
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 29, 1996

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 1996.

PRESENT

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

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

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)

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.), L.E.C. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)

Mr. D. CARTER

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, 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. 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. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, 22nd October, 1996.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of this Honourable House of Assembly for its meeting of the 22nd day of October, 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.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1995.

I am also commanded to lay the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 15) Order, 1996.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the Bail Bill, 1996 and the Magistrates Court Bill, 1996.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bail Bill, 1996 be read a first time.

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

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Magistrates Court Bill, 1996, Sir, I beg to move that it be now read a first time.

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

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of Replies to Questions Nos. 25 and 26, asked by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 34, asked by the Honourable Member for St. John, is ready.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Replies to Parliamentary Questions 38, 39 and 40, asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, are ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER RESIGNATION OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF ST. MICHAEL NORTH WEST

Mr. SPEAKER: According to the Standing Orders, I am to direct that the letter received from the Honourable Member be recorded in the Minutes at this time. I hereby declare the seat of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West to be vacant.

MOTION THAT AN ADDRESS BE SENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL ASKING HIM TO ISSUE A **WRIT** FOR ELECTION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that an Address be sent to His Excellency the Governor-General asking him to issue a Writ for Election to **fill** the vacancy **occasioned** by the resignation of the Honourable Member for the constituency of St. Michael North West.

In moving this motion, Sir, I would wish to take the opportunity, with Your Honour's indulgence, to say a few words about the now resigned former Member of this Honourable House.

Mr. **Lawson Weekes** sat in this House for some 15 years – I am not sure about the exact date, **but** in that order of time. He is a man I have to say I have known virtually all my life. We grew up in the **area** known as Black Rock in the parish of St. Michael. I was a little girl to him, so to speak, and actually at one time went to school with one of his sisters, but the **Weekes** were, and still are, a well known family in Black Rock. **Some** of them have moved out.

He is a pharmacist by profession and ran, something that you do not **see** very much nowadays, a small village type ph'armacy – in the old days people would call it a doctor shop – in the Black Rock **area**. It was not anything elaborate, it is still there, but it was a place that if you had a problem you could go and ask Mr. **Weekes** about a particular ache or a pain. If you needed hair pins or a hair net, before the days of **the** supermarket, you could get it there. If you needed a little pan of Thermogene, you could get it there. **All** of this predated the mini-marts and the variety shops, but you could always find in a district as big as Black Rock a person **from** whom you could get all of the ordinary supplies that would fall under sundries, miscellaneous, cosmetics and so on. You could always walk up Black Rock main road and make a purchase at Mr. Weekes' shop. Of course he sold a variety of sweets as well.

11.30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the St. Michael North West Constituency has to be described as a largely suburban constituency. I have lived in it all of my life until womanhood, I grew up in Brighton. Even today, despite the wonderful new highway I find myself coming to work in the morning – I could go down Spring Garden or I could go up University Hill – but, instinctively, I drive along Highway 1. Of course, Mr. Speaker, it has to do with the fact that I drive very slowly and people are given

to stopping on the highway and offering obscenities to me and advice that I don't particularly want to hear. So I stick to the old highway. It is as though the steering wheel knows its own way and it has happened in my life that Highway 1 is the way that I take almost every day of life. That is the highway along which we grew up.

Mr. Speaker **Weekes** as a Speaker was a man who, in my judgment, always attempted to be fair, always tried to be fair to both sides of the House. He is a person who understood about the **dignity** of this Honourable Chamber. He was Speaker during **part** of the time when the Chamber in which we now meet was being restored and took an active and a healthy interest in it. I would think that he brought a large measure of decorum to the way in which business is done in this Chamber.

As Speaker of the House, he was a Joint President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as indeed you are yourself, together with the President of the Senate, the Kt. Honourable Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition being Joint Vice Presidents.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Ministers and Leaders of the Opposition traditionally allow the Joint Presidents of the CPA to get on with the business of the CPA. They are people generally speaking who are far too busy to attend to the matters of the CPA meetings. Generally speaking, Sir, important matters are referred to them and they are very cognisant of what is happening. I am very pleased to see that from time to time the present Leader of the Opposition makes time to attend CPA meetings.

Mr. Speaker **Weekes**, as I call him, Sir, and as I will always call him – in your turn, Sir, you will discover that once a speaker always a speaker – came to be highly respected within the CPA. I now have the privilege and the honour to share the Executive of the international CPA and I have to say, Sir, that everyone that I meet reminds me to say greetings and hello to **Mr. Speaker Weekes** and remember with fondness the role that he played during his time as a Joint President.

I would like to use this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to look to the future. We have a Standing Orders Committee in this Honourable Chamber now which is presently at work. It has held a few meetings and there are a few more to be held. I would like to think, Sir, that bearing in mind that there is now in place a Constitution Review Commission which is working and, as I said, a Standing Orders Committee of this Chamber and, of course, the Standing Management Commission of this Parliament, that now would be the time for us to look to how we could re-order the *modus operandi* for doing business in this Parliament for a new century.

I don't think that we should be looking to wait until 1999. I think that we should be anticipating that Barbados at the **turn** of the century would become a republic and begin to gear our *modus operandi* for such an eventuality. I think, **Mr. Speaker, Sir**, that we should be so doing, and I certainly have every intention of giving evidence before the Constitution Review Commission in respect of my own personal views as to a unicameral legislature in Barbados rather than bicameral and how it might be structured. Indeed, such a legislature works very well in other islands of the Caribbean at a great advantage.

I think it is ludicrous, **Mr. Speaker, Sir**, that in 19% we have to have two debates on every issue. It is an unnecessary duplication. I would like to think that the former Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, because of his long experience in this connection and particularly because of work that he has done over that period of time in the CPA is somebody that notwithstanding his retirement we should be able to co-opt, if not his person, certainly his views in this regard. I believe that **Mr. Lawson Weekes** can add much to that debate and I would be very willing to hear his views on what a Parliament of Barbados in the year 2000 could look like.

We have a fairly good resource base I would say, **Mr. Speaker**, in Barbados, in this particular regard. We have some very distinguished, other retired Honourable **Members** from this House, who I hope will be invited or **certainly** will take an initiative to make some input in this matter of what the **Parliament** of Barbados would look like and how it would operate in a new century and in a new millennium.

There are a lot of leftovers from a colonial era which still have to be tidied up. There are still important **aspects** of our governance as a country which need to be tailored now to our own **peculiar** needs as we approach a new century and a new **millennium**. In fact, **Mr. Speaker, Sir**, every country, every state, and people need symbols and this Parliament is one of the **important symbols** in a democracy like ours that people look to. They look to us here for representation. They look to us here as role models as how to do business and they look to us here for guidance in the context of a sense of direction that this country is taking. In essence, what I am saying is that they look to us for leadership. They view us as their leaders. Speaker **Weekes** is now of course, joining that, we believe, happy band of people who now dwell in the land of retirement.
11.40 a.m.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Some people shop until they drop. I will work until I drop. There are some places we do not want to go. Some people like cruises.

Some people like to fly. Some people like to drive. Some people like retirement. I do not **think** I am going to be interested in retirement. **We must** look at this now, Sir, in the context of the recognition that Barbados is now very much an aging community and we have a lot of what the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister sometimes refers to as great eminence. It is an enormous pool of expertise. It is an enormous pool of wisdom. It is an enormous pool of capital.

We now have an Association of Retired Persons but retirement is no longer conclusive and has not been for many years. I am not at all ashamed to say that I am a member of the Association of Retired Persons. Once you have reached age 50 you can join. All of the benefits of it, I hope I will be the recipient of for many years to come. It is something I recommend to all Honourable Members who qualify by virtue of age.

This is going to be a very significant feature of the early 21st Century. More and more retired persons, and that includes people who have taken an early retirement, as indeed, Mr. Speaker **Weekes** has, this group of people, this pool of wisdom, will be the repository of, as I put it earlier, will be a resource base, men and women, upon whom I hope all sectors in our society should be able to call upon. This House should be no different. I would like to think that in the various committees of this House that we should be able to co-opt these services and to invite people to write. I hope that people will write.

I want to come on to a point I have made before and I will go on making it until it happens. This Parliament is 358 years old. No one has written a definitive history of this Parliament. Yet, this Chamber has been graced by professional historians, professional writers and yet no one has written a history of Parliament. It really is a very important thing for us.

I made reference a little earlier on to heritage tourism. This site is a very attractive heritage site for tourists who come to Barbados, even tourists who come to us from the wider Caribbean. It is becoming again, I am pleased to **see**, although they are not with us today, a place to which school children will come and pupils from other primary, secondary and tertiary institutions in Barbados, and not necessarily always educational institutions, should come to see how we do business. So there is a lot that has to be done, Sir. I would like to think that persons of the eminence and wearing the respect that Mr. **Lawson Weekes** has worn through the years and carries into retirement with him can be again another very important resource base for information.

There are other retired Members of Parliament who we should now be tapping. This is the age of new

technology. We should be recording what these **people** have to say. We should be garnering their **papers**. **This** Parliament, 358 years old, **should** have not only a library but an archive. We have let too many things slip. We do not take official photographs of Parliament. We do not record who sat here. When our forebears did, **all** those things were recorded. Now that we are **the** ones governing, we must not take ourselves for **granted**.

Generations down the line at the end of another century, at the end of another millennium will not know the turn that history took which brought us here and will not know the role which this institution, not this building, played in the **social** revolution, as some call it, in the liberalization of the social, political and economic realities of the times in which we live. Who is going to tell the story of it all and the role Parliament played in it?

I am hoping, Sir, that this Parliament will **see** fit, at a very soon **date**, to commission someone – this cannot now be left to chance – to write a history of the Parliament of Barbados. In fact, one of the last things I mentioned **to** Speaker **Weekes** in this context was 'that **it is** something he should address with a certain amount of urgency. Unfortunately ill health has **overtaken** him and now he is in retirement. I would like to reiterate, Sir. I **know** that Mr. Warren Alleyne, has written a small monograph, larger than a pamphlet, on the history of the Parliament of Barbados. **Perhaps**, he might be a person, either alone **or** together with other people, who would **collaborate** to write a definitive history of this Parliament.

It should record the Speakers. We have let too many things slide, Sir. I do not know how many Honourable Members in the Senate Chamber look **up** at the stained glass. The stained glass in this Chamber **shows the** Queens and Kings of England going down to Victoria, Regina, just over Your Honour's Chair. There are four empty slots and there are some who say we should fill them in to **bring** us up to the present time. There are even some who believe that it will not go beyond the present time. In the other Chamber, Sir, there are a number of Coats of Arms representing former Speakers of this Chamber. If you **look** at them you would **see** the good old Barbadian names, Holder, Ince, Alleyne, Brathwaite, Chandler, **Payne and Moe**. Those are the names you **see**. What Honourable Members may not know is that the Coats of Arms are not genuine. They are all made up.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is the point. The Honourable Member for St. George South is making the point. That represented the plantocracy of this country. Now, the plantocracy has not been governing in this country for at least **30** years. This is the **30th** year of our Independence and we feel that it is not yet fit that

we should somehow find a way to commemorate the Speaker of this House, and we have had some illustrious Speakers of this House. The late K. N. R. Husbands...

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, your tenure is now before you. We have had the late K. N. R. Husbands. We have had the late Sir **Theodore** Brancker, father of the Clerk of our Parliament. We have had the late Walter **Claire Burton** Hinds. People forget that the late Dr. Cummins was a Speaker in this House as well. I remember it. Nowhere in here is that commemorated. **Something** has to be wrong. Imagine nowhere in this Chamber is there a photograph of the late Sir **Grantley** Adams. As the calypsonian says, Sir, we had better get our heroes right. We had better get it right in here. It is very important, Sir.

When we were commemorating the 350th Anniversary – this was a big thing. When I go to North America, Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Australia and I say to them that our Parliament is 358 **years** old, if they are standing up they have to sit down and draw a breath. You are dealing with countries that **are** barely 200 years' old and do not understand that we have had an institution for so long. I am not saying that it was as democratic in year 10, year 50 or year 1, as we know it **today**, but that the institution of Parliament which in any community is a sophisticated institution, existed in our small country for 358 years is a matter of tremendous moment. When we celebrated our 350th Anniversary we did it in high style. One of the things we did was to set up a small exhibition which depicted at least some of the history, just a little bit of the history of this Parliament and it still is available for Members of this Honourable Chamber, Members of the Parliament generally, members of the general public, visitors to Barbados, to **see** it in the Committee room.

11.50 a.m.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes, but not an official picture as such. The picture of Sir Grantley Adams there is just something which is part of an exhibition which may be dismantled at any time. I do believe ...

Mr. SPEAKER: May I inform the Honourable Member that some of the concerns raised are being presently addressed relating to Speakers and names and so on.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am very, very pleased to hear it, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and I think that we should always have a photograph of each Parliament and we should do it now and it will be a command performance. But, Mr.

Speaker, I am very pleased to hear that. There are many people now who inhabit this Chamber who, in my view, can go somewhere else. Their photos can hang somewhere else. Their paintings can hang somewhere else and their busts can hang somewhere else. I had an idea many, many years ago, certainly at the time of the 350th Anniversary that the Senate gallery was ideally suited to have a row of busts of all of the **Prime** Ministers of Barbados and I still harbour that idea. Busts can be made from photographs, from memory. We are lucky to have somebody of the calibre of Karl Broodhagen among us who could do this work. If we do not take the lead in doing this, Sir, I do not think anybody else is going to do it.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Exactly. We just do not treat ourselves well. We do not properly appreciate our place in the history of this country and the history of this Parliament. I am not saying we should have an over appreciation of it but on the other hand to have an under appreciation of it is to do an unfairness to generations that will come after us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe I may have strayed a bit. I deliberately **took** this **opportunity**, with your permission, to make these **important** points as an Honourable Member who was, I would say, a very well regarded and distinguished Speaker of this Honourable House has taken his leave of it.

I would wish on behalf of the Government, Sir, and I believe I can speak on behalf of us all in the Parliament, and I speak of this and the Other Place, to wish Mr. **Lawson Weekes** in his retirement, improved health and that he should not hibernate in his retirement, that he would still be a person upon whom we could look to for his own gloss on the history of this Parliament and certainly in the years that he was Speaker. It is important now that he has the time, and I hope the inclination, that some record be made of the history of this Parliament as seen through his eyes.

I would like to hope, Sir, that all Speakers coming after, including yourself, Sir, would as you go along, be making notes. In fact I would like to see in Your Honour's Chamber, a journal, a nicely bound journal into which the Speaker would write, every Tuesday and every day that we sit and the same should be in the Senate. The historians need all the help they can get. Hansard is not all that there is to it. Hansard will record what we have said in here but there are other events that Mr. Speaker might want to record, in the same way that you have a visitors book of those who visit.

One day last week I was in Ottawa and the Speaker of the Canadian Parliament gave a dinner party for me in my capacity as Chair of the CPA. The dinner party was

held in a room within the Speaker's Chambers where he told me that they only entertained Heads of State, Heads of Government, known laureates and people of that ilk. So I was really very privileged to have had a dinner party given in my honour in that room. It is a very historic room, and, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Canadian Speaker informed me that you would have seen that room, indeed his entire suite of rooms. The panels all recorded what they called the Confederate Speakers, the Speakers before Canada enjoyed the independent status that it does today. In another place they commemorate all of the Speakers.

In the Speaker's Room itself there is perhaps the most arresting photograph of the late Sir **Winston Churchill** that I have ever seen in my life. There is a wonderful story which the Speaker Parent tells which goes with that, that in fact during the war when the Americans were just entering the last world war Churchill came to visit Canada and stood in that very room and the photographer tried to take a photograph and in the end had to go and actually take a cigar out of his mouth in order to do it and that was the bulldog pose. That photograph has apparently been used many years since then.

Again, on the panelling etched into the wood are the names of all of the Speakers of that Parliament and that is only matters to do with the Speaker. That has nothing to do with all of the rest of the history. So there is a lot that we have to do and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we should be able to call on Mr. **Lawson Weekes** to be helpful and useful and to assist us in this regard.

I would like to thank him for his long and untiring years of service to this Honourable Parliament. Parliamentarians who have come through these doors and gone up those steps and gone back down those steps and gone through those doors, to those of us who are here now and who would have known him as our presiding officer in this House I would wish to say to him, a happy retirement. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the address I speak on behalf of the Parliamentary group of the Democratic Labour Party, the members and supporters of our party and on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael North West who have been so faithful and generous to **Lawson Weekes** to give him the opportunity to serve in this Parliament and on whose behalf I am certain the response to his resignation should be noted by someone.

When **Lawson Weekes** left politics on the night when his resignation was announced at the St. Stephen's Primary School, it was quite clear to the many persons who spoke at that event and in particular those who had journeyed with him through the years that he represented them in this

Parliament, made the common observation that **Lawson Weekes** in his own quiet, self-effacing, modest manner served the people of the constituency of St. Michael North West.

12.00 noon

I first came **into** contact with him when prior to his entering the House of Assembly he served as Branch Chairman of one of the constituency branches in the Democratic Labour Party – I do not remember which one it was. It was St. Michael West then and **Lawson Weekes** was one of those very highly respected and tireless workers on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party. My first encounter at the political level with him was as a member of the Young Democrats. We moved a particularly controversial resolution at the Annual Conference of the Democratic Labour Party and **Lawson Weekes** like many of the older and more seasoned members, as distinct from Members of Parliament and I am talking about those persons who **served** valiantly at the level of branch committee member or who served as members of constituency branches, and he was probably the most formidable opponent of the position which we then took. Because in his own quiet way when he put the issues before the delegates at the Democratic Annual Conference, were it not for the fact that we had the opportunity to respond once again, I am certain that we may have had difficulty in getting that particular resolution to pass. That is because **Lawson Weekes'** integrity and the features of his personality which he is fortunate to leave politics with of an unblemished record of honesty, an unblemished record of integrity and an unblemished record of commitment. He leaves politics with an unblemished record of being accessible at the most difficult times of day or night, an unblemished record as a pharmacist in his community, an unblemished record as a quintessential Barbadian who opted at the urgings of many of us to enter into electoral politics and to become a parliamentary representative. We knew in our parliamentary group for some months now that **Lawson** has not been feeling well. The last occasion when he came here he indicated that he found it very difficult to last the entire **day** in the House and that he was losing his enthusiasm and he was losing his interest. Opposition politics as it tends to require you to maintain a certain enthusiasm even for nobody else in the country there may be none. It requires you to maintain a certain alertness which the comfort of numbers in Government does not require of you and, clearly, **Lawson** felt that he was unable to continue to represent the people in his constituency with the kind of vigour and energy which will be required of him.

He has always said both in his letter to his constituents, in his discussions with me and with the few people with whom he has spoken that the decision not to continue in Parliament was a very difficult decision,

an almost hurtful decision for him to take largely, Mr. Speaker, because he counted it as a privilege coming from the background in which he came to be given the opportunity to represent people in Parliament.

Sir, he numbers among his many achievements the work which he did with the CPA and the Honourable Member for the City more than anybody else who was an extensive traveller on CPA events who even attended some with me would know that even that **task**, although **Lawson** did it, he did not even enjoy having to leave Barbados and to disrupt the daily routine to go overseas. He would remain quietly in his room and attend the official events but always did so with a calm and a certain aplomb and yes, he rose to be very, very well respected. He is a person who is knowledgeable and he always had a kind word to say, a person who defused conflict and who was interested in promoting the ideals of Parliament and the importance of Parliament in the system of Government.

As a Member of Parliament, **Lawson Weekes** was then able to make that transition from the daily contact, his strongest point being that he maintained direct contact on a daily basis with people and, contrary to what is always said about politicians who go into retirement that they never did anything for anybody or they never represented the constituency or they did not place people's concerns. It could never be said of **Lawson Weekes** ever in any diatribe or any criticism that anybody would wish to mount against him that he neglected the needs of the people of St. Michael North West. Those needs would have been many and varied, whether personal needs or ministering to them or whether they were wider concerns which he had to address particularly from the position of Opposition. Because as Speaker, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central must well know, there will be few occasions when you will hear somebody up here arguing a case for the residents of Park Road or Waterford Housing Area except when I get up to speak that is. There will be few occasions that the Speaker will have or may be none to even put in a little word on behalf of his constituents and very often people translate that inability into what they deem to be ineffective representation. I know the Honourable Speaker in due course is going to have to deflect criticism from unwarranted sources, but believable nevertheless, that he was a very ineffective representative because he never said anything on behalf of his constituents. But circumstances do not permit and therefore I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central should very clearly be able to empathize with the position which **Lawson Weekes** would have found himself in and it is a sacrifice because, unlike other Members who at the drop of a pin can get up and list a litany of problems that affect their constituents, the Speaker has to sit in silence and merely observe and where appropriate without seeking to attract attention perhaps make a small remark to remind

people that he too is a parliamentary representative. But nevertheless **Lawson Weekes** accepted the responsibility of serving as Speaker even though many of us know as with most other Speakers that there were other positions for which he was both qualified and for which initially he was preferred. But he like many other Speakers stood down in favour of party unity and I know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central would like all the Members on that side to listen carefully as I speak...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could we hear the Honourable Member please?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Particularly on this point that like many other Speakers he had to stand aside even though by demeanour qualifications, experience and standing he should have enjoyed other opportunities, in the interest of party unity, in the interest of accommodating egos larger than his own he was able to step aside and say, yes I will accept a position which is less glamorous and which perhaps does not give me as many opportunities to say something about my constituents.
12.10 p.m.

I believe it is an uncommon virtue to find men, like **Lawson Weekes** and others, who will be willing to sacrifice the opportunity of serving at a ministerial level, particularly where, as I say, they stand out as persons who would be obvious choices to accept the task of sitting as Speaker. Though the job as Speaker is no less worthy and no less important in our political development, and those persons therefore should be held up in that regard as individuals who care about the team over their personal ambition.

In Opposition and in Government, therefore, **Lawson Weekes** played his role. In the period when we were in Opposition between 1981 and 1986 when he was in this Chamber, I came to the Chamber on many occasions, when I was permitted, as a young student and **Lawson** was always very thorough, very well prepared and only intervened when he had something important and relevant to contribute to a debate. He was not a person involved in rhetoric and old talk, he was not involved in asides, he was not involved in belittling individuals and he cringed as Speaker whenever he saw persons on the Floor of this House battling viciously with each other, because his would have been the preferred position of intervening and trying to get the debate back on course. Having served in Opposition, I do not think there is anybody in this Chamber who can say they would have been on the receiving end of any vituperative, justified or unjustified attacks by any Member. That was not **Lawson Weekes'** style, his interest, as I say, was in the people of Barbados and in particular the people of St. Michael North West.

