

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.25 a.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 1997.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed., (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDBFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.),

J.P.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Mr. B. M. TATTT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B.
(Hons.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney
General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Leader
of the Opposition)

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.

Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.

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.), (Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development)

Mr. D. CARTER (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. R. N. GREENEDGE, B.A., LL.B., (Minister of
Labour, Community Development and Sports)

Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., (Parliamentary
Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and
Housing)

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL

Mr. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, J.P., B.A., Dip. Ed.,
B.Sc.

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)

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. Econ. (Hons.), M.A.
(Public Finance).

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood,

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes for Tuesday, October
14, 1997.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to
move that the Minutes of the 14th October, 1997 which
should have been circulated be taken as read and
confirmed.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

PAPERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am
commanded to lay:

1. The Value Added Tax Order, 1997.

2. The Duties, Taxes and other Payments
(Exemption) (No. 19) Order, 1997.

I am also commanded to lay the Reports of the Barbados Fire Service for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay The Shipping Corporations Regulations 1997.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the First Street Abandonment Bill 1997, the Copyright Bill, 1997 and also a Resolution to grant the sum of \$321 056 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1997/98 - No. 9 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that the First Street Abandonment Bill 1997 be read a first time.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move that the Copyright Bill, 1997 be read a first time.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I beg to move that the Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the balance of today's sitting.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 3 - A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF A TREATY
ESTABLISHING THE REGIONAL
SECURITY SYSTEM

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill providing for the implementation of the Treaty establishing the Regional Security System, I believe is the first such Bill being introduced in this region by any of the States which are party to the Treaty.

Honourable Members may recall that the Regional Security System was established on the 29th October 1982 under a Memorandum of Understanding and that Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. St. Kitts later became a signatory in January 1983 on the attainment of independence and Grenada joined the system in January 1985.

The original Memorandum of Understanding made provision for a fast moving non bureaucratic organisation which could react to the security needs of member states. It also allowed them to pool manpower which could be scarce and equipment resources so as to effect certain economic savings. The system functioned until 1989 when there was a thorough going review of the organisation and that took into account the changing nature of the threat to this region and also laid the foundations for the Central Liaison Office which is part of the organisational structure of the system.

The States continued on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding until 1996 when on or about the 5th March a treaty establishing the RSS was signed in Grenada. That Treaty replaces the Memorandum of Understanding which governs the relationship in security -matters between Barbados and the independent OECS countries which I have already mentioned.

I think there is an advantage in having the organisation put on a treaty basis. For a start such a treaty would deepen the relationship between Barbados and the OECS and secondly the treaty now secures for those states a proper legal basis in international law.

In addition I think a third consequence of the establishment of the Treaty is that the parties to the treaty will now be able to relate more effectively with friendly states who are prepared to assist the system and enhance the relationship with other CARICOM countries which may not now be party to the Treaty.

The instruments of ratification have been prepared and submitted in accordance with Article 27 of the Treaty.

Other countries have also sent their instruments of ratification and the Treaty entered into force on the 18th January this year in accordance with Article 27. The Central Liaison Office of which I spoke earlier is the headquarters of the RSS and that is located at the Barbados Defence Force base at Paragon. The Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force, Brigadier Lewis, is the Regional Security Coordinator.

Honourable Members will know that from time to time the RSS carries out extensive training in all Member States with the financial assistance of the United Kingdom and the United States Governments, and the Government of Canada has been assisting the RSS with the computerisation of the system.

The main training centres for the RSS are of course, Paragon in Barbados and the Antigua/Barbuda Defence Force base at what is called Camp Blizzard in Antigua.

Mr. Speaker, in the Bill, members will see reference to the RSS Council. The Council meets annually to legislate policy, to receive the Council's report and to approve the budget for the system for the following year. For the fiscal year 1997-98 the budget is \$1.6 million, Barbados pays 40%, the other 6 countries pay 10%. 11.35a.m.

The Council comprises the Prime Ministers or Ministers responsible for security of the member states. Under the Council there is a coordinating committee which is known as the Security Chiefs Committee which comprises, the Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force, Commander of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Commander of the newly formed St. Kitts Defence Force and the seven Commissioners of Police. They meet quarterly to assist in directing the operations of the system.

The Headquarters of the system is the Central Liaison Office. That is headed by a Coordinator who is Brigadier Lewis, Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force and he is assisted by staff officers, secretarial and other support staff, who are locally employed civilians. The existence of the Central Liaison Office in Barbados is governed by a Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Barbados and the RSS.

Some assistance, as I indicated, Mr. Speaker, is rendered by the British Government. Originally, the British Government provided officers and senior NCOs who worked as staff, at the Central Liaison Office, under the command of the Coordinator. As part of the British reduction of staff in 1994 that was changed and the British authorities established what is called BMATT which is a British Military Training Team, Sir, and proposed that the

activities of that team would be governed by a memorandum of understanding and that memorandum is being worked out now between the RSS and the British. It is not in its final form yet.

In the meantime, BMATT consists of ten British servicemen and their families. They are based in Barbados and the UK Government provides financial assistance to the RSS for them to travel, accommodation and feeding.

