
THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 22, 1996

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 1996.

PRESENT

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

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.)

Rt. 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. TULL, Q.C., M.A.

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

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)

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.), LEC (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Mr. D. CARTER

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

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B., (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport)

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

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

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 of Tuesday, August 20, 1996.

MINUTES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Minutes of the Honourable House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, August 20, 1996 which Minutes have been circulated be taken as read.

Rt. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that on the 21st of October, 1996 I received a letter signed Lawson Weekes, Member for the Constituency of St. Michael North West in the House of Assembly. I now wish to read this said letter to the House. It is addressed to His Honour the Speaker, House of Assembly, Parliament Buildings, Bridgetown, St. Michael. It reads:

"Re: Resignation from the House of Assembly Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 73 of this Honourable the House of Assembly, I hereby with effect from the date of this letter tender my resignation from the House of Assembly as Member for the Constituency of Saint Michael, North-West.

I take the course of resignation from membership of the House with deep regret and humility with the most sincere appreciation of the great honour conferred upon me by the constituents of Saint Michael North-West in choosing me as their representative continuously from 1981 until now and with heartfelt thanks for the fellowship and cooperation of my colleagues in the House during my service as Presiding Officer and Member.

I should like to wish our House every success in the continuing practice and exercise of our democratic traditions and to assure all Members of my abiding interest in our established system of Government.

Yours faithfully,
Lawson Weekes, M.P."

This is the letter that was received. I have no doubt as to the authenticity of the letter. I thus direct that the said letter be placed on the Order Paper according to our Standing Orders.

I am also to announce that I have received a message from the Honourable the Senate indicating there is an amendment to the Special Development Areas Bill. This amendment has been circulated to Members. I will kindly ask the Leader of the House at her convenience if she will indicate when she will wish to seek the concurrence of the House on this amendment.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, during the course of the day it is expected that we would wish to resume this matter in this House.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Leader of the Opposition is indicating his agreement and during the course of the day we will do this.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could we proceed please?

PAPERS

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

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1996.

The Sugar Industry (Sugar Workers Provident Fund) Order, 1996.

The Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 1996.

The Land Tax (Rate of Tax) (Amendment) Order 1996.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 10) Order, 1996.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 11) Order, 1996.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 12) Order, 1996.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 13) Order, 1996.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 14) Order, 1996.

Licence and Concession Agreement between the Government of Barbados and Conoco Barbados Ltd. for the carrying out of Petroleum Operations.

Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Sugar Workers Provident Fund for the years ended December 31, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Annual Report and the Audited Financial Statements of the Barbados Development Bank for the year April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995.

Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Sugar Workers Provident Fund for the years ended December 31, 1993 and December 31, 1994.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1996.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am commanded to lay the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement of the Barbados Water Authority for the year April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995 and further, Sir, the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados National Standards Institution for the financial years April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1995.

11.30 a.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the sale to Palace E Gardens Limited of a parcel of land near the Crane, St. Philip for residential development.

I further beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the lease to Wendy Eversley of a parcel of land at Spring Garden in the parish of St. Lucy for agricultural purposes; and, finally, Sir, a Resolution to grant the sum of \$3 500 000 from the Consolidated Fund to supplement the Estimates, 1996-97 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1996-97 No. 4.

Mr. Speaker, I should take this opportunity to say that I have already indicated to the Leader of the Opposition, rather belatedly, and I apologise, but it really is no one's fault, so to speak... On account of the recent rains it is imperative that a Supplementary in respect of emergency repairs, work which has to be undertaken in the Scotland District, be dealt with today. Documentation on the matter I have just adverted to on the Notice Paper has not yet reached us from the Cabinet Office, I expect it to do so and I am craving the indulgence of the House that we should deal with this matter in all its stages during the course of the afternoon. This has to do with land slippage and roadways that have given way. I want to indicate to the Honourable House that we would wish to proceed with this Supplementary in all of its stages during the course of the afternoon.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are Replies to three Parliamentary Questions which are ready at this time and I would hope to be able to call this Item later in the afternoon. Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 26, asked by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy; Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 34, asked by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition; Replies to Parliamentary Questions 38, 39 and 40, asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. In effect there are five Replies ready. We hope to come to these when this Item is called later on during the course of the day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: 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. 8 – COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable Chamber is now in Committee of Supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1996-97, NO. 3 HEAD 19 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS – \$100 000

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the matter before the House concerns a request for a subvention to the Securities Exchange of Barbados in the amount of \$100 000. I should wish to put this matter in its appropriate context as I seek the House's support for this matter.

The Securities Exchange of Barbados was formed in 1987 and has suffered from the problem of all similar stock and security exchanges in small markets, namely that it has been afflicted by the small volume of trading in stocks and shares, as well as the general problems associated with the lack of liquidity to support a capital market in this country to the extent required. As a result, Mr. Chairman, the income generated by the Securities Exchange of Barbados from the listing and from its membership fees is now and is for the future projected not to be able to keep pace with the growth in its expenses, particularly in the light of the undertaking by the Exchange to mount a large-scale and widespread educational and promotional programme to educate the public about the benefits of operating on the Exchange.

At present, Mr. Chairman, out of 40 public companies operating in Barbados, there are 19 companies listed on the Exchange and although a provision was made, I think in 1992, for companies not listed on the Exchange and which did not meet the criteria to be listed on the Exchange to indulge in trading, no company has availed itself of that opportunity to use the Exchange for the purpose of public issues. The Securities Exchange of Barbados has not as yet evolved as a powerful instrument and mechanism to support the promotion of a capital market in our country. It is recognised, however, Mr. Chairman, that the problem of small volumes such as afflict the Barbados Securities Exchange and such as afflicts the exchanges in other Caribbean countries can only be overcome by linking the Caribbean stock exchanges and giving issuers and investors the ability to trade and settle securities on any other exchange in the region.

11.40 a.m.

As a result, under the auspices of the Inter-American Development Bank's Multilateral Investment Fund, a regional project has been conceived and is in the process of being executed, designed to bring about the harmonisation of stock exchanges and securities exchanges of the region.

As you would imagine, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of technical problems which at present stand in the way of the various stock exchanges in the region being able to carry out harmonised businesses, for example, there is the fact of different settlement procedures in the various countries. They are also, at present, afflicted with incompatible information systems and as well lack of common regulatory mechanisms. It is envisioned that a harmonised approach to development of the securities and stock exchanges in the region, addressing itself to the question of allowing common settlement procedures, similar information system, and similar regulatory mechanisms to be put in place, would vastly improve the prospects of the regional stock exchange in its totality and the fortunes of any one stock exchange in particular.

The Securities Exchange of Barbados has participated in this project and there is an amount, I believe, in the order of \$250 000 that falls to the lot of the Securities and Stock Exchange as repayment of the expenses associated as its part of the regional project. Clearly, Sir, the institution that is not in a position to cover its ordinary operating expenses and ekes out its wages and salaries from the fees of its members will not be in a position to meet the cost of servicing this loan that has been put on its books to enable it to participate in this very vital regional project.

As a result, Sir, it is the intention of the Government of Barbados over the next few years to grant a subvention

to the Securities Exchange of Barbados to enable it to meet the cost of its participation in the regional project having to do with the harmonisation of the regional stock exchanges.

I might also say on that matter that the regional harmonisation of stock exchanges project is envisioned not only to harmonise relationships between the existing stock exchanges but is also intended to create a framework within which a new stock exchange for the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean Countries can be called into existence with provision for the operation of that new stock exchange to coincide with those agreed for the other regional institutions.

Sir, I have alluded to the difficulty of creating a sound capital market in Barbados, but I want to use this opportunity to say that the strengthening and deepening of our capital market stands out as one of the most crucial imperatives of our time. We simply will not overcome the problems of underdevelopment until we can evolve a large number of well capitalised companies which rely less on loan financing, are capable of supporting the issue of shares, meet the rigorous requirements that are involved as well as in being listed on the stock exchange, not the least being able to generate a satisfactory profit and pay dividends as well as to meet the informational criteria that comes with functioning on the stock exchange.

A lot of companies need to expose themselves to the rigour that is associated with a company functioning on a stock exchange. It will, I think, improve seriously the ethos and the environment within which the conduct of those businesses are concerned. Government has been attempting to assist in the creation of a climate conducive to the deepening of our capital market. Among those initiatives has been the provision of funds for the Small Business Association to create a venture capital facility and I am in a position to report to the House that the venture capital facility of the Small Business Association will be launched on Friday after some teething problems associated with the proper management and regulation of the facility.

We have also reintroduced the provision for persons to be able to claim income tax allowances for the purchase of new shares. The case has been put by the industry that the removal of the past concession has been a factor that has contributed to an unwillingness of companies to issue new shares. We will now test that hypothesis. We have also abolished, as you know, the fees on exchange control transactions. The thrust of the presentation in this year's Budget also addressed the matter of the widening of the range of instruments for the holding of savings and the widening of the spread of instruments in Barbados for the creation of investments.

I believe, Sir, that these matters will go some ways towards dealing with the question of the deepening of our capital market, but it is beyond dispute that unless we have a harmonised approach to the development of stock exchanges in the region and unless there is a higher level of cross border trading no one market in the Caribbean will be in a position to offer potential investors a sufficiently attractive range of potential investment. In this regard, Sir, I would want to link my presentation this morning to a fundamental change that is proposed in the functioning of the regional integration movement.

Hitherto, the Regional Integration Movement in the Caribbean has had a tremendous trade bias with a lot of the energies of the regional integration movement being challenged through the Council of Ministers that sat in judgement on trade related issues. Much of the integration process to date has involved the dismantling of barriers to inter-regional trade. It is now the judgment of the leaders of the integration movement arising out of the special consultation meeting held in Barbados this year that we have to get a different focus to the integration process and create the basis upon which integration in the region can be rested upon a strong money and capital market, which will in turn be in a position to finance the growth and evolution of strong regional industries and companies.
11.50 p.m.

Without strong regional companies, Mr. Chairman, there will simply be no basis upon which we can build the same integration to create the basis for good economic integration.

As a result a decision has been taken that there is a need for a new council of Ministers of Finance to drive the economic or financial aspects of integration, to press on with a convergence project, Sir, to allow Caribbean countries to pursue their economic policies and also, in particular for Ministers of Finance to energise the regional harmonisation of capital markets projects. It is our view that this is going to be one of the major needs by which share holding and regional evolution of genuinely regional enterprises will become a reality.

Sir, of course, there has been a lot of discussion of late of the role of small businesses and the small man, in the process of economic enfranchisement and empowerment. I have recently had to treat an issue which I think is appropriate. The question is, "Why it is that our history has been characterised by the formation of a large number of small businesses which have survived one generation? On the other hand similar businesses formed within the same context have gone on and on?"

Part of the secret, Mr. Chairman, has to do with the fact that there are some businesses, not unknown, that have received golden hand shakes from Governments from time

to time that explain why they have prospered. We may have to discuss that today.

It is also true, Sir, that business development involves, eventually, enterprises being able to publicly issue shares, have a management that is different from its owners, and to do the things that are necessary. I am referring to companies that can function on a stock exchange. We, Sir, have to get that message across to a lot of our businessmen of the day, that functioning on the stock exchange brings with it a discipline that can only help in the development of business, Sir.

There are other things that will have to be done to encourage small black business, Sir. Some of them will not all benefit from the golden hand shakes that have enveloped some successful large businesses which were small businesses 75 years ago.

I will want to suggest, Sir, that we cannot now isolate the development of small business from the development of the capital market. This Supplementary before Parliament is intended to strengthen the Stock Exchange of Barbados, in and of itself. Also, to strengthen it to participate in a region stock exchange. It is against such a background, Mr. Chairman, that I beg to move that this Resolution do now stand part.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The matter that is before Parliament is not one which is going to attract opposition from the Members on this side, on whose behalf I speak. I want to say that efforts to expand the range of activities which the Securities Exchange is undertaking and to improve the facilitative environment of the Securities Exchange will be supported by the Opposition if the Government of Barbados undertakes it.

The Securities Exchange, however, is certainly going to need a lot more than this to really bring it into the modern world. The Honourable Member for the City is heard often to speak about getting on the Internet, and other innovations which she is trying to get pushed in Government.

Well in an institution which is quasi-government and quasi-private sector, I think that it would amaze Barbadians to know the antediluvian methods which are used by the Securities Exchange of Barbados. The fact that they cannot even link into the Wall Street Journal on the Internet. I do not think that they can tell you the price of a share trading on any of the major stock exchanges throughout the world for last week, far less today. Whereas, in the rest of the private sector, quite cheaply, people are able on a daily basis to lock onto that kind of information.

So what you are doing is that you are asking people to function in a domestic environment which in itself is so outdated, that they are not going to be able to have either the tools or the incentives to broaden their outlook or to expand the nature of the development of publicly listed shares in Barbados. So that major resources, if there are available, from Government and the private sector need to be placed into this. If regional funds are available, all the better.

My question to the Minister of Finance would be, "How much is the private sector putting in to match Government's commitment of \$100 000?" If not it would be scandalous for us to support this Resolution without knowing that the private sector partners are also making an equal contribution to the improvement of the facilities at the Securities Exchange.

I will go along with the Minister of Finance on this, and I will send out my own message that I believe that there is a need for the private sector to match Government's resources in relation to this.

I am hearing a lot of talk, in recent times, about the need to glorify those persons who are motivated by the profit motive, rather than role models from other spheres. In that regard, it means that the private sector is going to have a larger contribution here.

What I will say to the Minister of Finance, however, by way of criticism, is that Government's programme and policy in relation to a thrust in economic democracy, simply lacks coherence. The very measures, for example which the Minister of Finance introduced in the Budget, will have very little impact in terms of encouraging companies to be publicly listed, or expanding or creating new opportunities for companies to offer shares on the market whether as publicly listed companies on the Securities Exchange, or as public companies which are not listed. Either way, there is not much that has been done to achieve that.

A lot of the policy initiatives, which the Government have undertaken, have taken far too long to be implemented, like the Venture Capital Facility of \$2 million, which was marred by conflict, and like the many other initiatives in other Ministries, which by their public relations tend to suggest that they are targeting small businesses and encouraging the youth of our country to be involved in these activities, but which are in fact delivering very little in terms of actualizing the needs of young people and expanding the nature of the private sector in this country.

What I believe the Minister of Finance needs to do, then, is to design for Barbados, if he has the support closest to him, a true programme of economic democracy which is going to meet the needs of our society.

The Democratic Labour Party, we have already made our position very clear on this issue. We will launch, yet, another policy initiative which will speak to the issue of draft legislation which is necessary to give small businesses an improved cash flow position in their early years, and particularly access to Government's contracts, where necessary to achieve that goal. This policy will see the expansion of the private sector and incentives offered to companies to become public companies in some cases listed on the Stock Exchange where they have been in existence for a long enough period as to justify that, and in other cases to become non-listed public companies.

I remember in the 1994 General Election, making the point that companies which have successively benefitted from patronage of Government by way of contracts, need either to become listed on the stock exchange in this country where the same taxpayers money is being used to prop up their cash flow situation can now be used to invest in those corporations and that is not just a one-way street all the time.

There were some people who were very critical of that suggestion, and felt that Government was about to force companies to become public. You tell them if they do not become public within a specified time frame after receiving Government contracts, then they will receive no more. There is nothing wrong with that. There are other countries that have designed policies in that way which have achieved positive results, so we will design and extend the range of the policy which we already have in place and also pay very critical attention, Mr. Chairman, to that issue of institutional development which will see this initiative through.

12.00 noon

The Government cannot on the one hand, I am going to repeat this again, pretend that it is so interested in the advancement of the small business community and the development of black business in this country while at the same time shutting down the Barbados Development Bank without up to now putting in place an alternative institution to provide the capital for the development of new businesses. If all that was needed was \$2 million, which has just been given to the Small Business Association for the Venture Capital Fund, if that is all that was necessary to launch a major programme in this country for small business development, and for the creation of a capital base for those small businesses, then it would mean that all previous Ministers of Finance in this country had no understanding, including those under the Barbados Labour Party, of what was necessary to create new small businesses and expand the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, this Government cannot be serious because time and time again in this Chamber we have been told that arrangements are being made to put in place

the alternative to the Barbados Development Bank and yet nothing has been done. There is really no window of small business in this country apart for this \$2 million, which on Friday after the Honourable Prime Minister presented an oversized cheque to the Small Business Association in the Cabinet room many months ago, and only Friday after all of the bureaucratic bungling, whether by the Small Business Association or otherwise – and Government itself has to be blamed for that because it should never have advanced the money until the mechanisms were put in place so that people would not be fooled that \$2 million was available – and, in fact, it is only Friday this week, after all the front page publicity, that the Venture Capital Facility will finally be launched.

Meanwhile, in that time, the Barbados Development Bank has been shut down. The Barbados National Bank has an aggressive campaign of collections. The Barbados Development Bank has instituted an aggressive campaign of collection which has seen many small businesses now having to turn to the private sector to access capital to refinance what were previously development loans, and in some cases you are sending businessmen to the mercies of the private sector when they are almost in retirement age. They cannot refinance an operation at that stage in their lives.

I repeatedly make this point. Whoever is therefore responsible for the delays in putting in place these mechanisms and getting a truly effective system, by which capital will be made available for the development of small business, and of the thrust which the Honourable Member for St. Peter says he believes in, and I believe in it too, then those people need to be unshackled or dealt with appropriately because I do not think that two years plus after the Barbados Labour Party has been in office that it can be any comfort to the Honourable Member for St. Peter, that those arrangements have not been effectively in place.

I understand him to be saying that he is dissatisfied with the way in which the Venture Capital Facility was started. He could only be. I would be too if I presented the \$2 million to them months ago and nothing had happened. But there are a whole range of things for which his ire and dissatisfaction should be targeted.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I did not get the opportunity to attend the 75th Anniversary of one of the publicly listed companies in Barbados. I was a bit under the weather. I had a bad headache that afternoon. I suppose the Honourable Member for St. Peter, if I had heard his entire speech, would only have contributed to a larger headache. not because he was not witty – yes, his speech was very

witty, but you can be witty and you can also dash the hopes of thousands of people without realising that is what you have done.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter delivered almost the same kind of speech then that he delivered in here today. It cannot be sufficient for an academic economist of the Honourable Member's standing to continue merely to question why it is that there is no Arthur's Enterprises which should be as large as Goddards Enterprises because the origins of the business are almost exactly the same.

The gentleman who left St. John 75 years ago came to town, was a speculator and a small shopkeeper. The Honourable Member for St. Peter says he is familiar with that experience. Therefore, all of us together, not only need to ask the question why, because even if it was the golden handshakes, then you should have had the courage to say so the other night and not come in here and say it from your seat. If it was that, then you should have had the courage to say so.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That could not be said. That was a night for sneering at small black business in this country and saying that the Government is looking for a small black businessman with U.S. \$200 million and that was a joke which people in that audience probably could understand better than you or me. But the person who sat next to me when that was being said could not believe that the Prime Minister of Barbados could be sneering, not only sneering, but taunting small black business people in this country by saying in a very jovial and witty fashion: "I am looking for a small black businessman with U.S.\$200 million to develop a marina in Bridgetown."

What the Honourable Member for St. Peter should be telling the people of this country is that he is going to design a project which will see Government, the private sector, as well as small investors coming together, as has been done in many other areas, to develop an initiative and that he has a master plan which would see a large number of small black businessmen investing in a U.S.\$200 million project which would see viable returns and give them an opportunity to be actively involved in the economic development of Barbados.

There was nothing liberating to the business community in that speech. From the time the Honourable Member for St. Peter indicated that there were

similarities between the experience of a small black businessman from Mile and a Quarter, St. Peter, and the gentleman who left Newcastle, St. John 75 years ago, he should then have spelt out how the Government of Barbados, led by the son of that small businessman, is going to liberate thousands of other people in this country so that they too can be part of a property-owning democracy in Barbados and can have a right to be involved in the economic development of this country and see their dreams realized that 75 years from now some other gentleman will be standing up to praise the efforts of this Government and an enlightened Opposition and private sector for creating those opportunities.

12.10 p.m.

So, Mr. Chairman, there is more I am going to say and I hope I have the opportunity to say it. I want to let the Honourable Member for St. Peter know that we too are waiting with baited breath for that coherent policy because we are going to give it support and we have already said from this Chamber, on several occasions, that we can have no quarrel with any programme which is brought to this Chamber which is going to create opportunities for the development of small business and in particular small black businesses in Barbados. I am waiting for it.

I am not waiting for the small black businessman with US\$200 million because that is what everybody else was waiting for the past 300 years and the person never turned up. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, it is necessary for us to create opportunities that they can be involved in that particular process. That is all I am asking for and if the Honourable Member for St. Peter can answer that question instead of just asking it all the time, answer it, and challenge the people who sit with you in Cabinet every week not to consolidate their interest but to see their vision as being similar to yours so that 75 years from now it will be Arthur's Enterprises or whatever, whose virtues we can extol as one of the ten largest corporations in the Caribbean.

I was reading a speech by the Minister of International Trade in the Senate recently in which he traced the origin of his grandfather into what is now the tenth largest company in the Caribbean. It is a public company. That is the point. It is part of the point which the Honourable Member for St. Peter made and with which I agree.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is why we need to encourage more companies to do it. But the Honourable

Member for St. Peter has to walk us through the woods. It is his job to do that now and that is what people are calling for. I am ready to sit down and listen to the answer to that question.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair has asked that the Honourable Member for St. Peter speak.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am not closing the debate. I am rising to enter the debate, Sir, as is my right in this debate.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. John in his presentation made the point that it falls to this administration to "design a true programme of economic democracy for Barbados". I want to say, Sir, that I could not agree with him more because the only reason why it would now fall to us to have to design a true programme for economic democracy in Barbados is precisely because the opportunity that presented itself for economic democracy to evolve under a previous Democratic Labour Party administration was wasted and wonderfully wasted by the Member for St. John.

We are speaking today, Sir, about the creation of a stock market, a place where shares are bought and sold. In other countries, Mr. Chairman, privatisation has become one of the principal means by which a stock market can be created and by which small people and the small black people on whose behalf he shed his false tears, Sir, are brought into the process of ownership. Even Margaret Thatcher, an arch conservative, made sure that when she was privatising the enterprises of Great Britain that she sold them in sufficient blocks, Mr. Chairman, that small people could purchase shares in their own country and we have correctly so to design a programme to create true economic democracy because the Democratic Labour Party administration and the Member for St. John as the Minister of Finance, Mr. Chairman, presided over the largest block of shares ever sold in this country by a Government and he made sure that not one small man in Barbados could buy any of those shares. The BET shares, Sir, were sold to Cable and Wireless of London. The Bartel shares, Sir, were sold to people abroad. The Flour Mill shares, Sir, were sold to Maple Leaf. They sold the Heywoods Holiday Village to the largest conglomerate in Barbados. It therefore does not now properly fall from the mouth of the Member for St. John to give anybody in this House and this country any lectures about economic democracy. They had the opportunity to have made the stock exchange of Barbados come alive. Those millions and millions of shares that were bought by Cable and Wireless could have been sold to Barbadian investors, making our stock exchange a vital part of the function of our economic life and they wasted

the opportunity. So if it now falls to to this administration to create a true economic democracy, that can only be the case because there was a failure of the past administration to grasp the opportunity which history presented it with. I welcome the challenge although I must tell the Member for St. John that based on his history I have nothing whatsoever to learn from him. If I have to illustrate the point, Sir, we made sure that the sale of the Pine Hill Dairy shares were first and foremost offered to the workers of the Pine Hill Dairy and I would challenge the Member, if he wants to speak in this debate again, to show me where he offered the workers of the BET the option to purchase any of the shares in the Cable and Wireless, or where he offered any of the workers of Heywoods Holiday Village to purchase any of the shares in Heywoods.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House on two counts. The first one is that the first sale of shares in Pine Hill Dairy was offered exclusively to workers, farmers, cooperatives and trade unions in limited denominations. Mr. Chairman, the very first act of privatisation I undertook as Minister of Finance was limited only to those categories. It was this Government that removed all of those limitations and permitted the shares to be sold in large blocks to large investors.

The second point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, Sir, relates...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member has misled the House. There was a specific term of the sale of Heywoods Hotel that within 18 months of completion of the purchase and the capital development undertaken that 10% of the shares should be sold to the public of Barbados and workers. Almond Beach just sold shares. That share offering was part of the Democratic Labour Party's design of the privatisation of Heywoods Hotel which the Honourable Member for St. Peter I always thought was supportive of except in relation to the valuation.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not respond to him, Sir. The fact is that the Democratic Labour Party had an opportunity to use privatisation as a means of building the stock exchange, Sir, because it was the largest block of shares ever put on the market originating out of Barbados, Sir, and they sold them abroad. I do not need lectures from the Member for St. John. Sir, he scoffed at the idea of putting \$2 million into the venture capital fund. I just want to do a comparative analysis, Sir. He had one opportunity and one opportunity alone to present a budget to this House as Minister of Finance. Coincidentally, Mr. Chairman, it was a \$2 million

budget. He granted \$2 million in relief but I do not recall that it was \$2 million granted to any private sector. I do not recall then that the Member for St. John brought to this House \$2 million in relief to the private sector, to small business nor to small black business, Sir. I do not recall then that the Member for St. John brought to this House \$2 million in relief for the private sector to small business nor to small black business nor did he address his Budget to the question of what to do for the small black businesses of Barbados. He brought \$2 million package in relief and has the nerve now to criticize the Government which for the very first time has established a venture capital facility to help small businesses and the Small Business Association, and that is not all we are doing. Mr. Chairman, we have also created an innovation fund for the small business sector. We have for the first time fully funded the Secretariat of the Small Business Association and the Government is in the process...