The history of Speakers is yet to be written, and I do not say this to be invidious, but in my view, certainly based on my own observation, **Lawson Weekes** was without a doubt the most outstanding Speaker in modern times in Barbados' Parliament and was a model example of what speakership should be about. I **know** that the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central has always been proud to say that he took a few tips from time to time from **Lawson Weekes** on controversial issues and also on some of the very basic issues that may arise, because there is no training course for any of us in any of the positions we hold in relation to our public office. There is no training course for Speakers. When you become Speaker and your first experience is to be dragged in here by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House, and when you have a very aggressive Leader of the House – that is not always the case – and an aggressive Leader of the Opposition, it must be very intimidating for the Speaker to take up his leadership of the House in those circumstances, but there is no other training. A lot of it is hit and miss and the guidance of the Clerk, but there are some things that only Speakers will understand, just as there are some things that only **Prime Ministers** or persons who serve as Leader of the Opposition, Governor-General, Minister of Health, whatever, will understand. Passing on those ideas is very important.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in closing I merely wish to make one point in response to something the Honourable Member for the City said. It is not entirely accurate to say that there is not a history of Parliament. I believe the Honourable Member for the City was a member of the Anniversary Committee for Parliament and Mr. Anthony Phillips was retained to write a history of Parliament and I certainly saw something on paper, I never got to read it because it was still in draft, but I believe the history of Parliament has been written and is being refined. There was a problem with photographs at one point, but the point is there was a project as part of the anniversary celebrations of this Parliament in which a historian has been retained to write the history and I believe it has been completed. I would like to recommend to the Honourable Member that she contact the Ministry that has oversight of that and obtain the manuscript from Mr. Anthony Phillips and have it published. I have seen the mock up of it, I cannot vouch for the perspective of the historian or anything like that, but it is available and I believe that as a Parliament we should have that information and booklet published as soon as possible. I agree with the Honourable Member for the City in that regard.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in closing, as I have said, **Lawson Weekes** leaves this Parliament to enter into retirement not in the most propitious of circumstances, because as I have indicated his health has not been the best in recent times, but he leaves this Parliament though not in

the best of health certainly in the best of standing when it comes to his international reputation as a parliamentarian and as a Speaker, when it comes to the level of his honesty as a Member of this Chamber, when it comes to his integrity as a politician in Barbados, when it comes to his commitment to fair play in whatever position, whatever public office which he held during the time he served, and he **also** leaves with a very deep and valuable contribution having been made to the Democratic Labour Party in terms of being one of the people on the ground working for the party, rising through the **ranks** and eventually being chosen very easily to be a worthy representative on behalf of our party in this Parliament. The parliamentary group will certainly miss **Lawson Weekes** for his measured contribution during our meetings and for the guidance which he gave us. We regret very much therefore that he will not be able to **continue** to the end of this parliamentary term but, as he **has** said, he looks forward to better health and to a pleasant retirement and we also look forward to the same for him.

I have great pleasure, therefore, in seconding the motion for the Address to be transmitted to His Excellency the Governor-General of Barbados.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, in making a few remarks in response to the Address which is now before our Parliament, I think it is important that I certainly try to strike a balance between what is congratulatory and very appropriate and the act of resignation which is always a matter of regret, **especially** coming in the circumstances of impaired health. Therefore, I would wish my contribution to represent that balance but very much weighted in favour of the congratulatory and for very good reasons. There is a truism that the child is father of the man and if that truism is ever true, I would think that is the case of the former Speaker, **Lawson Weekes**, that is a prime example, because as I cast my mind back to school days and one recognises the kind of personality, quiet, dignified, unassuming, always trustworthy, that he represented as a child and you could see that dominating and reflected in his entire life today.
12.20 p.m.

I sincerely hope that he will enjoy many more years among us and nothing we say should indicate in any way that he hasn't got many more years among us here in Barbados and this only represents another stage in his career development.

At school, **Lawson** was very much the same type of person as the one that we saw in this House of Assembly. All the personality traits that one has heard discussed and spoken of today were already put in place when we were at school. As a professional, one saw the **same** traits which explain the success that he enjoyed as a professional

pharmacist and the service which he offered to so many people in that capacity.

As a representative and as a parliamentarian, I also had the honour to serve with him on the Opposition Benches, in Government when he was Speaker and later on the Opposition Benches again. So I am in a very good position really to assess him as a Speaker of this House.

I recall the many instances when fireworks were flying in this Chamber and he instinctively knew when to suspend the Parliament because he recognised that things could easily get out of hand. I recall when I ceased to be a Minister on the Front Bench on the Other Side and came over as Leader of the Opposition on this side under the same Speaker, almost one **Tuesday** after another, and it is very interesting that I was never able to detect any difference whatsoever in his attitude towards me as a Minister of the Crown one week and the next week as a Leader of the Opposition on the Other Side. I think this is a very important statement in an assessment of the impartiality with which he always sought to rule the proceedings of this House.

Another very important measure of the success of a speaker is the comfort factor which all members on both sides of the House feel when they come into this Parliament. You know that a speaker is doing his job, you know that a speaker is fulfilling the lofty objectives which he should aspire to when all Members of this House feel comfortable in the Chamber and feel comfortable to get up and speak without fear or favour and feel at all times that they are being given a fair break.

I think that by and large if we were to use those criteria along with the criteria of knowledge of the Rules of Parliament and if we use the additional criteria of his sense of the dignity of office, the sense when he first became Speaker that he almost immediately understood that he was becoming part of a very important tradition that went back to the days when the Speaker was that important bridge between the monarchy and between the very beginnings of democratic parliaments. He felt that he was part of that tradition and he understood the importance of it. He also understood that the traditions and the dignity of this House should be upheld at all times. He also understood the importance of the international image of the Barbados Parliament and the need to uphold the dignity of this House.

I, Sir, believe that he certainly served well. I have never felt uncomfortable in this House under the speakership of Mr. **Lawson Weekes** whether I, was in Opposition or in Government. As a matter of fact, Sir, I have never felt uncomfortable under your speakership either. It is a fact of life and, as I said, from the

perspective of Members the best measure as to the efficiency of a speaker is the comfort factor which all members feel when they walk through the doors of this Chamber. I think there is no question whatsoever that Mr. **Lawson Weekes** brought that comfort factor to a very high level and I am sure that history will record that he has made a significant contribution as Speaker of this House.

I also, Sir, was fully aware that he took the trouble immediately on becoming speaker not only to understand the rules at a very superficial level but also to understand the history as recorded in Mays and elsewhere, the background to those Rules, the background to those traditions of Parliament which we hold very dear. Because in the absence of that knowledge, in the absence of that appreciation, when matters arise in the House where the Standing Orders do not immediately speak to them then it is that reservoir of knowledge and appreciation of the traditions and what went into making those Rules that will make the difference in terms of the rulings of a speaker and the respect which those rulings would command. He took that trouble.

Very often I have gone to his Chamber and he would be spending a lot of time reviewing Mays and any matter that cropped up in the House he always took the trouble to do a detailed historical analysis of what or how the matter could best be approached as a speaker, based on the history of parliaments over the years.

I think Sir, that he has served Barbados well so far and I think that he still has a lot to offer Barbados and I think that one of the tragedies of political life in Barbados is that so many people at a time when they are richest in knowledge, richest in experience, withdraw from political life in this country, when in fact in other countries that is the time when people enter political life in order to give that broad experience which they have learnt through all the events in their lives, at the family level, at the community level, at the business level and so on to make that kind of experience available to the public of Barbados. There must be some mechanism whereby persons with the experience of **Lawson Weekes**, our former Speaker, should be drafted so he can continue in the public life of Barbados.

12.30 p.m.

Sir, we have another place, for example, I know not what purpose it serves. There are a whole lot of people out there who have the kind of broad experience which a person like **Lawson Weekes** would have and they have no opportunity to make that contribution in the Other Place where I think they would be able to serve their country better. That is why I agree with the Honourable Member for the City. We do not often agree on many things but I have to say that I agree with her when she says that it

is time that Barbados be a Republic because that is echoing what the **NDP** has had in its Manifesto since 1991. I am very grateful for the firm support which she has given to that concept here in the House today and I find myself in agreement with her.

I also feel we need some arrangement whereby persons who have **served** and gathered all this experience can continue when they leave electoral politics to contribute to Barbados. We have the opportunity in terms of the Other Place, usually referred to outside this House as the Senate, but we do not make use of it so whatever arrangements will be made constitutionally, it is important we recognise that here is a large reservoir of people out there who understand the political process, who understand the constitutional process, who have had the experience in various facets of life and who can continue to contribute for many years to the public life of Barbados.

Now, Sir, I did not want to use the word because very often when we speak in this House on these kinds of occasions we are making obituary speeches. I am very glad today that on this kind of occasion we are not making an obituary speech but we are making a congratulatory speech by and large. It also gives us the opportunity to explore how that kind of experience can continue to be used for the benefit of this country.

The opportunity is here. We have someone who commands and has always commanded the respect of all political organisations in this country and social organisations, who has commanded respect of all his professional colleagues in his chosen profession, a man of tremendous experience in terms also of how to get things done for people at the level of the constituency and so on. Such experience must not be wasted.

I sincerely hope we find some means, some opportunity to ensure that Mr. **Lawson Weekes** may continue to function in some capacity in the public life of this country if he so wishes to do. I see absolutely no reason why he should not be able to function in a less turbulent atmosphere than that of a parliamentary representative and a member of Parliament.

So, Sir, while we are always very sorry when a colleague resigns, nevertheless, I am glad in a sense to have had this opportunity which we would not otherwise have had while he is very much alive and among us and capable of continuing to do good things for this country to be able to speak to his virtues in public.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, as a Presiding Officer of this House I rise to say a few words on behalf of the former Member for St. Michael North

West, Mr. **Lawson Weekes**, former Speaker of this House. Anyone that can serve in Parliament for 15 years must be paid the highest compliment. Serving for 15 years, addressing the concerns of constituents and also having to deal with Parliament is no mean task.

I am happy I had the good fortune to have met Mr. **Weekes**. I have been here for two years. I have just come. He has resigned. I first made a good acquaintance of him when we went to the CPA Conference in Banff in 1994. I could not help but being impressed with the manner of this man. Too many times we feel that a politician **and/or** a parliamentarian has to be aggressive and overly assertive to make an impact. But **Lawson Weekes** was the opposite of that and yet he was able to maintain his representation for 15 years. **Lawson Weekes** was the opposite of that and yet still he was able to gain the respect of his peers in Parliament, and he was able to conduct the affairs of Parliament with dignity befitting a true Barbadian.

Sir, I credit Mr. **Weekes** for having assisted yourself and myself when we went to that Conference in learning about the procedures of Parliament. I must say publicly that I sincerely thank him for helping us understand the rules of Parliament because it is okay to read the Standing Orders but to understand the application thereof is, a totally different matter and to have someone who could be so good spirited, let me put it that way, even though he is of the other party, to be able to give of his experience I think attests to the kind of man that **Lawson Weekes** is, a **man** who held a wider view and who understood that Parliament is a distinguished organisation which needs to be run in a highly distinguished manner.

Sir, **Lawson Weekes** has left Parliament without having been in any great controversy. He has left Parliament untarnished. I believe he is a person that young parliamentarians should look up to. In every parliamentarian there lies some virtue, and the virtue in **Lawson Weekes** was that he was a mild mannered man. He knew how to minimize conflict. In an age when there are so many problems, when there are so many challenges, when there are so many interests to represent, there will be conflict. It is people like **Lawson Weekes** who can teach us how to handle conflict in such a way that we are able to rise to new horizons while solving our problems.

Sometimes, Sir, people think of politics and politicians as something not noble. Some people say they do not want to be politicians because they tend to feel that politics is something for those not washed in the Blood of the Lamb, but this is a fallacy. I believe the attitude of **Lawson Weekes** shows that is a fallacy. There are a number of Parliamentarians, past and present, who show us that that is a fallacy. I remember I was in a church some weeks ago and there was some radical who was

commenting on the fact that there were a number of politicians in that church. I believe that the person was making that comment with some measure of cynicism, so that when I was **asked** to make a speech I made a point to the audience that I have great love and admiration for politicians because politicians are the ones who **dare** to take the abuse of those who do not agree with what they say. **Politicians** are those who are responsible **24** hours of the day to hear the cries of their constituents. Politicians are the ones who are supposed to solve the problems of every constituent. Politicians are the ones who are supposed to know how to handle every problem. Politicians **are** supposed to be the ones to hear the cry of every single one **from** the time they are born until they die. Politicians are the ones who are required, whether they have it nor not, to fork out money when some poor soul comes demanding it. So I have nothing but love and great admiration for politicians because without them where would many people be. I believe it behoves Parliament to let those who would want to think otherwise and those who would want people to be conditioned otherwise, that the role of the politician and the Parliamentarian cannot be minimised.

12.40 p.m.

I believe that sometimes people whose voices we listen to, are able for their own intentions, to stigmatise persons who are doing an honest job in this community. That is why you will **find** that, on many occasions, people who do great service in the community are sometimes attacked simply because others would perhaps like to be placed in the same profile as these persons.

Sir, I also have a difficulty. When a parliamentarian is seeking to represent the interest of the people in his **constituency** or wherever he should be faced with a position where other people, whether they be from other political parties, whether they be from other groups or whatever, would seek to frustrate the efforts of representation from these parliamentarians. I think the time has come when we have to understand that a **parliamentarian** is there to represent the community and that the great parliamentarians of the past have been community oriented persons and when we look back at the first great parliamentarian and politician of our era, the late great Sir Grantley Adams, we can see that there was a community man who was involved with the struggle of the **workers**, who was involved in credit unions, who was involved with trade unions, who was **involved** with cricket, who was involved with the regional movement. I am making the point, **Sir**, that in our modern era, starting with the late, great, Sir Grantley Adams, that the model has been set that the parliamentarian is the community leader and as such should be given the respect he so rightfully earns and deserves. We have to let people who would want to deny this, we have to let them know that politicians play a meaningful role in this community.

Too many times we tend to look at the one or two differences that we have in people and we tend to blow these up and we tend to forget the million and one good things that these people are doing. I think that we, as a Parliament, we have to set an example and we have to let people see that parliamentarians and politicians are due respect. We also have to recognise the efforts of those people who have worked hard on behalf of their communities and we should not be afraid when the time comes to honour them.

I heard somebody on a programme this morning **talking** about politicians and parliamentarians being paid homage. Now, any parliamentarian who has, for nearly as long as I was born, served the interest of people day in and day out, deserves recognition and I do not think we should be ashamed of it. The same thing goes for any community leader, whether the person be involved in the church, whether they be involved in a group, but once they are playing a key part in keeping the community together they deserve to be recognised and I am making the point that any parliamentarian, any politician who does that deserves the recognition he or she gets.

To get back to the point made earlier by the Member for the City, we need to show that we care whether it be by having certain monuments around Parliament, whether it be in Bridgetown, wherever it be. We **need** for posterity to show that we have recognised the efforts of the people who **have** worked hard and diligently on behalf, not only of their communities but on behalf of Barbados.

Lawson Weekes' work, such **as** Sir Grantley's, extended beyond **our** shores and it also shows that Barbadian **parliamentarians** and Barbadian politicians have traditionally not only been thinking about Barbados, **but** they also had a regional approach. They also had **an** international approach even coming down to our **day** right now where we have the Deputy Prime Minister featuring prominently and being the only woman Chairman of the Commonwealth!! Parliamentary Association. So this shows that Barbadian parliamentarians are playing a key role not **only** in this country but farther afield and therefore deserve every bit of recognition that they get. I **believe** that Parliament has to use its own public relations **mechanism** to let people understand that parliamentarians play a key role in this country and it has to transcend political differences. Otherwise, we will all be ignored and spurned unless a system is put in place to recognize the hard work of parliamentarians.

12.50 p.m.

Sir, I feel honoured to **have** been associated with **Lawson Weekes**. I wish him a happy retirement and I wish that he would share his experience with the **Members** of Parliament and that if we should at some time have need of his experience as well he will still be prepared to share it with us.

With these words, I want to wish him the best.

Mr. D. St. E. **KELLMAN**: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with those kind remarks that have been laid at the feet of one of our Honourable Members. I would also like to say that I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Member that we are referring to because when I first entered this Assembly, Sir, I remember once getting involved in a debate which was rather controversial and I got a lot of lashes even so that it attracted the attention of the newspapers of this country. I was called by the Honourable gentleman and he said to me: "Kellie, boy, you have made your start because if you say something that is attracting the editorial in this country, it means that it is something that you need to stand by. It means that it is something that has affected the interest of a group of people whose interest is not the same as yours, and that your base is right and you should continue fighting on that base."

I remember, Sir, at parliamentary group meetings that he was always encouraging to the younger members to make sure that we got in there and put in our five cents worth. Whenever he felt that we ~~had~~ done well, he would congratulate us. I think, Sir, that any political **party** that has someone like that will feel a bit saddened to know that he is going. But when you are someone like myself, Sir, you always tend to believe that there is always better to come. Not that I am saying that there is a possibility we would get someone better than him. But one must always look forward and one must always believe that in life there is hope, and I am a strong believer in that. I want to say also to the people of St. Michael North West that they had a good representative and if many of us would follow the example of that Honourable gentleman we would be spoken of in the **same** manner as he is being spoken of today in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as I had promised that I would not say much, I would say that for the 2 years and months that I have been affiliated with him in these quarters I am much richer for the wisdom that he has passed to me. I am sure that as the years go on that things will be a lot better for us. Thank you very much.

Hon. R. N. **GREENIDGE**: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very short in paying my tribute to Mr. **Lawson Weekes**. Before 1994, I knew of Mr. **Lawson Weekes** but I really did not actually know the man. It was only after becoming a Member of this House that I came into very close contact with him. I can honestly say that within the 2 years that I have known him I found Mr. **Weekes** to be a perfect gentleman. I found him to be very, very unassuming; a person without any flair – not a **showoff**. Certainly, he is not one of those politicians who would push his chest in the air as if to say "see me here". I

believe that if you did not know Mr. **Weekes** certainly you would **hardly** believe that here was a parliamentarian, because most parliamentarians tend to **be** talkative and **try** to **attract** a lot of attention. But this was not the **case** with Mr. **Lawson Weekes**.

I always found, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has said, that he was very quick to commend you whenever you made a meaningful contribution to a debate. I remember with a wink of an eye and the nod of a head that he would say: "Well done." I **recall** one of the speeches that I made on the **floor** of this House he pulled me aside afterwards just to say: "Your contribution was the most balanced contribution of **the** debate and there are times when we have to debate issues but we do not have to politicize them." That was the nature of the man.

I have heard a lot said about Mr. **Weekes** as a representative. People have spoken of how helpful he was as a pharmacist and the kind of advice he gave. In fact, someone told me recently at a funeral that in some **cases** he even used to play the part of a nurse. He was that kind **of** a representative to the people and there is the perception out there that he was extremely helpful indeed.

Now I believe that he has been extremely uncontroversial as well. Someone has **made** the point earlier that very often we jump into the muddy waters of politics. A lot of us rise again to the surface but some of us come up very, very muddy indeed. I do believe that Mr. **Lawson Weekes** has left politics without being tarnished or tainted; a very accommodating and a very decent person, and very honest. I believe that he would have presided, Mr. Speaker, over some of **the** stormiest sessions in this House and something tells me that there were times when he was presiding over such sessions that he was a bit uncomfortable. I say this from the point of view that he **always** used to be telling you that all issues should not be politicized and that perhaps in the arena when he watched the gladiators battling that very often he was saying to himself that this is not the way it should be.

I regret, Mr. Speaker, to see Mr. **Weekes'** **term** of office here come to an end as a result of his **health**. I wish him strength and I hope that he is able to carry on in his private life. I take the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf and I speak primarily for the people of St. Philip North to wish Mr. **Lawson Weekes** well in his retirement.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. **MILLER**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that this Honourable House be now suspended until 2 o'clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

1.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to the **former** representative of St. **Michael** North West, the Honourable **Lawson Weekes**. Speaking on this Address I would want to say that it has been my distinguished pleasure to have had the honour of sitting for the last two years next to a gentleman who I consider to be a man among men and certainly one who we **could** all refer to as an individual worthy of very close association.

Mr. **Lawson Weekes** is, to my mind, the kind of Barbadian that is not often available to a society and certainly we are deeply honoured on this side of the political arena to have enjoyed his company for almost 30 years. I think that his family and his constituents could feel very well satisfied that he was held in very high regard by members of this political side as they have **heard** him in **that** regard for over 15 years as a parliamentary representative. I have had occasion to speak to a number of them individually from time to time and even though, if I **have** to be very honest, he often complained that being Speaker of the House of Assembly for an extended period he **was** often unable to provide the kind of opportunities for his constituents he would have wanted to, and he always lobbied extensively with all the Ministers or persons in positions to agitate in the interest of his constituents.

What stands out about him, Mr. Speaker, is that many constituents would relate stories about the little things he would have done for them over the years, including getting up at midnight, 1 o'clock or 2 o'clock in the morning to satisfy a family or to satisfy somebody who was sick, or to satisfy some person who had an emergency. He did it with great ease, without any resentment, as a pure gentleman and as a pure representative. Some of them would say that up to this day they still owe Mr. **Lawson Weekes** money for drugs, or for this or for that and he has never sent a bill. Over and over again there are several stories that people have reported to us that this gentleman performed magnificently well as a parliamentary representative. They are very sad stories, very touching stories and they tell about the character of this individual.

I must say that when I entered the House of Assembly in 1991, I had occasion to speak to the Speaker

on a number of occasions and he offered me advice that still stands with me today, and I will offer it to many Members of Parliament, because I am of the view that if we are going to debate in this House of Assembly we should debate any issue from a research position. All issues that are debated in this House **of** Assembly should be properly researched and a major problem we have in this Assembly relates to the Members of Parliament who come in here unprepared and enter debates and only **seek** to swipe at the characters of other people so that they can promote themselves. If we examine and follow the example that was set by **Lawson Weekes**, in almost every speech, if you go back and research some of his contributions you will see that at no time did he seek to pull down the character of any Member of Parliament, he always only sought to debate what was right in the interest of the people of this country. That is tremendous to a person and to his calibre and to his desire to see Parliament uplifted to a debating centre where proper debate is put on the table in the interest of the people of this country.

If we are able to pay a tribute to **Lawson Weekes**, I think the greatest tribute we could all pay is to raise the standard of debate in this Assembly to the extent that debate is meaningful, that it is devoid of the kind of rancour and rawness that sometimes prevail in **these** debates, where we can lift the standard to a level that can be appreciated by the general public. I have **been** guilty on some occasions and he would say to me that "even though I enjoy your style", **as** he would put it, "you **have** to temper yourself and you have to be precise in how you deliver yourself," and he took an interest in making sure that I developed a debating style **that** was based on proper research and presentation. That is why today, Sir, I am very appreciative of having been in the company of such a gentleman, his kind, persuasive, very sincere, honest approach to Parliament.

Certainly it would be remiss of me if I did not mention briefly, being a member of the Executive of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, that whenever I have travelled overseas or internationally I have always heard of Speaker **Lawson Weekes** being referred to as a man of impeccable character and one who certainly – as I was in your company, Your Honour – we were told here was an outstanding Barbadian who has made an outstanding contribution to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. That has been noted. I think he enjoyed that role immensely and brought great honour to Barbados among the international parliamentary community.

