable us to put this country on a sustainable growth path while addressing most of the abject pockets of poverty in this country. We are seeking to bring through these Estimates a situation where services can be obtained, the quality of life for the people of Barbados can be improved. We are attempting to use government expenditure as a catalyst for the creation of employment in this country and in all respects I commend these Estimates to Parliament as sound and implementable, Estimates that will redound to the national development of Barbados. 4.00 p.m.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the time being 4.05 p.m. I beg to move that the sitting be suspended until 4.20 p.m.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 4.20 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on the Suspension we were about to move that we resolve ourselves into a Committee. I therefore move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to debate the Estimates for fiscal year 1995/96.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT, \$68 012 012 (AS AMENDED)

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 43 stand part of the Estimates, I am to indicate that the total sum provided for the three subject areas of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment is \$68 012 012. The breakdown is as follows: The Ministry of Tourism which must be distinguished from the Tourism Authority, which has responsibility for overall policy formulation, product development, the stimulation of public awareness and the initiation of educational programmes among its principal functions is provided with \$1211666.

There is a new Head called Tourism Development Programme for which the sum of \$1 700 000 is provided. That has to do with the first form of investment on a large scale loan programme which is being provided by the IADB. As I understand it, arising from a tourism retreat at the old Heywoods Hotel a few years ago, a large set of ideas were developed relating to the future of Barbados' tourism. An attempt was made at that retreat, very high-powered between the public sector and the several expert resource persons addressing it, to identify some of the main problems besetting Barbados' tourism and also to indicate some prescriptive measures.

The public and private sectors have developed these ideas. We have put them before IADB. This programme really has to do with the pre-feasibility and the feasi-

bility analysis which is a pre-condition to the accessing of a large loan of a multi-sectorial nature. Ten million dollars has been provided of which \$1 million is for tourism. Some of the subject areas identified have to do with nature-based tourism, Graeme Hall Swamp, the development of Bridgetown as a tourist attraction and also Speightstown. It has to do with cruise tourism as a component and also with heritage tourism, also institutional strengthening. They are some of the main components.

Now, the IADB will provide 70% of this money, the \$1.7 million and the Government of Barbados will provide 30%. It is necessary to spend the money up front and to recover the 70% at a later stage. That really explains why it is that notwithstanding the provision of the IADB it is reflected here in the Estimates.

Now, the bulk of the money in tourism will go to the Barbados Tourism Authority. The sum provided here is some \$30.6 million. I am to mention that last year at this stage a little beyond \$28 million was provided. At a later stage, last November/December there was a supplementary estimate in excess of \$3 million with an all toll of \$32 million approximately spent on tourism last year.

It ought to be said that of the supplementary of \$3.5 million or thereabout, \$2.4 million represented arrears that came into being before the financial year 1994/95 so that the amount of money spent on tourism proper, excluding the arrears, is short of the \$30 million which is being provided here so that the Estimates today reflect a modest increase, but an increase nevertheless.

The second point I need to make here is that the money provided in the Estimates is not the only money which tourism attracts for its promotion and advertising because the Tourism Development Corporation is also a source of funding. It is difficult to say what it will be in the course of this year. That has not been worked out and I do not have it to hand although I will ask my technicians whether they can provide me with the sum provided last year.

As far as cruise tourism is concerned, the Port itself is a source of funding and the Cruise Terminal will hereafter be a source of funding. In addition, the hotels themselves are sources of funding. There are a large number of cooperative marketers with Barbados whether there be airlines, wholesale operators, retail operators so that the \$30 million being provided here is not the only source of funding for our tourism.

I believe too, and this is in answer to a criticism that was made in the course of the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, that \$30 million is a significant sum of

money if prudently spent. What we hope to bring to tourism, among other things, is really prudent management of the funds allocated. It goes without saying that in recent years there has been a lot of misspending by the old Tourist Board and by its successor organisation, the Barbados Tourism Authority. I need only point to the Barbados Extra Inclusive where \$1 million was spent in a misconceived programme that provided no benefits. I need only point by way of illustration to the \$500 000 lost as a result of the Trump programme which again was misconceived and hastily planned. I need not point to the more recent failure of the Concord to fly out of New York last December which cost Barbados, although they pulled the plug early, \$150 000. That is not to mention the several cooperative programmes that were not followed through that caused the taxpayers of Barbados several hundreds of thousands of dollars. If we can spend our money wisely and review all the expenditure patterns of the past as part of our contribution as a new administration, I believe we will find that we will get much more value for our money than we have got in the past.

I need to mention too, Sir, that the Barbados Investment Tourism Corporation, is being provided with \$1 million here in these Estimates. That is an increase of about \$600 000. You are aware, Mr. Chairman, that BITC has responsibility for the management of the lease between the Government and the Barbados Hilton. It has responsibility for the management of Dover Convention Centre. It has responsibility for the management of market tours. It has responsibility now for the first time for Sherbourne. Pursuant to our responsibility and our commitment to do our best to promote Sherbourne and to market it properly, an additional \$600 000 or thereabout is being added to the Estimates for BITC for this year.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I am hearing *sotto voce* that we will have to come for a supplementary and I am not to anticipate the future but I think what my friend on the other side is alluding to is the fact that Sherbourne will turn out to be a running sore. It will suck up and absorb a considerable portion of the taxpayers' money. The Honourable Member is reminding me, even though I do not wish to go back to Sherbourne - we have only recently had a full debate on it - that it is really an oppression when you think about it. I have no doubt that for a long time it is going to be a running sore and a large charge on the taxpayers of this country.

I want to go ahead, however, to deal with the International Transport area of my Ministry where the sum of \$25 685 000 is being provided in the Estimates for this year, 1995/96. 4.30 p.m.

It represents an increase of \$6 213 723 on last year's Estimates. The big increase has got to do with a capital component of \$6 213 723. In large part, that will cover the transfer of the janitorial staff at the airport from the maintenance unit to the Airport Manager. So that under maintenance you will see a reduction.

That sum too is to make provision for an expanded parking apron. There are many more carriers coming into Barbados scheduled and non-scheduled. BWIA itself has brought many more flights into Barbados since February, some 16 a week. We recently had Carib Express and we are anticipating more and more scheduled and non-scheduled carriers so that there is an urgent need to expand the parking apron.

In addition, the airport itself is showing signs of considerable wear after 16 years. One area in which it is showing that wear is the roof. The roof has been leaking, a source of great embarrassment in many respects and we are spending in excess of \$1 million in repairing the roof in the course of the next Financial Year.

In addition the VIP Lounge is being refurbished. I think work is going on right now. Also the toilet area is being ripped up, refurbished and upgraded. A new elevator will be put into the Air Traffic Control Tower. That explains, in large measure, where the capital sum of \$6.2 million will be spent.

That brings me, Sir, to the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry itself, sometimes referred to as the Environmental Unit will spend \$893 404. That is the estimate provided. The NCC has been given \$9 million for recurrent expenditure. A significant increase on last year's provision. A capital component of \$1 398 460. The Coastal Conservation Unit has been given \$3 233 276. You are aware, Mr. Chairman, that the Coastal Conservation Unit is that Unit which is concerned to pursue remedial work on the beaches and is responsible for the management of the coastal zone programme.

I ought to pause to say in relation to the capital sum provided for NCC that it will be spent at Harrison Cave where we need to purchase an additional tram for the operation of tours. As you are aware the Cave is the most sought after attraction by tourists in Barbados and it is important that, in addition to two trams which have recently been received that we secure an additional tram. We need to improve the communications system there and also we need to install a new electrical system.

The roads at Farley Hill are going to be improved and that is part of the capital sum. The nursery at Codrington is going to be improved. We are trying more and more to commercialize that operation and ensure that we earn some

\$V₂ million in the course of the next year for the nursery. We are going to replace a workshop there at Codrington.

At the Bay Street Esplanade, there is going to be landscaping, lighting and seating activity undertaken. At Enterprise, Christ Church, there is going to be the construction of a new bathroom and toilet facility.

At Folkestone, there is going to be the upgrading of the marine park and the visitors' centre.

Those projects represent the capital sum provided for the Ministry of the Environment, particularly dealing with the NCC.

These subject areas are all of great importance. I have no doubt that, in the course of the debate, they will attract the constructive comments and the probing questions of Honourable Members on both sides. But you will forgive me, if at this point I turn to tourism, in the course of the next 15 or so minutes still available to me in my opening presentation.

Tourism has been identified, by this Barbados Labour Party Administration, along with international business financial services as the two lead sectors of the Barbadian economy for the years ahead. The importance of tourism is all the more heightened, in the face of the decline of manufacturing recently from a height of in excess of \$V₂ billion exports in 1986 to just about \$220 million in recent years, and moreso, in the face of the dramatic decline in sugar production in this country from 111 000 tonnes in 1986 to perhaps 36 000 tonnes in this year 1995.

Sir, in the face of all of that, tourism has emerged as the lead sector of the Barbados economy being the biggest provider of labour in Barbados directly and indirectly. We are talking of some 22 000 jobs. It earns, for our country, in excess of \$1 billion and, in addition to that, it is the biggest buyer of goods and services from the rest of the Barbadian economy.

It remains a challenge for our economists, statisticians and econometricians to find a formula to measure precisely how much, in money terms, the goods and services bought from the rest of the economy. We do not have that figure. No formula for measurement has been developed. But I think we can say, beyond doubt, that it is the biggest buyer of goods and services from the rest of the economy.

The inheritance in tourism has been a mixed one. I am persuaded and convinced that the product is fundamentally sound but there are many difficulties. I think I need to identify them for the benefit of the House and tell you something about some of the initiatives which we are taking to improve the situation.

The first aspect of our inheritance which I want to mention has got to do with the absolute collapse of morale at the Barbados Tourism Authority both at home and abroad. We do not begin to appreciate the damage that was done to the morale of the staff and to the image of Barbados* tourism abroad when, last year, we engaged in a strange form of political gain where, in 6 months, we had 3 Ministers of Tourism and 3 Boards of Directors at the Barbados Tourism Authority. The immediate responsibility therefore is to restore morale and to recast the image of Barbados abroad. 4.40 p.m.

The perception got abroad that Barbados was not serious about its tourism and that the management of the country was in crisis and particularly the management of its tourism. That is not the only inheritance of a negative nature, we have also got a situation where the tourism authority itself is not as well staffed professionally as we would like.

It would appear as though over the years ascriptive criteria, rather than resort to the merit principles, were used in determining employment at the middle, lower middle and upper reaches of the organisation. The result is that today we have an authority which is supposed to be the lead authority in Barbados and it is not as professionally as staffed and as equal to the challenge as we would like.

We must therefore, in the course of the months ahead, try to reorganise the Authority and in doing so I am afraid we are going to have to prune, we are going to have to repopulate and we are going to have to train people on a large scale there. That is likely to be a continuing challenge in the years ahead.

More than that, Barbados had an image of lethargy as far as its promotion in sales is concerned in the market place. It is easy to understand why that is so if only I mention to you that Barbados has only four persons employed by the Barbados Tourism Authority responsible for promotion and marketing in the whole of the United States of America. And that we have had for all the years that we have been promoting tourism in Germany only one man doing a heroic job but impossible. An impossible task has been assigned to him given the size of Germany and the multiple responsibilities to which he has got to attend.

In the United Kingdom the situation has been scarcely any better and in another of our principal markets, Canada, the story has been the same. So that many people in the trade complain that they have not been hearing from Barbados, there has been no follow through. Other destinations have representatives from the ground that call them every week that press them to promote their products, namely their country, but they have not been hearing from Barbados.

In addition to that, we have a situation in which the image of Barbados is promoted by the advertisers. We have a world wide company called DMB & B which has been responsible for advertising Barbados in its principal markets worldwide, that they have done it, and I do not blame them, with the approval and the consent of the Tourism Authority here been projecting Barbados as an upscale almost elitist destination. The supporting 30 minutes advertisement shows arrivals by Concorde, the playing of polo games here and horse racing activities and one gets the impression that Barbados is not a destination for middle America.

Middle Americans are the ones travelling today in large number. Families where when you put Dad and Mum's income together you have between US\$75 000 and US\$150 000. One gets the impression from our Ad that Barbados is rift for them. It is for those who can arrive by concorde and who can follow, appreciate and play polo and also follow a sport that is still the sport of kings, horse racing and so on.

We have now to reorganise and refocus Barbados' image in the market place and we have had many hours trying to work out a new campaign with the advertising authority who are now in Barbados this week for the third or fourth time in the last two months, all in an attempt to make sure that we refashion the image of Barbados in the market place and that we project and promote Barbados as a quality destination, very important, but also as a destination that is affordable and that is consistent with the reality on the ground, the product, because if you are at all familiar with Barbados tourism product it is the product of wide variety. It is the accommodation sector, it is the entertainment sector, and in all aspects of the product we appeal to several pockets, as much to the man who arrives by concorde and is met by a rolls royce at the airport and goes to a villa where there are maids and diving instructors and babysitters and all the rest as to the man as soon as he comes out the arrivals hall asks whether there is a bus going to the St Lawrence area and can only pay perhaps \$50.00 a night. We have facilities for both of those types of persons.

Now, it is also part of our inheritance that we have not had, particularly out of the United States of America, the sort of airlift which is good for Barbados' tourism. We have only had two major carriers out of two gateways - Miami and New York. We are working very strenuously since coming to office in trying to ensure that we get new carriers both scheduled and non-scheduled, departing out of new gateways.

We have also too, and this is part of our inheritance, concentrated too much of our promotion activities, particularly in the United States of America, in

the mid-Atlantic States and in the North East. It is true that we get 80% of our visitors from that area but New Jersey, Philadelphia, New York and Massachusetts are not the only areas of wealth in the United States of America. In fact recent surveys have shown that there are new centres of population concentration and new centres of wealth, not only in the West but in the South East and in many other parts of the United States of America. So that we are in continuing discussion with many carriers in the United States of America and we are hopefully looking forward to new scheduled and non-scheduled carriers coming here as of next winter and coming out of new gateways in the United States of America.

So that even though the outturn figures for last year's tourism show for the first time, since 1990, that we have surpassed the 400 000 mark and that we did achieve in terms of round figures, 425 000, I think that it masks to some extent, continuing difficulties in Barbados' tourism.

The Minister of Finance in the course of his second reading speech referred to the fact that we had certain one shop activities, he was referring to the cricket day in Barbados last year. The United Kingdom emerged as the premier market, 125 000 or thereabout. The United States continued to slip and we recorded arrivals of 109 000. We are going to be hard pressed to realise those numbers this year even though we will try as vigorously as we can to try to equal those numbers in the course of this year.

Now, just let me say that several initiatives have been taken already and will be followed up by way of correcting the situation. You will recall that there was a supplementary estimate for tourism last November and it had a component for 25 sales auxiliaries. They will be put on the ground in another week or two and we are hoping that we can add in the course of this year another 15 making 40 sales auxiliaries distributed across our principal markets. That is to give us the energy in our sales force in the presence on the ground which we badly need. 4.50 p.m.

We have entered into a co-operative marketing programme with American Airlines, both in Latin America and in the United States of America. The cost for Barbados is about \$1 million, roughly speaking, but that is going to be shared with TDC, the Tourism Authority and the hotels. We have also entered into a programme with VISA where VISA is going to start a campaign as from this June, both in Latin America, United States of America, and in the Middle East and Europe, where they are going to mail direct to their VISA holders at the highest level - the gold and the platinum holders - a passbook on Barbados offering considerable discounts and they are supported in that with American Airlines too. In addition, we are putting out a new generation of literature which is going to reflect

many of the changes that have been taking place in the Barbados product. We hope too to have it in several languages, certainly in German, and to a lesser extent in French, as we are trying to get back in the Quebec market in a big way.

These are just some of the multiple initiatives and I have already referred to the repositioning of our advertising focus that we are taking to ensure that we recapture the market loss in the United States of America in order to ensure that we continue to grow in the United Kingdom market and in order to ensure too that we exploit more effectively and fully the potential of the German market. We will also be taking new initiatives in Latin America. Brazil and Argentina have been particularly identified as a growth area. We have been attracting in the region of about 5 000 visitors a year from that area and we feel that with a serious marketing thrust we can lift significantly the numbers from those areas.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his presentation.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: We have not determined what new numbers will result from the United States of America - I will conclude in a minute, Sir - because the programme and the campaign is still being worked out, but we hope to spend \$1 million additionally in Germany and continental Europe and £650 000 in support of new activities in the United Kingdom market.

I will be happy in the course of the debate to return to this subject and to answer any questions which Honourable Members may care to pose.

I beg to move that Head 43 stand part.

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am indeed happy that the Minister has sought to give some level of information regarding Head 43. His address centred primarily around the efforts the Ministry plans to be involved in, with regard to the tourism industry. I am indeed heartened that he has brought up front his proposals, but he has failed at the outset - well, he did indicate that they are in the process of planning the marketing strategy, *et cetera* - but I would have hoped that by this time, after six months, they would have certainly corrected the problem of developing their own marketing plan so that we would be spared the advent of the decline we are now witnessing in the industry, and I suspect that that decline will continue if we continue to delay a targetted or projected marketing plan in the short term.

On that note I am going to make a very early appeal to the Minister to make sure that there is no delay in

the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer. You made that point to us when we were in office, not that I have any difficulty with the individual persons who are presently acting in the capacity, because there are persons in the institution that I am fully aware are very competent and have certainly been doing a relatively good job over the years with very limited resources, and I felt a little concerned when the Minister was making his point that he is going to have to prune the Board, or he would have to repopulate the Board, and I am a little concerned about those statements in light of one that was made in this Honourable House when the Honourable Member for the City said the whole lot of them want getting rid of down at the Board. It provoked some concern by the staff of the Barbados Tourism Authority, because they themselves have taken the mandate on their backs over the last 20 or 25 years and they have progressed the tourism industry in Barbados to the extent that we can boast of having had arrivals up to 460 000 persons in 1989-90.

Even with respect to the persons who have been functioning in the USA market, you have to ask yourself why is it that ten years ago the same four persons who worked in the United States were able to attract over 150 000 visitors from the United States market, and then we examine the question whether it is as a result of only having four persons, or whether there are other factors that are causing the decline of the market-out of the United States. You related it to the fact that we only have four persons in place and there was a supplementary that was sought last year on behalf of the new staff you were planning to put in. The period is almost out and the staff are not yet appointed, which would make the supplementary that you came for almost irrelevant.

I think what has to be done within the Ministry is an examination of the other factors that have impacted on the decline out of the US market in particular and not necessarily to believe that it is as a result of only having four persons in place. That impression was given and I really have to stand on the side of the staff, because I am happy and I have observed myself, being a former Director, that the staff go beyond the call of duty. Many of them work several hours of overtime trying to appease the visitors to this country, and I have seen several of the staff who have worked in the overseas markets who have certainly gone beyond the call of duty, so let us not think in terms of any pruning of the staff. I think the point must be taken that if specific training is needed in some areas that we should seek to focus on that.

The budget itself that has been allocated for Tourism is not necessarily a budget that will create the kind of momentum I think the Minister is anticipating. We have struggled over the years because of the administrative cost to the Board. Almost 60% of the budget goes towards

administrative cost. Certainly when we were in office, and I was a member of the Board at that time, we desperately struggled to find the kind of funds that would make us competitive in all of the markets, not necessarily the USA market, the UK market or whatever, we found difficulty in being competitive in those markets and even though there was an increase because of the advent of Air Tours, a programme started by my colleague, the Member for St. Michael West, who was then Minister of Tourism, we saw a pattern developing where we attracted a number of charter operations to Barbados which had an impact on the number of arrivals we had coming into the country, and on the south coast, but all during that period and up until 1991, with the advent of the Gulf War in January 1991, certain difficulties came into the industry that made it very difficult for the country to continue accessing persons from the United States in particular and it had an impact on us in Europe and it had an impact on Europe. These are some of the factors that directly or indirectly would have caused the economy some distress and not necessarily programmes that were inflicted by the Democratic Labour Party. These are the realities that occurred.

Some of the airlines that serviced Barbados, Pan American, Eastern and one other that used to come here collapsed financially and we found ourselves overnight with a situation that we seemed unlikely to access business from the United States because all of our eggs were in the basket with American Airlines, and American Airlines were at that time even considering whether they would remain and keep the kind of capacity that they had on the Barbados route. There was a lot of uncertainty. 5.00 p.m.

The Trump arrangement at the time was successful because the projection that would have gone out in the market place had we not got involved in the Trump arrangement would be that there were no seats available to Barbados and the tour operators would have given us a blank and that was a projection that we could not afford to have. The advent of Trump may not necessarily have been numerically successful, but the point is that it was an idea that was worth the money spent at the time.

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I don't run away from issues because we have to be practical, pragmatic in our approach. When you have a problem you have to try to do something about it. In tourism, it is a question of trial and error. There are several marketing programmes that have been tried and failed. All kinds of incentives have been given to tour operators overseas. We have been outbidded. We have been outplayed. Right now in the United States if you are triggered by the generic advertising or the TV ad and you pick up a telephone and you say, "I would like to travel

to Barbados". Mr. Chairman, you know this very well. The tour operator at the other end who gets a bigger commission by sending people to Cancun or Santo Domingo will try to redirect our persons who have been triggered by our generic advertising. This is a reality that has occurred. Because of higher commissions or because of incentives that we cannot afford to offer.

We are in a very competitive network and that is why I have always made the point and I hope that the Honourable Minister in his appointment of the 25 or 40 or 50 persons on the ground will seek to identify some Barbadians who have loyalty to Barbados, because persons in those big capital markets tend to go for whoever can pay them the most money. So I hope the Minister will try to attract persons who are able to be loyal to Barbados.

On that score, in terms of cooperative advertising, I would have hoped that we as a country should be able to identify Barbadian nationals who have the capacity to develop tour operating companies to go into a cooperative arrangement with them to make sure that we give them some money, assist them in selling Barbados because we would have to appeal to their loyalty as well.

I have no problem with your jumping in bed with American Airlines because that is an arrangement that we had with Pan American that was very successful. When you enter into those kinds of arrangements, you are able to piggy-back on the vast marketing capabilities of airlines as enormous as American. They have their own marketing plan. That is a positive as far as I am concerned.

Basically, Mr. Chairman, the objectives that have been set out in the Estimates are almost identical to the objectives that have been in place for a long time. In terms of what is wrong, I think that we must give credit to the planning and the group who sat in that think tank that was at Heywoods. Since then, there have been committees that were set up under the Democratic Labour Party that sought to look at the problems that were... I will read it into the record. I will give you some idea of the difficulties that were experienced at the time in relationship to the U.S.A. market.

Some of the difficulties that affected Barbados accessing business from the U.S. market were as follows:

"There are cheaper destinations closer to the United States which would mean less time spent travelling, less cost of an airline ticket. Tour operators claim that they do not get cooperation from the local hoteliers. Tour operators also believe that hoteliers are more interested in European traffic more so than American traffic and offer European operators better hotel rates.

Other destinations have large, established, well known hotel chains whereas Barbados has been very weak in attracting these large hotel chains, whereas the trade and consumers have to be convinced of the quality of local hotels."

They go on to say that Barbados is not as price competitive as other destinations. We know that to be a fact. The marketing budget for the U.S. is small compared to that of other destinations. I believe that the marketing budget even in this year's Estimates will probably be less than \$2 million in *toto*. It may not even be as much as that.

That budget is only able to buy approximately four weeks of prime television advertising time at specific periods, either during the fall just prior to the winter season or just before Crop-Over, if we are trying to attract visitors for Crop-Over. So the budget is small and it is not a budget that can allow Barbados all-year marketing as we can see even Sandals Hotel doing, where they have an all-year budget for marketing of the product. This is important because all over the United States and Europe when you travel and you go on promotional tours you will be surprised at the number of people who do not have a clue about Barbados. So there is a whole wide market for us to attract business from if we are able to reach the market.

There is a very large market from which we can draw. It goes on to indicate that the lack of promotion in the market in conjunction with local hotels is a problem. The increased popularity of all-inclusive hotels. That is a concept that is not catching on in Barbados and we are trying to iron some of them out. I understand there are members on this who are concerned about the advent of all-inclusive hotels.

These are some of the concepts that have already been identified. These are not situations that are new, the Minister can now come and create a new situation. These are situations that have been in existence because we have been trying to grapple with them as a Democratic Labour Party Government. We had success in the past. We run into hiccups because of the Gulf War and because of the fear of people travelling. These things had an impact on Barbados and yet we were still able to rise above that even though there was a decline for a period between 1990 and 1992. You would have noticed that there would have been a significant increase between 1992 and 1993 and 1993 and 1994 where there was an increase of about 5 000 to 5 000 over the years before.

I will have to take my leave and I will come back.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to ask the Minister quite a few questions concerning the

broad portfolio, but I will start with Tourism since this is where he spent most of his time. First of all, I don't think that we have to make any apology for the fact that we brought over 400 000 people here over this last year. I think that notwithstanding the problems we have, we have to start off by recognising that there has been substantial growth in tourism development during the period between the Gulf War and the present I think we should take it as given. We cannot start off the debate just being apologists for having done well. Tourism has done well. I think we can analyse the issues. 5.10 p.m.

The Minister raised some issues but I do not think that he is going to get away with coming here and saying that he has inherited this and he has inherited that. The whole tourism industry is an inheritance. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South when he got to be Minister of Tourism inherited some. When we inherited in 1985 tourism was in the doldrums. We brought it back out so the inheritance has been going on. Let us start the debate at a different level. The inheritance has to do with some issues which the Honourable Member raised and we can raise them.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It only takes me to get up for her to start. Sir, I want to take the point raised by the Honourable Member which I think is a valid point. First of all, I have always had difficulty. The Honourable Members have promised that they are going to bring an amendment to the Tourism Authority Act. I expect to see it soon because there is a hindrance, in my view. I have no difficulty saying that.

Secondly, I have to say that to make the points because technically, the Honourable Member cannot make any recommendations for pruning or doing anything. The Honourable Member, according to the law as it now stands, can only appoint a Director. The Honourable Member is failing in his duty, according to the law, in not appointing a Director because unless the Minister recommends a Director soon or the Board recommends one, the Board cannot get on with the business of doing what it is supposed to do.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am going to accept that fiction for what it is but I have to take the law as it is.

The point is though that the urgency of the appointment of a Tourism Director cannot be gainsaid. I know there are a lot of people out there who believe that the Director has already been chosen. I am not one of those

persons who believe that. I am going to give the Minister the benefit of the doubt I know when my colleague from St. Michael South Central speaks he will give us more details because he has this way of getting good information. The Minister really should get on with the business as quickly as possible of putting in place a Tourism Director.

I do not think it is going to help tourism for us to be going backward to what happened with the four Ministers and the three Boards. That is now history. The result is that you are the Government and you have had six months so let us get on with the business. I do not believe that any one advertising agency can advertise for the whole world. The market in Canada is entirely different from the market in England, and is entirely different from the market in the United States, and is entirely different from the market in Germany. It* is better for Barbados with its meagre resources, because our resources in relation to tourism are meagre by whatever numbers we use, to get the best we can in the respective countries.

I think that it was a mistake for us to have a single marketing agency. Apart from Jesus Christ there has never been any one individual that has been able to influence the entire world in pretty much the same way. I do not really understand how BNB & D can be able to market as well in the US as they are in Canada. Some of the problems which the Minister described are bound to happen unless we examine that in the first place.

Secondly, I think that the lack of diversity in advertising is a product of what happens in tourism in Barbados. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South has alluded to this before. It has been a torsion bar for years in tourism between those who believe that Barbados should be advertised as an up-scale destination, that Barbados should have tourism for people on the West Coast hotels especially and only if possible...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I really do not wish to have any truck with the Honourable Member *for* the City at all. She is as ignorant in tourism as she is in almost everything...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member must use parliamentary language.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: My point is the lack of diversity in advertising is as much to do with the situation in Barbados. Those who believe that Barbados should be an elitist destination for the up-scale hotels only won the argument over the last few years. I am not surprised, although I am bitterly disappointed, at the kind

of advertising which we chopped and changed to come up with, advertising which, as the Minister says, deals with Barbados as Barbados used to be 35 years ago. If we are not careful our tourism will, in fact, be going in that direction and we will have a skewed development where one side of the country is constantly having development and the other side is going into degradation. It cannot be useful for Barbados' tourism for us to have development where one part of the development is lagging too far behind the other part.

This country can handle all comers. I recall very well when a tourism thrust was about to come here there was a massive press against the Minister not to go for the Airtours concept. Now, Sir, it is true that you have to be extremely careful when you are negotiating with agencies like Airtours. They will steal your toes if they can but that is what the competitive business of tourism and other businesses is all about. It is for our business people here to know what they can and cannot deliver, and what they cannot bargain for. It is important that we have agencies like Airtours that are bringing lower and middle income tourism to Barbados.

The people who live in the north of England, for example, do not believe in spending large amounts of money to travel but they bring lots of money when they come. They stay for a long time and they like to stay at the South Coast hotels. So it is with the people from Germany and from Europe generally because they like smaller hotels. They are accustomed to them. It is important that we do not fail to maintain that thrust which we have in Europe,

The Barbados Labour Party can take a substantial amount of the credit for the early part of the European development. The Democratic Labour Party developed the English tourism. We have consolidated it and we are to continue that way. We must try and avoid discussing tourism in truncated parts, what the Dems did and what the Bees did. Tourism is the basis on which we are going to live or die therefore we must put in place a system which allows Ministers to make proper decisions and which allow for the best kinds of people to work in tourism. I believe tourism is a people industry and only the best people will get results in tourism. You cannot get any results from purely political inputs.

This question that the Prime Minister raised about one-shot events, one-shot events are only valid if they are perceived in purely economic terms. One shot events form a substantial part of the marketing activity of tourism. When Wes Hall went to Australia a whole host of people talked rubbish because they did not understand. It had to take a man to come now all the way from Australia, an Australian Parliamentarian, to say how successful that tour was.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: In excess of 1 000 came as a result of that particular activity. It was a one time thing because it was the only time that the West Indies were going to be in that particular place at that particular time. It was not a substantial cost to Barbados because the airlines paid a large part of it. That is not the point I am making. The point I am making is that sports tourism and event tourism must form part of the programming and planning of tourism. You must have one-shot events every six months, one-shot events every year. 5,20 p.m.

You now know that you are going to have a tour from England. Then you know you are going to have a Pakistani tour. You are going to have another tour from somewhere. You have to get the Barbadians and other West Indians overseas who like cricket and you have to get charter flights for them, no matter which tour is on. You have to bring the Englishmen to see the Pakistanis play the West Indies. You have to promote it, in those terms. That is how you use the one-shot thing.

I do not accept the thesis that the numbers flowed just because there was a tour. That is a fact. But it has happened in the past. If you go back, if you drew a graph, you will see that the graph has always peaked during the time when the West Indies are playing in the Caribbean. It peaks not only for Barbados. It peaks for everybody. That is why it is important that we play the best people on the team and not have a lot of foolishness with people like Peter Short setting agendas for the country.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw that, Sir. I am making the point, however, that when the West Indies Cricket Board is making decisions, it is not only making decisions for the people who sit in the Board rooms. They are making decisions that affect the lives of everybody. Because if you have cricket down here, there are people who will come to see the best teams play. I am happy that we will still have a good team, even if Desmond Haynes does not play. Can I call his name in that context, Sir? Think you, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I still think that it is necessary that the Governments of the Caribbean send a signal that, despite all the talk, that sports events in the Caribbean are national events belonging to all the people, with all that that entails.

I look forward therefore to the legislation when it comes so that we can have a debate on where the sovereignty of the people lies. That is what I want to debate.

On the question which the Honourable Member raised about only having 4 people working in the United States, I am going to give the Honourable Minister the benefit of the doubt on the 25 people on the ground because he has not unveiled and I really do not know how it is intended for it to work. I do not think he should leave the impression that those 4 persons are the only persons who actually function for promotion of Barbados. Each of the hotel chains or hotel entities in Barbados has its own agency in the respective markets that assist in the marketing of Barbados.

The Barbados Tourism Authority, from time immemorial has always played, when it comes to the actual spending of money, a relatively secondary role in terms of how it promotes. It has not been in the business of the direct promotion because way back down the road, Errol Barrow had said that it was for the airlines and hotel owners to promote their properties. In that context, the Honourable Member is on the right track when he is mixing a relationship with the airlines, going into bed with the airlines for promotion.

I hope that this will stop some of the unwarranted propaganda which seems to suggest that giving an airline \$1 million for promotion is somehow giving away money. It is for the Barbados Tourism Authority to ensure that the deal which they go into on the question of marketing is not one that is front loaded. Those are the ones that get us into trouble.

I just want to remind the Minister, before I sit down, that he said, and I am quoting him now, Sir, at page 2886 of Hansard:

"My experience in Government and in life is that you have to act. There are very few instances in which it is prudent not to act. If it turns out that you are off course, you make a mid-term correction. We have wasted many years in this country waiting on a report on manufacturing."

He went on:

"waiting on Reports on tourism, waiting on Reports on sugar, when, in truth and in fact, the authors of those Reports come and tap the wisdom, the experience and the judgement of fellow Barbadians and write up the Report."

He went on to make this point, Sir, and I am going to finish with this:

"The time for enunciation has long since past. What we need of the Government and the Ministry of Tourism is the implementation of new policy. The Barbados tourist industry has reached the point where

major new initiatives are needed. We have come to the end of a phase and we need an injection of new energy, new imagination, new dynamics, new momentum. The time has come for implementation and not any longer for enunciation. In that respect the Minister may be seen as having indulged in a wasted exercise today talking, yet again, about enunciation of policy when we need implementation of policy."

The person speaking was the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. Physician, heal thyself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for some time I have thought, in this Honourable House, of calling on the Honourable Member for St. Joseph to produce for this Parliament a tourism development plan, over the next 5 years. Because this industry, as I see it, is so fundamental to the economic welfare of all of us that I believe that Parliament should be fully apprised of the plans of the Government in its totality in relation to tourism. I have hesitated in doing so because of the very laid back and lackadaisical attitude demonstrated by the Minister so far, since taking over the Ministry of Tourism.

I think that it is a very reasonable criticism to level at the Minister when we have a situation where a Government has changed in September, in the middle of the summer season and a few months before the winter season, one would have thought that looking at the overall economic situation of Barbados and looking at the extent to which the Minister of Finance is depending on tourism, that that Minister would have gone ahead with full speed in order to get a policy situation in place, if there are any policy changes and, certainly, to get a Board in place. We all know what has happened as a result of his inability to find a Chairman of the Board and appoint a Board. It is almost incredible, unbelievable, unimaginable...

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES:... that a Minister should find himself in a position now - in the 6th month after taking office - advertising for a Director. It is almost incredible.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I saw the ad my friend and I know exactly who will be the next Director.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Do not bother about that. I just do not want to embarrass the person by mentioning the name, on the Floor of the House.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: All I would say is that I believe the closing date is 2 weeks from now or something like that. I thought it would be nice if the advertisement had gone out before to allow a larger number of people to have the opportunity to apply. Not many people will see that ad in many parts of the world. There are a lot of Barbadians overseas who might be qualified and interested in applying for the job, although I will say now that it is a waste of time applying for the job anyhow, as far as I am aware.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am very glad that the Minister has confirmed that I am correct in what I am saying.

There have been some concerns expressed about the development of the hotel plant in Barbados, especially as it relates to the south coast. These concerns were expressed during the debate on the Appropriation Bill. But I believe, Sir, that there is a wider concern. 5.30 p.m.

If you look very carefully at what is happening in Barbados, you will see that during the 1970s there was a massive explosion of hotel plant in Barbados to the extent that I remember in this Honourable House there was discussion as to what needed to be done in order to limit the number of beds being added to the plant and to limit the geographical location of the plant. That debate actually took place in this House sometime in the late 1970s or the late 1980s.

What we have seen since then, apart from the recent attempts of refurbishment in the late eighties and beyond is a general run down of plant in Barbados and the reality is that it is just not profitable to build and operate a hotel in Barbados. Until we face that reality then we are going to have a problem.

The rate of return on hotel plant investment has been so low in this country that anyone seeking to invest in Barbados, any Barbadian wanting to invest in a hotel, just has to look at the average rate of return and he will come to the conclusion that it is not worthwhile.

We have had one or two brave Barbadians who have entered into that field in recent times but the majority who have gone into that field in the 1970s and the 1980s after some element of initial prosperity the rate of return on their investment has steadily declined. And that is reflected in what you see in relation to the Barbados Development Bank and so on. Marketing apart, other problems inherent in small units apart, what is the problem? I have no doubt whatsoever that the problem is the environment in which

the hotels operate in this country. It relates to the tax environment.

Now you say we have a Hotel Aids Act, that is true, but that is principally a capital write off operation and the only benefit from that in the long run, is if you are going to make money down the road. We have had hotel aids, we have had various concessions for refurbishment but you can only benefit from refurbishment if you have the money to refurbish. You can make all the concessions and if you have not got the money to refurbish and you cannot borrow the money from the BDB or a commercial bank it does not help. Then, Sir, I believe that the hotels have been caught up in this general atmosphere of over-taxation in Barbados in terms of their operations, and the very, very high energy costs in this country. Something has to be done about the energy costs in Barbados because if you look at the percentage costs, the energy cost in a Barbados hotel and you compare that same hotel with a hotel in Miami you are talking in Barbados about 1000% higher.

The question of telephones: Now, I would find it very difficult to go anywhere in the world and go in a hotel room and not have a telephone in the room. I would feel uncomfortable. If something happened to your family or you wanted to get in touch with somebody ... You know, in Barbados today there are hotels with only one telephone downstairs and if somebody calls someone you have to go upstairs and call them to come down and that kind of thing.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Not only guest houses. You go around the South Coast and you will see what is going on. Check what is the cost of installing a telephone system that provides a telephone in each room in Barbados and you will see what I am talking about. And this is not just guest houses, I am talking about 30-room hotels, hotels just cannot afford to have the systems inside there.

Then there is the question of land tax which was partly addressed some years ago you may recall and that has helped a bit. I think that among the millions owed the Land Tax Department it would not surprise me if you do not find a significant amount of money still owed by the hotels despite the concessions which were granted to them in 1986.

Over and above that there have been marketing concessions in the BLP Budget of 1986 and they are available to the hotel industry. A lot of hotels in Barbados cannot take advantage of them for the simple reason that they do not have the money to lay out. So that, Sir, when you look at the impact of indirect taxation in particular in relation to inputs into the hotel industry and then, Sir,

the cost of insurance in Barbados. It is almost incredible that in Barbados, 5 years ago or 6 years ago a hotel probably paid \$3V₂ or \$4 a thousand or something like this. Last year they were paid up to \$14 to \$16 per thousand and this year it has come down somewhat somewhere in the region, I imagine between \$10 and \$12 depending on which insurance company you deal with.

As a matter of fact I believe that the Insurance Corporation of Barbados has played a most interesting role in trying to get those rates down because a lot of clients who would not insure with the Insurance Corporation of Barbados before have now gone to run for cover with the Insurance Corporation of Barbados because their rates have been lower even during the last two years and still lower than the others. A lot of people have been running to the ICB and I do not know if they can accommodate the whole lot. But there can be no question about it that, no matter what kind of concessions you give, you have to deal with this problem if you want to upgrade your hotel plant. You have to somehow or other look upon the hotel plant as very much part of the offshore sector of Barbados...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Because the operation is an export industry which happens to be located in Barbados but you have to look at it conceptually as part of the offshore exercise. You have to look and see what they are competing with. When you go to other destinations like Puerto Rico and these other places and you see the kind of environment in which hotels operate they are infinitely better than what obtains in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not mean physical environment, my dear. I am talking about...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is a technical term.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is asked to address the Chair. The Chair is not listening to asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, if the Honourable Member would only look, especially in terms of the new hotel development in Puerto Rico and see the kind of fantastic conditions offered by the Government. It is almost incredible what kind of conditions they have to operate under. Sir, I believe, just as we have a regime looking at other areas of offshore development in Barbados we have

to, in our own minds, develop that mind concept that we are looking really at an offshore enterprise and that is the hotel industry. 5.40 p.m.

We have to try to create a tax environment, an operational cost environment for that sector of Barbados where it will make sense *for* people to invest, get a reasonable return on their capital and at the same time have enough money left over in order to get involved in a significant marketing thrust.

What has happened in Barbados over the years, and I make the point that if you compare what happened in the late 70s, going into the 80s and what has happened beyond, and the reason for that is because the environment in which these hotels operated changed in the late 1980s. In the 1970s the Hotels Aids Act was enough. It is no longer enough, nor the Hotels Aids Act plus the concessions we are getting now.

Sir, another aspect of the tourism industry concerns me.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am going to sit down when the Chairman has asked me to sit down. You are not Chairman, you cannot even appoint a Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to address the Chair. The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his speech.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: But, Sir, you cannot take directions from him. You must take a stand now and show your independence by allowing me to speak *for* another five minutes. If you do not take stand early in the Estimates, I warn you, they are going to take advantage of you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order in the Committee, please. There is one presiding officer in this House. To the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central, the Chair has not taken note of any asides, I am listening to one Member at a time, I am listening to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. Your time is up. You may now sit.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am not accusing you of taking sides, Sir. All I am advising you to do is not to take advice from...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair will take no advice.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, we are obviously going to have a very interesting debate on Tourism, but before we deal with some of the very legitimate matters that have been raised by Honourable Members, I would like to find out from the Minister a few specific things.

I believe that one of the mistakes that was made was that the Ministry of Tourism became run down in relation to other agencies of Barbados. I believe it is a fundamental mistake that occurred that the research arm of that Ministry was not strengthened. It is important that we all recognise that with tourism in Barbados we have a very peculiar history of a tremendous number of lobbyists whose sole aim is to ensure that the major proportion of Government subventions to the industry is spent in the direction of their own particular interests. I have ten years experience of having to fight this matter and it still exists.

I want to repeat something that I said previously, despite the fact that many people feel that it should not be said. In my opinion in Barbados we have too many tourism bodies in existence and the impression abroad is that these bodies are not pulling together but they are acting in a competitive way. Some solution has to take place if we are going to get the combined efforts of all of these bodies. In my opinion, Sir, the Ministry in Barbados must be seen as the principal policy maker for tourism development in Barbados. That means that the Minister must have available to him in the Ministry people who can have a broad view of the impact of tourism that is taking place, the problems that arise in all of the facets, marketing, the competitive nature of Barbados in relation to others. We need to have that objective.

Secondly, Sir, I believe that we must understand that the environment in which we are operating in the Caribbean today is completely different from what it was in the past. There is no doubt that they have now coming to the market place a number of new destinations who have started off at a time when they are able to profit from the experience of the older destinations, and what is more, that we have also them coming into the market place and being able from the very beginning to offer, certainly to Europeans and others, a very competitive price. We all know that Barbados in all of its economic activity cannot compete with a general mass of suppliers. It is by the very nature that our standard of living is such as it is that we have costs in this country which are far higher than in other countries. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central mention a number of areas of expense that Barbadian hoteliers have which he says are higher than anywhere else, but one of the great ones he does not mention because knowing, the Honourable

Member for St Michael South Central, he would have us believe that he is one of those who does not believe that wages cost in Barbados is a major contributing factor to the costs that we have. That is a fact. If you analyse the cost of hotels in Barbados in relation to the rest of the Caribbean, you will see that the proportion of income that we pay in Barbados as wages is higher than the rest of our competitors.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I am not talking about Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will probably have a higher percentage than we have, but certainly in relation to all of our competitors you will find that.

The other points made by the Honourable Member are quite valid, insurance, land tax and other things. This is the kind of information, Sir, that policy makers must have if they are going to have a sensible policy in relation to how we are going to project our tourism. It is my belief, based upon hundreds of interviews now with tourists who come to Barbados, that we have some very strong pluses that we do not exploit. It is a fact that if you talk to all the tour operators, or the vast majority of them, they will tell you that visitor satisfaction to Barbados is exceedingly high. They will tell you that despite the price visitors have to pay, that overall the general view is that when they come to Barbados they are coming to a civilised country, a country that has traditions of which they can be proud, and they are coming to a country in which they can intermingle with a general feeling of safety with the people who live in that country. That is a major place. They will tell you when they go to some other destinations in the Caribbean they feel that they are protected, in some cases by the Army, in other cases by the fact that they are placed in a situation in which there is little contact with the local people, other than the people who work in the hotels.

We have also to remember that because of the geographic contour of Barbados we in truth and in fact have three tourism enclaves. 5.50 p.m.

You have the West Coast, you have the centre of the Island and the South Coast, and the rest of the coast is shared by all. The East Coast and the coastal area from Bridgetown to St. Lucy is shared by all the rest. We have built up a variety of attractions which makes a holiday in Barbados something that is enjoyable.

Now it is my view that not enough emphasis is placed by our marketing strategists on that fact. That allows us to sell in the market place a category of person who is interested in that. As a matter of fact it happens to be

the professional classes in the United States of America who like it. Therefore what I feel is that the direction that we have to take now for sure is to make sure that we revise and revisit the general way in which we market Barbados.

We must for another reason look at this. We have been very successful in the United Kingdom and in Europe in attracting visitors from those areas. If one looks at the statistics starting from 1982 you will see that there has been a steady growth from Europe of 21 000 to 65 000. In the United Kingdom from 51 000 to a high in 1992 of over 100000.

Something has happened to us that the Canadian market has declined from approximately 60 000 to 49 000 and the United States market consistently since 1987 when we reached a peak of 175 000 is down to 100 010. So it is in North America that we have suffered mostly. I am quoting from the 1992-93 Report from the Tourism Authority. Many Honourable Members have previously identified the fact that something has gone wrong with our appeal in North America.

It behooves us therefore to do an analysis of what placed us in this position. I believe that there are combinations of factors. I believe the loss of Eastern, the loss of Pan Am and the general paltry state of the finances of airlines is a factor. I believe also that insufficient attention has been paid by our tourism strategists to the fact that where in Europe there is a well developed structure of tour operators in the United States and in Canada that structure is not in existence to the same extent

There have been tremendous changes in the wholesaler tour operator relationship in Canada and in the United States of America and effort was made to try to attract to Barbados a number of charter operators from the United States of America and from Canada. This year, for reasons which I am sure the Honourable Minister will be able to tell us as a result of his examination, we have lost those tour operators. That's a very serious thing.

I notice that the Minister and the Board, despite what the Honourable Members on the other side say - the Honourable Members on the other side are trying to give the impression that nothing has happened in tourism since the Barbados Labour Party came into office but that is far from the truth. The reality is that strenuous efforts were made to salvage for this winter season some of those tour operators and also taking place right now in Barbados is something that used to take place in the past but for many years I have not been able to read that they are taking place.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: No. He is not the house joker. The position is that there is a Congress which is taking place here in Barbados between tour operators and wholesalers, airlines and the Tourism Authority so that an analysis and frank discussions can take place as to how to get the United States market moving again. That is something that has not taken place for a long period of time. That is something that should be part of an annual exercise and should not only be confined to the United States market. Something should be done with the Canadian market. Something should be done with the European market.

To me that sends a signal that there is some identification of some of the problems that we have. I also want to say, and I say it quite openly, that my own view is that we have to make sure very quickly that we understand and appreciate the fact that the Dominican Republic and Cuba are really and truthfully as far as the South Coast in Barbados is concerned our very serious competitors. German tour operators and others will tell you, those who went to the recent fair in Berlin would tell you, that all over Europe people are telling you that they can get the equivalent of what they regard as a four star hotel in Europe for US\$25 a day all year round. Cuba has made arrangements with nearly every leading chain in Europe to build hotels and hand them over to these chains for management and the Government is putting up the capital. This is something that we have to face reality.

It is impossible for Barbados, given our hotel plant, to be able to compete at that level. That does not mean that there is not a market out there for our type of tourism. So I just want to underscore the point that we are in a position in which serious decisions have to be taken and these decisions relate to the structure of how we manage our tourism ministry, how we manage our tourism board and how we use the assets that we have in existence in Barbados at the present moment.

I am going to come back on a few other areas.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: The Member for Christ Church South was correct when he talked about the situational analysis in North America, when he talked about the air lifts, and to add to that, the problems Barbados had in North America where tourism was concerned was the amount of cheap, domestic flights that were being offered in North America and to Europe.

At the same time, Barbados has steadily lost its share of U.S. visitors to the region to new and merging markets. This has been taking place at a time when U.S. visitors to the region have been on the increase. The destinations that have been having the increases are Cuba, Mexico and the Dominican Republic and the other Latin American countries.

At a time these have been gaining ground in popularity, especially during the winter season. 6.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, also giving Barbados stiff competition are Jamaica and St. Lucia because of one the price and the second thing the all-inclusive package. I have a problem with the all-inclusive package in totality. I believe that one or two of our hotels in Barbados should be allowed - some have been allowed - to offer all-inclusive packages.

Now, my problem with that, Sir, is (1) - where if you have a hotel that is registered overseas and the product is sold overseas, I am not sure if the exchange would ever reach Barbados. Secondly, I am concerned about the small business people like the people in Baxter's Road and the small shops around the corner because when these all-inclusive packages are sold, the people come to the hotel, they eat, sleep, do everything there. They have tours and everything organised for them.

Down at Heywood, Sir, I saw a room and it is called "Enid's", giving the impression that when people go overseas and they say "I went to Enid's" they would think it is the same Enid's that we have on Baxter's Road. That is my reason for saying that I am against the all-inclusive.

Mr. Chairman, the main problem of Barbados tourism in North America lies in the marketing concept. Some time ago the Minister mentioned about increasing its sales people on the ground and I thought that was a fantastic idea. There are many forms of advertising. You have radio, newspaper, television, seminars and the one on one contact, or a direct approach. We in the Barbados Labour Party have to realise that this product is the product that keeps Barbados afloat. It is our main foreign exchange earner. As the Minister said, it creates jobs for over 22 000 persons in this country and we have to be very careful how we manage this project.

I believe that out of the money we have been spending on advertising that we could look at putting some of this money into some big television programme. Now, I am not into advertising but I believe that we can look at - take for instance, the Oprah Winfrey show. That is a show that is watched by millions and millions of people throughout the world. I believe that our advertising people should be given some money to say, "Look we are going to approach the people who host that show and see if we can do something to market Barbados on that show". It might take us a couple of dollars well, no small amount of money, but I think it would be money well spent.

As I said, it goes to millions and millions of viewers throughout the world. It is the No. 1 show in North America so I feel that is one of the areas in which we should be spending some money.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael East saying that there were four persons over four years ago marketing in the USA and were giving Barbados over 100 000 visitors a year so he does not see why the same four persons could not do it now but he must realise that the competition for tourists out there is greater now with the new emerging countries that are offering tourism products to these North American people.

Mr. Chairman, I want to take a look at the Sherbourne Centre. I do not want to be blaming people for mismanagement and that kind of thing because I guess it doesn't always make sense. You have to throw it at them every now and again. But I believe we should now take Sherbourne Centre and try and market that as a destination for conferences in Barbados. Make it a marketing destination throughout the world to big countries that have their conferences in the Caribbean and are always looking for some new destination to carry their yearly conference.

Sir, I believe that we have to market it because it is millions and millions of dollars lying down doing nothing. We should try and find some money not to finish it, but where the back part is exposed we should spend about the \$2 million or \$3 million to take out the steel, shut out that part and market it as a conference centre.

The Hilton Hotel, Sir, we should be able to take the Hilton Hotel, refurbish it because it is in a bad shape so that we can get the business people that come for the conferences to stay at that Hotel and then they can be transported from there to the Sherbourne Centre.

Mr. Chairman, I support Head 43. Thank you.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I must say for one moment the lack of restraint thus far on the part of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central when he suggested that we have already chosen a Chief Executive Officer for the Barbados Tourism Authority which is positively not true. I think that we have had a very important and restraint debate thus far. Just let me say, Sir, that I accept that we have to analyse very carefully precisely what factors are responsible for our loss of ground in the United States of America and North America, and in fact, in the marketing North America and the whole United States and Canada.

I think we know for sure what has been responsible for the situation in Canada. We used to have a large number of people from Quebec, French speaking Canada, into Barbados in the 19.70s and early 1980s. That market became very price conscious and very price given and other destinations took over Barbados' position. It is only now affecting the next winter that we are expecting to get into the Quebec market once again.

A few months ago I took the initiative of talking to companies, particularly Air Transact in Quebec, and they have already sent representatives into Barbados who have been speaking to the hoteliers. We are very much expecting to have a programme effective next winter out of Quebec for the first time in many years which will cater to the accommodation needs of the smaller hotels on the South Coast and to a lesser extent, some of the non-luxury Barbadian owned hotels in the Sunset Crest area.

I just want to say in relation to the failure to have a Board of Directors for about six weeks to two months that the question is not whether we had a Board or not but whether Barbados' tourism suffered in the interim. We must ask ourselves always the right questions or else we get the wrong answers. I can say with great confidence that Barbados' tourism did not suffer, that great efforts were made by way of remedial work in preparation for the winter. Specifically when we took office Barbados had lost 5% seating capacity for this winter in relation to last winter. 6.10 p.m.

Immediately, we went to the marketplace and we were able to correct that deficiency to the extent that we started the season with a +4% seating capacity. That was the result of the initiatives which I took, along with my advisers in the Ministry of International Transport

But several airlines both in Europe and in North America...

Aside.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Martinair, no. Burgon Air however was one of the airlines that responded to our attempt to remedy the situation.

In addition to that, I was able to meet the trade abroad and to let them know that there was a new Administration in place, that top priority was being given to tourism in Barbados and that there would be new energy put into the marketplace and that a lot of the practices of the past including not paying some of our partners abroad for extended periods of up to 2 years helped to give us a bad impression, that we would bring an end to that immediately.

I am happy to report that all, as far as I know now, of the persons whom we have owed for a long period have now been paid, including major producers for Barbados like Go-Go in the United States of America and charter operators like Club America and so on.

I accept some of the reasons given for decline in the United States of America. But I think that additional points

have got to be made. The exchange rate enjoyed by destinations such as the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Jamaica, they have all benefitted from low exchange rate with the I/S dollar in terms of pricing and overall packages, coupled with their proximity to the United States of America market, that that has been an important factor. It is difficult to weigh them in terms of 100% but they are all of the contributory factors.

We have to mention too the growth of cruise tourism, particularly out of the United States of America to Barbados and to the area. Because we are all competing both land based tourism and cruise tourism for the same visitor. In some respects when we say we have lost market share out of the United States of America, we have not quite been fair to ourselves because we need to count the amount of US visitors that have come by way of cruise ships.

This point really concerns the Honourable Member for St. Michael West because he has made the point that, in Barbados, hotels contribute to the marketing in a big way. I would say to him that that is not quite true, that that is so in Jamaica where there is a large number of aggressive chains that carry 50% and more of the Jamaican marketing. I am talking about Sandals and Sybanese and Super Club. In Barbados, we have had only three chains over the last many years, Marriott's, Trust Houses Forte and the Hilton and they have not been as aggressive.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: First of all, I may have left the impression that I was talking about a massive promotion by the hotels in Barbados. The point is that the group of west coast hotels have joined together - I am not talking about the chains - and they do their promotion.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Our difference, Mr. Chairman, is a matter of degree. I accept that more is being done now by way of hotels taking on their marketing than was done in the past. But we are nowhere near the situation that obtains in Jamaica where a group of very aggressive chains do more than 50% of the marketing of Jamaica.

The other point that I should like to mention has to do with the internal competition within the United States itself. Many American states particularly those in the south, south east and in the sun belt all present themselves as real competitors to the Caribbean destinations and they have been very successful, in that respect.

I accept the view, generally, that we ought to do an empirical survey by way of diagnostic study. Money has been provided in this year's Estimates to do just that. So that, we are likely to hear what the people on the ground are saying, with respect to Barbados and why they

think that we have lost our share of the market, over the last few years.

The further point has been raised with respect to what I regard as the fundamental challenge and problem in Barbados' tourism. It has to do with our declining competitiveness and declining profitability. If we are to continue to attract investments in the sector, it means that we have got to be more profitable so as to ensure that continuing flow of capital both local and external and it means too that we have got to be more competitive if we are to attract our visitors away from other destinations. The Government has committed itself to addressing that problem, in several ways starting, I hope with the next Budget where, incrementally, we would hope to be so reducing our indirect taxation as to make it far more attractive to operators.

I agree that other issues relating to operational cost have got to be addressed and we would hope that in the course of the life of this Administration that we turn around that situation and make the Barbadian environment much more competitive and much more profitable than it has been, in the past.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South however makes a fundamental point that, at the end of the day, the wage cost in Barbados is a given which we have got to accept. It is not easy to get around that. If we can get more flexibility in the use of labour in the hotel plant, if we can get wage increases more linked to productivity and so on, we can help to offset the disadvantage of high wages cost.

Just let me say that, insofar as empirical work has been done in the marketplace in the United States of America, it seems to reveal that Barbados is not a top of the line destination, as it were. It is not what they call, in the jargon of the trade, a hot destination. In every 10 who are surveyed with respect to a Caribbean destination, only 2, at most, mention Barbados. They mention Jamaica. They mention Mexico. They mention the Bahamas. They mention Cayman Islands. Several others are mentioned before Barbados. It seems to me to suggest that we really have to intensify our marketing efforts.

It is wrong to believe that the situation is as it used to be 10 years ago. Many new destinations have come on stream and they are not only offering attractive new plants at much reduced price, it is \$25, \$30 a night and so on, but we are also spending a lot of money in promotion. It is a fiercely competitive business in a way that it was not 10 years ago.

You only have to go to the fairs either in Earls Court in London in November or at the ITB in Germany a few

weeks ago to get a feel for the intensity of the competition for the tourism dollar, not only in the Caribbean but all over the world. The market is growing. There is a slice of that pie, as it were, for us, if only we get our act together and do the things that we need to do in an effective and efficient way.

I was heartened by the comments of the Honourable Member for St Michael West when he said that Barbados must attract its best people in tourism. This is a dear society. As soon as you try to do what is right and make sure that you get efficiency and professional competence and abandon for a while particularly at the middle and upper reaches ascriptive criteria in determining your appointments, somebody would cry out, "Could dear, do not do so and so to so and so." We have to abandon that and put the national interest first. To that extent I was very much heartened by the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West in that regard.

Europe is, to my mind the great hope for major increases in tourism to Barbados for the future. I think that while we try to recapture the lost ground in the United States of America market that we must also try to put new energy in bringing the European visitor. There are all sorts of advantages there. They are accustomed to long haul flights. They come for 2 weeks and more and they spend money. To that extent we need to intensify our efforts in that area and that is what we are committed to doing in the course of the next year and in the years beyond.

I accept too that, as we go forward, we have to be guided by a strategic plan. The one that we inherited needs to be revised and it is going to take a little time before that is produced, but we need to have a framework that guides and to that extent I accept that we need to have a plan. The environment is so dynamic that we can argue as to whether it will be a three year plan or a five-year plan but whether it is 3-year or 5-year we need to have a plan. That does not mean that within the context of a 3-year or 5-year that we do not have from year to year a plan. 6.20 p.m.

With respect to the need to amend the Act, we have given great thought to that and we hope to be back to Parliament very soon in relation to that. But I can assure you that even though the Act may suggest that I am hobbled I do not feel myself hobbled and I have asked the Board for Cooperation and partnership as we go forward. And even after the Act puts the policy responsibility in the Ministry beyond doubt and in the Minister there is still need for partnership and cooperation. Even though the Act is as it is, I do not feel myself hobbled and I get the cooperation of the Board and we are trying to proceed on the basis of partnership.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South was right too when he said that the Ministry is not as strong as it should be as the lead economic Ministry in the country and we have fallen down. It needs to be conceptually strengthened. It needs to be strengthened in its research and one of the activities and major foci in the course of the year would be precisely to strengthen our research base within the Ministry.

On the whole I am not disheartened because even though we have our difficulties the product is sound and there are a lot of pluses to Barbados' tourism including, as was pointed out by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, the high incidence of repeat visitors. They tell me it is certainly the highest in the Caribbean. When people come to Barbados they leave with a feeling of having had an incomparable experience. It says a lot about our people and about our product and we must keep that so. We are also pursuing very seriously the awareness aspect of the Ministry's responsibility and we are continuing our programmes with the school teachers and with the children and with the public generally.

I think it is important that this debate should conclude with an appreciation by the public and certainly by this House that even though there are difficulties there are a lot of strengths and there is no reason for despair or despondency.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Minister for his intervention and clearly he has demonstrated that he intends to travel along the right road in focusing on what is right and proper development of the tourism network. There are a few questions that I am going to still find it necessary to ask of the Minister and during this intervention I intend to complete the position that was taken by the Democratic Labour Party during our term of office because I would not want the impression to be conveyed that we were not conscious of the decline and that we were indeed focussed on what had to be done because we too recognise on this side that tourism had to play a leading role in the future development of Barbados.

In that regard the Committee that I was speaking about earlier had in fact developed an action plan in the short term to try to address the difficulties and I wanted to make that as part of the record where the recommended action plan by this administration at the time, the main component of it were as follows: that the action plan would be identifying where we are presently positioned and where we would like to be positioned in the future; increasing the visibility of Barbados in the market place and that we had hoped to do by increased marketing; increased television advertising and that is why I have made the request for the additional funding to be provided in this year's estimates so that we would be able to increase the visibility because that

was also our plan; bringing forward of the advertising plans with the cooperation of the Tourism Development Corporation and the hoteliers; commencement of the recruitment of participants for the advertising campaign; the request of increased funding from Government and other tourism funding institutions so that we can develop local awareness programmes and other on the ground programmes that would assist in the development of the product; continuation of research already started by the Barbados Tourism Authority and the sharing of relevant information with hoteliers. The following recommendations were also made, Sir, that the marketing arm of the Barbados Tourism Authority should meet with the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association president and the Tourism Development Corporation to fine tune the advertising of Barbados and make it relative to the point which is what the Member said he is going to do.

The other recommendation was made that hotel employees be trained in information collection from guests as a matter of course the format to be followed in this exercise to be produced by the Barbados Tourism Authority. So there were a number of plans and a plan of action that were available to the Minister and I think that there was an ongoing effort to keep the industry revitalised and so forth.

I am concerned, Sir, of reports that there is some concern relative to wages of the workers in the hotel sector because I am aware that many of the persons who are employed in the tourism industry and in particular the hotel network are not necessarily high paid employees, the bulk of them. What we find happening is that there are several managers who we can hear reports work and have salaries in excess of \$26 000 a month and \$30 000 a month. There is something fundamentally wrong with the profit sharing mechanism that is presently in operation and there must be a fair distribution of the profits that are available to the industry but I do not accept that the wages of the workers should be interfered with.

I believe that the workers in the network in Barbados are probably the highest skilled and some of the most pleasant people you can meet anywhere in the region. They are to be highly congratulated because if you examine surveys, Mr. Chairman, about the quality of work produced by the workers in the hotel industry you would find that in 99% of the cases they are referred to as being excellent workers and we must be conscious of that fact.

Now, speaking about the workers it would be remiss of us on this side if we did not take this opportunity to congratulate those persons who were responsible for the magnificent increase in cruise ship arrivals over the last 5 to 7 years. Sir, that effort cannot go unrecognised. There were a number of people involved in the Port that must

be highly congratulated for their promotional efforts and assisting in the development of the cruise ship network. It has been a phenomenal increase of over some 350 000 persons and we are coming from a position of about 100 000 just seven or eight years ago. Those workers who were responsible for the marketing of the cruise ship terminals must be highly congratulated. That has to some extent rescued the economy of Barbados because I agree with the Minister, if you marry the fall out from the long stay visitors what we would have picked up in terms of the increase in the cruise ship passengers may in fact be a balancing point and in fact there may be increases. 6.30 p.m.

There are two other points in terms of getting our product right, Mr. Chairman. One has to do with the local awareness programme which forms part of the Estimates. The local awareness programme is not a new programme and when the Democratic Labour Party was in office we developed a number of public service advisories which were 30-second TV commercials where we were seeking to address and to marry the local Barbadian to making them aware of their responsibility to the development of tourism. I think you recall, Minister, the fillers that we had. It was a very successful programme and we had tremendous difficulty working with CBC to allocate time to have those aired on television. Even though the CIS had slots, we had to use up the CIS time. I believe that in the interest of Barbados all of that foolishness about CBC saying you cannot put this on and it is repetitive, it had an impact. We have to iron that out and we must clear up between CBC, the Board, CIS or whoever to make sure that those fillers are once again returned to the screen. They are very useful. Mr. Chairman, you were part of the exercise at that time.

Now, in terms of getting the product right, there has been a lot of comment about the local product. We have as a matter of policy, if we are to address the quality of the product we are offering, to pay some attention to the hotels that are in trouble, and particularly the small hotels, that are unable to do their own marketing, that are in a state of dilapidation, are indebted to the National Bank, *et cetera*. We had planned, with the introduction of the VAT which was supposed to come of stream by April, that we would have given a zero rating or an exemption to those properties to make sure that they are able to reserve some capital so that they would be able to use their savings to do their refurbishing and to keep their product competitive. I would like to hear the Minister's comments in regard to what the new Government plans to do as far as that is concerned when the VAT is introduced. These are questions that I need to ask at this time, because we certainly would want to know.

In relation to the hotel plant, I know that the Honourable Minister has had some desire to have casinos

introduced into the hotel plant in Barbados, and I am sure that the Minister would advise the Honourable House about his position and how he views the Commission and all these citizens that are now set up, because I am sure that the Minister is also mindful of the competitive base within the region and he may want to stress his position on the introduction of casinos into Barbados. I am very open on it, Sir, but I would also like to hear the Minister to see if he has adjusted his position as far as the introduction of casinos is concerned.

Let me deal briefly with the support of small properties, because if we are talking in terms of getting the product right we have to get it right. The Honourable Minister of Finance at the time, the Honourable David Thompson, indicated that at no time were the small hoteliers advised that we had an interest in that Fund in an effort to support them, and I am going to read from his speech, a feature address at the Annual General Meeting of the Barbados Hotel Association. He is not even aware that I have pulled this speech from my file.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: You would not know that I have this file, but I do not throw away anything to do with tourism. Anything to do with tourism I file. This is what the Honourable Minister, David Thompson, said at the time, and it is on page 11 of his speech:

"To enhance the quality of the product to be offered, the Government is in the process of establishing a high level committee to advise on the most effective and equitable use of funds obtained from the divestment of public assets. These funds have been secured to finance the refurbishment of our hotel plant and to provide the loans and equity capital for small scale enterprises under the Public Enterprise Investment Fund Act, 1993. We are now in receipt of enough funds from privatisation to make some of the initial investments, and I am about to formally establish the advisory committee."

This was a speech that was made and he went on to speak about the marketing strategy that should be adopted to assist those small properties, and I think the Honourable Prime Minister would be well advised to turn his attention to the Ministry and to check out the speeches made by the Honourable Member for St. John.

A lot has been said about the tourism network, Sir, and I want to just turn my* attention briefly. . . How much time do I have, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two more minutes.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I want to turn my attention briefly to the Airport. I am glad that in these Estimates there is some provision made for the refurbishment of the Airport, because we are getting a large number of problems and a lot of negative feedback about the condition of the toilets at the Airport. I know that the management at the Airport tries very hard with limited resources. I am fully aware of it, and it is clear that the Arrival Hall has outlived its usefulness and there is serious confusion with the advent of the tour operators when they are facilitating arriving passengers, and if by chance there is heavy rainfall or, as we have almost every week, a large number of passengers who are being soaked outside the Arrival Hall when they are queuing and making preparations to board coaches and so forth. I hope that the plans for the extension of the Arrival Hall that were left in place by the Democratic Labour Party progress without much delay, because some situations up there are untenable. I think the Minister would want to turn his attention to that

I am going to return to this Head, but I want to deal when I return with the NCC and then with the environment. We want to ask some questions about the Environmental Unit, the policy decisions that are being made in light of the advent of Greenland, the proposed landfill, because we have some concerns about it. I will be raising it under the Environment and again under Health, because we will talk about garbage for a long time.

Mr. Chairman, I will return and I would like to thank you for the few minutes.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, on both occasions that the Honourable Minister for Tourism spoke on this matter, I found myself taking some jottings behind him. 6.40 p.m.

Indeed, regardless of how non-confrontational and even apologetic he appears to be to the other side, I could not help but conclude that tourism in the first half of the last financial year did have a fairly bumpy ride. That is what I concluded. It is clear from what he said, and he actually used the term that at one stage Barbados had a bad image abroad. The figures show that there was \$28 million voted for tourism last year and then the Minister came back earlier in this term for an additional \$4 million, a large part of which went towards payment of arrears. Now it is not what I want to comment on because I believe that officers should know that any country which cares about its international reputation, not only as a tourist destination but also as a credit worthy nation, should make every effort to pay its arrears and to ensure that those officers do not sully the reputation of Barbados in international circles.

You had, according to the Minister, a situation where two years had elapsed and a lot of the people who did

work for Barbados overseas had not been paid. That was a very sad situation and the vibes that he got was that we are not serious about tourism. I believe, Sir, that the non-payment of that debt was in a large way responsible for the sluggish performance of Barbados overseas. Some of us may want to say that these arrears were not substantial, but I believe that it is not so much the amount of arrears that was in question but some people had been owed as much as US\$200 000.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Yes, it is the way in which the reputation was sullied abroad. That's what I am concerned about. Regardless of how we look at it, those debts were incurred on behalf of tourism. Those debts were incurred on behalf of Barbados, on behalf of the advancement of our product. All successive governments have seen the need to advertise Barbados and promote Barbados abroad.

It is only fair, Sir, that those debts should have been paid. I am talking about the people who were there and did absolutely nothing to pay off the debts because they were concentrating on other things. There was a lot of political gymnastics going on and they were not paying their debts. That is what I am talking about. The tour operators were owed, the people who offered supplies were owed, the people promoting Barbados were owed. That is the point which I am making.

I think that we have to commend the Minister of Tourism for the swift way in which he brought the supplementary to see that those debts were wiped off and that we could start new strategies on tourism again.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is seeking to convey that the Barbados Labour Party inherited a situation where bills were just simply not paid. A lot of the consultants and a lot of the advertising people who work on behalf of the Board are given a retainer fee which they draw on a monthly basis and then they are able to bring the account to books. At the end of the year, that payment is sometimes delayed because it may be larger or, in some instances, they may not even owe anything at all.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: What I am going to get to now is not so much the appointment but the exit of the Chief Executive Officer because I understood members on the other side to say that that particular point has been beaten time and time again. My Ministry has responsibility for Labour and indeed, one of the main focal points has to be the employer/employee relationship. It is from this perspective that I want to deal with that issue of the appointment and then the exit of the Chief Executive Officer.

This poor gentleman, Sir, was appointed in the midst of what I call political gymnastics and he could never have been comfortable under those circumstances. I believe that he was haunted time and time again by questions like "How did I get this job? Why am I here." Questions like, "Am I here because of merit" would have been running through his mind time and time again.

He had to interface with people who had openly criticised the manner of his appointment almost on a daily basis. Psychologically, Sir, he was underpressure. With the best will in the world he could not have been happy in that position. With the best will in the world he was doomed to failure. Those who had given him the job and who should have made his life easy had virtually thrown him into a very hostile situation, in all types of political chaos. I would not worry to recap the one, two, three Ministers and that type of thing.

The ILO always speaks about putting employees into comfortable environment so that they can operate properly, an environment which is pleasing and which is amenable. If you put an employee into a hostile situation you are doing just the opposite and that is exactly what happened to him. What happened in the end was inevitable. He did the correct thing for his own protection and the honourable thing to do.

I do not think that the present Administration even comes near to being criticised or anything of the sort. The pressure was put on him from the very beginning. The pressure was put on him at the very appointment. That is where the pressure was. Indeed, earlier when the Honourable Member for St. Michael South spoke in here this evening he said that he was teaching lessons and I would hope and pray that one of the lessons that he learnt was that no way again should there be political interference at that level in any appointment in Barbados. That is what I hope is one of the lessons that he learnt from that experience. 6.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to comment on another point made by the Honourable Minister which dealt with the appointment of the 25 auxiliaries abroad. I believe that the use of those sales auxiliaries is a step in the right direction. I firmly think that we need a bit of aggressive marketing for Barbados. I am appalled that sometimes when you are overseas, or even when you turn on your television to see STV that we can see places like the Cayman Islands, and Bermuda being advertised but we cannot see anything about Barbados. You go overseas and you turn your TV on and you can see all the Bermudas, all the Cayman Islands, and so on and you do not see Barbados being advertised.

Mr. Chairman, I recall a few years ago there was a fiasco when Barbados was advertised as the destination but I think it was the Bermuda model, if I remember it correctly, that was used to advertise Barbados. It was an embarrassment to us, to say the least. I believe we want to avoid such a thing happening again. I believe to have these auxiliaries would mean that they would try their best to advertise Barbados as a unique destination because I believe that what happened on that occasion was that Bermuda was used in the way you would use it for almost any other place. You just use one back drop. Perhaps the people did not even know whether or not there was a difference between Barbados and Bermuda. Therefore, this type of control to have your own people would mean that Barbados would be given better promotion than it would have been given in that particular situation.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member is conveying the impression that the use of the Bermuda picture was some distortion of Barbados or something like that. An error was committed at the time by the then Manager of the USA.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: A point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading giving the impression that it did some degree of damage to Barbados. It was a simple picture of a lady and a gentleman sitting by a bannister and you could not tell whether it was Barbados, Bermuda or Timbucktoo. A lot of that happens in the advertising media. Pictures of Barbados are used to advertise all the other islands. It happens from time to time. It was a genuine error of which Mr. Hugh Riley at the time apologized for...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to note that he cannot call...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Sorry, I withdraw that. The Acting Manager of the USA at the time. It was a simple error and it could have occurred. It was not a distortion of Barbados.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: The point I am making, Sir, is that the use of these auxiliaries will prevent such a simple error as being put by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East from occurring again. This is what we hope.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I wanted to say a bit on sports tourism but indeed what I will do is to come back tomorrow and speak.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN

reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported to the House accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow, Wednesday, March 22, 1995.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. Wednesday, March 22, 1995 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee of Supply we are resuming from yesterday - Ministry of Tourism.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to continue along the lines that I was speaking with respect to my own views on what is necessary for the improvement in our performance in the tourism sector and in particular what is necessary to bring relief to that group of hotels which have been described as the South Coast hotels.

It is quite clear, Sir, that we have to take steps as a matter of urgency to improve the profitability of a large set of our tourism plant I would ask the Honourable Minister, as a matter of urgency, to let this House and by extension the public be aware of the fact that two of our largest hotels, namely Heywoods and the Hilton, which were formerly under Government ownership, performed in an unprofitable manner according to my information for many of the last six or seven years.

Recently we had a public statement by the Manager of another large hotel on the South-East Coast, Marriott's, in which the Manager indicated that the earnings of that hotel, in relation to its capital costs, did not exceed 6%. He made it very clear that while Marriott's was interested in selling the hotel they regarded the earnings as being so small that it would be better to place the capital sum in a bank and receive the bank interest. It is quite a serious

matter if your largest hotels in Barbados on the South Coast are performing so poorly that the owners of them are in the position where they feel it is better to dispose of them than to keep them. Something therefore must be radically wrong with our industry and I think it merits an objective examination. I want to say, Sir, that in my view this plant that we have on the South Coast and the South-East Coast is a plant that provides a substantial amount of the accommodation in Barbados and therefore it is our duty to see that it is kept profitable.

I note the comments of Honourable Members in relation to the smaller hotels. It is my view also that the infrastructure, in addition to the hotel plant, on the South Coast needs to be looked at. We have spent a tremendous amount of money between 1976 and 1986 and subsequently between 1986 and now in improving the beaches on the South Coast, all along St. Lawrence, Worthing, Rockley, Oistins and Maxwell, great improvements have taken place with the beaches as a result of Government expenditure.

It is my view that the Government must do all in its power, in conjunction with the hoteliers and other interested parties, to ensure that the golf course at Durants is reopened. Another golf course on the South-East Coast of Barbados in conjunction with the two on the West Coast would play an important part, in my opinion, in improving the attractiveness of Barbados. There is no question about that.

They tell me, Sir, that to be a golfing destination you must have at least four eighteen hole golf courses because people who come to spend a week do not wish to play at the same course all the time. Part of the attraction is that they go around and play at different courses. That is what people tell me.

It is also important that the Ministry of Tourism continues to take the lead in ensuring that the general environment in the tourism areas, as well of course in the rest of Barbados, is up to mark. An important part of the function of the National Conservation Commission is to ensure that beach accesses and beach facilities are kept in good condition and improved. We have a serious problem developing in which attempts are being made to encroach upon traditional beach accesses in Barbados. We have the problem on the West Coast and on the South Coast.

Now when I was Minister of Tourism, Sir, in conjunction with the then Parks and Beaches Commission and the Research Department in the Ministry of Tourism and Town Planning Department a map was prepared of each and every private and public access in Barbados all around the coast and constant attention was paid to the debushing of the accesses to ensure that they were not havens for bag snatchers and things of that kind. They were clearly identified to the public. Part of the

structural adjustment programme and the impact of the industrial programme has impinged on this. All around Maxwell there are accesses leading from Maxwell Main Road across Maxwell Gardens down to Maxwell Coast Road, down to the beach and...

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: The map is of the whole island there is no question about that. Sir, I want to mention a very sore point with me. We have had an elaborate plan for the development of St. Lawrence Gap. 10.10 a.m.

There can be no doubt about it, that if properly developed the St. Lawrence Gap area can be a source of pride and great attraction for Barbados. Listen to people who come to Barbados and who tell you one of the things they like about it is their capacity to walk up and down that gap and to participate in all the activities therein.

I was the one who took the decision, against a lot of opposition among the hoteliers at that time, to make St. Lawrence Gap a one-way street. They even called a meeting trying to persuade me not to do it and threatening me, but in my judgement, after all the consultation, it was the right thing and I am sad to see that that has been so successful that indiscipline is now coming into the area and all kinds of economic opportunists are attempting to encroach upon the public rights and the amenities of the citizens in that area. We have serious problems in that area and we cannot sweep them under the carpet.

We have a problem of noise pollution. I am sorry the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is not here. During the election campaign when we were canvassing parts of that area where our constituents were, the hostility was so great we had to hold a special meeting for the people in St. Lawrence Village and those areas when they were telling you about the impact of developments taking place in that area, without consideration of their rights. It is the duty of the Government to be strong enough to reconcile the conflicting interests, irrespective of whether it makes you unpopular with ZLP, BLP or DLP. I do not care. The point is if you come to a conclusion of what is right, in the interest of the general mass of people you must be strong enough to deal with it. Something has to be done about that area.

Aside..

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is foolishness. That is a monstrosity and as a result of manoeuvring... I will keep my peace on that. I have already written to the Prime Minister as Minister of Planning and to the Minister of Housing and Lands. I have already written to everybody

and my position is very clear. That is an amenity for the people of Barbados who live in that area and for the thousands that come there. It is not to be bastardised by the erection of something that has no place there. There is absolutely no doubt about that. My views are very clear.

I would like to see a comprehensive plan for St. Lawrence Gap in which there are specific areas devoted for people who fry fish, who fry chicken and things of that kind. I went to Singapore and I saw how the Government of Singapore lays out areas with proper water, proper toilet facilities and properly landscaped so that small people can sell there. Barbados has reached that stage. The Government should have money to acquire a piece of land in St. Lawrence Gap to have a proper food area so that people can go there and it would be recognised. They have no right having people trying to encroach on playing fields to do that. There is sufficient land in that area belonging to the Government to have it encroached.

I want to remind Honourable Members that it was during a Labour Party administration that we laid out on the sea side at Dover a proper series of stalls. The Democratic Labour Party during their period of time neglected the vendors' stalls in Dover and those stalls need refurbishing. All in all, what I am saying is that we have the opportunity through action by the Government, in co-operation with other interests, to enhance the environment.

As I sit down, Sir, I repeat the position that I have tried very clearly to convey in the course of this speech. Barbados cannot compete with the mass cheap destinations in the Caribbean. We have to continue to emphasise in all of our efforts that we are a destination of quality, of diversity, that can reach all pockets. Therefore, all of our infrastructure must be kept at the highest level and we must not allow opportunists who are interested in the fast buck, and others who are selfish, who want to create private enclaves in the form of beaches with restricted access... At the same time we must remember that we must balance the rights. I have absolutely no problem with anyone trying to exploit to the full potential any land that they have in St. Lawrence, Dover, Maxwell, Enterprise, but they must in their activities understand that just as they have rights to exploit the potential of their land, there are other neighbours who have rights too in the form that they are entitled to a peaceful night's rest.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, there is much in what the Honourable Member has just said which will provide the Minister with sufficient food for thought as not to warrant repetition.

I wish to refer to an aspect of the discussion which ensued yesterday dealing with conventions and the Sherbourne Centre. You know, Sir, one of the

mysteries about life in this country is that there are some people who are able to take something that is invalid or untrue, put it up as a theorem and then proceed for the next two years to use it as the base of their exposition in public affairs. In this Honourable Chamber in a debate two or three weeks ago, or a month ago, in the course of discussion of Sherbourne I indicated that if Barbados was going to get part of the convention business that is out there in the world, Barbados would have to plan for it well into the 21st century.

I first indicated that I was not accepting the figure which the Minister had thrown out as the cost for Sherbourne, but we did not spend any time on that because that is a political divide. But I made the point that until the Sherbourne Centre came into our market place we could not discuss serious promotion or serious conventions to Barbados. I went on to say, and I repeat now, Sir, that we are discussing it seriously, that if we are going into the 21st century and if we are going to be attacking the convention market, we have to look very seriously at providing additional convention space. There is no reason why, for example, the property that was Heywoods, that has now been developed, to the north of that property the piece of land which at the moment lies fallow could not be utilized. It would seem to me - and I have had enough experience in this field that I can speak with some authority - that the logical development, if Almond Beach is to become a property that is going to be profitable in the same context which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South spoke, it has to move a certain number of people through its doors annually. It must! Otherwise, they will only be spinning top in mud. Almond Beach and the other hotels that are in the north, when the new highway is opened, will want to have activity going on in the north. I heard the Prime Minister discussing how he wants the cruise ships to stop at Speightstown. I think that is desirable. There are other facilities which he will need at Speightstown, and I am not sure that they are sending the right signals, they seem to be stopping and starting, they are shutting off one kind of facility and discussing another, but that is a different point. 10.20 a.m.