12.20 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member must not mislead the House. He may not have been in Barbados from time to time in the 1980's or the 1970's or even in 1986. But the Democratic Labour Party set up the Micro Business Window and there have been a whole range of small business funds made available, not to the Small Business Association because for most of the time that did not even exist. But there have been several small business funds established in Barbados by successive Governments and I believe that some of them have been in excess of the paltry \$2 million which this Government had made available.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. John has risen entirely to portray his ignorance of these issues. There is a difference, Sir, between venture capital financing and loan financing and for many, many years the small businesses have had to struggle because the principal form of financing that is at their disposal has been loan financing on which they have had to pay interest. Equity financing or venture capital financing allows them to get for the first time financing for their business by way of equity rather than by way of loans. So to speak nonsense about a Micro Business Window through which we were getting loan financing is to miss the point. We are getting a venture capital facility for small businesses for the first time and that is the point that I am making.

I go further, Sir. He speaks about the closure of the BDB. A decision was taken even before this administration came into office to close the BDB. I have already referred to it from the floor of this Parliament without contradiction that a decision was taken before September 6, 1994 to close the BDB. That decision was taken because the BDB then and for some considerable time was trading as a bankrupt institution, namely that its accumulated

deficit was vastly in excess of the capital of the bank. It was the same situation that this administration found and we inherited a situation where the BDB was bankrupt. We took a decision to close it on the same basis as the previous administration took the decision to close it because an institution cannot trade as a bankrupt institution. What we did not inherit was the successor institutions because I heard the Member for St. John keep saying that the successor institutions are not yet up and running. We inherited a decision to close the BDB because the BDB was then bankrupt. What we did not inherit was the institutions to replace it and what we have done, Sir, is that we have re-constituted 3 new companies out of the old BDB. The Gem project involving the small hoteliers is virtually concluded. We have a recoveries and liquidation company working with the bad portfolio of the BDB. In instances where companies can be rehabilitated, we are rehabilitating them. In instances, Sir, where they cannot support themselves out of operating revenue some will have to be liquidated.

But the Member for St. John has already heard me say from the floor of this Parliament that we have had a study paid for by the Caribbean Development Bank, not before September 6, 1994 but after September 6, 1994 to study the demand for a new development finance institution to provide long-term capital and venture capital facilities for small and other businesses in Barbados. That study has now been completed and it establishes that there is a continuous market that can support long-term loan financing and venture capital in this country. I stand on what I have said before that the proposal of Government to have the performing portfolio of the old BDB form part of the assets of the new development finance institution and we are in the process of seeking resources from the CDB and other interested entities in order to be able to capitalize the new development finance institution.

It is one thing to come to this House and talk glibly about creating new institutions, but they have to be properly capitalized. Where is the capital going to come from? Is it going to come from the Budget? If not, if we have to raise some of the capital from the international capital market, we have to satisfy potential investors that the institution we are creating is an institution for whose service a demand exists and can garner them a reasonable rate of return on what they propose to invest. Those studies had to be done after December 6, 1994. They have now been done and we will soon be in a position to create a new development finance institution. But the Member for St. John had the opportunity to do these things himself. Nothing was done then. We have for 2 years been conducting the studies. We have done most of the negotiations to put in place a new development finance institution and we now have to come after he had agreed to close the bank but to put nothing in its place, and hear carping criticism from the Member for St. John.

I say to this House, Sir, that on matters pertaining to small black businesses the Member for St. John and the Members for the DLP speak with no credibility. Talk about the Port. Let us go back and see what you did at the Port. Where are the small black businesses at the Port? Who were going to own K-Mart, Kingsland and all of the major mega projects that were the subject of the propaganda of the Democratic Labour Party all during the election campaign. There were no small black businesses involved with those mega projects.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I should want to say, Sir, that the records stand for itself. There is nothing in the recent history of the Democratic Labour Party, certainly nothing with which the Member for St. John can be associated that can speak in terms of anything that he has ever done for small black people in Barbados. I suspect that he is too experienced in these matters to speak in the way he did were he not interested in me also going beyond his own term to refer to the fact that the Member for St. Michael West stands in the infamy of Barbados for closing down 450 small shops in this country. He wants me to say so, Sir, and that not only has the record of the Democratic Labour Party in recent times been bad where small black businesses are concerned, but that the record of the Democratic Labour Party has been bad through its history.

So that I am going to get into this debate because I am not going to let matters rest. The biggest opportunity that was missed in Barbados to develop a serious stock exchange in this country when a decision was taken not to sell shares in companies being privatized on our local stock exchange but to find some other means of disposing of them. Today as we speak about the future of the Barbados Stock Exchange, Sir, there is nothing at all that the Member for St. John will be able to say that can satisfy this House that he does not occupy a special place in the financial infamy. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak in this debate because I want to say a few things about the Stock Exchange in Barbados and its influence on people in Barbados. But before I do so, Sir, the Prime Minister has forced me to have to deal with him specifically because he has perpetrated a misrepresentation on this Committee in the manner of David Seale of yesteryear talking about 400 shops being closed. It is a lie. It is not true. It is not a fact. I am saying that it is a lie, Sir. He has carried on information that is not true.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Member for St. Michael West is misleading this House. I said 450 and not 400, Sir.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He is perpetrating the lie now, Sir, by trying to make light of the issue in the way in which the Leader of the Opposition said he made light of an issue of such importance at a function that was populated by 90% white people, but when he speaks before white people he behaves like that. So when he talks about closing 450 shops it is simply not true. It is a myth that was put out when, as Minister of Trade, I tried to do precisely what the Prime Minister is saying must be done in this country, and there are people in this country from then until now who hold it against me because I took the opportunity to go forward to be in the vanguard of the fight to change the economic attitudes in this country with regard to black people in business. There are a number of people in this country who do not like to deal with that issue in these terms.

Mr. Chairman, the record is there, Sir. Garry Husbands, who is now Nassar, the other Husbands, Frank DaSilva – I am not calling the names pejoratively, Sir – Miller Brothers, including Peter Miller and his father and his uncles and his cousin, the Simmonses, a whole host of people in this country in the 1970s had every possibility of growing into entrepreneurs that could be worthy of consideration on the stock market in Barbados. In order to do that, it was necessary for the Government to have policies which opened, for example, importation... When I returned from New York in 1971, I had a meeting of shopkeepers in this country. Shamrock Alleyne, Sam Gibbs...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Julie 'N was not up yet, but if Julie 'N was in he would have been there too. I am not ashamed to talk about this. Sydney Byer and a whole host of them met at the Ministry of Trade in Reef Road.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I had the meeting with them. You were not up yet then, you were still doing other things which we will not discuss now. Mr. Chairman, when I had the meeting those people confirmed that they did not know they could import directly into Barbados. The merchant class in this country had convinced them that they could not import into this country, and by clever use of the Barbados Marketing Corporation we arranged a system by which import licences were dealt with in a way to let everybody have Open Sesame, and as a result Shamrock Trading, Sam Gibbs – in fact, Tom Adams came in here and said that we made Sam Gibbs a millionaire, I think the Honourable Member will remember that. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South will remember that Tom Adams from the Floor of the House said that I personally made Sam Gibbs a millionaire, among other things. I remember they had a man called the bald eagle – this is how he was described – who was the conglomerate

himself. He was responsible for importation for everybody in Barbados and he was a direct descendant of a system in which H. O. Emtage used to make sure that when you refuse to buy or attempted to refuse to buy flour from him, or in the case of one person who imported flour into this country, what H. O. Emtage did was to send out and tell all the small shops if you buy any of that flour that was imported by Sam Ashby I am going to shut you down, and Sam Ashby had to turn around and sell the flour to H. O. Emtage at a price that was lower than he had bought it. These were the patterns of commerce in this country in the 1970s. As a result of the attitude which we adopted, there was change and in the industrial parks of this country, as I have said over and over again, you could find evidence of black, Indian, mixed, small, medium sized, all kinds of people, and women, participating in industry in this country. We had a flourishing situation in Barbados where people felt that they were into a participatory economic democracy. The years 1971 to 1974 were vintage years in that regard. Even Trevor Clarke and the Brankers.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, I said even, because the Barbados Labour Party, despite Trevor Clarke's attempts over and over again to help them see the light, continued to treat him in a manner which I do not now wish to describe. So I am saying even Trevor Clarke. All of these people had reason to feel that they could try and fail and try again. It is not understood in Barbados and in the Caribbean generally that if you are going to launch out into the private sector development you have to take the chance of failing. There are too many people who induce their children and the people around them to be afraid of failure, and it is for that reason that when Cave Shepherd was looking around for, say, \$3 million they were able to go out and draw \$3 million from the people of Barbados and guarantee them a return in the same way a bank would guarantee a return, and those people were led to believe they were investing. They had no participation in the decision making and they got 10% or whatever it is, which is what they would have done if they had put the money into the bank. The banks have taught the people in Barbados, certainly those who are 35 or older, that the only way your money could be safe is if you put it in the bank and meanwhile the bank takes the same money and go out and earn with it.

Mr. Chairman, that history is sufficiently well known as not to warrant repetition, except that the Prime Minister, after nine weeks of rest, still feels able to come in here and pick up an old shibboleth and toss it out into the debate because for some reason he feels that his back is to the wall in a debate with his colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, whom he has described as his friend. So the Prime Minister's grandstanding in here does not now move me, because in his discussion with a journalist recently he made certain comments which made me understand

that much of what he says in here is to be taken with a grain of salt, but I am not going to deal with that, I am waiting for another occasion. He must not, however, interfere with the history of this country.

Now, Sir, to the Stock Exchange. I believe that within the primary schools and on the television screen in Barbados, and on the radio stations, we have to start inducing young people to understand, just like you teach people to understand card games, dominoes and other things, that investment is an integral part of wealth creation; that they have to put some of their savings into something with somebody else which would help them to grow over a period of time. It is something that is taken for granted in countries like France, Germany, Canada and the United States, by ordinary people. The Stock Exchange is not something for sophisticated people, the Stock Exchange is a place for the exchange of shares among ordinary people. What we need to do is to move it out of the realm of the myth, out of the realm of mystery. We have to get ordinary people to understand it. CBC Television has a lot of useless television time. Anybody who watches CBC Television knows that it has a lot of useless television time. Just before or after Sesame Street every day they could do a 5-minute sketch on the stock exchange. It should help to make the stock exchange part of the normal thinking of the young people of Barbados. It is a waste of time trying to get some of the Honourable Members over there to understand the stock exchange. It is too late now, but for the young people in Barbados, those who are doing the 11+ and below, those are the ones whom we have to try now to get them to understand that we are moving into a different gear.

12.40 p.m.

The Prime Minister makes a favourite speech which he has been making now for some time and I have no quarrel with it because it is the kind of speech which he has to make in which he is talking about Barbados must be on the cutting edge of competition in the global market. He has to say that. All of us have to keep saying it so that we are at least in tune with what people are saying. In truth, many of the people between 30 and 55 are going to ignore that sort of language. That rhetoric will not fall well with them because they are concerned about other matters – car payments and the house payments and those kinds of things and if things could remain the way they have been as long as they are in a good position, no problem. The unemployed are not going to be concerned with that because they know that the Prime Minister has demonstrated he is not interested in them anymore and therefore they are not going to worry themselves about this kind of rhetoric.

The Prime Minister's speech is not going to impact on the younger generations unless he brings along with it

some kind of vision for how we are going to become an owning class. I have said before in here that selling corn or going to Puerto Rico with a valise and coming back is good in its own way but it is not where we are to go in terms of entrepreneurial development. We have to recognise that when we earn a certain sum of money a small portion of that sum of money must be put aside for saving and investment. That comes with habit.

I know five Barbadians living in the United States, all of whom are multi-millionaires. They are elderly now. In fact, one of whom I am thinking has passed on his millions to his daughter. I am talking about serious millionaires, not the little paltry millionaires over there. I mean the real millionaires in the United States. For all of them, these are people whose parents left Barbados in the 1920s and 30s and they went and played the stock market.

There was one man, I think I can call his name, a man called Carrington Mark, who is probably one of the wealthiest Barbadians in the United States. He died a couple of years ago. He made his millions on the stock exchange and he was after the late Prime Minister Barrow for years to get a stock exchange established in the Caribbean. He made the point that the number of shares on the stock exchange will make the difference as to whether it is worthwhile or not. In truth, what we do at the moment is what the commercial houses used to do five or ten years ago, the same set of people exchanging shares on the stock exchange.

I know that the present Chief Executive of the Stock Exchange is doing a magnificent job trying in the best way she can. The truth is that ordinary people are not putting in their money. They don't have any incentive to put their money into something called the stock exchange which to them has as much mystery as the Central Bank. For most people in Barbados the Central bank is a building somewhere in Church Village. The stock exchange, they don't even know where it is located, and as far as the rest of us are concerned unless the Government is going to put it in simple ABC terms and allow the new generation of Barbadians to understand that:

- (a) the stock exchange is not a mystery,
- (b) it is not something foreign,
- (c) it does not belong to the Government and
- (d) it is for all the people of Barbados to share in the wealth of Barbados, until we get to that stage, then we are only going to come in here from time to time and talk to one another about things which only a few of us understand.

As for the Prime Minister's indiscretion with regard to the history of small shopkeeping in Barbados, I would have expected almost anybody else except the Prime Minister to make that point, because in another dispensation he has had access to and participated in a truer account of small business development in this country. His publications are not that lengthy that he cannot remember what he has said everywhere. He is not one of those persons who...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not getting into that, but I know the Right Honourable Member has participated and is familiar with, because when the Right Honourable Member is not postulating political positions, he takes a rational view of what is probable in the development of Barbados and I expect the Prime Minister to continue in that vein even though he is carrying the heavy weight of the number of passengers he has with him in this programme. I expect the Prime Minister not to come in here and attack me, especially when I have not interfered with him. I just wish the Prime Minister to be aware in his capacity of Minister of Finance that as he himself knows these are not unfamiliar paths for me.

If he wishes to tangle, I am available. Meet me at the economic crossroads any day and we will tangle, but for the time being let me remain here in peace and listen to the debate like anybody else.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, earlier this year I complained about the amount of time that we spend in this Parliament looking after the interests of certain people in this country. I cannot seriously continue every Tuesday or Friday to come to this Assembly and the debate is channelled in one particular direction... I cannot honestly believe that as an Assembly that we come here every Tuesday and today we are now discussing a Bill that relates to the Securities Exchange of Barbados and we are not discussing changing the Companies Act of Barbados.

I cannot seriously take part in this debate for the simple reason that any Act that tells me...

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. The Member is misleading the House. We are not discussing a Bill. We are discussing a money Resolution and if the Member is confusing a money Resolution with an Act to amend the Companies Act, I can understand the source of his confusion and will urge him to follow his own advice and don't participate in the debate.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Thank you very much, Sir, for your intervention, but you know that you cannot change my thoughts and I will continue on the road I am going. I

am saying Mr. Chairman, that anytime that you are asking poor people in this country and the small man to invest in large businesses when there is a section in the Companies Act that states that nobody can tell directors when to pay a dividend that we are wasting people's time in this Parliament.

We need to change the Companies Act to make sure that whenever a company makes money... It is discretionary and it should be changed, because if we are asking small people to invest money in companies that are making money and directors can then come and say...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member has not pointed out the particular section of the Companies Act but if it is in the Companies Act it is a reflection of the old common law principle. The payment of dividends is a discretion vested in the directors, dependent upon whether a company has made profit because you cannot pay a dividend from capital. He should know that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I would like to find out what is the point of order that the Honourable Member got up on.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, he got up to say exactly what I am saying that the payment of a dividend is discretionary, that only the directors can...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, he can say what he likes, but I am saying to you that if tomorrow a company makes \$2 million and the directors decide they are not going to pay dividends the shareholders cannot do anything about it, especially with the structure of the companies in Barbados. So do not come with this and tell me, and try to fool people that they must pay dividends.
12.50 p.m.

I am telling you that if you look at the structure of companies in Barbados, most of them come to Barbados for money when they need cash. That is a fact. Let me tell you something, try issuing shares in successful companies and see who get them. Whenever poor people try to get some, they say that to encourage poor people to get shares in this company, you are only creating work and they go for the large block.

I am saying, Sir, that if we are going to be serious about the Securities Exchange of this country, that we must be prepared as a government to change the Companies Act. Everybody would tell me that this is a standard thing throughout the world, but Barbados can

be a first. I know that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would agree with that.

It is time that we set examples for other people to follow. It is unfair to ask people to invest in companies when they have no say in whether they are going to get a dividend.

Let me give you an example of what I am talking about, Sir. A small man, as I normally refer to them, Sir, he has \$10 000, he hears about a company that is issuing shares, a successful company, he is accustomed having that \$5 000 in the bank and every year at 10% he probably would get \$500. He takes up that money, he buys shares into a company in Barbados. Directors, the following year, decide that they want to expand the company and the money they have, they want for the expansion of the company and they are not paying a dividend.

What happens to that poor man? What is he supposed to live on? What is that poor man supposed to live on? That is exactly what I am talking about. Some people before they listen, they jump up and put their foot right in their mouths.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that the Companies Act of Barbados needs to be changed, so that the discretionary measures of directors should be taken out. It is wrong because what can also happen, Sir, we could encourage poor people to get involved in things that they do not know about.

There could be directors, Sir, who, when they realise that they need capital, they come to the market, they issue the shares and when things have changed in the company they use that policy to frustrate small business people, and small people in this country to encourage them to sell back their shares to the same directors.

I am saying that the policy and the Companies Act as it stands, is not in the interest of small people and it needs to be changed.

So if we as a Parliament are going to take up a \$100 million to put in the Securities Exchange to enhance the profits of other people, we must ask ourselves if we can live with that. I am saying, Sir, that you cannot live with it, and I cannot live with it either. The interest of the small man must be represented.

This is only one piece that we will be discussing today, but you will have plenty more going in one direction. It is time for this to change. If we are going to consider ourselves as serious politicians, and I do not care how much sports models people talk about, this is something serious to discuss. We expect serious discussion on this. We do not expect people to come in here and take

up taxpayers money and give it away like that. When certain things are questioned, they talk about sports model.

This is a serious problem. When serious issues are being discussed, people must be prepared to listen.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to say a few words on this matter, because I had a lot to do in the 1980's with the creation of the Securities Exchange in Barbados in 1987. From the very beginning, it was recognised that a Securities Exchange in the context of Barbados would have a number of limitations. The aim would be that the exchange in Barbados would be linked with the exchanges in the other areas of the Caribbean economic community.

We have now reached the stage where, as the Prime Minister has said, a study on the mechanics involved in linking the exchanges in the Caribbean is being undertaken. I want to caution, Sir, that if there is not a change in attitude in relation to those countries who still have exchange control regulations, it would be impossible for there to be the freedom of transfer of shares and the acquisition of shares to take place within the Caribbean area.

A linking of the stock exchanges also presupposes that there is going to be a mechanism for settling the value of the shares by reference to a common standard. As I understand it, one of the practical problems that will arise when there is a linkage, "What would be currency of settlement."

Luckily for us, we all in the Caribbean use the U.S. dollar as the currency of last resort, so that computerisation and matters of that kind available to us, it would be possible for settlement to take place by reference to a U.S. dollar in theory, and that the relevant amount of the currency that the shares are quoted in, by reference to U.S. dollar at the particular date, indeed at the particular hour, could now be easily worked.

There are other problems. The truth of the matter is, Sir, that unless there is a recognition in Barbados and in the rest of the Caribbean, that economic activity of any great significance cannot be carried on without the pooling of capital, interest in companies is going to be very small.

What we have here is a fear within the Caribbean, of the delegation of responsibility for decision making with respect to shares and with respect to money, among a vast amount of the people. Until we get over that

psychological hurdle, the demand for shares on the stock exchange is not going to be that great.

As part of this inducement, and as Government's contribution, particularly this party's contribution to a change in attitude, a series of measures were introduced to encourage employees obtaining shares in the companies in which they work. Secondly, towards investors obtaining special tax concessions in order to create a demand for shares.

Unfortunately, with respect to the incentive for investment in public company shares, the period of time that incentive lasted, between 1976 and 1988/89, that was too short a period, in my opinion, for it to have achieved its objective. Now between 1988 and this year, that incentive was removed. So we really have not had any long period of time with that incentive working to see whether it was effective or not.

Now with respect to the bonus shares for employees and employers being able to grant share options and things of that kind, that has been on the statute book for some period of time. I think it would be true to say that it has had the effect of permitting and encouraging many employees, particularly in the public companies, to participate in owning some of the shares of the company.

Only recently, Sir, has been the section which permits remuneration by way of share option schemes. As I understand it, there are a number of contracts now where executives in firms are being remunerated based upon the performance of the company and given standards and target performances set out in the contracts which would trigger the options to purchase. That is another development that is taking place.

1.00 p.m.

The other area, of course, that we have, and which, in my opinion is the vehicle that will be used and that can be useful in creating the objective that we all want to see, that is, a larger share owning group in Barbados, is the credit union. The credit unions have a tremendous role to play in this direction, because if you study how stock exchanges work in their countries, you would immediately recognise that it is the institutional investors who play a major role in the workings of the stock exchange.

In big countries there are pensions funds which are probably the largest investors. It is not so much individuals. Individuals, yes, but indirectly. It is individuals indirectly by their investment in unit trusts, mutual funds, insurance companies that build up the capital. Those capital intermediaries are the ones who invest in the share issues. We do not have all these institutions but, in my opinion, our credit unions can play a very important role because,

in essence, they are the same capital intermediaries as an insurance company.

That is another area when we are discussing the question of the widening of the share ownership in Barbados we must look at. An analysis should be done, for instance, on whether it is not a fact that in the recent issues in Barbados of capital credit unions, whether it be employee credit unions or other credit unions, did not participate to a large extent in the purchase of shares that were offered. This is a very long haul, Sir, and I would hope that despite the fact that at first sight the Stock Exchange would not appear to have been dramatically as successful as we would like, that we still do not give up.

I would caution too that the Stock Exchange itself, Sir, has a tremendous amount of work to do. I remember when it was being formed that they came to the then Government and asked for certain special exemptions to facilitate dealings on the Exchange in return for which there was supposed to be some kind of an internal levy among their members – by “members” I mean not only the people who trade on the floor but the companies that have their stock on the Exchange – so they would build up a fund for the purpose of building up the finance that was necessary, not only for an educational programme, but for the workings of the Exchange. Let us not forget that the Government forgoes the Property Transfer Tax on the transfer of shares which takes place on the Exchange so that an indirect subsidy is given there.

We must always caution and remind those who are on a stock exchange and those who administer the Stock Exchange that Government is making a significant contribution toward the funding of the Stock Exchange by relieving them of the Property Transfer Tax for those transactions that take place on the Stock Exchange.

I certainly believe there is another problem and it is that the savers in Barbados still prefer putting their money in the bank. That is a fact. Every year new deposits of savings or time deposits increase. What you have to look at and see is the total amount that increases by per year and see what then is the potential for new purchasers on the Stock Exchange. This is an area the Stock Exchange should be working on to see how they can win some of those savers away from putting their money in banks and putting it in the Stock Exchange. That means you must have a flow of shares to match that demand. These are matters for fundamental research.