The training courses which are organised, Sir, are provided to the Central Liaison Office by particularly, the United Kingdom Government and the Government of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, let me just outline some of the operations of the RSS over the years, going back to 1989. They carried out operations in support of Member States first in 1989 in St. Kitts and in Antigua and Montserrat following Hurricane Hugo. In 1994 when there was a post election breakdown in law and order in St. Kitts, the RSS responded. Similarly, in 1995 when there was a prison riot in St. Kitts they responded and they have rendered assistance to Antigua in 1995 after Hurricane Louis. But they have also been very active in assisting in reducing the drug threat to the Region. So that they have participated in marijuana eradication programmes in Dominica, St. Lucia and Grenada. I suppose one of the justifications for the continued use of the RSS is the threat that is posed to the Region on a daily basis by the phenomenon of illegal narcotic drugs and the trafficking in illegal narcotic drugs.

When the RSS was formed, I think it is fair to say that the threat which was then perceived was a threat from Communism. In the demise of Communism and the rise in the traffic of illicit narcotic drugs and similar substances, there have necessarily had to be a shift in the strategies, the operations and the activities of the RSS.

The main element of the anti drug operations is a system of marine patrols coordinated by the Central Liaison Office, and involving the coast guard vessels of all member states. It is fair to say that there has been some significant success although, one must hasten to add, that the inadequacy of vessels and air support has been a limiting factor which has inhibited, perhaps the full potential of the RSS.

The RSS is pursuing upgrading its equipment and its material. Two fixed-wing aircrafts are shortly to be delivered and additional boats are being provided for the system. The vessels are two 82-foot patrol boats for maritime activity and the negotiations in respect of the aircraft and the two vessels are continuing. In fact, the Brigadier is going to Trinidad tomorrow to coordinate the receipt of this equipment and the terms upon which

that equipment will be received and will operate, because, the Bahamians have been offered two aircrafts. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has also been offered two aircrafts and there needs to be a coordination of positions in respect of those.

Mr. Speaker, I think in this Region we have moved a long way from the original MOU. When that was signed in October 1982, by the Members of the OECS, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Barbados, the basis was to provide mutual assistance on request in national emergencies, search and rescue, immigration control, maritime policing policies, protection of offshore installations, pollution control, natural and other disasters, threats to national security and the prevention of smuggling.

Fifteen years since the formation of the RSS, Sir, the content of the operations of the RSS has changed. I think it is important to point out that the RSS is not a standing army, Sir, and it is not a Defence Force. Some have likened it to a kind of fire brigade. But it is a system. The small operational headquarters in Barbados is tasked with the responsibility of coordinating and planning the joint training or the joint exercises but the security forces of each country remain entirely national under the command of national commanders or commissioners of police. There are only two defence forces one in Barbados and one in Antigua. The others are under the command of Commissioners. 11.45 a.m.

It is provided, Sir, that if requested, each country may assist the other member State with security units of various types depending on the type or extent of the emergency. From time to time, and as has been done, ordinary policemen, special service units, soldiers or coast guard vessels may be deployed. In some instances only police may be required and others only coast guard vessels. The type of operation dictates the type of response and the type of personnel.

A word on the special service units. With the exception of Antigua and Barbados, as I said, which have small defence forces, all the others maintain para-military police units. They are part of the National Police Force and comprise of policemen who serve with their units for limited periods. But during the time they receive specialist training to enable them to deal with security matters beyond the normal area of responsibility and capability of the ordinary policeman. They are light armed and each country endeavours to maintain two small units of approximately platoon strength.

Each State has one or more coastguard vessels capable of both offshore and inshore patrolling. These units

form part of the police and are under the direct control of the Commissioner except for Barbados, of course, which has a separate coast guard unit.

Mr. Speaker, the Caribbean basin has always been of immense strategic importance to the United States particularly the maritime security of routes in the area and access to the Panama Canal. An extremely high proportion of U.S. oil supplies come through this region and the withdrawal of the British has left a kind of vacuum in the defence which is of great concern to the United States.

The RSS itself does have the ability to deter or react to a number of smaller threats. I think it is true to say that over the years the RSS has justified its existence and is an organisation which needs to be strengthened even more than we are presently doing.

Sir, I suppose the great value of the RSS and, indeed, of any security force lies in its deterrent capability and effect. We may be able to show that States of the Eastern Caribbean are not soft targets for insurgencies, terrorism or subversion.

The units of the RSS, acting in combination, give the RSS the capability of countering threats that might otherwise overwhelm individual States and that is why joint planning and cooperation greatly enhance the effectiveness of this organisation. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the RSS has a wide range of potential tasks ranging from routine coastal patrolling, search and rescue missions to counter drugs and counter insurgency operations.

The Bill sets out in Part I the provisions which relate to the system itself, the application, force of law, status of the system, jurisdiction of the courts, detention, arrest, place of incarceration, the usual things you will find in military arrangements. It also has in the immunities and privileges, salaries, customs, repatriation, financial obligations and exemption from certain immigration controls.

It is a short bill of 36 clauses. The Articles to the Treaty are attaching. Honourable Members will see reproduced in the Bill the fact that the Heads, namely, the Heads of Government of Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts - it is written as St. Christopher & Nevis - Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, all signed between the 15 and 23 February, 1996.

This Bill has had a thorough preparation and analysis. I was invited to a meeting in St. Vincent and the Grenadines last year where the principal draftsman, Mr. Justice Barry Rennick a former Judge, and our own Chief Parliamentary Counsel, then Mr. Sherman Moore,

presented the Bill to Attorneys-General. We went through it clause by clause, approved it and the Heads were able to sign it in February.

I commend this Bill to Honourable Members of the House as a necessary piece of legislation to add to the security legislation of Barbados and to place the Regional Security System on a proper legislative basis.