If the North is to be developed, there has to be sufficient convention capacity in the North so that it can attract groups.

Mr. Chairman, in the United States, on an ongoing basis, the incentives which are given to people who work in major companies include almost invariably a visit to some convention cities where they can charge the cost of their vacation as a tax write off. Now if Barbados is to rival Jamaica in this respect it will have to have convention facilities that go beyond a mere Sherbourne. That seems to me to be such a simplistic and straightforward observation

that it ought not to merit the kind of foolishness which passes as an editorial in one of the newspapers in this country which attacks it as a laughable idea. I suppose, Sir, we have to put up with all kinds of things in a democracy and putting up with the editorials of the *Advocate* is one of the things that help to keep democracy going. If nothing else, it tells you what we ought not to have and so we can continue in that vein for a little while.

Sir, I am interested to hear the Minister give a little more detail about the marketing plan which is envisaged for Sherbourne and, by extension, Dover. I would also like to say in passing that I am having a little difficulty with these Estimates as they have been presented. It is impossible to tell, for example, from these Estimates what revenue if any was made from the government owned entities. I see that we are going to give Sherbourne a million dollars But it is impossible to look at these estimates and know.

I don't know how he is going to hand one million dollars to BTIC to handle Sherbourne and Dover and all of these in the context of what I am discussing. If you are going to promote conventions, we are coming in at the ground floor and there is a lot of work which has to be done. There is a lot of money which has to be spent.

You cannot promote conventions in the same way as you promote hotels. You cannot say "sun and sea". You have to demonstrate one on one, almost one on group, what it is we have. What facilities do we offer? What incentives do we give? What movement of people from the airport to the hotel? What other facilities will be available and what will we actually be giving to those who come here for conventions.

We have to get the religious people in Barbados, all of the Baptists, all of the Anglicans, and all the Catholics to tell their people in the rest of the world that they should come to Barbados to have their functions, but that cannot be done in the same way as we can do the broad advertising to tell people to come to Barbados generally. There has to be specific marketing programmes and I would like the Minister, if he doesn't mind, to give us some indication of how his BTIC and other institutions will be tackling this business of conventions.

Sir, I don't think that most people in Barbados understand that tourism promotion is itself a specialty. You cannot apply what goes into the market that is seeking up-scale people the same things for down-scale people. If you are looking for convention business, you have to have a different kind of scale altogether. The promoters for conventions have to be paid and the other thing we have to do is to get some promoters here in Barbados working at the facility.

There are some people who believe that if you put a watchman and 4 guards and 2 maids that the place is staffed. However, they are people who have degrees in convention management. I believe in one of my travels through the United Kingdom I met a Barbadian woman who in fact is a specialist in conventions. I wrote a letter to the Minister of Tourism indicating that the two of them should get together because we were in the process of looking at the Sir Garfield Sobers complex, Dover Convention and Sherbourne. I would make the recommendation too that those 3 institutions ought to fall under the same umbrella of management Not management *per se*, but policy decisions. Again that is a matter for the Government to determine but it seems to me that those 3 institutions together with any other convention space - you can take the 500 rooms at Marriott's and I suppose you could call that convention - but there ought to be a specialist brochure prepared for Barbados dealing with conventions because it is lucrative business.

Mr. Chairman, anyone who observes the amount of effort that is made by cities in North America and the rest of the world to go to sporting institutions to argue for, to promote, to beg, to cajole to get them to bring the particular event to their city, anyone who is only remotely familiar with that, will begin to understand that we are at the tip of a massive iceberg that can be of assistance to Barbados as long as we approach it well. There are some people, I think well meaning people, who are not familiar with this kind of creative approach to development who will see this as a waste of time and a waste of money but anyone who is engaged in a business of selling knows that you have to prospect, you have to lay out some money a long time before you start to get the fruits.

As a matter of fact, Honourable Members in this House know what I am talking about as well as anybody else. There are large numbers of people in Barbados who believe that it is easy to get to the House of Assembly; if they run, they will get in, but it is only the 900 who ran in the last 15 years who didn't get their deposits back, who can tell them that it is not easy. They have to work very hard to get into the House of Assembly. They have to be able to face insults and smile and move on. The Honourable Members know that it is not easy and it is the same thing with almost anything that is beneficial.

If we are to get the benefit from convention business we cannot pretend that Sherbourne is something like a rum shop, that the fellows must step in the shop anyhow so we don't have to go and tell anybody that there is a rum shop on the corner. Sherbourne and Dover and those places are special, and we have to have medium and long-term planning, not only for them but what else we are going to put with them.

In recent times, there has been some fun in the newspapers about the trams. I have no doubt that before this debate is finished we may even have a little political expertise on both sides and you know, Sir, that when expertise is being exchanged on both sides, it comes from a different perspective. The fact is that those trams are among the most difficult things to produce anywhere. There is nobody who produces trams on a daily basis. There is no company that produces trams.

We had to go and search for this fellow and get him to do an adaptation of something because the trams are different from anything anybody has ever required anywhere in the world. When you find where the man works. He is one of these eccentrics who decides when he is going to work, if he is going to work and how he is going to work. He is not accustomed to any Government. The point I am making is that finding the trams and getting them and making sure that they are safe and understanding how you have to use them suggests to me that we now have to buy 2 more trams not for immediate use but to allow us to be sure that we have trams for the Cave almost in perpetuity so that we can do proper maintenance.

Mr. Chairman, do you know, one of the problems in this country in the public sector is that they do not believe in planning, no matter all the lip service that everybody pays to it? They think that planning is something to be discussed in a room and when you leave the room that is the end of the planning. Very often, you can go through these Estimates and find this same kind of approach. Very often, there is no provision made for the next 10 years. Each person who comes to the issue is like Christopher Columbus, re-inventor of the wheel. We get the debates year after year in which we say things over and over again. 10.30 a.m.

I will give you an example, Sir. The Honourable Member said he prepared a map when he was Minister.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If it were bad you would get the blame so let me say you did it. The Honourable Member said his Ministry prepared a map. I have to tell you. I took over from him, if I remember correctly, as Minister of Tourism. I have never seen the map. I never heard about it. I did not know it was in existence. That may be my fault. It may prove that I was not careful. The point is I believe what happened is that when the Honourable Member had gone that programme and plan he had that was like a module that one went too, I had to start from scratch with a new module. Fortunately the module we used was successful.

Do you understand the point I am making, Sir? There is a lack of continuity. The only thing that is continuous is the Government. The Government trudges on no matter who is the Government. It happens. It continues. We talk about the same things. We quarrel about the same things and it continues. Another group does the same thing.

I hope that the Minister will give us some information on the convention development programme. I hope he will spend some time and give me some details on what profits, if any, the TIC made. I am particularly interested in the Dover Convention because we invested \$3 million in the Dover Convention Centre in 1986. I would like to know what kind of return it has had, if any. The reports which come out usually are late. All reports are late and by the time one gets them they are not useful. I believe the Minister probably has some information.

I would want to talk about some other things under the Head but for now that is what I wish to address.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, to continue from where I left off yesterday evening, I would want to refocus my attention immediately on the Airport and then I want to resort to the development of the South Coast Project with regard to the hotels, *et cetera*.

At the Airport, Sir, we have made the point over and over again that there are a number of problems. The Airport clearly seems to have reached the stage where it is outliving its usefulness in terms of its capacity to accommodate the arrivals at the Airport. What is my view, and has always been my view, and I will continue to lobby is that the Airport itself, even though it needs to be expanded, as I have indicated and I understand there will be additional parking aprons and so forth, there are some fundamental functioning problems at the Airport, not necessarily to deal only with the arrival of passengers but I would try to explain them very briefly.

The cargo facilities at the Airport where a large quantity of foodstuff is imported into Barbados has a major problem in the sense that importers of perishable goods into this country through the Airport have a serious problem because of the lack of cold stage facilities at the Airport. This is a problem that must be addressed in the short-term. It is an area I have been lobbying for a long time even when we were in Government, I have to confess. I think we did not satisfy what is required in the area because you would appreciate the danger of having perishable foodstuff exposed to the elements for extended periods. It can become a health risk. I am going to ask the Government to continue to focus on correcting that anomaly we have at the Airport in that regard.

I also feel, Sir, apart from the refurbishment of the VIP rooms and all these other facilities that are there at the Airport, that the Airport should be deemed an area for activities for vending. Right now on the Mezzanine floor there is a lot of dead space. I think we can create a lot of new opportunities for vending, trading and the artists to display their work. I think we have to utilise the space at the Airport.

I think that you would appreciate, Sir, as most Honourable Members in the House would, that wherever you travel all over the world airport space is very valuable. The actual floor space in any part of the airport in the terminal is very valuable. I find that we as a country would be able to benefit by additional revenue if we are able to utilise that space and relax the rigid controls that we place on the Airport Manager. I think we should give the Airport Manager some flexibility and let him determine what kinds of appropriate activity should be conducted in that area at the Airport.

Now, I do not have a lot of time and I understand they want to go on to the other debate but there are still a number of things I need to say and one or two positions I want to respond to in relation to what the Honourable Minister said yesterday.

I would deal first of all with what the Honourable Minister said when he made a comment, and I was not quite sure what he was referring to, when he spoke of the high wage cost in the hotel sector. He expressed the view that there might be a need for labour flexibility in the tourism industry. I was not quite sure what he meant in light of the fact that already in the industry there is significant flexibility in term of the workers.

I will give you a few examples and maybe you could respond to them for me. At present there exists a three-shift system where workers are asked to function at three different periods in any one day that is presently in place in Barbados. There is a two-shift system that is already in place. There is a situation where we have workers who are only involved in the industry on weekends. There are instances where workers only come in for special events. If they are going to have a party, dinner, a wedding or an evening of entertainment there are some special people who come in for special events. There are people who are subcontracted to clean and make up beds. There are all kinds of flexibility that is why I was not quite sure where the Honourable Minister was coming from when he spoke about it. Maybe he might want to expand.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Honourable Member is asked to address the Chair.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: We also have week-on and week-off and three-day week flexibility so maybe the Honourable Minister may want to clear up those points for me.

I just want to go back and stress the importance of the development of the hotel plant in Barbados. I have said in this Honourable House during this session already that for development to take place in Barbados there are some fundamental things we have to do. We have to correct the sewerage problem which the Government is attempting to continue that project which was progressed under the last Democratic Labour Party Administration. That is fine. That needs to be done.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members are asked to address the Chair. Members who are sitting will have the opportunity to speak and they can then respond. The Chair will not be tolerating this kind of cross-talk in this House today. There are ways to which one can respond to asides, as Honourable Members who have been here should know.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I did not hear the asides, Sir.

The second question in relation to the development of the South Coast properties is that we have to offer them immediate debt relief because they cannot improve their product unless an arrangement is made to correct that wrong. I am going to stress the reason why I am taking this position. Right now in Barbados there is a large concentration of visitors that are coming from Europe and Germany. 10.40 a.m.

The German market is a very brittle market, in the sense that the German visitors expect to receive exactly what you advertise and promise them that you are going to give them on arrival in Barbados. If, at any time, during their stay in Barbados their laws in Germany protect them, and if it is discovered that, at any stage during their vacation, they are not given what was said they would be given, they have provision where they can force the tour operators to issue refunds to them, I believe that there is a Tribunal or some system where you have to make your case, and you would benefit from a refund.

It is an area that this country is exposed to because the records will indicate that a large number of people are coming to Barbados, finding fault with the system on simple areas, something wrong with the plant, something wrong with the service and, as a result of that, they are documenting their difficulties, going back to the respective destinations and claiming back the cost of their vacation. This is a problem that we have to address.

What we have to be mindful of is that when we say we are offering a product that is satisfactory that we are, indeed, offering a product that can stand the competitive test against any of the other competing destinations. Let us be very, very clear in our understanding that we have to be very careful as we go into the 21st Century about the kind of product we are offering because this business is very brittle business. Any collapse of the tourism industry will see the demise of this entire economy and all the effort that this Democratic Labour Party has put in, over the last 25 years, to develop the tourism industry will come to naught, if we allow it to be degenerated under the Barbados Labour Party. It makes us nervous because when we are in control we know what we have to do and we will have to be like watch dogs guarding it to make sure that there is not this slippage, as far as that is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I want to look at St. Lawrence Gap. I agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South who said that St. Lawrence Gap should be an area of activity, *et cetera*. That is fine. The Honourable Member speaks from two positions. He said yes we should make St. Lawrence Gap a hive of activity and then he complained about the noise. He complained about the restaurant. Then he said that he is going to put some people in there to cook on the street. I do not know where he is going to put them, how he is going to put them, but it seems to upset him. He wants to see it happen. He does not want to see it happen. I am not sure what he really wants to see happen.

The truth is I agree with him. I want to make the point. He stopped short of indicating that the restaurant that started to go up in Dover by the Dover playing field... The press in this country sought to give the impression that the last Administration had given permission for that tent to go up in Dover. At no time, during the term of office while I was the Minister did any Board that I was in charge of give any approval for the erection of any tent at Dover. It is a lie. It is a dishonest position to suggest and...

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: No. I was the Minister of Sports. I was in charge of the Sports Council and it was never, ever agreed upon.

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: It must not be conveyed that we had anything whatsoever to do with that decision.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: But then again, Sir, I am not going along with this hypocrisy because small, black business people need to emerge in Barbados and I think that...

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Not necessarily on a pasture, but we must be very careful how we seek to castigate people and discourage them.

If we are going to develop St. Lawrence, we have to be genuine. We have to recognize that it really does have the potential to be a good facility. But I am upset that the streets are very dirty in St Lawrence Gap. We need to pay a lot of attention to that.

I remember when I was a Minister I would deliberately drive through St. Lawrence and made sure that calls were made to the Sanitation Service Authority and to the other authorities to make sure we could wash the street. Drive through and you would see how dirty it looks. We have to be very mindful that we do not allow our standards to drop in that regard. I drove through 2 weeks ago and I do not know if it is a general attitude but it is a problem and I noticed it 2 weeks ago.

I want to deal with the Congoline Festival. There is an attitude again, Sir, against the development of these kinds of Festivals which have the potential of putting small business people into some economic activity, even if it is for a short period. Several people benefitted from the introduction of the Congoline Festival and I understand again that there are movements progressed by the same Honourable Gentleman to seek to frustrate the efforts of persons who are organizing the Congoline Festival.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I take strong objection to the Honourable Member stating - On a point of order, Sir - that I am involved in an effort to frustrate. He must prove it.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I do not have a letter by which to prove it. That is my understanding, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is stating...

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I said he cannot impute improper motives to me irrespective of my...

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Shut up.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: You shut up. Sit down and have some behaviour. His uncouth behaviour is so obvious, Sir.

The position is I am suggesting to you that the Honourable Member is breaching the Rules of the House by imputing improper motives to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael East, you made the statement that the Member for Christ Church South progressed a matter dealing with the Congoline Festival. I think perhaps you may want to substantiate with the evidence that you are purporting that he has progressed the matter.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that if I said that the Honourable Member is seeking to frustrate that I am imputing improper motives. Because if he feels strongly about the confusion that may result, as a result of the Congoline Festival, he is entitled to say that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is addressing the matter of the Member for Christ Church South progressing a matter. Is it true that the Honourable Member has been involved in any matter dealing with the Congoline Festival?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I have been approached and told that the Honourable Member has objection.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are dealing with hearsay. I would appreciate if you deferred from making such an assertion. I think you should withdraw it

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am rising on a point of order for clarification. I have noticed, in recent times, that the Chair, not necessarily on this occasion is ruling as if this House were a court of law. We are not required to bring any evidence or any proof in here. An Honourable Member can say that he was told, he heard, he believes. He can say anything as long as it is within the 4 corners of what is decent. Do not, I beg you, Sir, let us reach the point where we are behaving like a court. It is not a courtroom.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is not correct in suggesting that if he thinks that improper motives are being imputed to him, then he can object. But he cannot say that the Honourable Member cannot say "heard". I hear a lot of things, Sir.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. I want it to be clearly understood. My objection was based upon an imputation by the Honourable Member as to my conduct. He is saying that I, by

y conduct, sought to do something. He has not described what my conduct is.

As to this question of hearsay and all that, I can come in here and say I heard the Honourable Member stole money from the St. Joseph Hospital. That would be wrong. Therefore it is clear that we cannot use hearsay as the basis of an accusation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The ruling was given already that we are not accepting hearsay. I would want you to bring some proper substantiated evidence or something that the Chair would deem acceptable. I am not deeming hearsay as acceptable.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it would be impossible for me to bring 500 objectors to the position that has been expressed in here. They have signed a document which has indicated that there is objection to the Congoline Festival being held on the pasture. They signed a document with over 1 000 signatures. Do you want me to bring all 1 000 people in here?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is ruling that, as indicated, you said the Honourable Member for Christ Church South progressed a matter. The Chair is not accepting that there is sufficient evidence, from what you have said. The Honourable Member has objected and, in view of the circumstances, I am going with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, since you have not provided enough evidence that I can substantiate.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, Sir,...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hold on a second, please. My second point is, Honourable Members have a chance to rebut what has been said on the other side. I believe that is a proper manner in which to proceed. If you do not agree you would then rebut it with whatever vehemence the Laws of this House would allow. 10.50 a.m.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: If I impute any improper motive to the Honourable Member I certainly withdraw it because I really have the greatest respect for the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. But I am still making the point that if he feels strongly about a matter, if he feels that he does not want to have a congoline festival in his constituency, he is free to express that view. There are people who would like to have the festival and he has some clout, Sir, so his words would have some bearing on whether they are able to hold a successful congoline festival *et cetera* because he is the Parliamentary Representative and if he has objection he has objection, I am not against him for that. I am not annoyed with him because he does not understand that the cultural development has gone ahead and left him behind.

So, Mr. Chairman, in summation I accept the point that we have to pay some attention to St. Lawrence Gap. The other major problem is that the street, right now, at night, should be very well lit. It is an area that is prone to drug activity and there is some strange behaviour that goes on in the dark in St. Lawrence Gap. I think as a matter of priority that we have to light up St. Lawrence Gap first of all and we must continue to allow the After Dark Club and those other clubs to operate without the kind of harassment that they get because they have become part of our cultural development. They have been assisting Barbados in marketing efforts because all over the world now you are hearing about After Dark and you are hearing about the good times that people go there to have. We have the potential to develop St. Lawrence Gap but we must do things right. I will return to it, Sir, because there are a number of other items under this Head that I need to address.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I want to make it abundantly clear that the statement made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East where he suggests that I participated, raised objection to the congoline festival taking place in St. Lawrence Gap is an absolute unmitigated lie. I am not withdrawing it. You can say what you like. It is an unmitigated lie because the Honourable Member...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair has ruled. Order please. The Chair ruled earlier that it has not accepted the comments since they were not substantiated.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I will withdraw the words "unmitigated lie". It shows something of the character of the Honourable Member, that he is prepared to exercise his responsibility as a Member of Parliament by coming in here and giving vent to anything that he has heard. He made it abundantly clear that he heard.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member knows, Sir, that he cannot say that. You cannot use insulting language. To say that the Honourable Member's character is such that he would give vent to anything is improper, Sir. I submit that the Honourable Member ought not to say that. He should withdraw it, Sir.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: It is abundantly clear that the Honourable Member feels that it is his responsibility to trot out anything that he has heard without being responsible enough to check the facts.

Now, I want to make it abundantly clear for the benefit of all that in my capacity as a Member of Parliament representations were made to me by members in the Dover area about what occurred on the last

occasion with the congaline festival. I had representations from hoteliers. I had representation from owners of land immediately around it. I had representation from small business people in that area and I made it abundantly clear to them. I explained to them that it was never my habit of appearing in any matter in which my constituents were in conflict with one another and I pointed out that the proprietors of the congaline festival were also within my constituency and that the objectors were in my constituency. I explained in very elaborate detail in those circumstances that each side should have their own legal representation and they went. One group went to a firm of Yearwood and Boyce and another group went to another firm, I believe, P.K. Cheltenham. As a result of that, various meetings took place and I understand, because I have been told so from both sides, that they have reached an amicable accommodation as to how the festival could take place without having people using the swimming pools at hotels as lavatories, without having people using the walls of residences as lavatories, without people not being able to reach back home if they left there in the morning and without people not having to leave their residences because of the volume of noise. How very happy, exceedingly happy that they have reached accommodation among one another. So that for the Honourable Member to get in here and to trot out something that he has heard is evidence of sheer irresponsibility on his part. It does not befit a Member of Parliament.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to withdraw those remarks because I deem them offensive. They reflect on the level of representation of the Member in the House.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I will withdraw them, Sir. But I say, Sir, that a responsible person, holding the high office of Member of Parliament, should know how to conduct himself in a better way.

The Honourable Member also stated that I seemed not to want people to be able to sell in St. Lawrence. That is a total and absolute distortion of everything that I said or is a distortion of the record. I have been representing that area for over 30 years. I was the one, as I pointed out, that caused the road to be a one-way street and I am going to go further. It was always the plan of the Barbados Labour Party as was evidenced by the acquisition of land in the St. Lawrence swamp and the movement of the houses in Harmony Hall, to have a situation in St. Lawrence Gap in which there would be a specific area earmarked for vending by small businessmen in circumstances which would be the most desirable. It is the Democratic Labour Party that ignored it. It is the Democratic Labour Party that failed to carry out the balance of the plans on St. Lawrence Gap.

The Honourable Member's political party spited the people in St. Lawrence by not carrying out that. I go further, it was the Barbados Labour Party during my time as Minister of Tourism that erected the vendors mall in St. Lawrence Gap and laid out the whole area between the Dover Convention Centre and the hotel that is there. That was for small vendors. It is the Democratic Labour Party, the Honourable Member's political Party in 7 years who have not spent one cent to paint it, to help advertise it and things of that kind. Apart from the evidence showing that this political party and me in particular are against it. It is them who have ignored completely the interest of the small vendors they only trot out in here and pay lip service to it. 11.00a.m.

Now, Sir, I am not apologising to any man about the fact that in my humble opinion, and in the opinion of a substantial body of the constituents, the erection of a food tent on a playing field which is already heavily used is an abuse of the amenity there. I do not care who is involved, I say that the evidence is clear that during the term of the Democratic Labour Party application was made to the National Sports Council and the National Sports Council, through their Managing Director or General Manager, approved the lease of that land for five years. I say that there is irrefutable evidence that it was during the time of the Democratic Labour Party administration, and that is the position. The Honourable Member can talk what he likes, he can publish what he likes, it was during the time of the Democratic Labour Party administration that L. E. Caterers Ltd...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate to this Honourable House...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what do you rise?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. At no time while I presided as Minister of Sports, where I had authority and responsibility for the National Sports Council, did I give any approval in writing, verbally or otherwise to the Managing Director or the Director of Sports to approve any lease of land for five years. I do not know about it, the Cabinet does not know about it, I do not believe any of the officials in the Ministry knows anything about it, and if he in fact did that I would have to question on what authority did he do it. But then again a lot of things happen in Ministries that they think Ministers know about. I will deal with them one by one. You all come.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: He had the authority and he had an officer under him who thought so little of him that he did not inform him of that important decision. That is his business, not mine. My business as a Member of Parliament is to ensure that the laws of Barbados are parried out, and that is what I can do. I just want it to be clear that this habit of the Honourable Member of

coming in here repeating hearsay and making veiled accusations about the motivation of other Honourable Members, and trying to portray himself as this champion of small, black business men is something that, when you examine it, has a hollow ring.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have made myself very clear. When I entered politics I said that I represent the working class people, and that is why I am here. I am not representing anybody else. I represent small, black business people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A point of elucidation.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: In order to ensure that he appears to be doing what he said he was going to do, the Honourable Member thinks it is necessary to denigrate other people. But the point is very clear, and I repeat, there is a role in Dover and in St. Lawrence for vending. The point that is being made is that it is the Government's responsibility to create the infrastructure so that the vending can take place in circumstances which are desirable and which would enhance the amenities in the area. That is the Government's responsibility, we had started it before under the Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party neglected it, so do not come in here and pretend that you are what you are not. It is your party that set back St. Lawrence Gap.

The other point I want to make, Sir, nobody is saying that you cannot have music in St. Lawrence Gap. That would be an asinine position, but the point is that a whole mass of people living in the village of St. Lawrence Gap, on the land side, the Stream Village, as far down as Worthing, have objected and continue to object to the fact that noise is being created without steps being taken to ensure that the noise is contained as much as possible. There are land owners on that side too, and they are not big land owners. Anybody who knows Beckles Road, who knows the back of the Pepperpot, who knows all of those things would know that the Pepperpot was closed down years ago as a result of an action being taken by people who live around there. I say it is the duty of the Government to regulate the conditions under which competing interests seek to exploit the commercial potential of the area. It has to happen all the time. So again the Honourable Member should not try to come in here and distort other people's positions, because you cannot curry favour with those people. They have rejected the Democratic Labour Party repeatedly. That box has never voted for the Democratic Labour Party, despite the efforts of Peter Morgan, of Marcus Jordan or of Leo Leacock. For 30 years they have been trying to win that area and they have not won it. That is the position, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Yes, Sir, I will finish in one minute. I am appealing to the Minister. I hope that urgent steps will be taken consistent with the appropriations that have been made to ensure that the planning of the development of the St. Lawrence Gap will continue.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I felt compelled to get involved in the discussion on Tourism, because I believe that I have a few important points to make to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

I believe that we in this Parliament have to take up a revolutionary stance, have revolutionary ideas and concepts in order to enhance this economy, which means that by and large each Barbadian must play a role in the development of tourism in this country. I have worked in the hotel industry for ten years and I have worked not only as a Waiter and a Barman but I also worked as a Supervisor. I have found that generally when the tourists come into the hotel one of the main areas they ask about is entertainment. They also want to know where they could enjoy part of what we call Barbadian culture. It is against that background, Sir, that I want to offer to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph that we could explore the possibility of what I call community tourism. Rather than have the tourists when they arrive at Grantley Adams International Airport put up at the hotels on the south coast and the west coast of Barbados, we should try to get them involved by coming into the various communities in Barbados, like Pinelands, Grazettes, Deacons, so that they could really experience what we call true Barbadian culture. 11.10a.m.

Sir, I know that there is a very progressive group in Barbados called the Pinelands Development Council and this is from St. Michael South East and they also have under their aegis the Pinelands Creative Workshop. Presently we are conducting - because I am also part of the groups, Sir - a study, and trying to implement a tourism development project with the Pinelands community, which we are hoping to spread throughout Barbados.

This concept, Sir, involved what we would do to bring tourists into the community. We will work very closely with all of the tourism agencies in Barbados. We will try to market the community in the hotels and have the tourists brought into the community where various groups and cultural organisations in Barbados will be involved in the entertainment aspect, where the residents of this area will themselves get involved and they will make some money, where people that do hairdressing, something that is very popular among the tourists, will also make a

living, I am saying some of those tourist dollars will actually circulate within the respective communities in Barbados.

I have been sitting in Parliament for a while and I have been observing Parliament, its procedures and how we as role models are supposed to behave and adapt ourselves so that our young people could follow and try to emulate. At points in time I have been disappointed and at times exasperated and at times frustrated because if we are going to move safely into the 21st century, and if this Parliament is to survive and be respected by all Barbadians, especially young people in this country, therefore we as parliamentarians of this Honourable Chamber have to sit down and re-evaluate ourselves and re-evaluate where we want this country to go.

Sir, I have been listening for a while on this whole issue of Sherbourne and I remember when I was a little boy Honourable Members in this Parliament at that time on this side were very critical of the fact that the Central Bank was being built at an astronomical cost. I remember the then Prime Minister, Mr. Adams, was saying that that bank was an investment in the future, that our children and our children's children would pay for it in the future.

My problem is that today in 1995 we are faced with a situation where a lot of money was spent on Sherbourne, but I think what we should be doing rather than lamenting the fact how much money was spent on it is looking at ways and means to make Sherbourne at least bring in something valuable into the Treasury of this country. There are ways and means of doing that.

We have a situation in Barbados where the Steel Shed is a little too small for certain shows. We know the gymnasium is too large. What we have to do as a matter of marketing strategy - we had a marketing officer - is to market Sherbourne not only as a convention centre but as a centre for cultural activity. Presently there is a show that is going on every Wednesday night at Sherbourne called 1627 And All of That which was previously at the Barbados Museum. I am sure that hundreds of visitors every Wednesday night go to that particular show.

What we have to do, Sir, is to package and market Sherbourne properly. In addition to that, we have to pay special attention to this thing called cruise ship tourism. Cruise ship tourism, as Honourable Members made note yesterday, could possibly attract this year about half a million visitors, which is a lot of visitors to this country. If we could refit and reshape Sherbourne and put a stage in it and target day-time tourists from the cruise ships so that rather than have the tourists go to Harrison's Cave and the other natural historical spots in this country we could have them come over to Sherbourne during the day, once we

could market it properly in Miami, then they could come to Sherbourne and we could have active cultural activity there.

Sir, I see Sherbourne as an investment for the future where our children and our children's children would have to pay for that cost but right now we have to make the facility available so that Sherbourne in itself could bring back some of the money that was spent on it during these five years.

Finally, I want to know, and it is something that has been puzzling me throughout the debate, why we continue to concentrate on North America and Europe. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is going to carry out a feasibility study and I am hoping that within that feasibility study that we explore Southern America - Alabama, Medford, where most black people live. We are talking about possibly a billion dollar business attracting black tourists to Barbados.

We have this concept in Barbados that tourism is a white business. I am not talking racism, Sir, but what I am saying is that we have this concept in Barbados that we have to market primarily North America, Canada and Europe. Why not target the black businessmen and businesses in the southern parts of the United States? Why not look at the ACP, the African Caribbean Pacific countries? A former Honourable Member of this House who represented the same constituency that I am representing now was the President of that organisation. He was pushing the idea of marketing Barbados to the African countries.

We have to start by being innovative. We have to be creative. We have to look and redirect our whole efforts, our new thrust in this important industry to Barbados called tourism.

At this point in time I would like to thank you for listening to me and I hope Honourable Members in this House will take affirmative action for the future of this country. Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this debate. While listening to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph yesterday, I was rather surprised to hear him say that last year the tourism increase was due to a cricket match in Barbados.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I am reluctant to intervene, but at the outset of his speech, I don't think the Honourable Member should base it on a false premise. I never said any such thing.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sorry, Sir, he said a one-shot activity and included in that one-shot activity was a test match in Barbados that attracted a large number of people to Barbados. We have found ourselves in a situation where we have this one-shot activity again and the only difference is that we have a team from Australia and not from England. I am saying that if the Ministry of Tourism under the Minister had a proper marketing programme in place that we would not be talking about a one-shot activity last year that is not happening this year. If we could not attract the Australians, even though we are attracting some of them, the test match of itself could have been marketed to the whole Caribbean and also to the same market that the English tour was marketed last year. If this test match was marketed in the right way we would not have to worry about any decline in tourism in this country.

He also mentioned the poor performance from the North American market and the French Canadian market. He went on to give the impression that the only reason that the French Canadians are not coming to Barbados is because of cost. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is aware that that is not the only reason. He knows quite well the reason why the French Canadians are not coming to Barbados is because of bad marketing by some people in Barbados. If the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would like to deny that I am prepared to sit down. If he thinks I am misleading the House I am prepared to sit down and let him get up on a point of order. But he knows, and I cannot understand why he would not point out to the House that that is one of the critical reasons that Canadians are not coming to Barbados the way they used to in the early 1970s. 11.20a.m.

Mr. Chairman, we also have another problem. It is time that our marketing agencies in tourism stop linking Canadians to Americans. I have said that before and I had an example of that this season. Canadians do not like to be called Americans whether you call them North Americans or anything. They like to be identified and treated separately. I hope that the Board of Tourism and the Minister will take this information and act on it swiftly.

The Canadian market is a special market. It is a market that has been responding to Barbados through the crisis. They do not care what happens in Barbados we have always been having a repeat of tourists from the Canadian market. Once that market is marketed properly, we will get results. We must go into that market and must find out what we are doing wrong. We must address those problems.

On the American market we have to come up with some creative ideas. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East with some. The same way we have cricket in Barbados and we have been able to come up

with a programme for sports tourism to attract the English visitor I cannot understand why the Honourable Member for St. Joseph cannot advise his Board that it is time that we start a programme - we have strong people in Barbados with the right technique - with baseball.

Why cannot they put proper facilities in place for baseball? It is clear to me that there is a link between sports and tourism. I am saying that if you want to attract the Americans you must do things that they will appreciate. If the Honourable Member does not know that there is a baseball field at the Naval Base in St. Lucy and if he wants to start using the Youth Service as the base for baseball, I have no problem with that, but it is time that baseball be introduced into Barbados and it becomes a competitive sport because I feel that the same way the American can play it we can better them.

Another point made by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph was that he would be employing 25 people. I believe I heard him wrong because I thought those 25 people were employed last year when he came to this Honourable Chamber for a supplementary vote to employ those people. I would like to know how come we have a few more days to go, had a supplementary to employ those people and they have not been employed as yet?

I want to know how can you blame the Democratic Labour Party Government for a slow-down in tourism in the North American market when you came to this Assembly, asked us for money in a supplementary to employ people to market the past and the present winter season and you have not employed those people as yet. Marketing is important.

Mr. Chairman, in 1986 when the Democratic Labour Party took over this Government there was a study done by the Barbados Labour Party and the reason for the study was because the European and the English markets were not performing the way they should have been. We made sure that we moved swiftly and implemented the good points of the programme. We put our own ideas into that programme and that is why the Honourable Member could sing praises about the European and the English market. If he doubts me he can go back to the study done by Furt Wrangler. He knows about it

We have a situation, Sir, in this country where we know what is happening, we know what we should do and we cannot afford to allow the Minister to sit back on these ideas without implementing them. If he has a problem with the Board then he needs to deal with the Board. I cannot understand why it would take him between October to March to employ 25 people in the marketing area of tourism.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to know, as you are quite aware I am not one of those who believe in all-inclusive tourism, but I have a special ear for Sandals because they carry a marketing budget that is important to this country. Now, I am on all-inclusive tourism I want to say this. If the Minister strongly thinks about all-inclusive tourism I have no problem. That is his policy but I want to say to him that any incentives given to any more hotels - because we have enough of them already in this country - should be given to hotel groups that are prepared to build new plants. If they are prepared to build new plants and do their own advertising, no problem. They are welcome. But I cannot understand how we could be talking about all-inclusive tourism where we as a people in Barbados have developed a particular sector and we are using the present plant to create a new market - it is madness. What we need to have is new plant for that new market. Any more hoteliers who feel within themselves that they want to get into all-inclusive tourism and they want incentives from Government should be made to provide the new plant, develop new areas...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: If you look at my development plan you will see that I strongly believe...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Yes, the St. Lucy Development Plan. You will see that I have provision in that for two hotels for St. Lucy. I will make that a document of the House to prove to the Honourable Minister for Rural Development that there is a strong rural development plan in the St. Lucy Development Plan, one that is sound.

Mr. Chairman, when we are dealing with tourism we must understand that we are dealing with an industry that is very important to this country and we cannot sleep on any policies that we have for tourism. I would say to the Honourable Minister of Tourism, even though he may employ the wrong people, the important thing is that if they have them in place they can still do the right thing, but if you employ Barbadians in those positions they would do a better job.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak in this debate about Sherbourne, but I will not start with Sherbourne. I want particularly to speak about the way in which we have failed to market Barbados over the past

years. I am pleased to see that the Minister of Finance saw fit to agree that the Barbados Tourism Authority should have \$30 million at this time. It is a lot of money. I would wish to be reassured that the way in which money has been spent in past years in tourism is not the way in which this \$30 million is going to be spent in the future.

Let me, at the outset, say that I have formally, under Standing Order No. 28(10) written to His Honour the Speaker to advise him that I intend to name a certain officer in his official capacity and I intend to speak in a certain context. I am advised by the Clerks at the Table that the Speaker has given his permission. 11,30a.m.

I wish to speak about Mr. Anthony Arthur the Chief Executive Officer, Director, however he may be called, at the Barbados Tourism Authority.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The gentlemen on the other side can chupse. Mr. Arthur is no small person in the Barbadian community. Mr. Arthur helped to bring down a whole Government, displaced 3 Ministers and 3 Boards. Nobody else in here on that side or on this side has ever been able to do that. Let them walk out I am not speaking to them. The Honourable Member for St Michael West would want to remain when we get to Health.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it gives me no pleasure...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: He is the one with the sense. The cowards have run out....as I move around the world people are willing to speak to me and say that Barbados' tourism does not have the best reputation in the marketplace. I remember during the last campaign and it is no wonder that these people ran out of the Chamber, that the Honourable Member for St Michael South, in the middle of the last election campaign went off on a flight to nowhere. We spoke about it on the platform. He flew up to New York and took Concorde to fly to Bermuda and come back. The flight just turned around and came back. It did not go anywhere. It did not drop off anybody. It was a promotional flight. We were told at the time that Concorde was going to fly from New York to Barbados and we were going to have tremendous business during the winter.

The fact of the matter is that the Concorde charter never came to Barbados. But the fact of the matter also is, Sir, that the Barbados Tourism Authority invested \$75 000 in that I heard the Honourable Member for Christ

Church South make the point that there is criticism of the fact that there are too many factions within the management of the tourist industry in this country. When you put all of those factions together and what they invested in the Concorde charter, it was in excess of \$280 000. That was one of Mr. Arthur's brilliant initiatives which bombed.

In 1993 there was the Barbados Extra Inclusive when they formed a company and developed a package, the Barbados Extra Inclusive 1993. They spent in excess of US\$½ million, BD\$1 million were spent. After a year of that a whole bunch of computer equipment was bought.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The question is, where is it now? I want the Minister please to respond to this question. Where is that equipment which was bought as part of the Barbados Extra Inclusive package? Where is it now? Can you imagine that they put together a package which would compete with tour operators in North America who were supposed to be promoting Barbados? It was doomed to fail.

What Mr. Antony Arthur and a Mr. Cleveland Mayers were trying to do was that they had this wonderful idea that they could put together their own all inclusive ancillary services only with no hotel beds attached to it and that people would buy it. Of course that bombed. After a year only 2 people came to Barbados, as a result of the Barbados Extra Inclusive. Do you know how they came, Sir? Complimentary. But BD\$1 million was down the drain with that. Another of Mr. Arthur's magnificent initiatives.

A third initiative, 3 South American charters. I believe there were 2 out of Brazil and another one out of Argentina or it might have been the other way around. A whole bunch of money was invested in these Latin American charters. They were given over US\$100 000 each. They had some old Cuban aeroplanes which were so decrepit that when the people got to the airport and they saw them they went back home and refused to get on them.

After 2 flights when there were no passengers that was the end of that. Barbados had a reputation in the marketplace for handing out money, giving out cheques and not following up. I am hoping and praying that the Minister will not allow that to be the fate of the \$30 million which the Minister of Finance has seen fit to allocate to the Ministry of Tourism for the use of the Barbados Tourism Authority. We had charters coming out of the United States, our major market. This is the fifth winter of decline in that market. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the private sector, after the second winter of decline a lot of people would have gone through the door.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is this reputation that cheques and commitments would be given to travel agents who Mr. Arthur never met or members of the Barbados Tourism Authority never met. There would be no follow up. These people have no incentive. They would just take the money and tack Barbados on to what they were doing, but they did not bother with us because we did not bother with them. Bad reputation for not returning phone calls, not attending functions, agreeing to attend functions and not attending them and not apologizing for it or sending a message to say that you are not coming.

I am deeply concerned about Barbados' reputation in the marketplace and particularly in the United States of America. Chicago. Can you imagine, Sir, that over \$200 000 was paid to a company by way of promotional fees for a charter out of Chicago? In the end, Sir, nobody came out of Chicago. What they did was to fly the 170 people to Detroit and bring them into Barbados on a Detroit charter. If you do a little arithmetic, Sir, it would have been cheaper for us to buy a package for each of these 170 people and bring them to Barbados complimentary. You do not hear anything more about it. This is the *modus operandi*.

Imagine that, in a place like the United States, in the New York office you have 10 000 enquiries and no brochures. When the brochures come they are rat eaten. I visited the Barbados Mission in London from head to toe, stem to stern, from attic to cellar and in the cellar I can see hundreds of thousands of brochures for the Barbados Tourism Authority lying down there rotting. I see the Honourable Member for St. Michael East shaking his head yes and saying that that is true. That is the kind of wastage that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance spoke of when he made his introduction to these Estimates. That is the kind of fat that is padded into Budgets and how they throw money away, without thinking twice.

Can you imagine that in North America the norm is that in the industry you would pay to advertising agents or agencies between 10% to 12%, but Barbados saw fit to be paying 15% to its advertising agent in the United States of America? I would be interested to hear what Members on the other side would have to say about that. Why did they particularly choose that agency? Whoever was the agent I am not calling any names. Whoever was the advertising agent for the Barbados Tourism Authority in New York was being paid commission at the rate of 15%. You had a US\$2.3 million budget for it. What foolishness was going on, Sir? 11.40a.m.

A lot of foolishness going on, Sir. The attitude out there in the market place is that Barbados is a place where you can take money from the Barbados Tourism

Authority and you do not have to account for it. That is what is happening out there. A whole set of money being paid out but you are not seeing the returns for it. Something has got to be wrong, Sir, when for 5 consecutive years in our major market we are losing market share. We are seeing declines in our arrivals and our revenues and our neighbours next door are seeing increases.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I do not really want to interrupt the Honourable Member but I think that the record of the House should reflect that the money that was paid in co-op arrangement with tour operators and people in the travel trade, there was a formula that was devised within the Board which sought to marry productivity of movement of people into Barbados to the amount of money that was given to them in support. So there is an actual formula that was worked out to determine the amount of money that is paid to the tour operators for the delivery of persons to Barbados. I think you should be conscious of that.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad the Honourable Member has raised a non point of order because it triggers my memory. There is an agent in Miami who is being paid \$3 500 per month plus telephone, plus travelling. Where is the return? What is the dividend on that? What do we get out of that? And what have we been getting all the years out of that? Not to mention the conflict of interest implicit in that I see the Honourable Member for St Michael East nodding his head, shaking it yes all the time to these matters.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to somehow invest the Barbados Tourism Authority with a totally new approach to the whole question of marketing Barbados. In my humble opinion, as a lay person, one of the main reasons why we have lost market share over the years and we are losing market share out of Europe too, and why we are continuing to lose market share, has to do with the fact that we do not market Barbados.

I reckon I have been everywhere there is to go in the Caribbean. Nobody has a superior product to Barbados. But we lose out because we do not market what we have. What I find galling in all of this, Sir, is that the Honourable Member for St Michael South insisted that this was the man who should head the Barbados Tourism Authority, the highest foreign exchange earner in our economy, the most important sector in terms of foreign exchange for us, defied three Ministers, three Boards and brought a Government down on this. What is behind it? Do you know what is another thing I find difficult to understand about the Barbados Tourism Authority, and I hope the Honourable Minister is going to address it?

I thought that an agency as important as the BTA you would have the type of people with the highest

qualifications, the highest integrity, the largest experience, at the top. But you have a Deputy there who is going off to train on the job, going off to courses on the job? I thought the Deputy was somebody who would have gone on the courses already, not now. All like now the Deputy is out on a job, training. I thought the Deputy and the CEO were people who would have done all of that and would be in place to carry out the Board's business. I want the Honourable Minister of Tourism to tell us what the Tourism Authority is planning to do about that. It is not only the case of appointing a CEO, it is a Deputy. It is without a Deputy at this time and has been without a Deputy for some time.

I would also be interested to know how many training courses this Deputy has been on in the last 10 years. All of those things I want to know. We cannot afford to muck about with the life blood of Barbados. I am talking about marketing, Sir.

I would also want to say a few words about Sherbourne. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I had thought that a possible adjunct to Sherbourne might have been that a number of UN agencies in Barbados, and there are several and it is important that we keep them here, other countries would like to have them there and advances are being made. Barbados has pledged that it would provide common premises for the dozen or more UN Agencies in Barbados and we were looking at Sherbourne. These people are prepared to build a building and they sent a buildings officer down here from the United Nations who looked at Sherbourne because that is what we were offering. They would have built on to Sherbourne and there would have been shared services and shared facilities.

The list of defects was like this long but one of the most important things that that building consultant from the United Nations said to me was that that convention - and he was giving it to me free, gratis, and for nothing. He said to me, convention tourism is a very highly specialised area of the industry. You do not walk about in the street and hand out brochures and think that is the way you are going to get convention business. It is a circuit that you have to get on and the thing is to get on to the circuit. You do not plan a convention this month for September. Conventions are planned years ahead and I mean years plural, Sir. Some conventions are planned three years ahead, some 5 years ahead. It will take time as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East is saying but it is not going to take any time at all, you are not going to do it even if you take 20 years to do it, if you think that you can walk out by the side of the road and hand out brochures, and put a notice in the newspaper. It is highly specialised and we are not in a position to bring that strategy to Sherbourne, Sir, because Sherbourne is incomplete. Which convention group, and a lot of money is invested in a convention, which

convention group is going to come to Sherbourne with all the backside out? Which convention group is going to come to a convention centre that has no auditorium. We are advised, the Minister will correct me if I am wrong, that an auditorium now to be completed at Sherbourne would cost in excess of \$30 million. You have to ask yourself if that is going to...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes to wind up.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I was struck yesterday to hear an Honourable Member from that side suggest that you build a building and then you decide what use you will put the building to. The fact is that Sherbourne is not properly custom built for any of the uses which were mooted during the last 8 years. It is not custom built to be an examinations centre, it is not custom built to be a school of music, it is not custom built to be a convention centre or anything else because many of the usual amenities, the facilities that you would expect, the support and ancillary services that you would expect in a convention centre do not yet exist at Sherbourne.

Sherbourne was convened at the last minute to host the SIDS conference, Sir. The plan was changed and I am concerned about a lot of the defects at Sherbourne. I am made to understand that there is moisture in the lift system and it does not work. Only one of the lifts works from time to time when it pleases itself to work. I am concerned that some of the defects are being camouflaged. 11.50a.m.

We went up there to a public sector retreat a few weeks ago and we could see the grey cement on the wall where massive cracks have had to be plastered over, but there are deep structural defects beneath that, Sir.

The original plan had an atrium in it, which hurriedly was done away with because they had to do other things to satisfy the UN for the SIDS conference, and that difference and that change in the plan has created an area where one thing was joined on to another, not as originally planned, and it is the site of many serious structural defects. There is a structural defect at the front door which they are hiding with a big potted plant. It is at that kind of level that they are operating. I am concerned about the lack of maintenance of that building. The first time I visited that building I was shocked to discover they did not even have a man who could tighten a loose screw or do anything that you would address by way of maintenance. I gather that since I have been there they now have a maintenance crew, but the building exposed at the back as it is to the weather is deteriorating on a daily basis.

A building is like a human being in that respect. If you do not take care of it and maintain it on a daily basis, it is going to deteriorate and quickly. All of that steel exposed to the elements as it is means that we have a wasting investment in Sherbourne. It is important that at an early date we decide what we are going to do with Sherbourne and do it quickly, because when you stop and start projects like that, do you know what happens? It is much more costly to reclaim the slippage.

I will take my seat, Sir, and I will speak at another point in this debate. The Honourable Members for St. John and St Michael West who are out there hiding in the Lobby can re-enter the Chamber at this time.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, it is not an usual occasion for me to speak on Tourism. My intervention is going to be very short, simply because of the remarks made by the introducer of this Head and the comments made by Sir Bernard yesterday relate to an experience which I think should be very helpful to the overall development of tourism.

The Honourable Member who introduced it made the point that it is the people's business and Sir Bernard mentioned that people come to Barbados on the basis of security, culture and by extension the friendliness of the people. Therefore, Sir, when you put them together you have to be very careful what package you put out on tourism that it does not in any way affect the development and the perception of people who come to this country.

Sir, I have had the experience in the past, and a lot of people do not understand tourism attracts a lot of things in people's minds. I have always had the experience of going through the Commonwealth and meeting a number of parliamentarians at all levels and Government officials at some of the highest levels, and it is all an experience to be able to hear how they speak in terms of Barbados. I am not so sure that Barbados is not well known, it may not be widespread, but I would think throughout the Commonwealth countries Barbados has a very high profile. I will just give you an example of what I am talking about in relation to how Barbados sells itself, not only with the sand and the sea, but from its own friendliness and the development within the country.

About two years ago, Sir, we as parliamentarians were invited to an international conference in Quebec based on the media and democracy. I notice that whenever you have to mention the media there always seems to be some deep concern as if you want to destroy the media. The truth is that if we do everything well in tourism and abroad

we did all the right type of advertisement but we here send the kind of signals that the people perceive about us is not true, it will have a very serious effect on the tourism plant.

In 1989 we invited nearly all the members of the Commonwealth to Barbados. This very Parliament has acted as a kind of showpiece for the very security and the stability that Sir Bernard spoke about, that people felt comfortable coming to Barbados. It was a conference at which very few countries which had hosted the same conference had been able to get in excess of 40 to 50 members attending. We were able to get about 49 of the 50 countries in the Commonwealth to attend. I listened to them very carefully on the reflection of Barbados and one of the things they felt happy with was exactly what Sir Bernard said. They felt a sense of security. The country was stable and they felt happy to come back and, not only that, they were willing to learn if there was anything we could help them with.

Somehow, Sir, some time later I was invited to the United Kingdom and it is significant that the tourism numbers, to my mind, seem to have developed at a much more rapid pace after that conference, because one of the significant things that happened during that year was that when the British Monarch came here there was a worldwide coverage of the event and on my travelling to Britain soon after that you should see the number of people who were happy that Barbados had got this kind of exposure because of the natural tradition that would surround a monarch visiting a country.

It was at that meeting where we met that I had this experience and I think it is worthwhile to say it. I remember it was at Lancaster House where we were invited to share our experiences and in talking to one of the people who had been here the first reaction was: "But I was in Barbados!"¹¹ and I felt the same way Sir Bernard felt, but what I am reading in the news does not reflect that. Therefore, Sir, the reason why I entered this debate was to suggest to the media that they must be very careful in how they - I do not want to use the word "sensationalise" - but they must be accurate, and at the same time they must be able to give the person a feeling as one of the members who was speaking to me said: "But even if you had a crime, we have got it here very often. There is no need to make it appear that the entire country is terrorised by something like that." I made this point because if at that level people who would normally come - and I believe some of them have come back to the country and some of them said they would tell people what they saw in Barbados - but if this kind of adverse publicity given through the media tends to put them in a feeling that something is not right, or their perception is not right, then, Sir, I challenge the media to assist the Minister in his

promotion, not only to be able to have a good promotion campaign outside, but the very people come here and read the papers and then they have a problem. Yes, news must be accurate and factual, but all I am saying is that that experience suggested to me that there was a little bit of conflict.

The other point that surfaced was contact with people. You would be surprised, Sir, how people feel about the average - and I will use a Barbadian term - bare foot person in the street. They seem to them to be a perfect model of manners, of politeness, which they don't see in their own countries, but they say, "How come we are so civil?" That is something that we must pay attention to. That brings me to another point. 12.00 noon.

The Honourable Member for St Lucy has always been talking about all-inclusive tourism. I am sure that if the Minister takes time to get some information from Cyprus - the Mediterranean is really one of the world's best known resorts - they have tried this all-inclusive business and are coming to the conclusion that it may not serve the very purpose for which it was intended. It was really not intended to cut off people from people. They have been warning that they themselves may have to look at the whole approach to the all-inclusive. I think the Minister can get that information because it is always readily available in these countries.

Basically, Sir, you will see that my intervention is to support tourism, to encourage those areas which may at some point in their participation give an impression that we are not as settled as we are. We must be very clear not to send those signals to people who are willing to come to Barbados.

Another experience I had, Sir, was in Venezuela. Many people do not understand the importance of parliamentary groupings and associations. We come into direct contact very often with the policy-makers of those countries and they pass on information. I have not heard Holland being mentioned, but I was approached at one of these meetings to tell them something about Barbados. They wanted to know because they had heard somewhat about it. Not a large number of people, but one or two I was speaking to. By and large they were decision-makers and the chances are that their contacts may help.

What I found difficult was that in the Venezuelan Embassy when I requested that we should be given some information on Barbados, it was very sparse. I was not able to go further to the very gentlemen who were asking about industrial development as well. I share the view that some of our embassies can do much more in assisting tourism.

Sir, that is my intervention, and I hope that that contribution in some way will help others to make our plant more attractive.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman Sir, it is not often that we hear the voice of the last Honourable Member who spoke. Whenever he speaks, it is a welcome voice with great sincerity and basic good sense. The theme which he addressed that we must be careful not only what we write as journalists about isolated incidents in Barbados but also what we say is very important. It is a thing that is sometimes forgotten by many of my colleagues even in this House.

Tourism has an external component to it. There are a lot of people abroad who are concerned with the promotion of Barbadian tourism. Many of them are here in the Island at this time. A few weeks ago, the Prime Minister made a statement on the occasion of the opening of Almond, and the next morning I am called from London. I am called from New York. I am called from Canada. Before I went to bed last night, there were people who knew of my contribution in far away places yesterday evening.

We have to be very careful what we say and the tone in which we say it. Though I would like to respond, as I have been requested to do, regarding a lot of questions that have been asked I have to be careful what I say and I have to be careful how I say it. The tone is very important and the impression that we create is very important. The image of Barbados in the last year is that the country was quarrelling about the management of its tourism; that it was not serious they had changed three Ministers with respect to one or two issues in tourism and that they were not taking themselves seriously.

One of the messages that I was concerned to give abroad since becoming Minister of Tourism is that we are serious about tourism; those issues which divided us are being put behind us and that we want to go forward in a very professional and positive way. I think it is important therefore to appreciate that that is the tone which we have got to manifest and evince if we are serious about tourism.

Many of the speeches made have served to emphasise precisely what I have said and I hope that the public will appreciate it and stop raising false alarms. The organisation called the Barbados Tourism Authority is not as well equipped to do the job that it has to do as it should be, through no fault of any one Administration, and we have to seriously go about re-organising the Authority to equip it to do the job till it is done.

A culture of management has set in there, characterised by negligence, failure to follow through, lack of a sense of urgency and so on. All of that has got to be

corrected. I say that without attempting to answer any questions in respect to particular personalities either present or past at the Barbados Tourism Authority.

Let me answer one question that was posed yesterday afternoon in relation to how much money the Tourism Development Authority contributed to the Barbados Tourism Authority - \$809 000 is the figure I have been given - and was related to the contribution to Air Tours, to Sir Gary, to the Gold Book, to Maarten Air, to Sun Tour, to Liberty Go Go and to Travel Charter.

I want to deal with St Lawrence Gap that has featured quite considerably in the debate this morning. It is important. It is an admirable and incomparable concentration of resort leisure and entertainment activities in one area. There are many people who come to Barbados and go away to say that that has been the high point of their experience, the time spent in the St Lawrence Gap. To that extent, we have always got to ensure that the properties there are well maintained insofar as we have any competence to do so, that the activities there are well regulated, that people continue to have a quality experience in the Gap. In recent times there has been a quarrel on the part of the property owners and even on the part of those who frequent the area for entertainment and enjoyment.

I am to tell the House that a pre-feasibility study has been undertaken with respect to the improvements that need to be carried out in the St. Lawrence area. We need to hear from the proprietors and also from the property owners. The emphasis in the pre-feasibility study is on the improvement of the road system, the improvement of the lighting, on the need to ascertain who are the owners of some of the properties. That doesn't seem to be known. The whole thrust is to make sure that more entertainment is provided there. The area is enhanced and generally the quality is maintained.

I should mention too that attention is paid in the pre-feasibility study to vending in the area and the provision of separate areas so that Barbadians can go there and display and sell their goods. 12.10 p.m.

Sir, I can give the assurance to the House that the St. Lawrence area is being addressed in terms of introducing a new regime that will see an improvement of the services there and also a new regime of activities there.

Someone made the point that a Minister used to go around and check on the state of the lighting, the garbage collection, and so on. I am really addressing this point to the public servants of this country. I am tired calling the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing - I have not done it in recent times - telling them when they

were potholes in my area and when signs have broken down and need to be replaced. One Minister told me, "I am sorry for you but I understand what you are doing because there are officers in the Ministry who get in excess of \$1 500 a month with travelling expenses to do precisely what you have to do."¹¹

In this country we put an unbearable pressure on our politicians. We get no thanks for it. Unbearable pressure is put on us doing everybody else's job. I have made the point repeatedly that the lighting in St. Lawrence Gap is not good enough. I should not have to go driving through there every other week to see that What about the public officers whose job it is to see that there is proper lighting in those areas? I should not have to go through there to see that the place is properly debushed and that the garbage is taken up. We pay public servants precisely to do that sort of thing. The Head of the Sanitation Department, it is for him to delegate somebody who has that responsibility and should be reporting to him on a regular basis and for the management in the Ministry to point to officers whose job it is to see about that.

I mention that because our job is already very difficult and every day they add to it. I really cannot promise anybody to check to see that the garbage in St. Lawrence Gap is picked up though I get reports that it is not 1 hope that those who have responsibilities for those activities are listening because it is really not fair to us to have to supervise even the collection of garbage in this country.

Let me say a word about the Airport because in the course of my presentation yesterday I did not have enough time to make the point that in many respects we have reached a state at the Airport now where we need a new major expansion. In many countries expansion takes place at airports every 10 to 15 years. Our Airport is now about 17 years old and it has, in some respects, outgrown the traffic. We have in a fairly advanced stage now a feasibility study which addresses the question of a new arrivals hall, a new departure hall, the provision of at least half an acre more of shopping facilities at the airport and also what we call the introduction of all weather facilities, sometimes called bridges, the arms that go out to the plane when one arrives to make sure that you are under cover in the Arrivals Hall.

Attention will be paid in the expanded facility to proper toilet arrangements. I do not think they were adequately provided when the Airport was built 17 years ago. There will be increased facilities for Immigration and plant quarantine that form part of the administration and management of the Airport on a day-to-day basis. We now have to put the financing in place for the project which is likely to cost close to \$90 million. The feasibility study is

fairly well advanced. I met with those who are responsible for it only a week or so ago.

I am also to tell the House that we are going to have to move to an Airport Authority as virtually a pre-condition for getting the financing of the expansion of the Airport. Very shortly, therefore, within the next year or so we will have to bring a Bill to Parliament that makes provision for that. In so doing we will have to move to ensure that the Airport is self financing. That is also going to be very important Whether we will realise that in year 1 or year 2, I do not know, but strenuous efforts would have to be made to ensure that the Airport is self-financing.

The point has been made that increasingly we have to pay attention to the environment. Indeed, when we sell Barbados what we sell is the environment largely and widely defined. The product is the environment, the natural environment and the built-up environment. Particularly the South Coast, the sewage facility is very urgently needed. It is for me a matter of great regret that when we left office in 1986 plans were well advanced and negotiations well on the way with the LADB for the financing both of the West Coast Sewerage Project and the South Coast.

The Honourable Member for St Michael East spoke as though they are the architects of the South Coast Sewerage project, far from. When we left office in 1986 plans were well advanced for the financing of those two sewerage schemes. After eight years, and I continue to insist that those eight years were wasted years in this country, we are still at the point where the sewerage scheme for the South Coast is not ready in terms of the commencement of the physical activity and the West Coast Sewerage Scheme is still a few years away.

The Sewerage Scheme for the West Coast is the terminal solution for a lot of the problems that we have in the marine environment. We will continue to destroy our coral reef, continue to destroy a lot of life within our marine environment until we are able to ensure that a lot of what presently goes to the sea by way of the discharge of waste does not go there in the future.

A word, Sir, about the all-inclusive. In Barbados now I think we only have four properties that can be described as all-inclusive. It is important that we have a mix of facilities responding to the needs of visitors and potential visitors. The all-inclusive constitutes part of the appeal of the Barbados accommodation sector. Like everything else, it is a two-edged sword. There are a lot of arguments against the all-inclusive. The Government has no control over all-inclusive because we do not control hotels. We do not own them as a Government and we do not control them. The demand for them is really driven by the

market. We need not complain excessively in Barbados because only a small percentage of the plant happens to be all-inclusive.

I think the crave for the all-inclusive is we are on the down side of the graph now. We have passed the high point. If there are no more in the next few years - I am told that Sandals is likely to go that way - then we have nothing to complain about. We have to be concerned, and I think this is the implicit point, that a lot of Barbadians who own ancillary services are not left out as we go the way of the all-inclusive. In Barbados, as I said, we need not complain too much because only four of the properties have so far gone the way of the all-inclusive.

I was just wondering whether there were any other points that I need to address. I just want to say a word about Sherbourne. A great deal has been said in the recent Supplementary and one concern, among other things, was to provide money for the payment of debts run up in the last year and a half by the last administration in the completion of Sherbourne. On that occasion I spoke as far as I could with respect to the plans of the Government with respect to Sherbourne and what we are hoping to do.

I just want to state once again that Sherbourne was, as far as we could gather, not built for any specific purpose. There has been the change of purpose throughout the long period that we were concerned with Sherbourne. 12.20 p.m.

There has been a change of purpose throughout the long period that we were concerned with Sherbourne. There was no business plan with respect to its marketing, if indeed it was built as a convention centre. As has been rightly pointed out, it is going to take a minimum of 2 years to be able to get some rhythm with respect to the securing of business for Sherbourne as a convention centre.

The fact that it is not part of a hotel and is not directly linked to any hotel village is a major liability. But no one should be in any doubt about the extent to which Sherbourne is going to continue to present a financial burden to the taxpayers of this country. The operating cost per month at Sherbourne is \$189 000. The running cost is \$154 000 per month, excluding insurance which is running at the rate \$35 000 per month. We must be in no doubt, whatsoever, about the enormity of the problems which we face with respect to Sherbourne and the extent to which it will continue to be a running sore on the Treasury and the taxpayers of this country for many years to come.

We may reach the point, with successful marketing, where we will break even in terms of operating cost at Sherbourne. But in terms of recovering that investment, it

perhaps will never happen. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, whether there are any others who will wish to make their intervention with respect to tourism itself, that component of the Ministry. It seems to me that we have had, for the most part, a constructive, long and useful discussion. If not we could perhaps proceed to deal with the environment per se and the other aspects of the Ministry which have only been partially touched.

LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. Speaker suspended the sitting accordingly at 12.25 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both sides of the House agree that tourism has contributed significantly, over the last 40 years, to the growth of the economy of Barbados. We agree that development has taken place, to some extent which has improved the employment of Barbadians and improve the superstructure as well as the infrastructure in Barbados. Revenue has increased substantially because of tourism. To my mind, Sir,

I believe more has to be done to make tourism meaningful to the Barbadians who are to come.

For example, in my primary school days I remember many tourist officials would come around the school and teach tourism. In those days when you asked a guy what was a tourist, he would tell you that a tourist is a white person either driving in a mini moke or laying on the beach wearing a swimming suit. I believe, to some extent, if you ask a child today about a tourist he would say the same thing. It is not totally true because we now get tourists out of mainly the USA, South Africa, the Caribbean and Asia.

I believe that the Ministry of Tourism and the Barbados Tourism Authority should be doing more within the schools to highlight the value of tourism to the country and also to the individual. Barbados is a service economy and something has to be done not only to make students and the populace more aware of the benefit of tourism but also to teach tourism within the schools. I believe there is a need for a faculty to teach tourism at the University of the West Indies.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: In Bahamas. But more has to be done. I believe that campus might be attached to the University of the West Indies. But more has to be done within Barbados, within the Caribbean to make people more aware of tourism.

Mr. Chairman, we have a number of people working in the tourism industry today who profess to be experts and marketers who have made no credit at all in the marketing of tourism. They may have done a course or two in marketing of a product, but they have not studied the human element of tourism. Therefore, there is a need for specialized training within the field of tourism. If such a course is taught at the Community College - I am not talking about a course in bar tender or a course in cookery but I am talking about marketing tourism.

Throughout the years we have had a number of people who were employed in Tourism but who were employed mainly because they were at the whims and fancy of the Minister, not because they had any training, but because they were pretty, beautiful and had no training at all within tourism. Therefore they were not able to sell tourism properly to persons in North America or Europe.

Another point which is of concern, Sir, is the fact that we are now spending something like \$30 million in tourism. But do we get the return from tourism, based on expenditure? Does the revenue that we put forward in tourism bear any relationship to the amount of money that tourism is earning? I believe that those repeat visitors

played a bigger role than our marketers do over the years. I believe, Sir, that it is the repeat people who sell Barbados more than our marketers in North America and Europe. Therefore I believe that those persons who have been coming to Barbados 20 and 30 years that the Ministry of Tourism, and they know who they are, could allow those persons to be part and parcel of the marketing thrust in North America as well as in Europe. 1.35 p.m.

I have been to North America over and over again and I have not seen one advertisement of Barbados yet we hear about a lot of money being spent in marketing tourism. We have seen and heard others speak yesterday afternoon about seeing even St. Lucia but I believe we need to do more about marketing Barbados, not necessarily in terms of television advertisements, not only in terms of tours, exhibitions and so on but we need to allow those persons who are repeat visitors to play a part in marketing Barbados.

We have also noted over the last couple of years, Mr. Chairman, there were a number of activities to promote tourism. We have "Gospelfest", we have Sports Tourism, we have business and culture. We have developed a lot of infrastructure, the Harrison Cave, Gun Hill Resorts, but what is the future. I think tourism is still too seasonal. We spend a lot of money in tourism but it is still too seasonal, Mr. Chairman, and we need to be able to attract tourism year round. But we send a lot of money to those persons who should be able to sell us.

I believe the Minister of Tourism should be able to come out with a programme to attract North Americans and Europeans to our shores. I believe that a programme should be developed because tourism all over the world is a big thing. All over the world it is the number one earner. In the USA, Canada and England, tourism is still the number one earner of foreign exchange. Therefore if we need to create employment within the short medium term we need to attract those tourists out of North America.

It is very important for us to look at other areas, for example, Mr. Chairman, in my constituency, St. George North we have the Gun Hill Resorts, that is a tourist attraction but yet Gun Hill is not as developed as it should... After ten years very little has been done to Gun Hill to attract visitors and I understand that more than 100,000 visitors go to Gun Hill annually. But Gun Hill is still the same as it was 10 years ago. I believe that this Ministry of Tourism which is also responsible for the environment should be doing more to attract tourists there. There must be a project.

Over the last 10 years the Democratic Labour Party has done very little to the infrastructure and to the

superstructure to develop them. I have not seen any development in this country since Harrison Cave that has been meaningful. That is a fact. Therefore it is important for us at this juncture to look at new developments so that we can attract tourists to Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West was a former Minister of Tourism and I understand that he was a Minister who was seen mainly in North America, more in North America than in Barbados.

It is a fact that you, as Minister of Tourism...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not Minister of Tourism. Please address the Chair.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: The environment will play a part in tourism and I am glad to see that the Honourable Prime Minister had the good sense to put this Ministry of Tourism and the Environment together because it made sense. The environment plays an important part. As we go through Barbados, you see a lot of garbage, a lot of old trucks. There is a lot of trash all over the place and I must say, thanks to the Ministry of Health for encouraging people to bring out their trash from the backyard.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: We are collecting it. This is something that was developed over the years and therefore I believe that the Ministry of the Environment should play a role in helping to move tourism forward. Projects should be undertaken by the NCC, not only cleaning the beaches, not only cleaning the highways, the parks and so on, but we need to develop more meaningful projects and I envisage the day when the Ministry of Tourism would have trolleys moving from the Gun Hill Signal Station to the Lion. I envisage the day when they would have go-carts and so on moving around Gun Hill. These are important to the development of tourism.

Finally, Sir, tourism has a great future in Barbados but we need to put our heads together and develop this industry because we take it for granted that tourists will come to Barbados. We take it for granted that we will make money out of it and therefore we are living off tourism.

I am saying to the Ministry of Tourism that the time has come for them to put back meaningfully into tourism. I have started with the premiss that the majority of tourists come to Barbados, not necessarily because of the money spent from our revenue here but because of repeat visitors encouraging people. Also the hotels must play a part. I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that the hotels are playing as big a role as they should in promoting tourism in this country

and the time has come for them because they derive direct benefit from tourism. I think if this is done the future of tourism will be great for our country. Thank you.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I just want to finish the part concerning tourism which I alluded to earlier today. In that respect the Minister has responded but it did not seem to me that the Minister made reference to the role which he envisaged for other activity, that is to say, casino gambling as a part of the tourism plant. 1.45 p.m.

When the discussion was engaged in about the role that casinos will play I, unfortunately, was not here and there are some people who have wondered what my position has been, is or would be. These are persons who obviously are unfamiliar with my stand in public life over many years, but the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central can confirm, as all Honourable Members on this side, that my position on casino gambling has not changed, that is to say, that there is no redeeming value for tourism in casino gambling.

It has been put abroad that should we bring casino gambling into Barbados that this will enhance the tourism product, that this will go some way toward giving people a diversion from the sand and the sea, that somehow we are going to reap great economic benefits. That has not been demonstrated anywhere else. Mr. Chairman, it is ironic that while some persons are putting forth that particular thesis as a basis for our engaging in one of the most unnecessary approaches to tourism development in Barbados, that those places where casino gambling is entrenched are themselves seeking to move away from it, because it has not been beneficial.

In New Jersey, where casino gambling was first introduced since Nevada - the second place in the United States where casino gambling was introduced was New Jersey - in recent times the people in the area where casinos have been established have all been seeking new and different ways to earn revenue. The cities where casinos are accepted as a way of life have in the last two years been trying to find a way to improve their revenue because they have discovered that casinos have turned out to be not all that was promised. Even in Nevada, Sir, about 18 months ago they opened the most modern bowling rink in the world and it was the hope of the authorities that the failure of casinos in Nevada to generate new and better income over the last five years, that they would see a change and they would be able to attract a different kind of clientele to their cities, because casinos have not been successful.

Sir, I have been watching and observing this debate and I do not wish to open it on the Floor of the

House again, I could not, but I want to say that there is nowhere in the United States in recent times - I have articles here where there are a few towns in Mississippi where the only thing that exists in terms of development in the last few years is a new casino. These casinos have been put in towns that up until now have had no relationship with the development of Mississippi which, as you know, Your Honour, is the least developed of all the States in the United States. The New York Times, for example, demonstrates that what you have is a street on which the most gaudy buildings have been placed, about six of them back to back, and you can go down the street and you have the facade of the casinos and then right behind them you have pigs and chickens and people functioning in the most sordid and demeaning health conditions that you could ever find; that the people who promote casinos have no interest whatsoever in the growth and development of the communities where these casinos are placed.

As I said, Sir, there is not a single redeeming feature that any casino can bring to Barbados, but I want to add this. While the debate has been centred in a particular area, there are some respectable businesses in Barbados that have taken it for granted that the casinos will be coming. Some of them have already acquired the properties where they intend to place their casinos. There are at least two west coast properties, but one in particular, that has already acquired the property with the appropriate amount of woods that would...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Woods, yes. On the west coast. They have acquired property that runs adjacent to their property and they have already started to prepare them. The Honourable Member is always on the ball, Sir, he understands. I do not have to bring any proof for this. All the time the argument is going on and the call-in people calling and the churches marching, the people are having their debate, there are properties in this country that are behaving as if the decision has already been made.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is listening to one person.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, he wants to talk about cocaine, Sir, so I was not sure if I heard him. When I said what I said it was correct, and I stand by it. The information I got came out of the particular place on the west coast. The information I gave to this House 15 years ago, or whenever it was, was correct and I am saying that there are people in this country who have already prepared as though the decision were made, so while the debate is carrying on with the call-in programmes and the letters to

the newspapers, the real movers and shakers have already quietly been moving into place. I say to the Prime Minister that he must not bind himself by saying that he is going to make whatever decision a Commission makes. At the end of the day the Prime Minister and his Cabinet will have to make the decision and will not be able to hide behind any recommendation of any Commission. The buck will stop there. You will have to make the decision.

Let me tell you what my position is. If I was in any Cabinet at all that made a decision to bring casinos to Barbados, I would leave it. That was my position before.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: They did not bring any casinos. I cannot think of anything worse than casinos. You can talk till the cows come home, there is nothing that you could do to Barbados that would be worse than bringing casinos here, and no facade of any Commission is going to drive me in any position of saying: "Well, the Commission says so, so it is so." 1.55 p.m.

We have a lot of commissions which said a lot of things that are still on the shelves. At the end of the day, it will be the Government that has to decide. I am putting my position now so that there can be no doubt in anybody's mind. My position is that casinos cannot be of any interest to Barbados in any shape or form. There is no casino that has gone into any territory in the Caribbean that has been beneficial to that territory in any way that can be demonstrated to ordinary people.

A few persons will benefit, but the vast majority of the population will be no better off and some will be worse off. My position on casinos is not for turning. I have no interest whatsoever in supporting even superficially any concept of bringing casinos into Barbados. This country has been able to succeed in tourism by using its creative resources. This country has been properly governed over a long period of time with changes from time to time. We do not need...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Prime Minister can drop whatever... What I said about cocaine then was a fact. Sir, you were not in here. The Honourable Prime Minister is there saying *sotto voce* that I want to talk about another cocaine house on the West Coast.

I was told at that time by a person who was working on the property that there was a man who was creating and dis... Sir, I stand by what I said then. So don't come in here talking about I want any seconds, that I want to

talk about cocaine factories. I am talking about gambling. I am talking about the need not to have a facade. I am saying that you don't need any commission and that you cannot say that you are bound by the results of a commission.

As a matter of fact, the Honourable Members over there, including the Attorney General, could tell you that it is a very bad principle in law to be bound by anything anybody else did when you have to make a decision. The discretion is yours.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAUT: If my discussing the casino will get the Prime Minister to talk, the Prime Minister is free to talk. I didn't know that he had a difficulty with talking.

I am saying, Sir, that tourism in Barbados can be developed, can prosper, can carry us into the 21st century and can be the main spring of economic development without the spectre of casino gambling. We do not need it. There is no redeeming value.

The Indians in the United States have just discovered through a quirk in the legal situation in the United States that they have territory which they can now do whatever they wish to do with it without any recourse from the Federal Government. As a result, a series of sharks have descended upon the Indian community in the United States, whether it is in Florida or in Connecticut, California or Alabama, the same persons have descended upon the Indian community and if you read the material as it has unfolded, you will see that they have been making a substantial amount of money for a few of the Indian tribes.

There has been nowhere that they can show that the communities where the casinos have been placed have benefited in any substantial way. As a matter of fact, the Indians are playing the game, according to Wall Street, and they have now come up with a telephone system by which they will allow everybody in the United States to call in and place their bets. Now the Attorney General of the United States wants to challenge that because therein lies a threat to the economic system as the fellows who manipulate Wall Street know it.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to put my position on record because in some forum it was said that I am very silent. Well, I thought that my position and the position of the former Prime Minister of Barbados, our position in the Democratic Labour Party, was well-known. It is pellucid. We have always been.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am going on record in this House. I am unalterably opposed to the bringing of casinos to Barbados. The Prime Minister says he has no position on gambling.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: There has been a suggestion that the Honourable Member for St. John knew and said and agreed and promoted. It is a myth. It is not fair to the Honourable Member for St. John. The person from the FXC spoke in my church and explained very clearly the position that was taken and I think it is a travesty - St. Leonards, the best Anglican church in Barbados - on the pan of other members in the journalistic field to try and pin on the Honourable Member for St John that there was some secret decision.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs, I forbade the then Trade Commissioner from going to London to discuss casino gambling and as Minister of Foreign Affairs - you would find it on the file - I wrote on the file that there is no benefit to be gained and that he should not go. That is what I wrote. He was a member of the sub-Committee.

I think it is wrong to suggest, and I am saying that it is not fair for anybody to suggest, that there was some secret arrangement. I keep reading it in this so-called newspaper that the former Minister of Finance set up some secret task force. The task force was a task force of the Foreign Exchange Committee. The Foreign Exchange Committee used to be headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In the next dispensation, in 1991 when I became Minister of Foreign Affairs, it was turned over to the Minister of Finance because it was felt that it was tidier.

The Minister of Finance announced that - it is in the same newspaper that perpetrates this slander on a continuing basis - the Foreign Exchange Committee was examining gambling. The Prime Minister in his capacity as Prime Minister spoke to a journalist in New York and said that he had no particular position according to what was written on gambling. That was a year and a half ago. I am not indicting the Prime Minister. I am just saying that as a matter of course. For them to be trying to pin some secrecy on the Democratic Labour Party, there is no Democratic Labour Party Government that could get away with sneaking casino gambling into Barbados, not if I were on it or if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South was on it.

This suggestion of some sneaking is unfair and it is not true. The Member for St. John has always been up front with his position.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: His father is a comedian.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Sir. He was a comedian.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: And therefore. Sir, laughter runs in his family. The Honourable Member can laugh. I believe that I have put my position into the record. I want to finish with this point. There are a number of properties in this country that would not be out in the discussion but they have been very quietly making their preparations. God is the Lord, Sir. 2.05 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the contribution by the Honourable Member for St Michael West. I am not going to treat it like his statements before 1986... that it was brought to his attention that there was a cocaine factory on the West Coast of Barbados.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Let me give you the exact information. The Honourable Member is misrepresenting it, Sir. I said that the cocaine factory was down on the East Coast, that the person was staying at the hotel on the West Coast and was directing the factory that was in Belleplaine and that they were in a hotel. I am not going to call the hotel.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, he said operating from Sandy Lane. Whenever I hear the Honourable Member start speaking about what is happening on the West Coast I sit up and take notice.

Now, Sir, on this question of casino gambling and people acting in relation to what they may imagine to be the intention of Government, because that is all that he is saying - people acting in relation to what they may believe to be the intention of Government. It is true that the only application, as far as I am aware, for casino gambling in this country pertains to certain very large projects involving large sums of money that were being promoted by the Democratic Labour Party as being at the centre of their employment creation strategy.

One such project, Sir, is the project involving the St. Philip Land Ltd. where the principals have written this administration indicating that from the very outset the viability of the project depended upon a casino being granted. They submitted applications for Town Planning permission including casinos as part of the project outline, and all of the discussions with Government were permeated by and proceeded upon the basis that without a casino the project would not have been viable. That project within those parameters was nonetheless included in the DLP Manifesto as a project to which they would want to give effect.

Equally, Sir, there has been a project on the West Coast, a major investment, that has been promoted very assiduously by the Democratic Labour Party which, to the best of my knowledge, may also have applied for casino gambling. I make that point to say this that there were certain people purporting to speak on behalf of the last administration...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I would hate in a debate like this to attack anything the Prime Minister says but I want to say that since it is a condition of debates in this House that allegations must be substantiated, and since I will respond if it is something I have knowledge of, I would like the Prime Minister to indicate which West Coast hotel and the date on which that hotel made an application either to the Minister or any other functionary in Barbados for a casino licence.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West just spoke and he did not say what he was talking...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will make a ruling. Are you denying what the Honourable Member for St. Peter is saying?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, unless I have misinterpreted the rule, an allegation has been made that there is another West Coast property. I do not want to force the Honourable Member if he does not wish to give the information. I do not need you to rule on it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My ruling is this. Are you disagreeing? Are you saying that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is stating an untruth in this House?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, I would not know since the evidence has not been presented.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Since you do not know the Honourable Member will proceed. I will take his word for it.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St Michael West has just spoken and he spoke in terms of West Coast properties within his knowledge. I would ask the Honourable Member for St John if he wants the information to speak to his colleague to his immediate left.

I just want to say this, Sir, that there were people purporting to speak on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party who gave investors in this country the assurance that the Democratic Labour Party was prepared to grant licences for at least three casinos in Barbados, one on the

West Coast, one on the South Coast and one in St. Philip. A lot of investment planning was based upon people taking that person purporting to speak on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party at his word.

Mr. Chairman, if I am hearing now that people have made large investments on the West Coast and the Democratic Labour Party is disowning it, and if I am now being told...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: It is a fact. Mr. Chairman, I am going to produce a letter written to me from the St. Philip Land Co. stating that in acting upon people purporting to speak on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party administration they went ahead and incurred large expenditures to plan and develop the project which may be presumed to have a casino at its core.

On the West Coast as well, Sir, we have some large investments that have been made and people purporting to speak on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party gave those entities the word of the Democratic Labour Party administration that the DLP would allow at least three casinos in Barbados, one on the West Coast, so if land has been set aside, it would have had to be set aside subsequent to this administration coming into operation.