I am sorry, Sir, that with all of our academics here that little research seemed to have taken place except by a gentleman who writes a lot in this area. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North would know him very well because he comes from that parish. He writes a lot in this area. He has done a fair amount of work in this area, but that is an important area that research is necessary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, I fully support the effort being made to have a sustaining effort with respect to the enlargement of share ownership in Barbados. I fully support the efforts to make sure that the Stock Exchanges in the Caribbean are linked in order to have a greater pool, not only of potential savers but of shares to satisfy that demand. I want to caution, Sir, that the task is not an easy one. Politicians can talk as much as they like. You know what they say, Sir, the windfall issue taught us one thing that politicians can make a lot of talk but when it comes to the people's money and how they spend it, it is only one body that is going to make that decision, that is the people themselves, Sir.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER, and begged for leave to sit again. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply, to that it 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: The House reverts to Committee of Supply.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I will not be very long but I think it is necessary for me to respond to the very spirited criticism which was levelled at me by the Honourable Member for St. Peter for my complete inaction, as he calls it, as Minister of Finance in either creating an environment for the promotion of economic democracy or undertaking initiatives which would have resulted in the development of small black businesses in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I have to leave history to resolve those issues but this much I can say at this stage, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. Peter cannot reprobate and approbate at the same time. He cannot utilise the funds which I left in the Public Enterprise Investment Fund to create new businesses and then at the same time say that nothing was done by the previous Minister of Finance to facilitate the development of business in Barbados. What the Honourable Member for St. Peter has had, which no other Minister of Finance or Prime Minister has had, was a stable economic environment in which to undertake initiatives, a build up of the foreign reserves and all of the other policy tools available to him.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is seeking to mislead the House. He cannot say that no other Minister ever had that environment because in 1986 the Minister of Finance of the day inherited an economy growing at 4.5% and he also inherited, and this is the point, Sir, he also inherited all of the proceeds of the Japanese Yen bond that had been put to a sterilized account that was to be used for the further development of the country that would have far exceeded what was left in the public enterprises fund, Sir. So the situation in 1986 was of superior equitable stability. If he wants to make comparability in the issue, Sir, he cannot say it never was before, that is not accurate.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has corrected the record only to say then that he agrees with me that he is only the second Minister of Finance who inherited an economic environment which generally should have provided a platform for all of those reforms which he agrees with me are necessary to develop small black businesses in Barbados and to undertake a programme of economic democracy.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the very money which sold Heywoods was placed into an account, an account which now provides the opportunity for the GEMS project, which provides the opportunity for the \$2 million to be given to the small businesses. The Honourable Member for St. Peter cannot take any credit whatsoever for putting a penny in any of those accounts at the time when he made the funds available to small business. So you cannot reprobate and approbate at the same time.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter is merely carrying to its logical conclusion the initiatives which his predecessor had started. That is all. So, Mr. Chairman, on the issue of privatisation the Government found itself in a situation where it was forced to sell shares to raise foreign exchange, which is a legitimate reason for privatisation programmes; to pay off debt, to raise foreign exchange in a critical economic situation.

I do not expect the Honourable Member for St. Peter to put my case or the Democratic Labour Party's but at

the time the then Minister of Finance, who happened not to be me, realised that it was necessary to sell those shares immediately to pay off a major obligation, the same obligation which the Honourable Member for St. Peter or one similar to the same obligation which the Honourable Member for St. Peter just extolled as a virtue in 1986.

Now, Sir, every single privatisation which was undertaken by the Democratic Labour Party subsequent to the sale of the BET shares had a condition that the workers and the people of Barbados be entitled to purchase shares in those entities. For example Heywoods, it was not just old talk, it was a condition of the sale that BS&T Resorts Limited, as it was then supposed to be called will offer for sale to the public of Barbados, subject to the approval of the Securities Exchange of Barbados, 10% of the issued capital of that company within 18 months of the reopening of the hotel at such price as BS&T Resorts should determine. Those shares were sold and a substantial portion of those shares were allocated to the workers. This is a statement that I issued in the House as Minister of Finance on 6th April 1994. Now the Clerk can have access to it.

Pine Hill Dairy. When we initially sold the Pine Hill Dairy shares it was specifically restricted to farmers, workers, cooperatives, trade unions and so on and the offer was under-subscribed. Of the \$8 million in shares that we made available the offer was entirely under-subscribed even I think to the extent of about 80% so we only sold about 20% of the shares. As a result of that the new Government came in and put the shares on the market with less restrictions than under the previous share offering. So when we restricted it to that category of persons it was not successful and that is well known. The first sale of Pine Hill Dairy Shares in 1993 was under-subscribed. The market may have been tight but the point is that the Government restricted its offer only to workers, farmers, cooperatives, trade unions and so on.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No. The entire amount, because it was only a limited amount that was for sale any way. The rest had been reserved for some scenario in which IDB or some other entity was to come in with some arrangement to purchase the balance. That never came off.

Arawak Cement Plant – the Honourable Member for St. Peter can check the record from the conditional sale that eventually shares be made available to the public including the workers of the institution. Check the record and see. When I left office the last set of negotiations we were having for the sale of the National Oil Company was to sell it to the workers. There was no other offer on the table. The workers themselves had entered into an agreement with another private sector company and they were working in tandem in relation to the share offer. So at that time we were in fact negotiating with the General

Manager of the Barbados National Oil Company who was the principal negotiator on behalf of the workers. So to make such an allegation, Mr. Chairman, is entirely without foundation and is misleading the House. There were no other shares that were sold.

I have never been comfortable with the configuration of the shares for cruise terminals. Cruise terminals never came under my portfolio. It was not a privatisation. It was a matter in which the Port Authority had the Cabinet authority to enter into an arrangement to secure a private sector joint venture partner to build the terminal. The Port Authority itself undertook the arrangement and even in respect of that there were a large number of shares, I do not remember what percentage, which were sold to credit unions. I know the City of Bridgetown Credit Union has a sizeable portion of that allocation – a substantial portion of those shares which were sold to the public.

I remember permanent secretaries, if you check the list, purchased a substantial portion of those shares. Go through the list and you will see it. The Honourable Member for St. Peter forgets it. Trade unions, credit unions bought shares in Barbados Cruise Terminals. There is a whole block of shares which went to the public, but the pretence is that the Government sold out the whole port, not just the duty free project, the entire port was sold to the conglomerate, and that is legacy of the Democratic Labour Party. The people who uttered that are blatant liars, Mr. Chairman, and I would not identify them at this time because there will shortly be an opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Peter said that I did nothing. If he accepts that and he wants me to accept that, for the sake of argument let us accept it. What I do know and what the rest of Barbados knows is that the people of Barbados did something because they voted for the Honourable Member for St. Peter largely because I believe that they believed that based on the experience and the background that he had in life, that he would be looking after their interest in this Parliament but, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Peter has delivered two brilliant speeches in recent times, one which he delivered in here in which he said he wants to hear nothing about any poor black people any more and the second one in which he said... He did not say he was looking out for the people who voted for him, he said he is now looking for someone who has U. S. \$200 million. So if you do not have that, you will not catch the attention of the Honourable Member for St. Peter. I did not say it. The Honourable Member for St. Peter said that the person he is looking for is a small black businessman who has U.S.\$200 million. So the public of Barbados have received their rebuff from the Honourable Member for St. Peter. The business people who he should be liberating and advancing their interests, and I am talking about those black businessmen who need that opportunity,

have received their rebuff. Therefore, for the Honourable Member for St. Peter to sit in his seat and suggest that some businesses in Barbados have succeeded because they have received a hand-shake is not new. The South Asian economy was built on selecting certain individuals and giving them preferential treatment, licences to import to increase their cash flow and so on. That is not a new phenomenon. It is a problem in a multi-racial society. It is a problem in this country because when you give those opportunities to white businesses it is fine. A man wrote in the newspaper and said that he had a School Meals contract for 26 successive years under successive Governments including Democratic Labour Party Governments. He said that. That was a boast, not a public listed company. It is not even a public company and for the first time when attempts were made to give somebody else an opportunity to participate in part of Government's pie that was immediately reversed and allegations of corruption were laid at the feet of the Democratic Labour Party.

2.30 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, in his time, singled out some black businessmen to give them opportunities and he listed some in here today to bring them into the economic mainstream. But because they were black businessmen and he was a black Minister, there had to be corruption. If the people of Barbados were to go through the list of public contracts and who benefits from them, presently and in the past 2 or 3 decades, the people who got them all the time, nobody alleged there was corruption. They are the fairest and the purest bidders for contracts in Barbados. It is only when you attempt to make changes in the economic strangle-hold that that kind of thing happened.

I want to send a message to the Honourable Member for St. Peter about this story concerning K-Mart. There was talk during the 1994 elections about K-Mart and that it would be given concessions. I have never had any discussion about giving K-Mart any concession and no application was made to me to give K-Mart any concession. But I would only have had to be a madman to attempt to give a company like K-Mart concessions to build a complex in Barbados when there was a black successful businessman building a complex at Haggatt Hall in St. Michael without one single Government concession and the only concession that he was given by the Democratic Labour Party within months of assuming office the Barbados Labour Party immediately reversed and shouted corruption into the ears of the people of Barbados and into our ears. Not one other concession did that black businessman get for the construction of that building at Haggatt Hall in St. Michael.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I never heard that the Barbados Labour Party withdrew any concession. He said the word "concession". I heard the

word "concession" very carefully. I know that there was a contract. Well, if the contract was intended to be a concession, then I think that we are into something that is bigger than campaign financing.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not going to let those puerile insulting allegations deflect me. I have made my point very clear.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. A statement has been made that the Barbados Labour Party withdrew a concession. The Barbados Labour Party did not withdraw any concession that was granted to Julie 'N. There was no concession that I am aware of that was granted to Julie 'N that the Barbados Labour Party withdrew and I want that to be cleared from the record. There was no concession.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is taken. No concession.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, he is entitled to call it what he wants to call it. The English language is open for several interpretations. I am saying that an opportunity was created. Some people call it a concession. Some may want to call it a contract and some may wish to call it a facility. But when that opportunity was created for that individual it was a problem. But for 26 successive years one person, a one-man company under successive Governments had been receiving that concession and nobody alleged corruption or any other base motive on the people. Some of them are people who have received tax concessions for all kinds of things and the person who built that complex at Haggatt Hall never got a single concession. That is an example, Mr. Chairman. Now do you not think that if a man invests that kind of money in this economy that there must not be some way in which the Government of Barbados needs to acknowledge that contribution and needs to ensure that there is some system in which those opportunities exist?

Mr. Chairman, it is that kind of hypocrisy that would cause people to feel that it is a myth that a man could start on Baxter's Road in the Honourable Member's constituency in a one-door shop and end up at Haggatt Hall or that other businesses could start like that. But as soon as those people start to make elbow room in this country for themselves it has to be corruption. That sneering attitude of contempt comes from the Members on that side constantly with which the Honourable Member for St. Peter will not agree. That is why he is going to have problems getting any programme of economic democracy advanced in this country because it will start to bite into the pockets of some other interests which prop up the Barbados Labour Party as a whole and to which you are not yet party.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. I keep hearing this being perpetrated in here all of the time.

There are no small black people that have any interest in Julie 'N. The real truth about Julie 'N needs to be spoken to know who he is defending.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, in the election I spoke for example about large insurance companies on which Honourable Members on that side sat as board members which I felt should make a contribution for example to building a hostel for vagrants in the City. I thought the Honourable Member for the City as the representative for that constituency would wish to encourage that company to be public spirited and to assist Government in those kinds of projects. That is the level of accountability the people in the City should be asking for. But as I say, Mr. Chairman, Sir, this debate is going to continue to be marred with that level of intellectual dishonesty...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:... unless we are able to rise to the occasion, Mr. Chairman, and be serious about these developments.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has the task of designing the programme. I cannot design it for him. He has to design it and he has to get his Government to adhere to a programme which will advance the interest of the people of this country. But, Mr. Chairman, I do not wish any promises from the Honourable Member for St. Peter because I joined with him and a group of successful entrepreneurs one Saturday evening. He did admit that a number of the projects for which they were being congratulated started under the Democratic Labour Party. He did that and I acknowledged that and praised him for his foresight in that regard, and I thanked him for that. I will not say that I agreed with everything that he said because he started his speech by making it clear that he is a politician and he breaks promises. I hope that in due course the public of Barbados would have the opportunity of hearing those words very clearly resonating into their ear because they would better understand why it is not feasible to accept any promise from the Honourable Member for St. Peter that there be any effort at economic democracy in this country under this administration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, if other Members are not interested, I rise. I want to thank Members who have spoken in this debate. As usual, the most outstanding speech on the Opposition side was rendered by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who was a model of incoherence. He castigated the Companies Act for what the Companies Act did not purport to do. The

Companies Act, in relation to the payment of dividends, only sets very strict conditions such that the payment of dividends does not erode the capital of companies.
2.40 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said that the Companies Act should be changed to make sure that directors of companies that make money pay the shareholders dividends. If the Prime Minister has a problem with that, then he should tell the House, because I remember giving the example that if a man has \$5 000 in the bank he gets \$500 if the interest rate is 10%, but if he has \$5 000 in shares, there is no guarantee for him to get a dividend. If the Prime Minister has a problem with that, Sir, then he should say it to the House.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I will just give the assurance to the Member for St. Lucy that no legislation can really force, but legislation can prescribe, conditions under which a dividend cannot be paid, on the grounds of protecting and maintaining the capital of the company. If he wants to propose an amendment, it is within his discretion to do so. He has already proposed that Government should carry out the proposals of the Physical Development Plan in relation to the siting of landfills, and we will remind the people of St. Lucy that landfills...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Nowhere in the record of Hansard will you ever see a statement by me that a landfill should be sited in St. Lucy. I have objected to that in this Assembly, and I said it would be over my dead body.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I said that the Member for St. Lucy has already given the House the assurance that he fully supports the last Physical Development Plan that was prepared by his Government; that would have a landfill sited in central St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order again, Mr. Chairman. The Right Honourable Member for St. Peter is misleading the House, because I have never spoken on the Physical Development Plan in this Assembly.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: He even called for a land use policy in the White Paper on Education, Sir, if you will recall. He is an expert on physical development. I was fairly titillated by the excellent speech of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, which was the most outstanding speech from the Other Side.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West spoke and reminded the House that the Stock Exchange started to operate in 1987 but that the time had come for there to

be an educational programme relating to it. One would have thought that when he had the opportunity in 1987, when the Exchange was about to start, that he would have impressed upon the administrators of the day that if you are going to start a new institution then at least you should have an education programme. I give him the assurance that a full-fledged education programme is now being finalised and that explains why we are seeking some of these funds.

The Honourable Member for St. John spoke twice, Sir, and I have in most respects already answered the charges he has made. There is a sadness attached to the argument that people on this side of Parliament do not like small black people, and if the Democratic Labour Party believes that the people of Barbados feel so I can only pity them. That really is the point of a lot I have had to say recently on this issue, that the small black people of Barbados see through politicians who believe that all they have to do is to come to them and say: "I am for the small black man." It is the most transparent political argument put by two-bit politicians, and if people believe that just waving the small black man flag is going to get them... There have been too many politicians throughout the history of politics, including Barbados' politics, who have taken the small black man for a ride. If you all believe that just waving the small black man flag can carry you somewhere, that is up to you, but the small black people of Barbados have their own judgment in these matters and they know a lot of it is just false tears. A lot of two-bit politicians, while serving other interests of large transnational corporations in the Caribbean, even to the point of us becoming wholly-owned subsidiaries of large transnational corporations in the Caribbean, are shedding very false tears on behalf of the small black man who, if they would only devote some of the keen interest they are showing to the affairs of the large trans-nationals to the development of small business...

I want to make a point, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. John has charged us to outline our coherent programme, and I want to outline it, because it is a coherent programme. My administration believes that there has been a lot of lip service paid to small business historically – a token provision of resources here, a token provision of resources there – but there has never been a serious or integrated effort to integrate the small business sector into the mainstream of Barbados' economic activity, and it starts by reference to a number of very simple deficiencies. One is that the Small Business Association has never had a secure secretariat, properly funded, and without it, it will never be able to use properly the resources marshalled in its support, nor will it be able to galvanise the small business sector in any coherent fashion. Our coherent approach began by this administration agreeing to fully fund the operation and staffing of a Small Business

secretariat for the first time, and we have done it consistently for two years.

Without an institutional home small business development can go no place, and for generations there was no institutional home for small business development. There is one now and there will be one consistently under the Barbados Labour Party. That is coherence, Sir. We are also this year going to start building a home for the Small Business Association so that they do not have to knock about from obscure dusty room to obscure dusty room, and as they start the institutional development we are going to be providing in increments, but in larger and larger amounts, additional resources for them to be able to use for the benefit of their members. That is why the two sets of funding we are going to be giving out of the public purse, in addition to that which they will mobilise on their own accord, make sense within the context of their having an institutional home.

I have also announced, Mr. Chairman, that we are also going to give concessions for persons, private individuals, who make investments in venture capital funds for small business. It cannot obviously fall wholly and entirely to Government to provide all the funding for small businesses in venture capital funding, so the \$2 million in direct expenditure through the Budget must be seen in conjunction with the additional tax concessions that are to be provided for the purpose.

I came to the House with a Budget presentation designed to support training in entrepreneurial development among young people, and that whole programme to support youth entrepreneurship is intended to give an additional boost to small business development. So that the coherence of our programme, Mr. Chairman, is rooted in our providing an institutional framework within which the Small Business Association can feel they have a root in the mainstream, or providing direct funding for the creation of venture capital facilities or for the creation of additional tax concessions for the purpose, and those are only the start. We are also going to fund separately a headquarters for the Small Business Association of Barbados. That is the start, Sir.

2.50 p.m.

That we have had to come to do it now, that we have had to create a small business secretariat and a headquarters only points to what has not been done in the past. We are not replacing one. We are building one from scratch and I want therefore to say that the Member for St. John spoke with an element of emptiness on this matter. We have not yet solved all of the problems of small business. We are aware of it, but we have made an important start citing the correct fundamentals, and I therefore will allow the Democratic Labour Party

to continue to believe that people in Barbados, knowing their record, feel that all of this hot air about their love of the small black man is something that can stand the test of evidence.

It is perhaps time for this House to mature and to recognise that this approach to political division in this country on the basis of who likes white people and who likes black people is part of a sickness that has caused the society in general to be alienated from politicians. Members of the society know that is not true and therefore it adds to the quiver of arrows that are thrown upon me because it is something that I do not believe and it is sad that at a time when we are speaking about the further development...

Aside.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: At least, Sir, I said that I had come not to give a speech but if I broke that promise, then I apologise. If I ended up speaking after I had promised not to that is another promise. At least I honour the integrity of my manifesto. I don't treat it as something to be sent to a landfill. I want to say that this matter has engaged the House's attention and attracted support from both sides and has given us the opportunity to speak to how we see the development of the stock exchange in the context of business development in Barbados and in the context of the wider integration of the Caribbean.

The Opposition has seized the opportunity to try to massage their own egos for propaganda by speaking about their love for the small black man, none of which can be seen with the naked eye. The Member for St. Lucy again distinguished himself by a speech of such comprehensive incoherence that its very incoherence made it coherent and I do not know how to respond to what the Member for St. Michael West said other than to promise him that the educational thrust about the stock exchange that should have taken place in 1987 will now take place and that I am glad of his support of it. I know that he was very rueful that his Administration did not have the foresight to do in 1987 what he now expects this Administration to do today.

I would thank him for having put such a very stern lash in his Administration responsible for the stock exchange for having set up a stock exchange...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Right Honourable Member is clearly ensuring that I correct the record. I made the point that it has nothing to do with what has gone before. I was admonishing the Prime Minister in his capacity as leader of the merry band he has to ensure that the educational programme is entirely different from the namby-pamby to which they have become accustomed.

I was suggesting to him that he would make a paradigm shift in the educational approach to the stock exchange. I didn't think he misunderstood me. I believe he is being a little different.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I give the House the assurance that I will investigate whether in fact any concession was withdrawn from Julie'N by this Administration. To my certain knowledge, Sir, there was no concession that was withdrawn. I know that contracts involving the expenditure of public funds in accordance with the Financial Rules which do not make provision for concessionary finances so that contracts were awarded and I would hope that there is no confusion between the award of contracts under the Financial Rules and a new concept of concession which can mean anything, Sir. I give the House the assurance that I will have this matter investigated and will report in due course.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 8(b) – SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1996–97 NO. 3. HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORT AND HOUSING

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution stand part.

This Resolution is in respect to the heavy rains which visited the island over the past few weeks and which did tremendous damage to the northern part of the island. I believe that most members are aware of the nature of the soil in the Scotland District and it is really not necessary for me to go into details as to the type of land slippage that normally occurs in that area during heavy rainfalls.

The parishes which are normally affected during such periods not only include the parish of St. Andrew which I represent but St. John, St. Peter and St. Joseph are also included in the 22 square miles forming the Scotland District. St. Andrew is the only parish that is entirely included within the Scotland District area. There are certain areas that are affected by land slippage more than other areas, and I can speak of the area of Springvale which are normally affected during periods of heavy rainfall. As a matter of fact, during the heavy rains that visited these areas over the past few weeks these areas did experience serious land slippage.
3.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the controlling of the soils posed a problem for engineers over the years, and I think that both administrations have grappled with the problem of rectifying the reconstruction of the roads and the stabilisation of the soils in the areas.

Controlling the flow of water, therefore, is seen as a major step towards reducing the landslides in the area. No matter how well you repair the roads, when the water from the springs get underneath the road, if the soil is not properly stabilised, it is fairly obvious that the roads will give away.

The problem is that in the past, even though the maintenance costs in these areas are higher than in the rest of Barbados, we experienced a period, in particular between 1986 and 1994, when there was absolutely no maintenance within the Scotland District. This includes St. John, to which the Honourable Member for St. John could attest. As a result, this failure to maintain these roads has resulted in a greater slippage during these periods of heavy rainfall than would have been occasioned if the roads were, indeed, properly maintained.

Mr. Chairman, it is, therefore, obvious to ask that we would need in the future to collaborate a lot more with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Soil Conservation Unit in order to arrest the problem in the hills so as to stabilise the soil, in order that the recurrence of the type of problem that we are encountering would not ensue.

The deterioration of the road network had indeed created some communication hardship. We are now at a stage where tour operators are ignoring the Scotland District altogether now. They are telling their drivers not to go into certain areas, e.g. Belleplaine, as a result of the instability in the area. As a result there has been reduced economic opportunities for the inhabitants of the Scotland District, which has lagged behind in economic and social development, compared to the western and southern communities in the island.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of areas that were very badly affected during this period. I would like for the benefit of Members who were not aware of the serious problems that visited us, to spell out a number of these areas. St. Bernard's Village, this is an area which, normally, suffers very seriously during these periods. At least we in the Ministry, during the past 2 years, had the foresight to begin repairs to the roads and we were able, before the rains came in, to complete the work on the road itself. The roadside drains, however, are presently being canalised and concreted.

We are hoping that if we can canalise and concrete most of the drains in most of the serious roads in the Scotland District, at least we would be able to obviate the problems. We need to do massive works during periods of heavy rainfall. Further work is required in the downstream area to ensure that a resultant increased volume of water is effectively controlled.

In the area of Bissex, that road we have had to close. There was one particular area that was affected by landslides. When we went in to actually repair that part, we found that it would only be about 50 feet or so. The rains came in after we started, and it was subsequently discovered that an area about an additional hundred meters had to be repaired. We are hoping that by the end of December this road will be completed. We have also taken the opportunity, seeing that the road works are necessary at this time in Bissex, to do some expansion of the road.

As I said earlier, the road that we were disappointed about, is the one at Spring Vale. This is one which was repaired very early in this administration. It was also widened. It is road which was impassable almost throughout...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is attempting to suggest that the Spring Vale road was repaired very early in the present administration. The Spring Vale road, in fact, Mr. Chairman, the repairs of that road started in 1993, and shortly after we left office the repairs had been completed. Ninety percent of the work had been started and almost completed under the previous administration. So the records should be accurate. In addition to other roads that I will mention if it is necessary.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: The Member was only a Minister of Public Works for a brief period, and I doubt very much he knows the roads in St. Andrew.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. I really am going to strike those remarks from the records. I am a product of the late Joe Tudor who, every Sunday, "Let's go somewhere with Joe Tudor," and there is no part in Barbados I do not know because I went with him.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, as I said, the repairs to the roads at Spring Vale which began during our administration was completed sometime late last year. As I was saying, we were somewhat disappointed that we did not get everything right in this road.

When the Division of Public Works started to repair this road, some concern was felt at the time by the officers at Soil Conservation, that we should first try to deal

with the stabilisation of the soils on the eastern side. It was necessary that we proceed with repairs to the road at that time. We were hoping that we could have come to the question of the stabilisation of the soils on the eastern side sometime afterwards.

I would say that the situation with respect to the failure of the Soil Conservation not to be in a position to deal with the stabilisation of the soils on the eastern side, had a lot to do with the failure of the last administration, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East would know, to provide that department with the necessary equipment and labour to complete the works.

As a matter of fact, during the period of structural adjustment, a number of workers from the Soil Conservation Unit were sent home and they were only recently replaced, Mr. Chairman.

The failure of the last administration to provide the necessary equipment and labour to the Soil Conservation Unit was responsible for their inability at the time when we went into Spring Vale, to do the stabilisation works on the eastern side. As a result of that failure, the road caved in during the heavy rainfall which visited us a few weeks ago. It is hoped, Mr. Chairman, that we will be able again to canalise the drains taking the surface water as well as provide several take-off points toward the watercourse.
3.10 p.m.

Boscobel: This is a bridge which broke down some years ago during the period of the last administration and was never ever repaired. It has been out of use for the last 10 years. The Division of Public Works had started slightly before the heavy rains to do some work. There was some slight damage during the heavy rains and it is hoped we will be able to widen and improve the road over a length of about 1 kilometre. The Soil Conservation Unit with the necessary equipment they have, has been stabilising certain sections of the adjacent lands.

Bordens, Rock Hall – this is also another area that we had started to stabilise but during the period of the heavy rainfall and the landslides over the past few weeks, we have had to divert the workers from this area to the other areas in the Scotland District.