With those remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am only going to enter this debate to speak for the record to say that the Opposition has no objection to this Bill. The RSS has become a permanent feature of cooperation within the Caribbean region. We believe that over time it has developed into the best and the most efficient way for collaboration between the security forces in our region'.

The Bill which is being brought here today merely codifies or brings into law arrangements which have, by and large, been in existence since the mid 1980s and beyond and for which the Democratic Labour Party when it formed the Government had supported the initiatives of the RSS so that we have no objection to the Treaty or to the terms of the Bill and will be supporting it. 11.55a.m.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I just rise to say that I am very much in favour of the Regional Security System and that as long ago as early 1986 when they had a meeting in St. Lucia, I was one of those who clearly envisaged that it was an institution that would perform a useful role within the Caribbean and also that its scope of activity would be expanded from time to time in the light of the perceived needs of the Caribbean in this area. I have always taken the view that in these small territories it is necessary to ensure that periodically we do an examination of the things that we can do better together rather than individually. I think that it is now clear that the scope of the activities of the RSS can be reckoned among those things that we do better together.

Our constitutional framework dictates that in each of the territories who are members of the RSS that they pass legislation to empower the agencies comprising the RSS and its personnel in a separate piece of legislation as we in our constitutional framework do not adhere to the rules that treaties entered into by the executive automatically become part of the domestic law, they can only do that when that treaty is established in a subsequent piece of legislation.

As a matter of history, I am one of those who is old enough to recall that Barbados had had the experience of a similar arrangement when we were not independent and even at time, it was necessary for the legislature of Barbados to embody in the domestic law of Barbados the powers which were granted to the United States Government in respect of its operations of what was then called an Oceanographic Research Station in Barbados. One can look at the then laws of Barbados 1956, No. 64 and one would see the United States Oceanographic Research Act 1956. That Bill contained 63 clauses. I have done the comparison of that Bill with this Bill and I am quite satisfied in my mind that a number of the salient features of the old Bill are reproduced in here because specifically they deal with the jurisdiction of the domestic courts and the immunities that are granted to the personnel so that this Bill has a good legal foundation. There are of course, other areas that were covered in the Oceanographic Research Act which are not covered in the Bill but it is interesting also to look at some of the language in the sections of that Bill and one will see that such phrases as 'hot pursuit' and things like that are repeated in that Bill.

I want to make it clear and I think the message should go out to all and sundry that when they are dealing with territories like Barbados they must understand that we have a concept of law which is ancient and that we do not accept the dictation of some powers however strong they may be or however powerful they be and however arrogant their officers may be, the position is that we respect the rule of law and we respect the constitution of Barbados and we will continue to exercise our powers in that way whoever it offends.

Asides.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is not the point. The point is that we must act in accordance with our understanding of the law.

There is one point about the RSS that I am disturbed about. I do not believe that it is possible in the selection of your personnel to have people who carry out two posts. I object strenuously to the concept of a hierarchy in which people do not have to make a choice. If you want to be a boss, you must understand that the RSS should have a system of jobs that a person can be appointed to a job and all of the powers but at the same time I cannot see how a person can be two, a head here and a head there. The time has come, Sir, when the post of boss of this organisation has to be a separate and independent post from the domestic post that anybody may hold.

It is an important point, a point of principle because when you do what you are doing now you leave a gap in your domestic organisation. I do not know who is the boss of the Barbados Defence Force.

Asides.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is the whole point. You cannot serve two masters. We have to decide in our mind. The second thing that I would like to say with respect to this is that the time has come when the members of the Caribbean Economic Community must understand that it is an integral part of the integration movement that there will be organisations to carry out functions as part of the integration movement which should have an independent base on revenue.

All of us now in the Caribbean are, in my opinion, being humbled by the fact that people are walking all over the world begging for money to support a regional organisation for a regional activity. I find that insulting. I find that very insulting. I think it is derogation of the dignity of the Caribbean people, a great derogation to the Caribbean people. There is no question about it, there can be no doubt about it, the Caribbean people need regional initiatives in certain area of activities; international relations is an important one but the Caribbean people must be told that as part of the responsibility we must have financial mechanisms to ensure that the regional institutions that we create are financed by the people of the Caribbean. That is a positive fact.

This is not a new position taken by the Barbados Labour Party. One of the great contributions that the Barbados Labour Party has made towards regionalism was in the early 1980s when as part of a Head of Government's proposals, a proposal was put forward that they should be a self-financing mechanism by way of a stamp duty on inter-regional trade. I want to follow this through because it is very important for us to understand that as part of the integration movement, we removed all duties of taxes on inter-regional trade. Therefore what has happened is that financing regional institutions now that we have re-imposed some measure of duties, non discriminatory in the form of the stamp duty and its successor the value added tax, there should not be any difficulty for a tranche of that money being specifically tailored towards the financing of regional institutions. 12.05 p.m.

Not all the Governments, most of the Governments in the Caribbean had some form of tariffs on intra-regional trade. Do not mind what they tell you. Some call it stamp duty, some call it salesman licences tax. There are all kinds of things but the point is that we are working an integration movement which requires regional institutions and we are not letting the public of Barbados know that part of the responsibility that everybody has towards these institutions is financing.

The European Economic Community has got its own financing mechanisms for tranching to the value added tax or whatever internal tax that they have that is common. So we must reach that stage. Unfortunately once again it is going to be left to the Barbados Government to articulate these positions. I have no difficulty with that nor do I care whom it offends. The point is I feel that the time has come to an end and the public should demand that for Caribbean institutional support you must not go cap in hand begging the Inter-American Development Bank, begging the Canadian Government, begging the Swedish and the Norwegian Governments, begging everybody. We are not a nation of beggars.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall not be long. I think that the Honourable Members whom I have heard have articulated the views which I share and therefore I will not repeat them but I want to ask the Minister a question in relation to the treaty itself which I find a little disturbing, not at the personal level but from an institutional point of view. It is the whole question of privileges and immunities.