Mr. B. M. TAUT: Sir, on a point of elucidation. Out of an abundance of caution let me say that the preparations to which I allude are preparations that were made subsequent to the change of Government. I am only telling you what I allude to. It has nothing to do with any Democratic Labour Party. I am saying that there is a West Coast property that hurriedly went and started preparations as if the decision had already been made. That is the point I am making.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is a very serious matter. When people at the level of Trade Commissioners whose responsibility it is to relate to investors build up a relationship with investors with the knowledge of the Government, as agents of the Government because nothing that the Trade Commissioner did was not done without reference to members, not the full Cabinet...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I want to establish the record. I was Minister of Foreign Affairs. I had a Trade Commissioner functioning in my Ministry. At no time ever did any Trade Commissioner write to me that he was discussing with anybody or giving anybody any information which suggested that they would proceed on the basis of any casino or anything.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, all the Honourable Member for St. Michael West is confirming is that the Trade Commissioner, like so many others of his colleagues, held him in complete contempt. That is all he is seeking to establish that he held you in complete contempt. The Trade Commissioner of the day, with the knowledge of the then Minister of Finance as well, was involved actively with the St. Philip Land Co. The St. Philip Land Co. was paying for the Commissioner to go to London, Sir, not the Government, and that is where the leak came. We had a man who was so sure of the Democratic Labour Party's word that he was going to pay to have a Trade Commissioner, employed by the Democratic Labour Party Government, go to London to see how the London people did it. That is a fact.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Now, Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with the Honourable Member making some of those assertions by implication what is on the file I should have had knowledge of. But the Honourable Member cannot assert that there is any direction from me on any file to any Trade Commissioner in Barbados when I was Minister of Finance or otherwise to act in any way relating to any investor, nor can he state, in this debate, Sir, that I replied to anybody granting any licence for any casino to be operated in Barbados or approved any concessions in respect of the construction or operation of any casino in Barbados. What he can assert is that people wrote to the Minister of Finance and that is a common happening and a common circumstance. 2.15 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also have to say that the word was given that once the election was over that they could proceed with the casinos in this country. In relation to the Minister of Finance of the day, he received applications for concessions for casinos. He received applications for concessions for operating casinos. He has never ever written on the file saying, it is not the Government's policy not to grant concessions for casinos. He left the matter pending.

I am of the view that there was collusion between he and...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member is under no duty to put the whole story but I am rising, on a point of order, to say that the Honourable Member is misleading the House. Nor did I approve concessions for any other aspect of the operation at St. Philip.

The policy was that the operators would be written to and told that they would get exactly the same concessions as other golf courses operating in Barbados. We have not approved any concessions for any previous casino

and, therefore, they could not expect that they would get concessions on a casino.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is about what is on the file. What is not on the file has nothing to do with the chemistry and the working of Government. That is what stinks about this whole matter. The former Minister of Finance publicly stated that he was in support of casino gambling. The shadow spokesman for tourism on behalf of the DLP has publicly said that he supports casino gambling.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I have never said I support casino gambling. I said I do not oppose casino gambling. I have no feelings one way or the other. I do not gamble. But nobody can say that I have ever said that I am in support of casino gambling.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make it very clear that I have gone on record, in this House, indicating that I have no objection personally to the introduction of casino gambling provided it is part of a total package in a developmental process. I have said so.

I raised the question within party circles only to be told, in an unceremonious manner, that over their dead body, that they would resign if they ever entertained the idea of introducing casino gambling. I was ostracized beyond recognition.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: It is within my knowledge, Sir, that on September 1, 1993 the NATION newspaper - and I cannot quote it so I am going to say the words to effect - carried a story saying Gambling Support written by a Mr. Hayden Boyce that has never yet been contradicted by the Honourable Member for St. John saying words to this effect, Minister of Finance, David Thompson, Minister responsible for the Betting and Gaming Commission has no objection to casino gambling starting up in Barbados. If you have no objection, you are supporting.

While this was being carried, a lot of discussion involving investors in this country whose projects depended upon a casino taking place was going on with the knowledge of the then Minister. The then Minister took such a keen interest in the work of the Foreign Exchange Committee that the appointment of the members were approved by the Minister. The Secretary was sanctioned by the Minister. When the Secretary had to go on leave and somebody else had to act, that had to be approved by the Minister.

The files were the formalities but there was a lot of inter-relationships involving the Foreign Exchange Committee who were very close to the Minister, the Trade

Commissioner and investors working to bring casinos to Barbados.

I recall the warning from the Leader of the National Democratic Party that it was also within his certain knowledge that pledges had been made - I remember that in the election campaign as well - with casino gambling operators that at least 3 licences would have been granted to have casinos operating in this country.

I do not want to go back over a debate that has been covered before but Members on the other side have to set this whole business about the DLP's relation to investors of casino gambling in the context of what happened after Cabinet had taken a decision. If Cabinet had, in fact, taken a decision and the then Administration was serious about that policy decision there would have been no Foreign Exchange Committee supported by the active relationship with the Minister of Finance.

The then Cabinet in 1993, as far as I am aware, Sir, took a decision on casino gambling. Mr. Speaker, I want to go back again to the Prime Minister's Minute when he first heard about what St. Philip Land Ltd. was purporting to do.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: He said that the Cabinet has agreed on a policy and that nobody should be encouraged to believe that there has been a change of policy in relation to casino gambling. That was on June 4, 1993. But yet, in February, 1994 the Minister of Finance of the day was appointing people to a task force to examine the feasibility of introducing casino gambling into the country.

I would say that the Member for St. John may take refuge now in what was on the file and what was not on the file.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he acted contrary to the spirit and the Prime Minister's Minute of June 4 when he said nobody should be encouraged to believe. But people were encouraged to believe that there was going to be a change in policy because after the DLP Cabinet had decided a Minister with the same Cabinet approved the setting up of a committee to look into the introduction of casino gambling into this country.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, Mr. Chairman. That is the very point. I was waiting for those words to be Uttered. The task force was a task force to consider gambling in the context of tourism development in Barbados. It was not a task force to consider

casino gambling exclusively. It was the entire regime of gambling in Barbados.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard the Member for St. John speak in terms of his not having met with the people. But the people wrote him saying, you were kind enough to see me and there is nothing on the files that showed that he received a letter from a man saying, you were kind enough to see me, but it does not show that he said that you were mistaken.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have never said that I never met with the operators of St. Philip Land Ltd. I said I met with them in relation to a problem they were having with the development concerning an adequate water supply and I secondly met with them on the question of tax concessions for the entire project. I have never, in my life, met Mr. Wright. I met a Mr. Barstow and I met a Mr. Lyons on 2 separate occasions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter is asked to wind up his presentation.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all I am really saying to this House is that, from the DLP's side where certain of their Members are concerned, this whole matter about the introduction of casino gambling is shrouded in a low, rank form of hypocrisy. They knew what they were doing. The Trade Commissioner was given his head to go ahead and talk to people.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I am saying that the Prime Minister is misleading this Committee. The Trade Commissioner was answerable to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Therefore if he said that the Trade Commissioner was given his head, he is saying that the Trade Commissioner was given his head by the Minister. 2.25 p.m.

I am stating categorically that the Minister of Foreign Affairs never gave the Trade Commissioner or anybody else any help, any instruction, any leeway, any possibility of going to talk about casino gambling on behalf of the Government or anybody else.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, one further point, and this is a point of fact that the former Minister of Foreign Affairs will recall that previous to his becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs the Foreign Exchange Committee was located under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When he became the Minister it transferred to the Ministry of Finance and that all of the work of the Trade Commissioner was by way of a relationship, not between

the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which he wants me to say, and him but between the Trade Commissioner and the then Minister of Finance. And that is the point that he wanted and I am going to say it for him that the Foreign Exchange Commission was in fact moved from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and located in the Ministry of Finance and all of the behind the scenes work to introduce casino gambling in Barbados took place between a Trade Commissioner who supported casino gambling being introduced in Barbados and a Minister of Finance who also supported it. I rest my case there, Sir, for now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on this matter of the Estimates relating to tourism and gambling as it relates to tourism I have but one very brief comment to make on the particular issue of gambling. Our position in the NDP is crystal clear on the issue, that is, no casino gambling in Barbados.

I recognise, Sir, that a gag order has been placed on the Minister of Tourism and he is unable to speak to the subject of casino gambling and tourism in this country. Since a gag order has been placed on him, it becomes necessary for other people to raise the issue of casino gambling in relation to tourism.

Now I note, Sir, that in these Estimates a sum of \$200 000 has been set aside to provide for expenses for the Commission on Casino Gambling. That is an awful lot of money and I promise this House, Sir, that as this debate proceeds I would be looking for every window of opportunity in the Estimates which can lead to some job creation for my people in St. Michael South Central.

I believe, Sir, having listened to the Prime Minister, I can only come to the conclusion that he is against casino gambling. I have heard him once, I have heard him twice on the matter. Let us therefore resolve, Sir, to save this \$200 000 which can employ 20 people in St. Michael South Central for a whole year by just collapsing the Gambling Commission right now and say, no to casino gambling. Let us say that this is the resolve of this Honourable House this afternoon. Let it go forth to this entire country that this Parliament, on this day, has reached a consensus that we will open this window of opportunity for 20 jobs in Barbados, collapse the Gambling Commission and say no to casino gambling. I say no more on that.

Sir, I have to make the best use of this time that is available to me. Yesterday I tried to address the issue of competitiveness in relation to the tourism industry and I sincerely hope that the Honourable Minister of

Tourism fully recognises that one of the most important factors which influences the direction of the movement of tourists is the relative exchange rates and therefore his strategy for promotion must* at all times take into account what is happening to the United States dollar to which we are tied and therefore I would strongly suggest to the Honourable Minister of Tourism that at this point in time in 1995 that maximum emphasis should be placed on Europe because the present situation is that the United States dollar has weakened substantially in relation to European currencies and therefore the Ministry of Tourism must be sensitive enough to recognise immediately the importance of that shift in exchange rates considerations and place its emphasis now in Europe on the assumption which I think is a reasonable assumption that that situation will remain so.

The second point I want to raise, Sir, is this whole question of...

Aside,

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am talking, Sir, of the linkage of promotion to exchange rates sensitivity. There is little point putting money behind promotion when the exchange rate is going against you. You have to go with the exchange rate tide.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I imagine at least 12 months. It is looking that way to me because I think the Americans are going to be reluctant to increase interest rates too rapidly and that is going to be the only corrective factor. That is my judgement.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not think the exchange rate... That is a form of gambling and therefore I would not get involved in that.

Now, Sir, there is another very serious matter relating to tourism that I want to address and this also involves the Attorney General as the Minister responsible for Immigration in this country.

I am concerned, Sir, with what I perceive over the past few years as the progressive alienation of the tourism industry from the people of Barbados in many respects. We are calling on Barbadians to play their part in the industry and I can assure you that if that alienation continues it is going to be very difficult to get Barbadians to play their part in an industry from which they are progressively alienated.

Yesterday many of us looked rather carefully at the impact of the environment on the operations of hotel plant in Barbados and the present situation is that local owners really have only a marginal stake in the industry in this country when you look at the debt equity ratio of their properties and so on. 2.35 p.m.

Over and above that, Sir, there are some interesting things happening in Barbados. What is happening to the ownership of the restaurants in this country that relate to tourism? What is happening to the people who are employed in those restaurants at various levels? I have gone to a restaurant on the west coast one night and everybody who served me was non-Barbadian. I did not know who cooked the meal, but certainly everybody up front was non-Barbadian. The point I am making is this, Sir, that whilst it is good that we have diversified our cuisine in Barbados pretty successfully over the years, we have to make sure that we do not go the further step, in that these ancillary services are progressively alienated from the people of Barbados. I have seen one or two mini-marts being opened up in the tourism area. Look and see who is beginning to own those things, A lot of the real estate activity that relates to the tourism area, look and see who are the people out there on the ground making a living out of them, apart from those who may own the companies. Look very carefully and see who the people are.

One of the few areas in our economic life where over the past 50 years you can say that Barbadians as a whole have been successful is the area of transport, whether it be in the form of minibuses, buses or whatever. Look and see what is happening in that area. When we reach the situation where at the level of plant ownership, at the level of several major sectors of the ancillary services, we see what is happening, then I think we need to look very carefully at these matters.

I think the Attorney General needs to look once again at what is happening in respect of immigration policy. I understood the immigration policy in relation to the tourist industry or anywhere else, but especially in the tourist industry, was that, when work permits are granted, there is a reasonable assumption that after a period of time Barbadians will be trained to take over these jobs and so on. You need to look and see whether this is in fact happening. I have received many complaints and I know of many instances where it has not been happening.

Hon. P. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I hope the Honourable Member will be so kind as to just write down on that yellow pad and give me the areas where this kind of thing is happening, where there should be training but there is no training, and therefore the conditions of the work permits are being breached. If

he will be so kind as to give me that I will treat it absolutely confidentially.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In due course we will make sure that this information is communicated as accurately as I can, but my understanding is that in the industry this kind of thing is fairly widespread where all sorts of excuses are being made in terms of failure to train people, or the special requirements needed for the particular establishment and so on, and the whole thing is designed to deprive Barbadians of an opportunity to participate in the tourism plant at that level. What I am saying is that this is something that has to be addressed. There are many concerns about it. I have had many complaints. I accept that all complaints have to be looked into in some detail, but it is something that we must at all times be very much aware of to make sure that there is vertical mobility within the tourism industry for Barbadians. Very important, Sir.

One final point I want to make is about windows of opportunities for vendors in this country and vendors in relation to the tourism plant. I know this debate has been going on for a while, but I believe that the time has come when the hoteliers in Barbados should sit down and say what contribution can we make to housing the vendors at strategic points in relation to the tourism industry. Is there any reason, for example, why a hotel on Hastings, whether it is being constructed or renovated, whether it is being given Government concessions in terms of renovations, cannot be asked to make a little window on the front road available for a vendor? If you take that whole area from Sam Lord's going right up to Heywoods, I can see a thousand windows being opened up.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not see the windows now, but I know that you can have a thousand windows opened between Sam Lord's Castle and Heywoods and beyond if that policy is pursued. Then our people would feel that they are part of the tourism industry, they would feel that when you say: "Tourism is our business: let us play our part" that that does not have an empty ring to it, because they would feel an intimate sense of involvement.

Sir, I have tried during this presentation just to mention three areas I think could be of some value to the Government. We will try our best during these Estimates to try to set the Government on the right course. That is what we are trying to do. By next Estimates, if you do not do the things that I have recommended that you should do, which would be the right and proper things, then it would be a different opportunity. So I want to see a thousand windows of opportunity for the vendors of this country opened up in the next year between Sam Lord's and Heywoods. Sir, it can be done within this budget, it can be

done within the context of the programme which the Prime Minister said he would put in place for the south coast. It can be put as a condition in terms of the concessional arrangements that are going to be put in place in relation to those hotels. We may have to twist a few arms, but it can be done. If it is necessary, Sir, I will drive from Sam Lord's to Heywoods and I will place the landmarks where the windows of opportunity can be located.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, it is really amazing to those of us who have memories to see how Honourable Members who have been out of here for a long period of time, and who participated in the desecration of the tourism landscape in Barbados have all of a sudden been transformed. 2.45 p.m.

The Honourable Member who has just spoken was part and parcel of a regime which took control of Barbados in 1986 and which deliberately and systematically sabotaged a programme which the Barbados Labour Party Administration had put in place over a ten-year period, 1976-86, to do precisely what the Honourable Member is now advocating. Not only was that done, but I can recall, Sir, that from Sam Lord's right down to Heywoods in St. Peter, the specific areas. An arrangement was made with Marriotts at Sam Lord's to have the hotel make a contribution by way of building a vendors stall on the beach.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I have never heard of any such programme. It would have been a secret programme, but I am very glad that you are being converted on the spot to the programme I just advocated.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, I am going to delineate each and every one of them. The contribution of the hotel was that they would build a physical structure. The contribution of the Government was that they would provide through the Parks and Beaches Commission, as it then was, the beach wardens to ensure that there was no illegal trading by people other than the legitimately licensed people by the Parks and Beaches.

We went further, Sir. The Government itself approved accesses to Sam Lord's Beach and the right of way at Sam. Lord's which was the public right of way was fixed up by the Parks and Beaches Commission pursuant to the statutory power and duty that they have which is to keep the public accesses open.

At the Crane, in the same St. Philip, again steps were taken to ensure that the beach at the Crane which was eroded.... Honourable Members should be aware of the

fact that the access to the beach at the Crane was seriously eroded and efforts were made by the Ministry of Communications and Works to ensure that the vehicular access to the car park at the bottom of the hill by the Crane, that area where the Honourable Member's chief backer, Simpson Incorporated, now owns the place. So the Honourable Member should be very familiar with the landscape of that area. His political backroller.

Sir, we went further in the same St. Philip. In Foul Bay the Government made sure that there was access for the picnic spot at Foul Bay, another major area. As we came down the coast at Chancery Lane with which, you, Mr. Chairman, will be very familiar. The point about Barbados which the Honourable Member does not understand is that the Law of Barbados says that the owner of the land owns the land from the sea right up to the high water mark. The way you get around that in Barbados is to ensure that either the Government acquires the land and makes sure it controls all of the beach land or it makes sure that it has a sufficient area on that land so that people can have access to the high water mark.

The Honourable Member should remember it was the Barbados Labour Party that acquired in 1946 the Rockley Beach area so as to preserve that for all Barbadians and the Honourable Member should be very grateful because the land that he owns around Rockley is now increased in value because of the wisdom of the Barbados Labour Party.

As we went on in Oistins, in Silver Sands. The Honourable Member should recall this. In the 1960s when I was a member of this House, in conjunction with the then Member for Christ Church, the late Sir Cuthbert Talma, we acquired over 20 acres of land at Silver Sands and people don't know that the Government owns all of that land in Silver Sands which is now Silver Sands Park. We acquired it during the time of the regime of the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party, Carlton Brathwaite, your good friend...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My good friend?

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I am talking to the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central because he seems to have...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should address the Chair.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: He seems to have a mental gap as to what occurred in Barbados. The Honourable Member should remember his good friend and himself used to frequent that area, not for particular purposes in those days. Silver Sands was a famous area, Sir.

As you come down the coast the Honourable Member should recall what was done in Oistins. Oistins is the greatest window to the sea. We came down the coast in Maxwell Coast Road where we had a lot of difficulty. I would remind the Honourable Member of the old graveyard site of the former Christ Church. It was the Barbados Labour Party that insisted that the National Conservation Commission clean up the graveyard in Christ Church so as to provide a major access for the people of Maxwell and that area.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is your problem. You know nothing about history so you are ignorant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Honourable Member, try to address the Chair.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: As we come down the coast in Worthing and Dover. When we talked about Dover, if the Honourable Member was in the House today, he would have recalled that in the Dover area how we spoke of what we were able to do in Dover to create that window opposite the Dover playing field. The Honourable Member knows that area very well. He used to frequent a house there with the same people there by Dover. The Honourable Member knows that house very well - between the Cable and Wireless and the house the Honourable Member used to go to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which Honourable Member?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I used to live in the St. Lawrence Gap for a while. Not frequent. I used to live there. Frequent is a different implication.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, I don't have to go over it because I want the Honourable Member to recall how in this House the Barbados Labour Party in Bay Street acquired the whole of the old natural gas corporation site so as to ensure that we would have a major window to the sea in Bay Street because everybody saw the development of probably the largest beach that we have in Barbados by the Hilton Hotel. The Barbados Labour Party did that. At that time there were Honourable Members on the other side that were saying that we were wrong to do it. I well remember the debate in here.

I want to go further because I want to correct some things that have been said recently about alleged generosity on the part of people who bought Hey woods. The record will show that when Heywoods in St. Peter was built that the Barbados Labour Party insisted that between the southern boundary which is the Speightstown side and the northern boundary which is the Six Men's side that

there was an access all along the front of the hotel. The Barbados Labour Party insisted on the planning of Heywoods that there was a pedestrian access on the southern boundary to the north which ran all around the front of the Heywoods hotel. When the Democratic Labour Party came to sell it, the Democratic Labour Party agreed that they would close that access and in return that they would have at the northern end an access road from the Heywoods by-pass road right down to the sea.

I just want to make it clear. It was no favour that the owners did. I want to know and I want the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to tell me what were the arrangements made when Heywoods was sold with respect to the southern area where there was a beach facility to perpetuate the very objective that the Honourable Member talks about.

We insisted as part of the planning in Hey woods that there should be a multi-purpose vending area under cover right within the hotel property. The Democratic Labour Party agreed for the abolition of that. 2.55 p.m.

When we talk about injustices being done and perpetrated, let the Honourable Member remember his former colleagues were the participants in the massacre of the programmes of the Barbados Labour Party for public access and vending. Do not tell me that.

Now, Sir, I want to go further because this is a very important debate. When the history of Barbados is to be written, the truth must be told. I remember in St. James right where the St. James Police Station is now, that the Labour Party had built a vendor's mall in Holetown, similar to the one built at Dover. When the Democratic Labour Party came into power, and at that time the Honourable Member was not calling them back street abortionists, he was part and parcel of them. The Democratic Labour Party, including the Honourable Member, took that vendors mall, converted it into a restaurant and did exactly what the Honourable Member said should not be done. They rented it to a German woman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member has accused me of being a party to destroying some mall or something like that. I do not know what he is talking about. The Honourable Member was making a wonderful speech on windows to the sea. That is what I called for. I am calling for 1,000 windows of opportunity. Everybody recognises that he is not addressing what I addressed.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I do not know what the Honourable Member is talking about because if you

provide facilities which are congenial enough to attract vendors who will in turn attract trade, I do not know if that is not a window of opportunity. I know that the Honourable Member knows what a window of opportunity is. His window of opportunity deals with buying real estate and renting it out.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is correct but I do not pretend like you do.

Now, Sir, I want to go further, An essential of this strategy is a determination by all Honourable Members on both sides. We must lead the people who we want to understand. We must tell them quite clearly that we will do everything in our power to create the infrastructural conditions but they must not sell dope and carry on other illegal activities in those areas. We must do that. We must tell them that they must not go out there and harass the people to get them to their stalls. We must uplift them in their attitude while at the same time we provide the infrastructural development.

There is just one last point I want to make. I understand what the Honourable Member is talking about in Barbados where there has been visible change in the provision of services and activities which hitherto we regarded as being the preserve of Barbadians or CARICOM Citizens because in Barbados you cannot say that you are only Barbadian. There are a large number of people who have been living here and are equally as Barbadian as us, more Barbadian than the Honourable Leader of the Opposition because they had been here longer.

We have to understand that the Laws of Barbados make it clear that if you are a Barbadian man and you marry a foreign woman, irrespective of her nationality, that she is entitled to citizenship of Barbados. That is a fact. I do not deny that so that when the Honourable Member sees a large number of European women participating in the gropnd tour operation, for instance, it concerns me too. I did an investigation and I have found that a large number of these women have been smart enough, at least they have gone either to a church door or to a magistrate for the time feeing in order to be able to get the Immigration permission. This is reality. Barbadians do it abroad and they have come and done it here so that is the position.

I agree with the Honourable Member with this. What I fjnd very strange is that there are a number of people who have restaurants carrying on the same type of rum shop operations that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is an expert in...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I do not run a rum shop.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: I am sorry, Sir. He runs a minimart. That is a good activity. I know the Honourable Member is a good, small businessman. He has about four or five of them now and I would like to see him get 20 or 25.

The basic point is, Sir, we have a number of activities which in the past there was a consensus that there was a certain level of activity that should be reserved for Barbados and the CARICOM citizens. People have been able to breach that by getting Barbadians to front for them. We had an outstanding case in St Lawrence Gap, in Dover.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Not you. The Honourable Member has enough money that he made out of the transporting of sugar that he can finance 20.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House once more. I am rather surprised that he would mislead the House because I have always respected him. I have never transported sugar.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I am sorry, Sir. He arranged the financing of the transport.

Now, Sir, the basic position is that we have had a problem with this. These cases have reached the law courts in which nuisance actions have been brought against proprietors of these businesses. When you see who the defendant is, it is not the person who in truth and in fact carries on the business in broad daylight and at night time. It is a Barbadian who is the defendant. When you search and look at it and you find out what has happened is that the liquor licence and the lease are in the name of Barbadians but the business activity is carried on by a number of people from abroad. That is a problem you have not only here but you have it in Greece. They tell me that the British are experts at doing it. They learnt it from getting around the laws in Spain, so we have a problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up his presentation.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Part of the problem is compounded by the fact that there are Barbadians willing to participate in this fronting. I want to make it clear. The Labour Party has nothing at all to be ashamed of in its record of providing opportunities for black businessmen

providing windows to the sea. I am proud and happy that in the 10 years that I was Minister of Tourism and the one year as Prime Minister, I lent 1 000% support to the effectuation of that objective.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to speak in this debate and hopefully I can be very brief because the Minister certainly looks very weary and justifiably so.

Mr. Chairman, in the presentation or contribution to this debate the Honourable Prime Minister dealt with some issues relating to casino gambling. I am not minded to get into that debate today. The Honourable Prime Minister finds himself in the position he is in as a result of the utterances, reckless though they were, of the Minister of Tourism. This has been the most expensive way of covering up a political gaffe, an irresponsible statement made by a Minister of Government. Because it is about to cost the taxpayers of this country \$200 000 so far to rectify a scenario caused by the irresponsible mouthings of the Minister of Tourism with respect to casino gambling prior to taking a sounding from his colleagues in the Barbados Labour Party. So confused is this scenario that, in one of the first major tests of the Prime Minister's leadership, he has had to remove the whip on his members and, in a matter to be voted on in due course in relation to casino gambling, they are going to be voting on the basis of their conscience. Because the Prime Minister is unsure, and there is nothing wrong with that, sometimes as leaders you can be unsure, as to where his members may stand because their positions on the issue may differ. 3.05 p.m.

But yet, even in the face of that, the Prime Minister has told the public of Barbados, and I am very concerned about that statement, that he will abide by the recommendations of the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, the political folly - I am not accusing anybody of foolishness - of that statement is that if the Commission recommends something that the members of the Barbados Labour Party, as members, do not agree, with then the Prime Minister now has to go the next stage of seeking to convince his members to support that position and they cannot do so if the whip is not on.

All I am saying to the Prime Minister, I am not giving gratuitous advice, is not to take the whip off, avoid a conscience vote and do as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said and take a position one way or the other. I know the Prime Minister is in an embarrassing position having to spend \$200 000 in taxpayers' money to paper-over a rupture caused by a Minister speaking out of turn. It is not the first time it

has happened. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph speaks his mind sometimes too readily. That is not a fault but it is a costly exercise, Mr. Chairman. Very, very costly. But anyway I do not wish to spend any major time on this issue. The Democratic Labour Party's position is known.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do remember participating in an interview with a reporter. I cannot quote from what I said, so I am going to have to draw upon the reserves of my memory to remind the House that, in that same interview, I recall telling the reporter that although the Government of Barbados had indicated that it was not proposing to introduce casino gambling here - in the same article, same exercise, same interview that I participated in - I told the reporter then, even though it had gambling support at the top, that the Democratic Labour Party Government was not proposing to introduce casino gambling here.

I went on to make the concession, a concession which other people make in respect of this, that in this day and age, this activity was a very important factor in relation to the sale of hotel properties and that all of the major chains - I am going to get to Marriotts - that were interested in purchasing Heywoods Hotel raised this issue of casino gambling.

Barbados Shipping and Trading wanted it as a condition of the purchase of Heywoods that if casino gambling was introduced in Barbados that they would be given first consideration in relation to the matter because of the size of their investment. They asked for that.

I have learnt a good lesson from this exercise. I accept that perhaps commitments were given which went beyond the remit of people. I have never met the gentleman who was on television talking about commitments by the Democratic Labour Party. When I heard his voice the following morning, it was the first time that I had seen him physically. I met a Mr. Barstow who came to my office shortly before I demitted office as Minister of Finance and he did not even present documents to me. We shook hands. We sat at the table in the Ministry of Finance. He asked, is the Government committed to the St. Philip project? I said, we have given the same concessions as we have given the other golf course operators. He said he would have an agreement drafted and that was the basis of it. The operators also wrote me a letter with a whole list of concessions.

The Honourable Prime Minister is aware that the Minister of Finance in Barbados - and the former Prime Minister is aware of it too and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South receives volumes of correspondence on a daily basis...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is true. I think all Ministers do. But I would also say that it appears that because, for example, tax concessions are, by and large, granted by the Minister of Finance as a discretion, people take the opportunity of writing directly to the Minister. Very often the letters are simply sent on for processing to come back up through the system. The fact that somebody wrote a letter to me with the word casino in it... There was an old Spanish King when Spain was still an Empire Philip II who, in the corners of the folios sent to him, would ask questions about how many sailors died from scurvy, how many maggots were found in the cheese and all kinds of minutiae.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was listening, very carefully, to his language.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mail was sent on. I never dealt with those matters. Concessions were to come through the system. It went to the Registry and came back up. Unless it was a small farmer or small entrepreneur who I felt could not wait for the system, and Honourable Members on that side know about cases like that where sometimes, they may call on behalf of a constituent they have, to express a view or they may write and say this fellow needs a van urgently. He has a plough that needs a tax concession or whatever. The Minister may write "Approved" on it and let it speed through the system. But by and large, that correspondence went on.

I could honestly say I have learned a lesson because I made no connection between the subsequent letters from St. Philip Land Development and the decision of the Cabinet and I was always of the view that the operators of St. Philip Land Development Ltd. were made aware of the decision of the Cabinet.

But I want to say this, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: If they were not, that is not my problem. I said I was always of the view. If Cabinet takes a decision, it is not the Minister that writes and informs the person of that decision. That is the duty of the Cabinet Secretary to inform the Permanent Secretary who deals with that.

I will go on to make the further comment that with respect to St. Philip Land Development, there was no further correspondence directly relating to the casino. I believe the officer in the Ministry sent the matter on to the various Ministries, Central Bank, Immigration Department and the Betting and Gaming Committee.

Furthermore, I would say this. There is no law in Barbados that prohibits the construction of a casino. The law in Barbados prohibits table top gambling. It is the Vagrancy Act. But if a man is as foolish as to build a casino... There are casino tables and roulette wheels in this country. They are not against the law and people keep them as antiques. I believe there was one auctioned recently down at one of those places...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: They may use them. I do not know. The paraphernalia for casino gambling is not illegal in Barbados. It exists. What is illegal is the actual gambling. They could never have gotten concessions on the construction of a casino. But if a man comes to Barbados and says I am building a casino, without a casino licence... I also want to make this point.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: If he builds it, he cannot operate it until he has the casino licence. It is not for the Minister to grant a casino licence. The law prohibits it. But I want to go on to make this important point that the operators of St Philip Land Development Ltd., if they say that the development was contingent on a casino are misleading the people of Barbados. 3.15 p.m.

And I find it an awful and sordid chapter, to quote the language of the Honourable Prime Minister, that people can come from England, whom the Prime Minister by his own concession said are not reputable enough. Well I do not know them I have never carried out any survey on them, and yet they can still be the basis for intelligent politicians in this country to be debating whether to believe them or not to believe them and what is the strength or importance of a letter they have written. I did not secrete documents out of the Ministry of Finance when I left. I only have in my possession documents which are my personal property and therefore the Prime Minister has an advantage over me.

I want to say this, the Broad Street Journal, Monday November 21, 1994, Mr. Lyons himself said to the Editor...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to note that he cannot quote from newspapers.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not quoting. I am assuming that the Editor is a fair and reasonable person and he says that while the development at St. Philip is not strictly dependent on a casino the project will be much different without one. They said in this that it was not dependent on a casino. They argue now that it was

dependent on a casino. At that time there were a number of projects going at the same time. The present Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade pointed out to me, as Minister of Finance, that Marriotts was on the market and that he felt that it would be a good idea that Barbados should do all it could do to keep the people but that he would like me as Minister of Finance to talk to a Mr. John Marriott, I think was his name, and I happened to be in Washington, where he resides, and he met with me and spoke to me about development at Marriotts, about the hotel as a whole and then he went on to say that he wanted to operate a casino in Barbados. I wrote to him and told him the laws in Barbados have not changed but...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is the "he" you are talking about?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Marriott. He then wrote a subsequent letter to the Chairman of the Betting and Gaming Committee apparently requesting consideration of the establishment of a casino at Sam Lord's Castle. We never set up any task force on casino gambling.

The issues relating to gambling were wider than that. There may have been Members of the Committee whose focus was on casino, but the TDC who contracted Solomon, had previously written to the Ministry of Finance about the Port There was somebody operating an arcade in the Port, who under the present law was paying some kind of horrendous fee as if it was an arcade open for the period that an hotel would normally be open every day. He was asking to pay a different kind of fee because that arcade would only be open and available for that kind of thing when ships were in the harbour and at the height of the season and a whole range of other recommendations.

There were people who were saying that there were unlicensed one-arm bandit machines operating in Barbados. There were people who were saying there were licences out but machines not operating so that we were under-machined or over-licensed as the case may be. So that all of these issues were supposed to be issues to be discussed by the task force committee and the private sector and so on.

The Prime Minister wrote to me, providing me with the Nat Solomon Report. I had never seen the report because the FXC, to the best of my recollection, did not meet beyond March 1994. I wrote back to the Prime Minister. Mr. Chairman, I can make the document a document of the House. I said to him that, "it would be quite incorrect and even greater tragedy for any one least of all you who has access to the files and records of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Finance to assert that the then Minister of Finance set up any working group on

casino gambling or that any report has been in the possession of the Foreign Exchange Committee".

There may have been attempts to derail that task force but the task force was set up even before the Trade Commissioner is purported to have written to the Minister of Finance. The reason why I want to say this is, that that Trade Commissioner was writing to the Minister of Finance pursuant to a function which took place at the Island Inn Hotel at which we honoured the former Chairman, a Mr. Maurice King, and the Secretary of the FXC who is the Permanent Secretary, Foreign Affairs for their work with the FXC. And the *Advocate* Newspaper carried a report entitled "Gambling FXC" in which they set out that I had said we had agreed at the last FXC Meeting that we would set up a task force to look at the entire issue of gambling because the private sector was taking the position that Government turned a blind eye to practices both in relation to casinos and in relation to slot machines and we needed to have a proper regime in place. The *Advocate* carried that report on the 23rd of December, 1993.

As I said, I have no recollection of any other arrangements regarding the operators of St. Philip Land Development Limited and certainly have no recollection of ever discussing with them myself, the issue of casino gambling or giving them any undertaking in relation to it.

The only last point I want to make which may be of interest to the Honourable Member for St. Peter having spent so much time accusing me and other Members of the Democratic Labour Party of being spineless and supine and so on. It rings strange to hear from him now that I acted contrary and in open defiance of the instructions of my then Prime Minister, being described as being a clone and somebody who did not think for myself. I want to know if we are blowing hot and cold whether I was in fact that or whether you are now saying I was when it suited my purpose. Anyway I do not believe that it is fair for the Honourable Member for St. Peter to say that this debate has been characterised by any hypocrisy. I put my position, he replied, he produced volumes of documents from people to me, nothing from me to them, and the debate will have to end.

The point is, I certainly do not intend to permit any foreign group which he says is disreputable to come in here and divide us as Barbadians on an issue such as this. I only want to say that the mistake has been a costly one for the Prime Minister and I regret the circumstances in which he finds himself in this matter.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr, Chairman, Sir, I just want to assure the Member for St John, that I personally am in no doubt as to whose son he is, Sir* Sir, his Resolution before Parliament calls upon Parliament to deplore the

statement of the Minister and Members on this side are not going to do that and reject the proposals to set up a Commission and we are not going to do that either. But, Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is good that the Member has now acknowledged that he met with a Mr. Andrew Barstow and it is also good that we must not allow foreign investors to divide us because there is far more to that Bushy Park project than has so far been disclosed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Mr. Richard Lyons wrote to the Minister on the 10th August it was in the context that he said: "I know that you met with our representative on Monday", and he said "Now that the completion of the purchase of the site is imminent.." I make that point to say, Sir, that the Minister was himself therefore in on the know about the arrangements for the purchase of the site.

Sir, I just want briefly to say that on that hangs a long and large and interesting tale. Sir, on the 23rd August, 1994 the Director of Finance...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is ruling that this matter of casino gambling is attracting the attention of the Committee too extensively and I would prefer if you would direct attention to matter in hand, tourism,

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr, Chairman, casino gambling has been dealt with in the context of tourism development in Barbados... 3.25 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is ruling that Members will be advised, in the interest of the proper functioning of the Committee, that the matter is being handled too extensively. I would prefer if you would desist from such extensive coverage of an issue which has no direct relevance to the expenditure under discussion.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, certain charges have been made about me in the discharge of my responsibility in setting up a Commission on casino gambling as part of this debate. It is pan of the traditions of this Parliament that when charges are levelled a person should have the right to respond to them and I am responding to the charges that have been levelled.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is ruling that it would appreciate if this matter is handled as expeditiously as possible.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am trying to get it to a close. I am going to deal with it as expeditiously as possible. I am saying that it has now been established by the Member for St. John that he met with the investors for the St. Philip Land Development pertaining to matters concerned the sale of the land.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, Mr. Chairman. I met with the investor, Mr. Barstow, in relation to the tax concessions. It was not Government owned land, it was a private treaty. As far as I know he bought it from private citizens and I therefore had no discussion with them regarding the sale of any land, my discussion was on tax concessions. I should add, just to be clear, they also asked about exchange control matters, immigration matters and tax concessions. Those were the three items.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, in due course this whole thing is going to hang out. I just want to say that on the 10th August the investors did write the Minister saying that they knew he had met with their representatives and that now that the completion of the site was imminent, that the Minister was brought up-to-date on the fact that the purchase of Bushy Park was imminent. I am saying as well, Sir, that in relation to this matter of the purchase of Bushy Park, on 23rd August, 1994 the Director of Finance wrote the Chairman of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust in these terms. He says:

"I am writing you in response to a letter dated 28th June concerning correspondence between the Acting Manager of the Barbados Development Bank and yourself regarding the sale of Bushy Park Plantation, which was pledged by way of security on a loan forming part of the portfolio purchased from the BNB by the BACT."

He says:

"I do not necessarily agree with you that the plantation should have been sold for residential purposes, but I share your concern at the large write off which was accepted by the BNB on the sale of Bushy Park¹

He went on to say, Sir

"I believe that this is an important lesson to be learned here. The BACT has been established to work out the indebtedness to the Government that the sugar industry has accumulated through the BNB. The BACT should make the most of any opportunity for realising the largest amount of any loan outstanding as it is possible to get under any circumstances."

The essential point, therefore, Sir, is that while they cannot now renege on the agreement, it might have been possible to arrive at a settlement, not involving such a large write off, to the benefit of the BACT.

There is a lot in this matter that is going to come out. Bushy Park Plantation Limited was pledged by way of security on a loan forming part of the portfolio purchased

from the BNB by the BACT. People were advised it should not have been sold to St. Philip Land Limited, it should have gone into residential subdivision. It was told in a manner that there was a massive write off to the BNB that caused concern both to the Chairman of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust as well to the Director of Finance and Planning, and they drew attention to the fact that in circumstances where the land was going to be sold for what was supposed to be a very lucrative investment project, Sir, this large write off at the expense of the Bank and the Agricultural Credit Trust was totally ill-advised and the Minister was brought up to date on all these things. This is one of the most sordid and ugliest chapters in the financial history of this country. I am saying no more about this matter for now.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. When the Director of Finance writes a letter he does not write it in his own behalf, the Director of Finance writes on behalf of the Minister of Finance, and therefore the Honourable Member has to appreciate that any view the Director of Finance expresses is a view of the Minister of Finance, and he is therefore writing pursuant, one would assume, to instructions which he receives from his Minister. A public servant cannot act outside of his remit unless he is exercising some special statutory function, so if the Director of Finance writes expressing concern, those can only be the concerns of the Minister.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But then he has to advise the Minister, he cannot advise somebody else. You are quite right, but that letter is not a letter to the Minister, Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I simply wish to make a few points. I am very conscious of your intimation that we should be as expeditious as the Standing Orders of this House will permit in dealing with this matter, so I will speak briefly and yield the remainder of my time to the Minister.

I wish to remind the House of something that is already in the full knowledge of the House and this Committee, that under the Constitution of Barbados, at Section 64 Subsection (2), it is stated, and I quote:

"The Cabinet shall be the principal instrument of policy and shall be charged with the general direction and control of the government of Barbados and shall be collectively responsible therefore to Parliament."

We have been speaking a lot, Sir, about casino gambling and I would like to intimate to all Members that decisions of the Government on casino gambling,

decisions that are binding decisions, are made by the Cabinet of Barbados; and until we can see any evidence that the Cabinet of Barbados has approved a policy for the introduction of casino gambling during the administration of the Democratic Labour Party, unless and until this can be done, it has to be the position that the Government and Cabinet of Barbados were opposed to the introduction of casino gambling.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I recall, Sir - and the Member for St Joseph is correcting me, for my memory of matters in this House is very long - that some time in the 1970s a Resolution on gambling was brought into this House for debate and discussion. After that debate and discussion it was passed. I recall that the mover of that Resolution was Mr. Lionel Craig, the same one who told me at the end of a session as we were walking down the steps of this Chamber, "Well, Sandy, boy. Two of us walking down here. I know only one of us will be walking back up." And he was quite right. The only trouble is he thought it was he who would be walking back up. 3.35 p.m.

He introduced that Resolution. I do not know what is the ante. I heard the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of my political Party talking about roulette tables and some other kind of table and things like that, blackjack and something else. I really don't know what those are. What I do know is that that Resolution was seconded...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to follow the previous direction. I gave you a little latitude but I want you to come back.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I will make the point that the Resolution was seconded by the Member for St. Joseph. That is the record of the House. It is not therefore surprising to me that the Member has taken a position on this matter, but I say no more about that now, because there is still a Resolution on casino gambling that is unfinished. I believe the debate has not yet been concluded so I don't wish to pursue that.

I want to make it abundantly clear, and also support the position taken by the Member for St. Michael West, that my Government was opposed to the introduction of casino gambling in Barbados. That was the position of the Government and the Cabinet I find it very difficult to believe that the present Government should seek to hide behind its own perception of what the Democratic Labour Party Government believes in pursuing the question of casino gambling. I said what my Government's position was. The Barbados Labour Party Government is free to say what is its position.

As a taxpayer in this country, I am very annoyed that my taxes are going, if this Appropriation Bill is passed, towards the payment of a commission on the question of casino gambling. It is not necessary. That is what I believe. I want to lay these matters on the Table. I will set out the position in more detail when we come to the question of the Resolution on casino gambling, but I want to make it abundantly clear what the position has been. My government was not in favour of the introduction of casino gambling. I leave it at that for this time, Sir.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I propose at this point, Mr. Chairman, to wind up the debate. If that is not the wish of the Honourable House, you will see my contribution here now as purely an intervention.

Asides.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Yesterday afternoon around five o'clock my shadow on the Other Side in the course of his contribution, his first contribution to this debate, enquired whether I had anything to say about casino gambling as it related to tourism, I did not know then... I appreciated then that he was being provocative in that he was trying to lure me into speaking on casino gambling, but I did not know that he was also attempting to lay the foundation for certain very serious and unmerited charges to be laid against me. To begin with that, I was under gag orders not to speak on casino gambling and secondly that I had made a very irresponsible, it turned out and, as they said on the Other Side, and expensive gaffe with respect to casino gambling.

Let me just set this matter without going into it in any detail in context The Barbados Labour Party took no position on gambling ever since the Crichton Commission reported in the mid 1970s. In the run-up to the last general election, I repeatedly called on the Party - we had no position on gambling since the 1970s and that position was in relation to one-arm bandits. Since then we have taken no position - in the light of the fact that it was becoming a public issue.

After the election and after my appointment, in the course of a breakfast interview in New York with members of the hotel trade and the tourism trade, I was asked what was our position in Barbados with relation to casino gambling and I made the comment that the Cabinet of the Barbados Labour Party Administration was yet to determine the matter but that there were applications before the Government dealing with investment which was linked to casinos and that the Government had to make up its mind and that I was looking forward in my capacity as Minister of Tourism to take a paper before the Cabinet at which the matter would be discussed.

That was the statement that gave rise to all that we have heard all over this country. Mr. Tony Best was careful to report that the Minister said that the Cabinet was yet to determine the matter, but he added that the impression which he got was that the Cabinet would say yes.

I don't know on what basis that impression was created, but that is all that I said in recognition of what the last speaker and former Prime Minister has recently reminded himself that only the Cabinet under the Constitution can make those sorts of decisions. I don't know what is irresponsible about that, but I would just wish to add that no colleague of mine on this Front Bench or on the Back Bench has ever spoken to me about the matter. No one has attempted to gag me. They would know that that would be impossible.

I would just wish to add further that no one can get me to speak anybody else's mind but my own. One of the reasons why I kept clear of the matter is that it would have been a distraction in the light of the development. I have never seen a matter in recent years that has attracted so much hypocrisy and so much misinformation, and the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West on gambling in part reflects that, because my understanding of the drift of opinion in the United States...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Honourable Member saying that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West.. 3.45 p.m.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mainly misinformation. I would never accuse him of any such thing, on the misinformation because the drift of opinion and the tendency very pronounced in the States, and there are always people for and against, is that perhaps in another year or two there would only be two States and Hawaii, Utah, the home of the Mormons, and Florida that would not have endorsed gambling.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member, if the Honourable Member would give way.

The Honourable Member accuses my speech of being reflective of misinformation and then proceeds to deliver what can only be considered to be total and completely wrong information. You yourself, Sir, should call for sources. The last time the United States at any point had an opportunity to speak to this issue was a referendum just last year in Florida and they voted resoundingly "No" so to come out now and suggest that all the other States are going to before it, he has...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: To come out now and say that 50 other States will be for it he would have to produce evidence. He is alleging now that 50 States in the United States are for gambling but only those that had a referendum are going to be against it. Well, he has to produce evidence in the context of how we have been debating. Let him quote the source.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think he is totally misstating what I am saying. In part he is supporting me because I was careful to emphasize that Florida will in all probability continue to be against it, Utah, the home of the Mormons and Hawaii. The trend and drift of what I have picked up is that all the other States in the United States will be in favour. That is only by way of illustration.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is very subtly trying to build a case for casino gambling. The reality is that at the last elections in the United States, after spending about \$1 billion, 9 States managed to get the issue of casino gambling on the ballot and it was rejected by 7 out of 9 and this was only this year at the last Senatorial elections, a few months ago.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I will not pursue that particular issue. I have said enough. It is a major distraction in the country. It will not distract me. It is a debate, I repeat, characterised by extreme hypocrisy and by misinformation. I think it is a matter properly referred to a Commission. How the Commission is treated is a different matter.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. One person will speak at a time.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: One party that has spent, if not wasted, a lot of the taxpayers money in the last eight years cannot really be complaining of the expenditure of \$200 000 for a commission to study this matter.

I want to refer to the speech made by the Honourable Member for St George North in which he indicated that we need to do more by way of education so as to stimulate the commitment of Barbadians towards tourism and to educate our school children. That really is the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism. I wish to let him know that in the course of this year we propose to continue our programme of summer courses for teachers in this area. Also, we are looking forward to the production of a

booklet on tourism which will be widely distributed among the school children and to the general public.

Generally speaking, the campaign in recent years stimulating public awareness has been a successful one, I would think. One of the pluses in Barbados' tourism is the deep commitment of the country, generally speaking, towards tourism and the memorably rich experiences which those who visit our shores report. The people, they claim, are intelligent. They are supportive of what is going on in the sector. They converse with them warmly and generally this is a fine product in that regard. Though we need to continue our work in terms of stimulating public awareness, I think it is fair to say that a lot has been successfully done by successive administrations in that regard. I wish to give the assurance that that work will continue.

Other points have been raised of great importance with respect to the future shape of this country's economy and the participation of ordinary Barbadians in what has become the major sector. There have been charges and counter-charges. The Barbados Labour Party has nothing to be ashamed of in terms of the extent to which we have given ordinary people in this country the opportunity to empower themselves economically.

It is now forgotten that the Barbados Labour Party through the Barbados Development Bank gave birth literally to the minibus class in this country. Under the chairmanship of David Scale millions of dollars were spent by way of loans to that class and we helped significantly to create that class in this country. We did a great deal for taxi operators too when Tom Adams was Minister of Finance who gave them that concession whereby every five years they could have a new engine.

We have nothing to be ashamed of. That trend has suffered a setback in recent years in two regards. In the last 8 to 10 years in this country we have seen a phenomenon in which increasingly the ancillary services - and here I am specifically referring to ground tour operations - have gone into the hands of what someone referred to in this debate as a consolidated class, not the ordinary man, so that the taxi man does not have much say now in ground operations at all, not the ordinary Barbadian. It is the coaches and buses. They are in the hands of what euphemistically has been called a consolidated class.

The arresting of that trend which the Barbados Labour Party has done so much to create in this country is further reflected in what was done at the Port under the last administration where they allowed the same consolidated class to take hold of the cruise terminal without involving any ordinary Barbadians. I just wish to give the assurance to this House that the cruise facility will be comparable to the cruise terminal, there will be a terminal for the cruise

facility and every provision will be made for the ordinary man who wants to invest to invest in that. We have nothing to be ashamed of but they have created real problems for the ordinary man in this country because of the policy directions that were given and the initiatives taken by the last administration in those regards.

Up to two weeks ago I had a meeting with the taxi men at the Port who are complaining that they have been marginalised and virtually excluded from operations there. I know some of you on that side are not proud of what has happened but that is the reality. It happened under your watch and the record should reflect that.

It is also a fact that the old established firms in this country that have all the coaches at the airport and the seaport that they are excluding the ordinary men and they are asking for more. They will only get more after I give some to the ordinary man, if they get any at all.

Mr. D. St E. KELLMAN: On a point of clarification, Sir. Is the Minister saying that he plans to give them more?

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: The ordinary man will get first. They will along the way from time to time get some replacements. We must be in no doubt as to which party has done what. When it comes to empowerment of the ordinary man in this country what is the record of the Barbados Labour Party?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. I have not been able to follow the Minister on the allocation of the coaches. Is he talking about what is called the BT buses because if he is going to make the point he did he would have to follow it by giving us some kind of broad indication of who has what. 3.55 p.m.

I recall when I was Minister, the only few that I issued was issued to what he is now calling the ordinary man. I should like the Minister to give the Committee full information, not part information, let us hear who has coaches, at the moment. I think the public would like to hear that. When the permits were issued and when they came in. That should be public knowledge. Let us make it transparent.

Aside.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: You would like a lot of things to be public knowledge and, which in time, will be. I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, that a lot has happened since he was Minister of Tourism of which he seems unaware.

You have to be very careful on this question of allowing people non-Barbadians into our midst. I know that there is a very strong school of* thought, in this country, that we should exclude every non-Barbadian from coming in here. The United States of America is the incomparably rich and diversified country that it is precisely because of its immigration policy. I am not suggesting that we can have a policy as generous as that But there is a lot that has been done by way of diversification of our tourism product that has been done with the assistance of non-Barbadians. That is the first thing.

The second thing is that we cannot advertise to the world and promote ourselves as a country that is interested in attracting foreign capital and then when people bring substantial sums of money to Barbados not give them the opportunity to manage their plant. The policy, as I understand it - and I had a large say in fashioning it in the manufacturing sector - is that if you create a certain amount of jobs and bring in a certain amount of money, you must be allowed to bring in people in relation to the amount of jobs you have created. Like one manager for every 75 jobs created or something of the sort.

All that I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we have got to be careful and strike a balance as far as that question is concerned. There are ways in which our tourism product can be improved and diversified and in many respects that improvement and diversity can come from foreign contribution, both in terms of finance and individuals. We have got to be very careful in trying to maintain a balance in that regard.

I would give way at this point since, as I understand it, there are still others who wish to further contribute.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I too had not anticipated that the debate would have gone to the extent that it did go with regards to casino but I think that that is a question that, sooner or later, has to be put to rest in the context of the overall and total development of Barbados. My views are known which have been ostracized, as I have indicated, in this Honourable House by the hierarchy within the Democratic Labour Party. The policy of the Democratic Labour Party has been very, very clear. I have always taken an open position and I have said that in the context of development in the future it may have to be looked at, as far as that is concerned.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: In fact what I would say is that, with regards to investment in the tourism sector period, that we have got to find some form of incentive, some tool which we can use to attract investors to Barbados, whether it is the type of product that we are seeking to put on

stream that will attract people. But we have to find the correct tool that we can use to attract the kind of investors that will help develop the product.

Clearly, what is shaping - and if I could conclude on the debate on tourism on this side - I think if we could summarize our position we are satisfied that we recognize it was necessary to place the basic infrastructure in place. We agree that the incentives have to be put in place for the hoteliers. We agree that the local awareness programme has to be addressed. We agree that a number of factors have to be satisfied with regard to the airlines, the airport, the seaport. There are a number of things that we have to do. Because if our people are...

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Including the common man. I will refer to that very briefly because the whole point that you made, with regards to involving the small business person in the network, the transportation network is one of the areas that I recognize and had played a major role when I was a Director in the tourism industry where I was mandated to interview the taxi drivers in the network, I discovered a long time ago that they were having a serious problem with the advent of the BT coaches which, in fact, were eliminating their existence.

When I became Minister of Public Works, it is precisely on that basis where the big conglomerates were dominating the network that I sought to give assistance to small business people in the form of ZM taxis because the 15-seater category were more affordable than having to pay for the big coaches which were in the vicinity of \$150 000, \$200000.

What I will caution the Minister about is that you should thread very carefully with the issuance of BT permits because I believe that, rather than give out BT permits to those large BT operators that he should try to encourage the small business persons who are now affected to access their permits which have been held up by the present Minister of Transport and allow them into the business of accessing business at the Port and at the Airport.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I have no problem with it. I am glad that the Honourable Minister recognizes the trend and would want to agree that that is the correct approach that we should adopt. But we would deal with that.

These are issues that I like us to discuss openly and honestly because it will only redound to the development of Barbados if we can be magnanimous in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated we want to press on and we have not, as yet, dealt with the NCC and the Environment part of the Ministry. There are just a couple questions that I would pose to the Minister. I am not sure if...

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: There are a couple comments that I would want to make with regard to the National Conservation Commission.

I notice, in this year's Estimates, that the Minister did allude to the fact that there was some \$9 million that have been allocated to the Ministry which sought to include all of the staff and all of the projects that were in place in the last Financial Year and also to accommodate the additional workers that had been employed over the last 3 or 4 months of the last Financial Year.

I would hope that the Minister would give some indication as to whether he is, in fact, thinking in terms of bringing on additional workers during this Financial Year and if he is, in fact, doing that whether he would give consideration to those persons who were employed at the NCC, some of them employed for a long time who were unfortunately sent home in the 1991-92 period and if some consideration would be given to them. Many of them are still unemployed. It would be a good gesture if you would consider offering assistance to those persons who have been terminated and are still out of work, as far as the NCC is concerned.

I will not dwell on the NCC because there is nothing much that we can say. They are doing a job. They do as good a job as they can do around Barbados with the limited resources and the areas that need attention will be monitored from time to time. I will certainly be giving the Minister the benefit of any observations that we know of, on this side of the House.

Let me just switch my attention to the question of the environment. I am concerned that in Barbados today, in 1995, that we have seen a departure by the Barbados Labour Party from a position that they had taken in their Manifesto with regard to procedures that they will follow in the advent of change of land use policies. The Barbados Labour Party, in their Manifesto, on 2 separate areas within their Manifesto indicated that....In fact, first of all let me say this. Let me quote from the Manifesto. I do not want to misquote it. 4.05 p.m.

On page 16, first of all, they indicated that change of use applications involving major projects will be considered

by the Chief Town Planner, only after an environmental impact assessment has been undertaken. Where a favourable decision would be in conflict with the land use policy a public inquiry would be held.

On page 32 of the Manifesto... Sir, this is a document that the Barbados Labour Party have indicated that they will honour the social contract with the people of this country and they on page 32 again indicated that the Barbados Labour Party Government will enact comprehensive legislation for the protection of the environment. That they will re-establish the Ministry of the Environment to formulate and implement the Government's environmental policies. And they go on to list a number of other areas that they will be doing. More so they say they will require an environmental impact assessment for all major projects.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Page 16 and page 32. What is confusing about it This is what it says, I will read it:

"We are entitled to breathe clean air, be assured of regular supply of pure drinking water and enjoy a physical environment that is not stripped of its greenery. Our visitors deserve no less", as if we do not matter. I think the Manifesto is badly written because it refers only to visitors deserving. Certainly we deserve no less as far as I am concerned.

It goes on, Sir, they take a definitive position that the Barbados Labour Party will close the dump at Mount Stinkeroo and compensate the residents of Arch Hall and Bennetts. This is what the Manifesto said. The Manifesto is very clear. They will build an incineration plant, promote cogeneration, recycling and other methods of disposal, give incentives for environmentally friendly projects and products.

Asides.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREEN/DOE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, Mr. SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 4.30 p.m.

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

The question that this sitting be suspended until 4.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 4.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Committee of Supply is resumed. We will now hear from the Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I was in the middle of my presentation when we took an interruption but there were two items that I forget to make part of the record and I was reminded during the break that I had failed to correct the record with regard to a position that had been stated by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister this morning in her presentation where she enquired about the equipment that had been used by the team of persons who were involved in the tourism enhanced package. My understanding is, Sir, that that equipment is safely stored at the Board of Tourism and in fact some of the equipment may be in use at the Board of Tourism. I think that the Honourable Minister may want to have that clarified by the Honourable Minister of Tourism.

I also failed to indicate that with regard to the National Conservation Commission workers I was reminded during the break that certain promises had been made, certainly in my constituency where the Barbados Labour Party opponent who contested the 1994 elections against me made a specific promise that the workers at the National Conservation Commission will have their 3-day work week increased to 5 days. I notice that in these Estimates there is no provision whatsoever made for the increase to 5 days.

I certainly hope and I support that call that was made that we should seek to restore the 5-day week to the workers of the National Conservation Commission and give priority to those persons who were displaced if in fact there is going to be any new employment.

As I was saying, Sir, I shifted my attention to the environment. I am concerned that what has happened in Barbados is that in seeking to honour pledges within the Manifesto the Barbados Labour Party has apparently made

a decision to site a landfill at Greenland in St. Andrew which we on this side are not satisfied has been done in accordance with the Manifesto pledges of the Barbados Labour Party in the first instance and in the practice of proper environmental procedure in this country.

The Honourable Minister of Health has been quite adamant in her position regarding the citing of that dump and has proceeded to make that pronouncement in the absence of an environmental impact assessment which was part of the requirement of phase 2 of the entire programme where...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to note that as far as I am aware this dump does not come under Head 43 so maybe he would want to discuss that matter at a later date under the appropriate Head.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I am dealing with the environmental policy of the dump and I will repeat. On page 32 of the Manifesto pledge of the Barbados Labour Party it says that you will enact comprehensive legislation for the protection of the environment. You will re-establish the Ministry of the Environment to formulate and implement the Government's environmental policies. Under that same section, if you want me to read all I will read all. Under that same section it says that a Barbados Labour Party Government will require an environmental impact assessment for all major projects. Also in the same Manifesto on page 16, it says that a Barbados Labour Party Government, change of use applications involving major projects, will be considered by the Chief Town Planner only after an environmental impact assessment has been undertaken. 4.35 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This matter should have been properly addressed in the Second Reading. We are in Committee, we are now looking at matters related to the specifics of the Estimates under the appropriate Heads, While you might allude to that, I would not want you to make it the main body of your discussion under Head 43.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: What I am more concerned about in this present debate, as it relates to the Estimates, is the whole question of the position of the Ministry in ensuring that we do not proceed with a project that has the potential of having an environmental impact that is not desirable for Barbados, because already - and I can only refer to what is happening within my own constituency - as a result of the announcement that they will have a new siting of a landfill in Greenland, one of the key areas that we indicated we are going to have a problem, was that illegal dumping will commence in this country.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I am just concerned that the Honourable Member, in contradiction of the specific instructions of the Chair, continues to debate under this Head a matter which properly falls under Head 36 - Ministry of Health, which is provided for in terms of funding under Health and which he knows is within the competence of the Minister of Health to answer, not within the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, because these issues do not fall in environmental matters as they relate to the Minister of Tourism's portfolio. I am not trying to delay debate on these matters, because I am most keen to debate them, but we cannot do it at this stage.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I respect the Minister's submission. I am just trying to make the point...

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think the Honourable Member should move on to something else that properly falls under the portfolio.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is giving the Honourable Member for St. Michael East a little latitude to take off so that he can land.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I understand the submission by the Honourable Member, but I am making the point that we are noticing a problem which will have an impact on the environment, where the environment is being contaminated with the advent of illegal dumping which is now very prevalent in the Belle. If you go through the Belle right now you would detect the stench as a result of the illegal dumping that has occurred in the Belle area. These are the kinds of problems we are going to see emerging. I want to hear from the Honourable Minister of the Environment about the policy formulation, because the Manifesto also indicated on page 32 that a Barbados Labour Party Government would enact comprehensive legislation for the protection of the environment.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, we are concerned on this side and I would want some answers that would seek to satisfy the problems.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: May I just indicate, Mr. Chairman, that the matters raised by the Member will be dealt with by my good and learned friend, the Honourable Member for St. James South when she comes to deal with Head 36.

With respect to the NCC, there is unlikely to be any increase in staff in the course of this year. There is unlikely to be, in the short run too, in the course of this

year any movement to the five-day week, even though we remain committed to that ideal as soon as our finances will allow.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I now beg to move that Head 43 stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, during this debate the Honourable Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, said that Sherbourne was located in the wrong place.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I said the fact that it is not connected to a hotel or located in a hotel belt puts it at a disadvantage.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Same thing, Sir. Mr. Chairman, I will forgive the Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: You are a man who in this Chamber moved Bulkeley back to St George even though everybody knows it never left there.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have asked the Honourable Member to find the speech where I said that and she has not produced it as yet.

Mr. Chairman, if Sherbourne was built next to a hotel it would have given unfair advantage to that particular hotel. If it were built by Hilton you would not see places like Sandy Lane or Pemberton Resorts wanting to encourage people to come to Barbados to use the convention facilities, because they would believe that when they do that they would be giving an advantage to the Hilton, and that is why a convention facility with the space like Sherbourne had to be built in a particular location where, if you attracted 2 000 people, you would not be giving unfair advantage to any particular hotel.

Earlier in this debate we also heard that the extra all-inclusive concept was a bad idea. That is not true, Sir. The idea of the extra all-inclusive concept was a good idea. If that concept was allowed to develop, we would not have the same problems that we are now having with the all-inclusive concept, because the extra all-inclusive concept gave the small businesses the same opportunity that they are currently enjoying with the concept that we have always had a free-for-all. I believe that the extra all-inclusive concept was a bad idea was deliberately promoted by a minority group in their own interest and it must be said that if that concept was given the opportunity, as you are aware, that concept would have been a good concept for Barbados.

Thank you.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 43 stand part.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.45 p.m.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Hon Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: In rising to move that this Head 34 do stand part and to ask this Committee to approve the sum of \$131 303 836,1 just wish to indicate for the benefit of this Committee in broad principle a number of the ideas which really have informed this Ministry in the programme as is outlined and reflected by these figures over the course of the next year.

The question of determining where we have found ourselves in respect of education, as I am going to deal with education first before I get to Youth and Culture, is one that has engaged us in the Ministry during the course of the last 6 months and there are a number of significant things that have led us to the conclusion that there really needs to be a refocussing of the efforts in the area of education in this country, and a refocussing that allows us to return to basics to do the things that will cause us to effect the greatest success for the greatest numbers of people as well as to reduce the levels of wastage within the Ministry over the course of the next year.

To a large extent, we have had a reasonably sound educational system in this country over the last two centuries, not always equitable however, Sir. Indeed, I would suggest that that level of inequity still permeates through the system when we see that the educational system is indeed failing a large number of persons who are currently passing through or who have passed through within recent times.

When we look at statistics, for example, that reflect that a number of children coming out of the primary school system who have not mastered the art of reading and writing and counting and reasoning properly, who find themselves in the midst of a secondary school system that is not catering to their needs, either because of a lack of proper curriculum or because of an inability to focus on the level of remediation that is necessary and also because, in my humble opinion, we have pursued a policy which determines that those who perform best should be at the same school and those who perform the worst should be at the same school.

We, Sir, are reviewing a number of these things because what it has led to is a situation where - and I have the most recent statistics from 1993-94 now which reflect that almost 6 in 10 persons coming out of the

secondary school system actually leave the secondary school system without any form of proper certification, I want to repeat that because I believe that that is the best kept secret in education in this country. Six out of every ten persons are leaving school without proper certification. The significance of this is that when it comes to either moving across to further training or to a job, there is no way of properly gauging their competence. As a result, Sir, many of them have been languishing outside of the system of formal supervision, either in the form of further training or in the form of employment and have really to rely on themselves if they are to succeed in any way in this country.

I believe that the time has come therefore for us to refocus our energies on doing the basic things well, on getting the question of primary education on a sound footing in this country so that we can ensure that as many children leave the primary school with a proper grounding in literacy, numeracy, orally and, indeed, the capacity to reason. As a result, Sir, the Estimates of Expenditure will reflect an improvement in the resources available to the pre-primary and primary sections of this country so that they may regain the task of improving their lot and ensuring that the students who leave them and go into secondary school, do so properly equipped with the skills that are necessary for them to benefit from the secondary schools.

The reason why we have to do this is, that if you allow people just to pass through a system without ensuring that they acquire the skills that they should be acquiring you could as well be letting them pass through a conduit at MTW. Not only that, you are also causing the Government to spend greater resources in other sections, either of this Ministry, be it in secondary or remedial education, or in the Youth Service or various other activities as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs, be it with the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, the juvenile institutions, Dodds or Summervale or indeed, in Glendairy which has a reasonably high level of functional illiteracy among the members of that institution.

I still take heart in the fact that this is not a move that is unique to this country but, indeed, within recent times, there has been an editorial in the *London Times* which suggests that any attempt to deal with education without getting the primary school system ready is to send people who can hardly read or write to secondary, to let them just pass through the system for the 4 or 5 years and to put them in a situation where they leave secondary school and are virtually unemployable.

We believe, Sir, that we will have to get the primary system right. There are a number of initiatives which these Estimates reflect. We have increased the allocation in respect of the supplies and materials, in respect of

the operating expenses, in respect of the plant, equipment and furniture in primary schools. We have also increased the amount of travel to allow for the diagnostic and remedial pilot programme which we have started earlier this year in January to be able to continue because we believe that it is necessary to do that diagnostic and remediation work where possible in the primary system.

We will also, Sir, be continuing with the IDE programme which would see and has started to see in fact the construction of a new school at Beulah-Holy Trinity effecting an amalgamation between those two schools. We had the ground-breaking some 4 weeks ago and we will also see the continued construction of a new school at St. Clements accommodating St. Clements Infants and St. Clements Junior School. Both of those schools are expected to finish on or about March 1995.

What is more critical is that there is an allocation for \$1 million to provide 114 000 primary school textbooks because we have seen a situation develop in this country where parents were unable to meet the costs of primary school textbooks in the last few years, particularly when they had 2, 3 or 4 children to pay for. It is a situation which was unconscionable and a situation which we have determined that as a matter of priority must be remedied and we intend to do so not by providing the children directly with those textbooks but by making those 114 000 textbooks and some 200 teacher manuals available to the primary schools themselves, as was done, I believe, in years before where the schools would pass out the books to the children during school time as it was done. 4.55 p.m.

What is even more significant, Sir, is that I have asked the pedagogical section within the Ministry to streamline and to standardize the number of textbooks required of primary school children in this country. Very often a situation arose where different schools were asking for different texts and some parents of the children, at some schools, felt that their children were being deprived because they were not being asked to buy 5 and 6 texts and were buying 2 instead.

We have determined that the issue of workbooks which cannot be passed on by their very nature, as well as those other primary school textbooks that will be required will, in fact, be standardized. We really hope that no parent would be asked to spend more than \$75 on providing texts and workbooks for their children. That list will soon be ready. It will be done in conjunction with the primary school heads, having consulted them as to their opinions as to what these books should be.

In addition, the primary school plant in this country is one that is in a deplorable state. This is not something that has occurred overnight. But the very nature of these buildings having been, in most instances, old church buildings or buildings related to the church being around for 2 centuries and having had very little money spent on them has required that we really need to look at them in a serious way. For whatever reason, the last Government did not spend, since 1991, more than \$900 000 in most years on the question of maintenance. However, I do not believe that they could have done it, with the best will in the world. Because having received an audit which I asked for, on my entering the Ministry, the audit has, in fact, revealed that, at least, some \$13.5 million will have to be spent to bring the primary school plant into a reasonable state of repair for habitation for the students and teachers in this country.

We have determined that it is impossible to support that kind of expenditure out of current expenditure and the Consolidated Fund and we are currently in negotiation with financial institutions to have that project financed over the next year or two because it is calling out for serious attention.

We have, however, provided the sum, under Capital Expenditure this year, for \$1.5 million to do the most urgent things that need to be done so that the Ministry's liability is not increased. We have, in fact, identified the 20 most urgent schools and, indeed, have also detailed the type of work to be done on the other schools which require attention.

In addition - I would give you the list when I come back - there is the question of special education. Special education is an area of activity in which I believe the Government has, in particular, a strong responsibility. A reflection of the Estimates will show that we have increased the amount of the subventions going to both the Learning Centre, as well as, the Challenor School because they are providing invaluable services, at the moment, which Government in its present structure is unable to provide.

A few minutes ago, I referred to the best kept secret in Barbados with the new figures for 1993-94 that almost 6 out of every 10 leave school without any form of CXC Certificates, any form of proper certification at all. The School Leaving Certificate, as we know, has fallen into desuetude because nobody gives it any currency.

There is no employer out there who accepts it as being valid and therefore there is a difficulty in either accessing training institutions or accessing employment because of an inability to gauge the competence of the individual who is applying.

As a result, we realize that the question of training has to be addressed in a manner that allows many of those children who have no form of certification to be able to access an institution where they can receive further training and, indeed get some form of certification.

We have taken a decision to expand the level of training at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic from this year and, indeed, during the course of the next 2 years we hope to reach full capacity. That institution fell from 1 600 students in 1991 to a current role of 1 400. We hope to be able to carry it up to 2 500 over the course of the next 2 Financial Years.

We have started this year by giving them an additional \$700 000 because the sum of money which has been calculated to reach the full capacity that would be required is \$1.2 million. We believe that you cannot absorb all of those numbers in one year and therefore it has to be done over a 2-year period. This will account for the increase of \$700 000 in the Estimates of Expenditure. That is a new initiative of this Government. As you will remember in the Manifesto we did speak to the question of increased capacity for persons for training by the Polytechnic which is truly a trade school but, nevertheless, which is in fact the major institution for training for a lot of children coming out of school without that certification.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: We hope to be able to place priority on the post secondary institutions, on the Polytechnic.

There will, at the Community College, be some expansion because it is expected that the new hospitality institute will be completed in July of this year. I understand it is 2 months behind schedule. But that institute will not be opened officially until December.

There is a difficulty in respect of the Marine House next to it and we may have therefore to take decisions as to the future of that building because it may pose difficulties. There is, in fact, only a 6-foot difference between the 2 buildings in some instances. It poses a

serious threat to the viability of the new building which should be completed in July.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West wishes me to release it to him. I do not know how he would help us solve the problems of structural difficulties.

The critical thing about the opening of the Hospitality Institute is that it will allow us to move from training 250 persons a year to some 400 a year. Given clearly the nature of the debate which has just preceded us, in respect of the tourism industry, it is critical that we be able to accommodate this expansion.

I must tell you however that I was concerned with the courses presently offered by the Hospitality Institute. Both require in one instance 4 CXC Certificates, in the other 2 CXC Certificates. There has to be a course co-ordinated by the Community College Hospitality Institute and the Polytechnic that will allow many of those persons who are coming out without the certification but who wish to become involved in this activity to do a kind of preliminary course that will allow them entry into the other courses at the Hospitality Institute. Because at the end of the day, tourism still is going to be one of the major employers in this economy.

In respect of the capital projects. A decision has been taken to restart the Ministry of Education complex during the course of this Financial Year. We are, in fact, incurring some \$38 000 a month during the period of suspension of this contract and have been ever since it was suspended in 1992. We cannot continue to sustain expenditure like that that goes down the drain which accounts for some \$V₂ million a year. 5.05 p.m.

We have determined, Sir, that the project as originally envisaged will have to be cut back. We will be financing that out of the capital expenditure as contained in the Estimates. We have provided for the sum of \$3 million to be able to start back that project although we estimate that it will ultimately cost somewhere close to \$5V₂ million. They are currently working on the cutbacks because the last cutback that the previous Government had done had brought it down to just over \$7 million but we are determined to cut it back even further to get it operational rather than incurring suspension costs of \$38 000 a month.

The Chinese are still on site, The contract with the Chinese, if we were to terminate it, would cost us almost \$2V_a million. Therefore, one could as well try and finish it rather than seeking to terminate it and going back out to tender because it would cost us too much to be able to do so,

I must tell you though, Sir, that we are going to be exercising a vigilant eye in ensuring that we can get as much and get it finished for as little as possible because we are cognisant of the fact that it is being financed out of the Consolidated Fund. Having determined that we were going to finish the Ministry of Education complex because of the peculiar circumstances of the contract and we would have to do so out of the Consolidated Fund, we took a decision that while we were going to finish the St. Thomas Secondary School that some form of loan financing would have to be obtained to complete that project.

The estimate for completion reflects some \$10 million further in expenditure. We have already started the negotiating process with a financial institution. I am really not at liberty to speak much more at this stage except to say that we would hopefully know by June whether they will, in fact, do it. It is proposed that once we can get that secured that we will start construction early in the next financial year in April. We will finish it, hopefully, within a year to be able to open up in September 1997.

A decision has been taken for a number of reasons to close down the St. Leonard's Girls' School on its present location to transfer many of the children who, in fact, live in the same catchment area as the St. Thomas Secondary School, in that corridor between Eagle Hall and Jackson, and to allow them to transfer to that St. Thomas site as part of a co-educational institution leaving then St. Leonard's Boys and Springer Memorial as the two single sex institutions to allow us to continue an updating of a study that was done some time in the 1980s on the question of co-education.

However, Sir, you will see the sum of some \$500 000 in the Estimates for the St. Thomas School and this is to cover once again the suspension cost under the contract which run just over \$38 000 per month. You can see, Sir, that it is urgent that we move with some dispatch. If we were to terminate that contract that too would come somewhere in the region of \$2V₂ million and it will require expenditure of just over \$100 000 a year to put in the security that is necessary for the materials that are still on site, whatever is left. Therefore, we have started negotiations and indeed there have* been a number of site visits and things are looking reasonably positive.

I am happy to announce, Sir, that the Human Resources Development Loan, the World Bank Loan, of which I have been speaking a great deal recently is back on stream. You will therefore see in the amendment to the Estimates a figure for approximately some \$2.7 million which would have been distributed to you during the course of this day as an amendment. This, therefore, would replace the figure of \$500 000 as printed on the Estimates just to keep the Head going.

Sir, the Government of Barbados took a position that we were not prepared to accept the conditionalities which were put down by the previous Government of the charging of fees at the Polytechnic, Erdiston College and the Barbados Community College as a pre-condition for accessing this loan. We made our position known to the World Bank and I am happy to say that the World Bank has indicated that they understand the reluctance of this Government and that we will not be binding ourselves to charging fees at these institutions in order to be able to access this loan.

As a result, while the total loan represents some U.S\$15 million odd, we are only putting in during the course of this financial year the sum of Bds. \$2.7 million to start access to the loan. This will essentially reflect in a number of benefits under the course of the loan:-

1. An establishment of a degree Teacher Training Programme in Technical and Vocational Education Training making it possible for TVET teachers to obtain comparable qualifications with their colleagues in other curriculum areas of the school.
2. The rationalization of the delivery of TVET subjects in Secondary Schools which hopefully will result in a reduction of the unit cost for the delivery of TVET Subjects.

There has, in fact, been a start in that area from the beginning of this academic year where we have, in fact, seen a concentration in six secondary schools in the delivery of the TVET subjects.

3. There is a provision in it this year for almost \$600 000 for the Barbados Youth Service in respect of plant, furniture and equipment and training.

That will be a welcome sum which will be spent in addition to pan of the \$3 million which is included as a block grant for the Barbados Youth Service.

Sir, that deals with the physical elements of the new initiatives in the Ministry during the course of the next year. However, we held a retreat some time towards the end of February with all of the stakeholders and interest holders in the educational system primary, secondary and tertiary. Subsequent to that retreat I have been having a number of meetings with other various bodies, both in and outside of the Ministry, because we are currently working on a strategic plan which will, in fact, deal with the qualitative improvements that are necessary in the system if we are going to be able to be successful in the refocussing of which I spoke at the beginning of my speech.

We believe that the basic emphasis in the educational system must accomplish at least two things now:-* Firstly, that there must be an understanding that we must seek to provide each child to the maximum of his or her ability the capacity to obtain the most from the system rather than simply pushing children through the system on the basis of age,

Secondly, Sir, while our educational system has seen shifts during the course of the history of this country, for example, when it responded essentially to us being an agricultural society where the majority of education that was delivered was delivered at a primary level because all that was required of the majority of the population was that they work in agricultural enterprises or entities, when we then saw the move towards industrialisation which began in the 1950s and which was mirrored by an increase in the number of school places due to the construction of newer public secondary schools because essentially the idea then became in vogue that you had to provide secondary education for these people, but equally as important they have to be prepared to meet the needs of the development of the country which in terms of its economic development was reflected in the industrialisation process.

When this happened we saw then a shift in the emphasis to access to greater numbers at secondary level but also a shift in determining that they needed to teach people to learn. You needed to teach people to take instructions well because that is what they would be required to do in these various entities involved in the major areas of economic activity.

We have seen, however, Sir, a potential shift in the structure of this economy in terms of moving away from labour intensive manufacturing processes as well as agricultural entities towards knowledge-based and skilled-intensive industries. It is my belief that this shift in terms of the general economic development of this country % must also be mirrored in the educational system. Therefore,

we must not only be able to teach children to learn but we must also be able to teach them to think,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two more minutes.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: But we must produce children who h[^]ve the capacity to design and make the course wear and the soft wear themselves and we must produce children who have the capacity to own the designs which inform the construction of the tourism plant or the construction of furniture or the making of jewelry or the making of fashion because it is those knowledge-based and skilled-intensive Ministries in which this country would be able to find its niche. 5.15 p.m.

I have not been able to get to Youth Affairs or Culture yet, but I will come back and I will deal with that as well as other things such as our total commitment to the provision of uniforms because last time there was only a provision of \$100 000 which was insufficient. We have raised that again, Sir, to \$450 000 and a number of other things, Sir, such as a diagnostic programme for physical impairment for children which we hope to start in April. I will deal with those later in the debate, Sir.

Sir, I beg to move that this Head now stand part.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Mr. F. J. STUART: Sir, the educational system is one of the many sub-systems in the total social system of Barbados. It is a critical sub-system because it feeds all the other sub-systems and determines the character of the entire social system of Barbados. When one is therefore talking about an educational system one is talking about that system in the society that controls the transmission of culture; that system in the society that equips people to define their relationship with nature and to define their relationship with one another; the system that helps them to describe and justify and praise the action which they take from day-to-day to create and to recreate themselves and to keep themselves in existence in a particular society.

If you are discussing estimates of expenditure on an educational system therefore, a distinction has to be drawn between the means deployed by the system and the ends which the system is designed to serve. When we

talk about the means available to the educational system, we are usually talking about schools whether those schools be primary, secondary or tertiary and all the technology used in schools and other educational institutions. But we cannot praise ourselves for the amount of money we spend on the means available to the educational system unless we are clear in our minds as to what ends the system is designed to serve.

I am satisfied that for the last 35 years no intensive or searching national dialogue has taken place on the ends that education is supposed to serve in Barbados. That is not a problem peculiar to Barbados. In my view it can be explained historically by the fact that, especially in the post independence period all the system was required to do was to basically diversify the skills available to the students in the system and to sophisticate them to ready them for a labour force so that schools over the last 25 to 30 years have been no more than manufactories churning out products for a labour market producing people who were supposed to go out and find what was called a good job. That is what I came through. That is what I was told education was about, the gift of learning, to leave school and to find a good job.

We are long past that time, Sir, and it seems to me that the stage is now reached in our development where we have to decide what is in fact a good education in the context of Barbados in the 1990s and as it approaches the 21st century. What is a good education in the context of a post slavery society, predominantly black, living in a world with one super power and having to find its way in that highly competitive world. How does that society define itself? What does that society contemplate its role being in the context of the world which I just described? What I am saying in short, Sir, is that the ends of the system must determine the means which the system uses. What has been happening up to now is that the means of the system have out-distanced the ends of the system.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that we can only know what is really going on in our schools and whether we are using our schools effectively, our schools primary, secondary or tertiary, if we know what the product is supposed to do. There is nothing profoundly philosophical about this. A mason who is laying blocks has a mental picture of what the end product of his effort is going to look like. A carpenter who is nailing on pieces of board has a mental picture of what the end product of his effort will look like. And the masons metaphorically speaking, and the carpenters in the school system are the teachers and the educational planners and they have to know when they make decisions, in the case of the planners, and the teachers have to know when they teach what kind of product they intend to let loose on the society. They have

to have a clear picture of the kind of society that the system wants to create. So that to look at the Estimates and to talk about the amount of money being spent on this Head or that Head or on this kind of educational institution or on that kind of educational institution is, in my view, to be a little pervious having regard to the fact that the requirements at this time are that we define for ourselves what the system is supposed to achieve.

What are the ends of the system? I am not here to say what the ends are. The Barbados Labour Party has the solution to all of these problems. This is a Government that came to power just seven months ago and I really am not on my feet to sit in judgement over a Government this young. I am just trying to create a framework, Mr. Chairman, within which I think a sensible discussion can take place on education Barbados in 1995. 5.25 p.m.

As this debate proceeds I hope the Minister will be able to tell us what kind of Barbados she contemplates being created or being shaped, being determined by the products of the educational system. What are the ends of education? She has spoken in her opening remarks about the means of the system, we want to hear what the ends are. How does she contemplate the students coming out of the secondary schools reacting to their environment when once they are placed in that environment? For when they leave they are going to go into the Police Force and they are going to determine what kind of policemen we have. When they leave they are going to drive ZR vans, they are going to determine what kind of conduct and approach is adopted by ZR drivers. When they leave they are going to sell on beaches and they are going to determine what kind of relationships exist on beaches. When they leave they are going to run for Parliament and they are going to determine what kind of Parliament we have. So we need to know from the Minister for a start what are the objectives of the educational system so that we can better determine whether this expenditure is well placed, whether the allocations are sensible or whether we need to criticise.