Turner Hall – the problem we are getting with Turner Hall is one we should never have gotten. There was a very stable road in Turner Hall leading from Gregg Farm to Bawdens leading on to Belleplaine, one of the important links to this Scotland District area. A small portion of that road gave away during the period of the last administration

and rather than fixing that particular small stretch, the entire road was abandoned. Instead, a new road was built close to where the last representative for the area was born. I do not know if that particular road had some significance to the parliamentary representative at the time but it was obvious from the way how the road was structured and when you look at the history of the area and you talk to people in the area that road would not have lasted very long. I think it is only a miracle that it has stood up this long. What we propose to do is to reconstruct the old road, which is still very sound.

All the engineers within the Division of Public Works have indicated that it is a very strong road. We will not abandon the new road which was built. We were hoping we would be able to do some gabion work on both sides and toward the centre in the area which gave way. What we will do for the first time in the St. Andrew area is we will have a situation where there will be two roads going into St. Andrew utilising this area to Bawdens and one road going out. There will be a "No Entry" sign to the bottom of the road but you will be able to get in from both roads.

With respect to the Duncan O'Neal Highway, it is fairly obvious that we have to monitor this road. We have noticed a few cracks over the past few years. The cracks we have seen since the heavy rainfall are a source of concern but the engineers within the Ministry have indicated that, as it stands right now, they are not as serious as they might appear. We have to begin repairs in a very short while to those small cracks in that road.

St. Simons – we have had movements on both sides of the road. We have to move very shortly to retain that road.

Boarded Hall – there has been a landslide in that area as well within the past few weeks. We are presently monitoring the situation. It is hoped we will be able to deal with that before the situation gets worse.

Spa Hill – the landslide in this area is at the other end of the Boarded Hall Road. It is obvious an entire village will be cut off if we do not do the remedial works as soon as possible.

Perhaps the road which causes the greatest concern is the Richmond Road which leads to the Flower Forest. It is the only road that leads to the Flower Forest, one of the major tourist attractions in Barbados. As a matter of fact, the last day we visited the area when we first heard of the pending slippage of the road, it was a Tuesday and we were told that on the Wednesday they were expecting as many as 27 tour buses to come to that area. That gives you an indication of what will be lost to the tourism sector and certainly to the owners of the Flower Forest if we are

no longer able to access this road. It is really a serious cause for concern to the engineers within the Division of Public Works and also to the experts at Soil Conservation. So far they have been unable to come up with a solution. They have indicated they have done some tests on this road and they have gone 700 feet down and so far they have not been able to arrive at a base. We are looking at the possibility of – it is just a proposal we are looking at, it is not something that we actually have decided on. There is also the possibility of cutting down part of the road and building a bridge over the two stable sides but this would be at great cost. A project like that could very well absorb most of the funds we are asking for today but that will be the subject of a separate study.

Baxters Hill/White Hill – here again this is an area that was totally ignored by the last administration. A section of the road gave away and it would not have taken much in order to reconstruct the road. It will be necessary for us to do an acquisition in the area so that we could connect the area to the bottom of Baxters to White Hill. We may, however, consider making a portion of that road one way when it is completed. Those of you who might have been watching television recently might have noticed that overnight a big chunk of land gave away. Those are the types of problems we are encountering in these areas.

Highway F – this Highway stretches from Foster Hall, St. Joseph to Codrington in St. John. There has been severe erosion to the lands adjacent to the road and the road has become very bumpy over a major portion of its length. It is hoped that we will be able to form this into a project to seek international funding in order to be able to effect repairs to this road.

The Rock Hall Road which is the mode of access to the residents of Rock Hall has surprisingly given way as well. As a matter of fact, just last week this road was practically cut in half. It is going to be necessary for us to do a complete realignment of the Rock Hall Road. It is also going to be necessary for us to do a series of acquisitions in order to rehabilitate that area.

As I said earlier, it is obvious that in future, whenever we have to reconstruct or repair any of the roads in the area, that there are a number of measures we will have to take. It would be necessary for us to ensure that all the roads are canalised and proper concrete drains are in place. It is going to be an ongoing and costly exercise. It is obvious we will have to collaborate with the Soil Conservation Unit to make sure that the stabilisation in the area is done. It is also going to be necessary for us to ensure that the springs are controlled.

The Ministry is of the view that rehabilitating the roads within the Scotland District is vital since this section

of the island plays an important role in the economic life of the country. I think everyone is aware of the fact that the mining of building materials, namely the clay and the soil in this area is of importance to the economy of this country.

3.20 p.m.

We did mention the fact that it is also a tourist attraction. Quite recently the Minister of Culture together with the National Cultural Foundation introduced the staging of the Pic-o-de-Crop semi-finals in this area and it is hoped that with the renewed activity in this area from these types of festivals, together with other projects that are planned for the area, we will be in a position now when we are dealing with the international funding agencies to satisfy the criteria for traffic count and economic returns, something which was absent in the past which prevented the Scotland District area from benefitting from a number of loans.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second this motion and I would wish to say that in support...

Members must have the courage of their conviction. Get up and second the thing if you are going to support it. Do not beat about now. You want me to second it? I will speak now. Do not mind these mimic men over there.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to offer my congratulations to the Honourable...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot refer to Members on her side as mimic men. How could she do that?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is not wearing his glasses. I was very much pointing at the Members on the Other Side. Over here we have men and women.

Sir, I wish to offer my congratulations to the Honourable Minister for Public Works. This is a matter of urgency. It is not the first, neither will it be the last time that we will come to this House with a Resolution of this sort. This goes to the very formation of Barbados. I have said this in here before but perhaps for the enlightenment of some Honourable Members who have not heard it I shall say it again. There was a time, Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Barbados was in fact two islands. The coral terraces, as they are called, on the West and the South coasts of Barbados grow very slowly over eons of time so that what we see today is one mass. When you look at the soil on

the west and south coasts of Barbados, Mr. Chairman, Sir, you see a fine black soil. You see a number of gullies which are really old watercourses to the sea which drain these coral terraces. But on the eastern coast of Barbados you are looking at an entirely different geological formation. You are looking at oceanic upthrust, clay stones as we see it. You drive on the east coast of Barbados, you drive on the west coast, it is as though they are two different countries and there was a time, Mr. Chairman, Sir, when there was no join between the oceanic upthrust on the east and the coral terraces on the south and west and there used to be water in between there. Over the years it rose into what is today the St. George Valley. Even until today we still cut from the St. George Valley the finest coral stone such as is seen in this Honourable Chamber and all of the houses that we have built over the years. All of the major quarries in Barbados are in that valley. But also in that valley is the imperfect join and that is where you will find the caves of Barbados. If you go down into Harrison's Cave and you know where to look and what to look for, you will see clearly what is west and south coast coral formation and you will see clearly on another side of Harrison's Cave what is oceanic upthrust. Most of the caves of Barbados are really occlusions in the join.

Now those clay stones and sand stones on the East Coast of Barbados, that part of it known as the Scotland District, are prone to slippage. We have known this all our lives. History books tell us that this has always been the case and I firmly believe that it is always going to be the case. In other countries they have volcanoes. In other countries yet again they have underground mineral rivers, geysers of one kind or other. In other countries again you have deserts. In Barbados we have the Scotland District but the Scotland District is going to be, in my judgement, an area where we will always have to be doing remedial works such as what this money is about to be voted for.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew made reference to the importance to the tourism industry of the Scotland District and I want particularly to underscore that today. Some weeks ago we brought Special Development Areas legislation to this House and one of the designated areas in the First Schedule to that Bill was the Scotland District. It is a fact, Mr. Chairman, that the most visited tourist attraction in Barbados starts with Harrison's Cave. More visitors go to Harrison's Cave than any other product offering that we have in Barbados. Sunbury Plantation follows second. The Flower Forest follows third. Eighty-six thousand people visited the Flower Forest last year, in 1995. Sunbury did not have a good year last year because they had the fire and they have now rebuilt but before the fire at Sunbury, Sunbury was the second most popular of the tourist attractions that people visited both cruise tourist and long stay in Barbados.

Now you have a triangle there on the cusp of the Scotland District with Harrison's Cave which the Government fully intends to refurbish and to expand before the year 2000. Then you have Welchman Hall Gully. At the other apex of that triangle you have the Flower Forest and there are tours which you can do two out of the three or all three or whatever, but it is perhaps the more travelled by coach tour operations than any other area in Barbados.

There are other areas in Barbados, not well known but sometimes visited by tourists who are into eco-tourism, who are into nature-based tourism and they want to go somewhere extraordinary.

They have in fact coined a phrase. They have said to us: "You show us the best of Barbados. Show us now the rest of Barbados". These are the tourists who want to go to the Pot House Spring. These are the tourists who want to see the water running in the street at Bath. These are the tourists who want to go to Three Houses. Yes, they go everywhere.
3.30 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes, do not talk about the Safari Tours at all. That is a different set altogether now. But what I am saying is that there is a proposal before us in the Ministry of Tourism now for a certain amount of development in and near Turners Hall woods. What I am saying is that that entire Scotland District area is a very important resource for Barbados in terms of our tourism product offering and it is very important that we should be able to retain some of the natural features as far as we can and some of the built environment as far as we can between St. Andrew, St. Joseph, parts of St. John and even parts of St. George. The Scotland District, Sir, different people see with different eyes. Agriculturalists for years have seen its possibility in terms of agriculture. I remember in an earlier administration there was even talk of growing pineapples in certain parts of the Scotland District. There was a huge orchard scheme growing. Certainly, when we left the Government in 1986 that was on the way. They were growing cherries and a whole host of other things like paw paws and so forth and all of the exotic fruits that we encourage our visitors to eat and we were even thinking of the export market. Other countries do it. Israel is a desert and yet as the Bible says, when I visited Jerusalem and Jericho I saw water running in the streets of Jericho. I saw the desert and I saw the big black bedouin tents as they would have been there a millennium or more ago. But I also saw bananas, paw paws and all manner of exotic fruits and vegetables growing in that desert. Every morning those LL jumbo jets would leave Ben Gurion Airport and by 11 o'clock mid-day fresh fruits and vegetables from Israel would be on the shelves of the green markets in

London, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Bonn and all of the European capitals. If they can do it, I cannot think of any reason why we cannot do it because we have the water here. What we have to learn, in my view, is how to harness what is harnessable in the Scotland District to our advantage. But human nature being what it is, Sir, sometimes we have what happened 2 weeks ago, heavy rainfall and there is a lot of slippage, and people get discouraged and dispirited about it. But in my submission we have to go on. It is an important chunk of Barbados.

There is another reason too, Mr. Chairman, why it is important that remedial works have to be done in the Scotland District. Many of the coral reefs around Barbados are dead and once dead they cannot be resuscitated. A lot of the wash-off from the Scotland District goes into the sea on the east coast of Barbados. Coral needs sunlight and warmth to grow and, when those waters are muddied up with wash-off as they must have been over the past 3 or 4 weeks, coral like human beings will become ill and in some cases will die. So it is very important that the preservation of our near shore waters on that coast, and remember that is the coast where the surfers go and that is the coast where the Honourable Member for St. Andrew pointed out which is now being contemplated that a number of cultural activities might be undertaken.

We have in effect, Mr. Chairman, a lot of plans for the East Coast of Barbados. It is proposed that the Scotland District may be rehabilitated and put to use in a way that it never has been in the past and what we cannot allow to happen is for the damage to get so bad that reclaiming it will then cost us 2 or 3 times what it cost today. What that means is that every time there is some slippage we have to run in and fix it, because if you allow 2 or 3 years to pass and you do nothing the cost of reclamation is going to triple and quadruple.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to support this and I hope that we will in due course see a comprehensive plan and proposal for the rehabilitation and development of this entire Scotland District coming before this Honourable House. I thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, after one listened to the Honourable Minister, one got the impression that everything in the Scotland District area was in such a bad state that there was no hope and that the only good thing you could do was to bring everybody out of St. Andrew. But I want to remind the Honourable Minister that the Democratic Labour Party had put forward some proposals...

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I represent the constituency of St. Andrew and certainly I have no intention of seeing the people of St. Andrew removed because it would mean that I do not have a constituency. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, you may recall that the Leader of the Party on that side had indicated at one stage that he would like to see the day when there is not a single cane blade in the constituency of St. Andrew.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I never accused the Member of making the statement. I said that when one listened to him you got that impression. But if he is now confirming that that is what he wants, that is up to him. But I am saying that the previous Government of the Democratic Labour Party had a plan where they were going to secure a large loan to repair all the roads in St. Andrew and I would like to find out from this present Government if they are still planning to go ahead with that plan to repair the roads in St. Andrew or if we are going to find ourselves in a situation that every year we are going to come to Parliament and ask for a supplementary for \$3.5 million, or whether we are going to tackle the problem once and for all or if we are going to be patching the roads. Then the next thing we will hear that the Minister is coming to this House and saying that no matter what good work you do in St. Andrew it is being washed away. I also want to remind the Minister that his Government has a duty to apologize to this House of Assembly because previously when the Democratic Labour Party did work in St. Andrew and it was washed away, the impression was given that the work was not good work. Now we are hearing the Minister stating that no matter what work you do in St. Andrew you are having these problems. So if they have finally realized that there is a particular problem within St. Andrew...

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misrepresenting what I said. I never said that no matter what you do in St. Andrew that you will get problems. I made the point that you need to maintain the roads and that during the last administration the roads were not properly maintained. Certainly, the measures that we are adopting to ensure that the roads are properly reconstructed and properly maintained we will not have a lot of these recurring problems and personally I believe that the maintenance of the roads in St. Andrew would be similar to the maintenance of roads elsewhere if they are properly maintained.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have Hansard to prove me right. The Minister also said that he repaired a particular road and he thought that everything was well only to find out that it was washed away. Am I wrong? I am saying that one must admit that any parish in Barbados is important to the country and the Scotland District is important to Barbados and that the roads in Scotland District should be repaired, but I am also

stating that at the same time you cannot be just coming to this Assembly and asking for money only for Scotland District after I have been complaining in this Assembly for over 2 years about the roads in St. Lucy and in rural Barbados. I want to know what we are doing about the roads in St. George, St. Joseph, and I am not talking about the Scotland District area only. I am talking about St. Joseph *in toto* and in St. Lucy.

3.40 p.m.

I would like to know how is it we do not have land slippage in St. Lucy but yet when you pass through a road like Rockfield after the heavy rains that we had for 2 years it appears as though we are having land slippage in St. Lucy. I cannot see anything here to correct the problems in St. Lucy but I am asked to come and correct only the problems in St. Andrew.

We need a total road repairing programme and not just one for the Scotland District but a road repair programme for the whole of Barbados. Every constituency M.P. in here can tell you that he has the same problems or nearly the same problems that the Minister is speaking about in his constituency. Whether you go through Crab Hill, Checker Hall, Farnswell, Pie Corner, Joes River, even Silver Sands, don't care where you go, we are having problems these days with roads.

Mr. Chairman, you know that I have been complaining and I have said and I even stopped talking about roads and rain in Barbados because I once said in this House of Assembly that every time I talk about flooding the next day or two there is a flood in Barbados and the last time I talked there was flooding in Weston. I am serious about this. We cannot pay lip service to the condition of the roads in St. Lucy without realising that the people in St. Lucy...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: There might be a flood Thursday, but I am saying that if it were to flood Thursday there wouldn't be anymore roads in St. Lucy and you need to spend some money on St. Lucy also. You cannot come in here and always spend money on St. Peter and St. Andrew and feel you will get away with it. You have to go beyond St. Andrew and St. Peter. You have to spend some money on St. Joseph and St. Lucy, St. Thomas. After listening to you, the number of roads you mention are always in St. Andrew. I listened well. Some might be in St. Joseph and I want to hear talk about St. George South too.

If we are going to tackle the road problems in Barbados you cannot only deal with St. Andrew because at the end of the day if you spent all the money on the roads in St. Andrew and St. Peter we would not have a tourist product because by the time you try to repair those roads

all of them will be destroyed along with the ones that you haven't repaired in St. Lucy.

I am saying it is regrettable to try to go to Archers Bay when we are always promoting Archers Bay as a nice place to see and a place where you can go and enjoy the nice beach. It is true it gives you a little challenge to get down to the beach. We are also saying that it is time that a proper road is built to Farnswell, Maycocks, that access be given down to the naval base beach there. We should spend some money now that there are the safari tours. The four-wheel drives are mashing up the roads in St. Lucy. The roads need to be repaired if we are going to be promoting this type of tourism. We cannot afford to put these vehicles on the road that are not good anyway and at the same time tell people you are improving tourism and mashing up the roads with those jeeps. I am not prepared to stand for that anymore.

For too long, whether you give me an airport or not, at some point in time the people of St. Lucy will get everything they want but what we are dealing with right now are the roads in St. Lucy that we need to see repaired.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I was not the M.P. then. I am the M.P. now. So whoever put them in, I am not responsible for that, but you will not sidetrack me with landfills at Lamberts because I know you cannot do it.

Mr. Chairman, I have complained in this Assembly on too many occasions that it seems to me that all the development stops at the Judge Gap. I am tired complaining. It is time that when I pick up one of these I can see something saying St. Lucy and there is going to be action. I don't want any Minister writing or any civil servant writing me a letter asking me to submit roads and to prioritise them and then I respond to that and nothing happens. I am sick and tired of that. It must be given some limelight; the people of St. Lucy are part of Barbados and deserve also to get a fair share of the cake.

Everything you pick up now – St. Peter or St. Andrew. We want something too. Do you know what is going to happen? I am going to encourage the people of St. Lucy to get more involved in the tourism sector. I am going to get them to go the Port and every time a cruise liner comes in to tell them about the nice beaches we have in St. Lucy. I am going to encourage them to contact a certain man in St. Peter and tell them to get him to take the tourists to those areas in St. Lucy and I am sure that we will get our roads. The time is ripe for action, Mr. Chairman, and it is time that the Minister gives some commitment to this Assembly wherein the people of Barbados will be able again to drive on good roads.

It is regrettable to have to live in Rockfield and want to come to the parish church and cannot drive from Rockfield to the parish church but you have to go around the rectory to get to the parish church. I cannot tolerate that, Sir, It is regrettable living in Checker Hall and want to get to the pavilion and have to go on the highway to get back to the pavilion because of the potholes in the road.

I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. George South will say that he has the same problems. I have heard from the Member for Christ Church South that he has problems in Silver Sands and I know there are those same problems in Fairfield Cross Road. So I want all of the Members in here to stand like men today and admit that they have problems.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Tell me the areas and I will talk on your behalf. If they are not listening to you, I will talk for you.

Mr. Chairman, I support what is being done in the Scotland District and I must congratulate the Minister for looking after his constituency but I want him to look after mine too. If the problem is money, let me know and I will beg the Prime Minister for some money for you. You cannot ignore St. Lucy because of money and do not come on the Floor of the House and say that you have a problem because of shortage of funds.

Don't let the Minister make you believe that St. Thomas doesn't want some roads too. I am sure he will fight on our behalf because you are my M.P. too. So you have to represent me properly or I will tell the people. That is why we want the roads in Welches Terrace repaired.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Oh, it is coming? At least you are getting something done. Oh, you sent a note to MTW yesterday about Welches Terrace? So I want to know from the Minister now when we are going to get some action in St. Lucy too. I will have to send a note too.

When you are finished the Scotland District...

Aside.

Mr. Chairman, I am serious though. As I said, we have...
3.50 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, am I to believe that when we are dealing with money, that money is only for the Scotland District? Am I to believe that, Sir?

When we are dealing with money, any Member of Parliament has a right to ensure that his constituency gets some. There is no law which states in Parliament that when you are discussing money that you must stick to the money for a particular area. There is no law which states that the money must be for a particular area.

I am saying that we need some of the money to be spent on St. Lucy. That is all that I am saying. The same way that the Prime Minister gave you Special Development Areas, and you have them and I congratulate you, because you seem to be able to achieve those things, I want to achieve something for St. Lucy too. That is why you see my people deserve to have proper roads to travel on.

I am also saying that everybody that lives in rural Barbados, and in Barbados in total, that they have a right to drive on proper roads. If it continues like this, those Safari Tours would have to stop in St. Lucy. They cannot continue mashing up the roads and they are not being repaired.

We will have to do something to make sure that the roads are repaired so that those four-wheel vehicles can travel on them. If they are not repaired, they cannot continue to be mashing up the roads in St. Lucy. We have to stop it. We will have to find some way to stop it. I am serious about it.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Chairman, I join with Honourable Members in complimenting the Honourable Minister of Public Works for bringing this Money Resolution to the House, and for the speed with which he has responded to the problems of dislocation recently experienced by many residents in St. Andrew, St. Thomas and St. Joseph, those that have suffered as a result of the land slippage that occurred in the Scotland District following the recent rains.

I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, that there has got to be an understanding, and understandably so, emergency responses, from time to time, to the problems of dislocation caused by land slippage in the Scotland District. Outside of those responses enough attention is not being paid to the demands in the interest of the people of the Scotland District, many of whom live on stable land and are not subjected to the land slippage recently experienced.

Unfortunately, the areas that we have to respond to from year to year or every two years, are the same areas every time. It raises an important question as to whether it might be cheaper for the country, and in the long term interest of everyone, that we should introduce a programme for resettlement so as to make sure that those who live in those areas of high risks, are removed to stable areas.

In attending to these emergency responses, what it means is that the people of Surinam, for example, who live on the stable land, the people of St. Elizabeth, Joes River, and many others are not getting the attention they deserve. All the resources are going to Boarded Hall, the Spa, Bissex, and to the areas that are high risk where people continue to live.

We get from time to time in Parliament and we acknowledge the importance of the Scotland District to Barbados. We emphasise its tourism attraction. We emphasise its agricultural potential. We sometimes forget that in a water scarce Barbados, the water that goes to waste runs off to the sea and it is not caught in coral formation. It is mostly to be found in the Scotland District.

It is an area of rich and vast potential. We have to have a master plan for its development. We have to stop paying lip service to its importance, and get around to implementing a master plan for the Scotland District.

It must be a plan with many components. It must be to resettle large numbers of people who are currently living in areas that are at risk. In particular the area running from St. Sylvans Village, Dark Hole as it has been known in the past, right back to St. Bernards, including the Spa, Melvin Hill, Parks, Chimborazo, the whole of that area. We must consider offering the people stable lands and incentives for their resettlement. It must be a master plan that seeks to integrate the Scotland District, fully, into the tourism plan of Barbados.

The distinguished Deputy Prime Minister alluded to attractions which are well known – The Flower Forest and Safari Tours – but there is much more that can be done. Turners Hall Woods is the only primeval forest in Barbados. I know that the conservationists have an approach that you must not touch it. It seems to me that there is no reason why, properly done, at least 1/3 of it might not be opened for 3 or 4 months of the year. Just 1/3 of it.

We have the Joes River forest, consisting of 99 acres just beneath Hackleton Cliff. I think that large work has been done there already and we have identified the trees, the nature of the wood. There is no reason why we cannot have trails and walks through the Joes River forest.

I believe that it was a mistake not to have identified Bathsheba by itself as an area rich for development as a township – resort township. I know it is part of the Scotland District, but I think it should have been identified, separated out, and identified in the legislation dealing with Special Development Areas.

There is a lot that can be done for our agriculture there. Not enough has been done in relation to flower growing. Not enough has been done in relation to foliage. I believe that almost all the cattle growing that is being pursued in Barbados can be undertaken in that area.

This is an area where we need to concentrate on resettlement, development, particularly its integration in the tourism project. It is an areas, too, where we need to emphasise the water potential and the importance of its agriculture.

Unless we do that, the impression gets abroad that all that happens in the Scotland District is that every time we have a heavy downpour we hear of the need for emergency funds to repair roads and to re-establish bridges and so on.

Now, to a large extent, successive Governments have failed the area. We said that the preventative work that needs to go on before the rainy season every year, that work is not being done. The wells must be cleared. We must make sure that the canals are in proper order, and that, generally, the water can find its way without impediments.

That is a job which falls to the Ministry of Public Works, and I think that it is fair to say that work has not always been done systematically and with regularity. 4.00 p.m.

Above all, in talking about the Scotland District, we must remember it is human settlement. It is where people live and we must make sure that they live in conditions no less appealing and attractive than the conditions enjoyed by others in other parts of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I am welcoming this Resolution but I am saying we need to stop paying lip service to the Scotland District. We need to have a comprehensive plan that emphasizes those components that I have identified, resettlement, the development of our agriculture, the use of water for national purposes that presently goes to waste, and a master plan that integrates the whole of the Scotland District into our tourism.

I want to, at the expense of repeating myself, remind the Minister that there are areas in St. Joseph that badly need road repair and I am referring to the St. Elizabeth area, Joes River, and Claybury that falls in the parish of St. John but for electoral purposes it is part of St. Joseph, Surinam, Clifton Hill in St. Thomas but part of St. Joseph for electoral purposes and Airy Hill. In fact, the situation in the Airy Hill bottom is so bad that many residents of Airy Hill have found themselves unable to attend church because they cannot get past the water that is settling in the streets.

I made a tour with the Minister of Public Works about two months ago. We have identified a lot of those areas but thus far, I do not think it is any fault of his, he needs the wherewithal. He has been blown off course now because of the need for emergency work but those areas need attention. It must be impressed on the Minister of Finance that the money needs to be found to ensure that the people who live in these areas enjoy the level of services that the rest of Barbados enjoys.