Mr. Speaker, I will not detain the House except to say that I will miss that gentleman from this Chamber. I think all of us will miss those kind, very gentle words of suasion he always gave each and every one of us, and I

sincerely look forward to the day he is still able to make a contribution, even if it is to us individually, outside of this Chamber, and we certainly wish him well in his years of retirement.

On behalf of my constituents, on behalf of my family and myself, I certainly would wish the former honourable gentleman all the best in his future years to come.

Thank you.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, I regret the circumstances of ill-health that have forced the resignation of our former Speaker, Mr. **Lawson Weekes**, that have occasioned this debate before **Parliament** at this time. I was in Parliament when **Lawson Weekes** entered in 1981 and I sat for the period 1986 to 1991, when I was out of Parliament, but I was here throughout his period in Parliament.

The first thing that struck us when **Lawson Weekes** came into Parliament was that he was a man of quiet dignity. He was not a man of large combat. We grew to know him as a man who preferred conciliation and compromise to combat and divide. Over time I got to know him at a personal level and I came to the conclusion, Mr. Speaker, very firm and settled that **Lawson Weekes** was a good and decent man whose every action was informed by a large sense of fair play. It is difficult to pay a man a higher tribute, but I came to that very settled conclusion about my friend, **Lawson Weekes**, and I thought I would wish to put it into the record.

As Speaker he was our most distinguished servant, he was our voice in the outside world, a position which sometimes the general public do not appreciate and sometimes we ourselves do not seem to understand the historical and indeed the current significance of the role. He took great pride in his role as Speaker and even when I disagreed with his rulings, as I did from time to time, I could never begin to doubt the sincerity that informed those rulings because of his sense of fair play, about which I myself had no doubt.

He had large respect for all Members of this Chamber and he always admired a good speech and a good performance, regardless of the side of the aisle from which it came. On several occasions he was to pull me aside as we walked out to tell me he enjoyed my contribution and he did that, not only to me, but to several other Members, in particular young Members, of the House. He would encourage them by making a complimentary comment about their contributions from time to time.

As I said at the outset, I am saddened by the circumstances of ill health which are responsible for his

premature retirement from public life and I certainly wish him well in the years ahead, but I really wanted to read into the record that I thought he was a good and decent and fair-minded man in our midst, that he carried out the role of Speaker with dignity and with distinction. I only regret he could not have been here sitting in the Gallery to hear the tributes that have been paid to him today.

2.20 p.m.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The recently retired Member is my constituent and some weeks ago I saw him standing on a **sidewalk** and had difficulty recognising him. He looked a little drawn to me. I stopped my car and spoke to him and found he was waiting to take the bus. I took him to where he wanted to go and we chatted for some time and it was then that he shared with me the confidence that he was unwell and hinted at what would be a coming resignation. I wished him well as we spoke about his health and I meant it then with all sincerity and now as I repeat those sentiments that he will enjoy good health and such ill-health that has come to him he will recover fully from.

Like many of my colleagues on both sides of the Chamber today, I must observe that in all my dealings with Mr. Speaker **Weekes** I have found him to be a most fair, **courteous**, genteel and pleasant man. Even in my contact with him as MP and constituent, though I didn't think it likely that he would support me at the poll, he was not at all offensive, obnoxious or uncharitable. In fact, he was given to making very helpful comments and suggestions and really was very supportive. I think he saw this Chamber and the people who sit in it as people who want to lead and serve. He understood that as one who had sewed for a very long time. He knew the challenges. He knew the difficulties and, therefore, spoke to young members, as to all members, with some degree of impartiality and always with a high degree of goodwill. Like others, from time to time he has pulled me aside in this Chamber to say you're speaking well or you are coming on or "I disagree with you. We must not be so political."

On another occasion, he said to me outside this Chamber that he much admired my efforts in relation to Mangrove and the success that we had had in taming it but that he thought it would be a difficult and persisting problem and even though he commended my efforts that he felt it would still live on to haunt us. In some respects, there has been some veracity in that, that despite our best efforts illegal dumping and one or two other problems have continued to plague us and we have to fight from time to time. But even he recognised that our efforts brought it under far greater control than had the members of his own administration.

So in watching him go, Mr. Speaker, I truly wish him well as a fellow parliamentarian, as his own parliamen-

tary representative, the genteel and civil man that he is and hope that we will continue to remember and respect him. I say that because we have seen this year the deaths of many former parliamentarians, whether they have been Ministers or Back Benchers or Opposition Members during all their time. If we are honest we would have to observe that once they leave this Chamber no matter how hard they fought for their constituents and for all Barbadians while they have been here that we have not always as a society and as a group of parliamentarians treated them with the **kind** of respect that their dedication to service has really deserved and that is something that all of us must ask ourselves about, because one day whether we serve 25 or 5 or more we will have to leave this Chamber and people tend to forget very quickly what it is like to serve, the sacrifices one has to make and the difficulties and constant pressure as a parliamentarian that one can be under.

Mr. Speaker **Weekes** lived very close to his own constituency, worked in his constituency and therefore – I live in my own constituency and I know what it is like to have people knock at your door at 6 o'clock in the morning – from working in his constituency every day of his life he knew what it is like to have people come to him constantly with all **kinds** of problems and certainly from what I have heard about him that he is a person of great tenderness who reaches out with some degree of empathy. These are many of the qualities that a lot of us need to have.

I think that much of the former Speaker's manner, his decorum, his style, is worth emulating. I watched him on television on a number of occasions, and from my seat in the public gallery when I came to Parliament on occasions to watch the debate. I watched him and watched his style as a Speaker, watched how he tried to bring some degree of balance to the debate and tried, despite his own affiliation, to give equity and fairness to all members who sought to stand and make a contribution. I think for me that one of the times that stands out most in my mind is the occasion of the No Confidence Motion against the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. I watched him in what must have been a highly charged and emotional moment for him as Speaker and as a Member of the Democratic Labour Party **try** to maintain all the rules and the dignity of the House in what must have been very difficult circumstances.

I would have to say that he rose to that occasion, as indeed he always did, with tremendous dignity and balance and fairness and I had to admire him on that occasion, not to mention of course that both galleries the private and the public gallery were full and overflowing with people who were at **times** loud and rowdy. It was an emotional moment and people were likely to keep noise and so. He did so well keeping people in the gallery cautioning them to be mindful of the Rules of the House and calling for order when it was needed. One wonders how he did it.

I think somebody has made the point today that on both sides you have people of a lot of stripe and character, given to strong and colourful language and who refuse to take their seats from time to time. One wonders how a man who on no occasion that I have seen or spoken to him or been in contact with him have I heard him raise his voice, managed to control a very tempestuous bunch, not inarticulate and given to much fighting and the battle spirit as it appears sometimes. Really, he must be admired for all this and for his knowledge of the Rules of procedure of this Chamber and his knowledge of parliamentary practice here and abroad.

They say, Mr. Speaker, that a prophet is without honour in his own country but in a way we think of him as just **Lawson Weekes**. Everybody knows **Lawson**. Outside of Barbados he is very well respected for his knowledge and his skills and that is another tribute to him that I think needs to be paid today.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would wish him farewell and I would wish him a most respectful farewell. Indeed I wish that he does fare well both personally and in whatever he may go on to do at a professional level. He may take up some sort of more leisurely work, something that takes him at a more leisurely pace, just to keep himself occupied and I hope that he will enjoy better health than he has done in recent times and that he will look back on his time in this Chamber with great fondness. Indeed, we will look back on his contribution in this Chamber with gratitude and fondness. Thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the many truthful and generous remarks made by Honourable Members about Mr. **Lawson Weekes**. I am aware that before becoming a parliamentarian Mr. **Weekes** did a tremendous amount of community work and worked closely in the 50s and 60s with the Black Spurs Sports Club, a football club, which he was able to work with and assist in developing. In fact, in the 60s the Black Spurs Club emerged as one of the leading football clubs in Barbados under Mr. **Weekes'** tutelage. He is a man of quiet dignity and a person who is seen by his former constituents as being fatherly, possessed of quiet dignity where he would be able to interact with people and immediately win their respect. I think one of the most striking features about his behaviour is that wherever he interacted he automatically earned and won respect.

2.30 p.m.

I discovered that he, like many other Honourable Members, went to school at Combermere School and if there was ever a humble and modest Combermerian, certainly Mr. **Lawson Weekes** was a humble and modest Combermerian. He was not one to shout out loudly all

over Barbados "I went to Combermere." He was not that type at all. Sometimes you have to search to discover that he was, in fact, a Combermerian.

Aside.

Hon. R. C. **EASTMOND**: I said, Mr. Speaker, if ever there was a humble and modest Combermerian it was **Lawson Weekes** and I am sure that his successor as Speaker would want to emulate his style.

I found that as a Speaker he was extremely tolerant. Certainly in my time in this Honourable House I can recall no occasion when he put out any Honourable Member. He was extremely tolerant. He was the kind of Speaker who would do his utmost to make sure that Members observed the rules and he was most reluctant to see the back of Members during debates.

I found that as a Speaker he was exceptionally enthusiastic about the job as Speaker. In fact, I believe this very high office had attracted some of the best people to this high office of Speaker of this House because I notice that in my time all the Speakers with **whom** I have been associated have approached their jobs so enthusiastically as not to permit much time for the Deputy Speaker to function too often. They come often. They play their parts and very seldom do you see our Speakers absent from parliamentary sessions.

Mr. **Weekes** took a very active interest, Mr. Speaker, in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He is admired and respected in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He used to always try to persuade Members to make the CPA play a greater role. All of us, I believe are automatically members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association but the hard facts are that some parliamentarians approach the CPA with more vigour than others. He was vigorous in his involvement in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. In fact, he is also very much known for talking about the importance about Parliament as an institution. He is the type of person, if you stop and speak to him he will reveal a particular **alertness** of intellect which his quiet nature does not often expect him to speak closely to and he is of the view that in any democracy the critical institution was and is Parliament. He felt that Parliament is the place where democracy should be seen to operate, that Parliament is an institution that deserves the highest respect and that persons who are parliamentarians should see themselves as being honoured to be parliamentarians. He never was of the view that other institutions in our system of Government mattered more than Parliament. He sees Parliament as standing at the centre, both of democracy and of Government and he was, in fact, a very able parliamentarian.

I remember before he became Speaker he used to speak on matters to do with health and I was amazed at his vast knowledge of health matters. In fact, I got to know from some people in the Black Rock area that for a long time they saw him not only as being their expert on health but as being a very generous pharmacist who was there for them at every beck and call. To this day I am sure that there are those who will continue to speak fondly of Mr. **Lawson Weekes**. I am particularly sorry at the circumstances of ill-health that has led to his departure but I believe this Parliament was well served by him and is a better institution for having had him.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. B. M. **TAITT**: Mr. Speaker, this is not a day which I particularly like because it is a day in which we are saying goodbye to one of my friends and colleagues of long standing. It is a day which, once again, we are speaking about someone who is demitting this distinguished gathering of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I am probably uniquely able to speak about the distinguished Member who is leaving us because, first and foremost, he is my parliamentary representative and I can say without fear or favour that for the last 15 years I have voted without demure every election during the 15 years for my friend and colleague. **Indeed**, as Your Honour would know, when one is in the fray oneself it is very difficult to consider whether one will cast a vote in one's constituency.

Many a candidate has been known not to remember to go to the **polls** in the place where he or she resides but, in my own case, it was always the **first thing** I would do on election morning, since I lived relatively near to my voting station, and it was a pleasure on my way to look after my own business to stop and cast my vote for my distinguished colleague. But that would have been a duty if we were merely political colleagues. The reason it was a pleasure is that I have known him in the language of the old Testament, "from my youth up." We had, within the context of the **area** called Black Rock, lived together all through these years, he a few years older than I am, but in many ways he not having been exposed as early to some of the experiences which I would have been exposed to.

Other Honourable colleagues have spoken of the genteel spirit of the man. Other Honourable colleagues have spoken about other high qualities of the man so I shall not dwell on them except to say this, Mr. Speaker. I know of very few people who have made a contribution to the civic life of Barbados that can compare with that made up to now by the distinguished former Member of Parliament for St. Michael North West.

Lawson Weekes' interest did not begin at the point of wanting to be a Member of Parliament. **Lawson Weekes'**

public and civic life stretches way back when he was very young and when he recognised, even as a student of pharmacy while working at a small modest pharmacy in Eagle Hall and even before then, that serving the public was a special joy and had a special recompense.

There is not a person who has visited the drug store where he apprenticed, there is not a single person who has visited the doctor shop which he first created and subsequently the pharmacy which was his, who will not speak of him with admiration and approbation because, as had been demonstrated from the time he was a child, he showed an interest in persons *per se*. He was not one who found people to be means to an end. He was one who found people to be ends in themselves.

I am privileged to have called him friend and will continue to call him a friend because he has demonstrated the qualities of a friend even to the point of telling one when he was unable to agree with one's point of view.

He has a special quality of people from Black Rock. I know that everybody who has been **born** in some neighbourhood somewhere **has** some special affinity for that neighbourhood and can speak with impunity about the high qualities of that neighbourhood. But for those of us who had the privilege of going to the beach in the area of Black Rock, of growing up in rural Black Rock that stretches all the way from the Mental Hospital up to Cave Hill, **that** had the opportunity to observe the changing scene in **that** area over the last 50 years, those of us who had the privilege of growing up in that arena seem, Mr. Speaker, to me, at least, to have had a special dispensation. We were able to note things and to do things and participate in things with others which are now regarded as classic in Barbados. Time does not permit my delineating all of them but suffice it to say that it was impossible to live in the vicinity of Highway 1 and not feel some special sense of being part of Barbados.
2.40 p.m.

Lawson Weekes and his family constitute one of the premier families of Black Rock, not one of the richer families of Black Rock but one of the premier families. Some years ago when his father died at the ripe old age of 91, I spoke in this Chamber about the beauty of Lawson Weekes' sisters and the envy with which young boys observed them as they passed going to and fro. I also was able to speak at the same time of the discipline which was evident in the household of the Weekes family and which no doubt has been imposed by that venerable old gentleman who was his father and it has brought a gentility to, pardon the expression, these very good looking people as they survived in an area that was generally speaking part of the lower socio-economic sector of Barbados. And yet collectively there was a strength which attaches to Black Rock and Tudor Bridge and its surrounding areas which

people who emerge from that area have a feeling of almost invincible impregnability. It is a strange attitude which you can find in and around people from Eagle Hall, in and around people from Black Rock, in and around people from Tudor Bridge and Spooners Hill, that whole entire area because I think in many ways they came to believe that they were the essence of what is Barbadian.

That notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker, when eventually we were joined together in a political party, when We had reached the age of understanding that civics must give way to action and we all became part, certainly the Honourable Member and I became part, of a political party I was privileged to see what is meant by the foot soldiers in a political party. Lawson Weekes was one of those people in the Democratic Labour Party who had gone through all of the stages, who aspired to nothing more than to serve the people around him through the vehicle of the Party in a way that would bring a change in the quality of life of those among whom we had grown and those who had given us much.

In that political party I observed him functioning in a democratic system where those from the bottom were able to speak to those at the top freely and frankly. I recall, for example, a debate between Lawson Weekes who was relatively young and Frank Walcott who brooked no interference in his own views of issues of the day. I recall that at the end of the debate when this youngster had completed what he had to say that there were cheers around the entire general council and those cheers were led by none other than the then Frank Walcott, now Sir Frank Walcott himself. Those were the vintage days for me of politics in the Democratic Labour Party and all of the politics which I have practised in this country over a now relatively long time have been tinged by some influence of Lawson Weekes at some point along the way.

When we became the Government in 1971 and when, in the single member constituency situation, the opportunity came for some relatively young people to become Ministers of the Crown, Lawson Weekes was among the initial persons chosen for becoming a Minister of the Crown. I think it is no secret. It is well known among political circles that had he been at home when the telephone call went out...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But it is folklore in our party and we are allowed to talk about it in our party. I do not know how it is over in yours but we get to talk about these matters. It is known that had he been at home the course of history might have been different. In a sense no one can determine how fate is going to play the game but I think that Barbados has been the better because he assumed the high office of Speaker in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour now knows and continues to investigate and discover the office of Speaker is an awesome office in the context of democracy in the British Constitutional system from which we have derived our own constitutional system. The office of Speaker in the Commonwealth is a massive office which does not permit the kind of almost diffidence with which it is noted in Barbados. As Your Honour knows, if Mr. Weekes was in fact demitting office in the United Kingdom as of this date, he would be assured that he would be visited by a peerage almost immediately. He would be assured that there would be a Statute brought into this Honourable Chamber giving to him an annuity which would be settled on him and his spouse after his demise if it should occur before hers.

It is the custom for that Chamber from which we derived our custom to ensure that the office of Speaker is not contested and I myself hope that in the constitutional arrangements which will be made through convention, because I doubt any political party will ever have the courage to initiate it, but I dare to hope that we might reach the point where the Speaker, on attaining the office of Speaker, would have the benefit of seeing that constituency not contested while he or she remains speaker. The reason is a very simple one. A Speaker cannot represent the office of Speaker and represent the constituency at one and the same time with equal ability and what is, I must say, politically deceitful in this country is that while we now, and fortunately he has not passed and therefore he will hear what we have had to say because previous speakers would not have heard, but while we now will praise the office of Speaker and he who held the office, we would still not recognise the necessity for ensuring that the disability which is imposed on the acceptance of the office of Speaker is mitigated when we come to look at the contest for office 5 years or 3 years, or whatever, thereafter.

2.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, you are probably in the unique position of being able only after assuming the office to understand not only the veracity but the import of the point which I am making. Fortunately, for the outgoing Speaker, Mr. Lawson Weekes, because of our relationship and because of the proximity of our constituencies we were able to work out a *modus operandi* by which many of the parochial matters which are dealt with by the constituency representative could be taken on by your humble servant by and with the consent and with the approbation of the Speaker. Because those niggling things like answering questions of representation and assisting constituents to find solutions to problems, these cannot be as well undertaken by a person who holds the office of Speaker as it can be by a person who is free of that particular disability.

Mr. Speaker, the Speaker ought not to be available and I can say on our side, has not been available in the

councils of the Party after he has been elected. It is not proper to require of the one who has the responsibility to preside impartially over this august body at the same time be participating in the hurly-burly of competitive politics within the political party. For those reasons, in the United Kingdom albeit with their 800 years of history are not without some honour and are not unworthy of emulation in terms of how the presiding officer in the Lower House is treated in relation to elective politics. Of course, Sir, I am at the stage where I can have pipe dreams and I will know that having said this and having been confined to Hansard that it will pass like a number of other things which have been said, however worthy, have passed. But it is something that I would bequeath to the younger members of this Honourable Chamber to give consideration, not for Your Honour, Sir, because the time has long passed when Your Honour could benefit and it would be inappropriate for the situation to arise during this time when the Speaker of the day could be embroiled in a controversy. But it seems to me that among the reforms which are being considered that there ought to be some understanding between the political parties that **Speakers** of the future, not the present Speaker and not even the next Speaker, so that we can make it sufficiently distant and not require any unnecessary strife, be given the same consideration which we give judges in that they are removed from some of the hurly-burly and the controversy and it will allow them even more impartially to carry out the responsibility which they are ostensibly given when they are symbolically dragged into this Chamber to assume an office which they would rather not assume.

We know, Sir, that men and one day women because there is a female Member of Parliament who is now the Speaker in Britain, that some woman will occupy the place where Your Honour now occupies. I would be one to have no time frame on that, Sir, in the context of this speech,, But the Honourable Member will have to choose for himself either by his actions or otherwise wait until when the time frame is. I believe that that is one of the reforms which we can usefully consider to allow the Speaker by some method to have the access to impartiality without feeling that he or she has betrayed either the inherent or apparent interest in his or her political party.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a few moments to disagree with the Leader of the House and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central on some matters of constitutionality. I do not myself believe that the Senate is a waste of time **and/or** resources. I do not contend with them at any other than intellectual level. But I say this, that in my 25 years in this House I have seen errors committed here down below which were caught, reflected upon and returned to this House. If for no other reason than that, the Upper Place in my mind has served its purpose but there is more. There has been a measure of reflection which

has come **from** the Upper Place, certainly over the last 25 years from my point of view, which has from time to time been shown of the absolute political competitiveness which must necessarily occur in this Chamber and to the extent that Barbados has been the beneficiary of mature or better still reflective thought on a particular issue, then the country can bear that expenditure without demure.

I am satisfied that the choice of Senate material is the issue rather than whether we should have a second Chamber. I am satisfied that we ought to find a methodology by which a secondary Chamber can be appointed without necessarily giving the unfair advantage which now exists and which has always existed over the 30 years between the Opposition and the Government. Less it be thought that I am merely **taking** this position from the seat of the Opposition, let me say that it is a position which I have held and on which I have written over the 30-year period. It is my view that the country can benefit from two Chambers and the choices they have would be to have the second Chamber elected as well except that all of the persons would be running at large rather than in constituencies. This would allow for all those who have a feeling that they wish to participate but who cannot court a small constituency to be seen as national persons and I think that would take account of the recommendation of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

I believe that this country can handle **24** or 28 down here and not more than **24** up there where the two persons could either run from the parish at large or all **24** can **run** for the country at large so that everybody will have an opportunity to participate and to get the people to participate with them rather than their being at the behest or the largesse of some individuals by however name styled. I do not believe in appointed office to a position of legislative power. Positions of legislative power ought to be determined by the people at large. It is a thesis which I have championed from the time I was old enough to understand the issue and it is a thesis which I believe in and which I will continue to believe in. So I **disagree** with the Honourable Members that the Chamber is useless or is duplicative even though I understand the point which they seek to make.

As to whether Barbados should be a republic or otherwise, I am not satisfied that that is an issue that warrants our continued discussion. Either way it goes unless when we become a republic the Chief Executive is going to be chosen by the people, then it is all 6 for Paddy and 4 for Knight. If it is a republic by which the Chief Executive is going to have all 260 000 people or whomever we agree can qualify to vote for that person, then I would be in favour of that. But otherwise as they say in the rum shops in Tudor Bridge: "Hog is pork." So I am not going to spend any time worrying about that.

I need to go on though to say a couple of other things about the Speaker, **Lawson Weekes**. He had a number of testing times. He had an opportunity to demonstrate his skill, he had an opportunity to demonstrate his character and he had an opportunity to use his experience. I think that it is fair to say that in all 3 of those categories any fair, impartial and reasonable judge will find that **Lawson Weekes** acquitted himself creditably. Clearly, on either side there will be the observation that at one time or another he did something or something was done while he presided with which an individual disagreed. But it is unlikely that any Honourable Member in this Chamber can get up and with honesty say that he or she was able to detect partisanship in any ruling which the Speaker of whom we now speak made in this Chamber. It is highly unlikely that we could find a person who is reasonable and honest who would say that they found in Speaker **Weekes** other than the highest levels of upholding the tradition of Speakers of this Chamber.

3.00 p.m.