Now, Sir, as your Honour and Honourable Members would be aware when they were establishing the United Nations over 50 years ago one of the major issues which could not be settled or stood in the way of settlement was the whole question of privileges and immunities for persons who reside in the domain of the Headquarters. The United States was going to be the Headquarters for the UN and the United States adamantly insisted that it could not subscribe to any agreement by which its own citizens would have immunity while on American soil.

A very interesting solution was found for that particular problem in that the United Nations itself determined that it would pay the income tax, for example, of all American citizens who worked for the United Nations and in turn it would levy an assessment on all persons who worked for the UN. That assessment would generate the funds that would pay the income taxes of Americans who worked in the UN system and thus Americans who work in the UN system have the same privileges with regard to the level of taxes they pay as other persons from non American countries.

Now, Sir, in this Treaty, Article 21 addresses the issue of immunity. It says words to the effect that the system shall have the same status as a foreign mission and that carries with it another diplomatic immunity for the coordinator and such persons as he or she may designate. I want to ask the acting Prime Minister, especially in his capacity as Attorney General, whether the issue has been settled or how it has been settled. I am aware as I ask the question that a precedent was created with one organisation where the head of that organisation, although living in

the host country, has been given some measure of immunity even if not totally; and for many years it was a battle between another Barbadian head of another organisation who cited that precedent as the basis for insisting that he too, should get the relevant privileges and immunities. I believe eventually there has been some agreement by which he is deemed to have the same privileges and immunities.

Now, Sir, I am not here arguing that the heads of these organisations themselves should not have all the rights and privileges accruing to being head of their organisations but what I wish the Attorney General to tell me is, how have we solved the problem? It is a clear problem which, perhaps some will say, is a theoretical problem but it has to do with what individuals living in a society can claim as rights and privileges.

In one sense Members of Parliament have been singled out from their fellow citizens by being able to speak freely in Parliament without let or hindrance. There are many citizens who feel that that is an unfair advantage which MPs have over the rest of the citizenry but the explanation for that has been made from time immemorial that it is the weighing of one evil against another, that is to say, that the Member of Parliament should be allowed complete freedom of speech so as to be able to act unfettered in his or her representation of the interest which sent him or her to the Parliament. Such an argument does not fit into the arrangements concerning privileges and immunities.

The coordinator, and I am not now speaking of the actual coordinator, I am speaking of the Treaty - the Treaty is the appendix to the Bill and we have to take it on face value - when "the coordinator and the senior officers" who are Barbadian, while on Barbadian territory, are entitled to a level of immunity and privileges which tend to be contrary to known international law. I say that in quotes because that in itself might not make sense in certain circumstances.

There is also of course a new departure. I recall, after we had discussed the West Indies Cricket Board, and you will forgive me for invoking such names in a debate of such a high level, Sir, but the West Indies Cricket Board, after we had debated it in here, the Government of Jamaica and the Government of Antigua and some other governments said in essence that these old time concepts of sovereignty and immunity and that sort of thing must not be allowed to stand in the way of practical decision making, or words to that effect, and that they would invoke their own sovereign rights by giving whatever they felt like to whomever they felt like.

I do not think that the question of the right of a country to give immunity to third parties has ever been in doubt. What I am raising here today is this: I wish the Attorney General to tell me how he would have dealt with the issue of giving a Barbadian citizen rights and privileges above and beyond those which others are entitled to and in those circumstances I think it is something which we should speak publicly about so that all and sundry will know what the facts are and what the circumstances are.

As far as the RSS itself is concerned, Mr. Speaker, you will recall that in the initial stages of the creation of the RSS there were some of us who had some reservations about the Treaty because we recognised that in all of the treaties which existed between the United States and any group in the Caribbean prior to the RSS that it was a one-sided affair, that there was no concept of equality, there was no, as they say, to-ing and fro-ing when it came to privileges and that the United States personnel had gone into countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and had demonstrated a certain contempt for the citizens of those countries. Some of us felt very strongly then - it is a fairly long time ago - that it was necessary for us to signal, that small as we are in the Caribbean, and especially in Barbados, we regard the rights of our citizens, jealously and we regard our own ability to govern ourselves jealously. 12.15 p.m.

If the norms have changed and if people are beginning to believe that is now *passe* and old hat, I fall in the category of those who do not believe that it is *passe* and old hat. I believe it is very important that we allow the children who are coming into existence in Barbados to understand the basis of nationhood and that that basis is not only economic but it is a conglomeration of a number of factors, psychological and otherwise which, together make up sovereignty and pride, *et cetera*.

So that one is never going to stand in the face of progress if one can avoid standing in the face of progress, but the basis on which we objected to the original concept of the RSS is still one to which I hold very firmly. It is reasonable to say that the Treaty as it now stands and the Bill which gives domestic capacity to the implementation of the Treaty, is not something that one will oppose, as the Leader has said. But, it does pay lip service at least, to many of the concepts that one wishes to see in any kind of relationship between states.