I think we will help ourselves if we emphasize the resettlement programme that I have indicated. There are lots of lands on the eastern side of St. Joseph, east of the Horse Hill road, as it were, where we should now concentrate on resettling people. We have identified lands in the Parris Hill area. We have identified lands off the Horse Hill area and I think we should develop those areas and ensure we can move large numbers of people to that part of the parish rather than have them continuing to live in the areas that are recognised and proven to be at risk over many years.

I want to make one final point. It has to do with the fact that, in my judgment, the money we are passing today for the repair work in the Scotland District area, that work should be undertaken by well-equipped, well-established and competent firms in the private sector. I believe it would go much further and we will get better value for our money if that work is undertaken by the private sector and will be more speedily done too than if it is undertaken by the Public Works staff.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I end where I began and that is by complimenting the Minister for the speed with which he has responded to this dislocation and inconvenience being suffered by the people of St. Joseph, St. Andrew and the areas in the Scotland District. I can only hope that the many appeals that have been made for repair work to be done in areas not presently affected will in truth and in fact be done over the next year or two.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I first of all would want to say this is a Resolution I do not believe we should, on this side, seek to oppose for any reason, political or otherwise. I think the Minister has made a decision that there is a problem in the particular area in St. Andrew and we are today being asked to facilitate the repairs that are necessary.

What troubles me though, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that this area is one that historically has behaved in a similar manner in the sense that when there is heavy rainfall, because of the *ad hoc* basis on which these roads were repaired from time immemorial, the problem recurs

year after year, where Parliament is then asked, as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph just recently indicated, and we have to come on a piecemeal basis and continue the process.

The present Minister while he sat as a Member of the Opposition during the period 1991 to 1994 lambasted the Democratic Labour Party administration and sought to suggest that we were totally responsible for the damage to the roads in St. Andrew. He lambasted us all over Barbados.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the Honourable Member's definition is of lambasted but I certainly cannot recall hearing that type of behaviour. Those of you who know me in this House would know that I am not guilty of that sort of behaviour both inside and outside of this House.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: If he does not understand lambasted, Mr. Chairman, he disappoints me as a Combermerian. It is unfortunate that these situations that occur in Barbados from time to time as a result, as we can say in Barbados, as an act of God, that persons would seek to score political mileage out of situations that are out of the control of an administration only to find themselves now in the same situation they criticized so they have to rush in haste to do the same kind of remedial work we had to do when the problem occurred before.

Mr. Chairman, you know what is strange about all this and the presentations that were made by the Honourable Members on that side so far? In the same Scotland District they so carefully explained – which is a problem area with slippage and so on – they systematically explained the importance of the area to Barbados, a tourism area, going to be the Mecca for future development, *et cetera*, but they carefully refused to accept that this same administration, who is tiptoeing as far as the road slippage is concerned, made no mention of the potential problem of the road that leads from Farley Hill down to the East Coast Road and with the fact that the same administration is in the process of placing a landfill that will destroy all of the lovely views and scenery of the Scotland District and in the middle of it to place foul and offensive smells where the visitors who go to the area now enjoy a lovely fresh atmosphere. You will soon probably hear the tour operators saying, "And as we make our way down from Farley Hill you are about to see what is the cause of the scent you were just smelling when you were on top of the hill." That is probably what the tour operators will say.

If you drive along that same road you will see now where there has been significant slippage, where the road has already broken off and has been patched on a piecemeal basis. There is no evidence whatsoever

to suggest that road is going to stand up under the weight of trucks passing day after day without even having a heavy rainfall. That road is likely to break up because, as I said initially, Mr. Chairman, the development of the roads in the Scotland District have been done on a piecemeal basis and for the roads in the Scotland District to be properly prepared, the mitigating circumstances are as such that it would cost over \$200 million to properly repair and construct roads in the Scotland District. So it is amazing to come into this Parliament and hear a Government who understands that there is a serious problem in the Scotland District and at the same time with that full knowledge they can go ahead and many people in Barbados have been saying, God is talking to the Government. This is a message. You see all the slippage they are getting from day-to-day, God is talking to the Government of Barbados and sending them a message that they are about to make a monumental mistake in the same Scotland District. But, as far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, they have been warned by God. This is a problem that they will have to deal with and I wish them well as far as that is concerned but I am going to place on record again my total objection to the placement of that landfill in Greenland.

4.10 p.m.

I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is very valid. We come in a period of haste and seek to repair roads and spend \$3 million or \$4 million. There is significant damage taking place that is affecting residents all over Barbados and there is a total disregard. In my own constituency I can name about 5 or 6 areas where persons are experiencing severe hardship as a result of flooding and there is this belief that every single road in St. Michael has been repaired or paved and that is a myth. There are several areas in St. Michael that are still to be addressed as there are in St. George, as there are in St. Joseph, as there are in other parts of Barbados and the point must not be discarded because he made a very valid point that if we are going to pay some attention it may be politically expedient for the Minister to spend all of the money in St. Andrew but it really is not fair to the rest of Barbados where there is total neglect of areas that are affected in St. Michael, St. George and certainly in Christ Church. So we are going to have to hope that the piecemeal approach that is being adopted again in St. Andrew will be successful. I only hope that the residents who are presently affected do not really have to keep going through this but I am going to predict that unless this country takes a decision to find and spend the money to repair those roads, take into consideration all of the mitigating circumstances that prevail and construct roads that can stand the pressure of trucks etc. then we are going to have a problem.

I am aware that it is very difficult to get funding because the international agencies will say that there is not

enough traffic etc., and there is no justification but if we in Barbados feel that the Scotland District is important to the future development of this country we have got to find the money as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph said because we are restricted in the urban areas and significant development cannot take place. That is a special area to us in Barbados and we are all proud to say to visitors when you go to Barbados, make sure you drive to Bathsheba. Go and look at the Scotland District. That is what I am sure everyone of us says to people when they come here. Take a drive and go down there. Now you have problems with the roads and you have an administration that is going to spoil it by seeking to place a landfill down there.

My last comment, Sir. I have a little concern. It is interesting because this Parliament was asked earlier on this year to pass a Resolution for relief to the flood victims at Weston. This Parliament in this session passed a resolution seeking relief funds and to correct problems at Weston. Now, about 10 days ago on television, even though this Parliament had passed money to do all the repairs, I heard for myself on the local television, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture who is the representative for the area saying clearly that the work could not be carried out because of the rainy season and that we could not carry out the works because the rain was falling etc. I really must take this opportunity to find out why it would have taken so long for the repairs.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: It is unfortunate that the extract to which the Honourable Member refers was taken out of context. I had really given a 16-minute interview and they just gave a few seconds so it would have misled the Honourable Member but the point is that the problem there is not beyond rectification. It is just that immediately after the legislation was passed the rainy season came and things have not happened the way they should have happened but I believe the Honourable Member, if he had seen the whole of the interview, would have been able to take a different line.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I accept what the Honourable Member is saying but it was certainly misleading and I really formed the opinion that certainly the Government had a lot of opportunity to create the repair work that was necessary. The point I want to go on to make is that if we are going to spend this money now in the Scotland District there are proposals and plans within the Ministry of Public Works for the trapping of surface water and because of the problem that we have in Barbados with the water shortage the time must be now that we seek immediately to put in place a mechanism to trap the water that is causing problems. The mitigating circumstances that should prevail in the Scotland District should incorporate the trapping of surface water.

It is a waste of time and money if we, as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph said, do not try to have a master plan and think about the development of this area rather than just come in here on a piecemeal basis, maybe with a political motive in mind, just to repair a particular area.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to oppose the Resolution because the repairs must be carried out as they were in the past and I certainly hope that the Minister will listen and pay some attention to my concerns.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to frame my remarks in this debate in the context of the policy decision taken by the Ministry of Health and the Environment, by the policy initiatives which we are currently pursuing and their impact on the Scotland District.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I should start by informing this House that on Friday coming of this week the Government of Barbados will sign with Sir William Halcrow and Partners, a British firm, a contract because they won the tender for the coastal zone management project which will see the mapping and exploration and other testing of the waters and coastal areas running from Maycocks to South Point. I wanted to get the exact area clear. Members of this Chamber will be aware, Mr. Chairman, that the West Coast had already been done and parts of the South Coast and now it is going to be critical that we carry out this project which will deal with the protection of the East Coast and the North and South East Coast of Barbados. Those areas are particularly susceptible to erosion. The waters are known to be particularly rough. Many people have drowned at sea in those areas but not much is known about the lie of the land below the water. Not much is known in terms of the current and how the current in that general area moves or the water movement. Not much is known of the marine flora and fauna from that area and I am speaking of the area from Maycocks to South Point. We are now entering on a project that will see the Coastal Management Unit under the leadership of Dr. Leonard Nurse map that entire area so that we will be able in that area to do further protection of our reef, to monitor marine life both the flora and the fauna, and to make serious decisions in relation to policy planning and in relation to the development of this country. On the West Coast we have had a lot of people building on watercourses, we have had structures go up and subsequently learn after the structures went up that there was no adequate support for them or that the water currents in that area was such that the structures were put at risk. In an attempt therefore to protect our marine life and in attempt to ensure that similar errors are not repeated on the

South East Coast, East Coast and the North East Coast, we are going to be embarking on this project.
4.20 p.m.

Part of the concept of the project is to have it highly community oriented. It is not just going to be based on the technical study. But a large number of people live in these coastal communities in Skeetes Bay and in St. Philip where people are making their livelihood from the catching of fish and the selling of fish, also on the East Coast at Bathsheba and Tent Bay and further along the East Coast and at certain points in St. Lucy. It is going to be important to re-think and to incorporate the fishing communities and the communities who live along the coast line into the development process and the planning process so that they can give us information from their work experience and their life experience living in these coastal conditions. We can in turn tell them the technical information that we have learned from the studies that will go on.

We believe that people within the community are more inclined to protect it and work harder in it if they understand the basis of the problems that they are having. If they best know how they can get a good catch or if they know what are the technical reasons that make their catch a poor one, or if they can be able to tell what conditions militate against them having a comfortable existence living on the beach, because some people like living on the beach. This study is going to be critical to our dealing with all of these environmental and social, cultural concerns. So that property owners and fishing communities will be encouraged to be part of the process and they in this way will influence the future policy direction.

Shore line stabilization is going to be one of the components of this project and you have seen how the Coastal Zone Management Unit has virtually rebuilt a beach at Rockley where no beach existed before to the extent that the Sugar Reef Restaurant has been able to build a restaurant just overlooking the sand and their guests can go out onto the beach and enjoy the beach. That kind of stabilization will now take place once we have mapped these areas throughout the Eastern, South Eastern and North Eastern Coasts of Barbados. We will use this study to determine the socio-economic profile of the communities that live on the coast and their reliance on coastal resources. It is known that pot fish catches are significantly reduced in volume, quantity and variety to what they used to be years ago. It is known that the Sea Horse which used to be plentiful in Barbados has virtually died out. It is known that sea eggs which you used to see routinely when I was a child which, Mr. Chairman, is not that long ago, one hardly sees them anymore. But all of these are manifestations of a problem that people, in looking for their economic benefit, harm themselves by over-fishing

the resources without understanding the life cycles of the resources, without understanding that if they dynamite the reef they will destroy the very habitat of the sea eggs and so on. We hope to work with the community to enhance their technical knowledge of the marine flora and fauna so as to give them the means whereby their ability to earn and to live off the marine resources can be significantly enhanced.

It is critical too as part of this project that we protect our reef. The reefs of Barbados are part of the life-line of Barbados. They protect our shores from damage in times of bad weather. They stop wave action from destroying the coast line of Barbados. They provide a habitat to marine life, some of which can be used for revenue earning and some can be used to eat, for example, sea eggs and so on and some of which has tremendous attraction because it is not widely known that Barbados is one of the most beautiful dive sites in the world. We have species of fish here in Barbados that are not seen anywhere else in the Caribbean and in fact are seen only in the Pacific. That is not widely known. So it is critical therefore that if we are going to maximize our revenue earning potential, if we are going to protect our coast line and if we are going to ensure that that component of the dive tourism product is protected that this project goes ahead as quickly as possible.

I want to say that we are eagerly looking forward to the start of this project. As I indicated, the contract will be signed on Friday. The preliminary work will be done and the project will start in earnest from about January next year.

I want to turn to the issue of the siting of the landfill at Greenland. Mr. Chairman, much has been said to indicate that this is an inappropriate site for a landfill. Nobody wants a landfill in their community but we have chosen a site that was already heavily mined and it was a quarry site mined for clay by the Arawak Cement Plant. When in fact the Arawak Cement Plant was carrying on its excavation activities, as many as 70 truck loads of clay a day were removed from Greenland by truck up Cleeland Hill pass Farley Hill up to the Arawak Cement Plant. This is the very same road that everybody is now saying that it will not be able to stand up. So there is no issue of the road collapsing when trucks with weight go on it. But the SSA will not be moving 70 truck loads of garbage a day. No more than 10 truck loads of garbage a day will be going to the landfill. The reason being that we will have a transfer station which will be located roughly in the centre of Barbados where the waste will be received, compressed and baled. The garbage will then be compacted onto vehicles that we are going to specially import for the process. The vehicles will be sealed and those vehicles will

go into Greenland fully covered. Only about 10 a day are going to go because the majority of the garbage will go to the transfer station where it will be processed and compacted and baled and moved out from there so that large numbers of vehicle will not be going there.
4.30 p.m.

I want to make two further points in relation to this. A lot of misinformation has gone out. Much has been said, and I want to remind the public that land filling is an acceptable means of rehabilitating quarry sites everywhere in the world. In fact, the Empire cricket grounds used to be a landfill site. Now the highest form of recreation known to West Indians is played on that very site.

Once we finish the land filling process at Greenland, that land is going to be sealed and capped and turned into a recreational facility. In order to prevent bad odours from emanating from the landfill, I want to take this opportunity to inform the House that the Government has approved the construction of a rendering plant for offal. Offal is one of the most foul smelling substances that goes to the Mangrove landfill. It is one of the things with which we have had tremendous problems and that used to cause a lot of bad odours there. So with the construction of the rendering plant all the offal will go to the rendering plant and not into St. Andrew.

In addition, we will have, and Cabinet has already approved, the construction of a composting facility that will take yard waste, grease and blood. So they will not be going down to Greenland either. We will have a wide recycling programme. Already the Prime Minister has given incentives to recyclers and put them in a position analogous to manufacturers and we will promote a large community based recycling programme so that as many biodegradables as possible are taken out of the land filling process.

We will continue to have a bulky waste site so that what goes down to the landfill is going to be as far as is possible inert material. We will not be carrying on the offensive kind of land filling process that used to happen under the Democratic Labour Party at Mangrove. We will not be transferring that to Greenland.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that the landfill was badly managed by us and that at present it is being properly managed by her Administration. I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt that sometimes when you pass, going to Arch Hall, as I have to nearly every day, we are still smelling the landfill. So I would like to know the reason why we are smelling the landfill.

I have not complained publicly about it because I understand the problems with landfills, but if the Minister is prepared to come in the House and state this, I am prepared to put the facts to her.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The landfill will smell, Mr. Chairman, from time to time, because we still have to take offal and other substances up there which will not be going to Greenland. Because the landfill, as a result of the delays that we have had through the court action, is already at a height higher than we would have wanted it to be, but Greenland is a hole in the ground which we are going to be filling up.

I want Mr. Chairman, too, to let this Chamber know, because much has been said about the whole issue of siting a landfill within a national park, that I have researched some of the national parks where landfills are currently to be found: Cumbria County has 4 landfills with one currently active. These are a list of national parks with landfills. Suffolk County – 4 landfills. It is an area of outstanding beauty, opened as a national park in 1980 but it has 4 landfills. Northmoore National Park – 2 sites in operation. One was formerly a limestone quarry. Northumberland Park – doesn't have any. Devon County used to have a landfill, Derbyshire County – a number of landfills have been permitted in the Peak District National Park. One landfill is sited in the Sussex Downs area. Suffolk County, designated as a national park – one landfill site lies in this area. Surrey County – no national park but a number of landfills. Staffordshire County – 7 landfill sites.

The point I am making here, Mr. Chairman, is that all over the world, outside of Barbados, land filling has been used where you have national parks with quarry sites in them that you want to rehabilitate and bring to flat surface that can be used for recreational purposes. That is simply what we are going to be doing at Greenland.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: We are going to be taking a quarry site and bringing it to a state where it can be used for recreational activity. I know, Mr. Chairman, that we have limited time in this debate and I just very briefly want to turn to make one last point and it is the whole issue of land use policy and land management. This national park of the Scotland District area takes up some 22 square miles, 1/7th of Barbados' total land space. We must ask ourselves if we, with a land space as small as Barbados, can afford to put aside 1/7th of our land space and say that we will never use it again for any purpose and that it should lie pristine, untouched by man in grass and trees all the days of our lives. One-seventh of the island's total land mass.

In developing a national park policy what we need to look at is the use of land, the type of space, what sort of park facilities we want. Do we want recreational parks? Do we want natural parks? You cannot put down 1/7th of your land space and say you are never going to touch it again, that it is a national park.

The United States which has vast land resources can afford to put down hundreds of thousands of acres of land and call them national parks and say that all you can do is walk through there. Barbados cannot afford to do that and we need to relook at the whole concept of the national park and our land use policy and define and develop policy that makes sense in the context of the land space available to us here in Barbados.

Greenland is on the north western boundary of what is a proposed national park, the limits of the park were never delineated by law. It is a small part, 75 out of 1600 acres on the north western boundary, so that nothing that we are going to do there offends the principle of national parks or land use policy.

I am saying further that one of the projects that the Environmental Division of the Ministry of Health is currently pursuing is a land use management policy project that will determine for the future how we will use our land space in Barbados and more in particular how and where we will define our national parks and what purpose will these parks serve. I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, before the Honourable Members, on the Other Side continue I would like to say that the speech that was just made was a very enlightening speech to me, Sir, because of the fact that for the first time I have heard a very clear and explicit statement as to how the authorities in the Ministry of Health expect the landfill at Greenland to function. I would commend the Minister for making the speech here today, and I would encourage her to share it with a much wider audience.

4.40 p.m.

Few people in here, Sir, would have known that, in truth and in fact, that it is the expectation of the Ministry that only 10 truck loads of garbage per day will be going into the Greenland landfill. I am sure, Sir, that if the Honourable Member for St. Michael East had known those facts, he would not have made the kind of speech that he made today with respect to that.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I do not want the Honourable Member to speak on my behalf. I am very familiar with most of the circumstances debated, and I will wait, watch and see the Government. When the Minister believes that she can

make a statement in here, I am going to deal with what is going to happen in reality. I will wait it out.

You may be creating and only sending 10 trucks to Greenland per day, but the Minister has not said what kind of build-up will occur at a transfer station. She has given no information about how the garbage is going to be controlled at a transfer station. The Minister has a whole heap of explaining to do.

She has to explain if there is going to be one transfer station, two, three, four. Where they are going to be located, she has a lot to explain. She has to explain the circumstances that will prevail at those places. She cannot come in here and tell me that there are going to be 10 truck loads a day going down there. The Minister does not know that. The Minister is only guessing.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael East, Sir, having been caught very clearly in the slips, now wishes to retreat. The point is, Sir, that for a long period of time, the Ministry has been saying that there would be a transfer station. At the transfer station, segregation of the garbage would take place and in addition, there would be compacted into bales.

Now, Sir, I have seen with my own two eyes, Sir, an example of what can occur when there is recycling of garbage in and around a supermarket area. I have practical experience. I have had practical experience of seeing the segregation of bottles into glass bottles, into plastic bottles. I have seen also the segregation of boxes and paper into one set of receptacle.

I know for a fact that in Barbados today, at the old Coca Cola Building, that there is a plant there that receives paper, boxes and that kind of material. It is compacted.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: It is compacted. You can go and see it. It is right there in Roebuck Street.

I have also seen, Sir, that system receives as much as 10 tons a day. As a matter of fact, as I understand it, it is receiving between 10 and 20 tons a day.

So, if it is said that there will be this separation taking place at this transfer station, and the Minister did not say where the transfer station is, but as I understand it, the transfer station will be somewhere situated around the centre of the island along the new Highways that will allow ready access of the existing vehicles. After this segregation takes place into compacted bales, the rest will go down to Greenland. This is a radically different scheme. I think that the public debate that is taking place is taking place against a background of this lack of information.

As I said before, once again I would like to commend the Minister for making those facts public today. Now, I also happen to know a little bit about the road between Greenland and over Farley Hill, down into St. Lucy. I know a bit about that road.

That road was built, specifically, to facilitate the transfer of clay down to the St. Lucy site. The road was financed by the Caribbean Development Bank to a large extent. The road used to receive, and in no doubt will be receiving in the future I hear, trucks which were specially engineered, I think they were Mercedes Benz trucks, in order to be able to take the hill between Greenland, over Farley Hill into St. Peter. The road borders St. Andrew and St. Peter.

There was one area in that road where it was claimed that the engineering design could have been better. As a whole, bearing in mind, the experience of how that road stood up to the weight of those trucks, I do not think that we should worry when we hear now that it would only be 10 trucks a day.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Now, Sir, on the question of the Scotland area, I believe that I have been around politics a very long time. I remember one of the most memorable speeches I have ever heard. I was not a Member of the House. It was a speech by Sir Frank Walcott on the very Scotland area.

I believe it was at the passage. I think of the Soil Conservation Bill in the 1950's. Sir Frank Walcott, at that time said, that Barbadians must understand that the Scotland area was such a serious problem, that the whole economy of Barbados would collapse if we are not careful in trying to repair it. I remember that, Sir. He said at the time that it was a project. That we should try our level best to attract international aid to be able to do it.

Now, I always remember that. When we were in Government in 1976, one of the first things that the Government did was to bring Mr. Ortiz Menna from the Inter-American Development Bank here, and take him on a tour of the Scotland District. I remember the late Tom Adams trying to impress on Mr. Ortiz Menna, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank at that time, how Barbados needed the resources to be able to make a meaningful impact on the Scotland area.

Now, he went away and, other than some studies as to what is to be done, we were not the recipient of any special consideration for the Scotland area. The same thing happened with the European, EIB, and with the Lomé Convention Funds.

We were able to get various components of the projects that were identified by the study that was done by the Inter-American Development Bank, financed by them.

The orchard project, that Honourable Members spoke of in here with respect to Hacketts, was one of those schemes. The project for the development of the fishery bays, including the one in the Honourable Leader of the Opposition's constituency, that was one of the projects. There are other projects, the National Parks Project, which was another one that was identified. The real problem is that we have never been able to get a sufficient sum of money to attack the whole thing in a comprehensive manner. That is true.

4.50 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: There is no point bemoaning the fact. The reality is that if the Scotland area is tackled how it should be tackled, it would be a very serious drain on the resources of Barbados. You know what is \$200 million in the context of a capital development programme of Barbados? Two hundred million dollars in the context of a capital development programme is nearly all, so that we must look at this as a very serious matter and not a matter of partisanship. Any question in relation to the Scotland area should not be a matter of partisanship because whether this Government is in office or that Government is in office, when the rain falls and we have not been able to handle the fundamental programmes, we are still going to be back in exactly the same position.

Now, Sir, this matter has been discussed and debated in many Cabinets and there are those who have the view, and I am one of those who believe that serious consideration could be given to it, that perhaps with our resources the best approach is to restrict the number of roads we have into the Scotland area but build proper ones and concentrate on the development of the roads at the lower level.

I also believe that at some time in the future...

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Not helicopters because people who have gone to Switzerland, people who go to some places in South America, would know that you can use the skylifts. I have just had the pleasure of going to the Great Wall in China. I was too old to walk up the steps but I went up on what was the equivalent of the skylift and everybody is using that. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that you will be able to go to a point in St. Thomas and then go down into the Scotland area by using these mechanical conveyances. There is no question about that.

We must look at this in a very new way and it is important that the Government gets the best advice. I believe that. They tell me that some of the best engineers for that kind of terrain are people from Switzerland, Italy and those areas. They are masters at it. We must try and get the best engineering advice.

I believe some progress has been made because, I can call the name, an engineering firm of Clarke Associates has done a study of what was necessary and out of that there was the rebuilding of the Horse Hill road which provides you with an entry down in there. That means now that the centre of the island, certainly from Christ Church and the other areas, can use Horse Hill very easily and go down into Bathsheba and get into St. Andrew. That is a factual matter.

We have to look for one of those other areas and see if we can do the same within our limitations so that this is a real problem and I hope it is approached in that way.

My last point is, Sir, and I have repeatedly said, I feel that the Soil Conservation Scotland District Act needs a comprehensive review. I do not believe that it is right that we should have all of the powers of the authority being vested in the Chief Agricultural Officer and you have created an elaborate Board and making it only advisory to the Chief Agricultural Officer. It is time that we look at that. We used to have that in the days before we had ministerial Government. In 1991 they strengthened it by increasing the role of the advisory functions of the Board.