I believe that from my position of friend and constituent and colleague I could essay to offer thanks to all those who have spoken glowingly about **Lawson Weekes**. This Address, Sir, even though it is required by the Constitution and required by the Rules of this House, is in many ways symptomatic of how most of us must feel. While there are some political persons in this House who will relish a by-election, I for one cannot say that I look forward to a by-election when the cause of that by-election is the demitting of office from this Chamber of my friend and colleague of long standing. But I think if he were here he would wish to get up in that simple manner of his and say to the Honourable Member for St. James South that he was very moved by the fact that she was able on a day like today to make a speech which captured, except for the part by the bus stop or the sidewalk, the essence of the relationship between herself and **Lawson Weekes**.

It is interesting, Sir, and I hope the Honourable Member does not mind my saying so, that although they were shadowing each other at a point, when the Honourable Member for St. James South especially in her earlier days would make errors that were obvious to those of us who have been around for a long time, and while persons on our side would call for a much stronger approach to reaction to the Honourable Member, the sagacity of **Lawson Weekes** would come to the fore and he would remember that his relationship with the Honourable Member was not merely a political relationship but extended beyond that to a familial relationship, and he would indicate that we should be – and I use his words – gentle with her. There are some of us who have tried our best with that, Sir, but I would wish to think...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: She is saying that nobody has ever been gentle with her? I am not getting into that, Sir. If ever there was a person who would be gentle with the Honourable Member for St. James South it was the Honourable Member who we are now saying goodbye to.

Sir, I would also wish to thank all the other Honourable Members. He would wish to thank his colleagues on this side for 15 years and more of friendship and camaraderie and good relations. There is no one in the Democratic Labour Party with whom **Lawson Weekes** has ever had a quarrel, literally no one. There are persons with whom he has had heated discussion, but there is no one with whom **Lawson Weekes** has ever had a genuine quarrel. I do not know how many of the people in this political party or any political party could make that particular boast.

As for the representation in his constituency, it would be nothing short of a travesty for anyone to even remotely raise questions about the quality of the representation which **Lawson Weekes** gave to the people of St. Michael North West. The people of St. Michael North West, especially those who are among the vulnerable groups, even as the Honourable Member for the City has said, can say without fear of contradiction that **Lawson Weekes** provided them with the kind of quality representation...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is the same thing. The Honourable Member must know that if you have an ache in your back Thermogene is the only thing you need. If he only gave Thermogene to the odd person with an ache in the back, he provided Phensic and **Excedrin**, and later on Tylenol. Many a woman was able to rise up in the morning at 2 o'clock with a child with colic and say: "We want colic water and I have no money," and her boyfriend or husband could say: "No problem, call **Mr. Weekes** and he would bring the colic water without concern about when the money would come." But more than that, the sympathetic and understanding ear which **Lawson Weekes** has given to individuals in their households quietly, without fanfare and without seeking for any kind of encomiums, Mr. Speaker, is the solid and full test of the man's representative capacity.

I recommend to Honourable Members on both sides that they should seek to emulate the standard of representation which **Lawson Weekes** brought to St. Michael North West. I have, as a constituent living in the area, the very wonderful experience of being able to talk to them on a daily basis and they will tell you, even those whose politics differ from his, there was a gentleman, there is somebody who knows exactly how to deal with people, and more particularly the women in that constituency.

Mr. Speaker, the time will come when one will be able to expound on this at length, but the women in the constituency, in particular, those women who were at the stage of bearing children, those women who now form part of the elderly, those women who are sometimes the forgotten breed of Barbadians, will remember **Lawson Weekes** fondly for his care and his concern.

Mr. Speaker, in 1559 there was a Speaker, Sir Thomas Gargrave, and it was said of him:

"If in anything himself should mistake or misreport or **overslip** that which should be committed unto him to declare, that it might without prejudice to the House be better declared and that his unwilling miscarriage therein might be pardoned."

It is that admonition, Sir, that I would close with in inviting Honourable Members to remember **Lawson Weekes** even as we come to a second and perhaps different era of representation in the constituency of St. Michael North West. I myself will always be grateful to him and speak from the point of view of my own constituents and my fellow constituents in St. Michael North West. I put on record in this Honourable House our thanks and gratitude for his service. I put on record in this House our high appreciation of the sacrifices which he made for himself by himself, with his family, to bring a level of representation to us, the constituents of St. Michael North West. We wish him a happy retirement. We hope that he will have many years free of disability, but to the extent that he is able to hear our voices we wish him to know that his work was not in vain and we thank him from the bottom of our hearts. I am grateful to you.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with the remarks made about the Honourable Member. I hope at the end of 15 years I will hear such remarks about myself in the Chair.

I have known the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West for some time. During the last 2 years I got much closer to him as a Member of this Assembly and I myself would like to place on record the tremendous help that he has been to all the presiding officers of this Assembly. I remember clearly when we did meet **Mr. Weekes** in Banff at the CPA Conference how we had much discussion with him and how he did set out to give us guidance and help and interpreted the Standing Orders for us.

I have always found **Mr. Weekes** to be a very dignified, kindhearted and helpful man who tried at all times to give advice and direction to all Members of Parliament, especially the new parliamentarians. I have been fortunate to speak to him on many occasions about

matters relating to this House and about the preservation of parliamentary democracy in our country and I have always been very impressed by his very knowledgeable **insights** and, of course, his very firm stand on the impartiality of the Chair.

Those of you who know Mr. **Weekes** well would know that Mr. **Weekes** always believed that if there was one impartial person it should always be the Speaker. He firmly believes also that speakership is the **lynchpin** of parliamentary democracy. He not only believes in Parliament itself, but he believes that speakership is the lynchpin around which all parliamentary democracy must **revolve**. He feels there should always be respect for the Chair and there must always be at all times adherence to the Rules and Standing Orders so that **parliamentary democracy** could always be enhanced.

He, of course, would have taught me many of the things I have **learnt**. He also taught me of course that I must also be firm, his way of dealing with certain kinds of indiscretions in the Chamber might have been a little different from mine but one thing he did teach me was that if I sent a fellow outside, the fellow would still be always my friend.

I am indeed very hurt and sorry to hear about the illness of the former Speaker and on behalf of my family and myself I extend our best wishes to him hoping that he will recover soon. May I take this opportunity on behalf of Parliament and everyone here at Parliament, the Clerk, the Deputy Clerks, all the workers here, to extend our best wishes to him and hope that he will recover soon.

We wish him well.

The Resolution is therefore passed with acclamation.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is proposed that the address would be sent to the Private Secretary of the Governor-General with an accompanying letter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would crave the indulgence of the Honourable House of Assembly to recommit Government Notices and First Reading of Bills.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to give notice of the Shops (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move that the Shops (Amendment) Bill, 1996 be read a first time.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that.

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. R. N. GREENIDGE, Mr SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee of Supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1996-97 NO. 5 HEAD 34 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary which is before this Honourable Committee today relates to 4 different sub-programmes, 3 of which were included in the Rt. Honourable Minister of Finance's Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals earlier this year where he outlined a programme of financial **support** for human resource development for a number of institutions in Barbados on the basis that if we were to prepare persons to meet the needs of the economy as the economy was currently changing and if we were to meet the needs of young people that we would have to ensure that the available opportunities for training were there for the large numbers that were applying each year to institutions in particular programmes but equally to deal with the issue of the development of young **people** generally to ensure that the structured programmes which were put in place, two of which were put in place by

this Administration and one of which is expanded, would be able to meet their demands as young persons in this country.

The first item, Sir, sub-programme 4 relates to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the supplementary there is for \$872 000. In 1995, this Government expanded the intake at the Polytechnic from 1 400 to 2 000 students, thereby ensuring that larger numbers of persons were able to access training since the demand clearly was there with the number of applications throughout the years.

3.20 p.m.

In addition, we took the step of establishing two new computer laboratories with 25 computers each because a number of the technological processes which are being used in today's world tend to be computer based and unless therefore your training reflected those technological improvements, you would find that you would be training persons who would not be able to service the needs generally in the economy for the skills required.

That was 1995. We understood then that it would be part of a phased programme and phase 2 took place actually in this financial year and as a result of the Honourable Prime Minister's support in his Budgetary Proposals for this allocation of \$872 000 to the Polytechnic. This money is envisaged to meet the full cost of expansion to be able to carry the Polytechnic now from the 2 000 which it was at in 1995 to 2 500 students which were admitted last month, that being the first month of the academic year for the 1996/97 academic year at the Polytechnic.

Of course, Sir, once you expand student numbers you have also to look at curriculum offerings. You have to look at personnel matters. You have to look at matters pertaining to materials because once you have larger numbers of persons particularly where they are consumable materials you have to be able to provide more materials, and most importantly, you have to review the question of the level of technology available in the plant and, indeed, the state of the plant given the fact that there was very little upgrading or maintenance over the last 5 years in respect of the plant at the Polytechnic.

That sum also, Sir, relates to the question of the establishment of a third computer laboratory to be able to continue to expand the training in offerings that are technologically based. I think people would be aware that the Polytechnic has a very strong printing department. It also has its own printery which a lot of people do not know. Equally, it has a number of curriculum offerings that require autocad designs in order to be able to effectively teach persons who are studying in technical areas relating

to design, engineering capacities and indeed, matters relating to civil and electrical engineering in particular.

This third computer laboratory, Sir, is expected to be set up very shortly. These funds will support the establishment of that third laboratory, the expansion to 2 500 students and the further introduction of even newer curriculum offerings. In 1995 we added another 11 subjects and this year we have added more again because we realize that there were a number of key areas that were not being catered to with respect to the provision of training, areas relating to small engine repair which could deal both with things like mechanical engines on land as well as catering to the fishing industry, matters pertaining to landscaping because a lot of hotels, for example, wanted people who had at least a basic proficiency in respect of landscaping and gardening, areas relating to craft design for persons who wanted to go, perhaps, into some form of individual entrepreneurial activity, and that type of new curriculum offerings which have been given.

We realise, Sir, too that there were other areas we had to expand given the fact that there were expansions in the economy causing the need for additional persons trained in those areas. I speak specifically of things like carpentry, plumbing and masonry. I am glad to say that the Training Board itself is also expanding its offerings there. The Training Board's programmes tend to be a far more on hand practical programme. Indeed, I think only this morning the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister opened the house which was built by the persons involved in the Training Board's Skills Training Programme. It is an excellent project because it brought together all the skills that were available within the Training Board to ensure that an entire project could start from scratch and be completed giving the youngsters an opportunity to see their work in its full glory as opposed to just their work as a carpenter, or their work as a mason, or their work as a tiler.

The Polytechnic's courses tend to be usually in terms of the full programme two years and in terms of the evening programme as well two years, but a lesser programme than the full day's programme and therefore tends to be a little more technical than that which is offered by the Training Board which is only 9 months.

We remain committed as a Government, Sir, to continue the excellent work which the Polytechnic is doing in seeking to provide training for youngsters. We have taken one fundamental decision which has also allowed us to be able to expand largely because we have removed the necessity for certificates as an entry qualification to the Polytechnic. There are too many people coming out of the system who would not be able to satisfy that requirement. We believe there is a fundamental problem with the type of certification in Barbados. It is not a problem that can

be corrected overnight and we are still working to the establishment of a form of new secondary **certification** by 1998.

In the meantime, you have to be able to provide opportunities for people to go on to advanced training without penalising them for the fact that the system needs time in order to put into place a sound and credible system of **certification**. Too often we tend to seek to certify people for what they do not know instead of what they know.

The change in qualification requirements at the Polytechnic is significant. What we do however insist on still is that they sit an examination to allow us to be able to know at what level they are so that we **can** provide for their needs when they come into the actual classes. Therefore, the exam is still there but it is not a qualifying examination. It is merely an examination to assist us in knowing what level these students really are at.

The other key thing too, Sir, is that we are **looking** at how we can expand further at the Polytechnic on the existing side because there is nothing that says that this type of technical and vocational training should only be done on the basis of a normal primary or secondary school year. There is nothing that says that we cannot run the courses according to different time periods, in other words, running six months' straight or running programmes that allow you to have a better use of your plant largely because the plant is down for almost half of the year and certainly in terms of weekends as well as summer vacations, Christmas vacations, Easter vacations you are not getting your return back on your plant or your investment in terms of your trainers. We therefore believe there has to be a review of the manner in which the Polytechnic delivers its courses and that, in fact, is under view.

There has already been a study which has been carried out. Phase One has been completed. We anxiously await within the Ministry of Education further recommendations how that **can** be achieved. We are also looking at how we can use existing secondary school plants which are already equipped, very often, with a lot of the equipment that would be used in the Polytechnic's programmes as satellite sites for the delivery of training in the Polytechnic. It is, in fact, done at two or three schools at the primary and secondary level now but we believe we can expand it even further rather than having to look for \$10 million to \$15 million to build a second Polytechnic because after 3 o'clock most schools, Technical and Vocational Workshops are closed down. Most of the Home Economics classrooms and flats are closed down. We feel we can strategically choose three or four schools across Barbados to expand the intake at the Polytechnic even further so I look forward to the receipt of those recommendations.

I want to use this opportunity to congratulate the Chairman, Board and staff for an excellent job. There will have to be some further administrative changes in terms of more support staff because you cannot expand to these numbers without the requisite administrative staff also being available.

We have also taken the decision to establish a post which allows for liaising between the Polytechnic and the private sector so that we are capable of knowing the needs of the private sector particularly in the technical areas on a more readily basis and be able therefore to adjust the content of the curriculum to match the technological changes taking place in enterprise and the private sector.

I am happy, Sir, to be associated with this request for the Supplementary of \$872 000. It continues to show this Government's commitment to the provision of technical and vocational education to those youngsters who want simply an opportunity **to be** able to learn something. I keep saying, Mr. Chairman, that any young person under 25 should not seek to go for work unless they have a skill or a certificate to be able to give someone a reason to hire them. At the end of the day when you want your roof fixed, you look for a carpenter. When your stomach is hurting you, you look for a doctor or a nurse, or even a pharmacist. When your child gets in trouble, you look for a lawyer. When your walls need fixing, you look for a mason. When your sink needs fixing you look for a plumber. You have as a young person to give people a reason to hire your services if not they will only give you money when they feel generous and you will continue to be dependent on people for handouts or for generosity in order to survive in this world. That is not what any of us in this Honourable Chamber want for young **people** in this country. We therefore believe that it is imperative to expand opportunities for training in this country to ensure that these young persons are capable of making a livelihood for themselves and that they can do so in areas that are matched to the direction in which the economy is growing so that we can have the opportunity to deal with the unemployment problem.

3.30 p.m.

The Honourable Prime Minister said only a few weeks ago and said it very succinctly and it is **true** that the challenge relating to the employment problem in Barbados is that there are too many unskilled people for too few **unskilled** jobs. All of us in here know that a person who has skills has a chance of getting a job within a reasonable period of time but persons who are without skills really present a problem because you have to look at only a few available jobs in order to be able to accommodate them in respect of employment.

Now we also believe that entrepreneurial activity, self-employment, is a valid area of activity. I feel very

strongly, Mr. Chairman, that for example vending must be accommodated as much as possible and that we should not at all seek to criminalise anybody who is only **seeking** to eke out a living for **themselves** or their family. And I therefore support the action of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and the Honourable Minister of Public Works to ensure that as much market space can be built in this country to accommodate people who want to provide for themselves and I **therefore** welcome the construction of the Palmetto Street Mall and the construction which is about to start on the Cheapside Market.

Indeed, I know of my own knowledge that they are also looking for a further site to be able to expand accommodation because self-employment and the entrepreneurial scheme must be a valid point of employment for persons in this country, because we believe strongly in that entrepreneurial activity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have also facilitated consultation between the Polytechnic and the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme to make sure that all persons attending the Polytechnic, some of them get it now, from next year take some form of business class so that they are capable of understanding the basic rudiments of business because even if you are working as a plumber very often you are self-employed and you need to know how to cost, you need to know how to buy your materials and put on your mark up. You need to know how to get further business for yourself. I **remember** two weeks ago a young lady came to me saying she was looking for a job. When I asked her what she could do she said she could sew. I said, "but are you sewing?" She said "yes". Then I said, "how much do you make when the week comes?" She said, "well on a bad week, between \$90.00 and \$100.00." I said, "what about a good week?" She said, "maybe \$350.00." I said, "how often?" She said, "at Crop Over, when children are going back to school and when there is a big bank holiday weekend." Mr. Chairman, I told her, "your problem is not that you need a job. You need to find out how you can expand the market to make sure that you have continuous income at a certain level throughout the year." And we have been able to get that young lady into the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme and I hope that during the period of training for the next nine months she will be able to develop the knowledge necessary because she never went to anybody and asked for business yet. Any business she was able to get she sat down at home and hoped to receive.

Now there is no business in Bridgetown who will wait for people to come to them. You market and let people know what range of goods you have available. So that I am saying that small entrepreneurs, particularly those who are seeking to acquire skills at the Polytechnic must be made aware of the basic rudiments of business so that

they understand how to cost. She did not have in her head that she could cost to include her labour, or that she could cost to include electricity in her home using the sewing machine; none of that. So these are things that we have to be able to achieve.

There are some things, Sir, that **are** critical to the overall development of that person and we want to ensure that these training institutions offer them. The Polytechnic clearly is the institution that offers the **largest** number of persons that type of technical **skills** supported ably by the National Training Board and its work in the Skills Training Programme and the apprenticeship programme,

The second head relates to the Barbados Community College for a sum of \$500 000 and this is to expand the Information **Technology** course at the Community College. Before this supplementary the College offered a programme for the associate degree in Science and Technology and the certificate in Information Technology. These courses catered to 341 persons and will now be expanded to accommodate 570 persons. Starting this year **we** have expanded the staff as well as the number of persons being able to enter.

Once again this year we have **expanded** the offerings as well as the number of persons being able to enter and we have introduced the new Advanced Diploma in Information Technology which will be used for persons applying for the Associate Degree. The expansion from 341 persons to 570 persons took place last month because that is when the admissions took place, so that we have increased that by over 230 which is in **fact** an increase of over 70% in admissions in Information Technology

The reality is, Mr. Chairman, that the **IDC** is bringing a lot of companies into this country that are coming in at the high value added level of the informatics **industry** and who simply are not **looking** for people who can key in data alone **anymore** but who are looking for people who can bring greater skills both in terms of the application of the hardware as well as the development of software. We want to continue expansion in this area. This is really just a first shot because we believe that Barbados' sound educational system in terms of basics is a platform competitive in this **area** in a way that a lot of other countries will not be able to be competitive. The reality however is that the training process is always a medium-term programme and to that extent we will not see persons coming out with these additional things for another 2 years in order to enter the private sector. But if you do not do it now you will not be able to market Barbados as a prime location in which you can get the level of staff who are capable of **providing** these high value added services in the information industry. This also has implications for persons doing graphic arts because any of us who use a computer know that the user friendly environment of computers have now ensured that

the drawings and graphics of a computer programme is as critical to the user now as the actual applications in respect of the bindery codes, et *cetera*.
3.40 p.m.

This \$500 000 is not the total sum for the allocation, but the Community College was able to find some money within its budget. This \$500 000 will allow them to implement this whole programme. It will mean having to hire additional staff. It will mean having to buy more instructional material, software programmes and magazines. It will also mean having to buy 60 new **Pentium** computers, scanners, laser printers, chairs and desks so that you really can get an idea of the fact that there is truly a massive expansion moving from 341 to 570 persons. As I said, this is only the first shot and I really would like and hope that I can come back to this Honourable Chamber every year for the next few years asking for an increased sum to be able to expand these offerings.

The third item that I will deal with, Sir, relates to the Youth Affairs Programme where the sum of \$1.759 million is being requested from this Honourable Committee. This is to be able to execute a number of key areas in the Youth Programmes which we have available before us. The reality is, Sir, that we established in April, 1995 a division of Youth Affairs and by June we had on the ground a youth development programme. We also established in August, 1995 a youth entrepreneurs scheme and during 1995 we expanded the intake of the Barbados Youth Service and moved its headquarters from Grazettes Community Centre to the former St. Lucy Naval Base at **Harrison's Point** and indeed we moved numbers from **100** to 250 taking in two batches of 125 each but staggering the intake throughout the calendar year. These funds are specifically to allow us to honour the commitment of the expanded mass based training in the Youth Development Programme. Many of you will be aware that we have been carrying out programmes in which we have been taking in 1500 persons and training them in cultural and sports activities over **10-week** period and it has made a tremendous difference to a number of young people across the communities in this country.

Indeed, when we did our youth survey across the island, one of the significant things that was discovered was that there was a level of inactivity in club or structured group activity. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East is well aware of this since he is involved in one of the few functioning clubs across communities in Barbados. We therefore felt that where you had numbers showing only one in a hundred persons involved in a cultural club, only one in ten persons involved in a sports club and over 35 per cent doubting the existence or the validity of religion, that it was critical that we organized focal activities to be able to encourage persons to become involved in structured supervised activity. It mattered not

whether that activity is football, cricket, hockey, basketry, drama or drumming. Once you get them there, you teach them the basic **skills** and, having taught them the basic **skills**, a number of things can happen. One, there will be a few who feel that this is something that I can continue to do and will want to go on and pursue further training in this area. Indeed, with the establishment of the Associate Degree now in the Performing Arts, Fine Arts and the Bachelor of Fine Arts which started last month at the Community College, there is ample opportunity for persons to go on to advance training in cultural activities in this country today. We are proud of the implementation of those programmes.

There are some who may not want to go on to advance training. But what you have done by exposing them to the basic rudiments of that mass based training in those areas whether in sports or culture is that you have laid the foundation for the creation of an audience, because people can now understand what is good football or what is good basketry or drumming. They can now appreciate the standard of performance in those particular areas or work in those particular areas. You therefore create the basis on which it becomes possible for the cultural and sports industries in Barbados over a period of time to move to a semi-professional and then professional status having created that audience and the demand as well as the criteria for people to be able to judge performance and judge work. That, Sir, was one of the motivating factors behind the establishment of that mass based training.

Equally, Sir, we also felt that it was critical to be able to have people off the street and become involved in activities that taught them something. Unfortunately, there was an absence of a lot of mass based community training for a number of years in this country and we feel that it is the most critical aspect in terms of providing non-formal education at the community level. I hope very shortly...

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir. I hope very shortly with the Director of Youth Affairs to meet with the pastors and priests of every single church in this country, **parish** by parish to get them involved in the mobilization of young persons for further mass based training and also for the establishment of clubs. The first mass based programme from January to the end of March trained 1400 persons and indeed over 8 clubs that are still functioning today came out of that programme. Hence, there was the establishment of the sports rally and the exhibition of works and the performance of them. The second started I believe in July this year and that also was accompanied by an advanced training module for those persons who participated in the first one but who wanted to **learn** a little more in the second one. There are some other matters that I will address when I return, Mr. Chairman.

I beg to move that Head **34** stand part.