I will stop here for the time being, Sir, because I do not want to be too pervious....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has five more minutes, if he would like to make use of them. He has only used ten minutes.

Mr. F. J. STUART: No, Sir, I am stopping here for the time being.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to commend the Minister for the new policy initiatives which she intends to take in education, but I have some broad concerns which I would wish to share with

other Honourable Members here present, and which indeed follow on what the Honourable Member for St. Philip South was just saying.

I think we need to ask ourselves as a people whither education in Barbados. Where is education going? Where is it taking us and what is it intending to provide for us as a people? In the post emancipation period up to independence, the Democratic Labour Party was credited with having brought free education to Barbados and by so doing allowing many Barbadians the opportunity for upward social mobility. While there is no denying that, the point must also be made that free secondary education was in fact started under the Barbados Labour Party at the St. Leonard's School and that the framework and foundation for free secondary education was in place when the Democratic Labour Party came to office and it was also in the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto. That is just to make the historical point that we rarely hear in Barbados these days, because in the modern rewriting of history the Barbados Labour Party played no role in education, according to the DLP historians and intellectuals and pseudo intellectuals.

But I want to deal with what is the broader question, in my view, and it is whether or not the educational system is equipping our students for life. I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Philip South that the educational system must do more than manufacture people who come out of a system at the end of the day and say I have been a student of a particular school. In conceding that in the last 35 years education has not played the role that it was intended for is indeed a sad indictment on the Democratic Labour Party which held the reins of office for 25 of those 35 years.

I will move beyond that and say that I am concerned as a Barbadian when I move across Barbados and learn that only 28% of the students passing through the school system come out with any sort of certification that equips them for jobs in modern Barbados, and so throughout Barbados there are large numbers of people who are unemployed, and what is more important, large numbers of people who are unemployable, because the school system has had no meaning for them. Throughout my constituency and all over Barbados one hears of people who are anxious to work but who cannot fit into several work environments because they have not learned in school. The school system has not touched their lives.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member and Honourable Members are asked to note that we are looking at the Estimates as provided in this document I have in my hands. I would really relish if Members would in th >ir

discussions, while they might deal with generalities, would land on issues which are outlined in the Estimates as presented in the document that we have. The Chair will not tolerate wide generalities on either side of this House this evening.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, while I respect the ruling of the Chair, I think it really has come very late, given the preceding speaker, but I will conform with the ruling.

If I may go directly to a specific policy initiative, I think that the Minister must be congratulated for her thrust in primary education, because if our foundation is to be strong then it has got to start in the primary schools. Quite often a lot of those people who go on to the secondary school have only passed through the primary system without getting the tools which will equip them to function in the secondary setting and beyond, that the thrust in terms of training young people to reason has got to start in the primary schools; that the thrust in terms of training our young people to ask critical questions about themselves, about their environment, about what their direction in life is and what education will do for them has got to start in the education system and specifically at the primary school.

We have seen a shift in the focus of the primary school in my own-generation that takes us away from the teaching of basic things like civics, so that we no longer train people for wide environmental issues as they impact on them. Primary school children today are not taught as perhaps in yesteryear, and often you hear older people talk about seventh standard education and the breadth with which people were taught under that system. Education has now become so narrow in its restriction as we hone people specifically for 11+ Arithmetic and English or Maths and English orientation and as we hone people for the CXC examination. So if people are to be able to cope at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, their foundation in the primary school system has to be strong. Too many of our students are coming out of the primary school system with large gaps in their training, which they cannot catch up with later on, and regrettably one sees persons coming out of the secondary school system as a result of these foundation gaps who are unable to write or speak English, and it is unfortunate that we are seeing this emerge in our system at a time really when we should be gearing ourselves for what is the next stop in relation to the development of Barbados. 5.35 p.m.

Another argument is that unless the primary system is strengthened, then we will continue to see people who when they reach the secondary stage - and that is what

happens, because the primary school does not make any impact on them - they then cannot fit in; and so, what you see is a form of anti-social type behaviour where they, what the Americans call, "act out" their anger at the fact that they do not fit in, where the only way to attract attention to themselves is not by being a student of excellence but by focussing on the negative and therefore getting attention by getting in to trouble.

We are seeing this manifesting itself throughout the wider society where they go back into the villages and communities of Barbados, ill-equipped for work, ill-equipped, in fact, for life, but concentrating on areas of violence which is the means by which they promote themselves. So Mr. Chairman, I would wish again to commend the Minister for the initiative in primary education and to urge her again, not only in terms of the provision of resources, in terms of finance and even more teachers, but to look more carefully at the policy and indeed where the policy is going to take us. The policy devised and implemented now is going to shape Barbados in the 21st century.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, part of the problem I believe that they are discussing would relate to the Honourable Member, the Minister of Agriculture, who used to be a school teacher.

I am a little concerned following the Honourable Member who just sat down that we may be in danger of steering this education debate in a direction that at the end of the day may be negative. I am concerned that we do not start to go down roads that do not in fact turn out to be beneficial for the community as a whole after we have had the debate.

I understood what the Honourable Member for St. Philip South is saying in terms of focussing. The Minister indicated that there is a return - I think I heard her say - to the focus of her thrust in education on primary education and the Honourable Member who just sat down said that she wants to congratulate the Minister on her thrust. Now I don't think that there is much of a thrust that can be identified in 7 months and so I am not going to allow that kind of language to interfere with my thinking.

If the Minister is saying that she is now focussing on primary education, I am going to remind this Committee that it was just the other day in real terms that a Minister who is now an Appeal Court Judge who established that the bulwark and the thrust and the whole *raison d'être* of his policy was a return to primary education. We have not had any different kind of Ministry of Education since then.

If I remember correctly that would have been about 20 years ago.

The Ministry of Education was shaped around the thrust in primary education at that time.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not know what the expenditure pattern was. I am just saying that we have to get some kind of perspective when we are discussing because it seems to me that one of the problems we have is that each new Minister that goes into the Ministry of Education is going to re-invent the wheel, restart education from scratch.

I was just discussing the other day with someone that Minister Sleepy Smith went to primary education. He was followed by another Minister who went to secondary education and was going to send the children to school on Saturdays because they were not getting enough instruction. Then we had...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Michael West, which Minister are you speaking about?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Another one, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it he or she?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Chairman is getting a little frisky.

Another Minister came in and the shift was back to secondary education. Then we had, I think, the Honourable Member for St. George South and his focus is difficult for me to recall - I am not being facetious - but in context of what I am saying I don't think I indicated. Then we had a Minister, the Honourable Member who had been there for 7 years before and went back to the Ministry and he didn't last very long before he went off to higher things and then we had a Minister whose major thrust was that he was going to change the pattern of the transfer from primary to secondary school and put the exam at 14 years.

When you examine what has been happening in the Ministry of Education, I think we have to deal with some of the realities. The Honourable Member the Minister

indicated that, and she gave the statistics of 6 out of 10 persons leaving secondary school without proper certification. Sir, that has to be looked at in the context of what was the position before. I have to remind the Honourable Member that before the Honourable Member was born, 1 out of 10 used to leave without any certification at all. I am not saying that what we have now is proper and correct, but you have to examine it.

A very small percentage of the population went to what were called secondary schools and even in these Estimates you are still talking about refurbishing the "older secondary schools". No one ever wishes to tackle the real issue in this country, that we still provide two kinds of education for our children. When we start to tackle this issue and I am not casting aspersions on one side or the other, I am saying that as a country, if we want to have an education debate let's have a debate and let us stop having so many commissions and examinations of what we have to do, and deal with the issue.

Let us realise that we still provide two levels of education at all levels for our people and let us tackle that. Let us examine the system. Let us take the primary system. There are still two kinds of primary schools in Barbados. There are people who feel bound to change their legitimate address so that they can be accepted at one or other primary school in Barbados. It is not their fault, because if it is their perception that Wesley Hall is a better school than Deacons that is their perception based on their reality. It is the policy makers who have to strive to make Deacons at least on par with Wesley Hall. I am using those two schools for purposes of making the point.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw Deacons on the advice of my colleague and I will use a school in the rural area. In my constituency, I have two primary schools and the quality of teaching in those primary schools is so high that the motivation of the people in those primary schools can be seen in the results, taking the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip south.

If you look at the little school in Hindsbury, that primary school produces children who are sharp in music. It produces children who are sharp in drama. It produces children who have a worth and who feel something; and that has been achieved by the quality of staff and the quality of leadership over the years I have been around as a parliamentarian. I am not here going to give any kudos to anybody but I am saying that that primary school has been given a fair amount of resources. 5.45 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. George South, I believe, played a significant role in the shaping of that primary school. They used to go to school in a rundown old building. It was changed to a new building. But the teachers who go there have had in recent times two head teachers and it has a very interesting leadership. What that suggests to me is that the Ministry of Education while it can set out a broad policy guideline the real teaching still has to be done in the plant. There are still schools that have less resources than other schools but are turning out quality people.

The vast majority of our primary school children do not suffer the disabilities which I heard the Honourable Members allude to about going through the schools and just being pushed through. That is a problem that began 40 years ago. The British decided that if you were a certain age, you had to be in a certain class. I recall that very well because I remember crying for a long time because I would not have been able to break the record held by some boy called Porte. My ambition at Combermere was to be the youngest person to ever graduate from Combermere and I was right on track. I went to school at 8 years plus and he was two months older so I knew that if by the time I got to the end of Fifth Form I would pip him and then they said, "You have to stay in Third Form for five terms. You remember that?"

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. On both counts the interrupters are wrong (a) I was on scholarship; and (b) it was the Barbados Labour Party that failed because the Labour Party insisted that all of us who were below a certain age had to remain in class for five terms. The truth is, Sir, that Combermere changed from a January to December year to a September year to coincide with all the others so some children got promoted after two terms and the young ones, so-called, had to wait five terms. That is the only reason.

Quite seriously, Sir. The point I am making is that the quality of the institution to which you go is determined to a large extent by the people who function in that institution. I am making the point that it is not fair to leave the impression that somehow the whole education system in Barbados has gone into some kind of reversal.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying that is an impression I heard coming through, that we have to re-examine

education from scratch because it is failing the children. What is failing the children, it seems to me, is that in some of our policy decisions we are not dealing with issues frontally. We are not taking them on.

These Estimates do not show any shift in resources to allow for those schools that are in what may be called the lower socio-economic brackets by virtue of the distribution of resources to show a change.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am talking about primary and secondary. While in passing, when I was going through the Estimates - the Prime Minister accused Members of not reading the Estimates - but I am having tremendous difficulty in reading these Estimates. I do not understand them. I have to be honest with you. I have been in here over 20 years and these Estimates are very difficult to understand. You cannot do a comparative analysis. Anybody who has read these Estimates knows that they have now computerised them to the point where all they are is a print-out and some statements. You cannot do any analysis on the basis of these Estimates. You have to get your previous nine books and go through and do research.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am telling you that I do not understand it. I was a Minister then. This is change. This is reform. I will just give you an example of what I mean. I see here:-

"Sub-program 02: OTHER LOCAL TRAINING.

Sub-Program Statement: This Sub-Program provides for expenses to be incurred in training persons in certain fields including the following:¹

Here are the following, Sir:

(i) Home Economics; (ii)

Industrial Arts; (iii) Mental

Retardation."

That is what it says that they are training people in Mental Retardation. Look at page 121 and you will see. I am not making anything out of it but I am just giving you some idea. I am saying that I am having a little difficulty.

If you look at the Estimates, Sir, it is nobody's fault. Well, the Mental Retardation is somebody's fault. Apparently they teach Mental Retardation every year.

The point I am making is that I have had difficulty trying to find where the shift has occurred in the Estimates that would have allowed me to take the point which I am trying to put to the Committee that you cannot really see where the change is occurring. I would like the Minister...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: As I suspected, Sir, these things are all there stored on the computer. Last year opposite page 89 in the Explanatory Note, Sub-Program 2: OTHER LOCAL TRAINING, it says, "Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Mental Retardation, Arts and Craft and Music". It is standard form, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: So you will begin to understand my difficulty, Sir.

Anyhow the point I am making is that I really do not want to see us reach the point now where we start saying that nothing is happening. The children are coming out and they cannot read and write. The fact is...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, a point of order. The truth is I started off my speech by saying that basically we have a sound system however there are problems and that we need to correct problems that lead to too many people moving through the system without properly acquiring the skills. I am making it very clear. The Ministry of Education is not imputing anything to the extent that the system has totally collapsed. We believe in qualitative reform that must come.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying that is the impression I have had after hearing speeches from the other side. Now, the Minister is right. The Minister has not said any such thing. The point I am making is that Dr. Allsop did a study of the Use of English at the University. Dr. Allsop discovered that more than 65% of the persons who were in the University who had gone through the system were incapable of writing a sentence that made sense from scratch.

Here Sir, on Education, Youth Affairs and Culture, Part I, No. 2 - this is what the \$128 523 888 is for - "The objectives of this Ministry are as follows:" You have to bear with me, Sir. No. 2 says:-

"The provision of a wide range of higher education and training in technical skills to enable those

best able to avail themselves of those facilities to develop the professional, technical and other skills they can use to further their careers and contribute to the development of the Barbadians economy and society."

I am sure you understand that, Sir.
5.55 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If you understand Number 2, explain it when you get up.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We will get to that. My time does not afford me...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute to conclude.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The point I am making is that we have an education system that has difficulties in it. But the vast majority of the people in the system and the system itself have been performing well. I do not think that call-in programmes and other places which should be discussing how we deal with those persons who filter through the system, those persons who fall between stools, we have to deal with them as a project. We have to deal with them as an issue. But we cannot determine that we now have to go from scratch and rewrite the whole system and refocus.

It means that all the other Ministers who went 20 years before were wasting time. I do not believe that to be true. I do not accept it. I have seen evidence that the system has improved. I have seen indication that the Ministry of Education, over time, despite its difficulties, and the school teachers in the country have been able to produce quality people in Barbados.

But there is no point talking about who is employable and who is not employable when you do not have the work for them to be employed. If a person is in school... I have a lot of them in my constituency. They see no hope. They have no interest in learning because, at the end of the day, they see no hope for themselves. Those are the ones that we have difficulty with.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to conclude.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am going to speak to this some more, Sir, when I come back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that you have overcome your left hemianopia. I will make the best of this opportunity to address the House for a short period.

The goodly Minister has been in office for only 6 months or thereabouts and, therefore, I do not propose to do much today, apart from drawing her attention to certain things that one would think need to address her mind at a very early stage.

At this point, we can probably ask: When will it? Will it? and stop at that. That is, she has come. She has seen. But we cannot continue with that quotation at this point in time. I would stop at that.

The biggest problem faced with the composition of these Estimates is really how does one control Government's expenditure? If you cannot control it or if you do not think it wise to reduce expenditure in any area, then you have to make the best use of it.

I should humbly like to submit that when the Minister went publicly recently and said that we were spending \$66 million on secondary education in this country per year and that, just under 70% of the products...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Okay, 60% to 70% of the products of the schools come out in a situation of uncertain, if any, certification. Many of them cannot read, write or reason, can hardly add or subtract after a sojourn in our primary and secondary school system for many years. Something is fundamentally wrong. We either have to assume, Sir, that between 60% and 70% of the children of Barbados cannot benefit from a secondary education or, in the alternate, that those responsible for providing that education are, in fact, taking this country for a ride. It is as simple as that.

I think that serious attention has to be paid to the policy makers in the Ministry of Education and to all those charged with the responsibility of taking care of our children's education from primary to secondary stage. There is something wrong. I just cannot accept that between 60% to 70% of Barbadians are incapable of going through our primary and secondary system because of any hereditary, genetic, inherent or environmental factors. I think that either our curricula are wrong, either our approach to education is wrong, either the people who are supposed to be teaching them are not doing their job or something else is wrong.

I honestly feel that when one is asked to come in here and vote these huge sums for education, that it is a legitimate demand of any responsible Parliamentarian to demand better results out of our system. It is just not good enough. I would have expected our young, enthusiastic Minister to be outlining plans today as to how this thing is going to be turned around, so that I can feel comfortable voting for these large sums of money. Because, quite clearly, there is a problem and the problem needs to be addressed. We just cannot sweep it under the carpet.

The other major problem in our system that needs to be addressed is the whole question of the 11+ examination with all the ridiculous prejudices involved and the obstructionism and the impact that that has and carrying on those prejudices right through the secondary educational system and right throughout the social life of this country. That needs to be addressed. I could never understand what the problem is, in addressing it.

I have never met a child yet who has had a problem with any changes in relation to the 11+, even abolishing it. There is no child in Barbados who is going to complain tomorrow if the 11+ were abolished. Do you know who is going to complain? Their parents, their grandparents and the people who want to perpetuate, in this country, a thoroughly unjust educational system which we have inherited over the years and we are not prepared to do anything about it, whilst we are prepared to tax the community for hundreds of millions of dollars every year in order to perpetuate that kind of disparity in our educational system to suit a small group of people in this society.

We must remove the inequities in the system, we must open up the system, we must make sure that all our children at the primary school level and right through have access to equal opportunity in our educational system, and that our teachers clearly understand that their promotion, how they perform and how they develop within the system would relate to performance, and that the people in the Ministry of Education who design policies clearly understand that when they turn out this kind of result,

which is nothing to shout about, that it is disgraceful, and that we should not have this situation in Barbados. I am not happy about it because I do not think that one should be spending this kind of money and getting these kinds of results at the end of the day. 6.05 p.m.

Just think of the trauma of a child who has gone through primary school, probably coming at the bottom of the class, goes through secondary school, probably getting zero all of the time, getting all kinds social problems and at the end of the day that child may have a learning problem and nobody discovered it. The next thing you know, that child is in Glendairy. And why, because the people we have placed in a position of responsibility have not done their job in relation to that child.

It is my firm belief that a lot of those youngsters out there on the street corners, without skills, without certificates, are there because, our system has failed them. It is not only the system, it is the people in the system.

Sometimes, Mr. Chairman, I look at the kind of subjects being taught at secondary school. Has anybody seen what goes for mathematics and arithmetic and so on at secondary schools nowadays? It is almost incredible. Sir, here you have a child who is now trying to get into secondary school, how is he ever going to understand anything? I doubt very much whether any single person inside this House today could help their child with mathematics homework. I did o'levels, I did additional maths. I did physics at one point.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Whatever kind of Maths, the point is this, if I cannot understand it no matter how hard I try there is something wrong. The point is, if I cannot understand it, if the children cannot understand it, if they are all failing and nobody can understand it the question arises whether the teachers understand it either. That is the kind of question that has to be raised. I suspect not only in maths but also in other areas. We have to look at the content of education and whether or not our children are getting a fair break. I do not think that they are getting a fair break. I think the whole thing needs to be looked at.

I want to hear the Minister of Education make a bold statement during this debate. Do you support the abolition of the 11+ or not? Do not mind what the others think. You are young, you are progressive, or should be progressive. I am reminded I should say, should be progressive, and you do not have to be bound by the prejudices of your colleagues. Do you support a more liberal kind of educational system in this country? We want to hear

that. We want to hear you dealing with the big issues and I am really looking forward to hear what this generation, those people in the political landscape who are gradually taking over the torch from previous generations. I want to see whether you are free from all the encumbrances of the prejudice that has dominated the thinking of educationalists in this country for some time. I want to hear a new departure and I am placing great reliance that we would hear this kind of renewed initiative from the Minister.

I will tell you something too. If you commit yourself to any progressive ideals and you get any flack from any of those on that side you can always depend on me to defend you. Just do not bother about them at all.

The whole question, Sir, of the refurbishment of primary schools is a disgrace. We need really to get this thing done once and for all and this is one of the reasons why I have not criticized the capital structure of these Estimates significantly this year because I believe that not only in the area of schools, the other areas that have been mentioned before, but also in the area of the repair of old age pensioners' homes that that is the kind of capital project that you should be having going right through this country over the next two or three years, to employ people and so on, those who have got some kind of benefit in some way from our educational system.

I made this point recently, Sir. In many ways the majority of products of our educational system 30 or 40 years ago was substantially better than today. When you came through our primary school system in those days, and almost everybody went to primary school, it was virtually guaranteed that you would be able to read, write and reason. That is not so today. I think that was predominantly so in those days for those people who went through that primary school system that existed in this country and that cannot be said today of people coming out of our secondary school system. I think myself that it is a tragedy when the people of Barbados have made this major commitment towards free secondary education, when they are prepared to pay taxes to support that free secondary education, and at the end of the day, for some reason the system and the people in the system have not delivered the goods.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Anyhow, Sir, I think I will rest at this point because I do not want to dilute that point with any other point. There is somebody in this country who is responsible for this situation or some group of people and we just cannot continue ducking it. We know the Honourable Member for the City, Sir, created problems in the educational system but she has not been there for a

long time now and that would have passed through the system so we cannot even blame her at this point in time.

Sir, I think I will rest at this point and I hope that the Minister will respond to those particular issues. I particularly want to hear your views on the 11+. I want to hear what you are going to put in place to make sure that that figure of 6 out of 10 falls rapidly to 1 out of 10 or 2 out of 10. I want to hear that. Thank you very much.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I would have thought, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central would have learnt already, given his political fortune of recent years, that no one would follow him in taking precipitous decisions or making precipitous announcements in the heat of anxiety as he did, Sir, when he left the Democratic Labour Party in 1987.

Nevertheless I want to state very clearly that the issue of qualitative reforms, reforms to improve the types of education that we deliver both to the primary and secondary level is foremost in the mind of the Ministry at this moment. We held a retreat, as I said, which initiated the discussions at the end of February of this year. We have been holding discussions and working on a number of proposals, Sir, and I will not follow the example either of the NDP or the DLP in the development of *ad hoc* policies. When we have finished the determination of these areas and issues, Sir, we hope to do so by the end of May, I will reveal to the public a strategic plan in terms of qualitative reforms. 6.15 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is inviting us to vote millions of dollars - \$128 million - and she just simply cannot come in here and tell us now that she wants us to vote that money but she does not know what is going on, that she is still discussing the matter. We want to hear the proposals we are voting for.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am not surprised that the Honourable Member is seeking to obfuscate and mislead us again, because I have never indicated that you do not know what you are voting for. In fact, in the quantitative respect and for the means, as the Honourable Member for St. Philip South put it, to which they are being put, it is very clearly stated, but I will not be intimidated by him or anyone else into making *ad hoc* decisions that will affect the future of the children of this country, as they did in the Democratic Labour Party when they removed partial zoning and when they removed the Social Science and General Paper from the Common Entrance Examination.

If we want to get back to the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, because the facts are that in terms of secondary education in this country there is an equitable distribution of resources between the older secondary and the newer secondary schools, all of them falling within a band of \$2 800 to \$3 500 per child. What is significant is that Harrison College and St. George Secondary top the list.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member will give way, I did not seek to carry the debate down that road at all. When I spoke about equity, I was really discussing the allocation of students, talking about resource allocation. In any case, if you are spending the same amount of money at Harrison College as you are spending on, say, St. Lucy Secondary, that is inequitable, because St. Lucy and St. George would need twice as much in order to catch up.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Not if you have partial zoning. Sir, the point is this. When we talk about resources to secondary schools we have to talk about three distinct things. We need to talk about the actual financial allocation, we need to talk about the student-teacher ratio and we need to talk about the quality of student which is transferring to that school.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: And the quality of teacher, yes. What has happened over the years is that we have tackled the problem of the financial allocation, we have tackled the problem of the student-teacher ratio, because what is little known in this country is that the older secondary schools like St. Michael's and Combermere have student-teacher ratios of 19:1 while the newer secondary schools have ratios of 15:1 and 16:1.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Unheard of in developed countries is right, but what is more is that we tried to level the playing field when we introduced partial zoning. The Democratic Labour Party, during the course of its last administration, removed partial zoning, although I notice the Minister who was the Minister for five or six months had announced a return to partial zoning and that was turned around in the last six months of the DLP administration yet again.

Sir, we believe that there must be an equitable distribution of resources within schools, whether it is money, students or teachers, and not only numbers but quality. That is one of the reasons why we have been concluding negotiations with all the stakeholders towards the implementation of teacher evaluation by September of this year. But I want to go back to the fundamental point.

Reform in education is not anything to be trifled with and I do not intend, therefore, to be intimidated by anyone into making quick decisions that will affect generations in this country. I believe that we need to look at the question of qualitative reform in a holistic manner, that we need to see how the reforms in primary will have an effect on secondary, tertiary or other aspects of this country and that therefore we are addressing the question of reform in the educational system in a holistic manner rather than simply dealing with *ad hoc* reforms, as seems to be the wont of Members of this Honourable Chamber. When that matter is finished by the end of May we will come to this Honourable Chamber with a White Paper to inform this Honourable Chamber as to the qualitative improvements, as to the quantitative aspect, because at the end of the day, as the Honourable Member for St. Philip South seems to have forgotten, this is a Committee of Supply and in this Committee of Supply we are required to determine how the money of Government is being allocated under this Head. Of course there is concern that we are spending \$66 million in secondary education and getting the kind of returns. I am not concerned with the fact, nor will I apologise for the fact that 30 or 40 years ago only one person used to get through with GCE or whatever. That is not part and parcel of my mental landscape, has never been and will never be. Therefore I must be concerned with what I believe this country as a whole can achieve, and I go back to the concerns raised by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, because I believe we have a responsibility to produce children who are faithful to the development of this country and to the development of their families, their communities and themselves. That requires not only knowledge of a skill or knowledge of some form of discipline, but it requires sensitivities that allow them to have a certain self-esteem, that allow them to understand how to resolve conflict with their peers, their families and the wider society, but above all, Sir, allow them to understand that they are part and parcel of a wider generation of people who have a broader cause at heart.

I want to deal with the question of national certification, because while I have quoted the figures we need to examine the reasons. I will agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in this regard, that part and parcel of the reasons is that the standard of CXC in fact is extremely high and it clearly has proven to be a problem for a lot of our children. The previous Ministers of Education within recent years must take blame, in my view, for the fact that we have not moved more quickly in establishing a national certification - because remember nothing happened in the last eight years in respect of this issue - which is at a lower level but which can allow people still to have their competencies assessed and, more importantly, allow them to develop a level of self-confidence that will allow them to do better within the educational system.

Even in the short period of time I have left school I cannot understand some of the Mathematics they are doing, and I did Maths at "A" Level. There is a fundamental problem in the curriculum in respect of the CXC courses. I will say this though, Sir, that whatever kind of national certification we introduce, it must be a system to which all must be subject, because if you are going to start separating those who do CXC from it again, then you are going to end up with the same problem that you had with the Barbados School Leaving Certificate. Even if people want to go on to do CXC, their assessment must still be gauged under this form of national certification.

Sir, I will deal with that in a broader manner, as I said, when we complete the strategic plan. In respect of the problems, it is very difficult for you to deal with children's problems unless you have the capacity to diagnose what those problems are, and we are working swiftly within the Ministry to give both the primary and the secondary schools that capacity to diagnose. We are working on a programme at the moment which we hope will see the diagnosis for physical hearing and sight problems, at the very least from April of this year to July of 1996 where we can test the majority of primary school children in this country, so that we can know if they have serious learning problems or physical impairments that prevent them from learning. If you do not know what the problem is, you cannot solve it. That obviously has to be buttressed as well by other forms of standardised diagnostic testing at periodic intervals throughout the child's life in school in order to be able to solve the problem.

On this question of two types of education in this country, it is unfair in my view for people living, for example, in Bush Hall to be told that their children cannot get into Lawrence T. Gay School because people who are coming from St. Philip, Christ Church and elsewhere are bringing their children to Lawrence T. Gay School. We have to be faithful to the principle that children must go to the primary school in their catchment area. It is part and parcel of what is required to build strong communities in this country, and the breakdown of communities comes a lot of the time because the young people who are coming up have little or no relationship to their community. 6.25 p.m.

In addition, Sir, given the high levels of unemployment that the last Government left with us, we find ourselves in a situation where a lot of these people who have children are now being asked to find bus fare to send their children to another parish when the children could have been going to the school 200 or 300 yards away. That is because there are a lot of perceived notions as to which are the good schools in this country.

If people in this country actually saw which were the schools performing as well, they would understand how wrong they are in these misconceived views that they have. Therefore I hope Sir, that we can get people to remain faithful to the view that they must attend the primary schools in their catchment areas.

It brings me then to the question of partial zoning. That will also be a topic that we will address during the course of our strategic plan. I am not adding on or giving anymore at this stage because we are in the process of decision making.

In respect of curriculum reform the same thing. We have to understand the difference between qualitative reform and structural work that we are doing.

I want to deal briefly with the Youth Service and the Youth Programme before I sit down because there is a symbiotic relationship between what we are doing in education and what we are doing in youth affairs. We hope to see the start of 3 youth programmes this year, the expansion of the Barbados Youth Service from its current complement of 100 students to 250 recruits, the start up of a youth development programme which will see the deployment of 32 youth commissioners across this country who will in fact play a coordinating and supervisory and motivational role at ground level and will in fact reflect persons who belong to that community and who will therefore play a major part in that district as a whole in motivating people either to go into the Polytechnic, the Youth Service, to some other forms of training or indeed, to help them if they have a problem and need the services of Government's other social agencies, whether it be within the Ministry or not.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: We will also see, Sir, towards the end of the year sometime around October or November, the start-up of the Youth Entrepreneurial Scheme which will see Government expanding its capacity to provide a coordinating and supportive role in terms of technical and financial assistance to young people who have bright ideas.

We will be working very closely with the Small Business Unit within the Ministry of Industry, Business Development and Commerce. We will also be working very closely with the Youth Business Trust which is essentially a private sector body which is affiliated with

the Prince's Business Trust and we hope therefore to be able to expand the capacity of young people in this country to involve themselves in entrepreneurial activity.

We hope as well, Sir, that the coordinating work which will be done between these three agencies and Youth Affairs because I believe that this is the first time that any Government in this country has put its money where its mouth is in respect of youth affairs and has committed the level of expenditure - not even the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central found it possible when he was Minister of Finance in 1983 to do so - and has determined that there will be programmes that will address not only motivational and skills aspects of young people but will address their financial opportunities as well as their general social opportunities at the ground level so that Government is capable of relating to them and not making them feel that they are marginalised by the system.

I will end at this point.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that in commending the allocation to primary school education the Honourable Minister for Education would have taken into account the fact that at the secondary stage many a student demonstrated particular learning difficulties or many a student demonstrated an insufficient success in the educational system. It seems to me that the Honourable Minister of Education, having determined that a lot of people do not cope well at the secondary level, has decided to boost the primary level to such a degree that by the time students leave their primary level they will be properly equipped to take on the demands of the secondary level.

At the same time, implied in what the Honourable Minister of Education is commending to this Honourable Committee is that the primary system is so important that many of the difficulties which currently inhere in the primary system are to be addressed at this stage.

Mr. Chairman, you would be aware that over time a huge amount of capital investment has gone into education in such a way that over the last 20 or 25 years very many schools were built, a lot of machinery and equipment installed and on reflection we must consider that even though there will always be a case for capital injection in education and financing maintenance of schools we are now at the stage where we must actually enter the classroom and look at what obtains in the classroom.

You will be galled, Mr. Chairman, to know that a large number of students at all levels in the educational system preceding the tertiary stage demonstrate an inordinately high amount of commonsense and nearly every student in the educational system demonstrates a high amount of commonsense, a high amount of street sense and

can solve non-academic problems. Yet we are getting evidence that too many of them are coming out of the system without certificates despite the fact that they have a lot of commonsense.

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, the questions therefore arise as to what really is occurring in the lives of persons who are sensible, who can solve some of life's problems but who having spent sometimes as much as 10-13 years going to school are still coming out without qualifications of any kind. It is clearly based on a study that I read sometime ago - I do not remember the author - that a lot of children are short on motivation. Motivation is a problem. I recall this study asking students if they had a healthy perception of the school, if they had a healthy perception of teachers and if they understood the importance of school and they all responded yes. At the end of the day, the conclusion of the study was that these students were not motivated.

Going beyond that, Mr. Chairman, a number of factors unveiled themselves. Very often in the scenario of failure in schools is a severe socio-economic problem. There are some children who are sensible and who are impeded by powerful negative socio-economic forces such as inadequate housing, unemployment in the household, poverty, sometimes no father figure and sometimes no father supporting the children. 6.35 p.m.

Now, to the extent that poverty, inadequate housing, poor parental guidance, poor maintenance by fathers and things like these are factors in the whole scenario, it means that we as planners are going to have to tackle a social economic problem.

Many years ago in my more adventurous days I did some voluntary teaching in Nelson Street. Nelson Street is not a bad place to go to learn how to be an astute sociologist. It is a good place of learning. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West said earlier today that a lot of people spend time and energy trying to win a seat in the House of Assembly but a good, perfect education in Nelson Street is one that I would commend to you to become aware of people's problems and being able to have that street sense may help to get one a seat in the House of Assembly.

Back to the point, Mr. Chairman. If socio-economic factors hinder learning, it means that planners in Government are going to have to tackle the socio-economic problems. At the same time, there often exists a situation where about 15% to 20% of the student population are what I call verbal. Give them something to read, put

up something on the chalkboard and they will understand while a high amount can learn by known verbal means. Even though we have an allocation of about \$1.3 million to the Audio Visual Aids Department, my respectful view, Mr. Chairman, is that in a situation where a large number of children can learn by non verbal means through the use of Audio Visual Aids, the time has come for more variety in delivery of education services. I am saying so with a very keen interest in the application of modern technology to learning. There are from the old school men and women who were good at Latin, Greek and Ancient History, and they were verbal. You give the Honourable Member for St. Thomas anything in a book or on a chalkboard and he would be bright enough to understand it, but there are children now who would rather learn faster from the T.V. or from some computer game. In keeping with the interest that children demonstrate, we are going to have to try to find the media of learning to capture their interest. I have every confidence that the Honourable Minister of Education will be assessing the situation there and seeking to remedy a number of problems.

The fact, Mr. Chairman, is that Barbados has, perhaps, the highest amount of trained teachers per square mile anywhere else in the world. If you have so many trained teachers and still there are learning problems in schools, it means that notwithstanding excellent teaching there are problems facing these children that have to be addressed. That is why when earlier this year the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and Minister of Education powerfully commended to Parliament a system of remedial education, I had to support her.

Mr. Chairman, diagnostic evaluation of students on an on-going basis is critically important because if we have people who can come to town and shop, go to the beach and survive, solve a number of problems and who somehow are turned off by formal education and we do not really cater properly to their needs, we will end up with a high amount of human wastage. To tackle the problem in the way the Minister of Education suggests at that early stage is the right approach, in my respectful view.

I was very disappointed, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, that learned, erudite philosopher and abstract thinker, sought to differentiate between means and ends. He had some vague conceptual framework as to what the ends of education ought to be but I must assure the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, like all other...

Aside.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South. Why do I have the Honourable Member for St. Michael South on my mind? You know

why? Because the Honourable Member for St. Michael South has been educated in life to survive under any situation. He is a born survivor and a street fighter. One famous politician once said he was a desert fox. Put him in a desert with no food, no money, no friends and he would still survive. He is now a converted person to religion and a singer of tenor and not a model, he assures us.

Mr. Chairman, the ends of education, so far as Honourable Members on this side are concerned, would be to prepare students for the marketplace by way of offering them knowledge, education and skills. At the same time in this era with so many temptations out there against the young people, our interest in them goes also in the direction of building proper self-concept and self-worth. The types of temptations and vices facing young people today in Barbados did not face us in our time because we did not have drugs, gang violence, the usurpation of our indigenous culture, and things like this. In the midst of all this, we are going to have to get back to helping people view themselves positively with good feelings of self-worth. At the same time an end in education should be healthy intellectual balance, along with the other things that I have mentioned. Of course, we should instil in people an ongoing respect for learning.

I say also that we should guide the Honourable Member for St. Philip South who was quite vague about his ends and who was confusing means and ends and who was, as the principal spokesman out there, rather disappointing, to put it kindly.

Mr. Chairman, as I conclude, the focus in the allocation to primary education shifts somewhat from a position of heavy capital expenditure to one of focusing on real concerns and real problems in the system. The Minister of Education must be commended for trying to diagnose and treat it at an early stage. There are schools in Barbados with a population of 1 000 students, 100 are sent up for exams, 40 or 50 get 3 or 4 subjects. That is not acceptable in this age when you bear in mind the large amount of money invested, when you also bear in mind too the fact that many of these people are not idiots. So if we have people who have commonsense, natural street fighters, survivors and desert foxes, we must do our best to make sure we do not frustrate them along the way. Wherever they are held back by a number of factors, including learning difficulties, we must tackle these problems.

I must therefore commend my colleague and friend, the Honourable Minister of Education, for seizing the bull by the horns and having the courage to be innovative in her approach to education. I wish her well in her programme and will continue to support her with the same energy and enthusiasm that she is bringing to her portfolio.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I am deeply obliged to you.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central threw out some questions and I would like to pose some answers. We keep asking the question - I heard the Honourable Member with it - who, what and where is responsible for the condition in which education finds itself today. I have heard a lot of talk, I cannot describe it other than running down the system.

In the years when I was in Opposition for quite a long while I worked a lot with young people. I would have to say, Mr. Chairman, I had the greatest confidence in them. I do not think that this generation is any worse, relatively speaking, than generations that went before. Every generation has its plagues. Every generation has its difficulties and its distractions which loom large in that generation as they do in this.

There are a lot of young people in the school system out there who are trying hard and doing well. There are a lot of drop-outs. In our time there were a lot of drop-outs too. We have this way of remembering the past with rose-coloured spectacles. We look back and everybody in the class was bright and every Seventh Standard boy could do this and do that. That is mythological. We all went to school. Look around at your immediate contemporaries from your class and see where they are today.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South is saying "true". They are no different. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is saying that they could read and write. Some of them could read and write. This question of literacy and the inability to enumerate is universal. 6.45 p.m.

Some years ago, a document was published in the United States by the Secretary of Education and it was entitled "Nation At Risk". It looked in its primary, secondary and tertiary system at illiteracy in a form that has never existed in Barbados. Never! I think we have to be careful not to think that just beating up on the system and throwing out these large, rhetorical questions is the solution. There is no one solution. Part of our difficulty is that some of the solutions that we have sought and which have not worked, we do not want to acknowledge that they do not work.

Throwing more teachers at the system is clearly not the answer. We have a student/teacher ratio in this country which is better than what you will find in almost any other developed country in the world. I do not know of any country, except in special education classes where you

would find a 1 to 15 or even a 1 to 18. The educators in the system thought that that was part of the answer, and a great deal of investment was made in that. It turned out that it is not the answer.

I am not going to try to suggest that in 1995 the answer was to throw more technology at the system. But I do believe, as Honourable Members have said before me, in this debate, that the system has to be more accommodating of the nature of change which is part and parcel of the movement from this 20th Century into the 21st Century. If children are watching television then we have to learn to use television as a tool and to answer, in part, the question that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central asked, "Who is to blame?" We are to blame.

Our children learn what they see us do. They learn what they hear us say. We are the ones sending mixed signals. We are the ones practising double standards out there. We are the ones saying to our children to read but we ourselves do not bring a book into the home. We are the ones saying to the children, you should not drink, you should not abuse drugs. But we ourselves do it.

Again, even so, there is nothing new in that. That is perennial, that you live by the precept of do as I say and not as I do. We must, to some extent, stop beating ourselves on the breast and saying how wonderful it was in our time, how obedient and well brought up we were and who are these ruffians? Those ruffians are our children. The only place they could have learned ruffianism is in our homes. We are all Barbadians. These are not children who have come from Mars. They are learning by a system designed by us.

But you see, Mr. Chairman, Sir, we like to be selective, not only in terms of education but generally speaking. We like to hold on to certain systems and principles left over from a Victorian era because it suits us and we like to throw out of the window others because they do not suit us. We are not systematic. We are not honest with ourselves. I have said it in here all the years that I was Minister of Education, all the years I was Minister of Health, all the years I have been in here and I am going to say it again, something has got to be wrong in 1995 when the structure of the school system is the same as it was in 1895. In 1895 there were 3 terms in a year and a long summer vacation in a tropical climate like ours. I can remember when I had to go to school in a hat and stockings and all of that foolishness.

Aside.

% Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I can remember when
Harrison College and Combermere boys had to go

to school in big woolen socks up to their knees because the boys in England were doing that. Do not forget about those things.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: We know what you went to school in. You went to school in England and you had to go to school in a jacket and corsets.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Is that what you were modelling? Did you model corsets too?

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Somebody is saying that he modelled something else but I do not believe that, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

The point I am making is that we have been selective over the years. We have allowed the educational system to become something that is neither good fish nor fowl. The whole structure is not tailored to the needs of the young people in Barbados. It is not even tailored to the wants of young people in Barbados. Through all of my lifetime we have experimented.

I can remember what it was like when I was at school. You learned by rote. By the time I left school, the generation behind me had something called look and see, look and learn. You would look at a word and somehow you would pronounce what the word looked like. You had the children spelling hibiscus with a k. I will tell you what I have seen. This has been my experience. I saw that and I was told, that is the result of look and learn. Mind you, we are told, in many developed countries, that they do not care if you spell hibiscus with a k or q, as long as it is understood. If you have communicated and people understand that that is enough.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I do not know - You are recalcitrant and unwilling to learn. Not you, of course, Mr. Chairman. I am addressing my remarks in respect of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

What I am saying is that when you approach a new Century, as we are doing and, in our case, a new millennium, if you look back in history, you will see that it is a time of urgency about bringing a whole host of things to resolution. A lot of things that never happened in 100 years suddenly happen in the last decade of a Century. It has been happening out there. Things that we never

thought we would see happen in this Century have suddenly happened in this last decade of the Twentieth Century. The Berlin Wall came down. Apartheid has been abolished in South Africa. Even Haiti is trying to have a democracy.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: But, Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is that I am not feeling - and this is not anything peculiar to Barbados - universally I am not feeling that there is that great urgency to tailor the education systems everywhere in the world, because they will be different in different regions of the world, to the challenges of the coming Twenty-First Century. I am much concerned about it. I believe that in the year 2010 whoever are in here at that time may well be making the same kind of complaint.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I give great credit to the Honourable Prime Minister for having appointed, to the Ministry of Education, a woman....

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is supporting....and a young woman who has more recency in the system than perhaps any of us in here. I am looking around. Than any of us in here. As I sat and listened to the younger Member speaking in this debate, I am encouraged.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg your pardon?

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: What?

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Recency?

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: He does not understand. The language is changing. No teacher is going to beat up a child if he spells recency with an s or k, once you understand that that is what is meant. I think that that is part of what is wrong in our system.

I see in our system, I think our primary system in some respects is better off than the secondary system. Something has got to be wrong in 1995 where, in our secondary system, children are forced to do

history, geography, french, Spanish and a whole bunch of subjects without choice, without any connectiveness as to skills that children may have natural or induced, without any thought as to where a child might find itself eventually, in the marketplace. For too long we have had this attitude in Barbados that every secondary school wants to aspire to Harrison College.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do believe that some of the new departures, some of the new initiatives which are informing the thinking and the planning of the Ministry of Education, under the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East augur well for the future and I wish her well in that regard. 6.55 p.m.

Now, Sir, the time being 7 o'clock I would wish to move, Sir, that you report progress to His Honour the Speaker, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, tomorrow 23rd March, 1995.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly. 6.58 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it should revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable Chamber is now reconvened in Committee of Supply.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I want to lend a small contribution to this debate and, indeed, I want to commend the Minister of Education for what I consider to be an onslaught which she is going to take on primary

education in particular in this country. I do not believe that the Minister can be faulted at all for this particular reaction which she has to primary education.

If we want to tackle the root of our educational problems, I do believe, Mr. Chairman, that we have to start with primary education. Money has to be spent to improve the quality of education given to our primary school children. A lot of these children, as the Honourable Member for St. James North said yesterday, leave school as normal children with, what he calls street sense, but when they actually come out, they are virtually devoid of literacy and numeracy skills. This is something which I know for a fact. These children can reason and they are not so stupid. Something has to be wrong somewhere. Reasonable children, not half stupid, but no literacy skills whatsoever.

When these problems are passed on to the secondary schools, I believe that schools like St. George Secondary, like the Princess Margaret School, have suffered badly because of this same consequence. I spoke to a principal of one of those schools some three weeks ago and the statistics he gave me were quite revealing; that having taken in some 211 students about 150 got below 40 which I believe would work out to about a percentage of 20%, if you had to take the average percentage. In other words, the material that he had to work with was what we consider to be bad. It is unfair therefore to ask those children later on to sit the identical paper in CXC which Harrison College is going to sit.

We have a bad habit of judging schools by what type of results they get. I think one of the things we have to look at is not the results but the material they get. We cannot expect to get the Grade Ones at St. George or Princess Margaret. We cannot expect to get the Grade Ones at West St Joseph and St. Lucy. Too many of our schools are judged by just that Look at the material that comes in, try to tackle the problem at the primary level first.

I must also commend her for the remedial programme on which she is about to embark. I believe that we do need these remedial strategies. We need a variation of teaching techniques. We need to use different equipment if we are to tackle the problem of remediation. Now, one of the embarrassing things that I find is that young children who leave school cannot fill out a common form. Writing a letter, you have to write it for them, I am not generalising. I am saying that this happens to a percentage of them and things like reading the oath in Court can be very embarrassing to them. It is at that level that I have to commend the Honourable Minister for trying to put that problem behind us, tackling the whole problem of remedial teaching.

I want to say something about the primary school exam, about the 11+. Let me begin by saying that I do not oppose the 11+ exam. Until we can find something better, I will have to say quite categorically that I am for it. What I am opposed to is the attitude of some teachers towards the 11+ exam. Some schools live for the 11+. Some teachers live for the 11+ exam. The children are told that if they don't pass for one of the older secondary schools then you are nobody. When they go to schools like the same Princess Margaret or the same St. George they go there already damaged because they were told from the very beginning that they have to strive and get to Queen's College and Harrison College and so on.

Indeed, the same Headmaster that I spoke to, actually gave me an incident where one of the girls who entered his school in the very first week was asked to write a composition on The Worst Day I Ever Had and this girl's reaction was that the worst day she has ever had in her life was the day the 11+ came back and she did not pass for Queen's College as the teacher wanted her to.

Some of the things that she said in the essay were quite revealing. Time obviously does not permit me, but what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that that was the reaction of a girl who had a chance. There are some children who don't have a chance of getting to those schools and therefore they virtually give up on the way. I would believe that we should not to revere the 11+ as we do but should find some way else to make those children know that if they are good at the arts or physical education or something that there is still hope for them.

The other thing I have about the 11+ exam is its structure. I believe that there are too many multiple choice questions on the 11+ paper where you just have to tick the answer. There is a particular part of that paper that is called the free response section where it is not just a matter of ticking but you have to be thinking and actually writing out the answer to that particular question. That part of the paper, I understand, is always the worst done. It is very badly done and I believe the structure of the 11+ exam in English in particular hinders free expression.

The Member for the City, if I recall correctly, spoke yesterday about Look and Say as opposed to phonetics and she was opposed to the Look and Say method. I think she did give the example of somebody who spelt "Hibicus" with a "k". I believe that we have strayed away from phonetics and I feel the time has come that we have to get back. I feel if you can spell C-A-T, Mr. Chairman, you would be able to spell C-A-T-T-L-E later on. I say this not as a joke but as a fact that it is my experience that a little boy was shown the actual picture of a carrot. The word "carrot" was printed under it C-A-R-R-O-T and he got

confused somewhere because he was not being taught phonetics. When he was told to spell the word he ended up by spelling it C-A-R CAB, -R-O-T BAGE, CABBAGE. I do not laugh at it. I never laughed at it because I believe that he was a victim of this whole thing of look and say, and confusing what was a carrot with the cabbage. Since he was not too well versed in his phonetics, he got carried away and spelt it in that way. We have to go back to the days when we had drills in our tables and drills in our phonetics. 2.10 p.m.

I want to make the point too that teacher morale at the primary level in many instances is down. It has come from things like lack of toilet facilities, lack of proper staff rooms and the school buildings in general. In the constituency which I represent we had a very bad experience there with the Ebenezer School which I will never forget. The morale of those teachers, the PTA - they joined together to cause the Ministry of Education to take action to remedy the situation at that school.

I was called out a month ago to the St. Philip Primary School where I was shown the condition of that particular building. I must say that too is in an appalling state. I must commend the Minister of Education once again for having ensured that some onslaught is going to be made on those buildings which are in such deplorable conditions. Only schools like Bayley's, the new ones, are schools which have buildings of any class but the other ones, certainly that I know in the constituency, the facilities are way down. What I am saying is that the teaching environment in a lot of the schools is not really conducive to good teaching.

While I am on the teachers, I want to make the point that there is still in our system not a proper way of evaluating the job that a teacher is doing. I know when I started to teach - and I must let the House know that I was a teacher for some 20 years. I might still look good, Mr. Chairman, but I have a good age behind me. I recall when I started to teach we had to go to Easter vacation classes. They were compulsory. You had no choice. You had to go to those classes.

The point is that there was a system where you knew the teachers who were taking teaching seriously. I do not think we have in place now a good way of monitoring the teachers. I understand from the Minister that it is coming and here again I commend her. These things have to be in place if we want to have a good teaching system in Barbados. Teachers should be given something to aspire to in the system and I think it is lacking.

Even though a lot of teachers at the primary schools I am sure now get degrees and proper qualifications, if you had to ask them about why they got the degrees, why

they got qualified and so on, I feel that because things have been made to lag in the system so long, a lot of these teachers will tell you that they got their degrees because they want to move on. They want to move out of it. Unless we make it attractive to them and do something to ensure that we keep those good teachers there we may lose them. It is for that reason that I commend her for letting us all know that she is going to put in place a system...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which her you are speaking about? Please address the Honourable Members.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: The Honourable Member, Sir. Sorry, the Honourable Minister of Education is going to put in place a system for evaluating those teachers who I know can do a very good job.

With those words, Mr. Chairman, I want to say I fully support the Minister in all that she has done and clearly from the way she spoke yesterday I am sure that all of us will agree that she is really on top of her Ministry.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I am usually very slow to speak on matters of education these days for a number of reasons. Education is one field where there are large numbers of experts. Everybody knows the answers to every educational problem. I think this is all part of the call-in culture. I would wish the Minister after she has heard all the very many opinions and views expressed in this Chamber, use the outstanding professionals that I know exist in the Ministry of Education, people who are trained to deal with education and know the problems. I hope she will use them to help her distill all these views and opinions and that she will also bring into her contemplation the number of outstanding teachers in both the primary and secondary schools in Barbados.

Sometimes when I listen to debates in Barbados about education, I get the feeling that somehow I am outside the milieu of education because there seems to be nothing good coming out of the system. Speaker after speaker - I am not talking about Parliament now, but the wider debate in the community, everybody zero in on the few negatives. I say at this stage that we have a very good educational system in this country. We have had successive Ministries of Education led by outstanding parliamentarians who have done this country proud in the way in which it has kept the educational system afloat. I am not going to be one of the mourners and groaners about our educational system.

I want to say to the Minister too as she take on the challenge of a Ministry that is by no means easy, to look at a number of other things. I believe I heard the

Honourable Minister say yesterday that educational reform cannot be a hit and miss undertaking. It cannot involve the change at every whim and fancy of the direction in which education is heading in this country. We are not dealing with the Minister of Public Works. If you start to build a bridge or a highway and you realise that there is a fault, you call in the fellows with the dynamite, blow it up and start again. All you have lost is money. With children and education you cannot operate on that basis because when you make one fundamental flaw, you are going to affect the lives and characters of perhaps a generation of children so we have *tofestina lente*, make haste slowly.

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: If you did not go to school, do not blame me. We have to travel slowly sometimes before we rush into all this plethora of advice and opinions that are on a daily basis foisted on a Minister of Education. That says, I too will throw my views into the pool. I believe that I do so from a more informed position than most because I have had the good fortune to serve as the Minister of Education some time ago. It allowed me to look at a number of areas in education that I had not thought about before and to give me new and different perspectives. 2.20 p.m.

The Minister has stated that the centre piece of the new thrust will be in the area of primary education. I do not believe that anyone can quarrel with the fact that, unless you have a solid foundation at a very early age in your schooling, that you are not likely to produce anything useful.

I should like to think of it more in terms of qualitative education rather than dealing with buildings. I am often moved to say that I have never heard a school child in Barbados yet complain about the state of a school building. Not one, Sir. I speak with great authority having had my own children pass through the school system. They complain about a number of things but they do not complain about the physical plant at the school. That is not to say that we should not modernize them. It is for this reason that the Barbados Labour Party embarked, about 20 years ago, on a World Bank programme that allowed us to build more than 20 new primary schools in Barbados and retired much of the ailing derelict plant of which I still hear reference made. This programme is continuing.

Over and above the provision of physical plant is the quality of the education that is delivered. This business about emphasis on primary education, as I said nobody should quarrel about it. But that is a gradual process. It is not something that is going to happen overnight. It is not to say that nothing has been happening. I know, for instance, that all the primary school teachers have

been trained. This was not the situation 20 years ago, All the teachers in the primary system are trained, We start with that because that is vital, In other professions we take it for granted that people cannot deliver the best, if they do not have proper training, Education is no different, We dealt with that.

We have also, Mr. Chairman, Sir, dealt with the question of the management and administration of the school itself because the problems that confront us in the schools today are not confined to just the question of teaching and learning. There is a number of other social problems that have now found themselves into the schools that were not as evident a generation ago.

We have trained the administrators and the managers of the school to deal with that kind of problem, But this programme such as we have heard outlined by the Minister targets remediation. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North has just talked about the need for numeracy and literacy skills. The ability to read is at the heart of any development of anybody's talents. If people cannot read and are not taught to read, at an early age, it is going to be very difficult. Children must be taught at a very early stage to understand, appreciate and deal with a certain facility with numbers. Put another way, at the core of the primary school curriculum, must be mathematics and English.

I feel a certain consternation when I hear all the proposals of what should be put into the curriculum of a primary school. You must teach civics and you must teach all kinds of things. You must not overload the curriculum in the primary schools. Children must be taught to read and write, to understand numbers and to communicate, those are the 3 critical needs at that stage. All who want to teach them government, politics, co-operatives, tourism, civics and all the things that you hear added on, I think that these people are doing an injustice to what a primary school education should be all about.

I want also, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to mention this business about the focus in primary schools on a Common Entrance Examination and the focus in the secondary schools - which I will deal with later - on CXC Examinations. The reports are replete with the analysis of people, the National Advisory Commission on Education and several others. I believe that the Ministry of Education has reports full of dust, they can pull down any of them, and see the eternal truth being repeated over and over and over again.

The Common Entrance Examination, such as it is structured, has forced teachers into a position, in the primary schools that is, of putting most of their time, energy and attention with the brighter children in the primary schools to the disadvantage of those who are not as bright.

I sent for a copy of the Development Plan 1993-2000, I saw in this very document, spelt out with the utmost clarity, the views of the Ministry of Education with respect to the Common Entrance Examination and the kind of mischief that is being caused in the primary schools as a result of this tendency to deal only with the brighter children in primary schools much to the neglect of those who are not so bright As I said I will deal with secondary education in another intervention and show, by analogy, how the emphasis on the Caribbean Examinations Council examinations and the need to get certificates is a big thing now. A lot of children are not having certificates, But that is nothing new.

I want to make the point, parenthetically, because I said I would move from that direction, that the reason why a lot of children in these secondary schools do not have certificates is because we are pitching it too high. If these children were in the United States of America they would have Grade 12s and Grade 13s. The fact that they do not have certificates is not in and of itself something to be ashamed of.

Anybody who does "A" Levels in this country and gets As and Bs can go into the third year of a university in the United States and deal with the courses. Anybody who gets 5 CXC general Grades 1 and 2 at one sitting can go into the second year of an American university and perform with credit, In short, Mr. Chairman, all I am saying is that we must not get ourselves too concerned about whatever the percentage is and having certificates.

What we need to do - and I have heard the Minister make that pronouncement and I entirely agree with it - is that there has to be some national certification that will put the large majority of those who are not now so in possession of certificates in possession of them, without fooling anybody. Because do not let us fool ourselves, Mr. Chairman, there are so many children who do not have CXC certificates that are smart and clever and get by.

I understand that the National Youth Service which was conceptualized by the Barbados Labour Party back in the late 1970s and which was wrongly abused and trivialized by the Democratic Labour Party, even the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union got into the act, much to my surprise, people like the Barbados Workers' Union got in and said that to introduce a National Youth Service such as conceptualized by a BLP Administration was to militarize young people. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West would know what I am talking about. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West does not know what I am talking about because he, at no time wanted the Brigadier and the Defence Force to have any say in the building of regimentation and discipline and

the training and the giving skills to young people. He was dead against that. He criticised it. 2.30 p.m.

Now, I hear the Honourable Member for St John push his puny chest forward and try to take

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, in the absence of any visible signs of the Honourable Member for St. John can we rely on the measurement by the Honourable Member, Sir? I think he should withdraw that, Sir. Puny is indicative of too small.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I hope under the new rules I do not have to bring a measuring tape. But the Honourable Member for St. John talks about the National Youth Service as if it is something that was invented by the Democratic Labour Party regime. Keith Simmons, as you said, was the principal spokesman for the Democratic Labour Party in opposition to the proposal when it was put up under a Barbados Labour Party administration. But I understand, Sir, that the programme has started down in St. Lucy at the old Naval Base.

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: The youth service training programme down there I understand that a number of those people have spent the time. I understand that the persons who were involved in the programme are children who left school without certificates, were expelled by headteachers for being destructive in the schools, were people who had attracted the attention of the juvenile liaison scheme of the Royal Barbados Police Force, were children who came from families where there was abuse, both of themselves and other members of the family. I understand some of them came from families where there was incest. In other words these were the traditional rejects.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that at the end of the programme if you saw what that programme produced, a lot of young people who were confident, sure of themselves, evincing self-worth and self-pride, people who by what happened down there showed a certain creativity, and people who were now better prepared for the challenges of living in this community. Then we realised, Sir, that we cannot continue to have a system that determines at a very early stage who should survive and who should not survive.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, and I will come back because I have a lot more to say.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, like my distinguished Parliamentary colleague and friend, the

Member for St. George South, I do not speak very frequently on the subject of education. I tend to sit back and allow others who are more versed in these matters to speak on them, and sometimes I do sit back in amazement and wonder.

Let me say that I am not part or parcel of that group of persons who have sought and seek to tear down and destroy everything in this country. I think what we are reaping now, Sir, is the whirlwind of our tendency to destroy; and if we do not come together in this country, and get into a constructive rather than destructive mood, we will continue to see new problems emerging in our society and economy.

The one point I would wish to make, Sir, is that this particular House, including this Committee, has by its very composition a diversity of skills, talents and success that can and should play a more leading role in the shaping of social and economic progress in this country.

I would certainly state, Sir, if you take the Member who has just spoken, that you have a very erudite young man, sometimes balanced in his approaches but who is always seeking to say what he believes is right and to redress whatever imbalances need redressing in this Committee. I think you can understand what I am referring to, Sir.

That is just one example. But all of us can bring something to bear on the improvement of our educational system and that is why I was very impressed with another young man, the Member for St Philip South. You see, apparently the people from the South are doing very well: St. George South, St. Philip South, and now St. Michael South speaking, Sir.

Sir, after the Minister's introduction he set a tone for this debate by seeking to pitch it at a level that would assist the Committee in dealing with the issues that are before it. He did not quite use the words, Sir, but he put the debate into the philosophical plane in dealing with and referring to the ontological and ideological bases of our system, and that is what we have to do. We must be looking at the very nature of our system, its ends, its design and its beginnings. That is how we are going to analyse our problems.

We have to understand what it is we are aiming at, what it is we are dealing with, and where do we want to go. It is so very important therefore that we get those basics in proper perspective, Sir.

We must appreciate it, Sir, that we have to go back to our Education Act to find out what it is we are about. If the legislation does not set out as clearly as possible what it is we are aiming to do, and the structures that will help to get us there, then we will have to change the legislation. As far as I am concerned though the Education Act says 1983, of course it was really 1975. And as far as that is concerned, in terms of ends and aims and objects and so on, I believe there is an adequate formulation in the Act. I will not, Sir, take up the time of the Committee by being too detailed in this. But in terms of the statement of purpose, at section 2(a) of the Education Act, Cap. 41, it says, Sir:

"The purpose of this Act is to provide a varied and comprehensive educational system in Barbados characterised by excellence."

So the pursuit of excellence is the objective. But we are dealing with human beings, so the purpose and objective is to look at the human resources of Barbados and to try to ensure that those resources are developed to their fullest potential. I believe the Member for St. Philip North, is a teacher of long standing, spending he told us some 20 years in and out of Barbados. He could therefore speak out of the depth of his experience. 2.40 p.m.

The functions of the Minister are, *inter alia*:

"to contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental, physical, social, cultural and economic development of the community by ensuring that efficient education is available to meet the needs of Barbados."

I do not think that we necessarily need any broader definition of the aims and objects of the exercise that we are engaged upon. It is the Chief Education Officer and his staff, the Permanent Secretary and the administrative staff who are responsible to the Minister for ensuring that such an efficient system is put in place.

But if I may remain at this level, Sir, and I will have to make a number of other interventions, I want us to examine something. Let us understand, Sir, that, however Utopian we may become, whatever ideal type of educational system we construct, whether we go back to Plato or any of the great philosophers, or construct our own Utopias, we are governed and governed very realistically by the fact that our resources are limited, and that education is in competition with other sectors of the economy for taxpayers' dollars. The pool is not unlimited, and I would just like to warn that this talk of neglect of the primary sector, neglect of the secondary sector or neglect of the tertiary sector, will only be talk, because in the end it will depend on the resources that this community can generate to put in the hands of the Permanent Secretary, who is the

Accounting Officer, to see that the aims and objects in the legislation are carried out.

The competition is at a time when the Permanent Secretary or the Minister of Health will be looking for sums, and the Minister of Agriculture will want to take us into the rural parts of Barbados, not to mention the Minister for Public Works and his very big machines, who will want to pave the roads and things like that, Sir. That is one of the realities. So when we talk about concentrating on the primary level, my advice as a simple Opposition parliamentarian, as a spokesman for the people of St. Michael South, is that we should seek to have a balanced educational system ensuring that within that balance, the needs of primary, secondary and tertiary education, together with what are called in here the special services and other ancillary services, all get an adequate share of the pie. When we have done that we cannot do more.

I recall, Sir, working tirelessly, along with my officials, as Minister of Education, trying to put the primary school plant in place. Not only me, Sir, preceding Ministers of Education and succeeding Ministers of Education. I can refer to the St. Bartholomew's School. There was an old, tired school building up there and a new building was provided. There was the Stow Primary School, a new primary school, provided.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: But that is exactly the point I am making. St. Bernard's, St. Christopher's, we can call the schools. The point I am making is that schools will get tired, they will get old, they will need repairs; and if you put down a school today, if it is St. Clements or whatever it is, tomorrow it is going to need repairs, while others are going to need replacement. Sir, it will be an ongoing process. We will not make progress in this country if we continue to decry the efforts of those who have gone before as though nothing happened in education and only in some new dispensation will something happen. I speak in terms of education but that can apply to other areas as well.

On the broader plane, Sir, I make bold to say that what is happening in this country is that our educational system has outpaced our economic system. The educational system is far in advance of our economic system, and therefore the products of the educational system cannot be fully utilised and absorbed in our economic system. That is what is happening and it is part of a worldwide development that is taking place.

Long ago, Sir, I believe some time in the late 1960s or early 1970s - I am drawing on my memory - there was a book produced by UNESCO, I believe it was called

"Learning To Be", and a similar problem was diagnosed. The realities of it are coming home, and when we talk about technological change we have to ask ourselves how is that going to benefit our own country. I know that when we buy all of these computers and so on

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up his presentation.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: This part of it, Sir. Thank you. I know that when we talk about these things we all get very excited about them. We are supposed to provide these things and they are supposed to produce brighter people and better people. I do not subscribe to any view that says that to be part of technological change everybody has to be computer literate. I do not believe that, because that has not been the history of any technological change in the history of cultural development in the world. Let us understand that, For some people the bicycle is a technology, Sir, but I do not think the Minister of Education can handle a bicycle at this time, but that does not stop her from functioning effectively or efficiently. In that she is like the Minister of Tourism, Sir. 2.50 p.m.

We will get to that point. The point I am really making is, as I conclude, that there are two key bodies that either have to be reactivated or something put in their place. One is the National Curriculum Development Council which had a major task and function of identifying what it is that should be taught in our schools, how it should be taught, the kinds of textbooks and teaching materials and methods that should go along with all of that. It is a source of regret to me that that particular body apparently has not been as productive as it should be.

I will pause at that, Sir and return a little later.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: From the number of concerns which have been raised today, I think we are in for a reasonably long debate so I don't want it to pile up on us.

I have listened very carefully to the comments made yesterday evening by the Honourable Member for St. James North and the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, both of which emphasised the question of exploring different media of teaching. I take their points. They also made the point that the diagnostic and remedial programme that we have implemented contemplates a wider media than the traditional one or the Look and See one that has become more prevalent.

I want, Sir, at this stage to deal with some broad issues because listening to the general tenor it seems as

though there is a feeling that this Ministry is saying that there is nothing good in the educational system and that the wider public as well is also making that point. I have been at pains yesterday and today to make the point that essentially we have a good basic system, but there have been elements of it that have fallen down and there are elements of it that need reviewing, and contrary to the wishes of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, we will not attempt to deal with these issues in an *ad hoc* or tinkering manner because as the Honourable Member for St. George South said yesterday, it affects the lives of too many people.

I can go through briefly with these topics. I have a number of topics for which we are receiving reports and have been reviewing, which are part and parcel of the overall plan which hopefully will form a White Paper. To answer the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, we hope, therefore, to give this Chamber the opportunity to discuss these before implementation in the same way, Sir, that we have been meeting with all the stakeholders in the educational system, either the unions, the heads, primary or secondary, the national Forum on Education or, be it the proposed plan, where I am going to be meeting over the next 6 weeks all of the primary school teachers and all of the secondary school teachers to give them their opportunity to have their say on a number of these issues which relate to qualitative reform.

With the best will in the world, how much ever I myself or the Cabinet of Barbados or the Parliament of Barbados believe that these should be the reforms, if you do not give the opportunity to the 3 000 or so teachers in the primary and secondary system to have an input, because they are the ones that at the end of the day who are going to be charged with the responsibility of the delivery of these reforms.

Therefore, Sir, there is every indication that they want to participate. They want an opportunity to speak and whether it is going to kill me or not, Sir, I am going to meet with all 3 000 of them over a 6-month period in groups of a hundred and give them the opportunity to be able to put forward their positions. We will be addressing issues in the White Paper relating to the question of national school certification that I spoke about, teacher training, special education, incentives for public educators and teachers, networking between institutions.

For example, Sir, we have already met and had a meeting coordinating between the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies and they have started to work on the process of articulation of programmes so that persons can move easier and receive credits for programmes in some areas between the

Community College and the University of the West Indies. That Committee has until the 31st of December this year to finish its work in respect of articulation and indeed, so that we can look at the implementation of any new curriculum changes from September 1996.

We will also be looking at the question of adult and continuing education programme which has expanded from 3 to 5 schools in the last year, screening procedures for diagnosis of hearing and sight impairment of primary school and pre-primary school students from April of this year to July 1996. Not only will there be comprehensive review of curriculum, but we will be starting back a body which will be responsible for curriculum development and monitoring in this country.

I take the point of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South because there has to be an agency that is capable of reviewing on an ongoing basis what is being taught in the schools. It is not so much that there is something fundamentally wrong with the fact that we have primary schools or secondary schools but there has to be the capacity to review what is in fact being taught.

We also will be looking at the implementation of a core course at secondary school in second and third form which will embody - and this is for the Honourable Member for St. George South also - all of those things that people feel you should teach primary school children, because I, like you, believe that primary school children must learn the basics and have the capacity to read, write and reason on anything. Once you have solidified those abilities, then later on you can give them any subject to read on or any subject to participate in.

Therefore, that core course will reflect modular courses on things like health education, tourism education, religious education, civics, environmental education and a strong community based programme, because one of the problems in this country is that a lot of children do not relate to the community any more. A lot of children go to school and relate within their peer group of friends, but they do not relate to the communities which either surround their schools or their homes. We need to tackle that problem frontally.

We will also, Sir, in the White Paper, be reviewing the question of retraining of primary school teachers in critical areas as values education, multigrade teaching, etc. I said yesterday, Sir, that this concept that you must teach a child a certain thing at a certain age and that child can only progress according to age is really fallacious in my view. We have seen at the South District school in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. George

South successful examples of multigrade teaching where children are grouped not only by age but also by ability so that there are variables that may determine where you place a child within the structure of the school.

We will also be looking at the question of compulsory school age. We will be looking at the question of a better utilisation of the school plant rather than increasing the school plant other than those schools to which we have already committed to build. I have given explicit instructions that the one thing the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East cannot say is that I have said that under all circumstances communities must be able to use the schools. They must also in instances help to keep the school in good repair and the school grounds.

I believe that communities must have access and not only communities but cultural organisations etc. It makes no sense for us to invest in any new plant other than what we are committed to in this country. Similarly, Sir, we have to review accountability in suspensions and expulsions in relation to schools in this country. We have to review the education legislation.

I want to leave this House with one thing. We in this Government understand that we are not dealing with something, as the Honourable Member for St. George South said, 3 bridge that you can knock down and just say that you lost the money. We are, in fact, dealing with the lives of some 48 000 school children in this country just at primary and secondary level. Therefore, any decisions that will be taken, not only with the fullest consultation but with all of the information before us, this Parliament must be part and parcel of the discussions relating to qualitative reform in this country and we are committed to that. But the time for reform in education, as I am sure the Honourable Member for St. George South and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, or the Honourable Member for St. Michael South will tell us, is something that takes time. I will not therefore be intimidated by anybody who wants me to take a position on the 11+ arbitrarily and in an *ad hoc* way without reviewing all of the information that is before us to ensure that we can improve how the system works in the best possible way. 3.00 p.m.

I must say, however, that while I agree with a lot of what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South said in respect of curriculum reform *et cetera*, I have the utmost difficulty with understanding, or perhaps he misunderstood what I said because all we are saying is this that primary education has moved from a position in this country, particularly since 1990s where it has received a decreasing amount of the total expenditure spent on education, and that we have to redress imbalances, to use a popular phrase, within primary education.

If you look at the Estimates specifically you will see that in areas such as Supplies and Materials, last year Supplies and Materials got \$70 000 for 84 schools or something like that. You cannot give 84 primary schools \$70 000! What we have tried to do is to carry that, for example, to \$250 000. The Operating Expenses is carried to \$120 000. We have still left in money also for some basic maintenance within the schools itself because we have reached an arrangement with the primary schools that if they have something that needs fixing under \$500, fix it. They have the money there to pay the person rather than waiting for months and months and the next thing you know instead of a washer they need a whole new plumbing system. There is attention being paid to that

When we look at the figures dispassionately - and I am really being honest about this without any colour - we are seeing Primary Education move from 31.75% in 1991/92 down to 26.8% in 1993/94. I am making a case for the fact that the resources needed within primary really need to be brought back.

The secondary school, Sir, we could not adjust secondary and primary at the same time. Secondary has also fallen from 37.25% to 31.15%. But the difference with the secondary schools is this. As many of you are aware, the secondary schools system, all with the exception of two schools, have strong bank accounts, schools having \$200 000 and \$300 000. There are even schools with bank accounts of \$800 000, another one with \$600 000. Therefore, they have the capacity to hold tight on the allocation which they receive during the course of the last financial year. It is not that we are not seeking to help secondary schools too. Secondary schools will be assisted in the area of qualitative reform but we believe that secondary schools have the capacity to withstand this year because we know of the limited resources, we cannot make the changes in both primary and secondary at the same time.

Similarly in tertiary, Sir, because of the difficulty of a number of children who want training, and who do not have the certification to get into the Community College or to other institutions, we took a decision that we would have to expand the available training at the Polytechnic over the course of the next two years whilst still giving the Community College an ease to take in some more because...

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, on a point of elucidation. I listened to the Minister. I do not think that we are on different premises on this. The point I was making is that we have to increase the total cake and if you choose 1991 the economy was in recession. You have to

correct that and then you can make bigger allocations with the emphases that you require.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, that is all we are trying to do. We are trying to bring back primary to a state within the educational sector. The truth is that the expansion of expenditure in respect of tertiary, even since 1991, has been so tremendous for whatever reason, and it is primarily due to arrears of the University. It has moved from 13.4% -to some 30.55% so that there has been a massive increase at tertiary but a contraction in primary and secondary.

We know, Sir, that we cannot increase both primary and secondary in the same year given the limited resources to which this Ministry is entitled. Therefore, we have taken a decision after reflection that the primary education section is the one that will have to take priority this financial year and the next financial year in terms of policy to bring it back on a level footing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you.

Sir, I am amazed that some people see it difficult to believe that there are limited resources, particularly since their tax programmes in 1987 led to a large extent to the difficulty which this country is in. Nevertheless, the question of teacher morale is one raised by the Honourable Member for St. Philip North. Part and parcel of the reason that I will be meeting with the teachers is to ensure that they understand that the qualitative reform does not only extend to the subjects and the matter relating to the children but it extends too to teacher development.

We, in fact, have 100% teachers trained at primary and 79% teachers trained at Erdiston. That is testimony to a sound educational system over decades. We need however, to refocus. We need to allow for retraining in modular programmes. We need also to look at the question of incentives for teachers outside of the strict parameters of pay alone. We hope to be instituting some form of teachers' awards by 1996 that would be highly prestigious as well as setting targets for schools and teachers.

I will return in this debate, Sir, because there is still a lot more to be said.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I will not be long. I do not normally speak on education debates. There is something that I was considering dealing with in this debate which relates exclusively to the School Meals Department. I believe that should be dealt with on another occasion and in another forum. It is a new matter, not

an old one and it is not something presently engaging the attention of the House but it certainly is relevant to the very bold assertion which the Prime Minister made in his speech on the second reading about the award of contracts. I am not going to deal with it now but I will deal with it very shortly.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister of Education, whoever he or she may be, has a difficult task. I do not always believe that there is going to be consensus. People try for consensus every time we debate education. The object, I think, is to continue to parade our educational system as being an outstanding one, a model for other developing countries, *el cetera*. My own view is that it is a matter for the Government of the day seeking consensus with the public, - setting an agenda. And the economic objectives which the Government sets. The objectives in health, tourism, law and order all have to be buttressed by the work which the educational system does in moulding citizens, so it is a difficult task. In the twin areas of education and health, it is made more difficult by the fact that both our ancestors and our father figure politicians rule us. 3.10 p.m.

So that as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South speaks, a large portion of the education budget is still being spent on programmes which he was the architect of. There is not a lot of room in the areas of education and health for this major discretion and radical change which is desirable. That will be so. What we do now is going to rule the expenditure of public funds, in those areas, for another 20 or so years.

I only wish to say that I hope that the gusto with which the Minister took over the Ministry, though that is part of her political demeanour, has not been tempered by that sobering reality. But we all come to that conclusion sooner or later. I think that, at the end of the day, by and large, what the Honourable Member for St. George South said about various Ministers of Education is quite true. It is a pity that his courage was so puny that he did not say what he had to say about me when I was in my seat. But I heard all of it from elsewhere.

I want to say something about those comments because they are grossly misleading. They border on being offensive politically. We have had this debate in here more than once. There is nobody who doubts the utility of the Barbados Youth Service. The principal objection the Democratic Labour Party had to it in the 1970s and 1980s when I was at school was that, at that point, arising out of a speech by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph now, formerly the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, to a 4H Club the question of conscription to a national youth service run by the Defence Force was the basis of our objection.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It was not as expensive as the one on casino gambling, at least not then. As Minister of Agriculture, he stepped outside of the 4 corners of his Ministry. There was panic.

I was then a student, a conscientious objector to being involved in the cadets and walking around with a gun, because I do not believe in that lifestyle. We sincerely objected to this idea of the Defence Force running the national youth service. That was the basis of the objection and the kind of course content, things like map reading and when we saw the course content, we had conscientious objections. In those days, many of us were not members of political parties. We were probably taken in by the blandishments of the then Minister of Education and foolishly so, because what he said today demonstrates that we should not have been taken in by his blandishments.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Barbados Youth Service was in planning, in this country, for thirteen years. Right through 10 years of Barbados Labour Party Administration and absolutely nothing was done except the circulation of papers all over the place, the transfer of a senior public officer up to the BDF Headquarters, where they sat down and did nothing for almost 4 years. Then in 1986 the Democratic Labour Party won office and again, some paper shuffling, it appears, delayed implementation a bit longer than was anticipated.

But in 1991, as one of the policies to mitigate structural adjustment and the stabilization programme, the then Minister of Finance agreed to provide a budget for the development of the national youth service. We started with 100 recruits. That is all we could manage. We sent them originally up to Grazettes and I am glad.

I must turn to the other part of the Honourable Member's presentation, that he is able to stand up in this House and comment about the impact of that programme on the lives of young people. I wish to say to the Minister, although I do not give gratuitous advice, that there are some people who are going to want to direct the Minister into seeking to make the youth service into another educational institution with people sitting CXC exams. There is this tendency for people to try to stay at their desks - I do not wish to say public officers because that would not be fair. There are some politicians and most people in the private sector.

The youth service is a programme to help young people know about their country, to be patriotic, to develop a sense of values, it has to be grounded in discipline and

what you can distil as being common standards of morality for the society. It needs to promote initiative, commitment and excellence. Those kinds of ideals.

The other thing about the youth service is that it must have, within its ranks, a broad spectrum of young people. There is a young lady who did quite well in her "A" Levels who is working at CBC who was in the first batch of recruits, an "A" Level gradual from Combermere and you had a wide range. Because the object is to have them inter-mixing to inculcate in the values of those who have benefitted from the educational system that it is their responsibility to help others and to work with other people who have less talent and to inculcate in those who have less talent that they can aspire to those same things or that they can achieve some of the same things without those educational qualifications.

If we can expand the youth service, the Opposition would give our support to any initiatives which would expand the youth service on the precepts by which it was introduced in 1991. The Honourable Member for St. George South should know better. In 1991... it is true he was not Leader of the Party nor has he ever been a great influence on its philosophy, though he has tried and tried very hard... the Barbados Labour Party took the position that it was some kind of DLP sponsored organization where we took up the children of yardfowls, 100 of them, and sent them off to St. Lucy to earn \$50 a week. In my view, it did early damage to the youth service. There was a secondary view. I heard something about that on the news this morning. We have to be careful about it. It came out the wrong way. I am not sure if it was quoting the Minister. But somebody was talking about the other entities that can help in the education of young people. They said the youth service and then they went on to say the reform schools and so on. People tend to link the youth service to reform schools and we have to be careful. It may be an error in the reporting.

I said, regrettably, that there were attempts in 1991, by people, to distance themselves from the youth service. It is the kind of programme that every one of us should aspire to for our own children. That is the object of having it, that it will get to the stage where our own children, the children of every Barbadian would feel proud about spending some time in a national youth service programme.

The things that that first batch of recruits learnt, they learnt from Barbadians with different backgrounds, whether it was swimming, sports, the drama and cultural programme and how to manage a business. Then they went and worked in the private sector and in Government entities and, by and large, they were outstanding workers and many of them found jobs by that process.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Possibly more. That is it. I am very happy, in one way, to have heard the contribution of the Honourable Member for St. George South, but saddened by the ingratitude which he demonstrated by not acknowledging that even in difficult times this Parliament accepted that the youth service, as established by the Democratic Labour Party was something desirable. It is ungracious of him not to move on from that point and not to tar those young people in the confusion of his own mind about the usefulness of the youth service and to release them from that and give them an opportunity to focus on what is best for them and best for the country. Because, had I been here I know those words would not have been uttered so I can only say that in coming in I can only refute them for the foolishness which they were. 3.20 p.m.

The second thing I want to say, Mr. Chairman, relates to the Society School in St. John. My recollection is that it forms part of the World Bank Primary School Project. I am not sure, I just have a recollection.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Oh, it was cut out? I just wanted to know the status of it but I know there was the change that went to St. Clements. The problem is that it is perched on a hill. I do not think it is such a bad school but the site is surrounded by a cliff, it is perched on a hill and they need better amenities and it is a school that does reasonably well by the standards of rural schools.

The last point that I want to make is that it is a pity that, in starting, the statistics which the Minister revealed appeared so ominous and when you think about it two generations ago you had a large mass of Barbadians who were only educated to a certain point, they worked so hard to see that their own children benefitted from secondary education and that those children were better off than they were and yet it seems as though because of the change in our value systems that we are not as zealous, even though we have benefitted from that education, to ensure that our own children are focussed and disciplined and are also given creative opportunities and as we search for answers in the educational system that perhaps they may be found more outside of the system than inside. But this debate is about education and actually I should have another time to talk about the things that impact on the young people within the system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr, Chairman, it seems to me that a large number of people wish to participate in this debate and therefore I would be inclined to speak as briefly as possible and I will share my IS minutes with whoever wants to share it.

Now, Sir, yesterday I raised a concern over what I perceive as the single biggest problem resulting from our educational system as it stands today. That concern, Sir, is appropriately articulated in an Estimates Debate which seeks to appropriate a given sum of money to provide for various aspects and various sectors of our educational system.

I was certainly quite flabbergasted when I heard the response from the Minister of Education. Someone, Sir, who to the best of my knowledge had indicated that the party of which she is a Member in the event that it formed the Government, that this area would be the number one concern of the Barbados Labour Party. That area relates to the fact that however one philosophises about education, its goals or whatever, the harsh reality is that 6 out of 10 of all students who go through our primary and secondary care system end up without adequate certification and within that concept of inadequate certification, whether it be that the exams are too hard, whether it means that the syllabus is so skewed and geared to an exam that is too hard, whether it be that they cannot read or write, whether it be that the system in its totality has failed them, the net result is that they are failures within the system as it exists today.