The time has come if you have this area as an economic area, it has all of this potential and you feel it is necessary to have it as a semi-commercial area, that you will have to look for your institutional framework and create a real authority with power to go out there, solicit money and things of that kind. You need a comprehensive attack on this area.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I will only be a couple of minutes. I heard the introduction of the Minister to this supplementary. Perhaps, I should begin by saying that I am in favour of any attempts which are made to stabilize the Scotland District and particularly those roads which lead through the constituency which I have the honour to represent. I know that it is a very daunting task but I want to say that certainly in my constituency some work had been done in stabilising some areas.

There are major problems in the area of Welches where work was done by the Democratic Labour Party between 1986 and 1994. In the area of Belle Hill which is just below St. Margaret's substantial work was done by

the Soil Conservation in that area. Work was done in parts of Martin's Bay and there are other selected areas where other work has been undertaken from time to time.

What has been of particular concern to me, and I do not know if the Minister has yet seen it, was that for two years now a section of the road from Foster Hall to Martin's Bay – I am just going to cut out that section just above St. Margaret's – of the main road had fallen away. For the past two years all that was there was a barrier and a sign. Therefore whatever remedial work is being done in St. John is not so much a result of this year's flooding but is, in fact, a result of last year's damage which had never been repaired. The area between Foster Hall and Martin's Bay has suffered substantial slippage.

One would know, and I believe the Honourable Member for St. Andrew may have discovered this in undertaking his research that there are active streams in the area of Bath Plantation and its appurtenances which run across the road and those streams have undermined the road in that area. The old bridge at the bottom of Bath Hill in St. John has slowly, but surely, been moving such that we had to relocate two persons up to Gall Hill in St. John and there are a number of other houses which are threatened by the movement of soil.

I know the Minister has an ambitious programme but both he and I would know that this amount of \$3.5 million could hardly do the work he needs to do in St. Andrew far less really make a dent.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: All right. That is to the end of March. I hope he would be able to mobilize the resources, not only of his Ministry but of other persons to do the kind of work that really needs to be done in these areas.

I have been very fearful because a lot of tourist traffic and Barbadians travel along that road. It was very nicely resurfaced way back in the 1980s between Foster Hall and Sealy Hall, Supers would be a better description of it, and the amount of damage which has been done to that road is something that is going to require substantial sums of money being spent.

Apart from that you have a lot of areas not on the main road like Consett Bay. MTW only two years ago had just completed the road to Consett Bay and after one rainy season it is now almost impassable. I mean the Sealy Hall to Consett Bay Road. I hope that the fishing project at Consett Bay will make provision for access into Consett Bay and for repairs to be undertaken to that area as well. I hope that the Minister on this occasion will allocate sufficient resources to the people of St. John because I still feel that, for example, a very prominent Member on that

side who lives in my constituency has pointed out to me that the road to Society has not been weeded for about two years now. It is overgrowing in bush even though it is a new road. That is a brand new road which the Democratic Labour Party put in place. That is one example and I can give a whole set of other examples. I believe that at least some attention should be paid and I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew will not continue to make me feel that I am crying in the wind.
5.00 p.m.

For example the bus to Glenburnie, and I am not entitled to meet with the transport officials because somebody apparently stopped them from meeting with me... They said it was the Minister. I was supposed to meet with officials of the Transport Board to discuss problems and they said the Minister sent a directive down that only he can meet with the Leader of the Opposition. That is what they told me.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order. I would not want the record to reflect or to insinuate in any way that I refused to meet with the Honourable Member for St. John. The Honourable Member knows the procedure. He was a former Prime Minister of Barbados because we had no Government for that 3 months so he was really the Prime Minister. The three months leading up to the election. He was a Minister of Finance and the procedure when you want to have meetings with certain Government departments a team from a Ministry, at a certain level, because it is all right to have a normal conversation with an officer in a Ministry but when you are going to publicise certain meetings at certain levels he knows the procedure and I just want the record to reflect that I did not ...

I am willing to meet with the Honourable Member. I have no objection to the Honourable Member meeting anybody from any department within my Ministry but when you are dealing with meetings at the level that he would like to have a meeting, where questions of policy would be involved it is fairly obvious. Those are rules that I did not set and he would know that at least the Minister or a representative from the Ministry would have to be there.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well I am not in contention with the Honourable Member on this point. I was asked to attend the meeting. I did not set up the Meeting. The Transport Board reacted to what I said about problems in my constituency and invited me to a meeting.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We cannot get into that. This is 1996. This is 5 years after. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member wants to get the debate heated.

Well there is no need for the heat. I am saying I was invited to a meeting, that the meeting was cancelled. However the purpose of that meeting would have been to raise one of these points. I will tell you how it gets in. Had you come to the meeting or had you invited me to the meeting then you would understand what the problem is. Instead of arguing without listening, do what you are paid to do and sit and listen to what people have to say about the problems that affect their constituents. That is what you are supposed to do and that is what you have to do. Sit and listen and I am going to say what the problem is. The road in Glenburnie is so steep, even though repairs were done to it in 1990, and the transport buses are in such a bad condition that they cannot either go down and turn around or climb the hill and therefore the residents of Glenburnie are sometimes being dropped on the main road to carry four and five packages of goods from the supermarket on a Saturday morning or Friday evening because of the severe deterioration of the roads as well as the poor condition of the buses, all of which stand to the account of the Minister of Transport and Works in Barbados.

Two years after he has been Minister, whenever I ask anything about the constituency which I represent the Honourable Member for St. Andrew has a smart smirk on his face and seems to think that I am begging for something but I want to make it clear that I do not have to beg you for anything that the time for the people of St. John will come again and your attitude is the wrong attitude. You stopped the housing project at Gall Hill and you will not allow the National Housing Corporation to fix the serviced lots and come in here hypocritically week after week saying that you are looking for spots throughout Barbados to put down houses.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member knows what it is to be a hypocrite and I would not even ask him to withdraw those remarks but I just want the record to reflect that I did not stop any housing project in St. John. This is a housing project that they conceptualised. They did not execute the project. The demand for housing in that area is not as great as in other areas and it is on the list but the National Housing Corporation, not the Ministry, even though it is on the agenda, they are not ready to execute that project as yet, but it is not correct to say that we have abandoned the project.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, before the Honourable Member resumes I draw to Your Honour's attention that there is no quorum in this House.

The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has said it is a

tragedy that after nine weeks of vacation the Honourable Members on that side who are so anxious to get this supplementary through are outside larking off instead of doing the people's business while the concerns of the citizens in this country are being debated inside. It is despicable.

I want to say, this Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew went in a house in Walkers, in his constituency, last Christmas and told the people in that house that he does not intend to complete that housing project at Gall Hill in St. John. I want you to get up and say that your constituents are liars.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is a record that sticks. He has made that same accusation on 2 previous occasions in this House and I will again deny it. I never made any such statement.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am very grateful that he denied it on this occasion. On the two previous occasions the record will show, Mr. Chairman, that he danced around it but the people could only say that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew does not remember what he said. But in due course that will be dealt with. So that is in the Scotland District and that project has gone through the eddoes. Then you have the problems because of the deterioration in the roads of the bus service, not just the failure of buses to service the areas but because of the condition of the buses they find it even more difficult to traverse the terrain in the Scotland District. Mr. Chairman, Sir, two years after being elected to office the Honourable Member could set up a Commission of Inquiry, he could put taxes on mini-bus owners and he could do every single thing under the sun against the working people of this country and against the Democratic Labour Party and cannot get the Transport Board operating efficiently. 5.10 p.m.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would not normally want to interrupt the Honourable Member but I do not want the record to reflect any inaccuracies. I do not know what the Honourable Member is talking about when he stated that I imposed taxes with respect to the mini-buses. I am not the Minister of Finance. That is a matter for the Minister of Finance and I do not know anymore about the taxes than he knows.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Budget obviously did not go to the Cabinet. I never realized that. That is a new development in our Constitutional history and I am glad for that information. I am very glad to hear that and you would have opposed it had it gone to Cabinet. That is what the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is telling us. So the Honourable Member has been able to achieve all of those things in two years and yet the Transport Board cannot get more

than 150 buses on the road on a daily basis. For example, two weeks ago the Sargeant Street bus when the last one left at 4.30 p.m. there was not another bus until about 8.00 p.m. I think that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who lives in the constituency can tell you the pain that people have to endure because of those horrendous conditions throughout rural Barbados. We who live in those areas, and I live in St. Philip, have to pass through and see people waiting. I pass them all over St. Philip. The conditions in the Scotland District are even worse and St. Philip and St. John are being visited with the worst public transportation ever since the bus service was nationalized in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: He is a non-Member. He is a non-voting and non-active Member of Parliament. He is very proud of being inactive at that.

Mr. Chairman, it is those concerns that I have to raise and I did not want to be contentious. All I wanted to say is that these are concerns. I am not interested in all of this foolishness about you should have done this or done that. Land slippage is not something that people can easily forecast will happen. I have seen things done and in one rainy season everything collapses. This has happened before. So the Honourable Member for St. Andrew must not fool us. There are parts of St. Andrew which the Democratic Labour Party has undertaken works on and years later there has been substantial damage to them as a result of heavy rainfall. That is not new and there is no point pretending that because one Government was in office and could not solve the problem that they should be condemned. It will take substantial resources and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South made the point that it can almost break the Treasury of Barbados. There are some people who feel that you should put an off-shore road which will be cheaper to run like one of those off-shore roads off the coast than to continue to maintain the Scotland District. Even that suggestion has been made.

Sir, all I am trying to say to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is that I hope that within that Budget of \$3.5 million that he will find a few dollars to spare at least to fix some of those areas which are deteriorated and that I will not be met with the continual excuse that you cannot meet with officials or that that project has been put on hold or that it will be done when funds are ready like the St. John Polyclinic, or that it will not be done at all because the Labour Party is not doing anything to keep Thompson in the House of Assembly. That is one of the most common statements which is made and it was made one Christmas in St. Andrew by a sitting Member of Parliament who is presently in this Chamber. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, just one quick intervention. I do not think that the debate should conclude unless I indicate that even though I introduced the whole question of the cost of the roads in St. Andrew that it would be in excess of some \$200 million to properly repair the roads. I do not want to give the impression that I am suggesting that the Government has the money and that they can do that and they are failing to do it, and that we are being unreasonable. The point is that we were criticized even though we went through a structural adjustment programme and we were tiptoeing through the lilies as you would say. We tried very hard during our time to do the repairs that were necessary and were criticized for it. I would not want the impression to go abroad that we are just simply throwing out a figure willy-nilly. It is a serious problem that has to be addressed and certainly must be addressed in the context of the financial resources of the country. What concerns me is that I hope that the record does not accept that because the honourable gallant knight indicated and congratulated the Minister for a glib, vague and wishy-washy type presentation about what is going to happen regarding the landfill that the statement is one that we can stand on. The Minister made a wishy-washy statement that I challenge and I am willing to take on the Minister in this debate or any debate about the information and statement that she just made about the level. Right now, Mr. Chairman, you are going to create 5 different environments where all over Barbados will be smelling. Ask the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Drive up the South Coast and you will see how bad all over Barbados is starting to smell. But what is amazing, Mr. Chairman, is that in the statement she said that there would be this transfer station. She gave no information about what is going to be happening at the transfer station which I understand is going to be at Mangrove. Up to now they have made no provision...

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East, true to the style of a comedian, is trying to mislead the House. It is not going to be at Mangrove. Nothing in this Chamber has been said to suggest that it is going to be at Mangrove. The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, to this point she gave an indication that the residents of Arch Hall and Bennetts, for example, would have been compensated because of the smell and up to this date even though they promised...well, anyhow the Prime Minister I understand said that he is a politician who breaks promises. But that administration promised that they will pay and compensate the people at Arch Hall and Bennetts. Up to this day not a cent has been paid and the honourable gallant knight comes in here and accepts lock, stock and barrel a wishy-washy statement made by the Minister about how the landfill is going to operate. It is totally ridiculous and this House must not accept that statement as any comprehensive

statement about how the landfill is going to operate. That information is foolish information and, when reality sets in, let us have a public inquiry into the siting as is mandated by law and let us debate these issues. That is what we need to do. I really do not want this House to just accept that the Minister made some grand statement about it and that is how a landfill will operate. That is absolute foolishness.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this debate and I also want to commend the Minister of Public Works for the sense of urgency that he and his officers, as well as the officers and the Minister of Agriculture, brought to bear to have this matter before Parliament. There are parts of the Scotland District where the matter is so urgent that, unless the House were to act with a sense of dispatch a situation of distress could be translated into one of complete calamity. The reason why therefore this matter is before this House is to get the House to appreciate the great sense of urgency that confronts the persons who have to use the facilities in the Scotland District, a sense of urgency that transcends the situation that obtains in any other part of Barbados. 5.20 p.m.

We appreciate that as a result of the recent heavy rains some roads in Barbados have been damaged, and they will be repaired, but it is a matter of common sense that the resources of Government have to be allocated on the basis of the highest priority. Only a fool would now want to say that having regard to the comparative situation of the Scotland District *vis-a-vis* that of other parts of Barbados that the Scotland District is not the highest priority. If we all agree that it is the highest priority, it stands to reason that the resources should go there first and deal with a matter of dire distress.

This matter has been brought to this Parliament to symbolise this Administration's intention not only to deal with a matter of urgency in the Scotland District but also to deal with a situation to put in place for the first time a truly integrated approach to the problems of the Scotland District.

I have already given a commitment in public that the solution to the Scotland District's problems will involve a large number of different Ministries and disciplines having to bring to bear solutions to a complex problem – housing, agriculture, public works, environmental engineering and the like. We will have to find the resources. Resources must be found because 1/7th of Barbados simply cannot be abandoned.

I want to commend the Minister of Public Works for the sense of urgency with which he acted in this instance. The Minister of Public Works, in my judgment, is the most able administrator that I have ever seen as a Minister of

Public Works. I was a little bit embarrassed to hear the former Minister of Public Works criticising this Minister of Public Works. He stands for something very special in Barbados public life. He does not know about fixing the roads in the Scotland District. His sense of urgency was devoted to other pre-election issues. He had a sense of urgency about other matters but it was not about fixing roads.

I want to say, Sir, for the record that it does not fall properly from the mouth of anybody in the Democratic Labour Party to come here to chastise the Barbados Labour Party about any solid waste management issue. The Democratic Labour Party will forever stand in infamy as that party that left a mountain of stinking garbage in the centre of this country. Whenever we think in terms of environmental mismanagement we will think of the Democratic Labour Party and we will think of Mount Stinkeroo.

I also want to say, Sir, that if the Democratic Labour Party is opposed to Greenland they must come out and tell us if in truth and in fact they want us to follow the prescription as set out in their physical development plan because the 1988 to 1993 physical development plan of the Democratic Labour Party proposes that we should locate a landfill in the centre of St. Lucy.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, all of the development plans in Barbados indicated proposed sites and there were 42 proposed sites all across Barbados. That list was shortlisted to 17. Any development study would have identified potential areas for a determination of the final placement of a landfill. There are certain procedures mandated in law that must be followed, including the development of an EIA and having a public enquiry before you can determine that. It is not just to suggest that you are going to go down that road.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Member for St. Michael East is a person who speaks and depends on his memory for his jests. It is very clearly stated at page 90, proposed landfill in the centre of St. Lucy, Lamberts. It was the intention of the Democratic Labour Party Administration that when Mangrove was building that the new landfill site had to go to St. Lucy. All of the confusion that the Democratic Labour Party has aroused in this country over the siting of a landfill in Greenland is because the Democratic Labour Party wants this administration to locate a landfill in the centre of St. Lucy.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. The Democratic Labour Party, like any other government, would have had to go through the legal process to determine exactly where a landfill should have been placed. Even though political leaders or our

technical people on our side may have said they would have liked a landfill at Lamberts or here, there or anywhere there is a process that would have had to be gone through and if the technical advice available to the country had said to the administration, if we were the administration, that it is not suitable to place a landfill at Lamberts, then it would not have been built there.

I am suggesting that the Democratic Labour Party would have followed the technical advice that is available to the country and not do what the Barbados Labour Party is now doing and disregarding the technical advice that is available to it after having spent almost \$5 million asking people to tell us what to do.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, as usual the Member for St. Michael East relies on his memory for his jests and on his imagination for his facts. The facts are that this physical development plan is really that plan which was the subject of the enquiries that he is now calling for. Page 90. The public enquiries that the Member for St. Michael East was calling for were held with a view to preparing this physical development plan that cleared a DLP Cabinet, that was approved by a DLP Cabinet and that was brought into law by a DLP Cabinet and this sets out the DLP concept as to which district in Barbados...

Aside.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am talking about the map on the page accompanying the landfill site.

The Member for St. Michael West is not himself because he is, with his co-conspirators, the subject of public enquiry and when one...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is discussing who might not be himself and clearly is not under the normal influences. For the Honourable Member to come in here and suggest that the Member for St. Michael West is under some influence because of a public enquiry is not the normal way he would behave. He must be under the influence of some extraneous substance. Do not come in here and start with that. I have not said anything to you. You wish to deal with me, you are discussing water resources at page 90 and misleading the House, Sir.

He comes in here and tries to give a talk on solid waste disposal and when you look, page 90 begins at the top at 6.65: The traditional system of suck wells has functioned well. That is what they are discussing. Suck wells and he comes in here talking about solid waste disposal.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I said the map facing page 90. The Honourable Member is so distracted by his having to face a serious enquiry...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You come in here and pick up a document and talk about solid waste disposal. You should be ashamed of yourself. An academic like you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!
5.30 p.m.

Asides

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever the Member for St. Michael West fulminates in that kind of unreasonable fashion, Sir, he knows that he has been struck, Sir.

There is a Page 90 and there is an unnumbered page next to it. The map facing Page 90. So it is integrally part of Page 90. It shows a map of where the landfill is to be sited by the DLP, as for its agreement at a Cabinet. It shows a proposed site for a landfill in the centre of St. Lucy.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this House.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point did you rise?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order.

The Honourable Member, Sir, is a trained academic. The Honourable Member, Sir, is using a map facing Page 90. The matter that is being discussed, from Page 86 on is Water Supply. It goes on to talk, Sir, all through 87, 88, 89 and 90. Ninety begins about the traditional system of suck wells.

Paragraph 6.66 talks about the cost of constructing communal septic tanks. Identification of all areas where centralised sewerage will become desirable during the planned period. Establishment of priorities of implementation according to the overall settlement development strategy. This is the subject matter that is being discussed, and the map that is here is a sketch map. It deals with the service area of Bridgetown system, treatment plant, study area, drainage, areas prone to flooding, solid waste disposal, landfill site.

This map, if your Honour would take it, he will see that only a person who is bent on misleading, could possibly use this map in relation to the solid waste disposal to say that this constitutes a decision of a Cabinet.

I am disappointed. I am hurt. I am intellectually devastated that he would actually bring this. I dare say that if he did this on a political platform... but to come to intelligent Honourable Members on that side. I will speak after he is finished.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am surprised that the Member for St. Michael West has the nerve to speak in this House of solid waste management issues. He would go down in history as "Mr. Mount Stinkeroo."

He is the Minister, Sir,...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I draw to the Honourable Member's attention that he is misleading the House. Despite the propaganda which has been put out, when I left the Ministry of Health, a new landfill had been put in place. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas can confirm that. The development of "Mount Stinkeroo" happened subsequently. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas can confirm it. Do not mislead the House.

I do not mind that you all have tried to put it on me because I am better able to carry that sort of level of defamation. The Honourable Member must not mislead the Committee. I opened a scientific landfill at Mangrove and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was there when we opened it.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I was in this House, Sir, when he promised that the landfill that was about to be opened was going to be the most, he used the words, the most scientifically engineered and managed...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have to protect me from these irrelevant points of order.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yet the process and the landfill have been used throughout the Commonwealth as a model.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: It was under the stewardship of the Member for St. Michael West as Minister of Health, that the Phase 2 part of Mangrove was started. I was in here, Sir, sitting beside the Member for St. Thomas, when he gave the House assurance that he was going to put his political credibility and all of his credentials as a Minister on the line, by making sure that the new landfill at Mangrove was going to be the most scientifically engineered landfill in the history of man. That is a fact.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, Sir, all of that is true. What the Honourable Prime Minister has failed to tell the Committee, is that before that new one was opened, the other one caused much havoc among my constituents. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West was responsible for the management of that one that had to be closed.

When the new one was opened, he started it, Sir. All the engineering things that they put in, the lining and the pipes and so on, caused it to stink worst than the first one.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order. The Honourable Member indicated that it caused havoc among his constituents. He promised his constituents that they would be compensated. Two years have passed, Sir, and he said that he would compensate them immediately. He has made no mention in his brief intervention about the money that he said he was going to pay them.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Government's commitment to recompense the people of Rock Hall and Arch Hall is not to be doubted. There has to be a process of propriety gone through before public funds can be expended. The Democratic Labour Party and its spokesmen, Sir, may not understand the concept of propriety of the spending of public funds.

I am coming back to the point, Sir, the member...

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Member for St. Michael West, Sir, spoke about the need to have the most scientifically engineered approach to a landfill, too, precisely because of the problems encountered in Mangrove Phase 1.

I believe that he had to be fired from the position of Minister of Health, because his record as an Environmental Manager, Sir, was so appalling, that the then administration was under the most severe pressure for the Member for St. Michael West to show results, Sir, and he had to be removed to allow someone else to attempt to rise to the challenge. I cannot sit silently, Sir, when I hear the loose talk from the Member for St. Michael West and his acolytes about how they are now the environmentalists.

The history of Barbados, Sir, has to show, not only that they were an environmental disaster, but I do not ever remember once any member of the DLP who is now up in Shorey Village and elsewhere, showing sympathy with residents about the effects of a non-existent landfill. I do not remember once, Sir, ever seeing the Member for St. Michael East or the Member for St. Michael South, or the Member for St. Michael West ever going down Arch Hall or Bennetts, to show any sense of compassion with those folks, Sir. It is now all a public relations gimmick.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of elucidation. Mr. Chairman, let me place on record that Members of the Democratic Labour Party, throughout the entire period of the problems they were experiencing at Mangrove, visited, including the Prime Minister, and empathised with the residents of Arch Hall and Bennetts. I, myself, went on more than one occasion to speak – I am aware that the Prime Minister went, because I went one day and he was there. He went to examine the problem and so forth.

The point is, the representative of St. Thomas of the day, raised hell and high water. We were in a structural programme and "Mount Stinkeroo" was smelling, probably no worst than it is smelling today. It is still the same smell. It is still smelling badly. We can jump up and we can cry, and we can say, "Yes it is still 'Mount Stinkeroo'." We keep a song and dance. We can create a song and dance, but the point is there is no political motive on this side to create such. There is a problem and you are trying to have it solved.

At the time the representative created havoc. He got on badly. He called it "Stinkeroo." It is precisely what we should be doing now.

There is a lot of "pompasetting" in this House about the representative. The very first attempt to put a scientific landfill in this.

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I am not on a point of order. I am on a point of elucidation.

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: The Honourable Member gave way. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that it is not fair for any Honourable Member...
5.40 p.m.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of elucidation. It is 10 more minutes to the debate and I want to close so that the Minister can conclude the debate.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I have to make the point because I am rebutting the point that was made that sought to suggest that my colleague who still sits with me on this side presided over Mount Stinkeroo, *et cetera*. The present administration is still presiding over Mount Stinkeroo. What I am suggesting is that the first attempt at scientific landfilling in Barbados was brought to this country by the same Honourable Member for St. Michael West and it is not fair to pillory my colleague when they

know that for the first time a scientific approach was brought to landfilling in this country.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I can only say that if the Honourable Member for St. Michael West believes that, he will believe that licences were distributed without reference to skulduggery.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I know one thing – that any action I get involved in I do it in the interest of people and not the interest of myself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. The House is asked to note that this debate will wind up...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has three more minutes to complete his presentation.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I just simply want to say that we have to examine the proposal to rehabilitate the Scotland District, not only in the context of the pending solid waste facility at Greenland, but in the context of the fact that there is now the special zone development regime that will make it attractive for persons seeking to undertake economic activity in the Scotland District to do so on the basis of the certainty that they can realise reasonable rates of return on their investment. That in itself commands us as a Parliament to make sure that the Scotland District is not abandoned, and that it can be salvaged and rehabilitated as a place, not only of habitation, but of useful economic activity in the future.

I believe, Sir, that the Minister should be afforded the courtesy to wind up this motion on this debate. I am prepared to cut short my contribution to this debate in the interest of the usual parliamentary courtesy.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member made some relatively scurrilous remarks but I will ignore them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to withdraw the remark "scurrilous" I think it is offensive.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I withdraw "scurrilous," Sir. The Honourable Member made some unfortunate remarks which fell from his mouth fairly heavily bearing in mind that he pretends constantly to be taking the high road in the debates in here. The Honourable Member knows that if he is going to burrow in the gutter that I am a denizen.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is right. That is where I found you, it is where I will leave you. The Honourable Member is suggesting that somehow any foolishness which he and his colleagues bring will cause me to be so distracted as not to recognise when he is trying to obfuscate and fool this House.