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise on this occasion more or less to express my sincere sentiments towards the Minister of Education with the youth package which she has just put forward in terms of the development for the youth of this country. I do not believe that Parliament is a building that we just come in here and do political grandstanding just for the sake of it. As I have always enunciated in this Honourable Chamber over the last 2 years and a couple of months, all of us in this Chamber should be diverting our energies and attention to the development of the youth in our country. Basically, I believe that the youth in our country have the most energy to expend. But certainly, Sir, I would like to congratulate her Ministry for the mass based training programme that they recently enacted particularly in cultural and sporting activities throughout this entire island. Sir, let me say this. I see absolutely no reason and I say absolutely no reason why every single hard court in Barbados should not be lighted. Let me explain that, Sir. We traditionally in Barbados always believed that sport is an exercise that when you finish work you run home and change your clothes, go on the field and play, and then at 6 o'clock when it gets dark you go home and sleep.
3.50 p.m.

What we have to do in the new dispensation of things, as we move into the 21st century, is to create activities, particularly after 6 o'clock, for our youth. So I am asking the Minister of Finance to put more funds into the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Community Development, particularly Community Development, because I believe we have to make communities more self-sufficient and independent rather than being dependent on the various Government Departments and on Government itself. We must cut that umbilical cord of support at some time by **asking** community organisations not to be subservient to the various Government Departments. That is why I always preach the model of Pinelands throughout the length and breadth of Barbados and throughout the Eastern Caribbean, because it has been a successful model.

In addition to that, Sir, if we could get all the hard courts in Barbados lighted, it means that we would cut down on the criminal activity that is currently at a high rate among our youth. I want to make a call in this Honourable Chamber for mini-stadiums to be placed in all the housing areas, because the only stadium in Barbados is heavily overworked. The gymnasium fills a medium breach and does not reach out to the mass sports, except basketball. If you build mini-stadiums in the communities, particularly those with housing areas, then we will do a lot to help promote sporting activities and make the clubs within those

housing areas earn money to employ a lot of the youth within those respective communities.

I am always **talking** about innovative things we have to initiate. We cannot look back, we have to look forward, and the private sector has a serious role to play in this regard. Government and the communities alone cannot do it, the private sector **has** a very strong role to play in helping to further develop the communities. If we could get the private sector to play its part in supporting Government and the communities in order to enhance the image of the communities, we would have more settled and conscious communities in Barbados.

Sir, as I said, we are going into the 21st century and if we cannot be innovative in our thinking, if we keep looking back – although we have to look back to understand where we are at now and in order to go forward – I believe we are doomed to failure. I am **making** a further call for the transforming of all the newer secondary school halls into theatre halls. I know it is going to take a lot of money, but the Ministry of Finance should make those funds available to the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs. If we introduce drama and dance into the curricula of particularly the newer secondary schools, the end result would be that when those students come back into the community there will be a high level of participation in activities they love **best**.

Recently, Sir, I was in Trinidad and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs there embarked on a programme they called the Super Five Concept. I tried it at a **micro**-level within St. Michael South East, but let me explain what this whole concept is about and I hope the Ministries in Barbados adopt it. You know, we always have this competitive thing that if one nation does something, because we are supposed to be ahead of them, we cannot do it. The point is that it is working. There are five basic disciplines they explore and initiate – cricket, soccer, volleyball, basketball and athletics. They get the best coaches **they** have in Trinidad at the moment and divert them into the communities, then they bring together all of the communities and they compete against one another for the Super Five trophy, which is sponsored by the private sector in Trinidad. Here is a typical example of the private sector and Government **working** hand in hand to help deal with some of the problems that are currently affecting the youth and finding solutions to the problems that confront the youth.

Culturally, Sir, I believe that in order to encourage more interaction among our communities we should embark on what I call a Prime Minister's, or it could be the Governor-General's or the Minister of Education's Best Village competition. This could be like NIFCA, which takes on a face of a schools' competition, but we could

add a further dimension to it. If we could get **all** the communities in Barbados to compete against one another culturally, have preliminaries at the community level and then bring **all** the best communities into one show at Kensington Oval or the National **Stadium** to compete for the Prime Minister's Best Village trophy – or the Governor-General's, or whatever you choose to call it – I think this will augur well for the harmonious interaction of all the communities in Barbados.

Sir, it is at this point I want to say a few words of congratulation to North Stars Social and Cultural Club out of Crab Hill, St. Lucy. Here is a group of young people **working** constructively together to build a pavilion and a community centre on their own. When you see efforts like that you tend to believe that there is still hope for the youth and we must **try** to help them. I have been calling on **the** private sector also to assist this group in St. Lucy in trying to find a place where the community could gather and interact.

Sir, one of the most touching lectures I have heard was by RPB (Red Plastic Bag, Stedson Wiltshire) on August 7 when he was talking to the Police Boys' and Girls' Sports Club. This lecture dealt with self-esteem and really reached out to the youth. We need more people in our society, role models, to come out and give of their time occasionally to help build the morale and self-esteem of the youth. I was very happy with that. While I **am** extending congratulations, I also want to extend a bit of congratulations to the Public Relations Department of the Royal Barbados Police Force, because I keep saying that we in Barbados always like to deal with the effect and forget the causes. **It** is through the work of the Royal Barbados Police Force community **outreach** programmes, when crime was at a high level and they put their community officers within the housing areas, it helped to stabilise those communities. Those officers from the Royal Barbados Police Force who are currently **working** in the communities **are** doing a fantastic job. In Barbados we always believe that when we are **talking** about the law we have to flex muscles, but I say we have to start flexing our brains, more and we need more programmes. I would like the Honourable Minister in future to put in a subvention for that particular programme the Royal Barbados Police Force has worked out, although I know it falls under the Minister responsible for Legal Affairs, but it is one due for consideration.

The Barbados **Landship** has been around for approximately 130 years. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East is reminding me that virtually they started in Licorish Village, My Lords Hill. I know one of the arms of the **Landship** started there, I am not sure if the main thing started there, but this organisation has been around for approximately 130 years and I think their current

subvention is in the range of \$2 000. I know that whenever there is a major event in Barbados you could call on the services of the Barbados **Landship** and all they ask you to do is to provide a little transportation and a little stipend at the time. I believe that next year when you **are** looking at the Estimates you should look at increasing the subvention to the Barbados Landship.
4.00 p.m.

Also, Sir, it would be remiss of me if this Honourable Chamber and time allows me and I don't ask for a subvention for the Pinelands Creative Workshop which recently had some scathing attacks, but I will not go into that. The fact is that I **am** making a further call to the Minister for a subvention for the Pinelands Creative Workshop.

The Pinelands Creative Workshop has been in existence for well over 20 years and has set up a model for community development throughout this country. Right now the Pinelands Creative Workshop is the secretariat of the regional, cultural grassroots fusion that involves the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, Antigua and even Venezuela. It is a fact. They now have extension arms in New York and Canada.

In addition to that, the work that they are doing at home in terms of pushing the youth entrepreneurs within the community of itself is **laudable**. I think what the Workshop needs now at a transition point is a subvention to help with administrative duties. As I said, Sir, we have to sever this umbilical cord. We have to make community organisations independent rather than dependent. If we are going to do that, Sir, we have to call collectively, call on all those organisations, the business sector out there, to collaborate...

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: ... and the community organisations so that these communities can become self-sufficient.

One final warning, Sir. I attended an NGO Summit Meeting in Trinidad and the point was made that when you get the leaders of the community based organisations or **CBOs** angry and you do not support them in the work that they are trying to do within the communities they have no other alternative but to enter the political fray to make sure that the communities of themselves get what they desire. So that is just a warning.

Finally, Sir, let me say that again I am making a call for these organisations to have a subvention and I hope

that the Minister of Finance is listening to me because I will be expecting that next year I will be able to hear the Honourable Minister of Education coming to this Honourable Chamber with heavy sums of money to support her Ministry under the Head: Communities in Barbados. I want to thank you at this moment, Sir.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to speak on this Resolution and to commend the Honourable Minister of Education on her report of the progress made by the Ministry of Education under this Government in expanding opportunities for technical and vocational training at our premier vocational training institution, the Polytechnic. This is an area of activity on which the Government has placed great emphasis and it is a great pity that the emphasis that was placed on this activity was interrupted in the period 1986 to 1994. There cannot be any doubt about it that far from going forward in that period, in this area, Barbados went backwards.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I want you to speak because the record speaks for itself. A programme of a comprehensive nature to deliver technical and vocational education to the young people of Barbados so as to ensure that they were equipped with some level of skill, particularly those who were not able to benefit from a strict academic type education, was devised as long ago as the early 80s and implementation started with the concept of the National Training Board as a premier institution running parallel with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

We, unfortunately, went through that period when the run-down took place not only of the Polytechnic but of the skills training activities. I am glad to see that that wonderful building that was constructed with the idea that it should be used as far as possible nearly ever month of the year so that its capacity for delivery would be at its greatest. Some of these concepts I heard the Minister speak of today, but this is not the first Minister to speak of the fact that the Polytechnic, because of the large amount of money that it costs, because of the functions that it could usefully perform in this community, should be used to the maximum. I remember there was a Minister of Education here that used to say that even granny should be able to have access to the facilities of the Polytechnic because we should become a society which should never rest upon its laurels and we should be continuously upgrading our skills. We should be using our spare time to make sure that we widen our skill base.

Sir, we are told today and we must not hide it. The Honourable Minister must proclaim it from every roof top. She must not hide it. I want to be specific. We have almost

doubled the intake of students at the Polytechnic. That is no mean achievement. That means that if you were training a 1 000 before you are training 2 000 now. That is no mean achievement. If they were training 1 500 before they have 3 000 in there. That is an unheard concept to Honourable Members on the Other Side.

I know that the Honourable Members on the Other Side had very good intentions but they were not backed up by their colleagues at the Cabinet level with the resources nor with the commitment. And you haven't heard all because that is only from the formal institutional side, the Polytechnic side. There are a few problems associated with the Polytechnic and I would like the Honourable Minister to tell us how they have been dealt with. The Democratic Labour Party left a number of disgruntled teachers at the Polytechnic who were dissatisfied with the grade levels that were assigned to their qualifications. There cannot be any doubt about that. There were a number of outstanding matters in relation to qualifications and remuneration at the Polytechnic. There were a number of people who were acting in posts. I don't believe in hiding these matters. They are matters that you have to grapple with and the politicians have to grapple with it, not the functionaries.

I keep saying, Sir, that my experience of 30 years is that a functionary has a permanent job, a politician does not have any permanent status. A functionary therefore does not have to be as vigorous in the pursuit of decision making and execution as a politician. A politician's function is to deliver. Therefore, in these matters politicians must see that the functionaries function. This is a fact of life. If you don't believe it, you will soon learn. The position is clear that there are certain decisions that have to be taken however hard they are.

4.10 p.m.

If you have people who are dissatisfied as teachers because they feel their qualifications are not being recognised in relation to academic subjects, if they feel their remuneration scale is not what it should be having regard to the utility of what they are doing, you have to grapple with those problems. You cannot push them on a file and write a lot of verbiage on the notes of it and justify why it cannot be and so forth. You have to deal with it. I hope the Honourable Minister will be able to tell us how that has been dealt with. I know it is a legacy she received. The Democratic Labour Party did not deal with it for 10 years. That is a fact.

Sir, the second area is that at some time a basic decision has to be taken whether we are going to continue with this misnomer known as a polytechnic. It confuses people all the time. For years we have been pointing out that when you deal with people from abroad their concept of what is a polytechnic is completely different from

what we in truth and in fact have here. We have to decide in our minds whether we are going to continue with this because it is confusing also to a lot of young children.

There are people who go through the academic stream. They get their 4 or 5 "O" Levels and then they go to the Polytechnic to do specific areas of activity and they tell you that they are doing post-graduate work when in truth and in fact the qualifications they are getting are the City and Guilds or the equivalent which is the equivalent to the GCE that we have. For years I have been trying to find out from those people who are responsible for education why is it that we go through the wastage of having a whole mass of secondary institutions and still people go right through those institutions to age 18 then to go back to what is essentially a secondary institution. I believe a lot of the activity in certain areas that is done at the Polytechnic could usefully be done at the secondary schools, particularly some of the vocational education.

If you go to the United States of America and you go to a High School, some of us have relatives there, a lot of the subjects you see being taught at the Polytechnic are taught in the Technical Wing of the High School and they do not have all this confusion we have here in Barbados. That is another matter that should be dealt with. I do not wish in any way for it to be felt that we wish to downgrade the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic but what I want to see is a logical allocation of a label for people to understand that the Polytechnic in essence is a trade school and a vocational or technical school. That is, in essence, what it is. By no means can it be classed as a tertiary institution similar to what a polytechnic is in other parts of the world.

This confusion caused the World Bank nearly to force the Government to create a great injustice to this country because they were the people that were saying, and the Democratic Labour Party agreed with it, I understand, that you should charge people there at that level for the courses they do at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polyclinic because of the name that you gave it. These people come from abroad, and they say a polytechnic in England is a university, a polytechnic everywhere in the world is a university so if you have one here it must be the same thing. So, Sir, this is another problem we have.

I also am strongly of the view, Sir, that there should be some decentralisation of the activities of the Polytechnic. Even the Honourable Member for the north I am sure will agree with me that the basic thing is that some of the activities should be decentralised because it is a little hard, in my opinion, for people from the northern part of Barbados to have to come up to the Polytechnic to receive their technical education. That is a fact.

Now, Sir, I want also to make sure that the Honourable Minister emphasizes the fact that it is the

Government's declared policy that the activities of the Polytechnic and the Skills Training Programme have to be dovetailed and also that both of those activities are alternate methods of delivering skills training and technical and vocational training to people in Barbados. It must also be combined with a scheme to ensure that people who leave these institutions are settling into a well-recognised and formal apprenticeship scheme in those trades where that method of training post institutional training takes place. That is why the National Training Levy will once again be used not **only** to supplement the resources of the Polytechnic, and to provide the base for the National Skills Training Programme, but the apprenticeship scheme. I am **looking** forward to hearing the Honourable Minister of Labour and Community Development explain his side of the equation because you must not look to the Government's programme only in the context of doubling the entry to the Polytechnic, the Youth Service, the Youth Entrepreneur Scheme and the various other schemes but you must look at it in the context ...

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

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Yes, Sir, a very convenient time. You must look at it in the context of that, plus the Skills Training Programme, plus the Apprenticeship Scheme, and this is only the beginning. This is only two years. I have no doubt that this programme is of such significance that it forced the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East to speak in the vein in which he spoke because the only thing he omitted to do was to congratulate the Honourable Minister. I know from the tone and content of his speech that he wanted to do that but this is politics. He really could not do that on the floor of the House. He will do that outside, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I must admit that when one listens to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, one can only be enlightened, and then one can only get the facts. I have always watched and listened to this Honourable gentleman and I have always admired his truthfulness since I was in here.

I must congratulate him for explaining to this Assembly how the Honourable Minister of Education has been able to relieve the Government of its own employment problem, and that is, that she has skillfully been able to take the people from being unemployed to be into training centres and be removed from the realm of unemployment. I must admit, Sir, hearing a speech like that coming after Sunday when they were patting themselves on their backs, I must congratulate my friend, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Mr. Chairman, when we are dealing with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, we must admit that

if Government is serious about the Polytechnic, then they cannot allow the Minister of Agriculture to sell the Hope Dairy **Farm** and that the agricultural side of the Polytechnic should be removed from St. Michael.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister of Agriculture has not sold the Hope Dairy **Farm**. In recent days I have sold nothing.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, that is not a point of order because I did not say he had sold it. I said we cannot allow him to sell it. What I am saying is that we must keep the Hope Dairy **Farm** and that should be attached to the Samuel **Jackman** Prescod Polytechnic and the dairy side of that institution should go to St. Lucy. The Minister assures me that he is keeping the Hope and he has also considered my wish of transferring it to the Samuel **Jackman** Prescod Polytechnic so I thank you very much, Sir.

4.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we are building false hope in this country. Every time there is an unemployment situation in this country, we keep telling the young people that we would provide more opportunities for them to **train** but the only regrettable thing about it, Sir, we are not providing opportunities for those young people after they have finished training to find employment.

Mr. Chairman, my party of which the late, great **Errol** Barrow was the leader, once said that we should stop buying new cars and recondition the cars we have. You know, Sir, he got a lot of lashes for that. He said that in 1986, but Mr. Chairman, would you believe that now in the nineties, it seems that the only car you can afford to buy in Barbados is a car reconditioned in Japan. I ask one question, Sir, why is it that this Government, whenever it gets into power seems to be able to find some scheme to connect it to Japan. When they had the Japanese loan – Japan. The reconditioned cars – Japan. I want to know, Sir, why we could not use the Samuel **Jackman** Prescod Polytechnic to train the young people how to recondition cars and employ those people.

We are expanding the Samuel **Jackman** Prescod Polytechnic at a point in time when the jobs that we should be training them for have all gone to the people in Japan. What would the mechanics do? Would they have to look to see whether the reconditioned cars coming from Japan are in good condition? No, Sir. We do not need that. What we need is a policy in place to tell those mechanics that when they leave the Samuel **Jackman** Prescod Polytechnic that they can set up workshops and recondition cars. But we have already given it to the Japanese.

What is happening in this country? Am I to believe that there is nothing in this country for the small man to

get? Am I to believe that we must continue fooling our people that we are going to train them and then we are putting them to lime on the block. Sir, it is all good to train a man but after you have trained a man you also have to ensure that the infrastructure is in place that he can move on. After he leaves he needs to have something that he can move onto.

I must congratulate the Minister for training more carpenters because last week I enunciated a policy and I know that with that policy in place those carpenters would be able to find work, and that is, in the housing areas of Barbados. What we will do is, we will go in there and see those people who want to move out, who have enough money to build a house. We would take some Government **land**, put the necessary infrastructure in place and make sure that those young carpenters and masons, coming from the Polytechnic, build the **homes** for those people. Do not tell me it cannot work because the simple reason is that the land will have a higher value than what they are paying for it and they will be able to take the plot to the bank as collateral to borrow money to build the house. It is bright and it is enlightening. And, Sir, this foolishness about sites and services, as you know since May, I said I do not support sites and services because it is not for the small man but the policy that I am talking about is a policy for the small man. As I said in May, Sir, all we need to do in Barbados is to expand the districts that we currently have **because** if we expand the districts we would help with the crime situation in Barbados. All Government needs to do is put in the infrastructure.

It also tells me, Sir, that we have another problem. We are talking about expanding the intake in the hotel sector through the hotel school but at the same time that we are talking about that we are encouraging hoteliers to get involved in all-inclusive tourism and cutting out a large section of the service industry. It tells me that the policy of the Government is in conflict.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I would be very interested to know whose policy it is to encourage hoteliers in any particular direction.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is the policy of the Government that gives them tax **free** concessions on everything that they wanted. Sir, you cannot increase the intake at the hotel school and at the same time allow certain people in Barbados to go all-inclusive with the taxpayers money through concessions given by Government and to make sure that they deprive a large section of our people, especially the small man, from gaining employment in this country because what you will be getting, Sir ...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. **Chairman**, Sir, on a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He speaks of these things as though they are facts. It is scientifically untrue, this mythological small man he keeps talking about, who is deprived of what. Tell me the ways in which this small man is deprived in respect of all-inclusive. Explain that to me.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, anyone living in Barbados in 1996 can tell you, Sir, that if you are living in certain areas in Barbados and you are living around any properties that were all-inclusive, and I think the Honourable Minister should not ask me this question – she should go and ask the Prime Minister what effect all-inclusive tourism has had on Speightstown – because if you go into Speightstown they will tell you what effect it has on them and it is your duty to get on the ground like I do and find out what is going on.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN. They are late and you are about to murder it now because nearly every hotel in Barbados has it because we have this follow pattern policy where as soon as one person starts something everybody follows suit and nearly every hotel in Barbados soon from now will be all-inclusive and all those small shops in Barbados will soon be closed down and you are going to tell me that is an enlightening policy. That is not so. You do not understand the people you are dealing with. You are judging those people off your own self.

Mr. Chairman, of course it has to do with training and I am surprised about the Honourable Member for St. James North, a man who represents the majority of the small people whom I am defending. Mr. Chairman, when one listened to the debate previously one got the impression that we had no groups before. One got the impression that there was nothing called the 4H, the Scouts, the Girl Guides, or any other social club. We got the impression that the first time we are getting clubs in Barbados is now. I want to say and I am grateful to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East because I have been preaching in this Assembly now for two years that the clubs in St. Lucy should be given special praise. I am glad that my Honourable Member realises it and he has supported me on it. Thank you, Sir, but I want a community minded constituency and that is why it is being punished.

Let me tell you something, North Stars in 1994 started a project for \$260 000 for a pavilion and a social centre in Crab Hill. You should know because you were down there in the 1994-95 by-election as if you were in St. James North.

Mr. Chairman, we asked our people in St. Lucy to contribute \$260 000.

Aside.

Mr. D St. E. KELLMAN: Community Development, Sir, that is what we are dealing with. Some people will never understand these things, no matter how you preach it to them.

Mr. Chairman, North Stars is a good community group and now they are embarking on a project of \$260 000. I have asked for a contribution from Government even though it is a community project. I have asked Government to at least give them \$100 000 considering that the pavilions that were just built in the neighbouring area which happens to be before Judge Gap, the one in Diamond Corner and one in Speightstown cost over \$220 000 I asked them only for \$100 000 to help the people. Do you know why I ask Government? It is because they are building that project on Government land, land that was acquired for them by the Democratic Labour Party and I feel that any time you get a group that is prepared to spend over a quarter million dollars on property that belongs to Government, that Government should be committed to that project and the Government should use that project as an example to other communities that this is a project that all should follow. They do not get the \$100 000 but yet still every day you can hear about another pavilion being built at \$220 000. Yes, the St. **Elmo's** group at Pie Corner, the Windsor Club at Pie Corner and the Youth Horizon Club – I must congratulate those clubs for rebuilding the new **Rockfield** Community Centre. When people say that I am always **asking** for too much for the constituency of St. Lucy, I have a right because we put our sweat to try to get these things and I feel that it is only fair for the Government to come in and put in something. A Member today at the lunch table asked me what has happened in St. Lucy since all the rain has fallen and there is a lot of bush. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South will tell you that it did not take the rain to fall for all that bush to be in St. Lucy. We are dealing with the young people that will go to Samuel **Jackman** Prescod Polytechnic. These people, instead of devoting their time to going to Samuel **Jackman Prescod** Polytechnic, every Saturday and Sunday have to be in the community weeding the roads when we are paying people to weed the roads and they cannot get their fair share. You see, Sir, when you ask me to link, I can always link it.

4.30 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I do not mind you. I am going to tell the people that you are not representing their interest.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I **am** very glad that we had an opportunity to discuss this. I would also like to **see** the Youth Service take on another role because I believe that the land that the Youth Service is using at the naval base could easily be converted into a hotel. The Youth Service can still remain there and learn certain disciplines and be part of that project. It does not make sense having that good property and having people down there with lack of security. I **am** convinced that if we had a hotel down there, Sir, the problems we are hearing about the Youth Service in St. Lucy, we would not have to worry about because there would be security enough **down** there to deal with the particular problems. I am saying to the Honourable Minister to consult her comrade who is next to her to get a viable tourism project in St. Lucy and that could be the launching pad for a special project for the beautiful constituency of St. Lucy. You always talk about the beautiful City. I can talk about the beautiful St. Lucy.

Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to you. All those who feel that I should not represent the interest of the small man, I have no problems **with** them, **because** once I represent the interest of the small man, I am happy with myself.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to support this Resolution before this Honourable House this evening. I also want to say that the last Honourable Member who sat down, I believe for 8 years he failed to convince the then Government that the small man was important. It seems to me that the small man has now...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is saying that for the last 8 years in here that I failed to convince my Government to do something for my people. But I would like to remind the Honourable Member that he is misleading the House. I have only been here for 2 years. It might sound like 10, Sir, but it is only 2.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: The Honourable Member was not a member of that Party for only 2 years. He served on numerous boards and one recognized that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was always a card carrying member of that Party. I am saying categorically that he comes in here and pretends that he is a champion for the small man. He has not shown any tangible project for the small man and yet he is saying that he represents the small man. We must not use the small man for our own political gains. The point I want to make is that training is indeed important especially when one has to carry forward the programme of the present administration.

When one looks at the programme of this administration, one will see that training is essential. The last administration did not spend **too** much time

implementing and conceptualizing training. It was just a matter of going through **the** motion. The Polytechnic was not operating at its capacity. The Community College was not operating **at** its capacity. None of the education institutions were operating at a full capacity during the latter 1980s and into the early 1990s because most of the economic sectors were not performing **as** they should. **Once** the economic sectors came back into **prominence**, there was need for training. Therefore, the point that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South made earlier today is important that we in this Party **see** training **as** essential to the programme. For example, Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the sites and services programme that we have earmarked, between 1994 and today we have planned for over **1000** house spots.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has to note that he has gone a **little** bit off the topic. Could you please link it with the policy?

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: The point that I am **making** is that if you have a thousand lots and you have a housing programme that is planned you need to have training of masons, carpenters and joiners. If you look **at** the housing industry today, you will **see** that a **number** of homes **are** being constructed and there is a strong demand for carpenters and masons. Only recently, Mr. Chairman, I was talking to a contractor who told me that he could not find adequate masons and carpenters **today**. The majority of masons are not high quality masons. They are masons who are just make-shift and there is the need for training proper masons and carpenters in this country. We have a number of sites and services projects throughout Barbados that **are** now being constructed and there is a strong need for these artisans. The Polytechnic must redouble its efforts and the Skills Training Unit must redouble its efforts in **putting** out skilled tradesmen. It is important. Only this morning we opened a house at Eden Lodge and there were a number of young people who were training in steel bending, carpentry, masonry and tiling. We understand that this is **important**. I am not saying that the Samuel **Jackman Prescod** Polytechnic has not doubled its efforts, but I believe for more doubling at this stage and putting out more tradesmen. I recently asked a tutor about the places at Community College because a number of students **are** looking for places but the students cannot find places. **A** number of students receive 4 or 5 "O" Levels but because the competition is so tough they cannot find a place. I know of a number of students who **are** willing to get into the Polytechnic and the Community College but cannot get in because of a lack of space. I understand that the **Hospitality** Institution is now operating to its full capacity in the training of maids, **domestics**, bartenders and people to work within the hotel industry, but there is still a need for further training, because the number of people who want to be trained cannot **find** places.

4.40 p.m.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that these institutions should be operating not only for six months or nine months per year but for the full 12 months. They should be operating the semester system, but at the same time we need more tutors, more people to be involved within the College to prepare these young people for the world of work. It is not enough to say we have a doubling, we have 2400 people within the Polytechnic, we have more people within the Community College or the training institutions, but the time has come for these institutions to have year round training so that people would know that when they leave school at 16 or 18 and go into the Polytechnic or the Community College they will not be doing the same thing that they did before, but a higher level of technical training.

We are **calling**, therefore, on the Ministry to **see** what more can be done. I know the Minister has done tremendously good in terms of providing new equipment. For example, I understand new equipment was provided for the Community College and the Samuel **Jackman Prescod** Polytechnic. New computers were installed, more people are being trained, but there are still a number of young people who may not be able to take the examination which is set at the beginning of the term, but we definitely need more to be done either at the Polytechnic level or the **skills** training level so that these young people who are not necessarily as literate as they should be can go on to use their hands in trades like basketry and other small trades which will help them to provide a living for themselves.

As we expand our housing programme, there will be a need for these trades people. As we expand our tourism sector, there will be a need for people to work within the hotel industry and therefore there must be a continuous effort. We must redouble our effort in providing training for these young people. Not only the young people, but as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South made the point, people of all ages sometimes need to be trained. They need to be retrained not necessarily at the teenage level, but training is something that is ongoing and therefore we must train people for all facets of life.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I support this Resolution and I hope that the various tertiary institutions will try to redouble their efforts and see what more can be done to train Barbadians for the world of work.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. **Chairman**, I find it most interesting that the Government would first of all bring a Supplementary on anything into this House, because we were told most emphatically that Supplementaries were a thing of the past, that we had in fact a Minister of Finance who had such vision and foresight and precise planning that it will not longer be necessary for this House to labour over Supplementaries. This is the administration that has been talking about fore-planning and precise statements to

the public about their intentions regarding the governance of this country. They came to this country and **said** in a hot and sweaty manner that they were going to provide 30 000 jobs. The planners, men of vision, men of foresight, they were going to provide 30 000 jobs, yet we can see in a piecemeal manner a Supplementary which is seeking to qualify a position now held by the Minister of Education, finally, that before a person can get a job it is necessary for them to be trained. The Minister said that quite **eloquently** today.

Hon. Miss M. A. **MOTTLEY**: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am not surprised that the Honourable Member has once again sought to deliberately mislead this Honourable Chamber. I said it is my view that it is unwise for young people to go out there and get jobs unless they have a certificate or that they are training. If he wants to dissociate himself from that remark, and if he wants to continue a culture of mendicancy and pork barrel politics, as is the description that he has carried out and his predecessor in St. Michael East, then he is **free** to dissociate himself **from** those comments.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the Minister was very clear. She said if a person wants to access a job it is impossible to access a job unless you have some specific **skill** to show.

Hon. Miss M. A. **MOTTLEY**: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I will call for the record to be read.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: **Call** for the record. You said that if you want a job you must have something to show. Do not come in here and talk foolishness. That is what you said, that you must have something to show.

Hon. Miss M. A. **MOTTLEY**: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am asking for the record to be called. I said it was my view and that I believe a person should have training or certificates before they get a job if they were young persons, if not they would be moving from pillar to post. I never said they had to have it in order to get a job. If the Honourable Member does not understand that, perhaps that is the clearest reflection that he never had any sense from the time he came in here.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will disregard those comments. I am dealing with what was said in this Honourable Chamber today. The impression was conveyed today – and I am not against in principle...

Hon. Miss B. A. **MILLER**: On a point of order, Sir. We cannot deal with impressions. Matters were either said in here or they were not said. We cannot deal with impressions.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, send for the record, because I am not going to change my position. That is what the Minister said.

The point was being made, Mr. Chairman, and maybe quite rightfully so, that it is necessary, if a person wants to progress themselves to seek or to find employment, for you to have a skill or something to show. The Minister made that point today. I am not offended by the comment the Minister made, so I do not understand why she has to get hot under the collar.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do not feel it is fair to me as an Honourable Member to have made an objection on the basis of something that I was alleged to have said, and I did not say. I have said I did not say it, you have sent for the record and the Honourable Member persists in going down that line. I do not believe it is fair and he is deliberately misleading the House again. What I offered today was my opinion. If he wants to offer his opinion, let him do so, but do not let him recite me as having made a statement that you have to have skills or training or certificates to get a job in this country.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR:... But I made the point and the Minister made the point today that to access work and increase your chances – if I can put it properly. I am not trying to be offensive to her – of accessing employment, to give you more guarantee that you would be better served if you acquired a specific skill. I am trying to be fair to you. I have no difficulty with that but it has taken the Government 2 years plus to come to the realisation that the promise of 30 000 jobs was based entirely on political motivations, had absolutely nothing to do with common sense or a systematic approach to developing the Barbadian in the modern context of Barbados.

If we are going to look at the development of our economy in terms of the informatic sector, the development of tourism, in terms of the development of agriculture, in housing, in whatever infrastructure you are looking at to develop Barbadians we have to seek to put the necessary training in place to put Barbadians to work. I have no quarrel with the training programme but the Democratic Labour Party when we left office in 1994 the record would reflect that we were in the process of developing disciplines. There were in the National Training Board some 32 different disciplines where people were being trained in. Not to become a doctor or a lawyer; but there were 32 different disciplines in the National Training Board where several persons were benefiting from that training programme. Some 3 months, some 4 months and some 5 months programmes.

The same thing happened at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the same level of training was taking

place at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. The Community College which was bitterly criticised by the Barbados Labour Party, today they can now talk about expanding programmes at the Community College that they bitterly criticised and objected to. I wonder what kind of vision they had, Mr. Chairman, because the Democratic Labour Party is traditionally a party that has had a long vision in terms of preparing people for the world of work in Barbados over the last 30 years. It is a fact.

They who criticised the Community College have the temerity to come in here today in a piecemeal manner with a supplementary to give the impression that they are now creating an environment for a whole mass of people when in fact it may only be about 500 or 600 people, if I even say 1000 people that are being now pulled into the system. We are pulling people into the system into disciplines that we have no guarantee that when they leave the institutions that they can walk into a job just like that. It is not possible. There are several people who have been trained even between the period 1986 and 1994 who still are unable to use those skills to find employment. There are several people in several disciplines because the infrastructure as presently exists is not accommodating them. We have a problem in Barbados because the economy is too small. There are too many people. Even the Honourable Member for St. George North just made that point that there are people scrambling to get into the training institutions far less their getting training and then finding a job. So we must not create false impressions.

I am charging the Government and I am not going to congratulate it at all on bringing this legislation. In fact, it offends me and any supplementary that comes in there is going to offend me because it tells me that the Government has no forward planning and it is doing business in a piecemeal manner. If the Honourable Minister was serious about protecting the youth they would have brought this in a Budget and not in a piecemeal manner in here. Fund it in its entirety. Don't come in here with any supplementary. Fund it, if you have forward planning and make sure that all the programmes after the implementation of the training will result in jobs that you promised the people of this country that you would deliver or apologise to them and leave office and go about your business. That is what you have to do. But don't come into this House talking vaguely about informatics and all this kind of foolishness giving the impression that you are doing something for the young people of this country.

When I was Minister of Labour it was our intention to expand the training programme under the CVET programme where we would have taken the building at St. Lucy, the naval base, and convert it into a skills training centre, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South suggested, that we should probably take it there, that

we should take and expand and decentralise the training centres for skills training.

I recall going down to the naval base with the officials from the Ministry of Labour and we were systematically trying to put in place new centres so that we could have expanded the skills training programme to include people from the north, from the eastern section of Barbados but we were trying to identify a building in the east of Barbados so that we would have been able to decentralise the training. So it is nothing new. It is a programme that was in place. It is a continuing programme and it is necessary but this country must start looking at the young people in the face and telling them the truth that Barbados has a real problem.

We have university graduates, people with "A" levels, people with "O" levels, many young people. If you look at the surveys and the people you interview in your own constituencies you would see that a high percentage of them, 70% to 75% of them will indicate to you in their personal interviews that they have gone to secondary school, that they have reached 5th form, they have not done GCE. They have no skills, that they only have school leaving certificates and they might not even have passed that. Many people have gone that road. Up to this morning, I was interviewing one of my constituents and I asked how far have you gone in school. "Well, I did school leaving but I really didn't get back the school leaving certificate." I was trying to send her to a job that requires a person having at least two certificates. So it is a problem that we have in the society.

I understand the effort the Minister is trying to make in terms of expanding the programme but what offends me is the fact that today in 1996 that the Minister has now come to the realisation that it is a process you have to go through just declaring her policy and her Government's policy of saying you would provide 30 000 jobs to be a complete farce and a mockery inflicted on the people in this country. You should apologise and say you have now come to the realisation that it is now right and proper for us to do training before we can access jobs.

That is why it is important for me to have made the statement I made earlier because the Minister has just come to the realisation that it is now necessary to have a skill before you can be employed.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Don't mind I suffer with asthma. I will warm up.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I know you love me. I lifted you up from the time you were born and you love the dirt that I walk upon. I still love you.

Mr. Chairman, I just would wish the programme well. I will say a lot more on this in the future because it is a subject that is very dear to me. The Government has now come to the realisation that it is necessary to train young people. It is heartbreaking when you see young people who are energetic, have basic education, because they have at least gone to secondary school and they are just sitting by the roadside seemingly totally helpless and nobody to come to their rescue.

On both sides of the House we should stop playing political games with the people of this country. Let us explain to them that there is a process of development that has to take place in this country. The persons who do it, whether it is the present Minister of Education or whoever does it, I am prepared to stand and shake their hands and congratulate them. But what offends me is the game playing in the whole exercise. We have to come clean once and for all with the people of this country and especially with this question of education.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to have to close because I am getting a little out of breath but I hope that the Minister will take my words and don't be offended by the fact that I have indicated that she has finally come to the realisation and her Government has finally come to the realisation that there is a process to be gone through and they have just recently got there.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I am heartened by the large number of young people in Barbados who recognise the need both to further their education and to submit to training. Very often in Barbados we have a situation where some people make the unfortunate generalisation that our young people have gone adrift and even though it is true that the behaviour of some young people whom I consider to be a minority might cause concern, I recognise from my interaction with scores and scores of young people that there are those young people out there who recognise that the only way forward is to learn a skill to further their education and to keep on broadening their horizons.

5.00 p.m.

Our party's record, Mr. Chairman, is a consistent record. Our party's record, indeed, Mr. Chairman, is a proud record because in addition to all we have done for primary and secondary education throughout the years in this country, we were able to launch the Skills Training Programme through the activities of the National Training Board. That Skills Training Programme has provided a wide range of practical training and has offered

an enormous amount of skills to young people who in most cases have been able to make use of the training they got at the hands of the National Training Board.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South suggested there are those **who** feel that our Polytechnic is not patterned along the same lines as polytechnics abroad. What can be said, Mr. Chairman, is that our Polytechnic seems to represent an institution that offers a mix of both secondary and tertiary education. I believe when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South made the observation that polytechnics overseas, and I believe by implication he suggested that many polytechnics overseas are closer to universities in their *modus operandi*, I believe we have to take into account the realities of the Barbadian educational landscape.

We have a situation here where there are those students who graduate from secondary school at age 16 or 17 with some experience in academic areas who want to benefit from training in practical areas. The Samuel **Jackman Prescod** Polytechnic, and to some extent the Barbados Community College, **are** able to assist persons who are in need of further training. I do not know if at this point in Barbados' history we can develop our polytechnic into a university type institution. I rather doubt it. I would think that when we consider what is transpiring in Barbados that perhaps what the Polytechnic needs to do is to look closely at its curriculum to see to what extent the curriculum is to be revised or reviewed for further improvement and also look at the extent to which the demand for places in the Polytechnic is sometimes greater than the supply of places.

In fact, one concern I have is that there are those people of Barbados with a high amount of academic training who at some points in their lives want to go to the Polytechnic to do things like plumbing, the trade of electricians, airconditioning and refrigeration but because of their heavy academic bias they are often refused places.

I know several examples in Barbados where there are people with university degrees who want to go to the Samuel **Jackman Prescod** Polytechnic to do practical areas and are deemed to be overqualified for entry there. This is unfortunate because there is nothing wrong with a fellow who has a degree wanting to go and learn to be a plumber at the Polytechnic. There is nothing wrong with a fellow who has done very well in academic areas wanting to go to learn airconditioning and refrigeration. I am a little bit concerned, Mr. Chairman, that a lot of people who really want to go in the evening, part-time to give themselves a practical skill having done well academically are denied on the ground that they are overqualified.

Now, this has nothing to do with any reflection on the Minister. These are concerns that do with the internal

arrangement of matters within the Polytechnic as the internal administration at the Polytechnic of wisdom. I am also taken aback that a lot of young people are denied **entry** often because it is said that there are few places available compared with the number of applicants but sometime one wonders if the system of selection of students is a consistent or realistic one based on the type of person who is turned back. What it could be telling us that we, perhaps, as policy makers have to look at the Polytechnic to see to what extent expansion of its curriculum might be necessary. That message might be coming through to us.

I want at this point, Mr. Chairman, to mention a concern I have in relation to two things about Barbados. One is the high population and the other is the extent to which several people in our population remain **unskilled**. I remember a debate in this Honourable House, Mr. Chairman, when Mr. Robert Morris said that one fundamental problem with Barbados was its high population and that there was such a thing in Barbados as population pressure. One is left to wonder whether were it not for the Barbados Family Planning and the activities of those who promoted family planning where Barbados would really have gone when one considers the size of Barbados' population.

The speaker on that occasion, Mr. Robert Momo, mentioned that one fundamental problem which put pressure on our resource and which contributed to the unemployment situation was the very enormous population which Barbados has. There are historians who would tell you that ever since 1800 Barbados would have **been** deemed an overpopulated country. **Partially** as a result of this, along with some other factors, we have a situation in Barbados where a lot of people in Barbados are unskilled. They are unskilled to the degree where, unfortunately, a lot of them appear not to be too marketable on the job market. We have this problem where there are people who have spent 4 years, 5 years at secondary school, have no qualification, have no **skills**, are most unskilled, are confused as a result, come to you and tell you they will take anything knowing deep down in their hearts they are not going to do any menial labour, and a lot of them go on to associate with other people in that same predicament or develop a feeling of fatalism about their role in this country.

We in the Barbados Labour Party have been very consistent and persistent with our programmes about training and, as I said earlier, Mr. Chairman, we introduced the National Training Board. We developed the Polytechnic further than what it was developed. We, I believe, at one period actually actively incurred something called "apprenticeship." But when you have a huge amount of unskilled persons who are virtually unmarketable in the

job market, what you are really having is a situation where precious human resources are in peril of being wasted.

At the same time, lots of these people will put pressure on the **social** services. A lot of them develop the misfortune of responding to their unfortunate plight by generating further misfortune. I saw a young girl **who** was absolutely unskilled, absolutely unemployable, not prepared for the job market and a couple weeks ago I saw her pregnant. This is one of these things that happens to the **unskilled** who end up being very much indigent as a result and who sometimes seem to believe fatalistically that there is no future in this world for them.

As the Honourable Minister of Education has indicated more than once, we have to develop our programme for youth, education and our programme of training in such a way as to deal with the culture of the mendicant. Too many of these **unskilled** people actually end up being mendicants for the reason that since they cannot work and can generate no income and still have to live, they must find some source of support and, as indicated, a lot of them end up putting pressure on the welfare services.

I want at this point, **Mr. Chairman**, to mention something that really pleased me recently. A young man came to me, he was about **28** years old. He told me that he was in search of employment. When I was careful to interview this young man, he had five skills and could prove these skills and I had little difficulty finding somewhere for him. Now if you could, **Mr. Chairman**, or anybody could encourage people to develop many skills, as I have indicated in this Honourable House before, we can do a lot to assist them. What I am saying, as I have said before, **Mr. Chairman**, is that in an era where competition for scarce jobs is severe, in an era where it is a danger and **risk** to specialise only in one career or only in one profession, we need to encourage people to develop as many areas of interest as possible and to have as many skills as possible in the same way I mentioned that a young man came to me with five **skills**.

The point I would like to make for **all** those young people over there is that while 40 years ago a fellow could have been a specialist carpenter assured of a secured place in the labour force, we have come to a point now where several people **are** competing for the same job. I **know** of an instance where there was one job advertised and 700 people applied for that job in a situation where it was only available to one person. What I am saying is that where a person is a specialist plumber, for example, and the opportunities for plumbing are not great and he has one or two other skills then he is in a better position to compete in the labour market. At the same time these very many **skills** existing in the bosom of one individual would permit

that individual to be able to enhance his income even if he was **working** in his **skill** of first choice because if he worked in his skill of first choice and wanted further income he could very well use his skill of second or third choice to do part-time or evening work and enhance his income.

5.10 p.m.

I think the Honourable Minister is right for the measures she is taking to relieve this culture, what I call the culture of the mendicant. She is right for doing her best to propose effective programmes for young people. She is right for encouraging young people to develop skills and she is doing everything within her power to make sure that as Minister of Education she is giving young people a chance to fulfil themselves.

I have no difficulty, **Mr. Chairman**, in supporting this because I see this as yet another programme of the Barbados Labour Party that is geared towards developing our people. Our record in education as indicated is second to no party in Barbados. Our determination to provide a better life for Barbados is a thing that cannot be contradicted and we will not be diverted in our determination to make sure that precious human resources are developed and are given the opportunity to achieve self-actualisation in a country that is very heavily populated and in an economy where the unskilled are finding that they are increasingly becoming marginalised and the opportunities open for them are closing. I therefore would encourage all Barbadians, especially young people, to do their utmost to benefit from the numerous training facilities that are made available to them.

Mr. Chairman, with these remarks I wholeheartedly support the Honourable Minister in this matter.

Hon. Miss **B. A. MILLER**: **Mr. Chairman**, I would like to say a few words in support of this Resolution as well. Let me start off by saying this. I am sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Michael East is taken ill. Well he is suffering some discomfort, because I wish he would hear.

The Honourable Minister of Education I hope, when she gets up to reply in this debate, will speak to the fact that this supplementary is partly occasioned by unfinished business left by the last administration. Unpaid bills ...

Aside.

Hon. Miss **B. A. MILLER**: So late? There is even more outstanding and I hope that the Minister is going to, for the record, make it clear to the House. I want to hear the full breakdown and what these moneys represent.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point that I got up to make is this. I see my constituents, once I am in Barbados, every Wednesday afternoon at my constituency office. I see them other times besides but that is the time when they know for sure that I am going to be there. Some of them come by appointment and I am there until all hours, nine and ten o'clock at night. And as long as they know I am waiting until late, somebody will send dinner for me.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I go on and on saying to them all the time. Nobody calls me and says, Miss Miller you know somebody who wants a job? Nobody ever says that to me. I wish they would. People call me. Miss Miller you know somebody who is a carpenter? Miss Miller I am **looking** for a mason. I want a lady who can sew good, who can **do fine** work. I say to my constituents, do you realise what is going on here? People are identifying **skills** that they want. And we have found, particularly in urban St. Michael, Mr. Chairman, Sir, and I believe that you will find it true in urban Christ Church. Rural needs may be different. The number of people who come to you and have to tell you that they want to be somebody's maid, that they want to be a NCC ranger and a school meals worker. Do you know what I have to say to people all the time? That cannot be the high point of your ambition. But let me tell you a lot of these people who are coming to tell us this are women and a lot of these women are heads of households in Barbados and carry weighty **responsibility** for feeding children, for feeding aged parents, for feeding anybody who may be sick in **the** district or cannot do for themselves, for carrying the unemployed and the unemployable. Do not let us forget the voluntarily idle. It is a **shocking** thing the number of times I have to quarrel in my constituency office. You get an offer for a job and you call somebody and then they do not go. My Parliamentary Assistant cries at least once a week. Why didn't you go for the job? "I had to go somewhere for my mother." "I baking, I can't go now."