I recall very well, some thirty years ago there was a feeling that countries the size of Barbados ought to "banish the word "sovereignty" from their lexicon. There was a feeling that we ought really to just abide by what is going on in the world and take our chances with the flotsam and jetsam of international movements. There are many in the United States decision making hierarchy, certainly

within the context of the Congress, who have been articulating, in more recent times positions that are, at the lowest, dangerous for people in the Caribbean. The whole attitude of the United States to immigration, as articulated in their most recent legislation, is a manifestation of that kind of attitude. It is very necessary for those of us who are in so-called leadership positions, when we get the opportunity, to send signals that we do not accept, even though we might not be in a position forcibly to change some of the things, we still have to send the signal that we do not accept that kind of anti diluvium approach to international relations.

Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say about these kinds of things when we come to debate the foreign policy of the Government, such as it is.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: But, Sir, I just want to put my own view on the record and to raise the question which I raised initially and I look forward to hearing the Attorney General's response.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the more important things that has happened this year in relation to Barbados definition of the Sovereignty was the strong positive and courageous stand it took on the so-called Shipriders Agreement.

I have always understood, Sir, that an agreement is the result of a meeting of minds. The two parties, or more, get together, discuss issues and come to a common position. The Shipriders Agreement, as it was called, was offensive by its very naming because, as I understand it, it was put to States in this Region as an agreement, not as a proposal, not as a draft for discussion, but it was sent as an agreement. In other words, this was a unilateral agreement, something that is foreign to all of us and the decision of the Government of Barbados at the time to take a stand on it, in my view, merits some commendation.

Now, we live in a world, Sir, that is essentially different between 1992 when the Memorandum of Understanding was signed and 1997. At that time, Sir, the Cold War was raging and here in the Caribbean, the G.O. politicians had marked the Caribbean as one of the five areas of unrest. We were put at the time in the same league as places like the Middle East and Southern Africa, the heart of Africa and Northern Ireland. Because, in the Caribbean at the time, Sir, there were a number of countries that had aligned themselves to the Soviet ideology, countries like Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada. Indeed, in many of the islands throughout this Region, there were some very active and vocal leftist groups that

attracted the attention of the United States State Department.

Therefore, the Regional Security System that was inaugurated in 1982 by a Memorandum of Understanding was not as innocent as it appears at face value. The Americans were concerned about what was happening in this Region. They were concerned, particularly in the Southern Caribbean, about what was happening in Grenada and out of this, was borne this Agreement. So let us not make any bones about it, Sir. There were influences externally that brought about this decision and we have to accept it, Sir. There are some countries that exercise great power, the United States for one. But there are some countries who have to exercise great principle and that is what we exercise.

I am supportive of this legislation, Sir, because despite the purpose of its beginnings and what has transpired in the intervening years, it has brought some measure of mutual assistance to countries in this Region that otherwise, were on their own. I am glad to hear the Leader of the Opposition the Honourable Member for St. John say that he supports, in principle, this piece of legislation, because my memory two decades ago, tells me that there was a time when that kind of support was not forthcoming.

Before the Regional Security System, I remember the then Government of Barbados answering the call of the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and sending some support to him down in Union Island where there was a disturbance. The Barbados Labour Party Government at the time was berated by the then Opposition for giving assistance at the request of a fellow Caribbean State. That was not the only time, Sir, because we have to look at the situation of these islands historically. We have given all kinds of support one to the other over the years. It is not uncommon, certainly at the time when I was a Minister of Government, or the Prime Minister of Dominica or Antigua to phone up and say, "I have problems in my Prison, could you send down some prison officers?" That is the way it operated at that time. Yet we attracted a great deal of criticism for giving that kind of assistance. 12.25 p.m.

The formation of the Regional Security System by the Memorandum of Understanding in 1982 gave some official legitimacy to mutual assistance, and it has worked well. It has worked in many countries in the Caribbean.

I want to deal with one aspect, Sir, and I must spend a few minutes on this, it is the question of the problems in Grenada in 1983. At that time the Regional Security System and the members of the Caribbean Community who were not even members of the Regional Security System, considered it critical to their own security that something should have been done about the anarchy that had

broken loose in Grenada. They came together for a series of meetings. They met here in Barbados and eventually they decided to take a common position. I was fortunate to have been present at the meeting of the Heads of the CARICOM countries which met in Port-of-Spain to decide what action should be taken.

Mr. Speaker, I took copious notes on what everybody at the meeting said because the Prime Minister of Barbados did not attend the meeting and asked me to represent Barbados. In my natural modesty I felt that I should not be locking horns with Heads of Government so I wrote down copiously what each one of them said. I know, Sir, that within a few days at least two or three of them were telling their nationals and at least was telling his Parliament something very different from what he had said at the meeting. I have my notes, Sir, and maybe some day somebody who writes well will sit down with me and perhaps commit it to paper.

If you have a system that is buttressed by solid legislation and the legislation structures are on good ground, Sir, it would probably mitigate the chances of something like that happening again. To me, it was a very disturbing and unsettling experience because although I do not now or then consider myself to have been politically naive, I really did not believe that leaders of governments could be so brazen and bold-faced to take extreme opposite positions on one issue within the space of a few days even though they knew that many of their fellow leaders would know that they were not telling the truth.

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that the assistance given by the Regional Security System to many countries in the Caribbean - we have had problems, I do not have them detailed in my memory, but in many of the countries of the Caribbean since the formation of the System - that were experiencing threats of civil unrest and in some cases actual civil unrest.

Initially, though being born in a situation of cold war and the Caribbean being considered an area of disturbance or potential disturbance, and in an international community that was asking for the Caribbean to, and indeed the Caribbean itself was asking for the region to be declared a zone of peace and to cut all the cold war *tete-a-tetes* out of the region, although it was born in those circumstances, it has met its needs remarkably.