I am being called upon, Sir, to cast my vote for another huge sum of money and I am reluctant to cast that vote unless I am assured, by the Minister, that steps will be taken to remedy that matter. I take no comfort in the fact that the Minister's answer to me is that she is going to start with primary education. Sure things need to be done in primary education but, Sir, do you realise what would happen? At the moment we have not less ...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order. I really do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member but I think I have said it now in here on at least about three times that there is a review going on to determine ...

In fact, Sir, I am to receive on the 31st March, that is next week, a paper on the when and how, in respect of a national schools diploma. Therefore I am not going to entertain the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central seeking to distort the record by having people believe that we are not dealing with this issue.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member has no programme to deal with the instant problem then the Honourable Member should come here

for no money. We are interested in programmes. We are not interested in what you will be doing down the road and that kind of thing. Deal with the issue of how you are going to deal with these 6 out of 10 persons who come out of our primary and secondary care system and at the end of the day they do not have any certification of any kind. That is what we want to hear, what programmes you are going to put in place.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, clearly the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is suffering from a 60% deficiency in hearing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable ...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No, Sir, please leave it on the record because I am a great believer that those remarks should always be left on the record so that when they are read I know whom they reflect on, they do not reflect on me. You must leave some of these things in the record, Sir. You notice I do not object to them.

The point I want to make is this, the reality is we have more than 10 000 people in our secondary care system today who, at the end of a 5-year period, by the time this Government's term constitutionally comes to an end, who would be out there on the street without certification. Yes, there are about 4 000 coming out a year, take 60% of those and multiply it by 5 and see what figure you get. You will get more than 10,000.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber, Sir, to begin with ...

Aside,

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: That is, if somebody believes him, because to begin with the figures before 1993-94 showed almost seven out of ten without proper certification, so that clearly there are policies in place that have started and we are awaiting a further report... 3.30 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The point I am making is that we have put in place measures to prepare for the implementation of a national school diploma, which is more than he has ever done, because he has never paid any interest in education in all of his career, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I do not recall interrupting the Honourable Member in the many contributions which she has made to the House. All I am

inviting her to do is to let us know what programmes she will be putting in place to help those 10 000 people who will come out of secondary schools, and on the basis of the present failure rate, the figure will be in excess of 10 000.

Sir, somebody in this House has to take a stand on behalf of those children who are disadvantaged within our educational system. We can continue to congratulate ourselves that we have the greatest educational system - sure, Sir - it is the greatest educational system for the 30% or whoever benefits from it, but what about the rest? That is my immediate concern and that is why I want to hear from the Minister, and if the Minister cannot answer, from another person on the other side, a Member of the Cabinet, exactly what the proposals are for the Government of Barbados to deal with this problem to ensure that at the end of their period on the watch we do not have another 10 000 students in Barbados in the same situation. Why am I concerned about those 10 000? I am concerned because they are the ones who, Heaven knows what kind of environment they have been brought up in, probably from disadvantaged environments which will lead to their being disadvantaged outside the school system and then as a result of their failure within the system they are further disadvantaged, and they are the people who have no skills, having parked off in our educational system, going through primary and secondary school and at the end of the day no education, no skills, no attempt made to develop their God-given talents. It is my firm belief that among those people they must have God-given talents which have not been spotted and which have not been developed, and that those talents would be contributing not only to their own development but to the national development. In the present system they are cast aside. They are the ones who feel the full weight of the law everyday in the law courts of this country. They are the ones who form the hordes of the unemployed. They are the ones who remain unemployed for many years. They are the ones who end up having to face all the many social problems that we have in this country. It is a matter of equity, it is a matter of fairness, it is a matter of a principled approach to an educational system.

For too long we have had a system of education in this country dominated by a thinking and by people who would keep the system in its present form to serve their own perceived purposes. That is what has happened over the years and it is about time that the Parliament of this country says: "No, this is not the way to go." If they wish to have schools to meet a particular perception of what they consider to be special to them, in other societies this is met by their contributing from their pockets to a private educational system, but in here what we should be concerned about is equality of opportunity and making sure that all our children in our primary and secondary school system have a fair break, and that is not happening now. It

has never happened in this country and it is not happening now, and it has to be addressed.

Sir, I am not an educationalist, I am not an expert on education, but I am not blind, I am not deaf, I can see and I am not dumb, and none combined. I can see what is happening to our children out there. I represent a constituency in which a large proportion of the children come from poor families. I know the trauma heaped on them by our education system over the years. I know what happens to them day after day when they come out of school and they have no skills and no certificates. I know why they cannot get jobs and I believe it is time that when we appropriate such a substantial amount of resources of this country that we begin to look and see what is happening at that end of the social scale in Barbados. We have spent too much time looking at the other end where all the influence, where all the power is, and it is time that those without influence and power have a spokesman in this House, be it yours truly, to put their case and demand a fair allocation of the resources of this country so that their children can have an equal opportunity. That is all I ask for on their behalf. I ask for nothing more, I ask for nothing less. I will be speaking again and again on this issue throughout this entire Education debate.

I want to hear programmes coming from the Barbados Labour Party as to how they are going to address the needs of these people in our secondary school system. I do not want any wishy-washy, philosophical answers coming from that side. You have come for money. There is nothing philosophical about money, it is dollar bills you want to spend and I want to see that money spent on programmes that go to help the children of the poor people I represent. They are the ones who suffer as a result of this.

My position on this matter is absolutely clear. I am not going to get involved in any of the niceties of educational principles, educational philosophy or whatever it is, because whatever your principles are, whatever your philosophy is, the bottom line is look and see what all that is producing. That is my concern. You have to look at that and correct it. I want to hear about programmes to deal with this problem. I do not want at the end of five years another 10 000 of our children to be in that situation. I rest on that matter, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to a point which the Minister made in her opening statement, one which concerns me deeply and to which I wish the Minister to pay very careful attention. During the course of her presentation the Minister indicated that a decision has been made to close the St. Leonard's Girls¹ School and to move the St. Leonard's Girls to

St. Thomas* Secondary. If I remember correctly, I heard her say that St Leonard's would become an all boys'. There will only be one St. Leonard's, so it would be an all boys' school. That is what I understood. 3.40 p.m.

Sir, for quite some time and more particularly in the last 3 or 4 years, there has been a very incessant utterance from certain quarters that seek to ascribe blame for certain behaviour patterns on what they call co-education. I have heard persons who are supposed to be experts in Barbados by virtue of the fact that they are teachers over many years making public statements to the effect that the boys are behaving in a particular way because they cannot cope in schools with the girls.

Mr. Chairman, it is a very serious matter to hear some people talk about it. When, however, the Government starts to make decisions based on this kind of information and/or misinformation we are getting into dangerous waters. The Minister in the course of her presentation subsequently has said that she does not intend to make any *ad hoc* decisions in her Ministry; that she intends to have consultation and that such decisions as she makes concerning the direction of education in this country will be informed by qualitative inputs from the various fields.

I would like to ask the Minister if any studies have been done in Barbados; if these studies have been published as to the results of education which mixes boys and girls in the same institution. I would like to know if the Minister's decision to remove women from the St. Leonard's compound has been informed by a study, by consultation, and if this decision is one which has been arrived at after the most mature and public discussion of the issue or whether it is part of the same newfangled neo-philosophical approaches which we hear arising out of what somebody described as the call-in syndrome.

Mr. Chairman, let me say that I, myself, do not accept that there is something fundamentally wrong with co-education. Some of the greatest countries in the world, with the greatest achievements, have gone co-educational a long time ago and they continue to produce quality persons in their communities. They are making substantial contributions on the world scene, but here in Barbados, a few persons have been able to influence people into believing that mixing boys and girls constitutes some danger.

Mr. Chairman, one of the problems we have in this country is that men and women do not know how to deal with one another. One of the major fundamental problems of this society is that we talk and we give lip service to equality of women but it is still true that this is a male dominated society. I am not making any special plea. It is still true that men and women are not sure in a number of

circumstances how to deal with each other and one of the best ways to correct that imbalance in this society is to allow from a very early age young boys and girls to be able to interact with each other.

That is one of the reasons why people go to school, to learn how to socialise in their system, to have poise, whether you are a boy or a girl. I consider it nonsense which people talk that boys are not performing as well as they used to because the girls are outshining them. The fact is that the girls are getting opportunities that they never had before, so we are not able to assess what is happening now on the basis of what happened before, because young women doing well in the classroom is not a phenomenon that has descended upon Barbados as something *sui generis*. It has been happening everywhere from time immemorial. Whenever women have had a chance, those who are bright have done well,

There are some men who feel - I have heard serious teachers who have been teaching for many years discussing in groups where I was standing, sitting or discussing, saying - that one example of how young men are being inhibited is that they cannot even tell a joke "like we used to be able to when we were going to school". They have to look around to see if the women are there. That is not quite true. The Modern High School is one of the shining examples of education in this country. Some of the finest people in Barbados in public life today came out of the Modern High School.

As a matter of fact, I believe the Honourable Members for St. Michael South Central and St. Michael South had a bit too - they were teachers at the school. The then principal of the Modern High School which was across from a boys' school that I was going to... We in the boys' school used to envy the cohesion which we saw over in the other place. These Honourable Members had an experience teaching boys and girls at the same time. I doubt that anyone of them can come and say that they found that 30 years ago there was any substantial difference in the classroom. As a matter of fact, one of the best minds that Barbados has ever produced came through that system. He is somewhere in Jamaica or Canada or somewhere.

The point I am making, Sir, is that we have no evidence. I have never seen published in this country from authoritative sources like the Ministry of Education any credible evidence of any failure on the part of anybody - that the mere fact of going to school where girls are going to school has caused any boy to function at a different level. This society has to bite that bullet, and I think it is a backward step to take a compound that now exists, where boys and girls are interacting with one another, and make a radical decision....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You do not know about setting apart. The boys and girls of St. Leonard's are not separate and apart. They go to school separately and apart but they intermix on a daily basis. The problem at St. Leonard's has been overcrowding. It has nothing to do with boys and girls. It has to do with over 2 000 people going to school in a compound that was designed for 700. It is not a question of sex, but a question of numbers. It is obvious that a decision has been made and I am saying what my position is. I am saying it is a backward step.

Let me plead with the Minister because I feel so strongly about this, but if I have to beg, I will beg. I am begging the Minister to review this and don't let this be a decision. Don't let this be something that is fixed. Review the decision and let the school's size be reduced! There was a Minister before the Honourable Member who had suggested to the Government when I was part of it a solution to the problem: that they would cease intake at St. Leonard's and that over a period of 5 years the school would have been systematically reduced from the numbers which it now has to the numbers that were manageable. It would still have been a co-educational school. 3.50 p.m.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is seeking to mislead this House by describing St. Leonard's School as a co-educational school. To begin with, it is not a school. It is two schools. Secondly, it is the St. Leonard's Boys' with a Headmaster and St. Leonard's Girls' with a Headmistress. There is a distinct fence between the two. They have separate Boards of Management and there is no mixing between the two either. There are no boys in the Girls' School and there are no girls in the Boys' School.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, the Minister is technically correct. The Minister of all persons must know that I would have some little knowledge about what goes on in the compound. Furthermore, the Minister could not expect that I am going to deliberately mislead this House about St. Leonard's two schools. If in my language pattern I have given the impression that it is a single school, I humbly withdraw any such imputation. There are two separate schools in the same compound. In that compound they have the opportunity which they have exercised fully to intermix.

The point I am making has to do with the relationship and the reason why St. Leonard's was not eventually made coed when they went co-educational. The reason had to do with the resources. It was always agreed that the St. Thomas School when it was constructed would relieve the

pressures in the area of St. Leonard's and so the catchment area would eventually settle down to numbers that were acceptable. It was always envisaged that at that time young women and young men would be able to go to school in their respective catchment areas in such a way. So why must St. Thomas be coed. Why must Combermere be coed? Why must Harrison College be coed but Springer Memorial has only girls and now St Leonard's will have only boys? What is the point?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of elucidation, if the Honourable Member would give way. We have said very clearly that we have taken no final decisions on stopping co-education. All we are doing is there was a study done in the mid 1980s on co-education, The Faculty of Education, University of the West Indies, has asked for the opportunity, with the assistance of experts from England, to be able to review and upgrade the study. We wish to have that study reviewed and upgraded to settle once and for all the concerns because I, like the Honourable Member for St Michael West, support co-education. I believe that one needs, however, to examine properly and upgrade the study. That is all that is being done.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I would really appreciate if the Honourable Member would give the Faculty of Education some other group to play guinea pigs with. Leave the people in the catchment area of Eagle Hall. Why do they have to practice with the young women in Eagle Hall? Let them go and take the women from Christ Church South. There is another school called the Foundation School. Practice it at Foundation. It would be much better. I represent those Eagle Hall people and have represented them for a very long time. I know how they feel. They are all very disturbed. I wish the Minister to be aware...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Maybe that is what is intended. I would not be so ungracious as to assume that that is a deliberate policy setting out to cause any consternation. I am going to bypass that. I am going to say that the Faculty of Education is wrong if the Faculty of Education is saying that they should have these schools to experiment with.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order. I have never said that. I said the Faculty of Education wishes to upgrade a study that was done in the Ministry of Education on co-education. We wish to have that study upgraded and they will be doing the study.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But "we" include the people of St. Leonard's. The Honourable Member said that she is making no decisions without consultation. That is what she said. The Honourable Member said in the whole

gravamen of her speech that in the course of making decisions she is going to be consulting widely. Why not the people of St. Leonard's?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is clearly seized in a fit of God knows what.

Certain remarks made by Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the records.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The point I am making, Sir, is this. I clearly stated that on the issues of qualitative reform that I would be having consultations. In respect of St. Leonard's School I met with the Chairman, the Head and members of the Board way before any announcement was taken to make this public so let the Honourable Member understand that.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: First of all the Honourable Member is clearly saying that the decision on co-education is not a qualitative reform. Secondly, the Honourable Member is saying that if she meets with the Chairman and Heads, whom the Honourable Member appointed six months ago, that that constitutes consultation. It is my considered opinion that that does not constitute consultation for the purposes. The fundamental wrenching purposes of deciding what is going to happen in a compound that has been the basis of discussion, that has been the basis of anxiety on the part of a large number of parents, there are parents who live in that area...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member knows all and says what I did or did not do. I am not discussing that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute to conclude.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I will be back, Sir. I am even prepared to admit anything she says about me that is negative but I am not going to resile from the position that the people living in the catchment area of St. Leonard's are once more about to be shafted. There is a fundamental difficulty which people seem to have with poor people. It is always seeming that they can make all kinds of decisions. There is a strong PTA at St. Leonard's Girls'. There is a strong PTA at St. Leonard's Boys'. Let the Honourable Member get up and say when she met with the PTA. Let the Honourable Member say when she had a meeting with the 100 people from the area. Let the Honourable Member tell you when she had some

consultation with the people in this area who are most directly concerned. Do not come to this House and tell me about the Faculty of Education and the Chairman of the Board and a whole host of people who come to St. Leonard's...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has to wind up his presentation.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I want to hear. We are going to discuss it.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported to the House accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended until 4.20 p.m.

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

The question that the sitting be suspended until 4.20 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 4.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House now reverts to Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, on page 131 of the Estimates, under Sub-program 01 we see "PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AWARENESS¹". I am hoping that I am not pre-empting the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. I see that this sub-program provides for a grant to the Barbados Land Ship, the Barbados Arts Council, Bim Magazine, the

National Cultural Foundation, the Barbados National Trust, the Barbados Dance Theatre and other cultural organizations. I am sure that all the organizations that are mentioned here that this money is provided for are all worthy organizations in Barbados and have made outstanding contributions towards the development of this country.

However, there is another organization which I know that Honourable Members in this Chamber this evening know of the reputation not only as a national organization but also as a regional and international organization. This organization which is known as the Pinelands Creative Workshop should be considered for a grant to carry out administrative duties in the normal day-to-day running of business.

A number of international funding organizations have given this organization funds to develop and carry out programmes throughout this country. If international organizations could recognize the efforts and work of this singular organization in Barbados, that they are doing tremendous work then, therefore, I think our Government should consider them for a grant to carry out their administrative work, preferably, on a monthly basis.

I just do not want Honourable Members in this Chamber to believe me because I am the representative for St. Michael South East and also a member of the organization. I should like, at this point in time, to give just a brief background to the group I am talking about and the contributions they have made, the contributions that they are still making and the contribution that they will obviously make in the future.

This group was formed in 1977 and is principally involved in dance and drama. When I talk about regional fame, they have started a regional fusion inculcating the Islands of Trinidad, Tobago, St. Vincent, Guyana, St. Lucia, the French Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. When I talk about internationally, I am talking about Canada, England, North Carolina and South Carolina. All of these countries and islands that I have spoken about have come under this cultural fusion that this group has established.

In addition to that, Sir, they have also set up what we call a small business project which is helping the young, bright businessmen not only in St. Michael South East but throughout this entire country. They have a membership of well over 300 members that are not only drawn from within the particular constituency of St. Michael South East but throughout this entire nation. I feel that the group should be renamed the Barbados Creative Workshop. Not only that but they teach drama and dance every evening at the Parkinson Secondary School.

While on the subject, Sir, there is a great need in Barbados for us to start developing script writers. In addition to script writing I think that we should revitalize the Barbados Theatre and Writers Workshop. It is very, very important. While I am on that, I would also say that in respect of Parkinson Secondary School, there is a need to upgrade some of the newer secondary schools in this country to make provision for an auditorium where subjects, and note that I said subjects and these are subjects not normally found on the school curriculum, but these are different types of subjects dance, drama and something that I call ethnic studies.

We, in Barbados, are in a point of time where we are living with very troubled youth. You only have to take the incident of Parish Land and we would realize that what we need are new, innovative concepts to stimulate the interests of our young people. Many people in Barbados want to know how the youth are the way they are. But I basically believe that we must link culture, sports and education into one framework. If we do that, we would find that with planned, proper and serious programmes that a number of the problems that are facing our youth would be eliminated. As I go on, I would try to talk about some of the ways that we could do this.

When we talk about culture, there is a serious market - and I believe that the Honourable Minister would probably touch on it a little later - in the arts. There is a particular area that I should like to see introduced to the schools in Barbados. This area is called technical theatre. By technical theatre I am talking about stage management. I am talking about lighting men, sound men. I am thinking that the National Cultural Foundation could be used in this area to teach 5th Form, 6th Form students who are ready to leave school and get them involved in technical theatre. It is one of the most lucrative areas of industry developing in this country. I feel that we have to look at those non-traditional areas of employment and get our youth involved in it.

I am talking about linking culture, sports and education into one. I have always found that successive Governments, over the years, have given very little priority to sports and culture. Whenever I read the papers and I try to revisit back in time and we look at what is happening now, I always felt that very little priority is given to these two areas. It worries me a lot because today's youth are more artistically and culturally oriented. They are more creative. Therefore we have to find creative means to tap the energies of these young people.

I will continue to talk about St. Michael South East not only as the representative but because international funding agencies and throughout this region are presently adopting the Pinelands model in St. Michael South East

If you realize, you would find that the majority of die thickly populated areas of this' country where there is a large gathering of youth, there are always some kind of problems, trouble. Take Parish Land, take the Orleans.

What I want to warn about is this heavy concentration of police stations and sub-stations in these areas. One of the most wonderful programmes currently in Barbados to help eliminate this scourge is the Public Relations department of the Royal Barbados Police Force Outreach Programme where they have set up police outlets in different communities. Hie policemen are community policemen where they initiate programmes within the respective communities to stimulate the interest of our youth. All I am saying is that we have got now to rethink, refocus, reshape and start charting a new course for our youth.

I remember when we started talking about primary education and we talked about remedial education, we always tended to link it to the primary sense of the word. There is a vast number and I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is trying to touch on it too, there is a vast majority of youth that are leaving school and when they leave school they do so without any hope, with nothing to do and you find them liming around on the street corners. The numbers are growing every day. What we have done, using the Pinelands model again, we have initiated a remedial programme at the University School of Continuing Studies, Sir. So far 70 students have enlisted in this programme. It is the type of subjects that are being taught. We teach English, but we teach English for living. We teach Maths but Maths that apply to life. We do ethnic studies. You will be surprised, Sir, to see how many of our young people do not know how to fill out a simple application form, do not know how to write a letter seeking work. They do not know how to fill out a visa form. These classes, and I think we have to start looking at the causes because all we are dealing with now is the effect. If Government works closely with the non-Governmental organisations in this country we could save a lot of money and continue to enhance the image of this country. In this way they will eliminate the scourge of crime that is presently affecting the country. 4.30 p.m.

All I am saying, Sir, in the final analysis we have got to work harder, we have got to be more innovative because that is what today's youth is. Finally I am also asking that we seriously look at offering the Pinelands Creative Workshop that subvention that I vigorously am asking about because, Sir, this entire country knows about the work of the Pinelands Creative Workshop. Later as we go on, Sir, there are one or two areas that I would like to talk about. Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I feel happy that I am given this opportunity to speak in this debate. Sir, at the outset I want to say that at all 3 levels, primary, secondary and tertiary levels a lot of input has in fact been placed in getting education on a sound footing.

I also want to say, Sir, that over the 5 or so years we have seen the emphasis placed, not necessarily on primary education, but on secondary and tertiary education. This may be the result of the economic policies that were put in place by the last Government, not necessarily because they wanted them so, but mainly because of the dictates of international institutions. So I feel, Sir, that despite the last Government had the intention, they were not able to put forward any of the programmes they intended to do.

I want to say, Sir, that I support fully the programme that has been put in place by the Minister of Education. I think she is on the right path and I would like to give her my wholehearted support. There are a number of things I would want to say.

In our Manifesto of 1991 we spoke a lot about developing learning skills for not only primary education but also school leavers as well. We spoke about developing free primary education and I believe, Sir, that because of the lack of nursery schools within the rural parishes many parents are forced to drive their children to the city area in search of places at Erdiston Model or at the Luther Thorne or other schools within the city area. So there must be a shift in emphasis at this point in time.

Free secondary education is important and therefore I believe that rather than criticising the Minister, we should be looking at putting the emphasis in this direction where nursery schools can be set up to provide for children within the community. We talk about the problems that are associated when children are not from the community and we are talking about zoning. I am of the view, Mr. Chairman, that because many students do not go to school within their immediate community it has caused a lot of social problems. Nowadays we see neighbours from one particular community going to schools all over the island. Once before you might find children from a particular community like the Glebe, St. George going to school at maybe the St. George Primary School. All of the students in that area went to the St. George Primary School, they knew each other, they became not only peer groups from birth, school, Sunday school and so on, but today you will find children from the same neighbourhood going to Schools throughout the island. That has caused social problems so that children grow up and do not know each other. They do not play together, they do not participate in any community activity together because of the system

we have practiced. Therefore a call for the introduction of pre-primary schools will help to alleviate some of the problems that now exist within the educational system.

Another area that is of concern, Sir, is the 16 to 18 age group. Students now leave school at the age of 16. What do they do? There are many students who leave school without any certification at all. I recall that way back in the eighties the Barbados Labour Party set up the National Training Board and that training board was primarily to capture students who did not have a sound secondary education, who could not pass the CXC but who were able to obtain a skill in either plumbing, electrical wiring or some other discipline. But we find that over the past 8 years or so the last Government reduced the budget of that institution causing a lower number of persons to enter that institution. That caused severe problems. 4.40 p.m

I do not want to talk too much on this particular topic at this particular time, because I will come back to it when the Head comes, but it is relevant here because the Member for St. Michael South Central talked about 10 000 persons who will go without certification. If the programme of the Barbados Labour Party was continued into the 90s we would not have this problem today, because many people would learn skills. Although the National Training Board is not currently under the portfolio of the Minister of Education, I think it is still providing educational training and I think it should be used widely. I think the answer is in the National Training Board as a body that can provide help for most of those school leavers who leave school daily, monthly, yearly without any certification.

I also think the Ministry should look at extending the school age after 16. I believe that children should be allowed to remain in school until they have a skill. I heard the Member for St. Michael West talk about the Modern High School and some of the private institutions in this country, but in those days, Mr. Chairman, many students went to school beyond 16, many of them went on to age 20 and 21. In North America many students go on beyond Grade 12 or 13 and go beyond age 16. They remain within the school system and get some sort of certification. I know of a certain person who is now at the age of 23 and is still doing Grade 13 in a secondary school in North America. I believe the way forward is to extend the school age beyond 16. There is a call for more resources, there is a call for more school places, but we can do it. There was a time when most of those children remained in school.

I also want to make the second point which has to do with the continuing education programme. I understand that there are three centres in Barbados today. The last

Government reduced the number and the centres are now at Foundation, Springer Memorial and I understand St. James. I also understand that 1 400 or 1 500 students are being catered to at these centres. The 'O' Level Institute is a private institution which has been doing tremendous service to this country for the past 25 years. Many students leaving school at 16 from Foundation, Harrison College and other schools go into the 'O* Level Institute without any subjects and come out with five and six subjects. Some of them go on to university and get degrees. There are many students who develop late and therefore Government's thrust must be in providing assistance not only to the three centres but to the private institutions that are providing education for these people. So continuing education is a must and I think the stress must be on the National Training Board, the Polytechnic and the Community College, and we need to widen the scope of the Polytechnic.

I understand the Polytechnic is moving towards an agricultural area in St. George. That is a good step. I think the Polytechnic should be looking at something like 2 800 students. The examination the students have to sit there every year is sometimes beyond their capacity. It is too rigorous, it is geared for CXC students, so only a few go into that institution every year. We need to extend the Polytechnic and we need to encourage most of those over 16 until we find a programme for them to remain in school. There should be compulsory intake to Skills Training, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Community College or the University. Students should not be sent out without some form of certification.

My last point, Sir, is with the CXC. Many Honourable Members were flogging the CXC. I have been an examiner for CXC for about ten years. It is not only an excellent examination, I think it has set a high standard and, despite the fact we may flog it, the standard must be maintained. We must prepare our students. The Minister talked about a national certificate, which I think will replace the BSSC that many students take in the third forms. But the CXC is an excellent examination and we must maintain the standard.

I believe also that in the school system we should promote students by ability. It means that this promotion within the primary and secondary system is now obsolete. I think students should not be promoted because of age but because of ability. When you promote children by ability, it means that you may very well have to keep down a student if he has not passed his examination, so what? But at least you provide remedial teaching for him. We provide remedial teaching for youngsters to help them in the long run. They are not moving beyond their ability, but eventually they will get remedial work which is

necessary for them to pass the examination and will benefit them. When you send them on because of age they become frustrated and distressed and it causes problems in the long run, not only to the educational system but to the social fabric as well. 4.50 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, I believe that we are moving towards the right direction with a few adjustments. I always see education being used as a political tool. Education is not a political football. Education is basically about where all parties, all sides, teachers included, can look at the system without pulling it down, because in the final analysis we have a good system in Barbados. Thank you.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a short intervention as well under this Head. I think at the outset it is necessary to correct one or two positions taken by the Honourable Member who last spoke.

The Honourable Member indicated in his contribution that the Budget under the National Training Board was significantly reduced which I think is true. It was as a result of the structural adjustment programme which saw a general reduction in funds. What he did not say, was that specific allocations were made for retrenched workers who were laid off as a result of the structural adjustment programme and a specific sum of money was voted for training of those workers.

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: The point is that the training was done. Provision was made within the Estimates - I don't remember the specific amounts, but specific amounts were voted for and the training was done. Several persons benefited from that training exercise.

Mr. Chairman, I, too, am of the view that the educational system in Barbados has recorded significant success and it is a system that is well identified and praised not only in this region but certainly throughout the international community. Barbados is highly regarded as an island with an excellent educational system and I join with those other Honourable Members who indicated that we should seek to promote what in fact we have. If we recognise that it has not necessarily facilitated all of the needs of our aspiring Barbadians, let us recognise that. I don't think that it is fair for us to seek to pull down the system or even to discredit the efforts of Ministers or of Governments in the past.

Clearly, what we have seen, if we look at the last generation where we saw a significant focus on the development of education, you would appreciate that the opportunities which were available to the mass of people in

Barbados progressed significantly under the Democratic Labour Party Administration of 1961 where for the first time in the history of Barbados we saw the advent of free secondary education as well as some years later the advent of the school meals programme.

When we examine what that initial effort sought to achieve, we have to be honest and we have to acknowledge that approximately 40% to 45% of all Barbadians who come through the system make it through to successful jobs and they are able to work their way into the system, having had what we would consider to be more favourable opportunity than many others. A lot of it has to do with individual effort, and there are some high fliers who have come from very humble background that have made it into the system. We have to accept that there are a large number of Barbadians, as other Honourable Members have identified, who have just not made it into the system. What we have to focus on is where do we go from here. The system has brought 40% of Barbadians to the point where you can simply leave them alone, and they can work their way in the world of work because they possess skills and a good educational background.

I agree with the Honourable Members who have said that we need to change our focus and I think that that focus has to be targeted at those persons who are not now making it into the system and certainly need to be possessed with a skill or to be trained with a business mentality. What I have discovered, and I think other Members of Parliament might agree with me, is that a large number of Barbadians seem unwilling to focus their development on projecting in their future lives that they want to be business people.

There seems to be an attitude in Barbados where when you are going to school from a very early age you say you want to be a doctor or a lawyer or you want to go and work for the Government etc. I think that is an area that we have to focus on because Barbadians have to get it in their heads that small business and self-driven businesses can be very beneficial, can develop individuals at a faster rate than if they are stuck in a government system or a company where promotion takes a long time to go where their income is controlled.

Right across Barbados right now, there are several well educated people who are very frustrated because they are stuck in the system. They are not operating and cannot control their profits and they have to depend on union negotiations or hands out from time to time.

While I presided as Minister of Labour, I was involved in the setting up of the TVEC Council and the intention of that Council was to identify new training

programmes that are desirable within the society. A Council was put in place under the new Act that was set up and I understand that that is now to be revised.

Aside,

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I accept that. I am just saying that when I presided it was put in place and I am just trying to bring you to where we need to focus. I have to concede that I was in the Ministry for a very short period of time, but I want to state clearly that while I was presiding within the Ministry there was a definitive focus where we were seeking to address the problem of those persons who were not employed in the general network and they could not be employed unless we sought to possess them with skills and in general teach them to be business people.

In addition to that, Sir, I had extensive negotiations with these free schools like the Mohawk Colleges that are across the United States and in Canada where they teach business programmes, teach people how to become business people. As I said, several Barbadians do not understand or think of becoming business people. This is an area that we have to focus on. We must spend time addressing the attitude. I certainly will make some of the information available to the House and it can be made available to the Minister,

In the Estimates under this Head, Sir, there are contributions, that I applaud, to the Landship and to other such companies. My colleague from St. Michael South East made a pledge for the Pinelands Creative Group and so forth. I would have thought that it is not often that a school in this country is able to celebrate 300 years of existence and I would have thought and I still hope that the Honourable Minister would look favourably at providing a significant grant to the Combermere School which will go a long way in assisting them.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: The Old Boys will put as well, but it is not often, and I don't believe in our lives that we will again see a school celebrating 300 years of existence. I would hope, Sir, that the Honourable Minister takes this opportunity to record her stance in history and make a significant grant. The Combermerian boys -1 can speak for them - would be very appreciative.... 5.00 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Sorry. My fellow scholars.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. Combermere is a school that has both male and female scholars. He is talking about the old boys. There are no old boys anymore.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I stand corrected. I would, in fact, make that plea.

The Honourable Minister in her first presentation indicated that she wanted to make sure that with the placement of children into the primary schools that the priority would be to provide places for children from the districts. I agree with that process. I have had significant trouble and several complaints from my constituents in St. Michael East because they cannot get into Charles F. Broome School. I find it unfair really. I really appreciated the Minister indicating that she would seek to make sure that children from the various districts are placed in a school.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I was not opposed to that. I have never been opposed to that.

Now, there has been a trend in Barbados, and I have to confess that under our administration we did not achieve levels of repairs for the St. Giles* School, Belmont School and the Pine Primary School. We did token repairs. I have to be very honest and say that I am not satisfied with what has happened because those schools have traditionally over the years produced several outstanding Barbadians and it is shameful that a school like St. Giles' School today if you go and you walk through that school you would be embarrassed because it is not considered to be properly outfitted to be accepting students.

I am going to make an appeal to the Minister. I have conceded that during our administration there were token repairs but just as we have seen all over rural Barbados where there are new schools springing up, some attention needs to be paid to the schools in St. Michael. There has been a total neglect. I do not know if for some strange reason we believe that the schools in St. Michael do not require that level of attention.

Only yesterday a matter was brought to my attention with the Pine Primary School where, Mr. Chairman, you would recall when we were both serving in other capacities that there were significant problems and we had to try to rescue those situations. I was able to get token repairs done at some of these schools but I really would like to bring it to the Minister's attention that we have, as a matter of urgency, to spend some money on those schools. It is not necessarily because they fall within my constituency. It is necessary because those schools are significant landmarks in the history of Barbados. As we seek to record the history of Barbados we certainly should not do that by ignoring those schools, and in particular the St. Giles' School, the Belmont School and the Pine Primary School. I would be very happy if the Honourable Minister can address that.

I will return under this Head. There are two or three other items that I want to deal with.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to enter this debate at this point in time. As you are aware, we have been dealing a lot in this House with rural development and I want to refer to rural development as it relates to education. As you are aware, in rural Barbados even though we have provided a large number of scholars we have yet to get the right number of Six Form Schools in this country.

I am suggesting to the Honourable Minister of Education to take a second look at this aspect of it. I am suggesting that a school like Coleridge & Parry be given the right to have a Sixth Form. I am quite aware that the Honourable Member for St. James North would support me with this and statistics will support me also with this. I am aware that there are some members who went to school at Coleridge & Parry, then went on to Harrison College that would like to hold on to the last part of their educational studies and would not want to affiliate themselves with Coleridge & Parry School.

I also would like to thank the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East for continuing the programme left in place by the Democratic Labour Party by starting the School at St. Clements. I would also like to draw to her attention that the School Meals Centre at Rockfield next to the St. Clements Infants' and Junior Schools that it needs upgrading. I would appreciate very much that out of the vote of \$482 000 if some of that money could be spent on that centre.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic has no room for many more students. There was a study carried out by the Democratic Labour Party...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member truly is misleading the House now. In fact, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic's capacity is just under 2 500 and it is now currently just under 1 400 so it is almost only working at 50%.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Now, I am very glad to hear that, Sir. I would hope that when people apply they would not get the turn around and they would be accepted. I have no problem with that. I appreciate that but that has nothing to do with rural Barbados. If we are going towards a policy where we need to develop rural Barbados, I am suggesting that at the Naval Base Facility - there are enough buildings down there - some of the things that are being carried out right now at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic can be transferred to or extended to a second Polytechnic in Barbados at the Naval Base facilities. As the

Honourable Minister is aware, a study was carried out on this already. All I am asking her is to accept and implement it.

I am also suggesting that the Youth Service, as the Honourable Minister mentioned yesterday in this House, that she plans to extend it. I have no problems with that. It must be said in this House that the Youth Service was not started in 1991 but it was started prior to 1976 when Mr. Barrow took a former member of this House who served in the capacity as Parliamentary Representative for St. James South into the Prime Minister's Office, some time in the 1970s, and I do not see why we should be having a discussion, on when it started and who started it. The important thing is that it has started. It needs to be expanded.

I feel, Sir, that the Youth Service should go a step further. I feel that it should play a pivotal role in the development of tourism in this country. I feel that, with its Headquarters at the Naval Base Facility, that the Ministry of Tourism or it could be the Ministry of Education could start a project where we teach tourism related studies under the Barbados Youth Service. If you take those people and you show them the importance of tourism to this country and you get 500 per year, in 10 years' time, we would have 5 000 people who can appreciate the value of tourism to this country. 5.10 p.m.

I am also saying that the agricultural side of that programme should also be implemented. Some land has been allocated down at North Point, at Harrison Point for the youth service. I should like to see them utilizing that land.

We have another situation, in this country, relating to the youth. I believe the Minister can do a lot about this. She has the Ministry which is responsible for the Film Censorship Board and I feel that some of the movies that are being shown in this country that the Film Censorship Board can play an important role in making sure that the amount of violence that is shown whether it be on television or whether it be on a tape that is borrowed from a video shop in this country, that those tapes should be monitored and we might not have the problem that we are having right now in Parish Land or in Gall Hill.

Thank you very much, Sir.

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is my second intervention in this debate and I did

indicate that I would be speaking a second time. So long as I catch your eye, I will make my contribution to the public debate in this country.

I made a call for balanced expenditures on education in which each sector of the educational system would get its fair and adequate share of the resources available. I do so, Sir, against a background that, in my own constituency of St. Michael South, there are both primary schools and secondary schools. They both have needs. There is a community council in my area. I am not in the position of the Member for Christ Church South East to have access to grants and things like that, or even to ask for subventions. I will not ask for that.

We seek to raise our own funds. But I will express my appreciation, on behalf of the St. Michael South Community Development Council, to the Ministry of Education down through the years and continuing for the use of the Garrison Secondary School in those programmes. We are providing training and it is training out of school, not only for young adults, but for older adults as well. I do hope that that kind of assistance will continue. I take the words of the Minister that she has given instructions that the schools should be accessible, or that the policy should be continued for access to schools for community outreach and community work.

We are a very old community council. We have been doing this work for quite some time. I saw something in the newspapers that some national community council was set up. Even though we are demonstrably a functioning community council, nobody asked us anything.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDEFORD: I have not said it was public. Listen carefully to what I say. Do not get too jumpy. I am not criticizing you.

But let me get back to my main theme, Sir, and it is that we are living in a very complex world. If I have any difference with the Member for St. George South, it is this idea that somehow or another the curriculum in our schools can be simple or can revert to some golden age of simplicity some time in the past. As the world becomes more complex, as knowledge becomes wider and deeper, that knowledge and the necessity for passing it on from one generation to another generation become likewise, more complex and difficult.

We have got to look at how it is or what it is that we are teaching our children. It is for that reason that I place so much emphasis on the work of the National Curriculum Development Council or some such body. We are in a world in which values are tremendously important. We

have got to find a way of transmitting those values which are worthwhile for the building up and the maintenance of our society and for the inculcation of certain principles of behaviour and certain attitudes in our young people, in our parents, in our adults, and in the entire population.

I do not mind whether we are saying that there are too many subjects on the curriculum or that the curriculum is overcrowded. We have got to find a way of ensuring that values, moral, spiritual and cultural are, at some point or at different points...

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I know you do not hear asides, but the Member for St. George South says he will get up and corroborate what I am saying.

I remember once when I was speaking in this Chamber, a former Prime Minister, now past to the Great Beyond, may his soul rest in peace, did comment that I obviously looked at his brief. I told him I had no such intention of looking at his brief. I therefore have no intention of peeping at the notes of the Member for St. George South. I am making the point that we have to find a place on our curriculum for values.

If I may pass on, because I believe a word of advice to the wise - I do not say warning - is enough. I want to pass on to this question of certification. We try to invent the wheel or re-invent it. It is not necessary to do that. There is no child in our educational system who should be leaving school in 1994 or 1995 without having some certification, either of an overseas nature, a national nature, or by the school itself. Each school should be able to certify the students that pass through its doors, not for a particular examining body, Sir, but in terms of a kind of transcript of the level of attainment, the subjects done, and the achievements of the student, and so on. 5.20 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I believe that each school in our country is capable of providing that kind of certification. There has been the Barbados School Leaving Certificate and the Barbados Secondary School Certificate Part 1. There is the CXC at two different levels, Basic and General and then General is divided into grades. I think 5 grades. I am hazy on this, Sir. Within that framework, Sir, general proficiency, basic proficiency or however they are styled, there should be some means of certifying the students, backed up by what each school does. And I have not even mentioned the overseas certificates yet.

Let me go beyond that, Sir. When we go beyond that it is the responsibility of our educational system to follow in a systematic way the achievement and performance of the students in the system. That is why I am a firm believer in testing and evaluation on a cumulative basis, which means that you are following the student as the student progresses. The experts can determine what the time periods should be, 7 years, 9 years, 11 years, whatever. But I believe that until we get such systems in place whereby we are monitoring the progress of our students, we will not make the kind of progress that we should, and we will continue to be in a situation where we keep on redefining the problem. When we have redefined the problem we believe, also, that we have solved the problem.

Our country is a country that likes to talk about problems, Sir. I can speak from experience. Those who are change agents or those who try do something about the problems woe betide them, because all of the forces of conservatism, all of the forces who benefit from the existing system, whether it is iniquitous or inequitable or not, will find some reason to speak out against the change.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute to conclude.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, that is why I will give my guarded support to the Minister of Education at this stage because I believe that she should be given an opportunity to bring her weight to bear on the problems of education, Sir, and I wish her well.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I just want to ask two questions before the Minister responds. Sir, I know the Minister is going to respond shortly but there were two other points I wanted to raise. One of them concerns me very much. As you look at the Estimates of Personal Emoluments, I see that we still have only one psychologist for the entire Ministry. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that in 1995 it is just not acceptable that we can have only one psychologist for the whole Ministry of Education. It is something which has persisted for a very long time. It is always very difficult for a Ministry to get any change of attitude among those who are responsible for manning Ministries and Departments and I have no doubt that the Ministry must have tried because this matter concerns a lot of the policy which has been alluded to and adumbrated in the debate so far and in the continuing debate on education. The whole question of measurement of performance and finding reasons for deviant behaviour etc.

In North America there is almost a psychologist on every staff and I know that some steps were taken when it was agreed that counselling officers would be added to various secondary schools and even that was done

somewhat grudgingly. I really feel, when I recall when I was Minister of Health and we were looking at the whole question of ADDS education, the whole question of counselling at that high level we had to borrow the psychologist from the Ministry of Education and in a sense that still is the only practicing psychologist in the whole system that deals with the youth and young adults.

We do not have very many qualified psychologists in the country but I think that the Ministry of Education owes it to itself to look at enhancing this area of our management, this whole field of psychological testing and psychological appraisal is something which, as we go toward the 21st Century, we are going to have to pay some attention to. I wonder if the Minister would make some remarks in that regard as she responds.

Then I want to ask the Minister to give us some indication about the management policies and the policies generally for the use of the Erdiston Training College. Unfortunately, Sir, the way the Estimates are set out these days, the modernisation of these Estimates, does not allow for the kind of subsector examination that used to be done in times past and so you can have a debate on Education in which you go all over the place and there are a number of questions you really do not get to deal with. But Erdiston College has been for some time under question and I believe that a definitive decision has now been taken about Erdiston, and even though I know a decision has been taken I believe the public at large is not aware as to what exactly Erdiston will now become in the context of educational development in this country. 5.30 p.m.

I want to make the point that in terms of the tertiary institutions which we have in Barbados, first of all we should never assume that teachers have been trained and therefore there is no need to go any further, because I do not think that teachers can ever be completely trained. There has to be ongoing training for teachers and I believe that there should be a lot of flexibility in the kind of training which becomes available to those whose responsibility it is to teach. But I want to make a particular point.

I believe that at the level of secondary teaching there is a lot of need for additional training. It is very instructive that people have to be specially certificated in order to teach in the primary system and are deemed to be trained, whereas in order to teach in the secondary system you need only to have a degree. Based on what we have said and what we have been hearing, we know that it is possible to have a degree or many degrees and yet not be suitable for teaching at the level of secondary school. I know it

happens at the university level, but that is a different area and a different kind of problem.

I think that there is scope for a need, for a look at training for those who teach at the secondary level. All of us who have been to secondary school can tell stories of one kind of teacher versus another and what kind of result we had as a result of being exposed to teachers whose capacity to teach was, at the highest low. I expect that that is one of the reasons which will come out of any study as to why people leave school uncertificated. There are many people who go into secondary schools who are turned off by the teachers, who are turned off by the attitudes of the teachers, and there is no relief from that. If you are a young man or young woman and you come into contact early with an ignorant teacher, you have no relief from that and you are doomed with that particular set of circumstances for your entire career.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, you see, an ignorant teacher is not a foolish teacher. I do not know of any foolish teachers, but there are some teachers who are ignorant. They have no teaching skills, they are ignorant of certain techniques, and I am saying that sometimes when a young man or woman run into that kind of person in a secondary school, they are doomed for the whole of their career. If you think of your own experiences in school, you would remember that if your first contact with Latin was not a proper contact, thereafter you were doomed. In modern languages, if you tried to speak a foreign language and there was no one to help you not speak it in a Bajan dialect, you were doomed. As a result many of our contemporaries and still today there are people coming out of secondary schools who never have the opportunity to use their God-given skills and abilities. I would like to see the day come when some of the finer teachers in some of the older secondary schools are required to make their skills available in some of the newer secondary schools.

I think there is something inherently wrong with a system that allows for a high level, highly skilled language teacher to be teaching at one school somewhere in Bridgetown while there are three or four secondary schools somewhere else who cannot give instruction in the same language because they either have to be "scotching" with someone who did the subject but who is not a teacher in that subject, or they have none at all. I know that there is a whole school of thought that feels that the policy makers should have no input in education management, but I think that attitude has contributed to a tremendous waste of resources in our society over the last 50 years, certainly over the last 25 years, and there is no excuse.

If it is necessary to pay those highly skilled teachers additional sums of money or give them additional incentives for their having to move from one school to the

other, then we should find a way, but everybody knows that if you have a professor of administrative law at a particular law school that people will come from far and wide to sit at his feet, people will go to his lectures, people will go from one institution to the other. Why then, if we have good teachers at Harrison College or Combermere or Queen's College or wherever, can they not be made available to some of the other schools? We simply do not have the pool of high level teachers. I think, if the Minister is looking at some serious reform, this is one of the areas where, in conjunction with the teachers, in conjunction with the Teachers' Unions, in conjunction with the population generally, that we should have some discussion on how we may better use the resources of our country.

The last point I am going to make is about the same kind of thing. We have some retired people who retire from the University and other places who have skills, but more particularly they have experience. Can we not find some kind of system? Do you mean the United States sends us all kinds of "poor raky" people down here talking about President Kennedy's programme, the Peace Corps, President Clinton now has something in the United States where he sends out his people, I think the Minister and the Government - I know my Leader likes to say no gratuitous advice - but I think you should start to get some of those people, develop a programme where there does not have to be any grandstanding, let us agree that the Labour Party start it so that we do not have to fight over whose programme it is, but let us use the skills.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, I said people with skills. The Honourable Member is just trying to excite me now. I do not want any Dr. Bowtie, I want people who have real skills.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Don't you know him, Sir? He is a famous educator. He educates by editorial. Anyhow, Sir, I was making the point.... I really would like to hear from the Minister if this is beyond the possibility of these Estimates. I am sure there are persons who will volunteer.

Mr. Chairman, let me share a secret with you, Sir. When I lived in North America, and since I came back here, I have been able to go to selective places, for reasons connected with my own experience and development, and give my skills freely. One of the things I would like to do, but will not do because it will be seen as a political gimmick, but I wish it were possible for me to give some voluntary service in some of the secondary schools, say a week, a year, so I could go and discuss with them some favourite subjects of mine. I use that as an example of the kind of thing I am thinking of.

The Honourable Member for SL Michael South is a well known teacher. I am not saying he is errant, I am saying he is a teacher. I believe the Honourable Member would gladly go into the Garrison Secondary School at no cost if it were not going to be ridiculed and pooh-poohed and turn up in the Investigator and all of that sort of thing.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Or my favourite programme. I am making the point that the Minister has an opportunity to seek to use resources other than the traditional resources because it is important if we are going to change the patterns that have been established in the past.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I rise really to wind up this debate, but before I start to deal with a number of issues I would really like to thank all Members who participated.... 5.40 p.m.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: I am not going to be very long, Sir. There is only one question I want to ask because I think the Minister in her introduction made reference to it, and it is a question of partial zoning. Whenever that comes up, it seems to me that there is a lot of confusion in the minds of the people. We have had all kinds of expressions on it, but no one seems to be clearly understood as to what it really means. I say this simply because of the primary school children. The position is that in my own constituency we have lost a little child who has never been found. It is not because of zoning, but I want to use that to express this position.

If you zone in such a way, not taking into consideration the movement of workers... There are very few people in here who have been through the old system like myself. I have been through the age grouping system and I recognise all the pretty things that were said but, in those days, it was a zoning that was self-imposed by the people themselves. They selected the schools within their own constituencies based on a particular kind of format.

The Minister talked about village lights and that was a real reason why zoning was very comfortable. If we look at the pattern of movement of workers today, work places are not placed very close to some of the school areas and a lot of the employment is concentrated primarily in the City and the St Michael area. Since our educational system has allowed.., I don't believe this rural and urban development. The people in the urban and rural areas enjoy the same education and on a comparable basis are equal to them. Therefore, you can get civil servants from St. Philip who may be working in the Ministry in Bridgetown. The school may be next to them. I use that example to say that

there are workers financially straddled to find people to keep their children. The result is, if we do partial or total zoning and provision is not made for some kind of security for those children after three o'clock - we know what has happened with young children being removed from the schools.

My one position is, if you are going into partial zoning or whatever, what kind of preparations for security are there, in the absence of parents who may be travelling from Bridgetown, at schools in their district, without leaving their children at the mercy of whoever? That is why I mention the loss of a little child in my district, because someone took her from there and the reality is that the child lived very near to the school. If that can happen where children live near to the school, if they can be taken away, you can imagine after three o'clock, children who are left without any kind of safety, then we will have this.

We also have to take into consideration the changes in our society. Only recently, a report came out that child abuse is very much on the rise. These children may also be the targets for those people whose minds are not right. I am saying that I have no difficulty in accepting a system as long as the safeguards are put in place. That is the only clarification I want, because some of the parents in my district who live near schools but work away from there are very concerned in the absence of community and village life as to what to do with their children.

I am asking the Minister whether it is this year, next year or whenever, if there is any preparation made to make safety and security precautions available for these children after three o'clock when the school is closed and no relatives are around. Where would they go and who will see after them?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, before I start to address a number of concerns raised in this debate, in winding up, I would just like to thank all Members for participating in the debate. It is true that there were some Members who seemed more intent on having an affect on tomorrow's headlines than in contributing substantially to the debate. Nevertheless, Sir, perhaps that Honourable Member has forgotten that when he was in charge of the Ministry of Finance in 1987 that he cut the budget of the Polytechnic in that year. In fact, it is one of the few years in which the Polytechnic budget has been cut. Nevertheless, that was his contribution to the expansion of training of those children without certification.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir, whoever that Honourable Member is, he never cut any budget to the Polytechnic. I agreed to whatever was put before me.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Whenever I hear a defence like that before a court of law, stated by someone in the docks, the verdict was sure to be guilty as charged. It is the same as pleading guilty. Guilty with an explanation is still guilty.

Nevertheless, I believe that if he had remembered that he might not have been as vociferous as he was this evening in respect of what has to be done to solve the problem of increasing the level of certification among our children. The reality is that the number of jobs that are now asking for 2 "O" Levels or 2 CXC's, 4 or 5 CXC's is a real problem in this country. Many of the jobs in the public service require CXC certificates. Many of the jobs in the private sector and in the informatics sector require it. Even security jobs now require at least 2 or 3 CXC certificates so that is something that we will have to face.

I give him, Sir, the assurance that it will be dealt with properly and carefully and it will not be dealt with by cutting the budget of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and restricting the expansion of training.

In respect of the concerns raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East as to culture, I would only wish to say at this stage that we have indicated that there will be a restructuring of the National Cultural Foundation but, in the interim, we are starting back the developmental training which used to take place at the community level. This will not only be in the Arts itself but it will span things like the technical theatre that he spoke about as opposed to doing that within the structure of the schools. The Barbados Community College has also in its finance department started to look at expanding modular programming in the area, not only of the performing and fine arts but indeed, Sir, the ancillary areas such as sound engineering and technical theatre. These concerns are in fact being monitored and pursued by the various institutions.

There is no doubt that we believe strongly about the marketability of culture. I believe that I have been one of the strongest proponents of that concept over the last few years in this country.

In respect of the contentious issue of the St. Leonards School, contentious as was found by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, I find it incredible that he has reacted in the manner in which he has reacted this evening, given the fact that he had the opportunity as a Member, a senior Member of Cabinet, and one who had weighty authority in Cabinet, I am told, that the Honourable Member was not able to persuade his colleagues that the St. Leonards Schools should become a co-educational institution and that indeed there should be

some relief to the cramped conditions of the over 2 000 people there at Richmond Gap. Given his level of representation and energy in this House I thought he would have made a stronger case for them over the last 8 years. 5.50 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member may, in fact, not be aware but the Minister of Education during that Cabinet of which she so lovingly speaks, did announce a policy that would do exactly what the Honourable Member is saying. The Minister, the then Keith Simmons, announced that there would be a cessation of intake, that at the end of the period of the cessation the numbers in the school would have been reduced to whatever the number was and at that point it would be a single school and that one of the Headteachers would then have to go somewhere else. In fact, the way it was brought, the influence offered and the result was exactly why I am able to ask the Honourable Member to consider that particular policy.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, the weight did not extend to the successor, Mr. Simmons, because that policy was not pursued by Mr. Simmons' successor. Indeed, a decision was taken that they continue as two single sex institutions. Anyhow, Sir, I will speak more on this issue once I receive the information in respect to the single sex institutions. That will be part and parcel of the qualitative reform.

Sir, in respect of the question of the need for a counsellor and psychologist in the Ministry, there is no doubt that we need more than one educational psychologist. The Honourable Member however is clearly aware that we cannot reflect any statutory expenditure posts for which we have not received approval but we are seeking to see if during the course of this year we can decrease the load on her because it really is unreasonable to have one single psychologist given the level of social problems in this country today.

With those few words, Sir, I would ask the House to support this Head and beg that this Head now stand part, as amended.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 34, as amended, stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE
AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - \$13 417 080

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr, Chairman, I rise to move that Head 40 which seeks the appropriation of

\$13 417 080 stand part. I do feel I have a responsibility in introducing this Head to cite some of the strictly financial changes that are built into the Estimates and also to touch on some of the most salient issues arising from Subprograms[^] 1, Code 001, General Management and Coordination of Services.

Now, before I do that, Sir, I really would like to congratulate the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development for the freshness and the energy that he has brought to the discharge of his responsibility. I do feel that with his leadership, the industrial sector is poised for substantial growth.

Mr. Chairman, the Estimates reflect, obviously, a decline in the provision for General Management arising from the fact that a pan of this, which was formerly the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has now been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Business and with them the Subscriptions to International Organisations, particularly the CARICOM Secretariat.

The House, however, would be pleased to note that a provision is now being sought for the first time for a Unit of Business Development, which will be a Department of the Ministry through which the Government intends to honour its Manifesto pledge to establish a unit to coordinate all of our policies designed to facilitate the development of small businesses. We believe that the trend worldwide whereby small businesses are in the vanguard of employment generation is a trend that is long overdue in Barbados and the creation of a Business Development Unit supported to the extent of \$400 000 and our commitment to fully finance the functioning of a small business secretariat has been supported by financial methods in these Estimates of Expenditure.

This year we are seeking to provide the Barbados Investment Development Corporation with a subvention of \$9.8 million which is some \$1.1 million more than Parliament approved for the institution last year. Of interest is the fact that the Corporation is going to be given \$4 million. We are seeking the House's permission to vote \$4 million to the Corporation for capital works that will enable it to complete the Data Processing Centre as well as to complete other buildings at the Harbour Industrial site.

Now, Sir, when I started my presentation here I indicated that this is an area of activity to whi9h we look for expansion of activity. At present there are 24 informatic companies operating in Barbados. Six new companies have applied for 70 000 sq. ft. of space to undertake their businesses. There are other companies requesting additional

space. The reality is that there is now, on the strength of the demand for space, a shortage of space to accommodate the expansion of the informatics industry in this country. I have asked the Ministry to prepare a paper that would enable us by way of a \$5 million to \$6 million project, in addition to what is provided here to make sure that the shortage of space to accommodate the expansion of the information processing industry does not evolve as a constraint to our being able to optimise the employment opportunities in this very important sector of the Barbados economy.

I just want to say, Sir, that there is a continuing strong interest in Barbados as a preferred location for the informatic industry. Most of the enterprises operating in this sector have been expanding. We are now in the process of having to train about 500 people to accommodate the expansion needs of existing enterprises. Shortly additional enterprises will be establishing in Barbados.

Sir, this Head also, obviously as the House knows, deals with the controversial Cooperative Department. I am perfectly sure that in the course of this debate issues pertaining to the Cooperative Movement will be focussed on because it is a matter of national life that has, of late, been embroiled in some controversy.

I said, Sir, that I wanted to begin my presentation by focussing on matters pertaining to direction and policy formulation such as is covered under Code 400100. I feel I have a responsibility to say that the functioning of the industrial sector in Barbados for the year to come will obviously be affected by a number of policy initiatives not the least being the decision by Government to remove licences on goods being imported from CARICOM, the decision by Government to carry out our obligations under the CARICOM decision making to lower the top rate of the GET from 35% to 30% and the decision to reduce the surtax on goods imported from extra-regional sources from 100% to 50% in keeping with commitments that had already been formalised under the existing Trade Reform Programme. 6.00 p.m.

I want to deal first with the question of the removal of licences. Barbados, Mr. Chairman, as you know, or the Prime Minister of Barbados is the Prime Minister who has responsibility for CARICOM for bringing about a single market and a single economy. For many years it has been a matter of embarrassment that Article 21 of the CARICOM Treaty requires removal of licences but Barbados was among the major economies, the only entity, that continues to use licences against imports of CARICOM goods as a protectionist mechanism.

Mr. Chairman, this Administration has decided that we should comply with the requirements under the CARICOM Treaty but do so, in a manner, that would not put the interest of Barbados at risk. I just want to say by way of context that the CARICOM Treaty is so drafted that there is a number of safeguard mechanisms that would enable a country to be able to safeguard its interest if it felt itself threatened by a flood of imports from within the region. For example, the House may be aware that Article 29 allows a member country whose production of a commodity faces a decline in domestic demand, arising from intense regional competition to impose limits on regional imports for a period of 18 months.

Members might also be aware that Article 56 of the CARICOM Treaty extends to the LDCs, the provision that they should be enabled to protect their domestic producers from imports coming from within the region and 56(3) says that, having regard to the special position in the CARICOM market that Barbados, if it feels threatened by intra-regional imports, can protect its industry in much the same fashion as an LDC.

The fact of the matter is that, over the course of the last decade or more, Barbados has experienced an increasing trade imbalance with CARICOM. It is also true that there has been a shrinkage in our local manufacturing base and that this has been partly explained by the increasing encroachment of CARICOM imports within Barbados.

We moved, last November, to put Barbadian producers in a position of relative parity with other Caribbean producers by enabling them to have access to the imports of input duty free. But there is much more that needs to be done. Because while the removal of licences is an issue, the fact is that Barbados presently has so few licences from CARICOM imports that our local manufacturers, as a group, are more likely to be affected by non-licences trade barriers than the removal of licences *per se*.

Therefore, Sir, in giving the commitment to CARICOM that Barbados was going to proceed to remove the licences. I also invited the private sector to meet with us to consider how best we could invoke the safeguard mechanisms of CARICOM to ensure that our local producers are not disadvantaged by our creating a basis for free trade in the region. In short that we want to ensure that there is free and fair trade.

I want to thank the private sector of Barbados for having responded, with alacrity. They have produced a document that has itemized, sector by sector, product by product all of the non-tariff barriers that now stand in the way of Barbados' goods being able to penetrate regional

markets. It is a discussion paper. I have spoken to them and told them that I would like members of this Parliament to see it because this is not a partisan issue. All of us must be eager to make sure that there is free and fair trade in CARICOM. Article 21 of CARICOM specifies that there should not be licences nor should member countries use other things equivalent to licences.

The truth is, Mr. Chairman, that increasingly while other countries have removed licences, they have increasingly used other forms of non-tariff barriers in order to prevent Barbados' exports from being able to penetrate their markets. If I may illustrate, Sir, there are some Caribbean countries which accept that goods should move within the region, upon the basis of agreed regional standards. But in order for our commodities to access their markets they say we must use US standards. That has stood in the way of a lot of Barbados' food products being able to go into certain Caribbean markets. The time has come for it to stop.

There are some, in other countries which have abolished licensing in the formal sense of the word but then they impose monitoring devices on Barbados' goods that hold up our being able to sell goods in those markets purely because they want documentation in order for them to be able to monitor the situation. There are others who give subsidies to their exporters to be able to sell their commodities within CARICOM at subsidized rates. Export subsidies are really a non-tariff abuse because it really gives one producer an unfair advantage over all the others in the region.

Other countries have utilized false labelling and this is particularly prevalent in the area of garments. Some have used salesmen taxes. Others have used specifications on imports from countries within the region that are entirely different from the specifications on their local products.

The point I am making is that, that we are committed to free but fair trade. It is absolutely necessary that Barbados must resolve to utilize every safeguard mechanism in CARICOM whether it be Article 21 or Article 29 or Article 56 to make sure that we do not have only free trade by also fair trade, that our exports must not be restrained in CARICOM by people doing things in CARICOM that are in conflict with the spirit and the letter of the agreement.

Before we move to the stage therefore of removing our licences, we have asked the private sector to work with the Government, through a watchdog committee, to document every kind of unfair trade practice that is now used against Barbados' exports in CARICOM to identify

the way in which it can clear up these unfair practices which are in conflict with the existing CARICOM provisions and to make specific recommendations as to how we must proceed in order to deal with the matter. I am hearing from the other side that they have heard of this before. But the truth is - Mr. Chairman, I am going to give an example - that Barbados has never, for example, invoked 56(3). We have complained about the behaviour of some of the LDCs in banning Barbados' goods, in using artificial devices to stop Barbados' food products from coming through the LDCs but we have never invoked 56(3). 6.10 p.m.

I am not interested in tit for tat or getting involved in a trade war in CARICOM but the truth is that Barbados has played consistently by the rules and the time has come for other persons to stop using unfair trade practices in CARICOM purely to prevent the expansion of Barbados' exports to the region. We therefore, Sir, intend to deal with the removal of licences within the context of the application of a series of measures arising from consultation between the Government and the private sector that would ensure, Sir, that in every instance where an unfair trade practice obtains and stands in the way of our commodities being able to access the regional markets, Sir, that something equivalent to reciprocity must obtain. If people are saying that there are regional standards for food products but our exports to their market must comply with United States Department of Agriculture standards, Sir, their exports to us must also be the same thing.

It has nothing, Sir, to do with tit for tat but it has to do with the fact that we have paid our dues to live peacefully in CARICOM and I believe, Sir, that whether it be in the area of furniture, in the area of garments, food products in particular, that there is scope for expansion in manufacturing activities in this country if the existing unfair trade practices that stand in the way of Barbados' manufacturers being able properly to access those regional markets are removed.

Sir, I am giving the assurance from the House that the Government is not going into the business of the removal of licences without using all of the safeguard mechanism in CARICOM to make sure that if licences are removed that we do not become the victims of a continuing series of practices that militate against fair trade in the region.

This is a discussion paper that has been generated by the private sector, Sir, I am asking that Members of the House have access to it because it is being freely discussed by the private sector and I believe that Members of Parliament should have access to it. As soon as it is available I let Members of the House have access to it. I

feel this is not a matter on which there needs to be a partisan divide, Barbados must protect its best interest in CARICOM by ensuring that we operate within the context of free and fair trade.

I have always said, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that industrial policy and the performance of the industrial sector this year is likely to be affected by the reduction in the surtax. The House will recall that the previous administration, as part of its trade reform programme agreed to with the World Bank, in anticipation of World Bank financing had put in place a programme by which it removed licences but in order to continue to protect local producers it imposed a surtax on extra-regional imports equivalent to 100% of the value of the extra-regional imports. The undertaking then was that the surtax would be reduced on a phased basis in tranches of 50% of the value. This year, Sir, we are going to reduce the surtax and in fact the estimates of revenue are predicated on the reduction of the surtax. Effectively, Sir, what it means is that there are some commodities ...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am saying, Sir, this paper, in my view, is the most important. What matters to most Barbadian manufacturers is production for sale in CARICOM. Most of our local manufacturers, Sir, produced largely for sale in CARICOM. Those that produce for sale outside CARICOM are enclave industries and it is important that we get trade relations within CARICOM right. Surtax on extra-regional imports really was more in the nature of revenue collection measures because there are not very many Barbadian lines of production that produce to compete against production in the extra-regional world. We compete against Trinidad and the OECS countries, Sir. Therefore, in my view, the surtax, as a policy measure, is not as integral to the future of the Barbadian industrial sector as is the question of unfair trade practices in CARICOM. That is my view, Sir, Members can disagree or agree on it.

In any event, Sir, the surtax was intended to provide continuing protection for certain lines of Barbadian producers on the understanding that the protection would be phased out over a period of time and I do not want to make the debate too esoteric but the truth of the matter is, Sir, that if we as a region are going to be participating in a world characterised by the globalisation of production we are going to have to recognise that tariffs on industrial production internationally have been reduced from about 46% or 47% where they were in 1947 through 8 rounds of GATT to 4% today and that our tariffs are even now high by international standards, that when you add the surtax to them, Sir, that they remain high. The point I am making is this. If you add the import duty of 30% to a surtax of 50% it means that a local producer is given an 80% differential between his product and that being produced in an

extra-regional market. If a man cannot, with an 80% differential between his cost production and that of an international producer, survive...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: In many instances that is why I say where extra-regional is concerned we could get into a wage illusion because wages across extra-regionally are different from wages within the region. Therefore you have to discuss trade policy relative to CARICOM differently from how you would deal with it internationally.

The point I am making, Sir, is that I do not believe that the surtax whether it is 50% or 100% remain a fundamental difference to the structure of our manufacturing because very few of our manufacturers produce to compete extra-regionally. That is a fact. They produce to compete within the region and the surtax does not apply on regionally produced goods so therefore to maintain a surtax at 100% really is more a revenue measure than a protectionist measure. I am therefore not pessimistic about the impact of the reduction of the surtax on some local producers because as I said, Sir, it matters not as fundamentally as people believe.

The third measure that I said would have an impact is the change in the common external tariff.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I said in my view it is more a revenue matter. I said that in my second reading speech that it is about \$2 million we are talking about I do not remember the exact number, Sir. If the Members press I will get the number. It is only a statistic.

Sir, the other measure obviously is the commitment to the common external tariff. In 1992 CARICOM countries agreed to institute a common protectionist policy whereby they will have a common set of import duties on goods coming from extra-regional sources, structured in such a way that the lowest rate would be imposed on raw materials and things like that and increasing up to 35% on consumer goods largely agro-products and matters of this kind.

The common external tariff, as the House knows, was structured to enable, and I want to stress this point, Sir, to enable member countries to continue to charge duties on agricultural products and certain kinds of revenue products like jewelry and cards that were higher than the 35%. It was agreed, as the House will recall, Sir, that the top rate of the Common External Tariff should have been reduced

on a phased basis from 35% in 1992 to 20% in 1998. It was also agreed that in the period between 1st January, 1995 and the end of July, 1995 that member countries of CARICOM would introduce the second phase of the Common External Tariff which would have seen the top rate of duty reduced from 35% to 30%. 6.20 p.m.

We are now at that period in CARICOM when we have to carry out the commitments given in 1992 to reduce the top rate of the GET. Trinidad and Jamaica carried out their reduction effective 1st January. When we made our first adjustment for the GET we did it 1st April, 1993 and the Government is proposing to introduce the second phase of the GET effective 1st April, 1995. As I said in my Second Reading speech, Sir, our revenue Estimates have already been designed to give effect to the \$2.9 million loss in revenue that we expect to ensue from the execution of this second phase of the Common External Tariff.

I should also make the point, Sir, for completeness' sake, that the OECS countries are still indeterminate as to where they stand with it, for a very good reason. We have a fairly well developed distributive sector in which people keep proper records, and if we have a sophisticated distributive sector relative to the LDCs and therefore you can use sales tax type revenue collection measures.....

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not finding an excuse, but we can rely upon people to pay the consumption tax because records are kept and our system is more sophisticated, but in most of those countries the one sure point of collection of taxes is the port and the one sure source of income is import duties, so they ask a lot of the LDCs just to continue to cut import duties is to ask them to have to shift to consumption tax based taxes in circumstances where their economies are not sufficiently sophisticated to make that transition, and therefore they have decided to undertake a study of the impact of the introduction of the GET Phase 2 on their revenues and they have agreed, but they still have until the end of July to carry it into effect. The understanding is that the study will be in hand before the end of July and that we will soon know where the OECS countries stand in relation to the GET.

Belize has never in fact carried it out, but they have now agreed that they will introduce the GET provisions in line with their undertaking to introduce a VAT. Again, the reduction of the import duties on extra-regional commodities some people in the private sector will argue is going to put Barbados at a disadvantage. As I said, Sir, in my view there are very few Barbadian manufacturers

who can be saved, if they can be saved at all, by a difference between 5% and 30% of GET. That is the reality. Their competition is within CARICOM and we have to face that

In November last year we gave duty concessions that in a full financial year have amounted to a \$10 million relief package for manufacturers and agriculturalists. It has stopped the decline in manufacturing. There are a number of businesses that have expanded, and I am glad that the Member for St. John *sotto voce* has invoked this issue, because I want again to come back to it. If CARICOM producers have access to their raw material inputs duty free, they are allowed to sell their goods to Barbados free of duty. In Barbados a CARICOM commodity enjoys the same standing in relation to competition from an extra-regional import as any Barbados good because of the Common External Tariff. A Barbados or CARICOM good enjoys a 35% import duty protection on extra-regional imports, so it must be obvious that if Trinidadian producers or Jamaican producers have access to their raw materials duty free, while we impose a duty on our people's access to raw materials, that by reason of the imposition of a tax on inputs that our regional competitors do not have to bear, our producers start at a disadvantage. There can be no doubt that the imposition of a tax on inputs, when compounded by the widespread practice of unfair trade in CARICOM, taking the form of the recourse to a large number of non-licensed, non-duty trade barriers against Barbados exports in CARICOM, has been one of the main factors that have eroded our manufacturing base. Therefore, while the removal of duty is not the end all....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: While the removal of duties is not the end all of the measures that we must use to promote manufacturing in Barbados, the fact is that the argument that has guided DLP policy in our* view has been misguided. The view that if you impose taxes on a man's inputs that you are going to force him to export will lead logically to the conclusion that if you want more and more exports you should raise the level of tax higher and higher on his inputs. That is logic, Sir, that imposing taxes on people's inputs forces them to export

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I want to say, Sir, it is a broader difficulty that people in California do not pay our consumption taxes or whatever else on their inputs. I believe that to the extent we can afford it, we must work towards a no-tax policy on inputs if we are going to ensure that our manufacturers start with a chance in CARICOM. We gave the manufacturers that commitment in the election, we have lived up to our responsibility.

Those are some of the key issues that may affect the future of the sector. There will be other matters not in the area of trade but having to do with factors affecting domestic costs that obviously will have to be focussed during the course of this year and they will be focussed and dealt with as well.

I also must say this, that I would welcome in this debate a serious discussion on the future of the co-operative movement. A lot of serious effort has been made to use the co-operative movement as the instrument by which economic enfranchisement can move in this country, that entities owned and managed by black people have been able to establish themselves as economic entities in this country. We have seen the Credit Union Movement become fairly substantial players in the financial system of this country and I would like - there is no BLP, DLP confusion on the question of the support for co-ops or for credit unions, but there is a crisis in the Movement and I feel we have to speak to it, and speak to it in a comprehensive fashion. I would like, therefore, to set this debate in that context, that our industrial policy is now to be based on the twin planks of free and fair trade in CARICOM and the levelling of the playing field in relation to cost conditions facing our producers and those in our immediate competing area.

I commend that to the House and would ask against that background that these Estimates that have been constructed to give effect to that policy stand part.

Mr. B. M. TAJTT: Mr. Chairman, clearly the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in introducing this Head went far and wide and one has a fairly short time in which to try to encompass what he said. He said there is no BLP or DLP way in terms of the Co-operative Movement. I could almost say there is no Democratic Labour Party or Barbados Labour Party way, in terms of free and fair trade either. It is Barbados versus CARICOM. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South can give you tomes on this. The fact is that the Honourable Member is taking off whatever licences that are there now, and on this side we will have no difficulty with that. What we say however, is that the other members of CARICOM are well schooled in the art of free and fair trade, as it applies to them, but free and other trade as it applies to us. 6.30 p.m.

It started with 56(3). If it wasn't 56(3) then it was 34 but the special position of Barbados was the basis of tremendous argument between me and my good friend, P. J. Paterson who is still making decisions in Jamaica. Then subsequently, you will recall, it was reluctantly conceded that Barbados had a special position. We fought, and

soon after 1976, the Government had to continue fighting, and during that period up to now, we have seen all manner of non-tariff barriers put up against Barbados.

On that issue of the standards of the USDA as the bench mark for the movement of especially agricultural products, I wish the Honourable Member well with Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago have some interesting experts at their Fort, They came up to Barbados and they found that the facilities at the BMC for slaughtering did not meet USDA standards. We have now got Chickmont which is probably one of the most modern factories producing chicken anywhere in the Caribbean, yet shifting produce from Barbados to Trinidad and Tobago is like committing murder, difficult to do for people who don't like to kill.

I wish you well. There will be no difficulty from this side on the issue of standing up for the rights of Barbados in free and fair trading in the CARICOM. Nor indeed will there be any resistance from this side. In fact, we will give you all the support. We wish to see the Honourable Member and his Government succeed in getting the OECS countries to bring their CET within range. It is now nearly 30 years. Grenada is at the point of having an election so they won't have any time with that and if they get a new government they will want a lead-up time to see what is going on.

I don't think that the newest Caribbean Prime Minister is going to be able to shake the old-time prime ministers like Prime Minister Compton and Prime Minister P. J. Patterson. These are old masters at the art of understanding and sympathising with the Barbados position, until the next meeting. I understand the enthusiasm of the Prime Minister and we will watch and I like the language - "the time has come." The time has passed.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South even had to get a little physical on one occasion in this matter.

In this time around, what I would like the Prime Minister to indicate in terms of the surtax if he is phasing on the same schedule that; we had set out in the Letter of Intent or if it is going to be sudden. You said you weren't sure but you hadn't given us a specific on it

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAJTT: I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that any of these issues really present the real difficulties that the Barbadian manufacturers have. It is in the other costs of manufacturing in Barbados. It is in the cost of energy, for example. The cost of energy for Barbadian

manufacturers puts the Barbadian manufacturer at a decided disadvantage with almost every Caribbean country, but the reason for that is well known and well understood and presumably the Minister is in a position now where he will be taking the steps to reduce the cost of energy for the manufacturers in Barbados. I have no doubt that he will tell us how he proposes to do this and whether he proposes to do it across the board for all of those who are participating in the economy or whether he is going to find a mechanism only for the manufacturers.

The Honourable Member will have an opportunity to reduce the cost of energy, and I hope it will be significant and not merely an utterance about reducing the cost of energy, I think also that in terms of making Barbadian manufacturers competitive that there are some other areas in which Barbadian manufacturers will have to be assisted; but at the end of the day, the cost of money for the Barbadian manufacturer and the* cost of doing business is tied up not only with lower costs for his inputs but lower costs for his money. The Barbadian manufacturers like other Barbadian small businessmen are in tremendous debt at the banks.

What I said in the Second Reading speeches, I want to spend a little more time now, on how they can be assisted. In terms of their long-term financing they are going to have to get assistance.

If the Government is serious and intends to help small business people and in particular small manufacturers there will have to be a new approach to long-term development financing. I am not sure that doing any of these cosmetic arrangements will make a tremendous difference to the Barbadian manufacturers, with the possible exception of those industries like Pine Hill Dairy that have been able to find some penetration into the extra-regional markets.

In terms of competition within CARICOM I don't think that we are going to get our goods moved any faster or any better with these cosmetic arrangements. Let me withdraw "cosmetic". I really did not mean to be controversial by saying "cosmetic". These adjustments. If that is offensive, I don't really mean to be offensive. These small adjustments which at a macro-level are important in the figures of the Minister of Finance have very little impact at the factory level for the Barbadian type of manufacturers. We expect to see some...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If I can move to where it might count. The Honourable Member said that he expects to have 3 or 4, if I heard him correctly, new informatics. There are 6 businesses that are likely to be established

within a relatively short time. I would like him to reconcile that with the information which was in the newspapers recently where the Minister was reported as saying that he has no space and I didn't hear him address how he is proposing... 6.40 p.m.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I did say that in addition to what is provided in the Estimates I have asked the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Business Development to prepare an estimate that would enable us to raise off budget between \$5 million to \$6 million to ensure that advance in information processing industry does not suffer for lack of space. I said that as clearly as I could possibly say it

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I heard that but I was addressing the more immediate problem because you did say, in fact, that they were embarrassed because there is no space. I am really asking, what are the contingency plans because on the one hand the Minister is saying that he expects six to come and the substantive Minister is reported as saying that there is no space. I want to hear if there is a contingency plan, if these six are coming next month or a month after where they are going to go because there is no point our discussing...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: In other words, the activity of the Democratic Labour Party has proved to be so fruitful that the wicket on which the Honourable Member has been able to bat is even rosier than anticipated. You can play your strokes freely because the Honourable Member knows, as I know, and as all other people who are involved in this business know that you do not promote any industry in two months. You do not get anybody to make a decision to locate an industry in a country within a month and if there is going to be some credit given, at least share the credit.

The Honourable Members on that side are notorious for ascribing blame. If there is a tourism decline the Honourable Members know who caused it but when it comes now to the...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central will tell you that in our time we were able to turn around tourism in 9 months without having to resort to using more money. It is not how much money you get It is how skilfully you use the money you have. The budgetary implications for us in terms of

promotion in North America, and I would like the Minister to confirm that it is not true, that those persons who are skilled - I read in the newspaper that there is going to be a readjustment of the personnel. It seems to me that you are spitting in the air and it is coming back in your face if you shut persons out just at about the point where they have been trained to perform the work, which is a very specialised work, of getting people to come to Barbados to invest you then bring those people home for reasons which are unspecified or unclear. I would like you to confirm....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We are not discussing that kind of thing. We are talking seriously. I would like the Minister to confirm that there is not, in fact, any intention, as has been articulated in the newspapers, to have a whole-scale re-arranging of that personnel which is now actively engaged in the business of promoting business to Barbados. This is a specialist area and it requires quality and skill to be able to induce businesses to come to Barbados and this chopping and changing which seems to be the wont of new administrations from the Barbados Labour Party is not likely to make any headway for Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I also am curious about the language which the Minister used. The Minister said "to the extent that we can afford it". I think it would be helpful - the no tax policy on raw materials - if you could give some indication of what you perceive to be the extent that you could afford.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: As I have my note here, the Minister said "to the extent that we can afford it we will have a no-tax policy". He was speaking on the imports and he was discussing materials. Just tell us the extent to which you can afford it because that might not have been heard.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, there is now no tax on inputs used by agriculture and manufacturing but there is still a lot of tax on inputs that are used by the tourism industry. A lot of these commodities are in the nature of consumption goods. We want eventually to move to a situation in this country where inputs used by producers whether in tourism, manufacturing or agriculture are not taxed. It has to be the basis of employment but in relation to tourism it has to be done obviously with reference to the fact that a lot of them are in the nature of consumption goods and that we have to be measured from a revenue point of view in how we accomplish the purpose.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am fully aware of the area in which the Honourable Member was covering. Since he has the measuring tool...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Oh, I see. This is a matter for the budget. We will talk about it a little more.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, it was very interesting to listen to the plan outlined by the Honourable Member for St. Peter which I think I might appropriately describe as Barbados' tit for tat plan in relation to further development of trade within the Caribbean. If he does not like that it is "Arthur's tit for tat plan."

Now, Sir, for some time now I have been speaking again and again on the need to ensure that Barbados' market for local manufacturers is appropriately enlarged and that unfair competition in respect of exports to Barbados or in respect of exports from Barbados to other CARICOM countries should be dealt with. What has happened over the years, and we only have to go and look at the various shelves in the supermarkets in Barbados at the price structure that obtains. There you can see that in many areas goods imported from CARICOM can be sold cheaper in the Barbados market despite the fact that our manufacturers here have had to cut costs to a bare minimum. In fact, they have had to operate for many years without making a profit.

The problem has been several fold. There is one competitive advantage which certainly Guyana, Jamaica and in fact, the rest of CARICOM really have to a greater or lesser degree, that is, the competitive edge of their exchange rate. Now there is not much that we can do about that nor do I in any way suggest that we should do anything about that. We can do nothing about that. Given the fact that we can do nothing about that, it becomes essential that we look at the other areas where we can make our people more competitive in our own market and also in respect of their exports. I know of no successful manufacturing country which does not have, as its base, a significant domestic market for its manufacturing sector. We have succeeded, over the years, in dwindling, reducing the size of that market. That market has to be expanded. 6.50 p.m.

This is another big area of advantage that the other Caribbean countries have. They start off with larger markets. They have all kinds of protection against exports from other countries into their markets and, therefore, they can export their goods, in many instances, at marginal cost because they are making a sufficiency of profit within their own market. That is something we cannot do much about.

We cannot alter the size of their market but we can make sure that we give a sufficient protection to our manufacturers in Barbados to make sure that the largest

possible local market is available to our manufacturers. That is why we have to be careful when we address notions like free trade in relation to Barbados, when we address notions of the dismantling or the reductions in GET, reduction in those barriers to imports from external regions, non-regional countries. Because there can be no doubt - although I think the Honourable Minister of Finance has made the point that that does not impact on our capacity to export to those countries. I think, eventually, it will impact on our ability when people are importing goods into Barbados that are competing with those manufactured in Barbados. It is going to have a negative effect on employment. I think this is something that is very important, that they must bear in mind and recognize that when you start removing those barriers particularly in an atmosphere where people are talking about free trade, you only have to look and see what has happened to Mexico in a very short period of time and see the impact which that kind of philosophical approach has had on global trade and the impact that it can have on smaller economies when they interface with the larger units of production within the global economy.