The Honourable Member does not go on to read page 92, at 675. The same document he refers to says: -

"Both the northern and southern landfill sites are full so a new site has already been selected in Christ Church and another new site in the northern area is being identified."

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. That is exactly what I am saying. This was done in 1986 when there was a landfill being done in the north at Black Bess. There was one in the south in Christ Church and another site in the north was being identified. That site that has never come into existence but it was to be in the centre of St. Lucy. All the Member is saying is reinforcing my very point.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, when I became Minister of Health in 1987 we commissioned a comprehensive study by the Inter-American Development Bank. This is 1988 the Honourable Member quotes from. This resulted in the document which became the base-line from which all other discussions relating to solid waste has taken place. That is the document which the Minister of Health and the Government have ignored from the experts. We got an amount of \$1.5 million and that solid waste study was done by the IADB after this 1988 document.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member knows that 10 loads is a figment of the imagination of somebody. Those are the same people who told us that they only collect 254 tonnes of garbage in a day...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The 254 tonnes of garbage which the experts said to the study group that we would collect a day was translated into 450 tonnes of garbage a day. All the problems we have had stem from that particular misinformation which was given by the experts. The 450 tonnes a day is what caused the scientific landfill to reach its point within 7 months. I think that we as intelligent beings owe it to the population to discuss this at a level

beyond that which we have been discussing it. The new scientific landfill within 7 months had reached the point where they said it would reach in 2 years and out of that we derived all the problems.

Now, Sir, the real problem in relation to Greenland has to do with...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to note that we have to wind up at 5.50 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Do not let him confuse you. He put a landfill at Benn Hill and he still became Prime Minister. He gave permission for them to dump the nasty sewage in Benn Hill and he still became Prime Minister. Do not let him bother you.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. There is no landfill in Benn Hill.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: In St. Peter where it really smells bad, is uphill, and he gave permission. The Honourable Member for St. Peter gave permission for the real stinking garbage, the one that you get out of the sewage dump, the raw sewage, but I am not going to go into that. It is not at Benn Hill. It is at Four Hill, St. Peter. The Honourable Member gave permission and in fairness to him, Sir, I do not know why he attacks me.

In fairness to him, he gave permission with an open face. He did not hide and give. He said he would support it because it has to be distributed somewhere and he still became Prime Minister. Do not let anybody confuse you. He knows because, unlike the Barbados Labour Party when we were dealing with the matter of the environment, we consulted and I consulted with the Honourable Member myself on the pouring of raw sewage into Four Hill, and the Honourable Member gave permission.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, has decided to descend down into the gutter but I am not an environmental expert. Obviously, Sir, he has been consulting widely and with inexperienced people on the siting for landfills which might explain why we have Mount Stinkeroo today because he has not consulted with me but he feels he consulted with me on the matter. I want those remarks to be withdrawn from the record. I am in no position to advise anybody about the siting of a landfill.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. It is not advice as an expert. He was the representative for St. Peter. We had difficulty because the Honourable Member for St. Thomas had complained and we discovered that the raw sewage was...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You know the one I mean, the 2-acre site. We moved it to Four Hill and I spoke to the Honourable Member.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is now proving himself to be a person who is a foreigner to the truth because he cannot in the same speech say that I am the person who decided that it would go there and then say that he decided it was to go there but he consulted me. Both cannot be true, Sir, and I am saying that the Member is a person who in this matter is proving to be a person who is a foreigner to the truth and I would want all of those remarks to be struck from the record.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I take away those remarks. Let me start fresh. By whatever language the Honourable Member wishes me to say let me say that the Honourable Member for St. Peter agreed that the faeces should be put in the Four Hill site. That is what he agreed to, Sir. The Honourable Member agreed and the owner of the land agreed. It was a temporary arrangement and the Honourable Member for St. Peter said, and I thought it was a very Christian thing he did at the time, that it has to go somewhere, that it will not affect the people below Four Hill and therefore he had no problem with it, as long as it was not going to be permanent. The Honourable Member may have forgotten but I do not forget. For him to come in here now and describe me as some captain of Mount Stinkeroo...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I have never taken it to my constituency. Anyhow, Sir, Mount Stinkeroo is a matter we will have to discuss.

The question of where you locate the stations is going to be the most important debate we have in this country because the people are going to discover that whereas you are giving them the impression that you are putting a landfill in Greenland, and you are going to have these waste stations in Vauclose or wherever you are going to have them the waste stations are going to be continuous raw garbage without any cover. If the ones that have covers could confuse the people in Bennetts and Arch Hall as they did, imagine what is going to happen if you have open sewage. Mount Stinkeroo is a product of all Barbados and it is a product of poor management by the client of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who was in charge of that landfill. I will not call his name.
5.50 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member must not criticise his own Democratic Labour Party supporters like that mainly because that particular supporter may have been more loyal to the Member for St. Michael South than the present Member. He really should not do that to him, Sir.

That particular Manager was the only person in Barbados who got the landfill to function properly when he was given the opportunity to supervise. Too often the Honourable Member had ensured that he go on special leave and not have any oversight of the landfill.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: My name is Taitt, not Arthur. I have never sent anybody on special leave.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This debate has come to an end. Let the question be put.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I beg to move that Head 42, stand part.

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

Head 25 was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER the passing of two money Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of the Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ITEM 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECISION OF RESOLUTION NO. 53 OF 1988 AND THE VESTING OF LAND AT VALERIE, ST. MICHAEL IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave to withdraw this Resolution. This Resolution vesting land in the National Housing Corporation was originally passed by Parliament and it has subsequently transpired that all of the land is no longer needed for housing development. The attorneys-at-law involved have found another solution in completing the conveyancing requirements and in the circumstances we are asking that this Resolution be withdrawn.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution be now withdrawn, is this the will of the House?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I just wish the Minister would indicate. He said that the total amount of land would not be required. I think we were all aware of that for some time now. Will there be a Resolution to replace this one, or you are not putting housing up there at all? I think it is important that it be known that a housing programme which was planned for Valerie will not now be. I think the Minister should so indicate.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Just to answer the Honourable Member. What has happened is that the Housing programme will still continue. The property will be vested in the National Housing Corporation as originally agreed. The land has subsequently been subdivided and what will happen is that the relevant portions of land will then be conveyed accordingly but all the land will not be used. Specific amounts will be conveyed. So we will not need a Resolution.

The question that the Resolution be now withdrawn as put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE BY THE CROWN OF A PARCEL OF LAND
AND THE BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATE
AT BUTTALS, ST. GEORGE
TO DEBRA HUGHES

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution before this House seeks parliamentary permission to dispose by way of sale 40 576.9 square metres of land and the buildings thereon at Buttals Plantation to Debra Hughes for \$320 000. Buttals House, St. George comprises a two-storey stone structure with outbuildings sited on 40 576.9 square metres of land. The property was purchased by the Vestry of St. George in accordance with an act of Parliament entitled the St. George Parochial Medical Officers Residence Act, 1929 No. 32 of 1929. When the vestry system was abolished, the property was vested first in the Southern District Council, then in the Interim Commissioner and subsequently in the Crown. The property was last occupied by Dr. Reader. In May 1984, the Ministry of Health handed over the property to the then Ministry of Housing and Lands. A decision was taken to sell the property by public auction and accordingly at an auction held on the 4th of April, 1985 the property was sold for \$250 000 to Mr. C. P. Brooks of Yearwood and Boyce, as agent. The Ministry of Housing was subsequently advised by the auctioneer, Mr. D'arcy Scott, that the interest in the property was transferred to Mr. H. B. Niblock, at the same price. There was much delay in completing the sale of the property to the Honourable H. B.

Niblock as the original title deeds could not be found despite all efforts by the Registrar of the Supreme Court and the Legal Unit in the Ministry of Housing and Lands. The approval of Parliament of the sale to Mr. Niblock was discontinued after it had become evident that the title deeds were not forthcoming.
6.00 p.m.

The Cabinet at its meeting in January 1995 in accordance with its decision to sell abandoned Government buildings, and I must add that the building was becoming derelict, had decided that the property should be sold by public tender as soon as possible at a price not lower than the current market value of the property. Tenders were invited in February 1995 to purchase the property and 12 tenders were received with the highest being \$335 000 and the lowest \$180 000. As a result of the low tenders – the market value was assessed at \$565 000 before the property started to deteriorate – the Tenders Committee decided that the property should be re-advertised and recommended re-advertisement since the highest tender was lower than the market value of the property as advised by the Commissioner of Land Tax.

The property was re-advertised again. This would have meant that this would have been the third time – once during a previous administration and for the second time during this administration. Seven tenders were received, with the highest bidder being \$390 000 and the lowest \$250 000. In the circumstances, the Tenders Committee reported on the 30th March, 1995 that it was not able to make a recommendation since once again the tender had been below the recommended price. In accordance with its previous decision to dispose of derelict buildings, Cabinet was then left with a decision as to whether it should re-advertise the property again which would mean that we would be going over a situation where you would be receiving a number of bids and no bid would be matching the recommended price. As a result, Cabinet decided to sell the property to the person who submitted the highest bid which was Ms. Lorraine Waterman. The sale to Ms. Waterman did not proceed because of the fact that she had difficulty in raising the purchase money. I think these must be facts that must be known because of the history of this particular property. All the facts must be known. It was then decided that the property would be sold to the second highest bidder, Miss Debra Hughes, and she is willing to purchase the property for \$320 000. It should be noted that expenses amounting to \$175 459 were incurred as a result of the decision that the Government should not proceed with the sale of the property to Mr. Niblock back in 1985. The Crown is now in a position to recoup this expense and still make a tidy profit, given that the building is in a dilapidated condition and is deteriorating rapidly. It is no exaggeration to say that the property is dilapidating terribly. It is infested with rats and it is in a terrible state. I

would invite any of the Members on that side who are not aware of the problem to visit the area. As a matter of fact, it has even been stated by other interested parties that we are lucky to get the price of \$320 000 for it.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I remember sometime earlier this year dealing with a particular debate on the sale of land to a client and at that time the name was one Mr. Cozier. We were given the impression that the reason why the land was sold to this particular person is that we were following the IADB policy of selling land to the highest bidder. We were told by the Minister that the land was sold to this gentleman because he was the highest bidder.

I am being told today that this person is the highest bidder, because the first one fell out so she is not in the race anymore. But, Sir, what is worrying me is that less than after a month selling the property to this gentleman I am hearing about house lots and I am hearing the Government giving blessing to this same gentleman who bought the land previously. It tells me ...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: In St. Thomas, right. That is clear. He understands and I want to know, Sir, how come the Government can sell land to a gentleman and he can get approval so quickly and can get the blessing of Ministers when we were told that the only reason...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I think the Honourable Member for St. Lucy might be a little confused. I think that he is talking about the sale of the old Glendale Home. As far as I know, there are no lots there. That same person, Mr. Cozier, has applied to do house lots in Shop Hill. It is a different project. It is just where the boys there at Shop Hill have the little shed. It is that lot on the left hand side going up.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I agree with that. I never called the location. But what I am saying is that the same Mr. Cozier who happens by accident to be the highest bidder can get the blessing to do a housing development which is supposed to be a low income housing development for \$75 000 for poor people. I am dealing with the highest bidder. I am dealing with the man who got

the piece of land because he was the highest bidder and all of a sudden he is a key player in Government policy on housing.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Cozier is in no way connected to any policy making body in Housing.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, all I can tell you is that I saw in my newspapers where he was blessed for providing these house lots, a month after he was given permission to purchase a piece of land by this Parliament. 6.10 p.m.

I am saying is that I want to be sure that there is nothing else in this that I need to know, that there is no special consideration given to this house, because I am also aware that this house has a marble floor and you can bulldoze the whole house, sell the marble floor and get more for the marble floor than for the house.

I am also telling you that 40 576.9 square feet of land is a lot of land and you can nearly sell the land alone – you know St. George is a key area now for housing – and get this amount of money for what is being paid. I want to know if there are any special considerations that I should be told about.

Head 15: Public tenders – You know I don't believe in it.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am a poor boy. I know I wouldn't get through because I am a poor boy. You see, Mr. Speaker, we have to be clear in our minds that these people who are purchasing these lands do not have any special privileges, because once we are in the Assembly and they start these special privileges the people on the ground are going to believe that there is only a particular clique that can come and purchase all of these properties. That is why I said earlier in this debate that I have been asked to come to this Assembly and do business in the interest of one particular group of people all the time... It is time that we come in here and discuss Government purchasing large sections of land and asking MTW to put roads in them, put in electricity, water and telephone and all the amenities and I am not talking about sites and services. I want to see this Government or any future government buying large portions of land, and some will tell me they have the land already.

I do not believe that a man living in Deacons should be given the impression that he should live in a unit all the time. I believe that man should be given the right to get

a piece of land that is owned by Government at the cost of what it cost Government. Divide the total cost of the land by the number of house spots and give them at that price and MTW or Public Works, whatever you want to call it, should put in the roads free. I will tell you why.

The same way you would go into a district and put in roads, electricity and water I am saying that we, in 1996, should be taking land, putting in amenities and not charging poor people for them. That would have to be a future Democratic Labour Party policy because it is time that we start looking after the interest of poor people in the same way that we could bring land acquisitions to this Parliament and look after the interest of rich people.

We have to take up land, put roads, telephone, water, all the necessary amenities and sell it to the poor people in this country at the same price that we have it on the books. We have an obligation to the poor people. It is a waste of time trying to tell people that they must live in units all the time. I am against this policy of building housing units. We have enough housing units in Barbados. All we have to do is move the people from out of the housing units onto a piece of land and the price would be such that they would be able to take this document to the bank and borrow enough money to build a house.

Any future government that tells me that it has the interest of poor people at heart will adopt the policy enunciated here today by me. I am saying it is not only Deacons, it is also the people in the Pine and Silver Hill and let me tell the Back Bench and the Ministers that represent the housing areas they have to follow this policy because they cannot say they don't know anything about it. If they don't know, ask me. I will be able to tell them how it works because if they do not support it they will have to canvass against it.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Lammings too. All of those areas. But the point is that the purchasers must get that land at the cost of the land only. Amenities is a normal thing for Government to put in. I know people will say we never did it before, but it is time for change and we must look at it in a different light. I know that there are people in this country who would knock us down tomorrow with an editorial. Don't forget when I supported the ZRs they put an editorial on me, and those were poor people. So I am defending the interest of the poor man now and I am saying that the people in Quarry Road who would like to get a piece of land should be able to get a piece of land at a reasonable price.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is Quarry Road, St. Andrew, or Bank Hall?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Bank Hall, of course. You know I will look after you because you have poor people in your constituency as well. Wherever there are poor people I will represent their interest.

I am saying, Sir, that for the last two years or so I have been coming to this Assembly and having to deal with Resolutions and Bills giving people that already have. It is time that we start giving something to the poor. Mr. Speaker, if you do not agree with that let me know, because all those who do not agree I will be canvassing this policy against them. It is time to empower the poor people. This foolishness about sites and services and starter homes... – foolishness! We want to see those people owning a piece of land at a reasonable price so that they can take that document to the bank and use it as collateral and come forwards. In less than 5 years all of them will own their own homes and we would not have to worry about people walking around begging for units.

The more units you build, the more you are going to have a problem with arrears. It is time to move away from that. In the 50s and the 60s you needed units, but the Democratic Labour Party believes that it is time that people should have their own homes. This belief in renting we have to move away from. Arguing about the Democratic Labour Party not building units... Foolishness! Not in the 90s. We have to go forward to the 21st century with an innovative policy, a policy that will empower the poor man and teach him how to own things. Once the poor man gets something he can appreciate it a lot more.

This mentality that poor people should only rent from others must stop. We must give power to those people to own things. It is not the mentality of the DEMS because when I was on the National Housing Board I also made another suggestion and I will repeat it. I honestly believe that instead of the workmen at National Housing being up there sometimes with nothing to do that when a poor man has a house and he has enough money to build the house that the NHC workmen, who are being paid by taxpayers, they should be given the permission to allow their people to go and repair or help build the people's houses. They are being paid to do a job and instead of sitting around let them go and build houses for poor people. All those who have a problem with that tell me now.

I was on the board in 1994 and we got swept out but it was enunciated. The Minister had 2 years to deal with it. I am saying that you have 2 ways to deal with the poor people: use the workmen you have at NHC to help build houses for poor people; and you have land – give them the land, sell them at a reasonable price and charge them for the roads etc. because all of us know that the same way somebody has \$320 000 to pay for Buttals that there are

a lot of poor people who would like to own a house too but they cannot. All we are saying is give them the land and they will build their own houses.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I am glad Government has brought this measure trying to bring back some order in the area of Buttals. The house there was dilapidated and abandoned for a long time and as a result the area has had a lot of bush growing around it. Dilapidation caused a number of roads to affect areas of Carmichael Heights, Lammings Village, Waverley Cot and Ellerton. This is where we have the great numbers of monkeys, in recent time, causing problems to the residents and they have been complaining. I am hoping that when the sale is complete that the new owners would move with expedition to clean up the premises and would lend a certain order and tidiness of the general part of a wider Ellerton area.
6.20 p.m.

I want also, Mr. Speaker, to mention the fact that it is only the house and the grounds that are in a complete state of dilapidation. The rural environs are also in an extreme state of dilapidation.

Some months ago I went on a tour of the area with persons from the Rural Development Commission. I pointed out the state of the roads. I heard on the floor of Parliament, some months ago, that Buttals was among the number of the roads that would be repaired during this financial year according to the Rural Development Commission.

The Ministry of Transport and Works went in and did a survey, and articulated the people in Buttals into the expectation that they will soon get the roads. This survey was done some months ago and nothing more has happened.

I want to urge the Minister that I am supporting, unlike the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I am supporting the sale, but I am expecting that the Government will continue...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, The Honourable Member is giving the impression that I am opposing the sale. I am not opposing the sale. All I was saying is that I want to see something like these come in the interest of poor people too. I am not opposing the sale.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I am just saying, finally on that particular point, Sir, that I hope the Government would continue after the sale, to do something for the general interest of Buttals to bring some order in the area.

Now Sir, I would be doing less than I ought to if I did not answer some of the points made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. It cannot be said often enough, Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party with the implementation of the Freehold Purchase Act brought about a far-reaching revolution in property ownership in Barbados.

The plantation tenancies were, for all of the history of Barbados, owned by the plantation owners. Those who rented spots in the plantation tenancies were treated a little better than the peace of burden. The Barbados Labour Party in a far seeing of visionary policy of empowerment of the people in plantation tenancies, through the passing of the Freehold Purchase Act, has transformed much of Barbados. I speak with greater authority for the constituency of St. George South.

I see areas of Drax Hall, which is the biggest plantation tenantry in Barbados, changed in the space of a decade from a number of small, shabby chattel houses propped up on big rocks and so on, scattered all over the place, absence of roads, absence of electricity, absence of water, absence of bus service, absence of playing facilities. I see Drax Hall transformed in the period since the passing of the Freehold Purchase Act into an energetic, lively, bright, progressive rural community.

The houses of which I spoke a few moments ago, all across Drax Hall a new and attractive bungalows. The Barbados Labour Party put in over a million dollars of roads in that particular tenantry, provided a four and a half area playing field, ran buses right in the heart of Drax Hall for the first time.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I first started to run for Elections in St. George South. I had to hold public meetings with power from my motor car battery for my public address system. There was no electricity in Drax Hall, the biggest plantation tenantry in Barbados.

I recall in that first General Election, people like the Honourable Member for the City getting lost, coming up there in the dark, and the road up there very bad.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. TULL: I remember Mr. Speaker, Sir, walking all through this area since the Democratic Labour Party was in Government. I walked through the area with sheets of paper collecting signatures house by house, to carry into Bay Street, the Light and Power Company, meeting with the Commercial Manager putting the case for electricity to be brought in this tenantry.

When I use Drax Hall, I am only using Drax Hall as a model for much of Barbados. All across this

country, including many areas in the parish of St. Lucy, where people were living in conditions of extreme dilapidation, such has been transformed, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. TULL: I used to visit St. Lucy in years gone by. The state and condition of all the plantation tenancies in St. Lucy were not at all what one would have expected in Barbados when we considered progress and advance in other areas.

Now those are the reasons why I enthusiastically, in the last two Elections, gone around the country, night after night, and talked about the Rural Development Programmes of the Government is because I had hoped this policy will transform the country even more, and to give resources to rural Barbados commensurate with what rural Barbados has given to this country.

I live in St. George, Mr. Speaker, and I represent a constituency of St. George. This parish of St. George has been the bread basket of Barbados for three centuries. More food has been produced in St. George than any other parish in this country for the whole history of this country. In other words, we have earned, in St. George, our spurs.

I made that point, Sir, Mr. Speaker, only to say that it is time that the parish of St. George get rewarded for what it has contributed. It is about time that it gets the reward for what it has contributed.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, that there are no spurs. I would note Mr. Speaker, that up to two years ago, there was a big lobby in this country, including the Democratic Labour Party, who wanted to shut down Bulkeley factory. Bulkeley factory incidentally...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member said that the Democratic Labour Party tried to shut down Bulkeley factory. He knows very well that last year that the Democratic Labour Party was not in control of the Government and they had no dealings with BAMC. So if there were any dealings in closing Bulkeley last year, it could not have been the Democratic Labour Party. It would have to be the Barbados Labour Party.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. L. R. TULL: My recollection was that he was the only Member of the Opposition benches who spoke in favour of keeping Bulkeley factory going. I was going to give you that. Why you jump up so fast?

The fact is, Sir, that during the time that the Democratic Labour Party was in office, up to September 1994, it was the policy of the Democratic Labour Party as stipulated and spelt out in many documents, that Bulkeley factory should be closed. With the recommendation that only Andrew's factory...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George...

Mr. SPEAKER: On what do you rise?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member knows quite well, Sir, that in 1982 when Portvale was built it was built because Bulkeley had to go.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I despair on reaching common ground with the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, despite what anybody says about him, even on my side...

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I would like to include him in some of the things I am saying. He said that he was in favour of keeping Bulkeley open, and supported this Government in that position even though the Democratic Labour Party had taken a position publicly articulated in this country that Bulkeley should be closed. I am not going back to attack the Democratic Labour Party. I am just stating the fact and moving on to say that the area of Buttals is about half a mile, if so far, from Bulkeley factory.

The people at Buttals, to a very large extent, worked at Bulkeley factory or the plantation. This last crop, were it not for the very providence, the good sense of the Barbados Labour Party Government and Bulkeley factory, the sugar crop could have been in dire trouble because both Andrews factory and Portvale factory quite often during the crop malfunctioned because of mechanical and other problems. Were it not for the fact that Bulkeley factory was functioning, our sugar production could have been severely damaged.

Now, the people in this area of Buttals, Sir, therefore I am saying from the short introduction, have made a big contribution, not only to St. George but to Barbados and because of this, it is only fair that they should now be allowed to come into the kingdom. There are some services we need up there. I will continue to mention them to the Ministers on the front bench including my friend the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I know he needs a lot of money down in St. Andrew now since the roads

are getting washed away, but I am asking him and the Honourable Member for St. James North, the Minister of Rural Development, do not forget Buttals, do not forget Windsor Tenantry...

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Do you have any tenancies in your constituency, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Quite a few. You ever heard of Snaggs Land?

Mr. L. R. TULL: Snaggs Land too, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: The Honourable Member for the City is saying there are also lots of tenancies in her constituency. Since I cannot talk for all, Sir, I want to ask the two Ministers who are responsible for the physical and infrastructural integrity of rural Barbados to put St. George a little higher on this priority list, because the people in St. George have given a lot over the centuries to this country and it is only fair that at this particular period of time when the country is getting a little bit more attention than it used to get in the past that St. George finally should come into the kingdom.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, first of all I have no particular issue if the Government has decided in its wisdom to continue its policy of selling the properties in the manner it wishes to sell them. I accept that is Government's policy. However, I have a problem with the ease with which people like the person who is going to purchase this property are able to find solutions to their problems with regard to owning property and people who come from places like Thomas Gap are having such tremendous difficulty with a 2 x 4 plot.

Mr. Speaker, it is now three years since the ordinary people of Thomas Gap, President Kennedy Drive have, after normal decent consultation with the authorities of the day, after constant direction from the authorities of the day through their representative, after we have made all kinds of representations, after we have had all kinds of assurances, we have people who with their mottley savings had looked forward to owning the plot of land they had lived on, some of them in excess of 30 years. They had been given assurance by the Democratic Labour Party Government and the Barbados Labour Party Government that they would be able to purchase the land.

I make no complaint about the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary because both of them on each

occasion when I have raised the question have given me assurances. What I wish to know is what is the problem. Why is it impossible for an ordinary person to get services in Barbados from the governmental structure? What is the problem, Mr. Speaker? Why is it that people like Miss Hughes will be able to get her conveyance and within a short time will be able to move onto Buttals, establish what she has to establish and get on with her life. These are ordinary simple folk. They want nothing more than to own the plot of land.