Now, I would like, and perhaps the Attorney General in replying can share with me and this House how it dovetails with the Shiprider's Agreement, that is, the dovetailing between the activities of the RSS and those of the Shiprider because, from what I understand, without any serious deep study of the Shiprider Agreement," that it

allows the United States to do certain things that normally fall within the purview of the municipal law. I would like to know how it dovetails in relation to things like boarding vessels, arresting, hot pursuit, encroaching on domestic territory in that area because I am a little bit uncertain how the two work together.

I want, Mr. Speaker, also to raise one or two things that trouble me. We have a situation in which the Regional Security System by all accounts is working and there is a commitment by the members of the Regional Security System to work together for the security of this region yet between individual member States it is difficult to craft a fishing agreement.

I should say, Sir, that at the time the Regional Security System was formed, there was talk, argument and shouting across the waters between Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago about a fishing agreement. That is not new. That is at least 15 years old. We are able to craft this agreement which, as I say, everybody seems to think is working, but it is so difficult for individual members of the Regional Security System to get together and work out fishing agreements and other agreements of that ilk. Barbadian fishing vessels are still being picked up in Trinidad waters, in Guyana waters and having gun shots fired at them, people injured, people being charged and all of that. How is it we can work out a Regional Security System to protect ourselves against external forces and we cannot work out agreements for regularising something as straightforward as fishing?

We have, on the other hand, the question of the movement of international trawlers in our region. We know that the Japanese in particular for many years have been raiding the waters of the Caribbean. The big ice boats would go out for three months and so on and rake up all the best deep sea fish there is out of the region and Barbadian fishing boats picking up snappers in the waters of Georgetown and flying fish off Tobago are treated like criminals. But we have not devised a strategy yet for dealing with the Koreans, the Japanese and all these people who come and carry millions of tons of fish out of the region, explore and exploit our natural resources. That is something we have to look at.

Now, the Regional Security System is a modest system. The few vessels they have are not of sufficient power to deal with the problems I just articulated. The Americans continue to have an interest. I have learned from long experience that there is no such thing as altruism when you are dealing with big States, and particularly the United States. They do not do anything out of the goodness of their hearts, they must have a certain amount of self-interest. Therefore, if the Americans are continuing to support the Regional Security System in the way they have you have to ask what is their interest? It is obvious, it

is not a military threat to the United States. It is the whole question of illicit drugs and the question of movement of drugs north ways and going into the United States. Sometimes I wonder whether they and the rest of us are looking at this problem through the wrong end of the tunnel. 12.35 p.m.

I make no original point when I say, Sir, that a lot of commonsense suggest that the United States must exert and bestir itself more in doing something about the consumption of illegal drugs in the United States, that to the extent that there is lower consumption, there will be less movement of illegal drugs through the Caribbean to the United States. I am not making a charge but I do not know whether the Government of the United States is not putting too heavy a burden on the resources of small Caribbean States to expend a lot of the national resources in meeting a problem that is essentially their problem. I would like to hear a lot more about that.

As the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said, we will get into debate on foreign policy some time within the next few months and there are a lot of things that need to come out in the open. I do not mean in relation to the Government of Barbados but generally in looking at Barbados as it is placed in the international community and to see how it fits in and to see what extent it should shift traditional position that have been taken. All of that will come out in the fullness of time.

The only aspect that I would like to raise on this occasion is what has been the change in Barbados' foreign policy since the demise of the Soviet Union and the movement from two super powers to one super power, the change from a bipolar world to a unipolar world, what change has taken place in its policy to meet that new reality. As I said earlier in this statement, there is a great quintessential difference between 1982 and 1987; very, very different Sir. The tools to keep countries like Barbados in line in 1997 are not those of 1992, there are very, very different things. I remember two years ago in a Budget debate I mentioned my concerns about this whole question of globalisation and whether it was not still another tool of big powers to keep small countries in line and at that time everybody was saying, globalisation, globalisation. It was the greatest thing on earth. It reminds me, Sir, of the 1980s when small developing countries were talking about trade liberalisation at every single UN meeting, whether it was the United Nations General Assembly or UNESCO or ILO or FAO or which ever, it used to trip off the lips of spokesmen from Third World countries about the freeing up of markets.

Obviously what was intended was that the goods of developing countries should be allowed free and ready

access into the markets of big countries. We in Barbados used to talk about it too, we talked about rum, leather goods and garments. It was almost impossible to get more than the token percentage of these things into the United States market and we were talking about this until finally the liberalisation has come, Sir, and it has come in a form that was entirely unexpected and I am now wondering whether we did not bring it on ourselves and we are now thinking it through.

I support the legislation because I believe in the importance of the security of the Islands in this archipelago, we are one of the brightest spots on earth. I used to say, when I was in another position, and the Americans also said it after a while that we represent in this region, the highest cluster of democracies of any region in the world. We can teach some of these big countries about the operation of democracy. We have something to teach them but we also would like, Mr. Speaker, to feel that the traditional positions that the Governments of Barbados have taken, a continuum, I am not referring to one party or the other but the position that has been taken by Barbados ever since they became part of the international community in 1966, positions that were based on respect for our sovereignty and respect for the integrity of states, the triumph of principle over raw and naked power, these principles, I would like to think, Sir, that when we discuss things like the Regional Security Systems that have these non-Caribbean benefactors and actors and so on that we will be able to keep to the front of all these activities, this paramount position of principle that has always characterised the foreign policy and indeed the domestic policy of the Government of Barbados.