Then in the other area, the question of removal of licences. All I would say is I think there is a need to exercise the greatest care as you go along and also to recognize that there is a big gap between identifying a problem in terms of the non-tariff, non-licence barriers that might operate in other Caribbean countries and getting something done about it. That is the first problem, the difficulty in getting something done about it. Nobody should know better what happens than the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Even when you talk about it, it creates a diplomatic problem. If you propose to do something about it, in terms of a tit for tat plan, one has to start and be fully aware what are going to be the overall implications of putting such a plan in place because I think it is fair to say that in 1985-86 that the Government of the day ran into considerable difficulties with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, did not get any sympathy elsewhere in CARICOM and indeed the entire population of Trinidad and Tobago became extremely hostile to the Barbados Government. It is not only a Government problem.

What I am saying is that if the Government is going to put this tit for tat plan in place, I have no problems with it. You cannot have a level playing field unless everybody is going to play according to the rules. I have no problem with that. What I am saying is that you have to look and see how you implement such a plan. I think you have to exhaust all available channels and to make sure that you take the rest of CARICOM on board when you try to put such a plan in place, otherwise you are going to end up, in the long run, with a pretty hostile situation towards you in relation to the rest of CARICOM.

That has been the experience and I think it is very important that these things be considered.

The other point I want to make, Sir, is that the Honourable Member should clearly understand that this was not the first time in Barbados that inputs into manufacturing were duty free.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is not the first time that inputs into manufacturing were duty free. I have no problem with inputs into manufacturing being duty free in order to allow them to compete not only in CARICOM but also to compete in Barbados. The way in which this thing is structured now, our manufacturers need this kind of help to compete in Barbados. Take simple things like pepper sauces. Go on any shelf at any supermarket and you will see what is happening and the way in which prices of the same goods produced in Barbados and elsewhere, how the Barbados manufacturers could be undermined by the pricing situation.

Apart from that, the Honourable Member must recognize that there are limitations as well. There are other things that have to be put in place. You can only benefit from a reduction or the removal of imposts on raw materials if you have the capacity to buy the raw materials. That is why it was so idiotic for anybody to come up 2 months after such a proposal was put in place and talk about a million jobs of whatever being created. It was foolishness for a variety of reasons.

To start with, no one is going to benefit unless one can buy the raw materials. The raw materials then- have to be converted into finished products. It has to be sold in a market where there is increased demand for the product before that can be converted into jobs. It was stupidity when you got that kind of stupid propaganda coming from an organization which should be making responsible representation to a Government and trying to get the public on board in dealing with the particular matter.

I have no doubt that, over time, the removal of duties will translate into increased activity in the manufacturing sector, provided the other things are put in place. That is, appropriate financing and cost of financing and I would sincerely hope that the Honourable Member clearly understands that the overriding thing, even more important than these sectoral concessions, is to look at the big constraints that you have on economic growth in Barbados. The overall levels of taxation, high fixed costs, etc.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You have a very high fixed cost in various areas, e.g. high cost of energy. These things need to be addressed if these areas are going to function effectively.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up his speech.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In relation to the small businesses in Barbados, let it be clearly understood that unless we make the money available to the small businessmen in Barbados they are not going to be able to get off the ground.

The number of requests that I get... I think I saw two people, two young men with separate requests this morning before I came here. All they are looking for is a few thousand dollars. There is nowhere you can send them to get a couple of thousand dollars to get started on a project. That is why, I think, some time ago I had put some money and opened up the micro-window at the Barbados Development Bank... It is important that these young people who have programmes that they want to get started, even if 8 out of 10 of them fail, even if 9 out of 10 fail, when you are talking about sums of less than \$10 000 and you could make the money available to them. The one succeeds might well be creating 10 or 12 jobs. So that when we are thinking in terms of small businesses let us understand that in the context of Barbados you have to start thinking in terms of making a capital loan, a loan for capitalisation available to people who have no security. 7.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his contribution.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: And the only security that you can have is their energy, their skills and their enterprise. So that a new financing conceptualisation is required when you are dealing with these small micro-businesses and so on. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER seconded by Hon. G. W. PAYNE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and asked permission to sit again.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 8.00 p.m.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I beg to second that.
7.03 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it will now revert.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy will address the Chamber.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words on this particular Head. Mr. Chairman, we have a problem in this country where we have manufacturers and they are producing the same items but they believe that each of them must own a property.

I personally feel, Sir, that the time has come when they should be able to get together and share their ideas to help reduce their costs. That way, Sir, if you have two manufacturers and they are producing furniture, I do not see why they cannot get together and one of them work probably during the night and one work during the day. If this idea is explored one would realise that these manufacturers would be able to save a tremendous amount of money and in that way, Sir, they will be able to make some of their businesses more efficient.

Mr. Chairman, we also have another problem and that is, we find that sometimes we have a good manufacturer who can produce well. As soon as his business is developed, Sir, he is not on the production line any more. We must find a particular way to encourage that gentleman to remain on the production line. If it means, Sir, that the Government can provide management for those businesses I think the country will gain if we can keep those bright people on the production line.

Let me give you an example. You might have someone who is accustomed making a piece of furniture for you and he produces very high quality furniture and his business has developed. The next time you send an order to him you find that when the furniture comes back to you it is not of the same quality. When you go and check for yourself you see that he has developed to such a level that he is not on the production line now, he is the managing director or something else and he is employing other people to do the work.

If we continue in Barbados like this we will not get far in manufacturing and if it means that the Government must get involved then we must get involved because we

must tell those people that they have an important role to play in the development of this country and we must do everything in our power to make sure they remain on the production line.

In small businesses we have another problem. Small businessmen must understand that in order for them to survive they must get together, pool their resources and buy just like how the large businesses are buying. The problem is that sometimes there are people who are prepared to take the risk and whenever one person is prepared to take the risk and trust people you find he is left holding the bag. We must stop that. We must be able to come together, allow someone to take the risk or chance and we must be able to play our part. If we are not prepared to play our part small businesses in this country will die and we cannot afford it.

If you check the expansion of small businesses, Sir, you will realise that they employ a large number of people and we must, as a Parliament, find a way where we are able to get these people to come together and share certain services.

I would also like to see the expansion of the Credit Union. I cannot understand why it is that credit unions see themselves as only there to provide services like loans for cars or sometimes for land. They must be able to see themselves that if a Government has a hotel to be sold they should see that they have the amount of capital to buy that hotel or whatever it is. The days that a credit union just provided services for cars should be over, Sir. This is the 20th century and credit unions must learn to think and take their ideas and put them further than cars or a piece of land. They must understand that they must get involved in the productive sectors of this country if we are to advance to the twenty-second century.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Further than the twenty-first. I am serious about this. We must look further than that. We must not be thinking about one century. We must be thinking of a century ahead. You all are thinking tomorrow. I am thinking further than tomorrow. You see, Mr. Chairman, we have a problem in this country that whenever we are thinking we are only thinking of tomorrow. We cannot afford to do that. This is a developing world and the world is evolving all the time and we must try to move ahead of our competitors. If we do not move ahead of our competitors we will find ourselves in situations where we remain and we keep complaining. It reminds me of a statement made by Mr. Barrow in 1967, a statement that if we had digested that statement we would not be today complaining about products from Trinidad on our shelves.

Sir, I am saying that if in 1967 our manufacturers and our people in agriculture had interpreted that statement correctly we would not be quarrelling about goods from Trinidad or Jamaica today. Certain politicians, even if they come from Christ Church South allowed the manufacturers and the people in agriculture to misinterpret the statement, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am saying that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is telling me that the reason why the agricultural industry collapsed is because they did not interpret the statement made by Mr. Barrow in 1967.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether we are dealing with the "no cane blades speech" or not we must be serious in this country. When people are prepared to make bold statements about advancing this country we must be able to look at the positive things in the statements and move ahead. The days for people criticising ideas because of political reason should be over. 8.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we have a situation in this country where we must continue to help the small businesses, and I am hoping that the Honourable Member for St. Peter will come up with some creative ideas so that he can help the small business people who can in turn help him with his unemployment problem.

Thank you very much.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, let me begin my speech by saying something that the Honourable Member for St. Peter would not wish to say for himself, that is, that his chairmanship of the Caricom Heads of Government was an outstanding example of not only a high appreciation of economics and inter-regional trade, but of diplomacy. I do not believe that many people know that he was very warmly congratulated by the Heads of Government as a whole and by the LDCs, Prime Ministers in particular, for the tremendous initiative that he took and the outstanding manner in which he put forward the case for the Caribbean, both extra regionally and regionally.

I say that against the background where he came in and was pushed almost immediately into a very difficult position for the Caribbean countries. It speaks volumes for him as a person in particular and for the political system in Barbados that he could so quickly manage, and we in Barbados can produce people of that calibre who show leadership at the regional and the international level. So I do not think it would be appropriate for us to discuss regional matters without placing on record, certainly the tremendous appreciation which I feel as a Caribbean man,

when I see that the younger generation of politicians, and particularly of Barbadians, understand so well the regional impact of our actions and understand so well the role which the Caribbean must play in international affairs.

Tonight we have had from him as well in this debate a very clear vision of Barbados as a trading nation and of the problems confronting our manufacturers intra-regionally and extra regionally. We have had as well some of the solutions to our own domestic problems, but I think that one of the things that inspired us at the end of the day was his stout commitment to seeing progress for the Caribbean as a whole without detriment to national aspirations and national goals. I was deeply disappointed, therefore, when all that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central could do in this debate is to label an outstanding speech as Arthur's tit for tat for Caricom. That does not do justice either to the ideas or the appreciation of the problems within Caricom, or indeed of the solutions which should come to those problems.

Let me look first at the Barbados position. There is no doubt that on both sides of this House the two main political parties have generally honoured the spirit of Caricom. We on this side are federalists by inclination and by conviction. The other side, although moving quickly into independence, yet recognised that there had to be a regional dimension to our national policies and they were in at the formation of the Free Trade Area and of the Caricom development. So I think there is a large percentage of bipartisanship in the manner in which we approach the problems within the Caribbean and I believe it is true to say that the political parties are all devoted to seeing the region develop and grow very rapidly and as a strong region in our international and extra regional outreach.

Barbados does have its own national problems that have to be dealt with. We have faithfully honoured that Caricom Agreement and I wish I could say that we have at all times had the same commitment from our regional partners. Whilst it is true, Mr. Chairman, that in the last ten years there has been an increase in nominal terms of our trade with regional partners, yet when compared with our trade with us we have not made the progress that we ought to have made and there is therefore a tremendous imbalance. That imbalance is principally with Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, to some extent with Belize - although the trade is not much - and with Guyana. In relation to the OECS countries we do have a surplus, although from time to time during that period our trade position with St. Lucia has been that there are times when St. Lucia has been in trade surplus with us and there are times when there has been an imbalance.

The diagnosis is correct that some of our regional partners have not been playing the game fairly and squarely, and that therefore if we are to progress

within CARICOM, Barbados must take the necessary action to make clear to those partners who are not playing the game fairly and squarely that we will have to put measures in place, not only by invoking particular articles under the Treaty, but other internal measures in order to protect our position.

Some of our local manufacturers have shown initiatives in this respect and I would like to commend them when they have done so, but at times those very initiatives have been to the detriment of employment in Barbados. Some businesses have relocated and opened subsidiaries in some of the LDCs in particular. There has been a cross-fertilisation of share ownership. There has been some attempt at franchising and using our knowledge and licensing, giving franchises or licences to other operators through the islands. But these have not been all adequate to deal with the problem that occurs when some countries like Trinidad give export credits by way of subsidies and I believe that we must therefore strengthen some of the anti-dumping provisions in our legislation and we will have at the same time to pass a Fair Trading Act to deal with the problems both regionally and to some extent extra regionally as well.

I also believe, Mr. Chairman, that new initiatives are required from the Barbados perspective within the region. I have heard on the political scene suggestions for some arrangement between Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. I have heard the former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South, speak about a confederation. I believe, however, that the realistic policy for Barbados to pursue is a closer union - I am not talking about a political union - but at a functional level with the LDCs or the OECS countries. It is in my view the natural Barbadian trading market, I think the opportunity is there, and I trust that the Prime Minister will continue to take the initiative in this regard to integrate our sub-region, if we cannot do it in the whole region, at as rapid a rate as possible, not forgetting of course the wider Caricom region.

I also must recognise from the point of view of trade the broadening of the membership of Caricom, with the impending accession of Suriname to the Caricom Treaty. I have to ask whether at the governmental level adequate preparation is being made for this and whether at the level of our manufacturers we have moved to the stage that we have to recognise that to take the initiative in this regard we have to be ahead of our competitors. Let me illustrate it so that I can be practical. If we are going to sell a product within Suriname, our labels must not only be in English but they must be in Dutch as well and we have to be ahead in this regard if we are to stay ahead in this competitive world. I hope that the Prime Minister as

Minister of Finance, when he is able to, will see it possible to give some form of incentives that will assist those exporters who have to make the transition into countries such as Suriname, and hopefully sometime soon, some of the Spanish territories, the Dominican Republic, if it changes its mind again and seeks membership of the Caribbean Community. 8.20 p.m.

I would like to see as well, Sir, that we attend to the problem of the Double Taxation Treaty. I could never understand why the former Democratic Labour Party Government opted to remain outside of the Treaty arrangements that have been made for CARICOM. You must in any trading group have reciprocal provisions for taxation and I believe that the treaty that I have seen, which is based on the Andean model, does no injustice to our fiscal position or to our tax position in any way and it does not harm our international offshore business and at the same time we are not prevented from re-negotiating bilateral treaties with other countries under OECD model as most developed countries do.

I believe that the past Government may have taken advice on this matter but I am not sure that that advice has been really as correct as I would have liked to think it would have been. I think it was advice given with the idea of the developed countries' stance on such matters rather than from the perspective of a developing country within a regional trading network. I would ask the Government at the earliest possible opportunity to look at our double taxation arrangement within CARICOM because it is very vital for our manufacturing sector as well as for our services sector.

I would also like to see Mr. Chairman, Sir, a rapid growth in the services and agricultural export sectors. I believe that the barriers which we are finding in the manufacturing sector, some of those are impacting very heavily, not only on agro-industry but also on the trading in agricultural products as well. Barbados has tremendous potential in new crops which it has done for many years. Yams, potatoes, eddoes (even though we will have a hard time against St. Vincent) breadfruit, and now even in vegetables.

We have the potential and it pains me when I go to some of the countries in the Caribbean to find for instance that you cannot get any of these vegetables or sometimes a banana or to find that the things that are coming in are coming in from Puerto Rico or the United States rather than from within CARICOM itself. It seems to me that we must work assiduously to remove the barriers in this respect.

Mr. Chairman, I spoke about services as well. There is no doubt that we, despite the problems which we are having in education, are still many steps ahead of some of our trading partners in being able to provide really first class services in accountancy, in business, in computer field, in engineering and in law. I believe that we must see the selling of services as a natural way as well as to redress some of the imbalances in our trade within the region. I think that the initiatives which the Prime Minister has been taking, some of which he has not mentioned in this House tonight, but which are well known are along the correct lines.

He must work as he is doing with diplomacy in order to make some of the changes. There are times that he will have to be forthright and speak out loudly. That is called tit for tat. Changes must be made if we are to maintain our regional position. I am not talking about regional dominance and at the same time be able along with our CARICOM partners to position ourselves in the global market to withstand the changes being brought about by the Uruguay Round and the new world trade organisation and the regulations and treaties that govern them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will have to come back as you have indicated that my time has gone.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I won't be very long. Perhaps I should begin with the reference to the presentation of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and say that on reflection and after consideration of all the issues, I think that Barbados* position with respect to double taxation Treaty is something that could be reviewed.

I think our position was that we would leave it open, that we were not prepared to sign it at that time but that we would leave the matter open because there were some current concerns expressed by people in the offshore sector. Their concern is principally that they are more comfortable with the OECD model and that any change like that which people are uncertain of could have a repercussion. If a government is prepared to articulate the change when it goes out to do its promotions and so on and explain why it is happening, fine. I don't think the technical people in Barbados are agreed on it. I think the Commissioner of Inland Revenue in one of his interesting and prolix submissions would have given his view and there are other people who have different views. It is a matter that the Government kept under review.

I don't think we could have signed it at the time because there were far too many concerns. The Canadian budget was something that the offshore sector was uncertain about and the matter was left I know that the

Honourable Member for the City has been very sharp in her criticism of us for not signing it but it was not a major issue. It is something that can be rectified. If the Government feels that it should accede to that Treaty it was not something that we would oppose. In other words there is not a policy divide on the issue.

However, it is also true to say that the CARICOM territories do acknowledge Barbados' peculiar position as one of the only countries in CARICOM which is involved in the international business and financial services sector in particular areas. They are also conscious that there are countries which are British dependencies, like Bermuda and Tortola and the Cayman Islands, which are in proximity to and part of the Caribbean in a sense and have an advantage because they are not Caribbean countries. So we have to negotiate our way through these matters and it is not something that there will be a policy divide on.

The second point of substance relates to the issue of duties. Do not let it be said that I advocate the placing of duties on inputs as a desirable policy in all circumstances. Nor should it be said that the more duties you place on inputs the more likely manufacturers will export. The only point I have ever made, and I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church South will have to bear me out on this in all of the other folly he alleges I have spoken, he would at least have to say that I have always said that perhaps unintentionally the imposition of those duties had a salutary effect on the manufacturers in the sense that it almost forced them to look for export markets. The Honourable Member for St Peter has heard me say this on several occasions.

I am saying that because it had that effect that it should remain in place. That shock treatment had its advantage for those who are going to be able to survive and be innovative. I know the Honourable Member for St. Peter is not going to admit that, but he has something in his heart on that point because I know he was not as sharp in his rebukes. 8.30 p.m.

He knows the Barbadian manufacturers as well as I do. He knows their severe limitations, and there are many, and their inability to provide accurate information on their business operations.

I was horrified as Minister of Finance to discover the backwardness of some of those entities. Then they were screaming and shouting about duties that every week the Comptroller of Customs was letting you know that they owe millions of dollars so they are not paying the imposts. They are screaming about the imposition of these imposts and then when you take them off they make wild,

unsubstantiated and reckless statements about tax concessions creating 6 000 jobs in the short-term and 1 500 in the next few years.

Now, I know the Honourable Prime Minister is not going to be guided by that folly though it would be helpful to him in a political sense initially. At the end of the day it will not because I heard the same President of the BMA on television two weeks ago telling the public that if they do not get some more financing and so on, and I am not talking about operating Bingo, I am talking about financing and concessions from the Minister of Finance, that they will collapse, even in spite of those concessions. I wish the Honourable Member for St Peter better luck than I had.

The third point relates to this question of space for informatics. I have never been Jhe Minister of Industry but I do know that there was a group of young men, one Barbadian and one Grenadian - I think he is the son of the Prime Minister of Grenada - who had made a proposal for the establishment of some kind of centre for informatics where the building would be a multi-business building and they would share common services including satellite up link, or down link or whatever you call it, and those kinds of things. There is a proposal for that. Of course, nobody would take those young men on because this is Barbados and if Government does not do it the banks are certainly not going to lend them money and there are no sources of finance for those kinds of things.

My only appeal to the Honourable Member for St. Peter is that if he can find that proposal I think those young people are three fine young men, two of whom, are Barbadian, to try and integrate them in it. It is a tragedy to see young people have ideas like this and, it is true that many other people might say they had that idea too, and then to see them marginalised. If you can find the proposal, I hope you will look for it.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not remember the names but I will check.

The question of jobs in the informatics sector I hope that most of these operations will be as large as operations like CDS. For people to say that you are having a number of operations in this area does not mean that they are going to employ a lot of people because some of them now are employing 10 and 15. Some are employing large numbers. There is a great disparity and therefore to know what impact these new operations will have on jobs in Barbados it would be necessary for us to have an idea of the number of people they are likely to employ.

Once again, I am glad that the Minister, by implication, heaped showers of praise on the Democratic Labour Party for its focus in this area. If you were to look at the structural adjustment strategy document he would see that there is a proposal in that area developed between the Central Bank, the Information Society, I think, and the BIDC.

Now, that apart, I do not know if the Foreign Exchange Committee still functions, and I am not really asking that question because a Government has to know what mechanisms it will use to build consensus, but the Foreign Exchange Committee had started to identify the constraints to investment in Barbados. I did hear one of the Ministers of Government talking about a one stop network, I think he called it. The one stop shop does not seem to be on for a country like Barbados and there are valid reasons for that.

This is a democracy and unlike some countries in the Caribbean where one man makes the decision, I remember when they were opening Windjama even before the development agency approved it, the then Prime Minister of St. Lucia went fork in hand, turned the sod and told them to start building. You can do that sometimes in those territories. It is not something we are accustomed to because we tend to have a more rigid legal framework and people who do business in Barbados do not rely on the word of politicians except prospective casino operators. Everybody else understands that we function by laws and not by fiat of Ministers. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government to elaborate on this one step network, or networking, or whatever it was called, or whatever I read, or saw, or heard, and to elaborate on the implications of it in terms of reducing the red tape.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has spoken on this a lot. He has drawn the St. Lucian example. I thought it was an unfortunate example but he has drawn it, the speed with which they can facilitate investment.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You have drawn attention to it I am not saying that you are wrong to do so because the constraints need to be identified and dealt with. I would like to know how.

The other thing is that of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund. I have a further recollection on that matter. As I said, I did not walk with the Ministry of Finance's files so the Honourable Member has access to information I do not have access to. I recall that we had promised \$1 million to the Youth In Business Programme together with the Pinelands Entrepreneurial nucleus.

and some kind of Youth Business Trust which Prince Charles, Prince Philip or somebody, I do not know what it was, and I am only speaking from vague recollection, but we had promised to make \$1 million available out of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for those kinds of activities, business incubators, and so on.

I hope the Minister of Finance would give consideration to making those funds available to the Ministry of Youth Affairs, or to a disbursing agency which, together with the Minister of Youth Affairs and the projects there could assist in getting some of those businesses off the ground. Not that you expect that to be a revolving fund. The object of that is essentially to give people that first opportunity. Many of them will fail but they will learn from that failure one hopes, and hopefully that can be done.

The National Development Foundation small business entity: I am forever calling there with projects for people who come to see me in the constituency or whatever and they have no money whatsoever. They just started a raffle. I do not know how much money a raffle can make in Barbados competing with Lotto, Olympio and all of these other things. I think the NDF has made a contribution and whether by direct intervention of Government or by Government lending its assistance, I think the National Development Foundation deserves some kind of support.

They have, I think, made an effort and we need to have an entity like that. Somebody else has spoken of it earlier today about having similar problems with young business people or people who want to go into business operations on their own and not having a window for that kind of activity. When the Government accesses the IADB Funds, and note I say "when" because the Prime Minister has urged me to say "when" rather than "if". 8.40 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Precisely. But the NDF should be factored in. Let us not let it drop to pieces because if not that would be another blow, in my view, to initiatives in this area.

The final point I want to make is about the credit unions and to say that, as a political party, the Democratic Labour Party is equally as distressed about developments in the credit union movement. One assumes they will blow over because most, if not all of the people involved are people of goodwill, who I think genuinely have personality disputes which need to be resolved.

It is a pity that, in the private sector, the level of transparency and accountability is not as high as is

demanding of people in Government. When these things happen, it shows the extent to which that level of accountability and transparency is absent. You have a credit union movement which resisted attempts for a stabilization fund and, without in my view, adequate mechanisms in place for regulation and for the level of transparency.

You also have private sector managers throughout the system, not just the credit union, making decisions, not accountable to people, *et cetera*. This is but another example of that process. Government intervention in it by way of regulations and so on is not really the answer. I think what we need to do is to encourage them to purchase the highest level of expertise to manage those operations and not believe that they should not move from outside of the credit union movement *per se*, to attract persons of ability to operate the credit unions, the co-operatives and that kind of thing. I wish the Registrar of Co-operatives luck in resolving the issue. But we expect it will be resolved because it certainly will be a blow to the credit union movement if confidence were lost as a result of personality conflicts especially if one knows the persons involved who are very good friends from school days and have now erupted into this imbroglio which I hope would be resolved.

Finally, on this point, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party is not opposed to the initiatives with respect to free trade. We accept that we had to take the bull by the horns and seek to dismantle much of the protection that remained in place. There was not a lot of resistance so I do not want to say that the Barbados Labour Party was a stumbling block.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South sometimes appeared as though he had remained in suspended animation since 1986 and was not moving to the beat of the drum but, perhaps under the able guidance of the new Leader of the Labour Party, he will fall in line and understand that some of the concerns that he often raised were not as relevant as the overall goals which have to be pursued.

It is true that some of the issues that are being raised now, in this debate, are issues that he had raised before, the impact of exchange rate adjustments in CARICOM and the implication of these clauses in the Treaty and that kind of thing. I suppose that there could have been other initiatives that Barbados could have taken to secure its position. But I do not think those initiatives would have achieved that much more than we achieved without doing it. It is a matter that rests on the goodwill of the principal actors in CARICOM and, as long as they are committed to free trade and to fair practices, then it will work. It is not going to rest on objections, panels, invitational articles, rules

and all of that. It rests on a commitment and goodwill between the respective parties and I hope that the Honourable Prime Minister received that respect on behalf of the citizens of Barbados as he negotiates these treacherous waters.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am pleased with the tone that the debate is taking and I would just, without winding up, want to react to some of the points that have been made, Sir.

The Government is, in fact, reviewing our position in relation to the signing and ratification of the CARICOM Double Taxation Treaty. Barbados is the only country that has not ratified the CARICOM Double Taxation Treaty. The concerns that were uppermost then were the concerns that it could have prejudiced the status in the minds of our offshore partners.

I should like to refer the House to a Paper that appeared in the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation in 1991 by a Professor Richard J. Bam. It is entitled, "A Model Tax Treaty For the Asian Pacific Region." The thrust of Professor Bam's Paper is that he illustrated that the use of the ambian model by ambian states within the region does not prevent them from, at the same time, utilizing the OECB model in their negotiations with entities outside the region. That was the concern that stood in the way of Barbados that perhaps the two things would have been accomplished. We are, comprehensively, collecting the analysis of relative experience.

But the truth of the matter is that Barbados would seem to have more, from a fiscal point of view, to gain by having a Double Taxation Treaty with other Caribbean countries. I will shortly have the matter formally reviewed and a clear decision taken. But I must state now that we are reviewing the position that Barbados has taken in relation to it.

Mr. Chairman, I will not miss this opportunity to again go back to the question of employment creation. I have been very clear that employment creation comes from two sources, the expansion of existing enterprises, the creations of new ones. The creation of new enterprises involves investment. Investment as many members should understand is a process that very often starts with pre-feasibility whether it is in public or private, a feasibility study when there will have to be financing, planning and so on. Employment creation therefore, by way of new capital formation, can be an extended process. The experience, in our country, is that it sometimes takes 10 years between the conception of a project and its actual implementation. Therefore, if you are looking for

employment creation in the short-term, you have to put as much emphasis on dealing with those factors that can cause the expansion of existing enterprises as you have to put on those that cause the creation of new ones.

In our context, Sir, the manufacturing sector is important because there is existing excess capacity in most lines of domestic manufacturing and, if you could correct the environment, you can have fuller utilization of excess capacity. That, therefore informs our strategy to have put, on the front burner, the measures that we put in order to give some relief to manufacturing. It is consistent with the outlook that I have on the matter.

I recognize that there are additional elements that have to be made in order to realize it. But the truth is that there was a lurch in the direction perhaps to too large an extent of writing off the future of manufacturing in Barbados. But I share the view that Barbados, and I have expressed it before, has no more intrinsic advantage in being an exporter of services than it does in bearing in being an exporter of manufacturing. What has happened in services is that we have put the correct framework in place.

Our producers in the export of services have been able to compete at international prices within duty free regimes. We have had low tax regimes. We have had the correct decision-making process for them. We have had the correct commitment of resources by the public and the private sector. There can be no doubt that the commitment of resources by the private sector, has distributed tremendously in services. But we have no more intrinsic capacity to be a specialist in, informatics than we do in producing any manufacturing commodity. It is simply that the environment within which manufacturing has taken place, in the last decade, has not been as favourable as that for informatics if we do the correct thing with manufacturing.

I do not take the wage issue either because there are countries in the world where wages are higher than in Barbados and they are still manufacturing. It is for us to go to our correct niche and find those products that bear a relationship with our wages and our skill content and try to specialize in those. I remember, Sir, in 1984 a study was done that identified that the informatics was a niche for Barbados. We found that niche and we expounded it and today we have secured a niche in informatics. I believe, Sir, that if we were to assiduously look, and this is the challenge to the IDC, assiduously look for all those niches in manufacturing that bear relationship to Barbados' scale and cost relationships that there is still a future for manufacturing in this country. I strongly believe so, Sir, and therefore I will not write off manufacturing and will continue to support it, Sir. I want to, having said

that, relate what we are trying to do with what has happened with trade reform. 8.50 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when you undertake trade reform, and that is, you remove licences, remove tariff barriers and so on, you create a climate within which some manufacturers will lose. If you are going to be able to support an industrial sector it is absolutely necessary that you accompany trade reform with access to financing to recapitalise your manufacturing industry so as to be able to have those parts of the manufacturing sector that can really because of trade reform be in a position to recapitalise, modernise and expand, given the new trade opportunities.

What has happened to Barbados is that we have had trade reforms affecting the relative competitiveness of various manufacturing firms but the Government of the day was not able to put in place the structural adjustment known to financing to be able to recapitalise the manufacturing industry. Our desire to have an investment sector loan in place is precisely because we recognise that trade reform without financial reform or access to finances to recapitalise the industries of the country to allow them to become more competitive in replacing capital is a waste of time. I know the Democratic Labour Party likes to give itself a lot of credit for trade reform but trade reform without recapitalisation is a waste of time. It has now to fall to us to try to get financial resources to recapitalise a lot of Barbados manufacturing and also to capitalise the small business sector as carefully as we can. We are embarked on that and I know it will not be easy but we will give it our very best shot, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for St Michael South Central spoke and left but I really must say, in this Parliament, that when he addresses the question of the impact of his policies on the industrial sector of Barbados that the record of Barbados must show that to the extent that energy costs are a problem in this country it all stems from the fact that the Member for St. Michael South Central, and I want this going into the record of Parliament, created a framework within which energy prices in Barbados came to be set within the context of a 15% after tax profit to Mobil and that energy prices charged to manufacturers, hoteliers and everybody else in Barbados, fundamentally flow from his determination immediately upon the DLP assuming office in 1986 that Mobil should get a 15% after tax profit. Now the relevance of that, Sir, is that he agreed at the same time that there should be no revaluation of Mobil's assets. What has happened to the post Haynes DLP is that the former Minister of Finance agreed that Mobil should get 12 % after tax profit but that the assets should be revalued so you are getting 12 on an increasing base which put Mobil

back in the same position as if it was getting a 15% rate of tax after profit with no revaluation.

I am saying, Sir, that energy prices in Barbados have been influenced by the decision by the Member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Up to when I left the Ministry of Finance on September 6, 1994 there was no new arrangement in place with respect to Mobil and therefore I agreed to nothing. We were negotiating with Mobil but at the same time we were also carrying out a study on the alternatives to the operation of the refinery and I have always expressed the view, during the election campaign, that the Mobil refinery, by the year 2000, should be phased out of operation.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Mobil Contract ended in 1990. The then administration agreed to 2 devaluations, 1993 and 1997 and Mobil has been operating upon the basis of a 12% after tax return on agreed evaluated assets and I must tell the Member for St. John that if you agree that an agreement should end in the year 2000, to agree that assets should be revalued in 1997, when most of the assets would have depreciated, Sir, to minus or already been recovered is really asking a bit much. I would want the DLP to agree with us fully in the discussion that we are now having to make sure that the revaluation of assets by Mobil in 1997 is something that we can knock out of the picture altogether because we do not agree with the revaluation of the asset base of Mobil in circumstances where they have agreed with the other party that the refinery agreement should come to an end in the year 2000.

I want to make the point, Sir, that whenever I hear the Member for St. Michael South Central 'pompasetting' in this House about how energy costs should be low and I remember, Sir, that he is the person who caused energy costs to be high, that he has really, Sir, made a devastatingly large contribution to the type of manufacturers and all other industrial users of energy in Barbados and it is a shameful thing because the price of all energy products in Barbados is set by that consideration that Mobil should have been given this fantastic after tax rate of return. I am sorry that he is not here because he is going to have to face this debate in this House, that it is shrill, it is hypocritical, Sir, and it is unworthy of this Parliament to have to entertain this frivolity and this fraud by the Member for St. Michael South Central.

He also, Sir, misunderstands a lot about what is happening in CARICOM. All I am really saying, Mr. Chairman, is that there are safeguard mechanisms in CARICOM that we must utilize and utilize properly. When you analyse the reports of the CARICOM Council of

Ministers, all other CARICOM countries report any breach of the letter of the law to the Council in order to make sure that their interests are protected. We intend to do the same thing. If countries know that they are supposed to apply CARICOM standards both to their own production as well as to the goods produced in another country and they go and insist that goods coming into their country from the rest of CARICOM must apply USDA standards then we will have to say to them that USDA standards must become their standards too. That can only be fair. We intend to utilize the safeguard mechanism. Section 29 and 29A allows a member country, where it can show that its domestic production is affected by having to consume too large a quantity of regionally produced goods, for a period of 18 months allow its domestic producers not to have to face that regional competition.

In many instances, Sir, when you pick up the index of industrial production you can see that our industrial production has been falling and then when you pick up the composition of our imports you can see that our imports have been rising in those lines of production from other regional markets and a compelling case therefore exists for Barbados to seek the safety of the protection of Article 29 in order to be able to boost industrial production and employment in this country and that is all we propose to do. 9.00 p.m.

Sir, I do not really want to wind up, I just thought I would at this stage underscore the fact that we understood the position of the Double Taxation Treaty was something that was subject to review. We have received a large number of entreaties. The Member for St. John, who is himself a lawyer, would have seen a piece appearing by one of the local lawyers questioning the value of not signing the Treaty. We really are the odd man out in Caricom as far as this is concerned and we are trying now to evaluate it in the light of all that is necessary to support our offshore sector and it will be reviewed.

In relation to the small business sector, I really must say that I am truly excited by the prospects that can obtain in that sector. I believe that a lot of our future manufacturing will not be on the basis of large scale factory enterprises but small - and that is the pattern worldwide - that the large businesses are downsizing, a large proportion of international employment creation is being generated by small people doing specialised things and holding specialised niches in the markets. I believe if we can put the correct framework in place, again to support the development of small businesses in Barbados, a lot of what cannot be done now on a sophisticated factory level can be done on a small business level. We have to stop tokenising small business. The Small Business Association, when it comes back into existence, Sir, has to see itself as

a major player among the private sector interest groups in this country rather than an entity that is marginalised. It has to be prepared as well to use modern technology and insist that although businesses are small the management systems they use must be relevant and contemporary and are designed to maintain and increase productivity.

I do not feel, however, that we should just throw money behind the small business sector until we have satisfied ourselves that there is an institutional system in place that will enable funds spent on the small business sector to be properly utilised. That is why we have asked the Small Business Association what will they require this year to fund a secretariat - we are providing to that full extent - but once we have laid that basis you can be sure that additional measures will be made to deploy resources, financial and otherwise, in the development of this most important sector of the economy.

Sir, I would like also to speak very briefly on the Co-operative Movement. I share the concerns that expressed by the Member for St. John that it is a great pity that very often the exacting standards of behaviour, professional and other conduct that is expected of persons in the public sector does not always obtain, and at the level of transparency does not always obtain in the non-public sector of this country. I also share the point of view that the co-operative sector in Barbados has perhaps outgrown the regulatory framework within which that sector is supposed to grow and to prosper, and that we have to use the opportunity of difficulties now obtaining in the sector to have another very clear and very constructive look at the revision of the regulatory and institutional arrangements that presently exist for the operation of the co-operative sector in Barbados. I feel that once that sector's present problems are addressed, that the entrepreneurship and the financial resources that are now being generated through that sector can continue to be used beneficially for the development of this country.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of particular points I would want to anticipate. The Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto spoke in terms of an Export Development Fund. I think it is something that has been missing from this country for a long time. When we read the Asian Miracle and other accounts of how the successful export economies have made it, there is absolutely no doubt that the involvement of the State in creating financing to ensure that there were sources of capital available for export sectors. We may not be able immediately to provide an Export Development Fund, but I do not believe that this country will ever be in the position to become a major export player unless people who have export ideas know where to go in order to get the financing to finance the purchase of capital necessary to support export industries.

I welcome the tone of this debate, Mr. Chairman, and regret that the Member for St. Michael South Central has fled and has prevented us from being able to directly challenge the folly that he has continued to perpetrate. The problems of Barbadian manufacturing cannot simply be solved by putting money in people's pockets, because that was his only approach to the problem. He never addressed any of the problems at source. He introduced a consumption tax that treated Barbados goods the same as it treated Caricom goods; he raised indirect taxes in this country and the massive increase in those indirect taxes at that time was the start of the suitcase trade that has forced so much of our economy underground. I am really sorry that he is not here to be part of this debate, but I commend this debate to the House and I make the point that I believe we have again to look at the question of the future of manufacturing in the context of....

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: No, I am not winding up. I made it clear at the start that I was not winding up. I would like the line of departure for us in dealing with manufacturing in the future, is for us to believe that in the same way we have made it and can make it in other export areas where our local entrepreneurs have to face the stiffest possible competition in the international business arena, once there is that same ethos brought to bear in manufacturing we can make it.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I want to identify with a number of the positions taken by the Honourable Minister in this particular debate, but I just want to enquire of the Minister if there is any focus whatsoever on the fact that in the regional network there are several competing plants producing the same product. The markets in this region are very small. If I can use one particular example in the area of the production of foam, it is my understanding that in the manufacture of foam there has been a large capital outlay in Barbados and within the entire Caribbean region it is my understanding that there is a requirement for, say, only three factories for the production of foam in the region. We in fact have within the region about 25. That is a situation that is not necessarily common to foam alone. If we have a situation multiplied where you have factories competing for a very small market within one region, I am wondering what kind of mechanism can be worked out within CARICOM so that companies can come together so that you can effect economy of scale or whatever you want to effect by that merger, and seek to divest those savings into areas that are necessary. We may even be able to identify some sources of import substitution. 9.10 p.m.

Sir, I am an advocate for buying Bajan. I believe that there are quality goods available within Barbados. There is certainly in the area of clothing, in the area of some of the

food preservation that has been produced, in some areas of manufacturing, in many products, in plastics. Several products are well manufactured. While I am on that, let me make the point. There is a huge market in Canada, in the United States and in England for Barbadian goods. There are a lot of Barbadians in those markets that cry out for locally produced goods and I believe that the time has come where we are going to have to look at exporting extra-regionally, negotiating specific commodity rates with the airlines. Most of them, "when they come down, bring in cargo from North America or from England and the aircraft go back with a payload capacity that is available. Maybe we might be able to negotiate specific commodity rates for locally produced goods into these markets to see if we can boost exports.

I am wondering if the Honourable Prime Minister would indicate if there is indeed some mechanism where we can seek to iron out this problem. We can do whatever we want to assist manufacturing but unless we are able to create a big enough market you will find that many of these factories that have put out large sums of capital are only able to operate the equipment some 45 minutes a week. That is the extent of the operation because to go beyond 45 minutes of operation a week they will be overproducing and certainly would be creating great losses for themselves.

I am wondering if the Honourable Prime Minister will assure us that at some stage if he has not yet done so if he would seek to impress upon the CARICOM partners that there is a need to set up some form of committee or institution that will monitor the kind of investment, what areas we are investing in, and to make sure that there is not this duplication of investment in manufacturing because in the final analysis we will have a complete collapse of the network if there is not that kind of strategic planning.

I just wanted to make those observations and I will give way to my colleague.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I just ran out of time and I wanted to ask the Prime Minister about the question of the CET. I don't think he addressed that. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister is any more optimistic that the other countries, particularly the OECS countries, are going to implement the CET schedule. If there was one thing of which I thought that they were almost certain when last I was hovering in CARICOM circles, not as Minister of Finance, as recently as in Miami, that question was still very much in the balance. That word came from technicians and at the political level.

The second point is that Barbados needs to be very conscious of this. We are not under Finance, but it relates to sources of finance. The ownership of banking

institutions in the Caribbean is going through major change and great opportunities exist for us to capitalise on the new thinking of these institutions. For example, one of the major owners of the troika of Banks, which has gone through major change, the CIBC, the Republic Bank, CCB scenario, has invested in major manufacturing initiatives in the petro-chemical industry in Trinidad where it is based. That apart, Trinidad's financial system is developing at a much faster and more successful rate than Barbados. In fact, nothing really has been happening in Barbados.

I am very disappointed both in terms of the financial instruments that we have been able to get the Central Bank to work on. They don't seem to want to do anything in that regard and I am even more disappointed that on a recent trip to Trinidad I discovered that they have attracted about 13 new merchant banks involved in financing. The most recent being Flemings which is working in a partnership with ANSA MCKAL. These things are not happening in Barbados. Largely because of our foreign exchange regime. I believe the Prime Minister understands exactly what I am saying without my saying so. The faster and quicker that we can dismantle the impediments the better.

Notwithstanding Barbados' accession to article 8 of the IMF agreement, which relates to free repatriation of dividends and all of that other stuff, notwithstanding the bilateral investment treaties which provide protection for investment in those countries, investors are also very conscious of the kinds of laws and regulations you have in place. As soon as you say exchange control, it seems to create doubt in their minds, particularly because of what has happened in the rest of the Caribbean.

Many of them are not aware of devaluation and so on. They are looking at countries' attractiveness based on their existing regulatory and financial framework. They are not interested in the fact that Jamaica has successive devaluations and was under the IMF/World Bank programme, dismantled its exchange regime because of that or that Trinidad did that. They are interested in what is happening in the country at the time. This is a considerable area of concern which has meant that countries like Trinidad have been moving way ahead of us and are attracting that international finance and international investment. Of course it is in an area that we would not attract that investment anyway, so I am not saying we can do that, but it is something that needs to be considered.

Close attention, in my view, should be paid. Sometimes we are a bit arrogant in our view of Barbados and we don't spend enough time acknowledging that other

countries, and Trinidad in particular, have made great strides coming out of its adjustment programme. They made a lot of errors along the way but in terms of what I have seen in Trinidad in recent times... Think about it, Citibank financed the Barbados sugar sector and the principal operatives are people from Trinidad.

I am talking about the people who negotiated the loan. I am not talking about the source of the finance because I believe they may even have raised some of that finance domestically. That is the problem, that we don't have people in Barbados who are involved in that kind of operation. When I watched the way Barbados raises loans on the international market and the gentleman who does it for us has no special financial expertise. He has access to certain people. That is the basis of his operation. In the Caribbean we do not have those kinds of people who can put together those financing packages, who have access, and we need to start to have professionals getting involved in that kind of activity. Lawyers are in fact the best people to do it and if I were not in politics that is the area that I would immediately go into because it is an area where there is a prime need. A lot of major public companies, large holding companies in the Caribbean which could access the same kind of global medium term note programmes that Barbados and Trinidad did as countries, cannot do it because they don't have anybody to advise them on how to 'present themselves to the international financiers and they are almost hostage to people from outside, as we are as a country. We need to use people in the Caribbean. I hope that the roving Ambassador when he is appointed would start in that trend and train some others and use his influence for the private sector. 9.20 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It is a very important point, I am not being facetious because he has that influence. He should be able to put 12 senior banking officials together at a dinner table one night with three or four young men or women, or a major conglomerate which wishes to carry out a major investment and say, "Fellows, this is the nature of the deal. I am throwing my weight behind it and I am bringing you together to talk about it" and then arrange that financing from there. Instead of that, we have to import people who come down here for cricket, rum and whatever other pleasures there are, enjoy themselves, draw big negotiation and other fees and have more access at the top political corporate levels than us. This is an area that really concerns me because, as I have said, there is a lot of money going out. The Honourable Member for St. Peter always talks about it to the professional classes outside of the Caribbean when we have that expertise here in the Caribbean. The only regret

about it is that when you start to function at that level in Barbados people get very envious of you and believe you are a shake-down artist even if you are below it.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not dealing with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West now because that is a different story. I am not talking about Barbadians. I am talking about going to RIMS Conferences and Foreign Sales Corporation Conferences with young lawyers who spend the entire evening having dinner with each other instead of going out there, meeting people and promoting Barbados because the belief is that that is some kind of subservience, smiling and shaking hands. It is a terrible thing. I have noticed it and it really worries me because, as I say, unless we reverse our attitudes and start to understand that we can exploit other people's resources, as they have done to us because of our talents and abilities, we will go nowhere. It may be confidence, I do not know what it is but it is one of the things that needs attention.

The Bar Association and the professional bodies need to bring these professionals together and build that level of confidence in them. As I say, I am frankly appalled because I do not think that the private sector in Barbados, apart from a few people who invariably are non-Barbadians, who go out there and can actually wheel and deal and bring reputable business to this country, and one or two...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes, I know, but I am saying that those other professionals who are successful, people get behind their back and sneer at them and say they do not spread the work among lawyers as if you are supposed to sit down and wait with your hands out for people to give you work and all of the other comments that they make about them. We have lawyers in the offshore sector in this country who are privately reviled because people do not like the fact that they appear, because of the kind of work they do, to be ingratiating themselves to white people and that kind of thing. We have to change our image and reverse the exploitation and start to exploit people.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South said the other day that by and large those people are better at public relations than their respective professions. We need more of those PR people. If there is a way that Government or somebody else can actually focus on a programme to help those professionals project themselves for Barbados I think it would be a useful and very lucrative area of involvement.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that it is quite clear that this Head is not a controversial one. I think that the actions of the Barbados Labour Party Government could easily have been predicted by anyone because the steps that we took almost immediately to relieve the problems of the manufacturers were steps which we had advocated should be taken for a long period of time and in particular during the debates when we made our contribution to the new policy programmes that were being introduced.

I want to say, Sir, that near my constituency, and formerly part of my constituency, there are a number of industrial estates. I am satisfied from my dealings with the industrialists who are not officers of the Manufacturers' Association, that the relief granted to them has had a very beneficial effect upon the employment in those factories. Many of them testify to the fact that had that relief not come they would have carried out the threat that they were making and they would have moved to other islands in the Caribbean, part of the Caribbean Economic Community, who had granted similar concessions. There cannot be any doubt about that.

The second point I want to raise is that the adoption of the policies necessary for a single market not only consists of the removal of licences and non-tariff barriers and other legal constraints to physical trade but it also consists in an understanding that for the Integration Movement to work properly we must have a much greater effort made to ensure that there is integration in the financial services within the community which is providing finance for this movement.

The points raised by the Honourable Member just now are important points as well as the points raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. There is no solution to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East's point. The fact of the matter is, once you are in an Integration Movement and you are aiming at having perfect trading conditions in which there is free competition, it is the duty of the manufacturers and others participating in that area to select the areas of activity that they go into and to ensure that the capacity within the Movement is equal to the demand. If they do not do that they then have to look for other markets outside.

I feel, Sir, that we should never forget that Barbados was and still is one of the most fervent supporters of the Integration Movement and I commend the Government for the efforts it is making to continue in the tradition of operating to ensure that it honours its commitments under the CARICOM Treaty. I also commend them for the very frank and clear statements they are making that while we are in favour of free trade we are also in favour of fair trade.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West has mentioned the need for an urgent review of our existing anti-dumping legislation as well as a review of our laws relating to fair trade. Both of those laws are necessary pre-conditions for the proper operation of a single market. 9.30 p.m.

We must always recognize that, in every integration movement, in every country, there will be some people businessmen and others who will seek to subvert and circumvent the existing laws so as to get a special advantage. I believe I read the other day that the Jamaican Ambassador to the GATT, Mr. King I think he is, perhaps one of the most knowledgeable people in this area of trade and trade access, and he pointed out, in a lecture to manufacturers in Jamaica, that it is a myth for any of them to believe that there is such a thing as free trade. All Governments have devices to ensure that they can circumvent the impact of the trade.

We in Barbados must have, in our Ministries, competence to be able to have continuously under review the efforts that are in existence in this area to prevent the operations of the single market.

I hope the document that has been referred to by the Prime Minister is widely read not only by the private sector but by the Members of the House because it is an excellent summary of some of the existing devices that are being used. The Government, therefore, must continue to ensure that it has the competence, at the technical level, to make sure that the interest of the Barbadian manufacturers and other businessmen are looked at I do not want to say anymore, Sir, because I understand that we are going to break now. I will close at this point.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir,, I rise to close the debate and to thank all those who have contributed to it in such a constructive and tempered manner. I wish the Estimates could have been characterized by this level of discussion.

I want though to say that we want also to impress on those officials in the Ministry how much depends upon them. We know that they are making an effort but we want to restore manufacturing in Barbados to a place of being a substantial generator of employment. The Ministry officials must know that the full weight of Government's commitment and the people of Barbados' commitment to restore manufacturing is being expressed through this debate.

Mr. Chairman, it is very late in the evening and I am not going to give the House a lecture on trade policy. But

I just want to say to the Honourable Members of this House that a day will come when the older Members like myself would have left it and the young Members will have seen things like the Common External Tariff as archaic and obsolete things that they could wonder how they could have ever fascinated politicians of any era. I say that against a background that there was a time when tariffs charged by industrial countries was in the vicinity of 47% and through 8 rounds of negotiations, tariffs internationally, among developed countries, are at 4%. Even when we have brought our tariff down to 20%, we would still be charging tariffs that are high by international standards. These young politicians in this House have to inherit a world in which they would have to bring down the tariffs even more, if we are going to be part and parcel of free trade areas in the Hemisphere.

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: It is not only the World Bank. There was a time 15 years ago when the tariffs in the Caribbean was 70%. That has been worked down and worked down and worked down.

But we must understand when we are discussing the CET that our tariff structure in the Caribbean is still high by international standards. If we are going to participate in relationships with trade blocs where the relationship is upon the basis of reciprocity, it will mean that the Caribbean, in order to be part of the globalization of trade relationships will have in post 1988 to look to bring down its tariffs even more. Because the age of preferences is over, the age of high tariffs is also over. We are also moving increasingly into an age of reciprocal rather than one way trade relationships where, what I do for you, you must do for me and it is unrealistic to believe that we can be charging 20% and 30% on people's goods but want to have access to their markets, duty free, in this new age of reciprocal trade arrangements. The younger Members of this House will one day have to look towards revising the CET.

I cannot constructively respond to the question raised by the Honourable Member for St. John as to what the OECS countries will do without perhaps impugning their integrity and their other commitment. They have given their word that if the revenue considerations allow that they would reflect the CET. But I rather suspect that whether you like it or not that we must not, in Barbados, look for the tariffs imposed in Jamaica to protect our goods in Jamaica. We have to be able to penetrate the Jamaican market upon the basis of efficient production. Perhaps there is a sense in which the CET has been overstated as an instrument of protectionist policy in the Caribbean. We are going to hold our own in the Caribbean, not by the rate of tariffs that you set up against other people's goods

but upon the basis of how efficient we become in producing similar commodities. Throughout that, because Caribbean manufacturers must not believe that there can be indefinitely protected by high tariffs being charged against goods coming from the US and the world.

I am not going to get into the discussion on the format of the financial system. It is too late for such a deep debate. But I want to thank all those who have contributed to this discourse on industrial policy of the future of the industrial sector.

I now beg to move that Head 40 stand part.

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

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

LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until tomorrow morning Friday, March 24, 1995 at 10.00 o'clock.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 9.39 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable Chamber now reverts to Committee of Supply.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - \$137 541 843

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to move that Head 36 stand part, but in so doing I need to give an account to this Honourable House as to the policy direction which the Ministry of Health will be taking, as indicated by our Estimates, which reflect the thrust of the policies of the Barbados Labour Party administration.

This year the Ministry of Health will place emphasis on health promotion, AIDS, environmental health, the Psychiatric Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There will also be, as usual, provision for the elderly and the disabled, Sanitation Service Authority and the other units coming under the management of the Ministry of Health. You will note, Sir, that the Estimates reflect no vote having been provided for the Hillside Home, the St. John Polyclinic, the St. Joseph Hospital and the Lions' Eye Care Centre. I think it is incumbent on me to explain to this House the reason for this.

As of September 1994 the St. Joseph Hospital had then been opened for about two years. A total of \$35 million had been spent on it and the Hospital had earned revenue of only \$602 000. In addition to that, it never had in it at any time more than seven patients. I found on the ground no marketing plan to make this Hospital viable or accessible, I found no strategy for management, the Hospital just existed with everybody speculating as to what should be done with it. The point is that above speculation nothing had been done. In fact, all the hospital bed needs analysis in Barbados up to that point showed that there was no need for another hospital in Barbados. The Bayview Hospital runs at under 50% capacity, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is between 67% and 70%, the Woodside Clinic is under 40% and therefore it was never possible for us to fill the St. Joseph Hospital.

On 8th March, 1993, speaking in this Honourable Chamber, the then Minister for Health, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West - and I am sorry he is not in his Chair this morning, because I do not like to comment behind people's backs - said that the St. Joseph Hospital would have been a centre for sports medicine, and this is found at page 3265 of the debate for that year, Sir. He indicated then that a plastic surgeon out of Bethesda, Maryland will be functioning out of the St. Joseph Hospital, making it a major foreign exchange earner in a relationship with the Heywoods Hotel. That has never materialised, nor did any of the grandiose plans of which they spoke materialise, and in fact nothing was ever done to take the Hospital from more than the conceptual stage. And so this administration was faced with the question

of what to do with a hospital that functioned in the circumstances which I just pointed out, but what is more, even though there had been mammoth expenditure on the Hospital there had been no complete refurbishment of the hospital building. Only iVj wings roughly had been refurbished, the roof was leaking, the plumbing was not refurbished, there was no accident and emergency department there and the last Board's siting of a gym on the ground floor of the St. Joseph Hospital made it virtually impossible to set up, given the space requirement, an accident and emergency department there.

Acting on the advice of those who are knowledgeable in this matter locally, with the help of an Assistant from the Pan American Health Organisation, and at the request of the Board, the administration took the decision that given the massive financial haemorrhaging the Hospital should be closed until such time as a plan for its management and until such time as a full cost for the full repair and management of the Hospital could be determined.

That story is true and equally true of the St. John Polyclinic where, up to 1991, \$2V₂ million or thereabout had been spent on a concrete structure which is of no use to anybody. At the time it was anticipated by the last administration that even though the Barbados population is growing at 0% or thereabout, the demographic distribution of the constituency of St. John would have changed so dramatically that the residential levels would have gone from roughly 7 000 to 15 000 or so people. A projected growth rate, Sir, that is virtually impossible and I have already said in this Chamber that that polyclinic was put there predicated on the deals that had been made with CLICO to turn the plantations which they own in St. John into large housing developments.

We have in this Chamber also heard of other deals with CLICO, including for radio stations. At the time when I said it, it was vehemently denied by the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. John, but all the evidence now clearly points to it.

The Government took a decision that in view of the fact that the existing polyclinic at St. John did need refurbishing, that the large capacity of the new St. John Polyclinic could never be met because the catchment area was too small, and in addition to that the polyclinic was not placed on any accessible bus route for people coming from the area or for people coming from St. Philip. This speaks, Mr. Chairman, of the whole approach of the last administration. You build a Sherbourne Centre and then you determine what to do with it rather than an example of prior planning.

Again, the Lions' Eye Care Centre fits into that very mould, because the Minister of Health, again the Member for St. Michael West, approached the Lions to build for Barbados this Eye Care Centre occupying roughly three floors of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. At the time it was projected and the last administration committed the Government to giving \$3 million a year in recurrent costs. Now there are three things that are disturbing about this. First of all, again no needs analysis was done to determine whether in fact such a facility was needed in Barbados. Secondly, no marketing had been done to make the Centre attractive or to make people in and beyond the region aware of its existence or the services it would offer. Thirdly, no proper costing had been done to determine what the recurring expenditure would be. 10.15 a.m.

Now that I have requested the Ministry to do such a costing, we have discovered that the annual recurrent expenditure will not be \$3 million but will be \$5 million, a sum which the Government can ill afford to put in to the Lions' Eye Care Centre.

It was assumed, and the very words used to me were that there were people all over the region who needed the services of the kind that would be offered by the Eye Care Centre. In saying that, no liaison has been established with those involved in eye care throughout the region to determine whether they would be willing to send people to Barbados for treatment or not, especially in the light of the fact that people coming to Barbados for treatment from the Caribbean islands have been dwindling over the years and the majority of those are non-paying persons.

It was anticipated that the people who came from across the Caribbean would be paying persons but there is no evidence to support that that in fact could have been realised.

What is more, is that the Eye Care Centre was built on an American model with several small rooms making it highly labour intensive at a time when our resources were slim and we would not be able to use large bodies of people to staff the centre. That must be contrasted with what currently exists at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where the ophthalmic department is on an open floor plan making it possible for minimal staffing to do all that is required with patients there.

In all three of those instances, the Administration had to review what was the existing position and we took a decision. I haven't made the point, and I think that I need to, that one of the difficulties in finding paying patients for our Eye Care Centre is the fact that there are three other such facilities offering similar services in the region.

At Trinidad, in Jamaica and I think either at Puerto Rico or the French Caribbean. That made it highly unlikely that persons whose economic position was not as strong as ours would choose to come to Barbados when they could have gone to Trinidad where the dollar was devalued or to Jamaica where it was further devalued.

In all three instances, the Administration took a decision that we could not continue the massive expenditure and that we would have to further review the operations of these health care facilities. Even in doing so, no harm has been done to our existing health care structure because no large numbers were benefiting from either of these facilities, not even the St. Joseph Hospital which was sited in a rural district has ever benefited the people of rural Barbados.

I do not want to spend more time looking backwards. I think, Sir, that we must look forward. As I have indicated, health promotion will be our major thrust. The Barbados Labour Party believes that with a country that has limited resources people must take responsibility for their own health. We must educate people so that they know that it is more important to be healthy and to remain healthy by adopting lifestyles involving diet and exercise than it is for them to become sick and to be made well or to be treated for any illnesses which they may have.

To this end, therefore, the thrust of the efforts in health care will be towards health promotion. The AIDS programme is going to take this approach because more people are going into the actual community touching base with people who are likely to be adversely affected by the AIDS epidemic and educating them as to how they can best protect themselves from catching that disease.

Again with the dental care you will note that some...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. During the course of the Honourable Member's presentation a little earlier, an allegation was made which is an attempt by the Minister to mislead the House and it is an allegation which I wish to refute. I wish by previous rulings in this House for the evidence of that allegation to be presented. The allegation was that the then Government had embarked upon the construction of a polyclinic at St. John which was predicated on large housing developments to be undertaken by a company known as CLICO and then the Minister went on to say all evidence now clearly points to this.

Based on previous rulings, I wish to say that that statement is a thoroughly misleading statement and untrue. First of all because the date of purchase of the plantations in St. John from the previous owner by anybody comes

after the date of the planning of the polyclinic. Three applications for Town Planning approval for housing development by the previous owner and by subsequent owners have all been denied by the Chief Town Planner in respect of development even on rab land. In addition to that, the planning and execution of the Polyclinic was part of one of the pledges of the Democratic Labour Party as contained in the St. John Development Plan and was as a result of major flooding which was occurring at the existing polyclinic in St John which made it impossible for the health officials to function on that site.

Therefore, I am saying that the Honourable Member, by the ruling which has been laid down in this House, must lay this evidence upon which those assertions are based. If not, she must withdraw those assertions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. James South, can we have your response, please?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, if the Chair is asking for documentation, I have none today. I wish, however, to indicate that the unhealthy relationship between the last Administration and CLICO is well known.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please avoid these kinds of imputations. It is my ruling that from what the Honourable Member for St. James South has said, I do not really support your position unless you bring evidence here.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I am not hearing you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should have had the evidence here. It is a strong imputation. In view of what the Honourable Member has said I think in the best interest of this Chamber you should withdraw those comments.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I will withdraw the comments, Mr. Chairman. Not because they are not true but because I cannot today provide the evidence to the Chair.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I was the Minister in the Ministry of Health when the decision was made to place the polyclinic at the point where it was placed. I state categorically that the allegation by the Honourable Member is not true. I state further that the presentation of the site for the St. John Polyclinic predated by far any effort by any company to acquire land in that area. 10.25 a.m.

I state further that this House has records which indicate that the Polyclinic was part of a totality of

the placing of clinics for primary health care which included that site at St John which was selected by a multi-Ministry group on the basis of (a) that the land was owned by the Government of Barbados, (b) that it was located in a place that would assist in the draining and planning and (c)...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But it is important in the context of what is being said. I will speak after the lady has finished.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has withdrawn the statement.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have withdrawn the comments. I am going to press on. Suffice it to say that I am telling the truth on this occasion, as indeed I always do in this Chamber. I am always amused at the self-righteousness with which the Honourable Member for St Michael West speaks because all over the world we have hospitals where gynecological care is given. There are hospitals where it forms part of the services offered and there are hospitals that are dedicated completely to gynecological care and services.

Barbados is the only country in the world that has a hospital that has given birth to a \$110 000 study. It is in that context that we know what the planning and conduct of the Honourable Member for St Michael West who was also the Minister when the St John Polyclinic was done, we know well what his *modus operandi* is. Therefore, that itself substantiates the truth of the comments that I made earlier in relation to the St. John Polyclinic, but I will press on.

During the course of this year, Mr. Chairman, an AIDS Hostel will be established for the care of those persons with AIDS who are HIV positive but who are ambulatory and whose families no longer want them at home but who can look after themselves and who need some place to live. In keeping with its Manifesto commitment the Ministry is significantly near completion of a hostel, small though it is, for HIV persons.

This year, in relation to disease prevention we will see the polyclinics throughout Barbados embark on a fluoridation and prevention programme so that under one Head you will see that the vote has moved from \$7 300 to \$65 000 for the purchase of an X-ray Machine, hand-held equipment, and other equipment that will be necessary for the carrying out of this particular service.

At the Nutrition Centre again you will see in the Estimates an increase in that vote because of a Food Study which is going to be undertaken.

In addition, the Psychiatric Hospital is going to continue its upgrading programme. We had a very unfortunate event which, had not the then Minister been so busy planning these large monuments to his ego, would have concentrated on the basics, therefore, people at the Psychiatric Hospital would never have died from salmonella poisoning as indeed they did because of the condition of the existing kitchen at that Hospital.

We have established new posts. The staff from the Drug Rehab Centre which was sited at St Joseph will go to the Psychiatric Hospital, as will some of the staff from the Hillside Home. In addition to that, a Dietician/Food Service/Survivor Supervisor and cooks will be provided. In addition, there will be more psychiatric social workers to continue with the party's aim of community care in health rather than institutional care which has also been part of the focus of the Psychiatric Hospital, to carry health care into the community rather than bringing people to the institution where there can be stigmatisation.

There will be too a Medical Registrar, a Community Registrar, 18 new Staff Assistants and Nursing Assistants. It is important to explain the reason for that. The Psychiatric Hospital was so understaffed that during the evening one Nursing Officer was responsible for as many as 80 or 90 patients. There will now be 18 new people to give assistance in that regard.

I recognise that the capital programme must be completed and therefore we are going to go to a plated meal service in order that the quality of the meals can be improved with specially heated trolleys that will carry the meals from the kitchen throughout the length of the institution which is the largest health care facility in Barbados.

I indicated at the start, Sir, that we would be placing some emphasis on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. More ambulances have been bought to boost the Emergency Medical Services. We have now put in a recording system for taking in in-coming calls so that calls can be accurately monitored and there can be no allegation that people called for ambulances but were told that none was available, or the phone was not answered, or any of the allegations which we have heard in recent times. This system is going to allow for tracking of the calls and therefore will reduce the possibility of people not getting ambulances particularly when the two new units that we hope to get are purchased. We will therefore bring the fleet to between 10 and 12 ambulances. We are actively considering the decentralisation of the ambulance service which was one of our Manifesto commitments and will make the service more accessible to those in rural Barbados and give for quicker response time.

There will be staff going from the St. Joseph Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. You will see an increased attempt at our revenue collection at the Hospital. I commend the Honourable Member for St Michael West for having insisted on a central Admissions Department because no Hospital really can be properly run without such a Department and it is important that this was done.

Aside.

Hon. Miss. H. E. THOMPSON: I give praise where it is due so that I do commend that effort. We are adding to that by putting in a system for tracking patients when they come into the Hospital so as to allow a proper record keeping of the services used by patients and therefore allow a proper billing system. We have in excess of \$2.2 million in debt to be collected primarily because even though some people are not paying, the truth is that there was no monitoring service. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is now also provided with a list of persons who are going to assist them in their debt collection programme.

You will see this year the introduction of a plated meal system at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to cut out some of the wastage....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up her presentation.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I will need to come back to this. Very briefly I will just say that our major thrust in Environmental Health will be the construction of a new sanitary landfill - I imagine that this will engage the attention of the Chamber for some time today - and a new Solid Waste Management Programme.

There are several other issues which I would want to touch on but I have other opportunities to speak later in the debate. I will conclude by saying that when one looks at the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party one will see that the focus in the Estimates completely mirrors the direction indicated for us to pursue by the Manifesto and our commitment continues to be to deliver our Manifesto promises to the people of Barbados in the delivery of a good, basic, health care system. We will not, this year, be focussing on monuments to the ego. We will focus on upgrading the services and making them accessible and available to all Barbadians.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10.35 a.m.

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

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by saying that it is pleasing to my mind, heart, body

and soul that in these current Estimates not one single cent has been allocated to anything to do with the St. Joseph Hospital and that it has now gone abroad that we would close that institution. This is a matter that has attracted some debate and today I propose to make some comments in relation to that. I believe it is best to set that institution in proper perspective to see if we can, in fact, find some reason on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party for having spent such a large sum of the taxpayers' money on that institution in the first place.

Mr. Chairman, I well recall that in 1986, when there was a change of Government in this country, the Barbados Labour Party had put in place a large number of systems to ensure that Barbadians receive and were the beneficiaries of a national health service. This is something that I have always felt very, very strongly on. Because the records will show that when Government changed in 1986 a substantial portion of the national health service was already in place. You had your polyclinic service. You had your National Drug Service. A number of other things all going in the direction perhaps only about 20% to 25% of the service remained to be implemented for us to say we had a full national health service. All that remained was for the private doctors to be integrated into the system.

I well recall that the doctors of this country BAMP, despite some attempted manipulations by some high ranking office holders in that institution - supporters of the Democratic Labour Party - to stall the process, the doctors of this country through BAMP called over and over upon the then Minister of Health, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, to come and hold discussions with them with a view to seeing if we could, in fact, get this thing fully integrated, private doctors into the national health service.

Despite repeated calls...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is completely misleading the House. I was not Minister of Health when there was a change of Government.

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Sir, it was at the time when the calls were being made by BAMP to hold meetings with them.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I have never had, as a Minister of Health, any call for BAMP to sit down and discuss the national health service. The Honourable Member is completely in error. It is not true.

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, I do not have...

Asides.

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member says that, I do not now have any newspaper clipping. Perhaps I should have brought all those with me because that is a fact.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West spoke, from his perspective, as not having been called on by DAMP to do any such thing. I am a member of BAMP and I know of no situation where BAMP called on anyone ...

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am a member of BAMP. I pay my dues every year.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I read all the Minutes. I read all the publications. Sir, the Honourable Member is telling a monumental lie in this Chamber. Early in the morning. A morning lie.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I withdraw the remark, Sir. He is not telling the truth.

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, the records will show that, in fact, the then Minister of Health pronounced the national health service dead and that there was never a meeting held between the Minister of Health and BAMP to discuss integrating the doctors of this country into the national health service. That is what the records will show. They spent time pronouncing the national health service dead without any effort at all to integrate the private doctors into the national health service. And then took it upon themselves to purchase an institution, the St. Joseph Hospital. Let me say something about that.

It was a decision of total madness, by the then Government, to purchase the St. Joseph Hospital. The record is there to examine to see the levels of occupancy previously in relation to the St. Joseph Hospital. It was an institution that nobody, in their right mind, would ever have thought about buying. The cost associated with running it was astronomical.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The decision to purchase the St. Joseph Hospital was the result of a recommendation by a high powered committee on which every institution connected with health care sent a

representative. That committee reported and that committee recommended that the hospital be continued.

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, in the context of the fact that the record associated with that hospital was always a dismal one, in the context of the fact that if the then Government felt that it really needed to provide any sort of health care facility for the people of the north, there was a polyclinic right around the corner from the St. Joseph Hospital that could have been somewhat upgraded and expanded to provide for that service.

There was the fact that the whole road network in Barbados, in terms of development of highways, was expanding at the time and, in a country as small as Barbados, it really would not have presented a problem in the context of a polyclinic around the corner and the road network into town. It was totally illogical to decide to invest such a large sum of money in an institution like the St. Joseph Hospital, given its record, at the time.

I said all of that to really ask what was the reason. I hope that, some day, we would hear something from the Honourable Member for St. Michael West in terms of the logic behind that institution. In my view, that institution and Sherbourne are the 2 institutions that will forever remain scars on the Democratic Labour Party in this country. It must never be allowed to forget the amount of money because the St. Joseph Hospital, in particular, as the present Minister has pointed out repeatedly in this Chamber has been the source of much corruption and stealing. Even the very opening was shrouded in uncertainty.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I believe that the Honourable Minister of Health has already announced that there would be a commission of enquiry into the St. Joseph Hospital. I believe that it is grossly improper, after such an announcement has been made, for anyone to come into this Chamber and deal with these matters.

We have to watch the undermining of our legal systems in this country and Parliament should not be part of that. I do not think that any Member should be talking in this Parliament on any matter which is likely to attract the attention of an announced commission.

Mr. R. StC. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that, as a result of the new merger between the Democratic Labour Party and the NDP, they do not wish the St. Joseph Hospital to be discussed. Even the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central who, himself, was a part of the decision to purchase the St. Joseph Hospital would not want that discussed.

Mr. Chairman, what I wish to say is that in searching for some sort of reason I have only come to one

possible reason and it is this. The Democratic Labour Party was so determined that the Barbados Labour Party was never, ever to have or to take any credit at all for instituting a national health service, that as a matter of spite and hatred to the Barbados Labour Party it refused to carry to its conclusion a programme as beneficial as the National Health Service and knowing that that in itself was a shameful act and a shameful policy they decided that it should still associate itself with some health institution in this country. On that basis, and on that basis alone, to save face and to counter somewhat the shame associated with the destruction of the National Health Service it decided to go and invest in the St. Joseph Hospital, which as I have said has been a source of corruption and stealing over the years. And, as the Honourable Prime Minister said during the elections, it is not too late for somebody to get locked up in relation to it 10.45 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, I feel very strongly on this issue as I do on the National Health Service that is why I am compelled to speak this morning. I hope that the perpetrators of that son of conduct will in fact meet their right ends in life in this country.

Mr. Chairman, really and truly my intervention has been one this morning to speak to that issue of the destruction of the National Health Service and the pilferage at the St. Joseph Hospital. I am happy as I said, Mr. Chairman, that not one cent this year has been allocated in these Estimates for anything further on the St. Joseph Hospital.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make another point in relation to the Estimates as well. I believe I may have to come back on this St. Joseph Hospital issue but I am concerned that over the years there is a large number of, I call them practitioners, in this country who are sometimes referred as practitioners of holistic medicines and I find that over the years no recognition is given to these people. In fact, Mr. Chairman, there is a lot of snobbery towards these people. They are people who practise natural medicines, various techniques, who went away like any of us in here and studied at institutions. They have qualifications and I am speaking about things like iridology and so on, other techniques that are out there in the medical world.

It is amazing, Mr. Chairman, that any time you speak to, what I would call, one of the orthodox doctors like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, not that I have ever discussed this with him, but I say like him, those doctors frown upon these people and if you ever mention you were thinking of going to get some help or care from those people the doctors actively discourage you

from going. There is a certain snobbery in this profession from those M.Ds.

Mr. Chairman, in my view, they have a great contribution to make to the development of health care in Barbados. I believe they are neglected, I believe they have been ignored and frowned upon and this morning I am making a plea that perhaps the day can come when I take up one of these Estimates and see some provision made in some way to incorporate them into our health service because...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to complete.

Mr. R. St C. TOPPIN: You go to a doctor, Mr. Chairman, he is very quick to tell you, you need this medicine, you need some operation, surgery, *et cetera*. I take the view, Mr. Chairman, it is far better to be treated with natural remedies, by reference to these holistic practitioners, than with pumping all of this medicine in your system. I am urging the medical profession to embrace these people and stop treating them as though they are some lepers in the medical profession. So I am making a plea, Mr. Chairman, that we incorporate them as well and make some provision in future for the assistance of that large number of persons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to make a ruling with reference to an intervention by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South*Central. Please note that Standing Order 28.3 says:

"A reference may not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as might in the opinion of the Chair prejudice the interests of parties thereto."

Judicial decisions referring to matters before the courts, not in respect to commissions and so on but obviously Members might want to use their discretion when they make such references.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is ruling for the information of all here.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Before you rule, Sir ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair must be heard in silence when a ruling is being made. I am therefore saying for the information of all that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North was therefore within the rights as designated by the House to speak on the matter he was addressing.

The ruling is for the information of Members here that you can speak on matters which are before commissions but obviously you would want to use your discretion. If a matter is before the Court the Standing Orders will not allow you to make reference to those matters.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not questioning your ruling I am drawing to your attention, Sir, that the ruling which you just gave and the manner in which you gave it could lead to a misunderstanding on one point, Sir. A judicial decision is not necessarily limited to a Court since under the Commissions of Inquiry Act once a commission of inquiry is being held under that Act it too falls into the category of judicial decision and I think you would wish, Your Honour, to expand your ruling to indicate that nothing you have said is intended to derogate from that particular position that once an inquiry is being held under the auspices of the Commission of Inquiry Act that it would fall into that category.

Having said that, Sir, I am glad that you have been able to free up Honourable Members who may have been under the impression that they could not speak about the particular issue which the Honourable Member raised. I think Members should be free to give their views and responses as they see fit, Sir.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I would begin by saying my experience in this Chamber, after listening to the last two Honourable Members, clearly demonstrates that in one case you cannot learn all about health matters in six months and in the other, it seems to me that you are not so sure what these Estimates are all about. It is not a political issue. It is the issue of dealing with the people's business. 10.55 a.m.

I am not going to carry this debate to that kind of level. When you are dealing with sick people and people who want to improve their health, we have no time to slant the debate in such a way that at the end of the day these people are no better. The Estimates clearly demonstrate that what has happened in Barbados in the health service was a continuous development year after year, and based on the Democratic Labour Party's policy it will change to meet the changes and progress to develop the service.

I will not go back to those years of which the last Member spoke, because long before then Barbados had established itself as a reputable health centre. Names do not make anything any better, calling something a National Health Service and it is doing the very same things or similar things, or limiting things in a similar way does not change anything, so I am not here to argue whether the National Health Service came in and what happened, what

is most important is that a service was delivered in a particular way in a particular structure. That structure obviously grew out of the demands for a healthy nation and at the same time to be able to add to the productivity of the country.

If you go back to these Estimates, and I hear the Minister talk about thrust, what thrust? Community service was something in my day that was almost voluntary. They had health nurses and I believe the Honourable Member for the City will know that long before then there were community nurses who went out into the districts even when people were far from able to pay for health services. So we built on that until eventually we incorporated it into the system where we encouraged persons to go and study and come back and develop. So if we have a good community based system, it is quite good, and that is integrated in the polyclinics.

I really did not want to go off on the polyclinics as yet, but I want to say this. If you look at the Estimates - and I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central made the point - the Estimates in terms of dollars and cents show very little difference between the previous year and this year, and that was a year when the Government was under severe pressure to find money to do a number¹ of things, and now you have come in in a situation where that economic situation has changed, you are actually putting in the same vote.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. Take the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Last year the Recurrent vote was \$56.3 million, this year it is \$60.3 million. What is the difference? The difference comes in Personal Emoluments to approximately \$3 million. You have said you are going to pay the nurses more money. I understand that, and if that is part of it we will have no quarrel, because it is our intention at any cost to be able to pay proper wages and encourage people to do that. That kind of difference does not mean that there is any thrust anywhere, the same services are going to be applied. I will say this, it is an interesting tiling to look at Goods and Services. In 1994-95 we spent approximately \$12.6 million and it seems strange to me that in 1992-93 when we were in the height of an economic problem we spent \$13 million. It is only a question of moving figures here and there but the services are still under the same stress. The nurses are still under the same str[^]s. To my knowledge they are still working under pressure. When you have a ward at the ratio of probably one staff nurse to 37 patients, when it should not be, and in some of those wards there is an overcrowding situation, I could almost call one ward for you, then what is this big thrust? The people in Barbados will probably find themselves going to the clinic and complaining. The Capital Expenditure is \$3.07 million, so where are we going to create all of these things? Are you going to

build another ward to take care of the overcrowding? Where is it?

Aside.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Whether it has 70% occupancy or not, you can check for yourself that there is some overcrowding, because the private wards are not overcrowded. Why is that, Sir? Again we see something that seems not to capture the Minister's eye as would capture the Democratic Labour Party's position. We need to look more at the parsons who suffer from this lack of service.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. After eight years in the Chair I thought that the Honourable Member for St Michael North West had established some familiarity with the Estimates. If he looks at the beginning of the Estimates for the Ministry of Health, turns a page and then looks at the third page, he will see in the column before the end Total Capital and Lending \$36 617 700. What \$3 million is he talking about?

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am surprised at the Honourable Member, very surprised. I quoted from a document. I went to school and know numbers as well. I can tell you where I looked and saw it. Capital and Lending as against the Queen Elizabeth Hospital - \$3.0 million. I was speaking on that I am not worried about those kinds of antics, you cannot put me off.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No antics. If I misunderstood him, Sir, I apologise. If he is only limiting it to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that is all right, I thought he was talking about the total. I did not understand he was talking about one subsector.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: I premised my remarks by saying let us look at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I quoted the figures in terms of one year after another, but I understand the situation. What I am trying to say is, when you put those things together, where is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital going? It is almost on the same plane as it was before, unless you change around chairs or play musical chairs somewhere. I am saying that there is unnecessary political involvement in Health, which I consider to be a very important sector of our economy to be served. We must be very careful about the things we say, because as I said previously we say things and forget that other people out there, who have always taken some lead from us, are listening.

As an institution we have done well in our services. I am not saying that the Minister should spend money that she does not have. I am saying that we are almost on all

fours and the services will continue. To the best of my knowledge, even in this scenario, we are still providing a very good health service, so we have no problem with that

I read some time last week, or the week before, that the Director of the Hospital was making the point that when there are complaints about some of the services offered in the Hospital, certainly it was designed for the polyclinics and that is how we did it, but I knew it would not work because I said so in the early stage. The Honourable Member for St Michael North would not understand what was going on. I said then that the polyclinics... 11.05 a.m.

Aside.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: ... because I recognised that unless we structured those polyclinics properly, the hospital would end up with the same problem. The first thing we must do with those polyclinics is to instil confidence in the people that they are going to get the kind of service there; that you do not need to go elsewhere. I always argue that a polyclinic that shuts at four o'clock or a little after four will not function well.

I made the point when it was there that that is what should be done. Neither the persons who introduced it, And thereafter, nothing was done. So we must have the pressures on the St. Michael Hospital. That brings me now to the St Joseph Hospital.

I don't see the St Joseph Hospital in the context of what people are saying. If you are a progressive thinking person, it is always a challenge, and not a challenge to run away from based on economic considerations alone. If that were so, the Fire Service at the Airport, how often do they have to deal with fires at the Airport? I am only showing you the principle that if you go in terms of dollars and cents you would never be able to say that it is a worthwhile dollars and cents thing, but it is essential. That is the point.

The St. Joseph Hospital will prove to be an essential element in our health service in time to come, because it was supposed to have 80 beds and even if we could help, with good vision and proper planning, the St Joseph Hospital may very well relieve some of the ones who come from the North and have to line up in the clinic and behave like that. It is something that you have to think about.

A Government has the right for its priorities. That is your priority and I quarrel not with you. If you figure that it does not fit into your health plan, so be it. From what

I heard recently, all of this talk about rural development, I understand that they are saying that in St. Peter they will have a marina, cruise ships. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy talks about an Airport. You can have all sorts of industrial development in that area, but have you ever heard of a town that was built without a hospital?

Asides.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: A polyclinic is a hospital. I am finished saying what I said about that. You must have a hospital once you develop. If you develop to the point. That is looking ahead. You are looking ahead because you need services to be built around the kind of rural development you are talking about. I will say this to you, Sir, just as how...

Asides.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: ... I have difficulty with that, because some of the people in those developments are living better than those in St. Michael. Some of the prettiest houses and developments. You cannot call that rural. A lot of them are going to the same schools. They are enjoying the best of everything. So I don't call that rural. What I am saying, Sir, is just as how the other districts developed by movement of population it will happen in the North too and therefore you need to prepare for the future. They say they are not ready for it and I accept that. Let me shift back to the polyclinics.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up his presentation.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: I will reach my first stage. The Honourable Member. Maybe she is too young. Obviously she did not spend enough time in studying. You don't learn things in 6 months. I am speaking from experience. I worked at the Gall Hill Polyclinic. If you were to ask me from my own experience whether people had vision in looking ahead they would establish... I worked there as a pharmacist with the Honourable Member's for St Michael South Central sister and we watched and saw how the catchment areas grew. I am certainly surprised that that has not been given any consideration for other things.

I was told, Sir, that in this... I will stop and come back again, Sir. In the 1988-93 programme I am quoting from the Development Programme 80:

"In order to give improved high quality service to the users of Black Rock Polyclinic and St John and St. Joseph and Belleplaine outpatients, new clinics will be built to replace the existing ones."