You write testimonials for people. I see Honourable Members all nodding their heads on both sides of the Floor that this is true. People who are looking for a **salary** but not looking for a job. So do not let us fool ourselves that we are always going to have among us those who, as the Honourable Member who just spoke said, have considerable skills but not really interested in employing those skills. They are living the sweet life. They are living off their grandmother's pension, their father and their mother. Spoilt children all over the place. The safety net that we put underneath them and they do not feel that they have to make their contribution to this community that nurtures them. But they are only the minority. The majority of people, particularly the women, out there do need this employment.

I got so desperate in my constituency that we put together our own **skills** training programme and I know that

Honourable Members in here have been forced to do that too. I see Honourable Members on the Other Side. I see the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. I see him in the newspaper from time to time. I hear him all over the television and so on struggling. I do it with less fanfare in my own constituency and I know that other Honourable Members do it. It all comes back to the point that it is **skills** that people identify and it is therefore **skills** that are required in our community.

This is not 40 years ago when every home would have a maid in it. Nobody bothers with that that much nowadays. Everybody has their own modern appliances and as usual women doing 2 and 3 jobs, including me. When Honourable Members in here who are gentlemen go home some lady is going to put a hot meal on the table in front of them and they are going to sleep on clean linen. I have to go home and cook my meal and make up my own bed and most people are doing that so you do not have as many jobs going in the unskilled areas as you used to do. In none of the sectors, not in agriculture, not in manufacturing, not in tourism.

I hear the Honourable Minister of Education is saying, and it pleases me greatly, that at the Hospitality Institute of the Barbados Community College they are now structuring courses for people who went into the industry **unskilled** five, ten and fifteen years ago, and who can be the beneficiaries of training and enhancement without having to go through the entry process into the Community College. I think that this is laudable because people have to re-tool and people have to upgrade and enhance their skills. The Barbados economy is a services economy right across the board. Let us face the facts. Tourism is service that we offer people. International trading business – those are off-shore services that we are offering the international community and this is not service that we are offering each other at home. That is another kettle of fish that I would like to address as well.

5.20 p.m.

In the area of the entertainment industry, culture and sports, all of those areas are services now that we are offering and not just to ourselves at home. We have to have a product worthy of recognition at the international level. In order to prepare people to deliver these services, we have to have these **skills**. Despite everything and we stand criticism of it, we know that we have in this region and in this hemisphere the best education system there is. We reserve the right because it is ours to criticize it and keep it at a minimum high level, a level below which it must not fall, and we are right to do that. But this and the quality of life that we enjoy have disqualified us for certain niches which used to be a feature of life in Barbados 15 years ago. I am not talking about in our parents or grandparents' lifetime. I am **talking** about in our life-

time, Sir. Fifteen or 20 years ago garment was all the industry that you found in the industrial estates in Barbados. Garments dominated. Nowadays, that is not the case. One by one they have gone elsewhere for all sorts of reasons, some of which have to do with the cost of labour in our country and a whole host of other things beside. Now that has been overtaken by informatics. I was down this morning in the boat and I saw in the Harbour Industrial Estate building going on a pace. They have run out factory space in the BIDC to accommodate these people. These people are bringing businesses here and looking for people skilled in these jobs and cannot find them in Barbados. We have the duty. The Minister of Education can speak to these things because these matters are referred to her Ministry. When somebody comes in to the Ministry of International Trade and Business or the Ministry of Commerce and Small Business and says that I was to set up a particular industry and I am going to need 200 to 500 people skilled in a particular area, you cannot find them in Barbados.

Let me tell you something too, Mr. Chairman. When this economy really starts to heat up next year, I do not know what is going to happen. You have the airport where that expansion project will start. You have the Bridgetown Sea Port. You have the rehabilitation of Bridgetown getting on the way. The rehabilitation of Speightstown getting on the way, but that is already on the way. The Port St. Charles Marina is all part and parcel of that. A lot of this is private sector driven. You are going to have works going on in respect of rural development, urban renewal going on and housing projects going on which I am pleased to say the second phase housing at Pondsides in the City of Bridgetown. You have to have people skilled to deliver these and the truth is, Mr. Chairman, as you must know of your own experience, that the way in which skills which are traditional skills are delivered nowadays is changing. A carpenter does not come to work with the old-time tool box on a bicycle or come by the bus. He is driving his car and he has got all manner of modern, electrical and goodness what other tools, equipment and appliances with which he does his job. So even the ways in which we do traditional tasks are changing and we have to keep up with them. I am so pleased that I can say of my own knowledge that Barbados has come to be a place where contractors will ask of somebody coming to work: "Did you go to the Polytechnic?"

I want to agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South that the Minister of Education really does need to look at this whole business of the misnomer of the SJPP. Even while I was in the Ministry of Education, I made the point that in my view both the Barbados Community College and the SJPP were described as post secondary institutions and that they having separate or different campuses should be one institution with one

governance and that we should be looking to the University of the West Indies for certain areas of accreditation. But I was not getting support for that view at that time and I hope that this Minister of Education will have a better time with those who describe themselves as educators and those who have experience and expertise to bear on this matter. But we will look at it because accreditation is very important here, Sir. There is no good that you go to an institution and you get a certificate and then it really is not recognized by anybody. It is only a piece of paper. The accreditation process is important because it allows people then the kind of recognition that they would be expecting and looking for. It allows us to put ourselves on par with similar institutions outside of Barbados. There is a lot of movement. Barbadians do not readily appreciate, Mr. Chairman, the numbers who travel out and travel in on a regular basis in Barbados. There are skilled people in Barbados now who work here some of the time and work outside of Barbados the rest of the time. That is going to become more and more the way of the future. Just as in the early 21st century again more and more people are going to be involved with working out of their homes. People are going to be delivering skills in a quite different way to the economy than they did 30 or 40 years or 100 years ago. We cannot wait, Mr. Chairman, until the year 1999 to be addressing these matters. If Barbados is to be tooled up or kidded up to take advantage of all of these initiatives across all sectors of our economy, the process has to start now.

Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely no hesitation in giving my support to this. There is one last point that I want to make. Honourable Members on the Other Side go on and on about 30 000 jobs. The first question that Honourable Members on the Other Side must ask: How did 30 000 people become unemployed in Barbados in the first place? They did not fall like manna from heaven. In September 1994 the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, then the Leader of the Opposition, said and he is not reneging from it that it should not be an impossible thing in Barbados to create 30 000 jobs. He said that because we knew that 30 000 people or more were unemployed at the time and unemployment was running at 27 per cent in this country. It was the highest ever in the history of Barbados and people went to the polls in September 1994 and voted on that issue. Barbadians are not fools. We are highly sophisticated and highly educated people and they know that 30 000 jobs will not be created in one year or one month. It is to the credit of this Government that close to 9 000 jobs in less than 2 years have been created. That does not account for all of the jobs that cannot be accounted for in the informal sector.

Aside.

5.30 p.m.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is what the informal sector is, all those who vend. Let the people

in markets tell you. I sat in at a meeting with the Honourable Minister of Public Works about two weeks ago. The number of vendors in Barbados has doubled since September 1994. In our Manifesto, you see, Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you will recall, we made certain assertions, certain promises and certain proposals. We had a plan for vendors and that is under way. The Cheapside Market is another project we will start up.

Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I only have one more minute on this, but I really want to say that I believe it is entirely possible that at the end of this term for this Government in excess of 30 000 jobs may well have been created. The question is, can we fill them with the required skills? This is the challenge the Minister of Education is facing, and rather than cry her down and criticise her negatively, people ought to be offering at the very least, if they want to be critical, critical support to this, because this goes for every Honourable Member in here. That is what we are in here about. It is part of the representation which we must give to our constituents and so all of us should have an interest to support this and to offer ongoing support as the Minister has asked for in respect of these matters.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to support the Honourable Member in what she said, but we would also like to see the support not only going to certain types of people, but we would like to see those young chefs when they are trained at the Hotel School and then they go on to other training areas, that when they come back here they are allowed to be appointed as chefs in Barbados. I look forward to the day when the unions in Barbados are prepared to strike on behalf of our chefs, because for years we have been hearing people complaining about how we have been training our local chefs and hoteliers in this country are applying for work permits for people who are less qualified than our chefs. I will support any union that is prepared to close down the hotel industry in support of our chefs. I feel they are well trained and we have spent millions of dollars training our people.

We must also make sure that when we are representing unions we are not representing unions against our own people.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I will never touch the Central Bank. I have to keep clear of the Central Bank; because some of the people come from St. Lucy and I know where to deal with that. But if you are saying it is a crime to employ people from St. Lucy at the Central Bank, then I have a problem and I will have to support my

constituents. If we spend money supporting and training people, whether they work at the Central Bank or not, they must be allowed to get promotion. I do not want any flimsy excuses, because I think it is regrettable that some people in Barbados believe because you have the name "Miller" you should not get a job because you might be related to the Minister. I feel everybody in Barbados has an opportunity to get promotion and you should be given the right to get promotion. We have chefs coming to Barbados who have not been trained with our taxpayers' money but they can get all the jobs and nobody is complaining.

Sir, I support any motion that is going to help train our people for jobs in Barbados. I will not support any motion that tells me it is right for people to come from overseas and get jobs in Barbados when we have been spending millions of dollars supporting our people to help elevate themselves.

Thank you very much.

Mr. J. O. **TUDOR**: Mr. Chairman, the record of the House earlier today was sent for and the record indicates the Hon. Miss M.A. Mottley as saying:

"I keep saying, Mr. Chairman, that any young person under 25 should not seek to go for work *unless* they have a skill or a certificate to be able to give someone a reason to hire them. At the end of the day when you want your roof fixed, you look for a carpenter. When your stomach is hurting you, you look for a doctor *or* a nurse, or even a pharmacist. When your child gets in trouble, you look for a lawyer. When your walls need fixing, you *look* for a mason."

The Honourable Minister continues, Mr. Chairman:

"When your sink needs fixing you look for a plumber. You have as a young person to give people a reason to hire your services if not they will only give you money when they feel generous and you will continue to be dependent on people for handouts or for generosity in order to survive in this world."

That is what I said the Honourable Minister said. I was not trying to take the Honourable Minister out of context. I just thought I would put that back into the record.

Hon. Miss M. A. **MOTTLEY**: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all Honourable Members who spoke in this debate, particularly the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, whose contribution was very constructive as usual, and to answer a number of the queries he raised and some of his suggestions.

In relation to his proposal that all hard courts should be lit, I believe that is something the National Sports Council should seek to investigate, because the reality is that part of the thrust of the Ministry of Youth Affairs is to ensure that there can be structured supervised activity at as much time during the day for young people, whether it be sports activity, cultural activity or academic activity, or indeed employment. Therefore I would heartily support that suggestion.

His related point in relation to mini stadia, I can perhaps say at this stage that the Ministry is in very early discussions with a young entrepreneur who wants to put down seating on a number of grounds, school pastures, so that you have the capacity to seat people around playing fields so that they then have the potential to allow economic activity out of sports and cultural activities to be developed at the community level. This is consistent with a policy which the Barbados Labour Party advocated in its 1991 Manifesto, where it in fact used the exact words "the construction of mini stadia across communities across Barbados" and used again in its 1994 Manifesto, and therefore the discussions which we are having with this young entrepreneur - only today, in fact, we received communication from him and we are in the process of seeing how this might be facilitated to the mutual advantage of everyone concerned. It is important that communities have the capacity to be able to generate revenue from sports and culture based activities, but you cannot do that if the playing field is not fenced or if there is no seating capacity for patrons. Even if the entrance fee is \$2 or \$5 it makes a difference and goes some way towards the cost of their expenses in relation to that activity. So I would wholeheartedly support his suggestion and say that this in fact has been the policy of the Barbados Labour Party since its 1991 Manifesto. The reality is that in relation to some grounds that are not in schools, it falls not to the Ministry of Education but the Sports Council, and I certainly would undertake to have discussions with the National Sports Council in this regard.

He also spoke about the transforming of secondary school halls into theatres. Now, some of them in fact can be used for theatrical activities and some of them by construction cannot be so converted. It is interesting that this was one of the suggestions that has come out of the national consultation on culture and I believe that this one Government is prepared to support in relation to the further development of cultural activities in Barbados as well as the enhancement of the school plan. Equally, it will then allow schools to be able to earn revenue independently since they will be renting the halls to persons who are hosting productions usually for a fee and therefore there will be a rental fee involved that will accrue to the school concerned.

5.40 p.m.

Equally, another one of the suggestions in relation to the Best Village Competition we are not going to go down the line of a Best Village Competition but we strongly believe that NIFCA must be returned to the community level and in fact we hope that the plans that we are putting in place would allow us from next year to have NIFCA further decentralised and indeed to allow a number of events to take place at the community level and to ensure that it is not only the schools participating but seeking to get community groups and organisations, church clubs etc. fully participating in NIFCA again and to ensure that their participation is at the level of the community so that the people from whom they come can come and see the type of work which they are performing.

In respect of the Super Five that he spoke about, the reality is that there is no real difference between the Super 5 concept that he spoke about which is being employed in Trinidad and Tobago and the mass based training which we are doing in Barbados in relation to the youth programmes. As I said, in January, we trained 1 400 people. In July we trained just under 1 700. Therefore bringing over 3 000 young people into training in cultural and sports based activities with sports accounting for just over 60% of that training activity and the sports relate from football to volleyball to 3 or 4 different sports and we are in fact using people who are qualified and have reached a certain level in these disciplines to provide the training at the community level all across Barbados. So that is in effect -- we don't call it Super 5. Perhaps we should get a name that is more attractive for marketing and I thank him therefore for that suggestion so that we can capture people's imagination.

I am sure that as Chairman of Committees, Sir, you can assist us in that regard in terms of finding a marketable name for the programme. But the substance is these and the results are there.

In relation to the Landship I want to point out that prior to 1994 there was no subvention to the Landship when we came into Government within recent years and this Government in fact felt strongly enough that the Landship needed financial support. It is the oldest indigenous, social institution in Barbados. It was there before the Kiwanis and the Jaycees and the Rotary and all of that and has played a significant role in the development of social life at the level of the community over 130 years and we strongly support anything, not only in terms of financial assistance but technical assistance that can be provided for the Landship.

In fact, Captain Watson who is the main person at the Landship is still employed by the National Cultural Foundation. We hope to be able to cany up incrementally that \$2 000 each year to be able to meet their needs.

We also, however, would like to see them develop a programme to attract young people. They have been doing so in two or **three** communities across Barbados, St. Peter being one, but we think that they need to spread their base even more and adapt themselves to be able to attract more young people to see it not only as a social organisation. **For** many years in this country it also provided the role of a friendly society and was therefore able to meet the material needs of many Bajans across Barbados.

The subvention to Pinelands and other groups we would love to be able to do all of those things but we have demands at the Foundation which have to be met in terms of the central role it has to play for the development in each of the disciplines. We do not have a subvention listed for each of these community groups because there are over 100 community organisations in Barbados and it would be impossible for Government to provide financial support for all. We do, however, assist when we can when they request and indeed, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East will know that I am speaking the truth in that regard without my having to say **anymore** at this stage.

The concern raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in relation to the Polytechnic, let me say that I wholeheartedly agree with you that the Polytechnic should be renamed. It is a misnomer but I do not want to take a piecemeal action in this regard because I believe that it is not simply the name of the Polytechnic which needs looking at but the Ministry is now looking at a **proposal** which I understand was first looked at by the Honourable Member for the City when she was Minister of Education.

In fact, it is interesting that when the consultants came in for the World Bank loan just 2 weeks ago, one of them indicated that he in fact had done the study but somehow or the other it was lost to the Ministry's records and we therefore want to see a study which will look at ensuring that there is a rationalisation of the management of the Community College, the Polytechnic and Erdiston because the reality is that there **are** 3 institutions and there is a lot of duplication in terms of their individual circumstances and there may be economies of scale as well as benefits from rationalisation if there is central management and central planning in respect to the three institutions. All three are post-secondary institutions catering to different needs but the reality is the administrative management like at the university you have different faculties and different schools but there is central management in relation to them. We therefore commit ourselves to examining whether it is feasible and whether it makes sense and whether there will be greater benefits if we were to go in that direction or whether we should keep them separate.

At the very least we agree that the Polytechnic should be renamed and we want to look at that all in the same study. **As** I indicated earlier, we received Part I of a study which is being done on the administrative and reporting structures and the financial structures of the Polytechnic and we are in the process of examining the report which was submitted in Phase 1.

In relation to the **Honourable** Member's for Christ Church South other concerns about the instructors, I am happy to say that after negotiations between the Ministry of the Civil Service and the National Union of Public Workers it was agreed that the Erdiston Vocational Teachers in-Service Training Programme in Adult Education which is a one-year programme would qualify persons for appointment as an instructor at the Polytechnic and, as a result, this problem which we found on caning into Government has finally been solved and resolved in a satisfactory manner for all parties and 16 persons have in fact been appointed with effect from their acting period, in some instances as far back as 2 and 3 years ago. So they would not have been prejudiced by the fact that the negotiations have taken so long to be completed, but they in fact would have benefited in that delay.

There is another concern which they have in relation to the disparity of pay in relation to other institutions. This matter is still engaging both the Ministry of the Civil Service and the Ministry of Education and I give this Honourable Chamber my word that we will hope to bring this matter to a speedy resolution to the satisfaction of all tutors involved at the Polytechnic and other institutions in relation to technical and vocational education.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke briefly about the removal of the agricultural programme at the Polytechnic from Eckstein Village. Let me say to you that that programme is currently run on 5 acres in Eckstein Village and we have in fact tentatively agreed to the site at the Pine by the Livestock Station to be used not only by the Samuel Jaclunan Prescod Polytechnic but by the Barbados Community Collge and 2 or 3 other institutions. We **are** still in the process of negotiating certain things with the Ministry of Agriculture and I hope that that will be fully on stream for the next academic year, September 1997.

5.50 p.m.

The point made by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister in relation to unemployment is one I would want to underscore. The reality is that you cannot deal with unemployment in Barbados unless you understand that the nature of the economy has changed, people's desires and spending patterns have changed and therefore the types of jobs which occurred and were found regularly in the society and in the economy 10 years ago are not those which **are** being found today in the same number. Unless

you therefore change your training patterns to ensure that you can prepare people for the new types of jobs that exist you are going to get yourself in good trouble. We had reached that point in this country.

Contrary to what the Honourable Member for St. Michael East said, we have started the expansion of training programmes within six months of coming into Government in Barbados. Within six months of September 1994, all the planning was starting to take place with relation to expansion of programmes. By September 1995 we expanded the Polytechnic from 1 400 to 2 000 within one year of being in Government. Within one year of being in Government we introduced 11 new courses. Within one year of being in Government we built two computer labs, took decisions that saw the expansion of the hospitality institute, took decisions that saw the expansion of the youth service, took decisions that saw to the expansion of the Skills Training Programme and more importantly than that, took the fundamental decision that a 3-month training programme with the Skills Training Programme which the last Government was executing was of no use neither to the youngster who was undergoing the training nor to the country or the employer.

Therefore, while I accept readily that there was work done by the last Government in relation to the preparation of technical and vocational training and rationalisation, the reality was that they did not take the fundamental step of ensuring that the quality of training available at the Training Board could be expanded from the 3-month programme to a 9-month programme. I want to congratulate the Minister of Labour for doing that within one year of being in office and those 9-month programmes led to the opening of a house completely built by persons who underwent the training programme as **skills** training.

This is not a contentious matter in that sense. I therefore am a little saddened that the Honourable Member for St. Michael East took the line he took, and that he was offended. I am sorry if he was offended but the reality is that even when he read the record which has been called where I clearly said that any young person under 25 years should not seek to go far work unless he or she has a **skill** or certificate so they can give someone a reason to hire them, the word "should" is not mandatory. The word "should" means that it should **happen**, that it is possible. If I had said that they cannot go for a job then I would have said what he first accused me of saying, **so** I want to make that point.

I want also to refer to the fact, that the Honourable Member for the City raised the issue as to the other part of the supplementary. That other part of the supplementary is for a debt which the last Government left in relation to

Queen's College. It was a matter where they had to cease work on the pavilion which was awarded to Gray Contractors. That debt was, in fact as a result of the fact that the Government in 1991 stopped paying the contractor.

The contractor on November 6, 1991 gave notice to the architect that he was vacating the site because he had not been paid. In fairness to the contractor, he could not continue work without being paid. The Government then made absolutely no provision for payment in 1992/93. Further to that, in the financial year of 1992/93 they told the architect and the contractor that they did not know when they could resume. This \$104 000 is really only the balance of the \$304 000 that is needed to settle this old debt which we have inherited from the last Government.

We have savings of \$233 874 in the Head dealing with the Construction of Schools under the IDB Programme because we are starting those schools in January instead of November. As a result, we are asking this Honourable Chamber to give us \$104 000 so that we can pay the contractor Gray Engineering and Contractors Ltd. \$304 000 although he had originally claimed \$520 000, so that he could be compensated for what was, in fact, a breach of contract by the Government in 1991. So it is a settlement of an old debt. It is being settled as a compromise for what was originally claimed.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTLEY: There are a few more of those old debts still to come.

Mr. Chairman, that, in essence, represents the supplementary. With those words I would like to thank all Honourable Members again for speaking.

I beg to move that Head 34 stand part.

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

The question that Head 34 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL)
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2)
ORDER, 1996

Hon. Miss M. A. **MOTTLEY**: Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce this resolution which is before this Honourable Chamber. This resolution, in fact, seeks to abolish the post of the Buildings Officer in the Ministry of Education and the abolition should take effect from the date of the publication of the Order in the *Official Gazette*.
6.00 p.m.

This is a matter that has come to this Parliament before but there was a difficulty in terms of the date and really it is only **correcting** a technical problem that has occurred.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
LEASE OF A PARCEL OF LAND AT SPRING
GARDEN, ST. LUCY TO WENDY
EVERSLEY FOR AGRICUL-
TURAL PURPOSES

Hon. G. W. **PAYNE**: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution pertains to the lease of approximately 2.023 hectares of land at Spring Garden, St. Lucy to Miss Wendy Eversley for agricultural purposes.

By virtue of Statutory Instrument No. 26 of 1995, 563.3 square metres of land at Bryan's Road, **Welchman** Hall, St. Thomas was acquired by the Crown for the preservation of ecological and aesthetic value of **Harrisons** Cave. You may recall that earlier in the year we brought to this House a resolution for the acquisition of some land because of the fact that it was discovered that there were certain activities on the land which was disrupting the activity at the Cave. There was actually seepage from pig pens and other farming activity in the area and Government decided to acquire the land. Miss Eversley was accordingly compensated for her land but obviously she would like to continue her farming activity and it was agreed at the time that Government would accommodate her. Through her attorney she submitted an application to the Division of Housing to lease between 3 and 5 acres of Government owned land at Spring Hall, St. Lucy to accommodate her small farm.