Mr. Speaker, I have been trying, and you have heard me on this over and over again in here. I believe that public officers whether they are in statutory boards or in the Government service should understand that they are dealing with and for ordinary people. They give them the run around. That is what the people call it. Every representative in here knows about ordinary people getting the run around. It does not matter if you are a Minister, or if you are an ordinary member, you have people you represent and all they get when they go to governmental offices is the run around. Will somebody please tell me why it is impossible for people who live on land, the land has been surveyed, it has been vested, the plots have been identified, the people who should get the plots have been identified and yet here we are, one more time, the representative getting up to speak on their behalf.

I am not getting up, Sir to get some votes from them. I am getting up because I feel embarrassed that I have to be constantly telling them all kinds of little stories. Somebody wants to buy 2 500 square feet of land from the Government. First they said it had to be vested in the National Housing Corporation so it could be done properly. I told them that. I explained vesting. All of them did not understand it but they say: "Okay chief, if you say so." I told them that the Resolution had passed. Two years ago, Sir, the vesting has happened. One fellow asked me, "Sir, you sure it is a vest you have to get or a jacket?" That is what he came and asked me.

The Honourable Member for the City has some constituents like that, too. Everybody. The people in the urban area suffer. Ordinary people have a hard time. When they go up to the National Housing Corporation, they have some people up there that treat them like dirt and run them around all the time. I cannot stand that. I am not worthy of representing them coming in here all the time...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Because I am angry about it. That is what is wrong. I am angry, Mr. Speaker, and I make no bones about it. I come in here all the time as a representative. I write letters. I talk to the Honourable Members whose job it is because I understand they have difficulties. But we have some hard mouth people working in the Government sector who seem to feel that

ordinary people because they cannot come in and speak in a certain tone are to be treated like dogs. I do not like it. I have said it before. The only place I have to say it is in here, Mr. Speaker. This is not right. I wish the Minister to give me an assurance that he is going to take some steps to see that those whose responsibility it is... The people have the money, Sir. I know one couple, the man won some money. The man likes to drink. Two years ago he won the money and you will understand that the money has gone down to the point now where they are in danger of not being able to get the piece of land. This is supposed to be a model development for poor people. It was a development which was started in the time of the Labour Party at Thomas Gap and at Rices. It was an attempt where we had cooperation. I was the representative but the Labour Party Government was in office. Then when we became the Government and we looked at it, because both sides recognised that it was the correct thing to do. The Government acquired the land from 3 or 4 people who owned it. The commercial people next door tried to buy out all the land next door. They tried to buy piece from St. Leonard's Church and we tried to hold on to that so we built up a little understanding as to how we could make these people comfortable. The roads were put in. First of all as soon as the Government changed some ignorant people in the National Housing Corporation told them they could not get the land anymore and I had to discuss it with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister. They said okay, that it was not true. I had to go and bring the plot and show where the people had been approved so we are *ad idem*. If anyone wants to carry a message tell all the people at the National Housing Corporation who are connected with this that the representative for St. Michael West got in the House and "abuse" them. Say that. I do not care what they think about me. I wish them to care something about the people that they have to serve, who live at President Kennedy Drive in Thomas Gap. They used to call it Vietnam and they are contemptuous of those people but those people are the same as we are. Mr. Speaker, you are familiar with those people. Some of the most gentle souls. Some of the nicest people. Some of the kindest people you will find are those poor people. The Honourable Member knows that. They are gentle. They do not interfere with anybody. All they want is their place in the sun. It is true.

6.40 p.m.

The Honourable Member provokes me on occasion but he cannot even provoke me tonight because what I am saying he knows, and other Honourable Members know, that they are glad I am making this speech because especially when you are in the Government you cannot make that kind of speech. But you all are glad because you wish me to say it for you. Some of the people working in the Government offices, especially in some of the statutory boards, in the words of a famous man...

You are a representative, Sir, and you represent people in Bank Hall and you know there are some people who have been trying to get a house for 15 years. You and I, Sir, know about people we have to be shifting around. We have to find new ways of telling them the same thing week after week after week. They want a piece of land to rent. They want a house. We know that everybody cannot get, but they do not have to be run around when we have agreed on a clear policy as has been the case with Thomas Gap. I am putting it to this Honourable House that I am going to give the Minister and company a reasonable time and thereafter we are going to have a demonstration like you have never seen. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, put it on the record, when it comes to demonstrations we who live and work near the cemetery know how to demonstrate. The Honourable Member from Carrington Village, he knows how to demonstrate. But we are saying to the Honourable Member that they have to try to get people in the National Housing Corporation, if it is the National Housing Corporation because at one time we were told it is the Ministry and the Ministry said, no, it is the Housing Corporation. The Corporation said no, it is the Ministry. Now the Parliamentary Secretary has got it straightened out and has told us that it is the National Housing Corporation that is supposed to make the plots available.

I am going to sit down now but I put it on the record despite the fact that I discussed it with the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary. I am putting it on the record to take them off the hook because although it is their responsibility I wish them to be able to say that to the Chairman if he ever sees him that I got up in the House of Assembly and said that the Chairman wants going home if he cannot organise a simple transaction. I just wish you to pass on to the Chairman that some people in his department are not functioning at the level they should. The Minister says he has not seen the Chairman for the year. You did not know they were running well. You thought they were running well; well let me be the first to tell you that, and I do not wish to repeat myself. We have to speed up things a little bit. We have, especially where services are being provided for people from the lower economic ladder, to speed up things. We have to help them out. We had a meeting in the St. Leonard's School and we went through things to the minutest detail. Clinton talks about his town meetings, we have been having town meetings down there for a long time, the Representative and his constituents, and we have serious discussions.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, shortly we are going to have a discussion on how we are going to develop the area and it will go according to their wishes because we will see to it that it goes that way except that if I am not able to show some kind of success in Thomas Gap

I will not be able to meet with anybody. Unless they give me something to show where I can point out to the people that that is the way forward I will not be able to offer the people of the surrounding areas to come and discuss any further development so I look forward to hearing the Parliamentary Secretary or the Minister get up and tell me when to tell my constituents what to expect. I am grateful to your Honour.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I did not realise that this debate on Buttals would have attracted the type of attention that it was given and really I did not realise that Buttals was in St. Michael West. The Honourable Member did raise a point with respect to Thomas Gap. Thomas Gap is a matter which has been engaging the Ministry for some time. For 8 years the Democratic Labour Party administration had meetings with the residents in Thomas Gap, gave them a number of promises and, in terms of the delivery of the conveyance for these people, they came close to doing absolutely nothing. Now when we came into office, we realized the problem in Thomas Gap. The Honourable Member mentioned Thomas Gap in here before. As the result of his mention of Thomas Gap, I took a personal interest in the problems in Thomas Gap. I do not know if the Honourable Member is one of these people who would go into an area and tell his constituents that you must put your house here and you must put your house there without actually waiting for a survey to be done. I said that I do not know.
6.50 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member says that he does not know. His Parliamentary Secretary is next to him and can tell him that the plan for the houses has been worked out, not by the representative but by the officials. Well, do not start out by saying that you do not know. There is no point in trying that kind of politics. I have not tried that with you.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, I do not believe that he is one of those Honourable Members. I know there are some Honourable Members who have done it, certainly none on this side. Mr. Speaker, what has happened is that even though we have had surveys for the lots when we went to do the conveyances, we realized that the surveys were not quite accurate. It is a matter which is engaging the attention of both the Ministry and the National Housing Corporation and I can give the Honourable Member the assurance that as soon as those problems are ironed out we will do the conveyances. There is no need for the Honourable Member to attract the attention of the gallery or anybody else in order to highlight this problem.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I think that the Honourable Member should withdraw that. He is

imputing improper motives. He is suggesting that my speech was without any sincerity and that it was only to attract the gallery. Sir, it is something of which I have spoken on occasions when only 3 or 4 of us were in here and the Honourable Member must not be contentious. I think that is an uncalled for remark. I object to it.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I did not attack the Honourable Member. He should not attack the Honourable Chairman of the National Housing Corporation because the Chairman of the National Housing Corporation has been working very hard in order to ensure...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. First of all, you would not have allowed me to attack the Chairman and I think that it is improper for the Minister to say or even to think it and it is not true, Sir.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: But I will give the Honourable Member the assurance...

Mr. SPEAKER: Would you like to change the word "attack"?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the Honourable Member the assurance that as soon as the problems are ironed out we will complete the conveyances to the residents in Thomas Gap. I would also like to give him the assurance that not only in Thomas Gap, but in areas close to Thomas Gap like Danesbury which have been neglected for a number of years, we will also seek to address the problems being experienced by the residents in those areas.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. Lucy mentioned the plight of poor people who have not been able to get the delivery of conveyances and their titles as soon as other persons, although he did not refer to the other persons. But I would just like to say...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. I never mentioned anything about titles or conveyances.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I am just trying to assure the House that we have already embarked on a policy, although the mechanics of it are to be worked out. The funds from the disposal of these buildings will go towards the National Housing Corporation for their housing programme.

With respect to the problems being faced in Thomas Gap, if I may go back, but with respect to something different, the difficulty of such persons in getting titles to land and getting certain services... Even though we are

not dealing with the Benn Hill Resolution at this stage, I think that Benn Hill is a good example of Government's commitment to the poor people in the rural areas who have been seriously disadvantaged as a result of the failure of successive Governments in the past to provide certain services such as transportation and public utilities and so on.

With respect to the question of the Tenancies Programme which the Honourable Member for St. George South alluded to, we are also embarking in the Ministry on a policy whereby the urban tenancies which are the tenancies in the urban areas, because there is no definition as such of urban tenancies, will be given the same type of accommodation as the plantation tenancies. As you know, the plantation tenancies are scheduled and those in what we refer to as the urban tenancies do not have that privilege of purchasing their lots at concessionary prices. We are embarking on a policy whereby the urban tenancies will be scheduled just like the plantation tenancies are scheduled and tenants there will be able to purchase their lots at concessionary rates.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 3 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BENN HILL,
ST. PETER FOR THE PURPOSE
OF ACCESS ROADS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution before this Honourable House seeks Parliamentary approval for the compulsory acquisition of 11 parcels of land to facilitate the construction of access roads and foot paths to the tenantry which is known as the Benn Hill Tenantry. The Government is firmly of the opinion that rural communities of Barbados have been the bedrock of our stability and progress as a nation. However, many districts in rural Barbados have not kept pace with modern development. The Government is committed to the development of rural Barbados to improve the standard of living of our rural population. The tenantry at Benn Hill has been identified as one which, because of existing conditions relating to poor access and inadequate footpaths, ought to benefit from Government's Rural Development Programme. Physical works for this tenantry include the construction of roads and associated drainage and the provision of footpaths. The resulting ease and comfort of passage undoubtedly will be welcomed by tenants who have not been able to enjoy adequate access to their homes.

Other developments for the Benn Hill Tenantry have to do with the security of tenure through the provision of a number of plots which will be offered for sale to the tenants. The level of development entails a small measure of dislocation and I am giving Honourable Members as well as the tenants of Benn Hill the assurance that any dislocation will be very minimal. The 5 dwelling houses which are to be relocated to facilitate these improvements will be erected near Maynar's and Mount Brevitor in St. Peter. Another 3 houses which are affected will be shifted within the Benn Hill Tenantry.

The Government will be purchasing some 2000 square meters of it to resite those houses which have to be relocated from the Benn Hill Tenantry. In addition, it is acquiring 8 348 square meters of land within the tenantry to facilitate this development programme. I must say that the tenants of Benn Hill have welcomed this proposal. It is something which they had looked forward to for a long time. We are also putting in toilet facilities where necessary and I would like to say that Benn Hill could be considered as a pilot project in this connection. We have already identified a few areas. Only recently I toured an area in St. Joseph with the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. The areas in St. Michael will be covered by the Urban Renewal Project. As a matter of fact, it is only since I became associated with this project that I realized that in some areas there are so many houses in the back so to speak, without proper facilities. It is hoped that this will be the type of project that we will be able to extend throughout the length and breadth of Barbados. I would welcome any suggestions from Members, including the Honourable Member for St. John, for suitable location, in their constituencies so that we can actually put down projects. So I am appealing to Members and I know that some Members like you, Mr. Speaker, do not have a similar need in your constituency. But I am appealing to Members who might have a need for this type of project where the normal facilities and services are not delivered to all the residents of the area to make representation and hopefully we will get your project on stream.

I would also like to say that we are compulsorily acquiring these particular properties but not without consultation with the owners. As I said, the owners are very, very excited about the project. There is only one land owner in the area who is known to the Honourable Member for St. Peter who originally refused, but because of the paternal relationship of that particular land owner we were able to get him to come around. But the reason why we are coming to Parliament to acquire the land was because of the fact that in many of the areas the land owners cannot find the title deeds. We were hoping that we would have been able to do it by private treaty but this was not possible and we have decided in a simplified manner to come to Parliament to acquire the land.

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

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the Opposition will not be objecting to this one because anytime there is development in rural Barbados and anytime you are empowering or trying to empower poor people we will always support this. But the timing of this particular one, Sir, is rather surprising and I must congratulate the Minister for his cleverness, because it is clear to me that after he realized the path we were going on today he decided to bring in Benn Hill. I must congratulate him for bringing in Benn Hill at this time. If he had proceeded to bring the other one that he had planned to bring, he knows that he would have been criticized. So I must congratulate him for looking after rural Barbados. But I want to say that rural Barbados does not stop in St. Peter. I want to remind him that beyond the Judge Gap there is some place called St. Lucy and we want to see some of these projects in St. Lucy and also in St. Joseph, St. George and St. John. These are rural projects.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has stated that he is quite prepared to do some of these projects in other areas like putting in roads. I have already given a list of 40 roads and I have another list of another 40, because you know St. Lucy. They believe in owning land and whenever they own a piece of land they build a house. Today there might not be a need for a road but tomorrow there will be a need for a road because as soon as someone acquires a piece of land they build a house and then someone follows suit and builds a house on the piece next to them and then there is a demand for things.
7.00 p.m.

My argument, Sir, is that I want him to do something about the 40 roads I have asked him to construct in St. Lucy and when he is finished I still have some more to submit to him. It doesn't make sense to come to the Floor of the House and say that he has written people of importance when he knows that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has submitted a letter to him for 40 roads and when he knows also, Sir, that I have gone through my constituency and submitted a list for street lights. They have been approved by Light and Power over a year ago and I have not received one single street light in St. Lucy. He has wasted my time and he has wasted the time of the people at Light and Power and I am calling on him to correct that.

You cannot ask us to look after the needs of our constituents and whenever we do, our interest and the interest of the constituents are not being taken care of. That

is why when he gets up in St. Lucy or in here and says that I refused to submit places in St. Lucy for house spots... At Harrisons and Mount Poyers there is a piece of land already acquired by Government and vested in the National Housing for house lots but we cannot get the house lots in St. Lucy.

Until he looks after Harrisons, and he has to look after Harrisons first for me to submit a new list... When a Minister could go to St. Lucy and tell people in St. Lucy that he has asked me for areas to submit for house lots and I have refused, that I do not care for their interest, when he knows full well that there are house lots at Hope Road and there are some at Harrisons to be allocated and for amenities to be put in, then I am saying...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I was an MP since 1994, and I am dealing with since 1994. Who went before me will have to deal with before me. I am saying that the constituency of St. Lucy, as long as I am MP, I am prepared to look after their interests. All those who do not like the style in which I look after their interests that is their fault because the people of St. Lucy know that they have given me a job to do and I am doing my best and will continue to do it.

I would have to congratulate the Minister whenever he does something in rural Barbados because we have been asking for a long time for something to be done in rural Barbados for poor people. I am glad today, Sir, that out of many things on the Order Paper for the other people, there is something today that he could squeeze in to try to contradict me that he is bringing all in the interests of other people. I am glad he brought Benn Hill today. I know he did not plan to deal with it today and I am also glad that the PM is in here to make sure that Benn Hill is on. The poor people of rural Barbados are glad to see that there are things being done in their interest.

We look forward for more projects under the rural development programme. The sign is too big. They have to stop walking around with these big signs about another rural project. Barbados is deep in signs about another rural project. I want to see more projects than signs; because all I'm seeing is signs and no action. Big signs – another rural project and when you look at the project you can't see anything there.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: This one is in the constituency of St. Peter and something is being done.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you saying the size of the sign is blocking out the project?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is true too. Because they had a massive house on Porters and you couldn't see the house. A two-storey building and you couldn't see it, the sign was too big. I believe the Prime Minister passed and reduced the sign. Now we can see the Prime Minister's picture in the house.

You see, Mr. Speaker, this is a government on show. I want to see 40 signs in St. Lucy because if I see 40 signs in St. Lucy I know they will finally be doing something about the 40 roads that I have submitted for the people of St. Lucy. I know that once they put up the signs they cannot remove them, because that is a commitment to that work that they have to do. So, Mr. Speaker, I am very glad finally after complaining the whole day that for the last 2 years I have been coming here and having to deal with things in the interest of people that I do not know. I finally have a project that I can deal with. The small man is going to benefit from this one and I like to see these projects.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN:... once I get your attention, I knew that you will learn something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I have a responsibility on behalf of the people whom I represent to speak to this Resolution and to say thanks on behalf of the people of Benn Hill to this Parliament for approving funds to deal with the problem that has been outstanding for generations. There are still many unfortunate districts in Barbados that are in the back, hidden from the glare of publicity where people are living under the most awesome and squalid conditions. This one was a complex problem because it is a rural district that is not a plantation tenantry but is in fact a combination of many small tenancies. For many years people in this district could not improve their housing conditions and bring themselves in line with the development taking place in the rest of the country.

I knew as representative of the constituency of St. Peter that I had a responsibility to act on this case when an old lady by the name of Miss Hinds who used to sell mauby and bread and fish and other things at All Saints Boys' School in the 50s and 60s was almost burnt to death in her home in her old age because the condition was so awful that the fire engine had no access to reach her. The ambulance could not reach her and she eventually died because of the fire and the problems associated with having to be saved from a fire at her home.

It is a sad thing, Mr. Speaker, that despite the progress of the country there are still a large number of

districts stretched across both urban and rural Barbados where an integrated approach to development is a necessity if we must put poverty behind us in this country once and for all.

I must say, Sir, that I had to get involved in this project and use my skills as a project analyst to bring it to fruition, but there are other projects of a similar nature with land all across rural Barbados where people are living in the back. I want to serve notice now, Sir, that we have been using Benn Hill, Forty Acres and others as pilots because putting together these projects involving many different land owners, many different home owners, each one a different problem... For example, Sir, to put roads in Benn Hill means that we have had to resite 5 different home owners and each one has a different problem.

I want to give the House the assurance that over the course of the next 2 years we will be accelerating expenditure on rural development in order to put the problems of districts like Benn Hill behind this country once and for all. I would urge the House, Sir, that when the requests for increased expenditure come, do not treat it as it has been treated in the recent past as a government trying to be involved in political patronage. The people...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Rt. Honourable Prime Minister is misleading the House. We are dealing with a rural development project and the impression is that this Opposition has been blocking the Government from giving the Rural Development Commission or MTW permission to get more finances. That is not true. Every occasion I have had to speak, I asked the Prime Minister to give the Minister of Public Works or the Minister of Rural Development more money. So he knows, Sir, that when he brings money for rural development or for building roads in rural Barbados that he will get my support.

7.15 p.m.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Rural Development Commission was welcomed by the members on the other side as an emblem of pork-barrel politics. I just want them to understand that we will use the Rural Development Commission as an instrument for social progress. It is the Government's intention to identify all of those communities that are in the back and bring them to the front where services facilities are concerned, and that you can anticipate, over the course of the next 2 years, Sir, we will be spending increased sums to deal with all of those communities whose needs have been surveyed in St. George, St. John, St. Joseph and wherever rural poverty represents itself.

The Member for St. Lucy, Sir, has already gone on record as telling the House that his most important priority is for an airport in St. Lucy. The Government intend to identify a site for the airport and the source of funds for the airport, Sir. We understand his seriousness that he wants an airport for St. Lucy, Sir, and we will try our best to give him an airport for St. Lucy.

In the interim, Sir, we are going to try to help the Members for St. George South, St. Joseph, St. James and Christ Church, to help them deal with the problem of poverty, Sir.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I also want to thank the Ministry of Housing and Lands for treating this as a prototype of how we can redevelop rural communities. It is not going to be the last of its kind, Sir. There are many others that have been surveyed and where the work is far advanced towards its completion.

My only regret, Mr. Speaker, in all of this, is that my father's land could not have been used as part of the general development of the country. He felt very cute about having anything being brought to this House concerning the acquisition of his land. It was on the Call-in Programme that this project was being conceived to facilitate his land acquisition.

It is a sad thing, Sir, because he has allowed his land for people to move their trucks on to help this project. It is a sad thing when our country has to come to a state of affairs where people willing to help the development process, have to back off because of the carping and unfair criticism of people who should know better. The project could have been helped, if the Ministry had been able to allow roads to go on his land. It saddens me that you had to put a bend in what could have otherwise been a straight road.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: We have had to put a bend in what could have otherwise been a straight road to avoid his land to have this project free of anything. It is a sad thing that we must learn from. We must learn from it, Sir. Not because he is my father but because it is the taint and the possibility of a taint. It is a sad thing.

I want on this occasion, Sir, to thank this House on behalf of those many people who have been at the whims and mercies of landlords. I just want to give the House the assurance, Sir, that similar persons in other constituencies who are finding themselves in similar circumstance, will

shortly enjoy the benefits of development to the same extent as the people of Benn Hill.

I thank the House, Sir, on their behalf on this occasion.

On a motion by Hon. G. W. PAYNE seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER the Resolution was passed.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Special Development Areas Bill which went to the Other Place has come back to us in this Chamber for concurrences. I would simply wish at this time to move that the House concur in the Amendment offered from the Other Place.

Mr. SPEAKER: A seconder, please.

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

The question was put and agreed to without division to the amendment to the Bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg the forgiveness of Honourable Members. Earlier in the day I had suggested that I would want to call Question Time and actually identified replies to questions which were ready. At this hour, I do not know that Members are really disposed to deal with Parliamentary Questions. What I would wish to do now, Sir, is to move the adjournment of this House to next Tuesday, October 29, 1996 at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Speaking on the adjournment, Mr. Speaker, if Members would indulge me for a little longer, I would like to say that we have just returned from a well earned...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I am enquiring whether the Honourable Member had written and given the appropriate permission to speak on the adjournment which is required by the Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have all returned from a well-deserved recess, and as my custom as Leader of the House, I have had meetings with yourself and the Clerk. I have had meetings with the Attorney General, with the Right Honourable Prime Minister as well, about the parliamentary agenda. What I would like to do is to give some indication to Honourable Members on all sides as to what the agenda might look like, at least down to the end of this calendar year.

There are some debates for which Members may want to prepare themselves, and might wish to know in

advance what we are planning. I gather that the Select Committee which was dealing with the Insurance Bill has completed its work and that Bill is on its way back to this House.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Not quite, but we expect that in the month of November it should get back here.

I am reliably informed that...

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The work has been done. I am advised that it was good work and favourably good contribution. It is not expected, therefore, that when it gets back here that there is likely to be any extended debate. Then one never knows.

It is also proposed, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the supplementary, the mini-omnibus supplementary, as a consequence of the mid-term review, as we had last year, again this year would come before the House at a very early time in November. There is at least one matter. An income tax amendment which is consequential of the last Budget which must come down to this House before the end of this year.

I am hoping that we would not be sitting beyond the 17th December, but it entirely depends on us. As I see it, the House can expect to meet every Tuesday between now and that time.

It is also expected that a number of Parliamentary Questions, some of which replies for which notice was given today, will be before the House. We are expecting Mr. Speaker, Sir, legislation to do with a bond issue – the Ministry of Education, serial bond issue in respect of the University.

We are also expecting a Preservation of Antiquities Bill to come down with a certain amount of urgency. The recent find, the archaeological site now at the Port St. Charles, very unhappily, a great deal of pilferage has occurred there. It is important that we have this Bill to protect artifacts which will be the property of Barbados in the future.

7.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General has given assurances that a number of Bills are going to be ready in the month of November – the Magistrates Court, Bail, Rehabilitation of Offenders, Limitations of Actions and Minor Offences. What I am hoping to do, if I can get the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition and yourself, Mr. Speaker, is to set aside one day when we will debate all of those matters of like substance so that we have, as it were, one massive debate where we will be debating all these matters so that people are not making the same speeches over and over again, or nearly the same speeches over and over again.

It is expected that as early as next week that the amendment to the Shops Act will be coming down. There is an amendment to the Road Traffic Act. There is expected to be ready, perhaps, later in November, and certainly ready for the month of December, the Income Tax amendment that I have spoken of before, the Markets and Slaughterhouses...

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Minister of Public Works reminds me that there are a large number of acquisitions which have been languishing since the time of the last administration. We will try to do as many of them as we can in the remaining months of this year.

There is also another package to do with Copyright, an amendment to the Patents and amendments to the Trademarks Act as well. Again, I would hope to be able to do them as one debate, so to speak, where we are debating all of them at one and the same time so that we can get on with it.

Mr. Speaker that is just to give an indication to Honourable Members so they may prepare themselves for one or other of the issues which will arise during the course of these several debates.

In the circumstances, Sir, I again beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, October 29, 1996 at 11:00 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 29, at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.30 p.m.

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MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown)
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