Clearly all of us agreed that to develop the health service it was necessary. Sir, I am not going for the political argument. If they say the economic argument is strong enough that they cannot do it, well, enough. But, I know that just as you cannot put a premium on education, you cannot put it on health.

Mr. Chairman, I will sit down and come back again.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, the Honourable Member for the City is about to cause maximum confusion in this House and should be kept sitting as long as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I suspect that there is a policy on the part of the Barbados Labour Party during this debate to divert the debate, from what Government is doing now and what it plans to do, into matters of the past. I am not going to get drawn into that at all.

I was looking forward to the presentation by the Honourable Member for St James South with tremendous alacrity and when she started to speak... In fact, I came in here very early this morning. I made a headline note - New Health Policy Thrust and I was getting ready to list all these new health policy thrusts but, Sir, look at what I have. A blank page. There was nothing that I could write.

Sir, in my first intervention I want to make one brief point. I hope that nobody takes the Honourable Member for St. Michael North too seriously. To be coming in here advocating a comprehensive national health service when in point of fact the Government cannot even afford the Drug Service that it has now and has grave problems in meeting the need for expansion of services at the polyclinics. I mean it is really quite ridiculous to hear this kind of argument being advanced and once again trying to place blame on the medical profession of this country which used its best judgment at the time when the Health Service was being discussed and saved the country from a whole lot of unnecessary expenditure.

One or two points I want to raise about the St. Joseph Hospital. I understand there is some vandalism going on down there, that some of the equipment has been removed. Does the Ministry of Health have any continuing responsibility for the St. Joseph Hospital, and if so, how could they put no money at all in the Estimates? What about security? What about basic maintenance of the building? Are you going to allow the building to go into a rapid state of disrepair and allow the vandalism of the building to continue? I think it is grossly irresponsible of the Barbados Labour Party Government because they are not happy with a particular project just to abandon it in that manner. I sincerely hope that if money is not provided under this Head that either the Ministry of... 11.15a.m.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the Honourable Member is really misleading this Committee. I do not know when the Honourable Member has taken the trouble to go up to St. Joseph but if he goes up to St Joseph he will realize that the buildings are not closed and abandoned as he is saying. How can you get up and make a statement that is patently not so? It is not right

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much, Sir. First of all, the Honourable Member has asked me to go up to St. Joseph. As far as I know the St Joseph Hospital is in St. Peter and not in St. Joseph. That is the first thing.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Let us keep the debate going. Go up to the St. Joseph Hospital then, if you want me to say the Hospital.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much. It is my understanding, and there have been reports emanating from the St. Joseph Hospital. There has been a statement in this House by the Minister of Health that the windows were falling out already. That statement was made in this House. There have been reports that plants, equipment and other things have been removed from the St Joseph Hospital. What I am asking is this. Since no money is provided in the Estimates, whether or not some provision will be made under some other vote or under some other Ministry to make sure that there is adequate security and basic maintenance of the St. Joseph Hospital because no matter what you are going to do with it, I think it would be irresponsible not to try to maintain it as is for the time being. That is the first point I want to make about the St Joseph Hospital.

The second point I want to make is this. When Governments change there are always major criticisms of what the previous Government did. It is not my job to defend what the previous Government did. All I can say is this that when I became Minister of Finance I just did not close down the Central Bank. I did not close down the cement plant and all the other capital indiscretions that I found. I did not view it from that point of view. You might have criticised it but you recognised that you had a responsibility as a Government, since Government is a continuing process, to make the best of what you find.

I am a firm believer that in this country there is a major gap in our secondary health care delivery system and that gap relates not to what happens to the chronically ill. It does not relate to what happens to private patients. It is a gap that relates to those patients who are either long-stay patients in our secondary care institutions, or alternatively, patients who have been discharged prematurely from our secondary care institutions and are inadequately looked

after at home and do not have the financial resources to provide that level of health care at home, the provision of nurses, physiotherapists and all those kinds of adjunctive facilities which would assist them to be adequately rehabilitated and get back to a normal life.

I believe, Sir, that the money spent on the St. Joseph Hospital has already been spent and you cannot unspend that. That is the first reality. Therefore the task before us now is to look at our secondary health care situation and see in what way the Hospital can be best used within the context of the resources available to us. This is my humble suggestion to this Honourable House to look at those areas where there is a lot of pain and suffering affecting poor people in Barbados.

You go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now and you will probably find 30% of the medical and surgical wards occupied by long-stay patients, patients who have had amputations and who are waiting for the healing of wounds, or if they need further amputations, patients who have had strokes and who are inadequately looked after. I do not blame the nurses. The nurses have to look after the acutely ill and give them priority. Many of these patients end up with bed sores. The Hospital Director gets letters from people threatening to sue him and all these kinds of things. I sometimes tell them to sue but I do not always do that. There are a whole lot of problems associated with that area of health care. It is an expanding area of health care as well. The need is there. The need is going to grow. There is no question about it. It is not going to get less and less. The population is going to age and as the population ages this particular health problem is going to become more and more prevalent, not less and less.

I think, Sir, we have a wonderful opportunity here to link the St Joseph Hospital intimately with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where you provide savings of space at the QEH, whilst at the same time you have a low cost facility up north which does not require any significant infrastructure. You need no labs. The labs are at the QEH. You need no X-Ray Department. Your X-Rays are down there. What you need is an effective rehabilitative centre. I gather that is already there at the St Joseph Hospital.

Let me explain what I mean, Sir. Let me show you what is going to be the savings down the road. If I were a diabetic and I were admitted to hospital today with a toe threatening gangrene or something like that, I might be inside there for 90 or 120 days, one bed, one man, 120 days. Then I would probably come out with an amputation. I would have had no psychological preparations for the event I would not have had the kind of rehabilitative care that was necessary. No one would have gone to my home to see how I could fit into my home and what

adjustments would have to be made. All of that would have been neglected and I may have a couple of bed sores as well whilst I am lying there, because of the fact that the nurses cannot give me that kind of attention I need, I might develop an ulcer on the other leg and lose the other foot too. But I have spent 120 days there.

Now, imagine if I had gone, after I had my amputation to a sophisticated institution where this is the primary responsibility of the nurses, the medical staff, the whole rehabilitative structure geared towards this, it would be a different picture. But at the same time, I would have left a bed behind where probably 20 appendicectomies could have taken place. If you ever get the theatres working at the Hospital at full flight, there would be no waiting list because the waiting list would certainly decline very dramatically both on the medical and surgical side. If you cannot unspend the money, make the best use of it and stop mourning and groaning. That is the point I am making. Apply some thinking. With that kind of facility you can start off with 20 beds, 30 beds, 10 beds if you like and gradually build the whole thing up. 11.25a.m.

Who knows? There may be some persons who may prefer to have private care facilities, in that context, and you would get in some revenue by having some private patients in there as well. All these things can be done. The point is this. What I am saying is that, in the present situation in Barbados in terms of secondary care delivery....

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: All I am saying is this - you do not ask me what I tell anybody or do not tell anybody - I have a responsibility, in this Parliament, in respect of these Estimates to try to focus this Parliament Let me tell you something else. You would be surprised to see what such a step would do in terms of refocussing the entire medical situation in Barbados on the medical care of the elderly which, as you know, is a specialty within itself and an expanding one in medicine. Such a step would have repercussions in terms of the improvement of the quality of care in relation to these people, far beyond what would be happening at the institution itself.

If you do not like the proposals that the previous Administration had for the use of the hospital, if you want to dump those, dump those. But the hospital is ours. All I am suggesting is that this is an alternative use that you could, according to the budget, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up his presentation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... expand it incrementally and make use of what you have there.

I sincerely hope that this small contribution which has already brought such a negative response from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who should be setting a better example in the House...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He spoke on a point of order.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I am going to take a point of order on him now, Sir. He is again misleading the Committee. I have not responded negatively to any statement that he has said. I have merely got up to say he must not mislead the Committee with statements that are not correct. The Honourable Member cannot go down that line.

I would speak after him and then he can say whether I was negative or not.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member spoke very negatively and very eloquently with his body language.

If I may finish off, Sir. There are other areas which I want to deal with later on, the Drug Service. I want to deal with the polyclinics. I want to deal with a whole lot of things. But my thrust, in this debate, would be to try to get something on this piece of blank paper, policies of the Ministry so that when we finish today, I would be able to give a copy to the media and say, as a result of my intervention we now have some constructive policies being put forward by the Ministry.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make an intervention to deal with some points made by Honourable Members on both sides so far.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North raised the issue of alternative medicine. That is indeed very important because increasingly the community is moving away from traditional methods of treatment, from radical treatment and looking for more conservative methods of treatment;

One is seeing increases in disciplines such as reflexology and acupuncture. Some of these are not provided for, under our legislation. In addition to that, it creates a problem for people who suffer injuries at the workplace or otherwise and who need to have their compensation claims quantified. The reason being that sometimes they do not go to traditional doctors but go to non-traditional health workers or health care providers

and these persons are not recognized by insurance companies. When reports are written by these persons, they are not accepted.

In view of this movement, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health is currently reviewing all those areas of non-traditional medicine which is now not accepted by the Laws of Barbados to see which can be accepted and incorporated into the health care system.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Apart from that I want to respond to the Honourable Member for St Michael South and the points he raised in relation to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the St Joseph Hospital. All planning for developing countries must revolve around what the Budget can accommodate. One cannot have grandiose plans and ideals that we cannot afford to pay for. It is all right to say, let us have an eye care centre. It is fine to say, let us put up a hospital in the north. Let us put up a hospital in the south, as indeed the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was, at one time, proposing but where is the money to keep these places open and to pay for the recurring cost. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central raised the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Board at the St Joseph Hospital continues in place. They have, I believe, some money in hand. But a mothballing process has got to go on where the security and some minimal staffing remains in place to ensure that there is no massive vandalism of the property and that is being done.

We have not just walked out of the St Joseph Hospital...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. What vote will you be paying these persons from? You have zero in here for the St Joseph Hospital. That is all I am asking?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not know that that is a point of order. It is not a point of order.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister must answer. She has zero here for...

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: But that is not a point of order.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The ruling of the Chair is that that is no point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There is some kind of conspiracy over there.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West..

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member cannot accuse me of conspiring.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair has ruled there is no point of order and the Honourable Member for St. James South can continue.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Government is not abandoning the St Joseph Hospital. The point is that we could not keep it opened making those massive losses every month until a proper plan for its future has been devised. When that is done the full figures and plan will be presented to the people of Barbados. But it cannot be run in the *ad hoc* way in which it was done, under the last Administration.

The Government and the people of Barbados have owned that Hospital for nearly 8 or so years and they have nothing to show for it. There are very few people who can go down there and say, I had my bad foot tended down there. If you fall off of a bicycle in St. Peter you cannot get anybody to carry you up to the St Joseph Hospital for you to be treated. To make the point that millions of dollars have been spent on this hospital and that we should now continue with it and further perpetuate the folly of the last Administration cannot be tolerated by this Administration and will not I certainly will not be doing it

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West was making the point, and I am hearing it repeatedly in this Chamber, since October that we must not politicize issues. That is phenomenal ridiculousness, unbelievably so. I am disappointed in the Honourable Member for St Michael North West who normally speaks with a high degree of measured consideration. The reason being that taxpayers' money is expended because of political divisions.

When the Barbados Government decided to cut the salaries of civil servants in this country, that was a political decision, even though the labour movement who were

kiss and kin with the last Administration said that it was a labour consideration and that they were not getting into the politics. It was a political decision to spend \$30 million on Sherbourne even though you had done no marketing for it. It was a political decision to spend taxpayers' money on a burn bath at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that not a single person has ever got into and it has been in a room for years, untouched. That was a political decision. It was a political decision to spend \$2½ million on a polyclinic in St. John when the national population growth is going at .01% or thereabout and there is no evidence of demographic change in St. John, that it was anticipated that the population would double, within months, and that people would fill the polyclinic. That was a political decision. It was also a political decision to build the St. Joseph Hospital. It cost the taxpayers of this country a \$110 000 study and \$34 million to date. These are political decisions. Policy emerges on the basis of political decisions for which the taxpayers have to pay. We cannot stand in Parliament and delude ourselves that political decisions have nothing to do with policy and has nothing to do with how money is spent. They are inextricably bound and cannot be separated. 11.35am.

With regard to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central specific question in relation to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the joint programme which was going at the St Joseph Hospital will move to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and therefore become, if it is well managed, a revenue earner for the Government

The nurses from the St Joseph hospital some of them have been redeployed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in order to meet the needs of patient care there. I think I am correct in saying that every single nursing post at the hospital is now filled so there are no massive vacancies there for nurses to walk into as Honourable Members on the other side are leading us to believe.

This year the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will also open two of the four surgeries that have been closed for years so that more people, particularly non-paying patients, will have the opportunity to come into the hospital and have their surgeries done expeditiously. For too long we have lived in a system where private patients were given priority rather than public and non-paying patients. We have lived in a situation where public patients come into the hospital two and three times and are prepped for surgery and over six and more months are unable to get surgery. All of that should have gone into the role of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and his successor the former Honourable Member for St George under whose responsibility falls the management of the Ministry.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The surgeries the Honourable Member is talking about came

into operation and I left the Ministry of Health. I wish the Honourable Member would not give the impression

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The question of the private wards, Sir. The private wards are largely empty. The public wards are not overcrowded because the hospital itself is overcrowded and not all the wards are overcrowded. It has to do with an allocation of space. The paediatric ward for instance has a large space reserved in the event that there is a national emergency involving children. We have to review that policy.

We have to review the floor space plans and the ward space plan at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and bring them more in line with what the statistics show in relation to disease and chronic diseases. We have to put the thrust where the need is, not just develop floor plans for floor plans sake. I believe that if we did that the majority of the overcrowding at the hospital could be dealt with and would be dealt with during the course of this year.

The accident and emergency department will be restructured and the staffing revised in order for a more efficient service to be delivered by that department because we are still in a situation where people are waiting too long to get service.

Only the other night, perhaps it was a week or so ago, I took the opportunity to go through the hospital during the night to see what sort of times people were waiting in the accident and emergency department and the kind of complaints that were coming in, and to touch base with staff members in an attempt to try to help boost staff morale.

With regard to the specific amount of money allocated to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I wish to draw the attention of all Honourable Members to page 166 of the Estimates. You will note that last year \$1 230 880 was provided under Plant, Equipment and Furniture. This year we have increased that vote to \$2 million for the purchase of a steam boiler, a plated meal system, biomedical, mechanical and electrical spares and replacement of medical equipment, appliances and furniture.

So for maintenance of property we have increased the vote from \$1 407 588 to \$1 593 220.

In relation to supplies and material we have moved the vote from \$6 700 000 to \$7 150 000. You can see therefore, Mr. Chairman, that in every aspect where it is critical there has been an increase in the vote to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But these efforts will be

further enhanced by the attempt that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is making at revenue collection by calling in its bad debts and the setting up of a programme such as the joint replacement system.

In addition we hope to install in the hospital a number of pieces of equipment that will assist in the cutting down of expenditure on utilities. For instance it is known that quite often taps are left running for long periods. We will be putting in operated springs for taps so that the amount of money expended on water for instance would be decreased.

We would embark on a system of dealing with the electricity so that that expenditure will be relieved. And all in all we will be assessing our expenditure under utilities to see how we can reduce it and a number of management techniques will be put in place to deal with that.

You will notice that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has benefited from the closure of the St. Joseph Hospital to the extent that they have received some of that hospital's staff and to the extent that some of the plant and equipment and supplies at the St. Joseph Hospital have been transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I should also make the point, in the minute that I have left, that the vote for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital this year is increased by nearly \$2 million or thereabouts over last year and what is significant is that last year when the vote of \$2 million less was given, \$1 million of the money allocated to the Queen Elizabeth had to go to the purchase of a cobalt machine which will not be done this year and therefore we will have even further money to spend.

In addition, last year, the Estimates at the end of the Financial Year were \$800 000, nearly \$1 million from the preceding year was brought over for supplies that were already committed and were yet to be paid for. So that if one looks at that reasoning and the actual figures one would see that in real terms the vote to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has really increased by in excess of \$3 million to \$4 million.

I imagine that other Honourable Members want to speak to other points. I will only make one very last point and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central raised the issue of rehabilitation services for Barbados. It is a fact that Barbados is the amputation centre of the world. Our high incidence of diabetes, heart disease and hypertension cause us to lose many people to strokes,

amputations and the like. The Ministry is therefore actively looking at the siting of a rehabilitation centre in the country. I do not want to say more on this, because the full proposal has not yet gone to Cabinet, but I will say it will not be in a new building but in an existing structure. More will be told to the Chamber at a later date, but PDIU is currently looking at it. 11.45 a.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Education as a sector in our economy, like Health, must in my view, especially as we are approaching the end of this decade, make very clear, well-defined decisions about allocation to primary, secondary and tertiary. When we debated Education in here the point was made at length that the disparity between primary and tertiary was not one that we could continue in Barbados. The same is true in health care.

It is my understanding that in these Estimates of Expenditure, the Health budget plans to spend 24.8% on primary health care, \$40V₂ million. If we are moving - and I believe that we are in Barbados, Sir - to a position where Barbadians want to take a more responsible attitude for their own health care, where more and more people are buying group health or other health insurance cover, where preventive health care is going to be given even higher priority than we traditionally have given it in Barbados - and if I may say so, Sir, Barbados has an excellent reputation in the world among both developed and developing countries for the investment that we have made in preventive health care - we started with a network of health centres in the 1950s. For all that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West has pointed out, the Barbados Labour Party had to wait until it returned to Government in 1976 to upgrade those health centres to the level of polyclinics. In my submission, Sir, that is where additional expenditures need to be made.

I was deeply saddened after 1986 that Mr. Keith Simmons, then the Minister of Health - and a lot of people forget that he was a Minister of Health and the damage that he did - cut back, and this was long before stabilisation and structural adjustment programmes in Barbados. Keith Simmons as a Minister of Health cut back polyclinic services. When we left Government in 1986 you could go to the polyclinic up to as late as 8 o'clock at night and you could see a doctor there and have simple procedures performed there, and I know whereof I speak, because I have attended there, I have taken people to the polyclinic at Black Rock and elsewhere to have attention. People now still sit down in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Accident and Emergency Department waiting to have simple procedures done and have to wait for hours to have them done because there are more urgent procedures which have to take precedence. Those and several other services, special services that were provided for diabetic patients, special

out-patient services, which should be operating out of the polyclinics. The polyclinics, under the Barbados Labour Party, Sir, were meant not only to be exclusively primary care institutions, there were certain secondary care functions that were beginning to be offered out of the polyclinics and I believe that that is still the way forward for Barbados.

Do not let us fool ourselves. In the developed countries and developing countries, including some countries in the Caribbean, the catchment area for an acute general hospital is several times the population of Barbados, so I really have difficulty listening to any argument about the need for a second general hospital in Barbados. I have the Chief Medical Officer's Report for the years 1991 and 1992 in my hand. This is already a document of the House. I am looking at Table 2 - Bed Utilisation by type of hospital in 1991. Queen Elizabeth Hospital had an occupancy rate of 71.1%, not even 75%. It is true, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has said, that there are some wards which are severely overcrowded and that has to do with a whole other subject I do not want to go into now, to do with lifestyles. The ward full of amputees has to do with the lifestyle we pursue in Barbados, but it has to be a function of management of the Hospital, both administrative and medical, that if you have a greater demand in certain wards and a lesser in others, you manage it. The answer is not to throw more beds at the Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was designed to service the needs of the Barbadian population down to the year 2020, and it is still on track.

But look carefully now at the same Table, Sir. The Psychiatric Hospital has an occupancy rate of 101% and that is largely because the Psychiatric Hospital is performing the function of another geriatric hospital in Barbados. We have a number of psychiatric patients who are not truly ill in the psychiatric sense but who have been locked away from society for so long - and I am talking about 40 or 50 years, going back to the days that as soon as you behave a little strangely, I mean people who walk about Bridgetown happily now, 40 or 50 years ago would have been locked away in the Psychiatric Hospital.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I quite agree. One or two in here, it is suggested, Sir. But the modern management of psychiatric patients is more and more in the direction of out-patient care, and the truth is that the majority of the in-patients at the Psychiatric Hospital for many years now in Barbados are really geriatric patients. It is a sad reality that they are simply there waiting to die.

Look further at Table 2, Sir, and you will see at the District Hospitals, which are exclusively geriatric hospitals, the one in St. Michael at Beckles Road occupancy rate of

93.8, St. Philip 97.9, Christ Church 96.9, Gordon Cummins 98.3, St. Lucy 96.4. All this is doing is corroborating the point made by other Honourable Members in here, and a point that I wish to emphasise, the one made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. The Barbados population is aging, and aging rapidly. The greater need in the early 21st century is going to be for geriatric beds. Not all geriatric beds have to be acute general beds, you are talking about a secondary institution, and that is why I would support the Member for St. Michael South Central, that if you want to find 100% usage for the St. Joseph Hospital which does not require too much leaning on the major support services of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that is the function for it. Just down the street from the St. Joseph Hospital is the first polyclinic, the Sir Maurice Byer Polyclinic. Again, that polyclinic should be referring people to a secondary institution which is now the St. Joseph Hospital with an outpatient facility... It should be a reciprocal arrangement. As the Honourable Member said, you can start and increase that over the years. That is a use to which it can be put. Preventive is the way to go. 11.55a.m.

Now I hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central saying that we don't want any quackery in Barbados. I agree that we do not want any quackery in Barbados, but that is not to say that I am supporting any move to run people who are the practitioners of alternative medicine out of our community.

Aside,

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Bush teas are important. I take it every morning. I am not drinking any coffee or any tea with caffeine. I drink bush tea every morning. It is good for you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a number of practitioners. There are chiropractors here. There is an osteopath here. There are people who are into reflexology and acupuncture as the Honourable Minister said. The answer is that you need to regulate and monitor what these people do, so that you don't have quacks. These people have a right to offer their services in our community as they do in communities outside.

The traditional practitioners of medicine will always be skeptical about them, but that is something which has nothing to do with us. That has something to do with jealousies and the division of opinions within the medical and the allied medical profession. I don't want to get into that.

I am saying, Sir, that we must not forget that in the very early 1960s Barbados won the Kettering Shield.

I mentioned it last year and I mention it again this year. I would like to know where it is because it needs to be taken out from wherever it is and polished and put up for all to see. In 1961 we won the Kettering Shield. This was an award given in respect of the high quality of primary care service which we were then offering out of the health centres. I would like them to see what we are offering now out of the polyclinics. Not now, but certainly by the time the new Minister of Health gets a hand on it, I would like people to see that.

Sir, I would like to make another point. I would hope that I can intervene at another time, but I want to make this point early on and it has to do with revenues. We are investing huge sums of money in health. We have done this traditionally over the years and without apology. Health like education has to learn to answer to people's needs as distinct from people's wants. There is a great divide between the two.

Barbadians must not think that they are the only ones who wait for medical care. Anywhere else in the world you sit down and wait for two or three hours. I agree that it is not right that you should be waiting for 11 and 12 hours but as I have said, that is a function of management. If at any given moment 70% of the beds at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are occupied, it is a function of management both administrative and medical.

I am very glad to hear the Honourable Minister say that theatres which have been lying dormant are now going to be pressed into use. It is a ridiculous thing in a population of over a quarter million, in an acute general hospital that is second to no other general hospital in this region, that we should have people waiting two and three years for simple surgical procedures. It is ridiculous. So I am very glad to hear that that is going to happen.

I want to speak to Revenue. A number of people in Barbados have now bought insurance. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital which is an acute general hospital has services which it can sell, but they don't think in that way. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital like all the other hospitals and like the educational service in Barbados is like a bottomless pit which they think the taxpayers will just provide money and not stop but there is the possibility for revenue. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is a teaching hospital of the University of the West Indies. It is the hospital of preference for medical students. I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central will support that. That is a fact. It is the hospital of preference compared to what is available in Trinidad and what is available in Jamaica for medical students.

There are a number of services which our health institutions can sell, not only in Barbados, because

insurance companies are there to pay for them. Let me use an example, Sir. If you go abroad and you have insurance coverage which will cover you internationally and you are taken ill, a number of procedures are done. They may do X-rays, they may do complicated blood work and a whole bunch of stuff. You will find that an insurance policy if you have full coverage will cover all of those procedures; but in Barbados it is taken for granted that because those procedures are available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that you don't have to pay even though the insurance coverage will cover those things. All of these things need to be looked into by the management.

The management at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and at the Geriatric Hospital too need to sit down with the insurance industry in this country. The medical profession fought against a National Health Service which would have covered secondary and tertiary care. They will live to regret it just as in North America they will live to regret it. It is the insurance industry and the medical profession that destroyed the effort that Clinton was making to do what we sought to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I don't want to go off on a tangent on that. Before I sit, I want to make the point, and obviously I am going to have to come back to it, that revenue must now become a feature of these Estimates under Head 36 of the Ministry of Health in a way that they did not used to do, without causing any burden to the average health consumer in Barbados. Thank you.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am determined to listen to this debate most of the time but the Honourable Member who just sat down started to touch a subject which requires me to participate in this debate because I think if you examine the policies which informed the Democratic Labour Party's approach to, especially the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but generally, it would demonstrate very clearly that in fact the policies of the Democratic Labour Party were driven by the very clear understanding that health care is an economic activity, apart from anything else. When all is said and done, and when the flurry of political rhetoric has expanded and exploded...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, let me give you an example. If you look at the Estimates in 1993, you will see that the revenue figure was \$6 million. I recall very well that officials in the Ministry of Finance were flabbergasted. There was great consternation and indeed, in the end, they slashed the revenue figure because it seemed so unrealistic; but in truth as the Honourable Member who just sat

down said that the insurance industry and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital should get together and, in fact, what happened in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 is that we were going toward implementing in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a number of centres of revenue, The one that has the most glamour at the moment is the open heart surgery programme, a programme which nearly came a cropper and would have come a cropper were it not for the support which I got then from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South in his capacity both as Prime Minister and as Minister of Finance. He was exposed to the argument which had to be made to allow for the angiographic suite to be included. It was included in the Estimates. Subsequently we had to reissue it the following year because of some recalcitrance on the part of certain persons. 12.05 p.m.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I recall that I had to have discussions with the people at the General Electric Corporation to get them to agree that they would finance the angiographic suite. We had to go through some very stringent examinations by the Ministry of Finance in order eventually to arrive at what is a normal methodology for financing almost everywhere else in the world. So that the General Electric Corporation financed the angiographic suite, which had been designed originally for another country, they sold it to Barbados at a price that was entirely different. They financed it up front so that we could have it in place in due course.

The whole idea was to generate revenue first of all by saving the expenditure which was being made over those years to send our patients overseas for open heart surgery - and it was a lot - and secondly, to induce people in the Caribbean and beyond once we got the programme going to come to Barbados for their services.

Once the persons involved sat down with the insurance companies, the companies realised that they were in for substantial savings. The savings do not only accrue to the Government and people of Barbados at the public sector level, they accrue to the insurance companies who have, in fact, come on board and they have made substantial contributions to the establishment of the open heart surgery programme,

The joint replacement unit, both at the other place and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, is again an indication of how this country can earn revenue from the skills of the doctors, nurses and other health care people here in Barbados. The replacement of knees, hips and elbows is now almost taken for granted by some of the surgeons in Barbados. They have the skill. It is available and instead of people going from...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The point is, Mr. Chairman, that instead of people from the other Caribbean islands going to Miami and other places they will start coming to Barbados,

As a matter of fact, it is not well known but at the moment..,

Asides,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that the revenue will be earned from those people who are coming to Barbados rather than going to Miami for the procedures just as Barbados is now sending people to Venezuela. Barbados is now sending people to Venezuela to do procedures which, in fact, ought to be done here and that is my contention. By now in 1995 we should be at the point, for example, where MRIs are no longer being done in Caracas. It should be done here in Barbados and the insurance companies should be paying for them. The insurance companies now pay for people to go to Caracas or Miami for an MRI and the basis on which we do not yet have the facility here is that it is too expensive.

It is too expensive for the Government at this time to purchase the necessary equipment but there is no reason why in conjunction with the insurance companies we could not establish the unit here in Barbados and therefore instead of our going to Caracas and Miami for MRIs people would be coming from other Caribbean countries to Barbados for MRIs. If you go to Venezuela now they have established a methodology for earning money from health care. It is one of the revenue issues which Barbados must face. Health tourism is not merely an utterance. It is a serious matter which must be looked at, examined and planned for. In planning for health tourism, in planning for revenue earning from health procedures, there will be investment and if that investment is constantly reviewed only in terms of the initial bottom line then it will be misrepresented.

If you have seed money, as Your Honour knows, seed money does not always show a return immediately. It is necessary sometimes to put out expenditure that will bring returns in the future. Let me give you an example in the public sector. Take the angiographic suite. We have over 140 amputations in this country every year. We have the highest level of amputations per capita of any country in the so-called developed world. And one of the reasons we have had those amputations was that doctors were unable to diagnose beyond a certain point and as soon as it seemed as though there was a problem with circulation

at a certain level they made the correct decision of the day to amputate. Now that they have the capacity to examine in greater detail, many of those persons who without the onset of the angiographic suite would have lost a limb may now, in fact, save a limb. It means that the whole tenor of care in the institution will be raised to a new paradigm. It means that the people who are in training now will have an opportunity to go beyond a certain diagnostic level. These are the kinds of things which derive from a certain vision of where we ought to be by a certain time.

On the continuum that is a development process for Barbados, must not only look to the short-term. We have to plan for the medium and long-term. Sometimes we have to lead the population. We must not allow the population when it has a vision that is closer to myopia than to the future... we must, as leaders, take them by the hand and show them that there is another plateau that can bring them and their children and their children's children the same quality of life, or a higher quality of life from that which we now enjoy. Health care is not and ought not to be susceptible to constant political wrangling.

Sir, there is a time that will come when judgment will be made about certain decisions. I accept that the Government has decided to close the St. Joseph Hospital. That is their privilege. They have decided that. History will judge them in due course. History has a way of judging people sometimes harshly, sometimes not so harshly. I have no quarrel with the decision of the Government *per se*. I have a question about the judgment but that will come in due course. I have no intention of participating in any wrangling about the St. Joseph Hospital at this stage. Let us hear the realities when they come out whenever they come out.

In so far as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North who raised the question in a rather pious manner, I refer him to page 4575 of Hansard, and following. The pages run consecutively.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You see, Sir, the ones who are not familiar with Parliament, if I say 4575 there will only be one page 4575. If you used to read this document you would see. You must read it. Look for page 4575. Ask the Clerk and he will tell you. I am not here to educate you.

Sir, the Honourable Member every time I see him, and especially when I hear him, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, he reminds me of the truth of what Eisenhower said of Adlai Stevenson: that he suffers from delusions of adequacy! 12.15 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am very straight like a rod, very straight. That is my difficulty.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You are probably the only person who could speak to that. Page 4575, The Honourable Member will get the answer which he sought on the question of what was the basis for the decision. I invite him to read that, Sir. My time will not allow me to do that.

Mr. Chairman, the point I am making about vision for the health services follows the call by the Honourable Member for the City to examine revenue. I notice that, on this occasion, they have put in revenue of approximately \$5 million in the Estimates. I have reason to feel that if the services are promoted properly that they will be able to earn in excess of \$5 million.

The Honourable Member for St. James South was gracious enough to suggest that the creation of a central admissions system will lead to a more efficient gathering of revenue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to conclude.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I would wish to speak to one other aspect of potential revenue earning which, at the moment, is not attracting the attention of the Government. The Government, apparently, has not found it convenient to look at this particular institution with a view to earning revenue.

In the time that is available to me now, I do not wish to start that discussion, if the opportunity presents itself, I will speak to that again. But let me say that the policies that informed the Democratic Labour Party during the period between 1986 and the present, those policies were policies where health was at the centre of development. They were policies which perceived health as a human right, where the people of Barbados and, in particular, the vulnerable groups in Barbados could have access to health care at the highest level without reference to their class, or their creed, or their colour.

The policies for health care in this country have, with a good mix of private and public sector over many years, by all of the Governments, have been reasonable in relation to the people.

But the Democratic Labour Party was particularly concerned to ensure that the level of health care provided for the ordinary masses was taken to an entirely

different level. Witness what we did for the Geriatric Hospital. Witness the quality of accommodation that has been provided at the Geriatric Hospital. I hope that the Minister of Health will find it convenient to continue the rationalization programme to continue the programme which will see die change...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: ...that will bring a new Psychiatric Hospital, as part of the programme of our development within the next few years. It will see the change that will accept and acknowledge that the present Psychiatric Hospital is, in fact, a holding place for in excess of 300 people who had nowhere else to go or who would have no other place for housing. I should like to speak to that development, especially in the context of what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said, at the next occasion I get an opportunity to speak.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should like to ask the Honourable Member for St. James South who holds the portfolio for Health a couple questions. I should like to find out from her if she has any plans of changing the name of the St. Joseph Hospital to the St. Joseph Residence and Nursing Home. I should also like to find out from her if she plans to close down the district hospitals in St. Lucy, St. Thomas, St. Philip, Christ Church and if she also has plans for transferring those who suffer with chronic diseases to the St. Michael District Hospital

I also want to know, from her, if she is accepting the study done by the Barbados Labour Party which was done under the auspices of the Pan American Health Organization, and if that is the reason why she moved so hastily. It was commissioned in 1985 or 1986 and was handed in July 1986.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Pardon me?

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Dealing with the health services for the elderly - and I am quoting from my notes - in Barbados.

I should also like to find out from the Minister, what impact closing the St. Joseph Hospital will have on the development for the masses of Barbados and what is

commonly referred to as the rural development of Barbados.

If we are going to have the type of development which we expect in rural Barbados, we would expect that the St. Joseph Hospital to play a very pivotal role in those services that we expect to provide for the investors and also for the people in rural Barbados.

Sir, I should like to leave these questions with the Minister and I hope she will answer them. I am aware that there are results of another study done earlier in the 80s by the same Barbados Labour Party and I am also wondering if, because of those studies, that they are not keen on running the St. Joseph Hospital because they figure it should have been a home for the elderly.

Thank you, Sir.

LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 1.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 12.25 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply to that it will now revert.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable Chamber now reverts to Committee of Supply and this session we will hear first from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt in my mind that the quality of health care has deteriorated over the last 9 years or so. I think that we actually reached our pinnacle in 1986, that was when the Barbados Labour Party demitted office. If one has to go forward one should go back and one should remember that at that time the Barbados Labour Party had set up a network of polyclinics in Oistins, in Wildey, in Warrens and there were plans to construct another polyclinic in Black Rock. The Glebe was under construction as well and there were also plans to construct a satellite clinic in the Scotland District.

At that time too, Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Drug Service was about 4 years old and I think all of you can appreciate the fact that this has been a very good thing for Barbadians in general. The Barbados Drug Service was set up at that time in 1982 so that the diabetics, the hypertensive, the cancer patients, and asthmatics could have medications free of charge as long as they could provide the necessary identification cards.

One would also remember that at that time there were many patients, especially the hypertensive and the diabetics who would very often get half of their medication because they could not afford to pay for the full amount of their medication. I think at that stage, as a result of that particular situation, obviously there would have been several or many amputations at that time.

I think the main reason for the deterioration in the health standards of Barbados is the fact that over the past 5 or 6 years a lot of money was wasted on buying and equipping the St. Joseph Hospital. We on this side always felt that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was good enough to look after the well being of this country. It only takes 20 minutes to get from any part of Barbados to Bridgetown where the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is located.

Instead of spending all of this money on the St. Joseph Hospital, and this is in the vicinity of \$30 million, this money could have been better utilized by improving the services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This money could have been spent on expanding the range of professional services at the hospital. This money could also have been spent on making all the operating theatres at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital become effective so that people would not be turned back from time to time because of these hospitals not functioning properly.

I know of an instance ...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to get involved in this debate. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The reason why the theatres were

not open has to do with the unavailability of nursing services. Do not let anybody confuse you with ignorance. There were no nurses available and nursing services said they could not manage. That is the only reason why. It has nothing to do with resources. It has nothing to do with money.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West is misleading the House. The closure of 4 theatres at the hospital has little to do with the absence of nurses.

Mr. Chairman, I came to office on September 6th and found 4 theatres of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital closed. Two are now going to be reopened during the course of this financial year.

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL: Mr. Chairman, contrary to what the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said, the main reason was that the autoclave at the hospital very often does not function. That is basically a management problem. It is a fact that these theatres were not functioning.

Mr. Chairman, there is also a shortage of nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This is a problem we plan to address because the fact that there is a shortage the morale at this institution is very low.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, let me protect you. Standing Order 32 says:

"No Member may interrupt another Member except -

(a) by rising on a point of order etc., or

(b) elucidate on some matter...¹¹

The Chair will not be tolerating the kind of interventions we are getting at this point. If Members want to speak they will rise. They have 15 minutes to speak. You may continue, Sir.

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is also the Burn Unit at the Hospital which has officially been opened but is still not in use because there is no staff to man this unit. This is a pity because very often these patients have to be treated in the general ward and these people are exposed to incompatibilities. They are exposed to infections because they have to be treated in the general ward.

I was getting back, Mr. Chairman, to the shortage of nurses as well as the efficiency of the system because if there is a shortage of nurses an operation may be successful but the person could die, so it is very important to have that after care service. It is our intention to train more nurses so that the care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital could improve.

We also plan to get more nurses on ambulances to increase....

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir, I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central should be entitled to be heard. I cannot hear him, Sir. He is trying his best and senior Members of the House are interrupting him, making all these noises and he is a new Member trying to make the best of what he is doing.

Asides,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL: Mr. Chairman, we also plan to increase the ambulances and decentralise their location. I think it is very important that we have ambulances being decentralised. For example, Sir, we could put one, maybe, in Oistins, one in St. Andrew, one in Speightstown, so that they would be able to respond to emergencies at a much faster rate. Also when these ambulances are brought into Barbados it is going to be very important to put radio phones in them so as to facilitate the treatment of patients where possible on their way to the hospital.

There is also a problem right now and this relates to the non-payment of allowances to junior doctors at the Hospital. I think it is very important, because the junior doctors are a very important and integral part of the health system and we should pay these people as soon as possible so as to make them feel better and make them feel part of the team. 1.40 p.m.

There is also a problem with the polyclinics as regards junior doctors. I for one feel that there should be more senior doctors manning the polyclinics. I find nowadays that there are too many junior doctors manning the polyclinics and very often the polyclinics treat a lot of the elderly people, a lot of the diabetics, a lot of the hypertensives who very often have complications, and I would like to see some more senior doctors manning the services of the polyclinics.

I also think, Mr. Chairman, that the opening hours of the polyclinics need to be extended. I think the closure at 4 o'clock is definitely too early and I think this is the main reason for a lot of overloading at the emergency section of

the Hospital. A lot of these services, in my opinion, could have been improved had we not spent all that money, somewhere in the vicinity of \$30 million at the St. Joseph Hospital. It was welcome news to hear that the Government is going to close that Hospital. I do not see how any sensible person could accommodate a situation where the expenditure at the Hospital is something in the region of \$500 000 a month and then the intake is only about \$22 000 a month.

We also plan to do something about the Barbados Drug Service. Right now the Barbados Drug Service is operating on an *ad hoc* basis. As far as I can see, there is a Director of the Barbados Drug Service who seems to be a law unto himself, and I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, he does not know what he is doing. We are planning to have a broad based formulary committee which would be able to look after the needs of the patients in Barbados. Right now we have a situation where the Director of the Barbados Drug Service is actually dictating to the doctors in this country what drugs they should use. There are some SAD drugs which he controls, to some extent. In other words, he is telling a physician what to prescribe, and sometimes when a physician prescribes this type of medication, with the amount of red tape one has to go through, it can take as many as four weeks before the drugs can be dispensed, and this sometimes can be very dangerous to patients.

Mr. Chairman, we are also planning, as I said earlier on, to expand the range of professional services at the Hospital. I personally think that the time has come for us to get more specialist doctors at the QEH. It is very important, so that sometimes Barbadians do not have to go away to get treatment, which is always very costly and in a lot of cases the very poor and underprivileged people in Barbados cannot afford to do such, so sometimes these people literally have to die.

All in all, I would say that it is very good that the Government has decided to close the St. Joseph Hospital. I personally think that these resources could be better made use of at one central location, like the QEH, and as a result of that I see where the services at the QEH can be improved to suit the needs of the Barbadian people.

Thank you.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I want to say something about the Honourable Member who just sat down. It is very interesting, but I thought he made a very good speech, except when he allowed himself to stray into foolishness relating to the St. Joseph Hospital. There were about six or seven points which he raised, and it took me by surprise that he spoke so well and showed much wider knowledge of the health service than anyone else

who spoke on that side so far. Many of the issues that he raised need to be addressed: the Drug Service, non-payment or difficulty in paying junior doctors at the Hospital. There are several important issues which he has raised that need to be dealt with. The nonsense that goes on in relation to the drug formulary, the problems that doctors have. We have a situation where people are virtually dictating prescribing habits, whose conduct in relation to the Drug Service has influenced fundamentally the availability of drugs in Barbados, the quality of drugs, the factors that go into acquiring drugs, why for a little while there has been no contribution from the medical profession into decision making in relation to drugs and so on. There are a lot of problems with that Drug Service that we are touting about as the best drug service in the world and that kind of thing. However, I do not want to deal with those areas at the moment, but there are a lot of things that need to be cleaned up. I think they are getting worse, not any better, and patients are suffering as a result.

The limitation, for example, placed on pharmacists in the amount of a drug they can prescribe, especially for elderly patients who are in severe pain with chronic arthritis and so on, and who still have to go out there and try to make ends meet by working. You find situations where they can only get two weeks' drugs out of every month and for the next two weeks they have to crawl to work in pain. All that nonsense has to be dealt with, but I think that as the year goes on we will be able to grapple with those problems.

There is a fairly fundamental problem I want to address today, this question of revenue earning at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. My understanding that the policy position in relation to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been from the beginning, is now and should always be that all Barbadians wishing to make use of the public services at the QEH have a right to those services free of charge. That is an inalienable right as far as I am concerned and that has always been the policy. The question is it relates to private patients at the QEH, that is where a Barbadian elects, chooses, not to make use of what he is entitled to, but he decides that he is going to access the private services in the Q.E.H. Therefore, the costing of all those services have always been based on the premise that the individual is entitled to the free service and the costing over and above that would be the differential between what he is entitled to free and what additional services are being provided for him. In other words, if it costs x amount to keep a patient in a public ward, then the charge for a private patient should be the amount in excess of that, because the Barbadian is entitled to that freeness like anybody else. That is the first point I want to make. 1.50p.m.

A situation is developing now where poor public patients are being harassed when they are admitted in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for money, and I think there is a

deposit of \$375 or something like that. What is the criteria for a private patient? If I went downstairs now and saw someone lying in the street in need of medical care and I decided that he needs to be admitted to the hospital immediately and I came up here and called an ambulance and called the Registrar of the medical or surgical ward and said I have an emergency here I want this patient admitted, and I came in here and wrote a little note and gave it to the ambulance driver or to the patient or to somebody to take along he is deemed to be a private patient under the present arrangements, and that is nonsense. That is what goes on.

The second thing that is happening is that there are a lot of practitioners out there in the community, a lot of general practitioners who when they see patients in the community out there - and general practitioners see poor patients and the not so poor and they see the well off - even when they see poor patients and they make appropriate professional arrangements for the admission of their patients to the hospital because those patients come from a private practitioner, they are being called upon to pay.

Doctors are now reduced to a situation where the normal professional courtesies in relation to hospital admissions are being interfered with and doctors are now virtually telling their patients, "Make your way to Casualty without a note because if I send you in they are going to call you a private patient."¹¹ I am telling you what is happening. Don't ask me. If you don't know what is happening, this is what is happening.

There are no hospital doctors who are out there in the community seeing these patients that require to be admitted to the hospital, so they all have to come from private doctors. I don't know what is going to happen in the long run, whether the hospital doctors are going to be going out there visiting these patients at home to get them admitted. Basically, the whole thrust at the moment is wrong. If you want to deal with revenue at the hospital, there is a Hospital Fees Regulations Act in this country which sets out who are private patients in the private wards and there is a thing called a grade C patient in the public ward where you are able to pull a screen around a patient and this kind of thing. Unless those patients fall into those categories, it is unlawful to charge any patient any kind of fee in the hospital unless they fall into those categories.

What is being done in the Hospital now is that they are breaking the law in relation to Barbados. I know what the problem is and the Hospital has a kind of a problem. It is not for me to deal with that problem. If the Hospital has a problem where they have to deal with abuses by certain people of the privileges made available to them, deal with the people, don't put the onus on the patient. That is where the problem arises. That problem with the patient can

be solved in a very straightforward manner by letting every patient know what his and her rights are when they are admitted to the hospital. If you wish to give them a slip of paper, saying that under the laws of Barbados the hospital cannot charge you for lying down in this bed for any service and nobody else can charge you either, I think the problem will be solved in that way. Don't create problems for the patient.

Now if you really want to get at revenue in the Q.E.H. you have to deal with the insurance companies that have been robbing patients and robbing the Government of Barbados over 50 years. There are insurance companies that have been selling hospitalisation policies in Barbados for 50 to 75 years. All they take in for 50 years is revenue. All their clients go into the public wards and there is never a claim for hospitalisation. What you want to do is a very simple matter. Come in here and pass legislation relating to that so that the hospital has the authority to bill the insurance company directly when one of those persons who is insured with them is admitted to any ward in the hospital. They rake off millions of dollars off Barbadians over the years and never yet paid one cent for anyone in hospital. Do you know that? That is where the money is.

The insurance companies have agents going up and down this country, day after day and week after week, collecting money from poor people, and they are the people that go into public wards and never yet have they paid up an insurance cover. It would be a rarity for them to pay a hospitalisation claim. Do you know what they do? Do you know what they pay sometimes? Sometimes you see patients come with a form asking "how long have you been ill?"¹ And this is a person who has been in the hospital, has had X-rays and all of these things are insured. There are no charges for those and then a doctor will probably give them a month or 6 weeks or they would give them \$10 a week or \$20 a week in return for what they have been collecting for 20 or 30 years. That is where you will have to focus if you want to get money into the Treasury from the insurance companies.

Let us be very careful when we deal with this question of revenue earning aspects of the hospital. Let us not compromise the principle that every Barbadian is entitled to free care if he so chooses. Let us fix our rates at a level which recognises that it is only the differential between what they are entitled to and what they are electing to have should be subject to charges, and let us focus on the source of revenue, that is, the insurance companies in Barbados, and you will be surprised to see the number of people today who have insurances and who go into the public wards and nobody asks them if they are insured.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Aside,

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You will put the burden now on those who are not insured.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: There is nothing wrong with asking a patient, "Are you insured?" I have no problem with that, but it is wrong to start making a financial claim on a patient because you believe they might be insured because I can assure you that that creates a tremendous amount of discomfort for that patient in a bed because they don't know whether or not they are lying in a bed and enjoying a facility to which they are entitled or whether at any moment they can be thrown out of hospital. It needs to be dealt with,

The problem that the Ministry has...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his presentation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If the hospital has problems relating to admissions of private patients on public wards, deal with the culprits, the people who are doing that, but don't cast the responsibility or create any discomfort for public patients. I do not wish to see the day come in this country where that principle that people are entitled to free hospital care is ever compromised. I do not wish to see that happen.

Thank you very much.
2.00 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am a little disturbed by the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central because I cannot believe that the hospital authorities have become so confused and so unable to appreciate the basic philosophy of health care in this country as to be now confusing public patients in the way the Honourable Member has just described, I have no reason to doubt the Honourable Member because he is a responsible senior physician functioning in this country, if what the Honourable Member says is valid, then the Minister has a responsibility to get the matter cleared up once and for all. There has never been any divide on the issue of free access to health care for all Barbadians who wish so to do.

In that respect, Sir, I wish to talk to a matter which, when I was Minister occupied my mind. I have heard and noticed - I spoke recently to a O.P. who indicated that this matter has started to slide again. In the same way the Honourable Member is saying that every Barbadian

is entitled to free access up to a point in the Hospital, in the primary health care system if we have institutions in the community which make drugs available to the people in the community, there is no earthly reason why a person who first goes to a general practitioner should be denied access to the Drug Service at any polyclinic, It is irrational. It makes no sense. Any official who feels that that is what it should be is doing a disservice to the community.

First of all, if a poor woman or a poor man for reasons of their own chooses to go to a general practitioner in the community and pay that general practitioner a fee rather than going to the polyclinic, then that poor man or that poor woman is relieving the total community of a cost. And to insist that that person who goes to a general practitioner is then not able to obtain their medication if they are over 65 from the polyclinic is really to make a mockery of the issue because whereas the person can go and clog up the polyclinic system and therefore would be drawing on the services of both the doctor and the Drug Service in the polyclinic, if they choose, if they find themselves able to get half of the service, so to speak, from a general practitioner then the general practitioner and the patient must not be discriminated against. I find that unacceptable.

I found that unacceptable as a Minister when they proposed that as a policy and I never agreed to it and I hope that I am wrong but a general practitioner recently intimated to me that the situation has gone back to where somebody is dictating that if you go to a general practitioner who is a private practitioner then you cannot get free medication from the Drug Service. That is foolishness because by relieving the system of the first part of your course you are, in fact, helping the system. They have to find a way to do it.

Now, persons who are 65 or over are entitled - I do not believe there is any change in the policy - to free services. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital must understand that if a person is over 65 that person without more, *ab initio*, is entitled to free services. Here is confusion again. And I think they should take the time to train the people who work the system to understand the system. If a person turns up at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and he or she is 65 years old, and that person has not announced that he or she is going into a private service under a private practitioner, then without more that person is entitled, as I understand it, to free service.

An elderly person becomes even more ill if that elderly person, especially if the person is a Barbadian, comes to feel that he or she is unwelcomed wherever he or she is. You cannot get well if you go into a hospital and you feel that they do not welcome you, that you do not

belong there, that somehow you are intruding. I honestly cannot understand, I never could understand when I had responsibility for it, I do not understand now, and I do not think I ever will understand how anybody who is functioning in a service area of Barbados cannot see that these people who are past their 60s are the people who gave us the quality of life that we now have. How can they not see it? Old people, as they are called, ought to be venerated!

I think it is important that those who are functioning in the service areas be trained, be taught, be fought, whatever is necessary to let them know that poor people who come to the institutions are not begging for anything. They have earned it. It causes me much pain when my constituents who are entitled to be visited by people in polyclinics who get paid for visiting them, who are entitled to have services from polyclinics according to the primary health care system that has been accepted across the great divide of both parties - everybody in Barbados who has had responsibility agrees on this - are not visited. Every time an old woman or man is to be visited by somebody in a polyclinic they are being treated as though they are begging for something.

Months, sometimes years, go by and people in polyclinics who write letters telling me and telling those same people that they are in a catchment area have difficulty being called, being seen, being observed while they lie in squalor in homes because they are poor. Any Honourable Member in here must be aware of the plight of some of the old people, the elderly in our constituencies. We are spending \$60 million plus on health care in this country. We go out of Barbados, the Honourable Member for the City, the Minister, all of us go into the international community - and we brag about the health services in Barbados. The people who provide these health services must provide them!

I make no apology. I made none then and I make none now. I will not have my constituents being treated as though they are begging for salt. We spent \$6 million to put a polyclinic in Black Rock and I will not have anybody at the Black Rock Polyclinic treating the people that live in that area as if they are begging for something. They are the ones who paid the \$6 million. I am really quite fed up with people who are paid a decent salary by whatever standard you work it out, and who have a decent living, treating those who are poorer than they are as if they are begging for something. I am quite fed up about it.

I am saying on the Floor of this House. I do not normally interfere with anybody but I am saying that I reserve the right as a representative to name names if it comes to that. There are no DLP and BLP ways to

provide health care. If you are a professional working in a professional situation, you are supposed to provide professional care. We have a lot of people who seem to feel that they do not have to conform to their professional requirements. That is not true. The politicians can quarrel with one another but the politicians will always agree - they have to agree because it is valid - that in the final analysis it is the people of Barbados who count most,

I really am quite fed up, Sir, with some of the foolishness that is going on. If we tell the people that they are entitled to services and then when they go for the services they are being treated as though they are encroaching on somebody's time and space,, I am going to try to be restrained in this regard but I sound a word of warning, 2.10 p.m.

Even though it may be properly said or improperly said, that we engage in excesses when we are doing certain services, the fact is that the motivation for doing these things has to do with how we perceive the vast majority of the people in Barbados. The vast majority of the people in Barbados do not have any riches, as Your Honour knows. The vast majority of the people in Barbados are people who pay their taxes, those who have to. They expect that their children will do better than they did. They are orderly. They are very mannerly and they take an interest in what is going on in their country. They really do not ask much more than an opportunity to share in whatever goodies there are in the country.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Ministry of Health has, by and large, done a good job for the people of Barbados, over the years. There are a lot of unsung professionals who are out in the field especially, who do a good job. But there are a few in the system who create problems by their attitudes. I think that the Minister should pay continued attention to training.

The Minister should continue the emphasis on the delivery of service especially in the primary health care area. This relates also to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The vast majority of the professionals in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, including the nurses, are good people who try their best. But there is a general attitudinal problem where there are doctors in this system who feel that they are gods, that they are above reproach, that nobody can tell them what to do, how to do it or where to do it. They believe that they have some hegemony on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and all that therein is.

I think that, in 1995, it is unacceptable that anybody has to wait for 2 or 2V₂ years to get any procedure done in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There are doctors... You

know they say you must not talk about these things because you never can tell when you have to come under their hand. But I have lived long enough that it really does not matter, „in this country who cannot find it within their purview to serve the public sector, even though they are paid handsomely to serve the public sector,

If a person comes in, under the public sector, and that person could somehow mortgage their piece of land and find the fees, they can get moved up to the top of the queue. But they have to go and see the doctor in his private office. That is not acceptable. It never has been acceptable to me and it never will be. It is immoral. Let me repeat it, Sir. Let me explain what I am talking about. There are people who have to get an operation. They are public patients so-called. They are waiting 18 months, 2 years to get the operation. If those same persons go visit the consultant who is on the Queen Elizabeth staff and whose pay is included in the statutory provisions or the Estimates that we are now looking at, if those persons visit that consultant in his office or her office, then that person who would have to wait 2 years, as a public patient can suddenly get the operation in 5 weeks, as a private patient. In the same hospital!

When the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was Chief of Staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and we had not as many facilities and comforts and as much expenditure was not being used, as is being used now, the Honourable Member knows that the consultants used to perform 'their lists...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute to conclude.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: ...and their Registrars used to assist in bringing down those lists. The vast majority of consultants still do their work. The vast majority of them are still functioning the way the system was designed to function. But the few who do not so function create tremendous hardship for a number of my constituents and other constituents in this country. I feel it is my duty to make the statement in here that it is unfair for a person to have to wait on a long list for 1V₂ years and 2 years for a procedure that is available.

I congratulate the Minister if she is able to get the operating theatres going. When the political rhetoric is finished, we still have to deal with reality. If the Honourable Member is able to get 2 more theatres going, I congratulate her. I wish that all 6 that we refurbished and left will be going. The only reason they were not going, and the files would show, it was not for want of trying. It was always because of one reason or another which is not always acceptable. But if you cannot run the theatre yourself, you have to take what they tell you. I am glad

she is getting 2 more. I hope it would not be long before we get all going so that old women from St. Michael West, St. Lucy and St. Philip...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: ...and St. Michael South Central and, in fact, all the old women and old men in this country who have to get procedures like prostatectomies...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: ... I said old men. But you never can tell. ...so that they can look forward, not to the same instant care that you get at the Royal Arch or whatever it is, but some reasonable proximity thereof.

That is all I have to say on this issue, Sir.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make an intervention because a number of substantive points have been raised by Members on both sides. I must say that I am, up to this point, quite happy with the level of the debate because I feel very strongly that health is important to all our people and that the genesis of our development is based on it. The Barbados Labour party feels so strongly about the right of all our people to have access to health care that we state, very early in our Manifesto, that access to health care is an inviolable right. We believe that and my Ministry will have to function in that way.

The note on which the Member for St. Michael West ended is the note on which I wish to begin. Because, like him, I feel very strongly that the largest number of people who use the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are poor and black. They must not feel, as the users of this service, that they are beggars in the country in which their naval string is buried. They must not feel that because they cannot afford to be a paying patient that they are second rate in Barbados. They must not feel like that when they go into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Speaking only two weeks ago on the evening of the One Day International Barbados against Australia, at the Frank Collymore Hall, the occasion being the nurses award service, I took the opportunity then to sound a warning because I knew that the pressure would have been there and I wanted it to go abroad that the Ministry of Health is receiving too many complaints about the way that non-paying patients are treated, not only at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but the way users of the Polyclinics throughout the island are being treated.

I have gone into the very Black Rock Polyclinic, of which the Honourable Member for St. Michael West spoke, before coming to the office that I now hold and been

treated very badly by the staff there. When I was going through the work plans for this Financial Year, for the 1995-96 Financial Year with the staff of the Polyclinic, I made them aware of the complaints that I had been receiving and sounded a warning that it will not be tolerated.

Clearly we are going to have to give people more training. But I will try to make the point to diem that, in the same way that we are all users of services provided by the community and in the same way that we have a perception of how we want to be treated as consumers of services, then they must treat people in that same way when they are under their care. No less will suffice. Whatever it takes to make sure that the people of Barbados are able to boast, not only of a health care system that delivers new age technology but of a health care system where you do not feel as if you are begging for the service, whatever it takes, I intend to give it my utmost to make sure that that is what happens. I feel very passionate about it because my parents were born very poor and I watch and see how people who are perceived as nobody in this community are treated by people who should know better and by people who have had the benefit of education because of the very taxpayers who they are treating badly. It pains me and I feel very strongly about it and I certainly intend to put it in the forefront of how the interfacing with the public will be done by members of the Ministry of Health. 2.20 p.m.

Now, if I can turn to some of the other points that were raised. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, since I started with him, raised other points. One is the MRI. We are looking, in the Ministry of Health, at the possibility of establishing an MRI Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because I recognise its potential for remedy generation. But I do not want to act precipitously. I want to make sure that I am well guided before we put the unit in because MRIs are extremely costly. They are labour, intensive. The people who will man the MRI unit will have to be highly trained. In the Caribbean and in Barbados we have had a weakness or we have fallen down in relation to maintenance and repair of often very sophisticated and costly equipment purchased by the Government, and throughout the government services and every Ministry you can see equipment that is not functioning as efficiently as it should be because our maintenance programme has not been kept up. If we are going to have an MRI it is going to be critical for us to make sure that the unit is properly maintained and we are going to have to know how the recurring costs of this unit will be met. So that though it is under active consideration I am not at this time giving this Honourable Chamber any commitment that it will be established because we will have to consider what the costs are in terms of the

number of people who we send out of Barbados for MRIs and die numbers that we will be able to attract to Barbados to get MRI services here if in fact we do provide the unit. I promise to make the Chamber aware of any developments in that regard when a decision has been taken.

I believe that as a policy maker one cannot always be popular but I also believe that one has got to try to do what is right. I prayed very hard. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is always teasing me about the fact that I am a Christian. I do not profess sainthood, I profess only to be a Christian. I prayed very hard when I came to this Ministry that I would always be guided by matters of conscience and by doing what I know is right. I will therefore take any decision that I have to take, that I believe is for the good of Barbados as a whole, even if it alienates any small interest groups because the taxpayers have invested in me to carry out that very function. It is not my intention to derogate *from* that responsibility. So if it means that our nurses have to be taken in hand or that our doctors have to be taken in hand then we are going to have to do it and the Member for St. Michael South Central, as an active member of BAMP, should be encouraging his colleagues not to abuse or manipulate the system but to cooperate.

Now, the issue of private patients was raised. The policy of the hospital always has been that if a person comes through the Accident and Emergency Department at the request of a private doctor then they are deemed a private patient. If admitted to the ward, they are still regarded as a private patient. That as far as I am aware, is and has always been the policy.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. That, Sir, is a very fundamentally incorrect statement. I was Chief of Staff at that hospital for years. That is not true. That is certainly an untruthful statement and it would be an unlawful practice. Under the Laws of Barbados, the only private patients are those in the private wards of the hospital or in a Grade C Ward specially designated by the drawing of a screen around the bed. That makes it a Grade C bed to which private charges can apply. So that is unlawful and incorrect.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I can only be guided by the officers. As far as I know, I have been enunciating what the existing practice and policy has been, but it has been raised with sufficient seriousness that I think it warrants my close investigation and I will give a commitment to do that. What I am aware of is that there are private doctors, consultants and specialists, who bring in their private patients, collect fees from them, but try to bypass the hospital system and therefore do not pay any money to the hospital. Now, that practice is wrong and I know that immediately after Estimates, when I turn my

attention to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which is my next project within the Ministry of Health, that there are people who will not be happy when we have to deal with this matter, but it has got to be dealt with because it is a matter which impacts on the people of Barbados. I do not want to say anymore about it at this time except that the matter of the staffing of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and practices of that ilk are going to be dealt with.

The issue was raised about junior doctors and their non-payment and so on. In my view, that problem is a very real one but it also speaks to a certain lack of planning of the last Administration because we were aware that Mount Hope was opening and with Mount Hope coming on stream increasing numbers of junior doctors were going to come into the system. People are still coming out of Jamaica.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member would give way. I think the Honourable Member may, because she is making the point not realise that the whole question of Mount Hope is a university issue more so than it is a Queen Elizabeth Hospital issue and I think she would want to take into account the question of where doctors come for their training as a university issue more than it is a hospital issue.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: But that only points to the fact that there must be cooperation between the Ministers of Health and Education because the Queen Elizabeth Hospital trains our doctors. It is a teaching hospital and therefore the decision would have had to be made knowing that a facility is going to be producing doctors as to where these people are going to go. They cannot come out and walk the streets and do nothing. To be trained they have to become incorporated in the system and it is a hard thing to ask people to work for nothing. Clearly the Ministry of Health is going to have to make some decisions on that as well but again that too is under active consideration and we will be able to announce shortly how we are going to be tackling that serious problem.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The problem ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point are you rifling? Okay she has given way.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of elucidation. The problem relating to the almost over supply of junior doctors in relation to even your need in Barbados is fundamentally due to errors made by the University in the West Indies in the way they were structuring the curriculum, the time spent in internship and not making adequate provision for the increase in demand in the area. It is a serious matter, not only for the Hospital but for the medical profession

in Barbados and throughout the Caribbean in the future, and it needs to be dealt with at that level of University policy. 2.30 p.m.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: But that is only to confirm what I have said about the level of co-operation needed to tackle the problem between the Ministries of Health and Education.

I want to continue looking at the points raised. I believe I have dealt with the issue of revenue collection at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We presently charge private patients at the QEH \$150 a day, where the real bed cost of a private patient in the QEH is about \$450 per day, so it means that every private bed occupied by a patient in the private ward is actually being subsidised by Government. In my view the time is ripe for a revamping of this entire usage policy, the reason being, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central rightly said, large numbers of people are now covered by insurance and the QEH has not been collecting money from the insurance companies. * I did say in my opening remarks that part of our thrust at the QEH is going to be in revenue generation and that systems are actually now being put in place to ensure that the insurance companies do not slip through the revenue collection noose, because they have been making a killing, and to use a well-known Barbadian expression, they have been getting out licking out of monies collected from subscribers to the insurance services who do not then make claims for the costs that have been incurred and very often do not, as you rightly said, go into the private wards, they go on to the public wards. That has got to be dealt with. I concede that and again give the House the assurance that it is being dealt with and systems have actually been put in place to deal with it.

Remaining to be dealt with would be the issues raised by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The issues raised by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy are not of the same quality as those raised by other Honourable Members on the Other Side, but tended to be more facetious. There is no plan to shut down all the geriatric hospitals or the polyclinics, as was the suggestion of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. In fact* the polyclinic system was initiated by the Barbados Labour Party. One of the first polyclinics was the Maurice Byer Polyclinic which dates back to pre-1961, so there is no plan to shut them down.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member is once again

misleading the House. I have never mentioned the word "polyclinic"¹¹ in this House and I would ask the Honourable Member to produce the statement where I mentioned anything about polyclinics in this House today.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, if I have misrepresented him by mentioning polyclinics where the Honourable Member for St. Lucy did not say it, I apologise, but the reason is that I am accustomed to such gymnastics of illogic from him that I expect him to throw his net very wide and to include all the unnecessary, but I continue.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: But then she will have to withdraw the remark, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Which remark?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: About polyclinics. I never mentioned it.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I have apologised.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: And also, Mr. Chairman, I want her to answer the questions I asked on a point of order.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am in the process of answering them. I said that they did not have the same substance of the points raised by other Honourable Members on that side, but I will still answer them. I have them listed and I am answering.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have a half minute in which to do so.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir. The St. Joseph Hospital was of no benefit from the time it was purchased by the last Administration to the people of rural Barbados. As far as I am aware, the plan had been that it would be 70% private and 30% public, which meant that the people of rural Barbados would largely have been excluded from it. In all the time it was there it had no Accident and Emergency Department. There is no plan to close the District Hospitals. In fact, our population shows an aging profile and therefore there will be a need for greater geriatric services, whether they are going to be done in an institution of some sort or whether they are going to be done within the community. Honourable Members will be pleased to know, and the Member for St. Michael West would know what I am speaking about when I say that the community health profile which should have been done by the polyclinic nurses some considerable time ago, I have given them by the end of December in this year to complete it, because they have been going at too slow

a pace in what is a matter of extreme urgency. In addition to that, I have asked the Ministry to liaise with the National Insurance Service in order to get a list of every pensioner who comes on the roll every month, so that we can identify who these people are, where they are and what health services they need.

Mr. Chairman, I think that those responses have dealt with all the points of substance, and some not so substantive, raised by all Honourable Members, but I understand now that the Honourable Member for St. Michael East wants to take the debate on to another plane and I look forward to a discussion of this new area.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have not delivered a substantive speech in this matter, I only interjected on a point of order and I notice that the Minister who has been leading this debate has indicated that she is generally pleased with the standard of the debate and the level to which it had risen, because it started at an exceedingly low level and I want to say that between 11.00 a.m. and half past 2.00 - we are now moving on to 20 to 3.00-1 would have expected that the Minister would have located those documents or produced in this House the facts which support the allegations which she made this morning about the construction and location of the polyclinic in St. John. But since it is clear that she does not understand what she is talking about, is either speaking without the benefit of a brief, has a badly written brief, or alternatively off the top of her head, I have to explain to this House some very important facts.

There is presently a polyclinic in St. John and therefore the construction of a new polyclinic is merely to replace existing facilities. The concept, therefore, which the Minister has been speaking from does not seem to acknowledge that there is in existence in St. John a polyclinic. To have therefore made the illuminating statement, ignorant though it was, that this polyclinic ...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Honourable Member is asked to withdraw the offending remark.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You want me to remove the word "ignorant"¹¹?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Not even a blind man on a trotting horse would have made the jejune and juvenile remark that a polyclinic was being built in St. John because the purchaser of some plantations wanted to undertake housing development, for a number of basic reasons.

First of all, the entire area around Gall Hill, St. John and all of the surrounding districts is a Zone I area for which building would be prohibited. The only area that is available for housing is an area between the cemetery and the playing field at Gall Hill, and I know the Honourable Member for St. George North is committed, because he has strong links with the constituency, to seeing that housing project completed. Government is not building the houses, it is a sites and services programme. That is the only area, and we searched everywhere within a one mile radius of the existing Housing Area, which is Coach Hill in St. John, and there are no areas where housing development could be undertaken. 2.40 p.m.

The second point is that it is a fact that the facilities at the Gall Hill Clinic had deteriorated substantially. When the rain falls, as I understand it, the examination rooms are flooded and it makes it very difficult for the nurses and the attending doctor to function at the polyclinic. The polyclinic is an old building. It is not a building that the Democratic Labour Party, when it refurbished all of the other facilities in Gall Hill was going to repair...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I really don't know the difference myself. It is a clinic being replaced by a polyclinic.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not asking for anything that I am not entitled to ask for as the constituency representative. There is a valid reason why the Gall Hill Polyclinic was not completed. There was a choice between which polyclinic to complete and we opted to complete the Black Rock Polyclinic even though as the then Minister chairing the Estimates Committee meeting I could have varied that decision; but I felt that there was more progress being made and the time schedule for the completion of the Black Rock Polyclinic and we decided to forego the St. John Polyclinic.

Then again, last year, the then Minister of Health needed equipment for the landfill in St. Thomas and we had to forego \$1 million, which one assumes could have gone towards the Gall Hill Polyclinic, because of the commitment that he then gave that if whatever was to be done was not done in 6 months that he would resign, which commitment, as a result of later circumstances would have been unnecessary anyway and we probably could have started work on the St. John Polyclinic.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not bamboozling anybody. I am saying why it was not completed. You can put your own interpretation on it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You wish me to sit so that you can talk? Her behaviour is unbecoming.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am therefore surprised that the Christian Minister will not take this opportunity in this debate since she has done so in respect to other speeches to set the record straight and apologise to the House if she misled them with respect to the reason for the construction of the St. John Polyclinic. There may be some people who feel that the St. John Polyclinic was too large or whatever, but the point is I wish to know whether it is likely that the St. John Polyclinic will in fact be finished or whether it is not going to be finished. The existing clinic could - I don't even want to say as high as be refurbished - but it could become more habitable because it is very difficult, and I make a special plea on behalf of my constituents, who obviously have had to exist with those conditions at Oall Hill for some considerable time, the majority of whom use the clinic, not like some other parts of Barbados where there is a division between the social status of individuals. There is a large number of people who need to use this facility. Even if it is by my choice and direction, that is not the issue, and I am trying to make that point. You can flay me when you go into St. John. You have a right to do that and you did it. The Honourable Members went and said what they had to say about my stewardship.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for the City launched a massive drive with a platform populated mainly by female candidates to deal with me in St. John. You can do it again. The Honourable Member can do it as many times as she wishes until she makes the headway that she wants to make. That does not bother me, Mr. Chairman, I can defend my stewardship as representative of St. John. The Honourable Member can choose to do that as often as she wishes. That is not going to stop me. That is the point. It will not stop me from putting the case on behalf of Barbadians who pay taxes and who are entitled to those kinds of facilities.

The fact that it has not been concluded so far, I take full responsibility for that. I am not a hypocrite and I don't pretend to be somebody who is full of braggadocio and giving instructions and firing people and 'busing public servants as some of the Members on that side want to give an impression. That has never been my approach. I take full responsibility and all I am doing now is asking a question. The Honourable Member for the City is seeking to give the impression that as a parliamentary

representative I cannot ask a question. I take responsibility for the fact that the polyclinic was not completed.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am not trying to suggest that as a parliamentary representative the Honourable Member cannot ask a question. What I am trying to say is that if he demoted Oall Hill to a low priority he cannot now expect to dictate the priorities to the new Minister of Health.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. As far as I am concerned I was hearing from the Honourable Member for St. John. I never heard the Honourable Member for the City speak. She has not spoken yet so I am not taking anything she says into consideration. I am not dealing with responses to asides. I am dealing with your response, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir. I am saying that I am not going to be hypocritical about it. I accept responsibility that there were other priorities at that time because of the circumstances and I have to be judged by that. I am not putting up any mask or umbrella and asking to be shielded from anything. The Honourable Members on that side can feel free to journey to St. John as often as they want. I say that and I will still continue to forge ahead in requesting for my constituents those facilities which they are entitled to receive.

I am asking whether, even in the absence of this hypothetical housing development which was supposed to take place as a result of the purchase of the plantations, if we accept that that housing development cannot now take place because it is a zone 1 area, assuming that any of that were true, when will work resume, if at all, on the polyclinic, and if it does not resume, can arrangements be made for work to be done on the existing polyclinic to make it habitable? That is all I am asking for. This polyclinic was part of the Development Plan which the Democratic Labour Party put out in 1988-93 and I regret very much that it was not completed. In that time, along with the poly clinics in St. Joseph - Belleplaine Outpatients' Clinic - new clinics were to replace existing ones. Since 1988.

The plantations in St. John were not sold to anybody until 1992 and the person who owned them at that time himself was making applications for various kinds of development in Oall Hill and the Town Planner refused all, not even a car park outside St. John's Parish Church could we get, not even a little area to set up some shops for tourists to buy ice cream, crafts and that kind of thing. We were not given Town Planning permission for any development in that area. At the same time one gets criticised because people say that certain projects did not take place in St. John. 2.50 p.m.

There is nothing I can do about that because it would mean taking agricultural land out of agriculture which, as I understand it, is an abomination in Barbados, certainly based on the comments which people like the Honourable Member for St. Joseph have made from time to time. In that regard, unless the land use policy changes, there is not going to be much done in that area and I regret that very much. I depend now on the Honourable Member for St. George North, who, if he were on the front bench where he rightly belongs, in preference to some of his closest confidantes - I do not like to stir up strife so I will stop there.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. James South came out very strongly some months ago and made it clear to her public officers that they were to cooperate with the Police, as if they did not know that. She issued an edit from her office that the public officers in her Ministry were to cooperate fully with the Police. The Honourable Member for St. James South said that with respect to an enquiry into the Barbados Drug Service. That matter engaged the attention of the newspapers in Barbados. The Minister gave credence to that investigation by her utterings and we are told by persons who worked within the Ministry of Health by her actions in the Ministry, that some credence was given to it, that it was some kind of bombshell but that it should be dealt with very clearly.

I am not ascribing any blame because I know nothing about it. The Public Accounts Committee will be getting into that issue shortly because we want to make sure that the inventory of the Barbados Drug Service matches the appropriation so we will be fully investigating those matters under the Public Accounts Committee with the same vigour and attention to detail and we will draw the same kinds of conclusions.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member should know better. He has clearly prejudiced any conclusion which the Public Accounts Committee will now reach in respect of any investigation due with the Drug Service. He has prejudiced it. Indeed, I want those remarks to stay in the record because it would be a clear indication of bias.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point of order are you rising?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On what point am I rising, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Is that a point of order?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Of course, Sir. It is a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not really a point of order. I would still allow it in the record as he gave way to your speech.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, we will draw the same kinds of conclusions that other respected Public Accounts Committees, acting within the law and their remit, have drawn with respect to other enquiries which they have launched into other accounts in other Government Departments in Barbados and within the Westminster model throughout the Commonwealth. That is all I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that we will adopt the same strategies of transparency and integrity which previous Public Accounts Committees say they have adopted in investigating these matters because if the Minister cannot assure this House that nearly six months after she required her public officers to cooperate fully with the Royal Barbados Police Force, and law enforcement officers, and to this date there has been no further action taken, report made, inquiry launched, or any other effort by the Barbados Labour Party to ensure that this matter is fully dealt with and the perpetrators, if they are guilty of anything, brought to justice in this country or elsewhere, if there could be any way that they would assist in, for example, helping police forces outside of Barbados in concluding their investigation.

I think it is a travesty. It is first of all a travesty because the implication from the statement by the Minister was that she felt it was her remit to advise people to cooperate with the Police, which I thought was unfortunate because it cast a strange light on the public officers in the Ministry of Health. I would never have thought if I were Minister of Health even for a day that I would have to advise the officers there that they need to cooperate with the Police. We all must cooperate with the Police.

The reason why the Minister was saying so, in my view, Mr. Chairman, was that she herself may have been influenced by the same kind of information which other members of the public were influenced with and she therefore had to hold herself up as a person worthy of emulation by making it clear that her public officers were to cooperate to the fullest, no matter what they knew, who it affected, how it affected them whether in a social, economic or political sense. The point is that the investigation should have been launched because we heard all of this talk about transparency, accountability...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We have heard all kinds of comments over the past few months about it and yet one of the first opportunities which the Barbados Labour Party had to clear the doubts and demonstrate their faith and commitments to these ideals, it has failed miserably in that regard and that stands to the record of the Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise because I am tremendously concerned. I did say that I was happy about the level to which the debate had risen and indeed happy because it had so risen in the absence of the Honourable Member for St. John. But with his return, as he is wont to do, he has brought the level of the debate below subterranean levels.

I want to respond to some of the issues he raised that far, and the concerns which he seeks to draw, and the implications which he seeks to plant in people's minds because Barbados is a community in which there are rumours, and rumours of rumours. Everybody knows for a fact what has happened in relation to everything. Everybody can tell you, 'I know. I hear from a reliable source. It is not this. It is that'¹¹ That is the nature of the society in which we live. People's characters have often been slandered by comments about them going abroad that bear no relationship to the truth.

In relation to the Drug Service, rumours about infelicities in the Drug Service predated my coming to the Ministry of Health. Newspaper stories about wrongdoing at the Drug Service and speculation about scandals all started before September 6. Therefore, it cannot come out of the mouths of the Members on that side to call for investigation when indeed they had the Ministry at the time and it was up to them to investigate. The matters predated me.

I was called by a member of the Press and asked to comment again on title fact that a person had been held by the Police and they asked me what I was doing as the Minister of Health. Now, remember that in an interview with the Press they will take out whatever few lines they choose to carry the story with. I made it clear that the Ministry of Health, like all other Barbadian citizens, was under a duty to cooperate fully with the Police and that is what we were doing. It is not my duty to investigate. The matter is under investigation by the Police and it is therefore the Police to say to the public of Barbados what they have discovered. If there is wrongdoing then the Police must rout the persons out who are guilty of wrongdoing and must deal with them as the law allows. It is not for me to do that. It is only for the Ministry of Health to say, here we are, investigate us as you please. That is all the law requires of us. So that in saying that all I was saying is that I am acting in relation to what the law requires of me. But all kinds of rumours fed and fuelled by the Democratic Labour Party have gone afoot. 3.00 p.m.

The matter is *sub judice*. It is before the court. A person has been charged in relation to it and I do not know if the police have completed their investigations or are still carrying on investigations because they have said nothing to me. But if they are investigating people, then they must deal with them. If they find people who have perpetrated wrongs, they must bring them before the courts.

Since the matter is *sub judice*, I will comment no further on it, except to say that, like all the other scandals in Health, like Mount Stinkeroo, like the St. Joseph Hospital, like the Lions Eye Care Centre, like all of the other problems in Health. If, in fact, there is a problem with the Drug Service, it was a scandal that I found. Just as I have cleaned up Mount Stinkeroo and it is smelling cleaner than anybody in Barbados could ever have anticipated, it could have smelt, so too will the Drug Service be dealt with, if indeed there is something wrong going. But the police have got to indicate to me that there has been wrongdoing.

Two million dollars more have been provided for the Drug Service this year in order that we can extend our services to people who suffer with glaucoma, sickle cell disease, lupus, prostate cancer and to provide for the Cardiac Invasive Surgery Unit.

I want to deal with the matter of the St. John Polyclinic. The St. John Polyclinic was started at the social centre at Gall Hill in 1957. It was moved to its present location in June 1969 as a small clinic where it offers the public dental, maternal and child health services. Attendances at that clinic have been increasing significantly. It is a fact that the clinic is water prone, that it needs some structural upgrading and refurbishing. However, it is important to make the point that a clinic should only be built as a corollary to what the needs of the people are.

Our population is growing at .1% no greater than that. The catchment area for the Black Rock Polyclinic is 38 000 people. The catchment area for the St. John Polyclinic, as it is currently cited is 9 000, nowhere near the 38 000 of the Black Rock Polyclinic. And yet, the St. John Polyclinic is almost twice the size of the Black Rock Polyclinic. Let the Honourable Members on the other side explain why. Unless it was that they had anticipated some rapid growth based on secret deals that were being cut.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Will the Honourable Member not confirm that that Polyclinic that is built will not only capture 9 000 people from St. John but it is also to take off the people who are now being serviced by half the St. Philip Polyclinic? Did the Honourable Member not explain that the environmental health part of the Polyclinic will cover the entire south that is not

now covered by the Polyclinic in Oistin? Why does the Honourable Member not get proper information from the persons who are giving her or the persons who are giving her, give her proper information or try and understand the information she gets?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The population growth, in that area, in order to justify the expenditure and the construction of a Polyclinic of that size was projected at 15 000 people, almost double the current catchment area. The irony of it is that the change of site from the present location to the one where it is now makes it less accessible because fewer bus routes pass in front of the new Polyclinic. It is less accessible to the people from the south of Barbados.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading this Committee. One of the fundamental precepts of the Polyclinic system is that the persons who are going to the Polyclinic would be within, as far as possible, walking distance. The question of whether there is a bus route or not is hardly necessary or part of the determination of a Polyclinic. The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, if the idea is that 38 000 people can walk to the Black Rock Polyclinic, only 9 000 can walk to that in St. John and yet, it is double the size of the Black Rock Polyclinic. The gymnastics of reason practised by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has been proven to be contagious. All of them seem to be afflicted by it now.

The population projection is totally unrealistic. This notion of the Honourable Member for St. John saying that it is not possible to cite construction or houses in a Zone 1 area is completely inaccurate. It is possible to put construction in a Zone 1 area if certain types of sewerage are provided for, and you can get permission to do that. In fact, part of the St. James Secondary School, I think it is, is in a Zone 1 area and sewerage has been provided for. That type of sewerage would have been provided as part of the permission for the Housing plans. But I am not going to dwell on that.

Construction at the Polyclinic, so far, for only the concrete that we can all see there is \$2 599 388.08. It cost the taxpayers of Barbados \$10 000 a month to keep it in that current state. The construction was halted in 1991 and nothing further has been done on it since then.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. John cannot dictate to the Barbados Labour Party nor to this Administration what its policy should be. I am going to

find a proper usage where that building can be of greater benefit to the people of Barbados. But it cannot continue as a Polyclinic service in the way that it was conceptualized.