Sir, I am grateful to you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to say from the outset that I will be supporting this Bill, Sir, but I want to make a few observations and as you know it most likely relates to the constituency which I represent. I know that this is a regional matter but I strongly believe that sometimes before you can deal with a matter outside of your territory that you need sometimes to correct the problems within.

Some three years ago, in this same said Parliament I said that I strongly believed that the security of this country should be enhanced by allowing the Coast Guard to station a boat at the Cement Plant. That idea was so well taken, Sir, that I am aware that a letter was written to the* Coast Guard, one was written to the Commissioner of Police and a company in Barbados decided that they would be happy to foot that bill and also that they would seek permission to have Customs and Immigration stationed at that same said location. I am also aware that the Attorney General at the time took the decision and he canvassed the

decision and he welcomed the decision. I am not sure who would have stopped that brilliant idea from being implemented. As I said, Sir, the Attorney General did what he had to do but yet still three years after nothing has been done. I want to say, Sir, that if we are going to get involved in a Regional Security System that we must first make sure that all the platforms that allow people to enter this country must first be covered. 12.45p.m.

Mr. Speaker, as the parliamentary representative for the constituency of St. Lucy I am not happy that we have some place in Barbados that we can regard as a port and yet still, Sir, that the agency that is supposed to protect our security interest has not been able to carry out its true functions.

I am saying, and I will repeat it again, Sir, I honestly believe that the same way the Bridgetown Port can have those facilities, that Port St. Charles will be having those facilities and that the Arawak Cement Plant should have those facilities in light of the activities that go on down there and also in the light that the Arawak Cement plant will shortly be getting involved in purchasing another exporting company, and that is the limestone plant in St. Lucy. This tells me that there is increased activity at that particular port. You can call it whatever you like. I do not care who does not designate it as a port. I am saying it is a port. It carries on activities that it should be regarded as a port and it should have the necessary amenities to make it a port. It is too important from a financial point of view and it is too important from a security point of view, if they continue to have the Arawak Cement plant open at the whims and fancy of people. That is why, Sir, sometimes I wonder.

I was very happy because while the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was speaking, I was hoping that he would mention about the Japanese and I was very grateful when the Honourable Member for St. George South and it was not surprising to hear it coming from him, mention about how the Japanese behave in the territorial waters in the Caribbean and nothing has been done about it. I want to know, Sir, if we cannot do anything about the Japanese depriving our fishermen of a living, if we could do something about the guys who feel that they can just do whatever they like within the country and can come and drop drugs wherever they want to drop drugs. I want to know what the Regional Security System will be doing about matters like these?

I am saying there is no way - when we have information that in the north of the country boats feel that because of the terrain that they can make their manoeuvres and do whatever they like - we can have a freeway at the Cement Plant. What is interesting, Sir, is that the

management and the owners of the cement plant are quite willing to make sure that they stop that loop hole. So, Sir, I say to the Honourable Attorney General I am aware of what you did and I know that you did not take the suggestion sitting down, you have worked on it and I am saying that despite whoever is stopping it, I am hoping, Sir, that he would be able to make that next step forward.

I am also aware, Sir, that he is the acting Prime Minister right now, Sir, and I would hope, Sir, that within the next few hours or two days that something will be done to correct that problem. Thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: Which problem are you referring to?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I see that you are inviting me to say something. I was speaking about that particular problem at the cement plant and not the other one that you would like to be dealt with.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all Honourable Members who have spoken in this debate and supported the legislation. I want to respond to 4 or 5 points.

First of all I heartily endorse the comments of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South earlier this morning about the actual necessity for the people of this region to have pride in themselves and a little self respect. It angers me. You go to a meeting and hear people from this region virtually begging cap in hand for money to run our own institutions.

I will give you an example. I have had to make Barbados' position very clear. As recently as the Heads of Government meeting in July, I prepared a Paper for the Prime Minister on the implementation of the regional plans of action on drugs. Perhaps if I go back Honourable Members would understand the context.

In May last year Barbados chaired a meeting under which we developed a regional plan of action against drugs. All the countries of the region from Belize, the Dominican Republic to Surinam were represented. All of the G7 countries were here and we worked for 2 days and developed that plan of action which I think, Sir, may have been laid in here. That plan of action is now being implemented after a number of studies have been done. We come to the 10th of May this year and President Clinton comes here and we develop a plan of action to deal with justice and security matters. The justice and security matters were one of the two main components of that plan of action. Those plans were developed at the level of Ministers. The question arises how do we implement those plans of action? Ministers cannot implement plans of action.

At an inter-governmental task force meeting in Jamaica in May, Barbados therefore put up that we should have a project office properly staffed, properly funded, funded by the 12 or 13 states of CARICOM. If it costs \$300 000 a year for funding we must among ourselves find the money. Honourable Members would be surprised to know how many countries, as recently as September were still saying, we have to ask the Americans for this. We have to ask the British for that. A little group of us sat down in Jamaica and worked out one night the costings to have a project office and people are still looking and standing up and facing you like if they feel proud to say, we have to try and get a piece of change from this organisation and that organisation. How much money are we talking about? Compromising our self respect all the time and I insisted at the most recent Justice Joint sub-Committee meeting here at the Grand Barbados a few weeks ago with the Americans, we do not wish you to fund anything for our project coordinator. You have a project co-coordinator, you fund that. They have transmitted to Barbados already \$200 000 to base their operative in the US Embassy and we are still waiting, with some in the region butting around looking to beg for money. It is not good, Sir. I am glad that I have the support of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and all the other Honourable Members in here, for the position that we must not on these matters be seen to be mendicants. 12.55 p.m.