Subsequent to the above request the Cabinet had already agreed to her application that she be leased the said

area. It was also agreed that the lease should be for a period of 10 years at the rate of \$150.00 per acre per annum. Negotiations between the Division of Housing and her attorney were concluded in those terms. As a result this resolution now seeks to have Parliamentary approval for the said lease which would be for a period of 10 years with an option to purchase. The rent will be at a rate of \$150.00 per acre per annum. It will be subject to review in the fifth year. Of course the lessee **will** comply with the town planning and other statutory requirements. She will also be responsible for the payment of land taxes, if any, and shall meet other expenditure arising out of the development of the said land.

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

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

Mr. D. St. E. **KELLMAN**: Mr. Speaker, whereas I have no problem in supporting this resolution that is allowing this lady to lease the land at Spring Garden, **St. Lucy**, I must draw to the attention of the Minister that the time the lady went to look at the land she would have been happy about leasing the land in that particular area but I must point out to the Minister that the road, as ~~it~~ now stands, needs to be widened. The potholes need to be repaired. The lighting conditions need to be fixed and last but not least the water main as it stands now would not be able to accommodate this lady and the other residents at Spring Garden.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Spring Garden is an area that has been fast growing and you have a situation that when one turns on the pipe in Spring Garden the other person has to wait so I am requesting the Minister to move swiftly to remove the half-inch main that is in Spring Garden and replace it with a bigger main because when one is keeping pigs you need to have a good supply of water and if you are not prepared to deal with this problem I will be prepared to withdraw my support on this particular resolution for this simple reason. If you do not have a good water supply in Spring Garden the residents will **soon** be asking me to bring a resolution to ask the lady to remove her pig pens from that particular area. The same way that it cannot sit at **Harrisons** Cave it cannot be allowed to go to St. Lucy unless you are prepared to put in the necessary amenities.

I said I would support it but you must assure me that you are quite prepared to correct the problem at Spring Garden. This now falls to the Minister of Health and also to the Minister of Transport and Works. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South will be able to tell you about the Spring Garden area because he is always in St. Lucy and he knows my problems. There is a serious

need for a debushing programme in that area. If you are coming from Hope Road, going to Spring Garden you have to be very, very careful when you get into the bottom or you can get a serious accident that can cause life. The same problem that we have at Spring Garden we have at Salmons and Salmons leads to Archers Bay. Every day you have tours going to Archers Bay and they have to squeeze through a road that is normally a wide road.

As I have said in this Assembly already, Sir, it seems to me that all the development stops at the Judge Gap. The Judge Gap is that point, Sir, where Six Mens ends and it leads to the **Colleton** area by the half way house and goes on to Half Moon Fort. I do not know, Sir, if there is some special coincidence that **all** the development, whether it be debushing, road repairs, marina, you name it, it stops at the Judge Gap. Coastal conservation stops there **too**. Sir, I have no problem in supporting this land lease providing that the **Ministers** who are responsible for this are prepared to give some goodies to that beautiful constituency of St. Lucy.

The Honourable Member for St. George North would know about this and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would know about it too. There is a property in St. Lucy, Sir, a beach house, at Freyers Well, that property was up for sale. Just last week some person came and was willing and prepared to purchase this property because they stayed at a property belonging to a doctor, but **after** the rain, Sir, the road was in such a state that they said that they did not mind foregoing the deposit they had paid but they cannot afford now to buy the property. I got a call from the doctor and I said that I would mention it in the House of Assembly and I hope that the Honourable Member for St. George North will support me because he knows that in that particular area in St. Lucy it had 3 bay houses in the 1970's and each of those bay houses has a pool. We the people of St. Lucy know when those bay houses used to be rented on a daily basis. We now talk about Sandy Lane, Sir, but those bay houses were more popular before Sandy Lane. **All** I am saying is that once the necessary infrastructure is put in place and if you give us the right amenities in St. Lucy, we will provide the necessary thing to make sure that we provide the employment. I must also declare an interest lest I be accused of talking about an area where my family has an interest. I must admit that my father also lives in that area. So I do not want anybody to believe...

6.10 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, you see in Barbados we **have** to be very careful how we represent the interest of anybody who is related to you, because I do not want this House of Assembly to strike on me. I am very serious about this, so let me declare my interest that down

by Freyers Well is where my father lives and where it so happens that I am fortunate to own a small piece of land.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that ...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, can I have a little silence in this Assembly? We must be serious and if we are seriously thinking of developing Barbados, Sir, the constituency that holds the most opportunity for job creation is the constituency of St. Lucy and the people are not **asking** for much. All they **are** asking for is to give them the amenities and they will do the rest. Let me show you an example, Sir. Those 4 bay houses at Freyers Well did not ask the Government to declare Freyers Well a development area. They built up that area out of their funds without **asking** the taxpayers to accommodate them. They have not deprived my people of being able to go to the beach. Any time you have an area and it must be developed, Sir, it must have the necessary amenities. In the same way, Sir, I am asking for those amenities at Spring Garden, I am **asking** for the necessary amenities at Freyers Well, and that is that the road that used to be good which was destroyed by the rain I am asking that the Minister of Transport and Works repair the road. He can be assured that nobody will be able to block the people of St. Lucy from going to the beach down at Freyers Well. I can give him that assurance. He does not have to worry about the other side on the West Coast, but nobody will be able to block the poor people from **travelling** from Checker Hall to Freyers Well.

As I said, I will support this resolution for this lease of land at Spring Garden providing the Minister is prepared to put in the necessary amenities to make sure that the people in Spring Garden are not affected by the project. If I get a **complaint** from my people at Spring Garden, I will have to come and attack the Minister. When I attack him, I will **attack** him rough because he has been **fore-warned** that if **the** project goes there and I have given it my blessings, he has to change the water main. **He** also has to get his workmen to do a serious debushing programme at Spring Garden. The people at Spring Garden happen to be one of those groups of people that have asked you for a road into Spring Garden. So when you **are** giving them the pig pens, please give them the road, the water main and also at the same time debush the area. Thank you very much.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has strayed far and wide from the resolution so it is really not necessary for me to comment on most of the points which he has mentioned. I could only give him the assurance that when the lady, Ms. Eversley, makes her application to Town and Country Planning Department any services that need to be provided by Government before

the pig pens and the other farming activity that she contemplates, will be done by the Ministry.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that, Sir.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE TO PALACE E. GARDENS LTD. OF
A PARCEL OF LAND NEAR CRANE,
ST. PHILIP FOR RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this resolution is for the sale of 2035 square meters of land near the Crane, St. Philip. Palace E. Gardens owns 1.6902 hectares of land at the Crane, St. Philip, which abuts on 3 sides on the 2035 square metres of Government owned land on which the ruins of the old Malaria Hospital stand. They propose to develop their land into residential lots but consider that a more efficient use can be made of the area if the lands of the old Malaria Hospital are integrated into the entire development. The company had expressed an interest in purchasing this bit of Government land for sometime. It goes back to 1991 when the previous Administration had decided that they would dispose of the land at \$1.20 per square foot. The price appears to be somewhat low when we did our valuation about a year ago as a result of which we asked for another valuation of the property. The new valuation shows that the land is worth about \$1.50 per square foot which is almost similar to the previous valuation taken into consideration at the time when the original valuation was done.

The land itself is centrally located between an existing and a proposed middle income development which form part of the greater housing development in the region of the Crane, Union Hall and Belair. Given its location, shallow soil coverage and accessibility to regular bus service, the site is of some residential value. It is not of much value to Government because of its land-locked nature.
6.20 p.m.

Following the recent decision of this Administration to sell vacant lands, the previous offer which was made was taken up by Government and, as I indicated earlier, it was agreed to sell the said land to Palace E. Gardens Ltd. at the said price of \$1.50 per square foot. The Chief Town Planner has indicated that he has no objection to the proposed use. The Commissioner of Land Tax has valued the land at \$32 800. Parliamentary approval is now being sought for the sale of the said land to Palace E. Gardens Ltd. at the unit price of \$1.50 per square foot.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, when one looks at this disposal of land again by Government, one must question the price of the land. The Minister admitted that this has good residential value, but yet the Government is selling it at \$1.50 per square foot. If this land is being sold to a small man, I have no problem with the sale, but if it is being sold to somebody who is able to take this land and convert it and sell it at \$7.00 per square foot, then I have a problem with this.

Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, I said that when Government is disposing of land, I feel within myself that the small man should get an opportunity to purchase some of this land the Government is disposing of. The Minister at the time said that it is Government's policy to dispose of land to the highest bidder. I would like to know if this land went out to bids and if \$1.50 is the highest bid they have received. If \$1.50 is the highest bid, I have no problem with that, because it falls well within Government policy. But I have a problem if a small man wanted the land and he was deprived of the land because it was given to someone else. This is probably a little over 20 000 square feet and it means that the cost of this property is \$30 000. I believe there are some small people who would like to be able to go to the bank and get the necessary financing to buy this piece of land. If there is the necessary infrastructure in place, they could turn around and sell this land some time later at a good profit.

Mr. Speaker, I will want to find out from the Minister if this land went out to bids and if this was the highest offer they have received.

Thanks very much.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the decision was made by the previous administration to sell the land at \$1.20 per square foot. All we have done is to confirm the decision to sell, but we had the same concern the Honourable Member had, as a result of which we asked for a valuation of the land and the price we got was \$1.50 per square foot. We said we should sell this land to the small man. This is land that is useful to nobody else but the persons who are buying the land, because it is surrounded on three sides by this particular development. When we are talking about a good residential area, we are taking the land as a whole because there is absolutely nothing that can be done with this land. I said it is the site of the old malaria hospital and that alone should tell him that even the small man he is talking about would need certain assurances, even if it was land at the side of the road.

With respect to whether or not the land went out to tender, as he is talking about, this land is being sold in the same manner to adjoining land owners as the last administration sold land to adjoining land owners in places like Brighton. It is in keeping with that same policy, so I do not know what the Honourable Member is talking about.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member is misleading the House, because one Government cannot have two policies at the same time.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The point of order is that he is giving the impression that they are operating off the Democratic Labour Party's policy. As you know, Sir, no new Government can operate on another Government's policy, they have to dictate their own policy. He has already enunciated in this House that all land sales will be dictated by the policies of the Barbados Labour Party, which will be the highest bidder.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to call Question Time at this time. I believe there are Members on the Other Side who would have an interest in the Replies to Questions of which notice was given earlier today.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, Questions 25 and 26; the Honourable Member for St. John is not here for Question No. 34; the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, Questions 38, 39 and 40.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Right Honourable Prime Minister is not here to give the Reply to that Question, so we cannot deal with that one today, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the Minister of Public Works and Housing is ready to offer the Reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions 25 and 26, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Question No. 25 reads as follows, Sir:

"To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing: Will the Minister state Government's Policy

in relation to the provision of adequate levels of drinking water in Barbados in view of the official estimate that the growth of demand at the rate of four per cent per year will reach the limit of available supply by the year 2000?"

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 25 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is as follows:

"The Government's policy is to guarantee a steady supply of drinking water of the highest quality to all citizens."

Mr. SPEAKER: Any supplementaries? We move on then to Question No. 26.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 26 reads as follows:

"To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing: Will the Minister cause an evaluation to be made of the current placement of bus poles with special consideration being given to (1) the locations of recent housing developments and commercial centres, and (2) concessionary provisions for disabled and aged persons using public service vehicles?"

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 26 is as follows:

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. The Government does give special consideration to the location of housing developments, commercial centres and the matter of safety in the placement of bus stops."

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Supplementary Question, Sir. Will the Minister tell this House how we can identify the bus stops that belong to the MTW and the bus stops that do not belong to the MTW? I am saying now that I am seeing two different types on the road.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, all of the bus stops in Barbados belong to MTW.

6.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Reply to Question No. 38 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 38 reads as follows:

"Will the Minister state: 1. The basis on which the Alma Parris remedial school is one of the

secondary school choices under the partial zoning system. 2. Whether it is proposed to drop the teaching of foreign languages from sixth form curricula in secondary schools, and 3. Whether it is the policy of Government to render financial support for new private secondary schools to be established in Barbados?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 38 is as follows:

"(i) The Alma Parris Memorial School is a secondary school and is located in Zone 1, thus it falls within the focus of the Education Regulations dated December 27, 1995.

(ii) No, Sir,

(iii) The Government will only render financial support in respect of the following items:

- award of bursaries for pupils attending
- provision of teachers' salaries depending on the roll
- subventions for specific subject areas
- participation in the Text Book Loan Scheme
- any other assistance as considered necessary.

This has been the established policy of the Government of Barbados since 1965."

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Will the Minister kindly state if there are any specific schools identified for any specific funding by the Ministry?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: There are no specific schools identified. Schools are only identified once they meet the criteria so cited earlier.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Will the Minister state if there has been a survey carried out under the auspices of the Ministry which is seeking to set up a private secondary school?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Ministry has not been seeking to carry out any survey to set up any private secondary school and any applications that come in to the Ministry are under the Education Act and those applications are determined by the criteria previously stated.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Has the Minister given permission to a specific group of interested persons trying to set up a

private secondary boys' school, a privileged secondary boys' school?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I have not given any permission for any new secondary school under the criteria previously cited. I have given absolutely no permission.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLEP: A supplementary, Sir. Can the Minister say whether Barbados has yet reached the place where there is a secondary school place for every child of secondary school age?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: There is not yet a situation where the Government can provide secondary school places for every child of secondary school age.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Can the Minister say whether it is proposed that the teaching of foreign languages will be introduced at the primary level in Barbados?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Ministry is now in negotiations through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Costa Rican Government to have a pilot programme established for the exchange of teachers to teach Spanish in primary schools from next September where four primary school teachers from Costa Rica will come here and four from Barbados will go to Costa Rica so that we can introduce the teaching of Spanish in 20 primary schools as a pilot project and that teaching of Spanish will be purely on a conversational basis.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question 39 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, Question 39 reads as follows:

"Will the Minister state: 1. The criteria which were prescribed for and applied by Government in the appointment of Youth Commissioners, and 2. The terms of reference of the Youth Commissioners?"

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Reply to Question No. 39 is as follows:

"(a) Youth Commissioners were selected and appointed on the basis of a background of demonstrated work in the community and with the youth, in particular within the district in which they reside.

(b) The role of the Youth Commissioners is to facilitate the realisation of the creative potential of young people by mobilising, guiding and

coordinating their access to *the* wide **range** of governmental and **non-governmental** services available in the society.

(c) The duties of Youth Commissioners are:

- To liaise with young persons so as to motivate them and to provide access to information for those young persons, to facilitate their progress or to assist in dealing with their difficulties.
- To identify, collect and maintain basic information through a short questionnaire of every young person in the assigned district ages 15 to 30 so that programmes may be formulated reflecting their needs and interests.
- To identify, collect and maintain information on the nature, activities and membership of all groups and organisations within the district.
- To maintain a **directory** of **all** services and programmes available in Barbados relevant to the needs of young people.
- To facilitate the access of young people to services and programmes relevant to their needs and mobilise their use of **these services** and programmes towards their own **self-development**.
- To promote, mobilise and extend the activities and membership of youth groups and organisations involving youth in the district.
- To assist non-governmental organisations in their programming geared to young people."

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Will the Minister state if the Ministry has given any of the youth commissioners permission to **drink** rum on a day?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I know of no such permission having been given.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Will the Minister state if she is monitoring the behaviour and the work of the Youth Commissioners?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The head of the youth development programme receives reports from the senior youth commissioners related to the work of all youth commissioners in Barbados and that report is forwarded to the Director of Youth Affairs who then forwards it to any necessary person it has to be taken.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: My last submission. Is the Minister going to be sending scrutineers to monitor the persons who are preparing the reports to see that the reports are accurate and give precise information about the behaviour of the youth commissioners?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Senior Youth Commissioners have the role of supervising the youth commissioners and they monitor behaviour and performance.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I just want to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, whether the survey of which she spoke has assisted Government in formulating policy?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The survey which was conducted by the youth commissioners **targetted** 80 000 persons and in fact completed nearly 70 000 persons interviewed during the course of the last 12 months and it informed Government's policy in relation to the establishment of mass based training programmes which has trained over 3 000 young people this year alone because of the fact that the survey reflected that very few young people were involved in structured and supervised activity and very few young people **belonged** to clubs or **organisations** of a social nature and this **has** in fact been consistent with the survey also done at the Prison by the Criminal Task Force.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Among the duties of the youth commissioners identified by the Minister she did indicate that the youth commissioners were supposed to **identify, collect and maintain information on the nature, activities and the membership of all groups and organisations within the district** and to maintain a directory of all services and programmes available in Barbados relevant to the needs of young people. I would like to know from the Minister what has been done in this area?
6.40 p.m.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Ministry of Youth Affairs has already published a directory of **dl** youth groups, organisations and services. This is now available within the Ministry of Youth Affairs. It has in addition maintained and collated a directory of all community clubs and organisations which now accesses support services from within the Ministry of Youth Affairs whether it is technical, administrative or photocopying.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Was this information available during the period of the last Administration?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: There was no such programme undertaken by the last Administration in relation to youth affairs. There was no such directory compiled in a comprehensive manner and there were no

facilities available to all community clubs and all social organizations in relation to youth affairs in Barbados.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: A supplementary question. Can the Honourable Minister tell us what help the youth commissioners have given to the youth service at St. Lucy, please?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTLEY: The youth commissioners have assisted at St. Lucy in relation to the support programmes, the maintenance of watch on an evening at St. Lucy, as well as the **training** of the youth service recruits in relation to map reading at the Barbados Youth Service.

QUESTION NO. 40 RE PIC-O-DE-CROP FINALS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question 40 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: To ask the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture:

"Will the Minister state the net profit received by the National Cultural Foundation from the Pic-o-de-Crop semi-finals and-finals in 1995?"

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTLEY: The net profit received by the National Cultural Foundation from the Pic-o-de-Crop semi-finals was \$10 079 and from the finals in 1995 was \$96 032.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: A supplementary question. Will the Minister state whether the originator of the Pic-o-de-Crop semi-finals at Bathsheba was paid his appropriate royalties?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTLEY: There was no such originator in relation to any idea and since there is no copyright in an idea under the laws of Barbados no royalties will be payable to anyone.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Is the Minister aware that Magistrate Greaves has said publicly that he is the originator of the idea of taking the festival to Bathsheba or on the East Coast Road and he is complaining that he has never been paid for his ideas?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am aware that he has said so publicly but since there is no such provision for copyright in an idea no royalties are **accruable** under the laws of Barbados.

A question asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East was ordered expunged from the records by Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Is the Minister aware that she made comments to the effect that **the Pic-o-de-Crop** semi-finals made in excess of \$200 000 and to date reported that it has only made \$10 000?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister only made comments in relation to gate receipts and not profit.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister please state the overall profit that was made on the event?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Crop-Over Festival 1995 made a loss of \$93 644.

Mr. SPEAKER: No more?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Just one **more** question, Sir. Without referemng to anything in the Press, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister please state whether or not the police was paid out of the monies which were mentioned just now?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, the police were paid out of this amount. The loss of \$93 000 takes account of the fact that the police were paid in excess of \$75 000 from this amount, this amount now being paid by the Ministry of Legal **Affairs** as **part** of the general law and order maintenance for Barbados.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: A Supplementary Question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister state if 1995 was the first year that the police was paid by the NCF?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No, it is not the first year the **police** was paid by the NCF.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that we were able to dispose of some of the several Questions on the Order Paper.

At this time I would wish to move that this House **do** adjourn until Tuesday, November 5, 1996 at 11:00 o'clock in the morning.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I beg **to second** that, Sir.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 5, 1996 at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
6.47 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 3802

Confirmation of Minutes of **Tuesday**, October 22, 1996.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR 3802

1. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1995.
2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 15) Order, 1996.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 3803

1. The Bail Bill, 1996.
2. The Magistrates Courts Bill, 1996.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 3803

1. The Bail Bill, 1996.
2. The Magistrates Courts Bill, 1996.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE 3803

Notice that Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 25 and 26, asked by Mr. D. St. E. Kellman were ready.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR 3803

Notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 34, asked by Mr. D. J. H. Thompson was ready.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY 3803

Notice that Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 38, 39 and 40 asked by Mr. H. F. Lashley were ready.

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER

Mr. SPEAKER 3803

Directed that the letter of resignation received from Mr. L. A. Weekes be recorded in the Minutes.

ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 3803

Moved that an Address be sent to His Excellency the Governor-General asking that a writ for an election be issued to fill the vacancy.

Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 3803, 3805, 3806; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 3807, 3808; Dr. R. C. Haynes, 3809; Mr. W. C. C. Callender, 3811; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 3813.

RESUMPTION

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER (resumed)

Mr. J. O. Tudor, 3814; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 3815; Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson, 3815; Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 3816, 3817; Mr. B. M. Taitt, 3813, 3817, 3821; Mr. Speaker, 3821.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 3822

The Shops (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 3822

The Shops (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER 3822

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 8 - COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY ... 3822

Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 3822.

ORDER NO. 8(a) - SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1996-97 NO. 5 - \$3 326 001 ... 3822

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 3822, 3826, 3841; Mr. H. F. Lashley, 3827; Hon. Sir Harold St. John, 3829; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 3830,

3841; Mr. G. A. **Clarke**, 3833; Mr. J. **O.** Tudor, 3834; Hon. R. C. **Eastmond**, 3836; Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 3838.

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT
(GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2)
ORDER, 1996 3845

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 3845.

ORDER NO. 7 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE LEASE TO **WENDY** EVERSLEY OF
LAND AT SPRING GARDEN,
ST. LUCY 3845

Hon. G. W. Payne, 3845; 3846; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 3845.

ORDER NO. 6 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE SALE TO PALACE E. GARDENS
LTD. OF LAND AT THE CRANE, ST.
PHILIP 3847

Hon. G. W. Payne, 3847; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 3847.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. G. W. PAYNE 3848

Replies to Questions Nos. 25 and 26 asked by
Mr. D. St. E. Kellman.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY 3849

Replies to Questions **Nos.** 38, 39 and 40
asked by Mr. H. F. Lashley.

Mr. J. **O.** Tudor, 3849; **Hon. Miss** B. A. Miller, 3849; **Hon.** G. W. Payne, 3850; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 3851.

SUSPENSION 3813

ADJOURNMENT 3851

Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 3851.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ARTHUR, Rt. Hon. **O.** S. (St. Peter)
CALLENDER, Mr. W. C. C. (Christ Church East)
CHELTENHAM, Dr. R. L. (St. Joseph)
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
EASTMOND, Hon. R. C. (St. James North)
GREENIDGE, Hon. R. **N.** (St. **Philip** North)
HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Mr. H. F. (St. Michael South East)
MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown)
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East)
PAYNE, Hon. G. W. (St. Andrew)
St. JOHN, Hon. Sir HAROLD (Christ Church South)
TAITT, Mr. B. M. (St. Michael West)
TOPPIN, Hon. R. St. C. (St. Michael North)
TUDOR, Mr. J. **O.** (St. Michael East)
THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St. John)
THOMPSON, Hon. Miss H. E. (St. James South)