I find it almost amusing that the Honourable Member for St. John can be enquiring about the Polyclinic when his St. John Development Plan has collapsed. In all the time that he has been in this Honourable House after coming here, as the Honourable Prime Minister has said, on the back of a Barrow, he has never stopped to give the people of St. John the Development Plan that he had spoken of, at length, in St. John and elsewhere. Not a single element of that Plan has been implemented save a few tenantry roads, and tenantry roads, by themselves, do not constitute development. Development has got to be broader and more defined than the construction of tenantry roads. You can see how ill-conceived - since I have given the facts and the figures - this Polyclinic would have been. It would not have advanced the development of the people of St. John in any way.

Mr. Chairman, I think we need to be concerned about the way taxpayers' money is expended. There are several examples throughout the health care system and buildings that have been put down, over the last 8 years, of projects that have been started, and it is not only in Health. It ran the full gamut of the last Administration's policies. A school in St. Thomas where red ants are running through it. I could go on, at length, about a number of policies which bore no relationship to what they were truly intended for.

I speak, from the perspective, of what is actually there. This is not any attempt to lie, to deceive people or to misrepresent what, in fact, exists. People can go and see the size of the building for themselves. Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I should comment further on the St. John Polyclinic at this time, save that I would want to indicate that the relationship between CLICO and the last Administration is well known. CLICO provided for them, luxurious accommodation during their election campaign at no charge. When they had their recently held retreat, again ... 3.10 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is once again misleading the House. She is free to draw whatever conclusion she wishes but to say that any company provided luxury accommodation for the Democratic Labour Party free of cost is misleading. Whatever accommodation the Democratic Labour Party had it paid for.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: We have already heard in this Chamber that approval had been given for the same CLICO to have a radio station. The Honourable Member for St. John...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, the Honourable Member and the person who made that allegation, both have mislead the House. The Broadcasting Act is very clear. The only person, or entity in Barbados which can give approval for broadcast licences is the Minister responsible for Broadcasting. The Broadcasting Authority can only make a recommendation, but the decision relating to licences is within the province only of the Minister responsible for Broadcasting. Therefore no such approval was given for any company.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order, Sir. I already indicated to this Committee and I do so again to inform this Committee that I was the Minister responsible for broadcasting and that the Broadcasting Authority fell under my policy mandate.

I never gave any licence to CLICO or to any other such entity for wireless broadcasting, TV licence or anything like that. In fact I do not even recall whether any such application came across my desk. So I hope the Minister would withdraw any allegation or imputation that I gave any licence, or my administration because I was the only person, in law, who was entitled to give any such licence under the Laws of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. James would you please respond.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: It is the birthday of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. I will not irritate him today. I will say, simply, that the Authority approved the application and recommended for approval the application of CLICO to have a radio service within two days, an unprecedented rate ever for any application being processed and I believe that the record will show that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South was out of the country. But the Honourable Member for St. Michael South also knows that at that time members of his administration were not listening to him because ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I will make a ruling here. I am drawing Members' attention to the Standing Orders of the House and I want to quote from two relevant sections. I am dealing with procedure in Committee of Supply, Standing Order 66.7 "On the motion ...the debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided ..."

I also want to direct your attention to the fact that Members are supposed, according to Standing Order 28.2 "A Member must confine his speech to the subject under discussion, and may not introduce matters irrelevant thereto¹¹. I am quoting from the Standing Orders for the benefit especially of new Members and other Members who may not be aware of the rules. I am therefore asking

Members to desist from proceeding to discuss matters, which in the opinion of the Chair, are not directly related to expenditure on health as indicated in the Estimates. Therefore such matters that were dealt with should be struck from the record and I would wish that you proceed to deal with matters relating to policy under Health as indicated.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I will have the opportunity, at another time, to deal with the CLICO relationship. All I would say, Mr. Chairman, is that perhaps the greatest evidence was demonstrated in a front page photograph of the 'Nation Newspaper' when we saw a senior officer of CLICO whispering sweet nothings into the ear of a Member of the last administration.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to withdraw those remarks.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I will withdraw them even though everybody knows the predisposition of that gentleman from CLICO. I withdraw it unreservedly.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I deal only with the realities of life, just like my Lord did.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member is quite clearly flouting your instructions and I wish to move formally that her entire contribution over the past 15 minutes be struck from the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. The Chair determines those matters and the Chair has made its ruling already.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is titillated by mischief, hence his intervention in that regard. I will only say that in keeping with the policy of this administration, no money has been provided for the St. John Polyclinic this year but we are looking at how its role and purpose will be redefined in order to make it a more meaningful health care facility for Barbadians and when that planning is completed I will clearly have to come back to the Chamber, for a supplementary and to inform Members of what the plans will be.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I find it necessary to speak in this debate, specifically to the St. John Polyclinic and primary health care services. I find it unacceptable, totally, completely unacceptable that a Minister can come in here, Sir, and make the kind of broad statements which the Honourable Member has just

made about the St. John Polyclinic. I have reason to believe that the professional staff of the Ministry of Health has not changed. I have reason to feel, Sir, that the facts, not the opinions, the facts on which the decision to locate the polyclinic were predicated have not themselves changed and to the best of my knowledge when I last was in the Ministry of Health, dealing with the polyclinic, we discussed in the planning committee of the Ministry a paper which dealt with the whole question of the catchment area of the polyclinics in Barbados.

Now, there are some people who believe that after we serve as Ministers we forget but I have my details. I have the paper here with me, Sir. That paper was presented and here is the rub, Sir: "Following a review of the polyclinic services in 1988 it was recommended that the catchment areas for the polyclinics be redefined since it appeared that the existing boundaries had been arbitrarily drawn and did not clearly delineate the two catchment areas." In 1991 among problems experienced was that of data collection. Particularly the notification of births in the St. Michael area, underscored this need. In addition it was observed that since the catchment areas of the nurses and that of the inspectors working from the same polyclinic did not coincide a team approach to the delivery of comprehensive health care was not being practiced as expected. "This difference in the alignment of nurse/inspector boundaries for the polyclinics created difficulty in determining demographic profile and health indices of the area served by each polyclinic. 3.20 p.m.

It was agreed that in redefining the catchment areas and to ensure that any deficiencies of inadequacies in the system were identified, the following points should be considered:

1. The polyclinic location,
2. The areas from which attending patients come,
3. The available bus routes.

It was expected that review of the catchment areas would achieve the following:

1. Promote a sense of acceptance and professional intra-sectoral collaboration by polyclinic staff, polyclinic by polyclinic, and

2. Assist in establishing a sound base for the data collection process with the aim of providing a well defined demographic profile and health indices of the area served by each polyclinic.

This would assist in the task of providing good management information and identify deficiencies in the system.

A Committee comprising:

The Senior Medical Officer of Health (North)

The Senior Medical Officer of Health (South)

The Medical Officers of Health

The Chief Public Health Officer

The Chief Public Health Inspectors

Senior Public Health Inspectors

Senior Health Sisters

Records Officers, Ministry of Health and

Senior Health Planning Officer

was convened in 1991 under the chairmanship of the Chief Medical Officer to discuss the realignment of the boundaries of the catchment areas."

I will spare this Committee the difficulty of reading this entire Paper. I commend it to the Minister, if it has not yet been put before her, as a basis for discovering how decisions were made in the Ministry of Health. They were not made willy-nilly, nor were they made with the enrichment of any individual or citizen or company in this country in mind. They were made, as you can hear, on a professional basis. I think it is unacceptable, Sir, for a Government that has determined that it wants to have rural development, which at the same time has decided out of mean spiritedness to shut down a particular polyclinic to then come here and to seek to justify their decision on the basis of the most specious and unacceptable argumentation I have heard in a very long time. The Minister ought to have a lot more respect for this Committee than to come here and seek to fob off their decision on the basis of some specious and low-minded rumour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair considers the word "low-minded offensive.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying it is unacceptable for anyone to come here and on the basis of any low-minded rumours.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the basis of, ... okay.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member for St. Michael

West cannot put it in that way. Whatever he wants to tell me outside of this Chamber he can do, but in this Chamber he has to frame his language within the boundaries of propriety which the Chamber requires, because to talk of people actuated by rumour of low-mindedness is indeed to impute bad motives to me and I cannot allow it. I have already sat in this Chamber and heard, during the course of one speech, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West call me a liar and the worst sort of liar four times. On that occasion the Chair did not intervene and I pray and crave the intervention of the Chair on this occasion. Do not let him batter up this woman in that way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair understands the Honourable Member for St. Michael West to be saying that the Honourable Member for St. James South was inspired by low-minded rumour.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: No, Sir. I will tell you why I could not have said that. I do not believe that the Honourable Member for St. James South is capable of inspiration and therefore she could not have been inspired by any low-mindedness, so I did not at all mean that. But the Honourable Member has said in this House in this debate today that the officials in the Ministry did what I wanted them to do. The Honourable Member has said that they followed blindly my instructions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair wishes to be guided. I would therefore want you then to rephrase your statement in a way that we can understand within the parliamentary context.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: Right, Sir. I believe that the decisions of this Committee can only be made properly if the information which is brought to this Committee is at the highest possible level and is a substantiation of truth to the best of the knowledge of those who bring such information. I believe that Ministers of the Crown have a special responsibility, since they have access to all of the information in Ministries when they are prosecuting the responsibility of a particular Ministry, to give accurate, correct, valid and truthful information. They may have opinions, Sir, which may differ substantially from the opinions of those on the other side, but they have no duty to seek to link decisions made in the Ministry on information and/or speculation and/or mean-spiritedness. That is the gravamen of the point I am making, Sir.

I charge the Honourable Member, now that she wishes me to address her specifically, Sir, through you, with being reckless with her language. She is showing what in other places has been called a reckless disregard for the

essence of debates in this House, whidi themselves are based on truth and probity.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, again I want to rise because I think that once again the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, albeit the language sounds charitable, is imputing improper motives to me, but I would wish to give the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, that for whatever reason even if I am careless with my tongue I will not be careless with the taxpayers' money, unlike him.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Her carelessness with her tongue is of no concern to me. What she does with her tongue is her business.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I saw the Honourable Member turn and look to the heavens and pause. Was he asking the Lord to forgive him for telling a lie, because he knows well that my tongue is of concern to him?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Fortunately, Sir, we have in the Chair a man who is familiar with the Lord and the Honourable Member in the Chair knows that the Lord delves all over the place and He finds solace in helping the just and the unjust. But let us proceed, Sir.

I became Minister of Health in 1987. At that time CLICO was not a bugbear or a catch phrase or a catch word for anybody, CLICO had demonstrated no interest whatsoever in St. John, in sugar or in any aspect of rural life.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am discussing me, Sir, I am not discussing a matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Pass on quickly.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir, I am. I am explaining that the decisions that were made to put polyclinics in Belleplaine, in Horse Hill, in St. John to replace the ...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is not to be taken seriously on these matters.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I have not entered into this debate. If the Honourable Member wishes to invite me to enter into this debate to take on some of the allegations which seem to

have difficulty in finding their place among truth, I will take him on, but I have not entered this debate.

Mr. B. M. TAUT: The allegation has as much difficulty with truth as she has with the English Language.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I will say nothing about her capacity for truth, because that will come out in due course, but I am pressing on, Sir. The point I continue to make is that the decision concerning the primary health care system in Barbados was not made in relation to any single polyclinic, it was made in relation to having the polyclinics located in such a way that they could be equidistant, that they could have reasonable access for those persons in the area, and I made those decisions. I am saying of my own knowledge that the decision to put the polyclinic in St. John was made in consultation with the officials, with all of the facts taken into account, and I deplore any suggestion that there might have been even the slightest glimmer of malfeasance related to the actual decision of siting the polyclinic. Further, I deplore seeking to implicate the Honourable Member for St. John in the decision making. The only thing the Honourable Member for St. John is guilty of is a serious failure to accept that on the occasion when he refused to include St. John in the allocation for primary health care that the Ministry of Health was right. 3.30 p.m.

Let me tell you how it was done further. We went out to competition. The competitions for the two polyclinics were done at the same time. The polyclinic at Black Rock and the polyclinic at St. John went out to public tender, but the design of the polyclinic went out to competition because we wanted to have a competition to see who could produce the best kind of polyclinic, given the environment where they would be located.

I recall that these two polyclinics were in competition together. Black Rock and St. John were considered at the same time and this is in response to the question of the size of the polyclinic. The design of the polyclinic which won the competition was based on the topography of the land which was owned by the Government. Remember I indicated earlier that the overriding factor was that the cost of this polyclinic would be considerably reduced because the Government already owned land on that particular spot. When one sees the design which was put on display for public view it takes account of the entire environment and if the designer's name could be called it would be advertisement.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is

trying to mislead the House. The land at St. John at which the polyclinic is sited was acquired by the Government of Barbados in August 1990. It is a plot of land 7 760 square metres. It was purchased by the Government of Barbados for the purpose of siting...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: From whom?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Church. The Barbados Diocesan Church. I will sit down so that you can get at it now. Don't keep bounding up for no reason. It was purchased for the siting of the polyclinic there.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, she misses the gravamen of the point I am making. The point I am making is that the decision was predicated on the belief that the land was owned by the Government because...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member would wait. On that spot was an almshouse and it was assumed that because there was an almshouse it was owned by the Government.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Ladies, please.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. One person at a time.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: They are both ignorant of the fact and they do not wish to listen. It was assumed by all and sundry...

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is not the repository of all knowledge. On the first occasion at which he spoke before my intervention, had I remained seated it would have gone in the record that the Government owned the land. Now that I have corrected him, he is coming back to say it was assumed. That is indeed how he ran the whole Ministry - by making assumptions which later turned out to be false and involving the taxpayers in a lot of ridiculous expenditure.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am going to let that pass, Sir. The record has to be clear. There is a piece of land next to the land owned by the Government. That piece of land was acquired and that is the piece they are talking about. Get notes from the officials. Ask the officials to send you information and don't let a little... Sorry, Sir. Get the officials to send you information.

The whole area of land it was determined would be required. It is the land opposite to Mr. Jordan on

the corner. That 7 000 square metres was included in the acquisition because it was assumed that since the almshouse was on it that it was owned by the Government, only when they did a search they discovered that it is owned by the Anglican Church, the Barbados Diocesan Synod under the Anglican Church Act. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, it was agreed to acquire the land. That was in 1991. We did the planning in 1988.

Therefore the concept of CLICO, this is the only point I rose on, Sir,

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: This issue is not one on which they ought to be any controversy. The facts can be ascertained very easily and the Honourable Minister may be trying to make a political point, having gone down the road on the issue and having agreed in strategy that it would be a good thing to tie it on to other statements that have been made, especially about the Honourable Member for St. John, may have found herself down a wicket. I am saying that this is a wrong issue on which to peg any of that kind of mischief because it cannot work.

The decisions to put the polyclinic across from Mr. Jordan in St. John on the corner were made in 1988. They were made in conjunction with officials. We went on a site visit with officials from the whole Government because we wanted to put the polyclinic where the people had been accustomed going.

Finally, we had a competition which was won. It was a public competition and the design was...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No. It wasn't Sandiford and Small again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his presentation.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It was by another company, a white company - a male Caucasian company. They had in fact put up the best design. They incorporated the concept of the windmill. If the Honourable Member looks at the design, the Honourable Member will see why.

I am sure the Honourable Member, the Attorney General, having gone to Lodge School and having seen the design would have agreed as well. Therefore, we accepted the judges' opinion that that was the best design and that is the design that went out to tender and the tender was won by Rayside.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, what is the matter with this Christian woman? Mr. Chairman, why is it that every debate we have in this House the Member for St. James South is able to bring it to the bedroom? I do not understand that. What is her problem?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his presentation.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West is going to have to rephrase. He says that every debate we have I bring to the bedroom. That might suggest. The prospect of it is so frightening that I really think the Chair should judge.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I will withdraw that, Sir. It doesn't have to go to the bedroom, apparently, for the Honourable Member. So I withdraw that. The point I am making I finally say that we should put this to rest. Please do not let us have any more discussion about this being leaked to any other aspect of life in St. John. This was a decision made in proper circumstances for the people of St. John. 3.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I ask your indulgence just to read out...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up. You have made your point.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I will ask somebody else to do it.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to say a few words. I have listened both sitting in this Committee and outside, to this debate I must say I am somewhat disappointed at the kinds of issues that we are spending our time on during these 1995 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure as the legislators in this land. In my view, it is not the most efficient and best usage of the time that is at our disposal. If I could reach into the works of Shakespeare, Sir, I would have to say that it is stale, flat and unprofitable. It is an unweeded garden that grows to shame.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the Honourable Member like to say where he is getting his quotation from for the benefit of Honourable Members?

Rt. Hon, L. E, SANDEFORD; I would hate to think that in this Chamber of very learned parliamentary colleagues that I would have to cite the source of my quotation. But if you press me, Sir, I would say that it is from the "Tragedy of Hamlet", and let anyone challenge me on this.

Let me make the point, Sir. I believe that the people of Barbados are interested in knowing how these Estimates and the discussions that we have on them are going to advance the health status of the people of Barbados further. How are they going to make a dent in the major causes of disease and death in this country? How are they going to improve the lot of our children?

Coming at a time, I think it was two months or so after the world lost one of its leading advocates for the Rights of Children, including the health of children, from one of the most prestigious of the United Nations specialised agencies, UNICEF, we would want to know how these Estimates will reduce the time that our constituents, the people of Barbados, including my own constituents of St. Michael South, will have to spend in the Accident and Emergency Department, popularly known as the Casualty. How will they bring health care into the community, not only for those suffering from mental or psychiatric problems, but for those who are discharged from our tertiary level institution and who have to be brought back to that institution for follow-up care, or after care, or however it is styled?

In sum, Sir, what we are interested in and should be interested in as a Committee is how our primary level of health care, our secondary level of health care, and our tertiary level of health care will be improved by these Estimates. The people have decided that there should be a change of Government, and that the reins of Government should be given to a new administration. We want to know how they are going to improve health care in this country. To talk about polyclinics and St. John and whatever else is pointless. We have to build upon what has been achieved so far. That is the experience in this country down through the years. But apparently there is a feeling that we can only progress, and it seems to be deep within our own cultural development in Barbados, if one administration seeks to pull down another administration in order to make progress for the people of the country.

Sir, at this time, and even during the depths of the recession in Barbados, Barbados was recognised worldwide as having an outstanding health system. It is because of our work in health and in the other socio-economic areas, that even in 1992 we were designated as the leading developing country in the world when placed on a human development index profile. Let us not try to pull down one another, pull down Ministers, pull down Parliamentarians and pull down officials, by words of sheer malice, simply because we take

decisions which, in our best judgment, would help to improve the health status of our people.

I would not have believed that we would be having an argument on polyclinics. It is little known that I was a Minister of Health for a short period of time, and that the first multi-purpose health clinic, let me call it that, was opened by me as Minister of Health in the mid 1970s. I think we have a lot of educating to do in this country. There was a change of name. That is what happened. You buy a gallon of paint and you change a name from multi-purpose health clinic to polyclinic. You go from the Latin "multi"¹¹ to the Greek "poly". So they are now polyclinics, but the first one was opened at Warrens and it was based on the work that had been done by Dr. Ramases Caddie and me. 3.50 p.m.

Of course we did that, when we took responsibility for the Ministry of Health... I believe the Minister may want to update her knowledge of the history of health in this country, because there is a feeling that this development was a Barbados Labour Party thing and whatever else. I am not particularly interested in whether it was a Barbados Labour Party thing or a Democratic Labour Party thing. I am interested in truth to the historical record, and what the record will show. We are not trying to rewrite history. But I think we have to set that record straight.

There was an intention that there would be the expansion of Polyclinics or multi-purpose health clinics throughout Barbados, based on the work that had been done in what had been previously called Health Centres. It was a carefully thought out plan to bring comprehensive health care to the people of Barbados. We did not talk about rural Barbados or urban Barbados or anything like that, because I think Barbados is too small for the use of those kinds of terms anyhow.

We are one country and a country that can be governable. We are a country that can achieve one of the highest health statuses throughout the world. We can do it if we place our emphasis on primary health care and preventive care. But, at the same time, we must have a balanced health system that would look after, within the framework of our resources, the secondary care level, and the tertiary care level, as well as all of the support services that are required. As in education, we need a balanced health system. There are many demands to be met, Sir, and the resources are few.

I hope that in the time that is left to us we can get back and focus on the issues involved. We felt as

a Government, my Administration felt, that there was need for a second institution in Barbados to complement the work of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and to take some of the load off that particular institution.

That was a decision that we took, Sir, and we stand by that decision. We believe that it was the right decision. We do not believe that there was any madness in it. We believe that, in the Ministry of Health, there is a good collection of professionals who can help to push that work forward.

Why should we, in Barbados, be trying to pull down our achievements in health? Why should we be trying to show that we do not know what we are doing in health when, on the international scene, all eyes are on Barbados and we are complimented for the work that we do in these social areas? Why do we have to go down these paths and get into a kind of cannibalism, when we can take a different road and pull our resources together, pull our strengths together for the betterment of our country.

I just want to make that appeal and I do it in all seriousness. For if we continue on our present path, we will continue to wonder why it is that there is deterioration creeping into the other social sectors. We will wonder why our young people are behaving as they do, if they do not know what is civility, if they do not know what is respect for themselves and for others. But if we do not show it on the Floor of the House, we really are not setting the right examples.

Sir, some 58 years ago I came into this world kicking.

Aside,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to conclude.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: My father will be 96 years old this year. My mother is 91. They are both alive. I do not know what is the prognosis for myself, but some have tried very hard to get rid of me already.

Asides,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope the Honourable Member is not speaking of the Honourable Members on this side.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Certainly not, Mr. Chairman. We have all made use of the health services of this country. I believe that this country can provide a good living for the people of our country. Let us pull together and try to make our country a better place, as far as health and the other sectors of our economy and society are concerned.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not usually speak on health, except for sanitation matters relating to Mount Stinkeroo and the debate has not yet reached there.

Let me, first of all, Mr. Chairman, wish the Honourable Member for St. Michael South a very happy 58th Birthday. I hope his dad lives to a ripe older age also, Sir. I understand that the Honourable Member has spoken in that vein just now because he sees himself as a kind of elder statesman not wanting to get involved in the political rough and tumble any more. But he will well recall his years in this House. He has been here longer than any of us and he knows that it is important, for both sides from time to time, to dwell upon historical fact, if only for the sake of ensuring that the record is not distorted.

When, therefore, Members on either side genuinely take positions from a desire to ensure accuracy, even if that means a criticism or an attack on either side, it is not to be implied that one is dragging down the country. In that vein I am assuming - because I was not there for the debate, but I had a quick word with the Minister of Health - that she was trying to set the record right in relation to the St. John Polyclinic. The facts, as given to us in a document,...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is asking me, how many snakes there are in Barbados? He is the biggest boa constrictor.

Aside,

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Only one. That is you. The only snake in the grass in here. Slippery but harmless.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1988 - and it is important that the Minister of Health should have referred to the St. John Polyclinic. Because during his speech on the second reading the Honourable Member for St. John himself spoke on the St. John Polyclinic and hoped that it would be completed in our time. 4.00 p.m.

In 1988, the Cabinet took a decision to construct this new polyclinic. There had been a site at the social centre where the residents of St. John who had occasion to go for health care used to go and over time the attendances at the clinic became so vast that it was necessary to build a new structure. No problem, that Government took that

decision in 1980 and in August 1990 they acquired 7 760 square metres from the Diocesan Trustees for additional space, the contract was awarded to Rayside for \$6114 803 to be completed in 72 months.

On the 23rd of October 1991 the contractor was directed by that Government at the time to cease work. They closed down the work on the place and in 1993/94 Estimates there was no financial allocation for the St. John Polyclinic. So it was another example of a project that was started with a lead up to the election. Remember, Sir ...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: August, 1990 acquired the land and contract was awarded. Work did not start until some time in 1990 and in 1991 it stopped. I am only saying, Mr. Chairman, that if you look in this book, the development plan of the Democratic Labour Party for the years 1993 to 2000, at page 265 you will see what that Government, at the time when they were the Government, had planned.

Polyclinic Development Programme for the year 1993-94: All they intended to spend on the polyclinic programme was \$708 000.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What did I bring it for? He knows that I am a researcher. I wait and hear him talk all day long. I have learnt that from practise. 1994-95 not a cent to be spent, blank. 1995-96 not a cent to be spent. 1996-97 not a cent to be spent on a polyclinic programme. The first allocation was for fiscal 1997-98, \$2 million. And the Honourable Member for St. Michael South would want us to come in here and keep quiet about that, to distort the record? We have to make it clear to the people of Barbados that in the Democratic Labour Party's own Development Programme they did not intend any polyclinic development until the fiscal year 1997-98.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am nothing to do with CLICO. CLICO is an insurance company. CLICO is entitled to buy land if they have the money to buy it all over the place. CLICO is entitled to have a relationship with the Honourable Member for St. John. That is their business. It does not concern me. I am dealing with the polyclinic programme to the extent that I am reporting to this House that the plan of that Government itself gives the lie to any intention, any purported statement that they had any intention to develop polyclinics, far less, the St. John Polyclinic before 1997.

This is a public document which was intended to be taken seriously. Their so-called intention as expressed in here this week in relation to the St. John polyclinic has been contradicted by their own publication.

Now, Sir, in the scheme of things there is a change of Government. No one on that side would deny that consequent upon a change of Government it is within the discretion of the successor Government to determine what are its priorities according to its programme. I want it clearly understood that we will not accept any criticism that we are doing nothing to progress the St. John polyclinic when they themselves had intended to do nothing about that until 1997. So we will see how it works out in the scheme of planning and what priority is accorded by the Planning and Priorities Committee in the year 1997 to harmonise their own thoughts and projections as set forth in the document, Development Plan 1993 - 2000.

Sir, with specific reference to the opening hours of polyclinics, I would only like to appeal to the Minister to see to what extent she can come to an agreement with the relevant interests, doctors and nurses in particular to have the Warrens Polyclinic which is at a focal point, a big catchment area, opened, let us say, to 8 o'clock at night.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not know. The Minister will know what she has to do.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member will give way, that issue has been canvassed fairly often in the debate. The truth is that the last administration did make a policy decision to open up the polyclinics at different times up to 8 o'clock. The problem was that the negotiation and discussions with the relevant unions were taking place and then came the protocol and you know that no decision can be made without the protocol people. But I take your point.

Hon. Miss. H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order for the benefit of the record in relation to 2 points. One was raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and the other by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and they are that in 1986 when the Barbados Labour Party left office the polyclinic services were open until late in the evening. That was stopped by the incoming DLP administration.

The other point of order and correction which I want to make to the record is that the polyclinic services were built by the Barbados Labour Party exclusively except for the polyclinic at Black Rock which is the only polyclinic that was built by the Democratic Labour Party and the announcement at the time was that it would have

been named after the wife of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Asides,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. There is one person on the Floor. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has the Floor. 4.10 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir, the guillotine will be on at about 6 o'clock and it is about time that we get the debate where the debate should be.

Aside,

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, we have to carry it up in St. Thomas.

I want to compliment the Minister of Health and the officials in the Ministry, even the Manager of the Sanitation Service Authority, for the excellent job that they have done in reducing the mountain, formerly known as Mount Stinkeroo, for ever to me still known as Mount Stinkeroo, to where it is now to a nice graded area at Mangrove Pond.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I do not resile from anything I have said before in this House. Last year I said that the Manager of the Sanitation Service Authority was incompetent and should have been fired. I am not withdrawing those remarks, but I want to qualify them, because for as long as I was inveighing against him -and I am big enough to put it in the record of the House of Assembly, let me make that clear - when he was the Manager under the Democratic Labour Party, he did not have the courage to look me face to face and say to me: "My problem is that these people would not give me any money, these people would not give me any equipment." His deputy was telling me that, but he is the Manager.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Now, you know how the people of Arch Hall lambasted you to your face when you had the gall to go up there. Keep out of this.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, it was only in November at the meeting to which...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think for the record "lambasted to your face" might suggest you meant me.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am saying that the people in Arch Hall lambasted the Honourable Member for St. Lucy when he had the gall to turn up at the meeting. It was only in November, 1994...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this House. He knows quite well that the people of Arch Hall did not lambaste me. If he is referring to a magistrate I might agree with him that a magistrate lied on me.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I too wish to rise for the purpose of correcting the record. I was present on the evening when the Honourable Member for St. Lucy came to the meeting at Arch Hall and Bennetts. Two things saved him from being publicly flogged on that occasion. He was abused, people shouted in anger, people came up and booed him, people came up to the microphone asking him all sorts of questions, the atmosphere was hostile. Two things saved him, the intervention of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, who said: "All right, all right, do not carry it along so," or something to that effect, and the fact that there was a reminder to the persons present that: "Could Lord, after all you are in a Church, don't kill him in here."

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, what I am saying is that it was only in November last year when the Manager and officials of his department and the Ministry were invited to meet us in the Cabinet room that we really understood the size of the problem, because when the Prime Minister made it clear to him that he wanted no excuses, he wanted no problem of pollution of the atmosphere in and around Bennetts, Arch Hall and Mount Stinkeroo, and he would make whatever funds were necessary available to the Manager, that the Manager for the first time by appearing to be dumbstruck at the generosity of the Prime Minister, when called upon, having regained his composure, explained for the first time that this was the first time a Government was prepared to give the Sanitation Service Authority the necessary funds to deal with the problem at Mount Stinkeroo. So that he allowed himself to be verbally flogged by me, Sir, for more than a year without fully explaining, as he had a duty to do, I am a Member of Parliament and I was doing my job on behalf of my constituents, and he could have said to me: "The problem is that they will not give me money."

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That was the problem that the Honourable Member, when he was Minister of

Health, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, starved the Sanitation Service Authority of the necessary funds to cope with the dump. He did!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. The Honourable Member himself knows that he was present when this Minister of Health gave the Sanitation Service Authority a new landfill. I know nothing about any Mount Stinkeroo. The Estimates are here to show. How could the Honourable Member get up and say that the Minister of Health starved the Sanitation Service Authority of funds? I think it is a distortion.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is not a distortion, Sir. He went up there the Saturday evening and opened what he then called a state of the art landfill, but after that cosmetic appearance he failed as Minister responsible, and his successor, to give a continuous flow of adequate funds to the Sanitation Service Authority to do the job up there. Traxcavator? Never bought!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I challenge the Honourable Member, the Manager of the Sanitation Service Authority, his deputy and the whole host to deny that the Sanitation Service Authority always had either the equipment itself or access to the equipment which they called for to run the Sanitation Service Authority environmental programme at Mangrove. The record will show that they rented their equipment from Rayside and that it was always available. I think it is a travesty for anyone to say that they were starved of the funds. Whenever they were sober, Sir, whenever the Deputy was sober enough he could run the place with the amount of money they had.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is asked to note that when these disparaging remarks are being made about Members in their official capacities that prior notice....

Aside,

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do you believe you were loved by the people in Health? They despise you, man.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He said the Deputy Manager of the Sanitation Service Authority,

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I said, Sir, whenever he was sober.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think the clear imputation is that he was usually not sober,

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. If you wish me to rephrase it, but I never said anything about his sobriety, I said whenever he was sober.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: My view of it is that he was not always sober.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But I am speaking of my own knowledge, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, could you please rephrase it so that I can understand?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am speaking of my own knowledge. The Honourable Member knows Sir, because the Honourable Member has represented him as a lawyer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member please rephrase his remarks so that it can be clear as to what he is saying?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw them, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I represented him as a lawyer when the Chairman appointed by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West was doing that Deputy a lot of mischief. The deputy is the strongest supporter of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. I represented him and I told the Honourable Member for St. Michael South at the time what was happening, and the deputy refused my advice. He had a classic case of constructive dismissals. He would have got about \$200 000 odd and he was so loyal. When I told him, "Let me put them in court now for constructive dismissal", he refused to sue the Sanitation Service Authority and he lived to hear what you said about him in here. 4.20 p.m.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You don't want me to defend him? I will have an opportunity.

You never gave the Sanitation Service Authority enough funds adequately to buy cover material. I am not saying that you did not have Rayside up there and he wasn't paid for the work he was doing digging out the hard rock and all of that. I am saying that the problem which always lies...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The matter to which I referred is that the Honourable Member said that the Member for

St. Michael West starved the Sanitation Service Authority. That is what I am alluding to. I say it is not so. I am saying and I can produce evidence that the Sanitation Service Authority on more than one occasion at a planning meeting indicated that they had enough cover material. The Honourable Member himself has said in here that the cover material was so stacked that it pushed down the borders. There was sufficient cover material.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. That is absolutely untrue. I could not say. I used to go up there at least once a week and you only went once.

Mr. B. M. TAUT: If the Honourable Member would give way. Just a few weeks ago in this House when I raised questions refuting the allegation that there was no fence, the Honourable Member himself said that they had so stacked the covering material that it pushed down the fence. It is in the record.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: What I was saying at the time... He distorted my speech. I was explaining what was Mt. Stinkeroo and that the area east of the hut was a great mound where they had all the bulky material distributed and particularly the tires. It rose to a great height and the fence that they had put around it collapsed under the weight. He did not understand. That is nothing to do with covering material. You would have to push down that, grade it and then cover it with cover material but he went up there one day to pompasett and large off that he was opening this new facility and thereafter didn't go back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Honourable Member, address the Chair properly.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was not the Commissioner of Police, but I went up in Parish Land and spoke to the people up there. You have no sense of humanity. You like to large off. That is your problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Michael West,,

Mr. B. M. TATTT: Not me, I don't large off.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am not the Member for St. Michael West, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have the right to clear the records.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: A poor-great attitude to ministerial responsibility. That is what he has.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up his presentation. Order, please. The Honourable Member is asked to note that I save him some time.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes Sir. Expired?

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move that the House be now suspended until 4.45 p.m.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I beg to second that.

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

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of a Resolution for a supplement to the Estimates of Expenditure 1994-95, No. 8 at Head 34, Ministry of Education and Culture, Programme 5 in respect of tertiary sub-program 04: Other Institutions be amended by inserting after (vii), (viii) Other Similar Institutions Providing Training.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I think I should indicate that in the circumstances I would rather do this in all of its stages today. It is just an amendment supplement in respect of education.

Mr. SPEAKER: So be it. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it should revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make my contribution to Head 36 under the Ministry of Health which covers a significant area of responsibility, but after making a few comments that I need to place on the record relative to the Hospital services available to this country, I will want to focus my attention on the area regarding the monitoring and control of sewage disposal, solid waste disposal and the maintenance of cemeteries, etc.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the political climate in Barbados over the last 2 years was one where we saw the issue of health politicised to such an extent that the public at large failed to have a responsible position with regards to the development that had in fact taken place in Barbados in our health institutions* I shared the views that have been expressed in this Honourable House where we should seek not to pull down a system that is certainly complimented throughout this region and recognised throughout the world. As we market our tourism product throughout this entire world, we are able to safely say that the health services and the emergency services provided in Barbados are of the highest quality.

Mr. Chairman, I made the point about the danger of the political invectives interfering in the proper articulation of our health programme in this country, and I was indeed very sad when we saw a significant public relations exercise being carried out by a group of persons against the Democratic Labour Party and certainly against one of its Ministers who was Minister of Health at that time.

I sat through an entire Public Accounts Committee session, many meetings and I was very satisfied as a member of that Committee that the time spent and the kind of propaganda that resulted from those meetings of the Public Accounts Committee were politically motivated, sought to use as what is now becoming very common ploy techniques that are designed to pull down Government and at the same time promote themselves. What we may want to describe as a lazy man's job,

We should not seek to enter into the House of Assembly merely on the issue of pulling down systems or pulling down individuals. What we should in fact be doing is to prepare the groundwork for ourselves to enter Parliament by doing the necessary community work and making sure that we are in the process of uplifting people rather than seeking to take national issues and use them for political purposes to seek to denigrate the character of persons in this country. I saw that happen and it is unfortunate that it has occurred and I hope that we can move away from that kind of attitude and involve ourselves in very serious debate on these issues.

The Minister of Health. I would want to bring to her attention a few concerns. First of all, I would like to congratulate the staff at the Hospital who are responsible for the asthma bay and the casualty department because there has been a significant improvement in the delivery of health care in those two departments. I, myself, am a chronic asthmatic and I have to say that I am very proud that in Barbados we are able to offer that kind of facility to asthmatics. It is a department that is well run and asthmatics should take advantage of those facilities because the immediate treatment that you get in that facility is very

laudable and I would like to encourage all asthmatics, all over Barbados, to take the treatment seriously and let us make sure that never again in the history of Barbados we have the unfortunate circumstance where we lose some person through an asthma attack when it can be avoided. These are the kinds of issues.

We have a problem in Barbados where with regards to the receipt by attorneys-at-law of medical reports it is becoming a major problem. It seems to me that when lawyers and certainly the police department are in the process of processing claims to be settled and they are awaiting medical reports there seems to be an unsatisfactory delay in preparing those reports and I believe that that is an area that the Minister will have to address. Certainly, we should be able to find...

Aside,

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I am sure that the Minister will want to pay some attention to it, because it is annoying and it is time consuming and there are several people who are frustrated on an ongoing basis. This is not a problem that you have created or anything like this. This is a problem that is ongoing and we really should seek to correct it.

I would also make the point with regards to the Hospital that I am very disappointed that the Government has taken a decision to shut down the St. Joseph Hospital. I believe that that Hospital with its difficulties had the potential to assist in the overall development of health care in this country. Certainly, if I were a parliamentary representative of a constituency I would never seek to shut down a hospital that can service my constituents with immediate effect. I would seek to do that. Even in light of the fact that I have been indicating publicly that part of my programme is for rural development, I find it passing strange that he would want to shut down a rural hospital and seek to ignore the development of a polyclinic in another rural area...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. We have been in this debate for a long time in this Committee and it is therefore difficult to listen to the Honourable Member misleading the House. The St. Joseph Hospital was not providing access to medical treatment for persons living in the North and living in rural Barbados. Therefore, to equate any keeping of the St. Joseph Hospital open with the fact that you have a rural development plan is to mislead the House, and doing so mischievously in my view too.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member does not know, but I am saying and putting in the records that a large number of persons at the Hospital have had consultation at the St. Joseph Hospital.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the Hospital itself has the potential of being a centre that can be used in the development of health tourism where we will be able to attract people to Barbados, let them take advantage of the environment that we are able to offer in this country, house them there, treat them there and let them meet their consultants there, charge them an appropriate fee and eventually, like all of the other projects it takes time for these projects to get off the ground. Health care has been subsidised in this country for a long time. All of us are clear in our minds that health care has been subsidised, but what we are seeing acted out in this country is that as a result of trying to satisfy an end where there was a political division between two political parties on the subject of the St. Joseph Hospital that a decision was made to satisfy political means. I think that is a dangerous position for us to accept in this country. That is a dangerous trend. 5.00 p.m.

Similarly, Sir, we see a situation developing where we see now again in this country political intervention with regard to the disposal of solid waste in this country. I feel, like I feel about the St. Joseph Hospital and these other areas, that we should not seek to satisfy political decisions at the expense of the development of health care in this country.

I believe that with regard to the solid waste disposal in this country that all of us on both sides of this House must accept responsibility for the proper planning and implementation of any solid waste programme in the future in this country.

I will not have enough time in this present...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has five more minutes.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: The country, Sir, experienced a problem in 1991, 1992 and 1993. We can argue at length on both sides of the House about the management whether it was good, whether it was bad, whether there were problems, whether they were not, whether the Barbados Labour Party put it, whether the Democratic Labour Party put it, we can go backward and forward. The point is both administrations over the last 15 or 20 years understood that we had to take decisions with regard to the disposal of solid waste. Mangrove was selected in a rushed arrangement, progressed on an *ad hoc* basis which created a problem. The Democratic Labour Party under my honourable colleague from St. Michael West sought, for the first time in this country, to place a scientific landfill at the disposal of the Sanitation Services and we accept that we have had problems coming out of that.

Garbage smells bad wherever you put it because even if you go back up to Mangrove...

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: It was still smelling up to two weeks ago. We can go backward and forward on these arguments but the point is that as we look into the 21st Century, we cannot have rushed political decisions. I understand that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas had a responsibility to his constituents and had to seek representation when it became a problem in St. Thomas. Now, I want to be fair to the Honourable Member because there are serious questions being asked in this country today about the siting of a landfill at Mangrove. There are serious questions in this country with regards to siting a landfill at Greenland. There are serious questions about siting a landfill anywhere in Barbados.

The point is, Sir, that we have to find a solution in this country within our means to make sure that our future is protected with regards to the disposal of solid waste. We must allow the Government the time, without harassment, to make sure that a proper environment impact assessment is conducted and not necessarily by the consultants who conducted the pre-feasibility study. I think we should have a new and independent environmental impact assessment study done by new and independent professional consultants.

I feel, Sir, that this country should not necessarily be guided by political positions but we should seek the professional advice available to us to make the right decision regarding the disposal of solid waste. We must allow time. I call on the Government to remove a deadline of moving towards a June 30 deadline. I notice in these Estimates that there has been a vote for the closure of Mangrove and for the opening of a landfill at Greenland in the absence of a complete and finalised environmental impact assessment. Sir, we run the risk, and I will have to come back because I want to deal with the cost involved with regard...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I have to come back, Sir, and deal with the cost involved that we will find ourselves in the future with a situation where we are voting in these Estimates an amount that we consider to be within our budget but find that we are way off base in the overall calculation. We may have a monster on our hands, not necessarily Mount Stinkeroo. We may have a financial monster that we may not be able to grapple with in the near future, but I will return.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: I rise, Sir, to lend support to the debate under this Head 36 - Ministry of Health, a Ministry well managed by my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Health, who has taken on the responsibility of a Ministry besieged by scandal and corruption in some places. I am quite sure that she is on the road of putting the right medicine to cure those irregularities.

In any organisation, Sir, be it big corporations, that is, private corporations or public organisations such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, low morale leads to low productivity. A situation exists within the QEH where nurses have been appointed and have found themselves in a worse position, that is, financially, than they were before their appointment. An appointment should not make one any worse off. An appointment should make one better off.

This concern I am talking about, Sir, exists where there are some nurses there, registered nurses, and before that some of them had worked at the Oistin and St. Andrew maternity institutions. After the closure of those institutions they were put to work at District Hospitals and were being paid the maximum pay for the midwives. They all got enrolled in the Associate Programme and did a three-year programme and then they were appointed to work at the Hospital as registered nurses. They have found themselves in a position where some of their counterparts are receiving more money than they are receiving and some midwives too who are below them are being paid on their scale. The situation was taken to the authorities, that is, the Permanent Secretary and, as far as I know, it was also taken to the Public Service Commission. To date they have not got the matter resolved. 5.10 p.m.

Aside.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Not one word, as the Honourable Member said. What has now happened is that it has gone into the domain of the National Union of Public Workers.

I am asking the Minister, through her goodly office to pursue this, look at it and make sure that this problem is resolved for these people. There are Registered Nurses who did the Associate programme and they are being disadvantaged because they are not being paid the amount of money they should have been paid. July will be 2 years that these nurses were functioning as Registered Nurses. I need you to look into this situation in order to get it resolved. But, as I said, it is now in the domain of the National Union of Public Workers.

Aside,

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Yes. July coming will be 2 years. Some of them, in some cases, are making between \$280 and \$300 a month less than they should have been making.

My other concern, Sir, is with the overcrowding in some of the wards at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This overcrowding has gone to the extent where there are beds within certain dining areas of the QEH. This problem of overcrowding is enhanced by the fact that there are a lot of elderly people in the Hospital who should not be in the Hospital because they are not there as medical patients. They are there because they have, in some cases, been abandoned. There are situations where old people go into the Casualty. They are not medical patients so they are just there in the Casualty Ward. When they need the room in the Casualty Ward for emergencies and so on, these people are then put on wards. I want the Minister also to look at this matter of overcrowding.

There is some section -1 hope I got the terminology correct, if I am wrong, correct me - a respite department where, old people...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to hear that word.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: I am asking if it is...

Aside,

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Respite. Okay. My Minister said it is respite care. They did not merit attention as a patient but because of problems at home say with their family and so on, sometimes the family if they are not getting on well with the patients can talk to the Consultant and the Consultant can admit them to the Hospital and no one is going to question the authority of the Consultant. These old people are there in the Hospital.

There are 2 cases now where there are two people there who were there for about 6 or 7 months. It is time they be discharged, but the families do not want to take them. The situation also arises where, when you have people in there, sometimes the family does not come and look in on them. But the families are still receiving and holding on to the pension cheques. I believe that social services should get involved in that and make sure that these cheques are stopped. I know that when they go into the Geriatric Hospitals, as an automatic procedure the cheques immediately stop going to the people.

My next comment is to do with the Laundry at the QEH. Here you have an institution with a Laundry

that should be seeing after all the laundry at the Hospital. You have cooks working on weekends, bank holiday weekends, you have porters, orderlies, but you have a Laundry that is closed down on weekends. I believe that in an institution like that, you should not have nurses having to be running from ward to ward on weekends borrowing linen in order to make the patients comfortable. I believe that the Laundry, in the Hospital, should be opened on weekends. Sometimes it is said that the laundry is so offensive on bank holiday weekends that, in some cases, some of the laundry is thrown away. This again puts pressure on the finances of the institution.

Mr. Chairman, the only other point I want to make at this stage is another area of overcrowding. It has to do with, of all places, the Morgue. Sometimes when there is an overcrowding of corpses in the Morgue, some of these corpses have to be sent to Two Sons. They need some kind of extension in the refrigeration services in the Morgue of the Hospital. When these corpses go into Two Sons Funeral Home and they are ready then to be sent to the funeral parlours, they are sometimes in a very bad state of decomposition. I am asking that the Minister, through her offices, will look into these problems at the Hospital.

I will rest there. I thank you.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not usually speak on matters pertaining to health but I think I find it necessary to rise, in this Committee, and to lend my support to the Minister of Health who, I believe, upon entering the Ministry of Health was confronted with a veritable mine field whether it be the St. Joseph Hospital, the St. John Polyclinic, the Lions Eye Care Centre, Mangrove alias Mount Stinkeroo, the absence of ambulances, or it just was the fact that there had been, for the last 8 or so years, a shift in the emphasis in the delivery of health care in this country to treat those matters which, perhaps, really were matters that a few people in this country may have suffered from those afflictions, as opposed to dealing with the basic health requirements of the people of this country.

The stories are legendary of those persons who have had to wait for years for basic, simple operations to be conducted at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The stories are legion - as my colleague from St. James North is correcting me and I accept it - in respect of those persons who have had

difficulties at the Polyclinics, be it Warrens Polyclinic, Maurice Byer or the Edgar Cochrane or whatever. I believe that the decision which she has taken to close the St. Joseph Hospital to see how the persons who were currently at the Hillside Home could be resited so that we could stop spending \$500 000 to support the presence of 3 patients, who could have been and since have been placed elsewhere, and the decision not to proceed with the eye care centre as laudable as it might have been, in terms of its original aims, are bold and courageous decisions because they are decisions which are likely to excite opposition among sectoral interest in this country. I believe therefore that she has shown not only courage in taking those decisions but indeed a compassion in understanding the needs of the majority of Barbadians in this country who rely on the public health care system and who therefore would wish to see a return to our capacity to deliver those elements of health care in an efficient manner and in a manner that allows them, Sir, to have their peculiar problems dealt with. 5.20 p.m.

I am particularly heartened, Sir, to see in this Estimates an increase in the provision for the National Drug Service, a substantial increase I might add. I believe, Sir, that the decision to broaden the entitlement under that service to persons suffering from glaucoma, prostate cancer, sickle cell or lupus is one that is well taken because there are a number of persons in this country, Sir, who have been suffering from those ailments and who, until now, have been prevented under the drug service from being entitled to those drugs under the terms of ...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member but the information she is giving to the House is misleading. Lest there was a change since I was last there, all persons suffering from any chronic disease got medication free. Prostate cancer is no different from any other cancer except it happens a different place. I do not understand what is this new move that I am hearing.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I do not wish to engage in battle with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West who seems intent on repeating himself either because he did not understand what he was saying or he felt that there was some need.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: If the Honourable Member for St. James North says that he believes that he is still Minister of Health, then so be it. But I have been instructed, Sir, and properly so advised by the person who now holds the instrument for the Ministry of Health and I therefore have every reason to accept that advice.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, I would advise the Honourable Member not to accept advice she gets however wrong it may be. I was saying that it is a policy in the Ministry of Health that all persons with chronic diseases get their medication free,

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I will not allow any Member...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is not listening to asides. The Chair is listening to you,

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am saying, Sir, that the Honourable Member must not mislead the Committee. I am saying that the Minister of Education as she now speaks is misleading the Committee. Long, long ago it was determined that persons suffering with chronic diseases would have medication free. If that policy was changed the Minister of Education should indicate when it was changed.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I stand by what I said and if I have therefore to accept the advice of the Honourable Minister of Health or to accept the words of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West I really have no choice and I would therefore stand by the advice given by the Honourable Minister of Health.

I want, Sir, to make the point that there has been a decision to broaden the entitlement of persons in respect of their access to medication under the National Drug Service. If it is that they were entitled for prostate cancer before then, Sir, then so be it but for lupus, for sickle cell and for glaucoma, Sir, I am instructed that they are now so entitled.

Now, if there was a problem in the delivery or the access of those persons because there was a shortage of funds to buy the medication that was necessary to deliver to those people, that problem is also now being solved by the increased allocation to the National Drug Service and it is a substantial increase, Sir, this year.

I also want to commend the Minister of Health for a decision that relates to the psychiatric hospital where that institution has seen an increase in the allocation of funds and more critically, Sir, an increase in the provision of nurses because the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, when he was Minister of Health, presided over a situation where the allocation of nurses to patients was woefully inadequate and I now understand that there is a provision in this year's Estimates that not only will they

receive 18 new positions in respect of nurses but they will also take nurses from the Re-hab Centre at the St. Joseph Hospital as well as the Hillside Home which has now been closed. So there is a clear policy decision to increase the nursing services at the Psychiatric Hospital which has been badly in need of that...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member, Sir. It is sad when you are swimming in areas to which you do not have knowledge. The Honourable Member is misleading the Committee. The Honourable Member is giving the impression that the psychiatric hospital's staff is going to be increased by the return of the persons from the St. Joseph Hospital. The fact is, Sir, that the persons at the St. Joseph Hospital who were working in the psychiatric unit at the St. Joseph Hospital had been on secondment because the unit which still belonged to the psychiatric hospital had been seconded. It is now coming back so they are still on the establishment of the psychiatric hospital.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West clearly did not hear what I was saying, I have said that in the course of this financial year there will be a return of the nurses from the Re-hab Centre at the St. Joseph Hospital thereby correcting the imbalance that he gave when he ensured that those nurses were transferred down to St. Joseph Hospital to tender to an empty hospital and the wastage, Sir, of almost \$30 million that cannot be accounted for.

Now, Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. Michael West feels that it is desirable to send nurses down to an empty complex rather than providing for the needs of those people in the Psychiatric Hospital then, Sir, that will give you an indication of the level of callousness and the lack of compassion, not only of himself but of the Government of the Democratic Labour Party. But, Sir, what more can we expect from an Honourable Member who has said that there should be another Sherbourne, another \$30 million means nothing to him.

Now, Sir, in respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I am heartened, Sir, to see the decision once again to try and strengthen that institution. I understand, Sir, that there will be provision for two new surgeries. I understand, Sir, that there have been four surgeries that have remained there for some time non-operational and as a result people in this country...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Sir, the Estimates of 1995-96 indicate at page 180 under Personal Emoluments Head 36 that the staff at the Psychiatric Hospital for 1994-95 - 174, for 1995-96 - 174, no change.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, if he understood anything about how Government...

You see, Sir, he was so unfortunate that he came, according to Plastic Bag, and begged for a play at the last minute and ...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I was the first person, to lift up her when she entered this world and I do not want to insult her. When she was born at the Hospital I was the first to hold her, so I do not want to have to deal with her. The Honourable Member must withdraw the last remark that she made.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I have been instructed by my mother whom I really have every reason to believe that the story of the Honourable Member for St Michael East that he was the first person to see me or lift me up is untrue. I therefore believe my mother.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: The Honourable Member was there but she was not conscious of being there at that time. She was unaware of what was going on around her. 5.30 p.m.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Michael East should say what form of maliciousness and peeping he was into, since we know he is not a holder of a degree in medicine.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: At the time, Sir, I was a very close family friend, and I still am.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order. If the Honourable Member appreciated anything about a knowledge as to how Government works, he would know that simply looking at the statutory personal emoluments will not reveal how many persons are in fact working in the institution, because there may be persons who may be seconded or otherwise transferred from that institution, but even more importantly, Sir, I am dealing with the question of the nurses. By the admission of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, nurses were transferred from the Psychiatric Hospital down to the St. Joseph Hospital when there was a need for them at the Psychiatric Hospital. I do not know what utter nonsense I am hearing.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I was talking about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital before the Honourable Member for St. Michael East rose on his point of order,

and I will return to that. I understand that the four surgeries were non-operational, that the Honourable Minister of Health has taken a decision that the long wait being experienced by many people in this country for basic surgery has to be tackled, and to that extent it is critical that we bring back on stream two surgeries at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Not only has that decision been taken, Sir, but the support services required in respect of X-Ray equipment has also been tackled not only by new equipment for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital itself, but I am further instructed that all of the X-Ray equipment now currently at St. Joseph Hospital being used by a number of persons that is under the number of 25 will be transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for use by persons at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where there is an acute demand for those services. That includes the new equipment which was ordered by the St. Joseph Hospital just recently.

The question of the maintenance of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It has always disturbed me, Sir, that when you enter that institution you see tiles falling down here, parts of the institution really looking in a shoddy state and I believe that we owe it to ourselves to be able to maintain...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. Clearly you have not taken account of the interruptions. Nevertheless, Sir, the maintenance of that institution in my view is a critical issue that has to be dealt with and I am happy to say that the Ministry of Health in this financial year is proposing to deal with that in an efficient manner. I believe that if we were brave enough to put aside a little money to deal with those issues of maintenance every year, we would not have to deal with massive refurbishment as we are not having to deal with in the primary school plant, particularly because the Democratic Labour Party Government failed to provide adequately for the maintenance of that primary school plant and has now left us with a bill in excess of \$14 million to refurbish that primary school plant.

In respect of the question of Supplies and Materials, my own experience and my own visits to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to see people from my constituency have shown me instances over the last few years where basic supplies and materials could not be obtained. There was an Honourable Member in this Chamber in the last Session whose medical treatment was delayed because they did not have - I believe the word is isotopes - for the X-Ray machine to do a lung scan. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East knows well of whom I speak, Sir. He had to wait for over 36 hours until those

materials could come in, when his life was in jeopardy. I am saying it is not good enough, that we have to have basic supplies and materials readily available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and if persons' lives are lost because of an inability to have access to those supplies and materials, we are to blame in this Chamber.

Sir, I will stop at this point now, although I really wanted to congratulate the Honourable Member in respect of Mangrove and to go on, because with all of the loud voice and protestation of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, the Honourable Member for St. James South has achieved what he has never been able to achieve. That has been the ability to come to grips with Mangrove and to do it in a manner that is acceptable to the residents of Arch Hall and Bennetts, who were persons suffering, and I find it strange to hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael East say that it is not a political issue, because the first day after Greenland was announced, four or five of the Members on that side were found in Greenland who had never visited Mar grove when the people were suffering and now want to tell me this is not a political issue?

Sir, I finish with those words and I support the Honourable Minister of Health.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. There was significant concern on the part of the Democratic Labour Party with regard to the handling of the dump at Mangrove. One of our Ministers even went as far as to say that if the situation was not corrected that he would put his ministerial position on the line. That, Sir, is a demonstration of commitment. In addition to that, the Prime Minister visited the area, the Minister of Health visited the area and several of the other Members of Parliament who were interested also visited the area, including myself.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East never visited the area, but he found himself down in Greenland.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I will try to move on to another stage in this debate. I am beginning to get very concerned with the quality of advice being given to the Minister of Health.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I rise on a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central need not fear until he starts to advise me.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You can rest assured that I will always give you the best advice at any time. You can call

me at any time, day or night, and I will advise you. Not to worry. When somebody advises a Minister that isotopes for lung scans should be kept in stock in Barbados, I would say the person giving that advice can only be an idiot.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. Nobody has said in here that anybody advised any Minister about isotopes being kept in stock. I stated that there was an Honourable Member of this Chamber in the last Session who took ill, whom I took to the Hospital and who was unable to get a lung scan for over 36 hours. These facts are well known to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. I was told that the reason why he could not have it done was because there were no isotopes in stock. Now if every time somebody comes into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital they have to wait 36 hours for isotopes, well so be it, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, if I can only get started! I have been trying for three minutes or so to get started and I cannot get started. All I am saying is this. We do not have a nuclear plant in Barbados. Any isotopes that we use are flown into Barbados, they all have a half life, that is, that they deteriorate every few hours or every 24 hours at a given rate and therefore there is always and will always be a situation where there are no isotopes in Barbados for 2 or 3 days. No one can store isotopes in Barbados for the simple reason that it is radioactive material with a short half life that would deteriorate. Over and above that, you have to tailor your ordering to the demand otherwise you will be throwing money down the drain. 5.40 p.m.

I was the first person who established the relationship between Barbados and AMERSHAM Laboratories for bringing isotopes to Barbados for the treatment of thyroid diseases. I was the person that set up the programme so I know what I am talking about. If you want to have it here continuously, you will probably spend 10 or 20 times as much money as you need and have a whole lot of radioactive waste all around Barbados.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir, having been a spokesman for the members on the other side they are all agreed on this point, hence supporting the notion of the amalgamation of the NDP and the DLP.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: On a point of order, fliere is a Rule. I appeal to you, Sir, that the Honourable Member, the Minister, is behaving in a very frivolous manner in a serious debate. I think you should strike what she said from the records, Sir. It is frivolous and vexatious.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair does not accept the point of order. We will proceed.

t>r. R. C. HAYNES: The conditions of sickle cell, lupus, erythematosus, prostate cancer, glaucoma, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the drugs used in those conditions have always been on the drug formulary.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I rise on a legitimate point of order. The chronic diseases dealt with by the Drug Service relate to hypertension medication, hypertension diabetes, cancer and angor and epilepsy. They don't deal with glaucoma, sickle cell anaemia, lupus or prostatic cancer as we are now proposing that those drugs go on. So, in fact, the Honourable Member by saying that they are always available under the Service is misleading the House.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am saying that these drugs have always been on the drug formulary as available. Not the full range of drugs but the drugs principally used, the condition of glaucoma is principally in the over 65. The question of lupus erythematosus, affects a few people in Barbados and sickle cell anaemia may normally manifest itself in chronic renal failure. So this is no big addition. This is the kind of nonsense usually put out by the Drug Service. That is what I am telling you and whoever is running that Drug Service they need to be harnessed. This is the kind of foolishness that they should not be putting in the mouth of a Minister.

In other words, what I am saying here is that when this comes as a matter of policy and you are talking about \$2 million, that is foolishness because there are very few patients who can benefit from that. The majority of sickle cell anaemia cases require no treatment at all and there are few patients with lupus.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: If you continue to give the Chamber the impression that the \$2 million is to deal with these ailments, that is not correct. There has been an increase of \$2 million in the Drug Service because of the increased usage of the service, but not particularly to deal with bursitis. Part of the expansion will include that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The majority of the people suffering from sickle cell anaemia would probably require no treatment. There are a handful of people suffering from lupus. The majority of people with glaucoma would be over 65, and how many people have prostate cancer? This lot of talk is a bunch of foolishness. Anyhow, let me move on.

Having dismissed that foolishness, I ask the Honourable Attorney General if he could tell us how many

snakes there are in Barbados. He told me that there was one snake and that was me. Since it was a boa constrictor, I told him that I am going to wrap around him and I am going to keep squeezing him for the entire 5 years.

Apart from that Sir, there is a genuine reason why I ask for this. This is a very serious development in Barbados. This is a country that harbours snakes very easily. We had a lot of difficulty in getting rid of snakes in Barbados and there are a bunch of clowns in this country, including people who run pet shops, who have been importing snakes into Barbados. Can you understand the implications to the environment if these snakes multiply throughout Barbados? Do you realise that people will stop cutting canes that are unburnt for ever more. Do you realise the implication of having to burn canes if the country is overrun by snakes? There are not only boa constrictors in Barbados. This matter needs to be dealt with and dealt with seriously now.

The second point I want to raise about these snakes is that - I have never seen any in Barbados - I doubt whether or not we have the anti-snake venom in Barbados to treat an emergency. As you know, these emergencies can be critical. A boa constrictor is not venomous, but there are other snakes in Barbados that people have brought into this country which have fatal poison and sooner or later we are going to be landed with an emergency.

I suspect that if the problem is developing...

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You keep laughing at the problem. The only problem is that any of us could be walking at night...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, nobody is laughing at the Honourable Member. I just said it is a good point he is making. What I did say when he saw me laughing was that he has gone with tomorrow's headlines. You can't beat him on that.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: From my perspective of things, if one life is lost because of a bite by a venomous snake in Barbados that is of importance to me. It may not be important to other people. That might be considered to be alarmist, but the reality is that we have to set up a surveillance at the Port and the Airport and make sure that these people do not bring poisonous snakes to Barbados.

It could have serious economic problems, as I have already told you, in relation to the sugar industry and the cutting of canes and also it can impact seriously on

the health of people in this country. I think that if we have the snakes around, we should try and find out what other snakes there are that have been brought into Barbados and we should get a small stock of the appropriate antidote for the venom and have it kept here.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: We don't know, but we should try to find. It is a big problem because very often these antidotes are fairly snake specific, as far as I am aware. I have no experience of it and I have never been exposed to it in the treatment of anybody, but I think they are snake specific and therefore it is important to look into this matter and not let it get out of hand.

The second point I want to raise very briefly and I know that other Members want to speak. I don't want to spend too long on this. I have in my hand a document called Analysis of the Second Landfill Siting Study Addendum 6A - the Stanley Report offered by Christine Keller who has a Masters Degree of Science.

Sir, this relates to Greenland. When I read this document I have come to the firm conclusion that not only should there be no attempt to place a landfill at Greenlands, that it should be halted immediately, that the consultants who recommended it should be fired and if they have not been paid as yet they should not be paid at all and that a comprehensive new study should be done.

Very briefly, any member who wants to read this can read it, but these are the kinds of conclusions which they have come to. It can be made a document of the House, Sir. No problem at all. Listen to what this expert has to say about the report that the Ministry of Health is acting on in this country.

"The approach undertaken by the consultants of the Stanley Report was complicated, inconsistent and flawed."

That's the first point they made.

"There is no financial analysis."

They continue.

"Glaringly absent is treatment of recurrent costs. Recurrent costs including such items as labour hours and a whole range of factors involved there, including engineering works and a whole lot of other factors have been set out there. The capital costs are all wrong. The capital and some recurrent costs associated with waste transfer stations are not presented at all in the financial section."

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... Methodology, Sir. ¹⁶With no established base lines, the study fell prey to a host of methodological flaws and biases. Elimination criteria came and went. Some sites were subjected to certain elimination criteria, others were not. Criteria definitions were changed. ¹¹

Sir, all the wrong things were done in evaluating the various sites in Barbados.

"Compounding this problem were the numerous internal inconsistencies, some of which is due to absence of established base lines."

It goes on and on. I would love to read the whole report for the House, but I wouldn't want to deprive other Members of the opportunity to speak.

"Another methodological flaw concerns die calibration of reports rating scales. That is where they rated one site higher than another. It was biased towards positive findings and therefore systematically underestimated the degree and the importance of the negative ratings."

What is being said here is that they biased the ratings in favour of Greenland and underestimated the ratings in favour of the other sites in order to come up with a preconceived and pre-determined answer. A negative rating which might have disqualified Greenland. Listen to this.

"A negative rating which might have disqualified Greenland altogether under a tier of one elimination structure linked to health risks comes under the surface water resources fresh and marine criterion."

That was thrown out completely in the analysis.

"A rating scale that placed health risks as a first tier might have eliminated [this is what the expert is saying] this site as being too unsafe."

Sir, there are whole lot of reasons here.

"Under the criterion, ground water resources a rating scale that places health care of the large domestic and tourist population from Paynes Bay to Holders Hill to Holetown and Westmoreland might have related to Blowers and so on."

So it is a balanced study in that it was critical of how these various factors affected not only Greenland, but all the other sites that were considered. They came to

the conclusion that it was a poorly done study without proper scientific evaluation and therefore is not even worth a penny far less being followed up by Government or by a Ministry of this Government.

For a long time I have suspected that the people of St. Andrew knew what they were talking about. The people of St. Andrew are right. It is all confirmed here in this expert's study because these are the same things that the people of St. Andrew have been saying in their own language not in scientific language. When this is reduced to ordinary language, Sir, the people of St. Andrew are absolutely right in the stand that they have taken and in the fears that they have.

I regret that I don't have enough time.

"Miscalculations. This speaks of miscalculations in a very fundamental way which will lead to the wrong conclusion,"

Aside,

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not have enough time to go through it. Technical. The report was notable not only for what it contained but also for what was missing. There was a gap in geology comprehension.¹¹

Two Sundays ago in St. Andrew a citizen of St. Andrew, an elderly gentleman, spoke for about 15 minutes and enlightened us on the geological considerations that would work against the establishment of a landfill at Greenland and here it is confirmed now by the experts.

Sir, when I read this document I have no doubt whatsoever...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is the author of the document?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The author of the document is Christine Keller. The name Christine Keller is familiar, is it? Wait a minute, Sir. The name Christine Keller is very familiar to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this an official document?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Yes, it can be made a document of the House. You don't have to ask me Sir, I am delighted to make it a document of the House, because I feel that the Press should have a copy of this document before they leave.

Sir, I ask your permission to go out and make a few copies for the Press.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not surprised if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central should end his speech by asking whether he could go and make a document for the Press. His principal intervention at this point is really for sensation. Anybody who has known the Honourable Member, his principal intervention is for sensation.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is imputing improper motives to another Honourable Member when he says that his principal purpose for intervention in a debate is for sensation. The Honourable Member knows that that is not allowed and I think the Honourable Member should rephrase that.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: If the Honourable Member wants me to put it differently, the Member loves publicity and seeks for it. Therefore he chooses two subjects to speak about in the whole of the health debate - a snake or two snakes and Christine Keeler. It is very significant to listen to the name. We are back into the Profumo age.

Sir, let us be very serious about this control of waste and particularly solid waste in this country. People are beginning to wonder if Barbadian politicians are serious when it comes to the fundamental issues that have to be faced in this country. I have said before that a lot of people have lost confidence in politicians because we run into situations only for their political impact without measuring carefully national interests that are involved.

Barbadians have to recognise that we have got a growing problem of solid waste garbage in this country. It is nonsensical to believe that it must not come to my parish, my district, and somebody is going to say my Island. If you say you are going to put it in St. John, the Honourable Member for St. John tells you that you cannot put it there, over his dead body. If you say you are going to put it in St. Lucy, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy says you cannot put it there. He didn't say over his dead body.

Now I believe that politicians must stop this foolish grandstanding and recognise that Barbadians¹ health requires that we take serious decisions on these issues and stop believing that they are fooling people in Barbados on issues such as these. 6.00 p.m.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman...

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: I cannot give way now. Time is running out for the Minister. Normally I would give away.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation...

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: On elucidation?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Yes.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: No. I cannot give way now on elucidation. The Honourable Member has spoken. Normally I would give way but I must leave some time for the Minister. Let me finish on this. I am not going to be long. He might get some time for it.

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is talking about grandstanding but I want to make the point that the document that the Honourable Member referred to is a document that I shared with both members of the NDP and the members of the Government. I gave the Attorney General a copy of the document. I gave both the members of the Government a copy and the members of the NDP because I feel that it is important that all critics and all concerns relative to this issue should be heard and I do not take the view that anybody is seeking to grandstand and we must not discard serious and professional critics.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: He is making another speech, Sir.

Whether the document has been made available to both sides, in my view...

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: As far as I am concerned, Madame Keller is only one of the experts. She is not the ultimate expert and it is nonsense to pretend that because Madame Keller say something that she is the ultimate expert.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, Christine Keller...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you rising on a point of order?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Yes, Sir, on a point of order. Christine Keller has worked for 12 years as an International Development Analyst for a leading foreign assistance agency. She has co-authored an article on the geology of Barbados and has lived in Barbados from 1988 to 1991. This is a professional person.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am forced to make the point that Christine Keller can only be an expert in the matter of the lynching and collapsing of Governments as happened in both England and Barbados.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, let me make the point. I am not going to have to listen to Christine Keller. I will read all of the reports. I want to talk about the local experts that we have here in this country who are recognised...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member, the Minister, just got up on a point of order and gave information to this House which is absolutely incorrect. The Christine Keller who wrote this article is not the Christine Keeler who brought down the British Government with Profumo. It is not correct.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. It is a fact that the British Government peeled over and the Sandiford Government was lynched.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would take the word of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. He knew Christine Keeler very well in the days of Profumo and if he says that I would advise the Minister to listen to him.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member obviously does not wish to finish his speech. During the days when Christine Keeler was having her ways with Cabinet Ministers and students from Barbados the Honourable Member was in London. I was still at Combermere, Sir.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member has told me. That is how I knew about him, Sir. That is how I knew the association. We will leave that for another time. I want to get back to a serious debate. I do not want to trivialise this debate because I am making a point that I think somebody has to make in no uncertain terms here in Barbados.

I believe that the NDP and DLP are using the occasion of the choice of a place for a landfill for purely partisan political purposes. That is my belief about it.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman...

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am not giving away on no other point.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Let us hear what point of order the Honourable Member is making.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I can speak with authority, Sir, that the Honourable Members on this side would have accepted the professional advice that was available to this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as I know the Honourable Member is speaking about the DLP and the NDP. There is no DLP and NDP in here so there is no point of order.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: They do not want to hear me, Sir. They had all of their talk and they do not want to listen now. I am prepared to be advised in this matter by the Barbadian experts whom we fail to recognise adequately. They are in the public service particularly one gentleman who has come from working in the Sanitation Service right through. They have degrees that are more recognised and have more publications than Christine Keller have.

Aside.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member could talk as much as he likes. The point is that I am prepared to be guided by somebody like him in this country who knows about Barbadian things. We have an inferiority complex about our experts.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The lady is not Christine of Profumo fame. It is Christine Keller. He knew Christine Keeler very well when he was in England. I know that. She was a good friend, of his.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I am not really going to be sidetracked by the Honourable Member at the moment on Christine Keeler. I will speak to him about this effort to introduce me to the lady when I get outside.

I want to be serious now, Sir. The point is that we have an inferiority complex...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. There is too much cross-talking here.

I just want the House to know that at 6.30 p.m. the guillotine will be in place. Therefore, I will also have to have the wind up speech by the Minister.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: That is why I am going to wind up, Sir. I am going to wind up on this point. Barbadians must get past the inferiority complex that they have about

their own experts. I believe that the Minister has within her Ministry more than one qualified person with ability and I am prepared to accept their advice. I am not prepared to accept the advice of Christine Keller as given by the Honourable Member who obviously has a complex himself.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir.

I again repeat the point I have said that the Honourable Member has come into the House only for sensationalism. That is the position.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN stands.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister will now wind up.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, this debate on health has occupied our attention from 10.00 a.m. this morning. It has been full of life and character. It has been full of wit at some times. At points it has been reflective, full of thought and developmental in terms of where Members hope to take it. At points, if I too may borrow the language of Shakespeare, it has been full of sound and fury signifying nothing - Macbeth. 6.10 p.m.

But all in all, I would wish to thank all Honourable Members for their contributions to the portfolio for which I hold in what has been my first Estimates debate in this House.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I am sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is not in his Chair because I had hoped to close, amongst my comments, by wishing him a very Happy Birthday, good health, long life and many more years on the Opposition Benches. That, like the futures of all of us who stand or sit in this Chamber is in the hands of the people.

I wish, in winding up, to deal with some of the questions which would have been thrown out in the last few minutes and to deal with some of the points of policy that I did not have the opportunity to deal with, in my opening remarks.

There has been some discussion as to whether the Sanitation Service Authority was properly provided for in relation to the operation at Mangrove. It is true, that over the year, equipment was bought. However, by 1992 when the last phase was opened, in fact only 2 pieces of heavy duty equipment were operational and I believe, at the

time, those were the only 2 pieces that have been operational for about a year.

Mr, D, St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir, die Minister stated that there were only 2 pieces of equipment.,.

Aside.

Mr, D, St. E. KELLMAN: He can agree on anything, ...operational at Mangrove. Is she including the one that was rented from Rayside or is she speaking only of the equipment owned by the Sanitation Service Authority? At the same time, I am trying to find out from her if she held a meeting with the residents of Sandy Lane?

Mr, CHAIRMAN: Is that a point of order? Mr,

D, St. E, KELLMAN: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member misled the House by saying...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you asked questions, You did not point out how she misled the House, That is really no point of order. Please continue.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Funds were never provided for the purchase of adequate cover material for the landfill.

Mr. D. St, E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, again, Sir, the Honourable Minister is misleading, the House because there was no need to provide funds for cover material because there was the Queens College site and Highway 2A being constructed at the same time so there was no need for funds.

Asides,

Hon. Miss H, E. THOMPSON: When Highway 2A was under construction, the Administration failed to do what they should have done and, that is, to make it a requirement in the terms of the contract for the material taken from 2A to go up to the landfill. Had that been done, enough cover material would have been provided but it was not.

In the 1990-91 Estimates, the Authority sought to have included, replacement equipment for the machinery that was not functioning. It was not given to them. The transformation of Mangrove between September and now, the money that we have put into it and the equipment that has been purchased in order to effect that transformation speaks to the fact that, had the resources been provided and

had the Government of the day seen that a proper operational system was put in place, the landfill did not have to rise above the 6-foot level that the Minister of Health,,

Mr. D. St. E, KELLMAN: Mr, Chairman, on a point of order again, Sir, the Minister is behaving as if the Deputy Manager was not the Operations Manager at Mangrove,

Hon, Miss H, E, THOMPSON: Had the resources been provided, the sort of job that has now been done could have been done before, The facts speak for themselves.

I just want to inform this Honourable Chamber that the closure of the St. John Polyclinic, the termination of the contract has cost the Government \$370 000, commitment fees and all other sorts of monies that were outstanding, that is what it will cost to determine the contract and we have, in fact, determined that.

I have indicated to the House that we will be reviewing the purpose of the St. John facility because, in my view, its purpose can best be changed to meet the health care needs while the existing site at Gall Hill is upgraded.

We have had the question raised, in this Chamber, about compensation for the people of Arch Hall and Bennetts. I wish to inform this Chamber that the Ministry of Health has completed a count of the household in Arch Hall and Bennetts and we did say, in our Manifesto, that people would be compensated per household. The names of the members of the households have, in fact, gone on to the Attorney General's Chambers which is the arm of Government which will determine the quantum of compensation to be given to the householders. The Government should shortly...

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have not seen anything. If the Ministry of Health has advised the Minister that they have sent anything to the Ministry of the Attorney General in relation to that, they are quite wrong.

My action, on behalf of the residents, was brought against the Sanitation Service Authority, not against the Crown. The Sanitation Service Authority will send all the information they have to their own lawyer and let him negotiate with the lawyer who is now acting on behalf of the residents. I cannot. They are not to come to the Attorney General at all.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Further to that point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member misunderstood the gravamen of the Minister's submission. The Minister indicated that she has fulfilled or is in the process of fulfilling a Manifesto pledge to give the people of Arch Hall compensation. She said that it has gone to the Attorney General to determine the quantum. I do not want to hear anything else. The Minister has spoken and the quantum is the issue. The only issue now is the quantum.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, do not let the Honourable Member for St. Michael West distort the record. I have corrected the Minister and said, if her officials have so advised her then they are fools. How are you going to send it to the Attorney General when the Crown is not a party?

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Attorney General has risen on a point of order.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They have to send it to the department that is sued. Let their lawyer look at it. I cannot be involved in it.

Asides,

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the House has to be very clear on this matter. On a point of order. The Minister of Health has just made a Ministerial statement of policy...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ...that she has sent, to the Attorney General, a list of persons. I would hope that the Minister of Health, when she rises to speak again would correct that statement. Let us move on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health may now want to respond.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health has done the quantification of the numbers of households. My understanding, from the officers, is that it was sent to the AG's, I will not comment because the guillotine is coming down at 6.30 p.m. which gives us roughly 5 more minutes and we can engage in this another time.

The landfill has engaged the attention of the Chamber. We are this year spending \$5.5 million to get the Greenland landfill off the ground. 6.20 p.m.

In relation to the EIA, before the Stanley Report an EIA had to be done for the Ministry to consider. It was not a fully comprehensive EIA in the terms that the IDB required. Such an EIA is now in progress and the findings will be ready before construction of the landfill starts. We have advertised in the papers ...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, I just want to assist the Minister in giving correct information, Sir. The impact study has to be done before the IADB will make any consideration of a loan. She did not say that.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I do not know what point of order that is, Sir. I was making the point before the Honourable Member for St. Michael West rose that we have done the advertisement in the press for people to come and comment on the terms of reference of the EIA but people must understand what the purpose of the EIA is. It does not mean that because a few individuals or protest groups object to the siting of the landfill that that would persuade the IDB not to have a landfill at the site chosen by the Government.

The EIA was developed out of a situation which took place in Brazil where a large part of the Amazon and Tribes who depended on the forest of Brazil were virtually wiped out by the cutting down of the Amazon rain forest. So that in assessing the environmental impact it is those sorts of concerns for which the IDB looks not the fact that a few people protest.

With regard to the Keller Assessment, every major project in Barbados has been the subject of much controversy. They said that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital would sink. Several people in Barbados have been born there. It is not under water yet. It was to float down into the Constitution River. They said that the ABC Highway was a waste, that nobody would use it. It is still there. They said the same about the Central Bank. The Barbados Drug Service was to be a waste of time and I could go on with other major capital projects. The same applies to the landfill at Greenland.

I am satisfied that having reviewed all of the opinions of local and international expertise, having worked with people who have been members of the Soil Conservation for many years, having consulted with people from St. Andrew, having had geological testings at the Greenland site, that the Stanley Report is indeed accurate, that the site at Greenland remains the best site for a below ground sanitary engineered landfill.

We must make the point too that the site at Greenland is a quarry site and that internationally landfilling is an acceptable means of reclaiming land. So that anybody

in the world can say so, but Government has made a decision based on the best and widest advice available to it. That is what decisions are about. We have to look at the information and make assessment.

I wish in closing to say that our AIDS coordinator is now in place as is a new National Advisory Committee on AIDS. We will shortly be appointing a waste management coordinator to deal with the waste management in relation to the island and that our major thrust will be the purchase of air pollution equipment, the expansion of the vector control programme and so on.

I am satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that these figures accurately reflect what is a positive step in health care for the development of Barbados and I wish to move, Sir, that Head 36 now stand part.

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

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS
(as amended) - \$36 847 576

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 39, as amended, stand part.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Seconded, Sir.

The question that Head 39, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS,
TRANSPORT AND (as amended)
- \$76 526 995

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 42, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that Head 42, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 50 - POST OFFICE - \$7 147 746

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 50, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that Head 50, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 - GOVERNOR GENERAL - \$693 357

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 11 - JUDICIARY - \$44 797

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 11 stand part.

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

The question that Head 11 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 12 - PARLIAMENT - \$3 790 000

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 12 stand part.

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

The question that Head 12 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(As amended) - \$29 352 613

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 13, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that Head 15 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE - \$3 946 870

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 15 stand part.

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

The question that Head 15 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
(AS AMENDED) \$3 116 419

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 16, as amended, stand part.

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

The question that Head 16, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 17 - OMBUDSMAN - \$121 144

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 17 stand part.

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

The question that Head 17 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.30 p.m.

HEAD 18 - AUDIT - \$342 835

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 18 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 19 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS - AS AMENDED - \$102 589 946

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 - as amended - stand part.

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

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

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - AS AMENDED
- \$32 632 599

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 25 - as amended - stand part.

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

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

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS - AS AMENDED - \$5 573 483

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 28 - as amended - stand part.

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

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

HEAD 29 - DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS - AS AMENDED - \$92 325

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 29 - as amended - stand part.

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

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

HEAD 30 - ATTORNEY GENERAL - AS AMENDED - \$30 449 722

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 30 - as amended - stand part.

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

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

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS - \$21 127 931

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move, Sir, that Head 35 stand part.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed. Clause 2, as amended, was called and passed. Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed. The Schedule, as amended, was called.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule, as amended, be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE EXPLANATORY NOTE TO HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following amendment in respect of Head 34: Ministry of Education and Culture Program 5: Tertiary, Subprogram 04: Other Institutions:

Insert after "(vii) Barbados Employers Confederation¹¹ the following: "(viii) and other similar institutions providing training".

This is to allow us to provide assistance to institutions delivering training in this country.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Training in the informatics sector, Sir. The courses currently being provided by the Barbados Community College and other major institutions run for one-year periods. There is a need to provide some modular training dedicated to the work place and that is what we are seeking to do by this amendment.

I beg to move that this amendment stand part. Hon.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report to His Honour the Speaker the passing of the Appropriation Bill in Committee and one Resolution.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, the Appropriation Bill was read a third time and passed.

On the separate motions of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to. 6.40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 4, 1995 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 4, 1995 at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 6.42 p.m.

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Confirmation of Minutes of Tuesday, March 14, 1995.

PAPERS**Hon. O. S. ARTHUR..... 784**

1. The Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.

2. Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A to the following:-

- (a) American National Insurance Corporation.
- (b) Surewest Insurance Company Limited.
- (c) Beach Reinsurance Corporation.
- (d) Compco Insurance Company Inc.
- (e) Eastbourne Insurance Company Limited.
- (f) Great Pacific Enterprises Insurance Limited.
- (g) Oxford Indemnity Company Limited.
- (h) Langevin Insurance (Barbados) Limited.
- (i) Langevin Holdings (Barbados) Limited.

3. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1993.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 784**

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**ORDER NO. 1 - THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1995..... 784**

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HEAD 34 (resumed)

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