The second matter. Sir, is in relation to the privileges and immunities asked by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. He will see that the privileges and immunities are dealt with, in Article 8 of the Headquarters Agreement which appears on page 11. The form and content of the privileges and immunities are almost identical with the privileges and immunities as provided for in the Caribbean Development Bank Act, which was introduced in 1970 and is now in Chapter 323A.

In recent months this Government, and I suspect the previous Government, has been using as a precedent for these types of arrangements, the provisions of the CDB Act. Indeed, when we made the offer to the West Indian Cricket Board of Control in 1995, for the Headquarters Agreement, the terms of that offer were similar to the terms of the schedule to the CDB Act. So that there is nothing new in this legislation on the business of privileges and immunities that distinguishes it from what we have been accustomed to, under the schedule to the CDB Act. The CDB now finds itself in the position of having a Barbadian President, who is a national of Barbados, resident in Barbados.

This matter will come up again, Sir, and I will give it further study, but Cabinet, I believe, in November 1996

dealt with this matter and formulated a policy. I was not present at the meeting, but I have seen the report, because this matter is going to come up again soon when we bring the Bill to incorporate by legislation, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). That is coming very soon, with similar privileges.

All these matters were worked out between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I promised my friend that when we bring the CDERA legislation, I will have a fuller statement also to make on this, after consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs who is obviously not in her seat today and the Prime Minister.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. I was not raising questions with regard to the immunity and privileges of the system and I accept that. I was dealing only with the problem as it relates to the Coordinator, since the Coordinator is now a Barbadian.

Now Article 8 of the Headquarters Agreement says,

"Members of the Council, other Representatives and Members and the Coordinator shall have the right in connection with their official duties with the system to:

- (a) Immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal and official baggage;
- (b) Immunity from legal process of every kind in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in their official capacity; and
- (c) In respect of other matters not covered in (a) and (b) above, such other immunities, exemptions, privileges and facilities as are enjoyed by Members of diplomatic missions of comparable ranks, subject to corresponding conditions and obligations."

Now, if that person is coming from any territory in the world, that is not a problem because that is what it normally includes. What I am asking is, how has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by extension, the Government, solve the problem, or has it solved the problem or does this apply to the Coordinator? That is really the issue I was raising.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would answer that by saying that as I understand it, it applies to the Coordinator. I understand the problem raised by the Minister. I cannot tell him it has been solved by other instrumentality, exchange of correspondence, a

diplomatic note or otherwise, but I am saying to him, Sir, that it is the same language as he finds under Article 13 of the CDB Act with applies to the President.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: A point of further elucidation, Sir. The question I raised in fact was, I took note of the fact that it had been done to the CDB. It has subsequently been done, in part, to the CTO and what I was asking is if this is now going to become a matter of policy for the Government.

Obviously, if he cannot answer it now because it has not been established, I do not need to have an answer now, but I raised the question because it is a very serious issue which has to be addressed. We either have to go back to the status quo before the CDB, which was one of those arbitrary situations which might not necessarily have been worked out and thought out. A solution had to be found and nobody stood in the way. I am only saying that we need to determine whether that is going to be a policy and if so, articulate it for the citizens. Or, we need to go back to the status quo anti.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, as I said, I give the Honourable Member the assurance that when the Minister of Foreign Affairs returns, I will raise the matter with her to see if it is now settled policy. Because, there is other legislation in the pipeline, Sir, such as the CDERA Bill that will contain similar-provisions.

The third matter, Sir, relates to the Arawak Cement Plant. I wish to assure the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that the Government is giving consideration to the concerns expressed not only by the Honourable Member, but by several people and which are very obvious to Government. Because, it is a fact that the north of Barbados has been used fairly consistent as an area for landing drugs, particularly marijuana coming especially from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and we are taking advice on this matter, Sir.

The Port St. Charles will be covered by the provisions of the Barbados Harbours Act and the subsidiary legislation. It will be a port. In the documentation, the drawings and plans that were brought in here, Sir, I want to make it clear again, for the public benefit that at Port St. Charles there will be an office of the Immigration Department. A police post, and there will always be police and immigration presence there. There will also be an office for Customs and those security forces will have the right and channel to go any part of the property in

execution of their duties. That is implicit, explicit, indeed, I think it is in Section 5 of the Port St. Charles Act.

The fact is that the company will be building facilities and it will not be opened to use until those facilities are built and are operational and that is an absolute surety. Now, whether we take that model and transfer it on a similar basis to Arawak, or we do something less, is being worked out. In other words, do we ask Arawak to put up facilities up there for customs, immigration and police? That is being considered by the security people who advise the Government.

Now, Sir, the final reply is in relation to the point raised by the Honourable Member for St. George South. He wanted to know about any possible overlap between this Agreement and the Shiprider Agreement. The Shiprider Agreement, Sir, for Barbados, not necessarily the type of agreements signed by the other countries of the region, but so far as Barbados and Jamaica are concerned, those agreements restrict the right of the U.S. authorities, let us just call them law enforcement authorities, (a) to patrol within our 12-mile limit indiscriminately. If they are coming in within the 12-mile limit they have to get permission from us. Those Agreements restrict the right of aircraft to traverse our airspace unless under the direction of the Tower at Grantley Adams Airport. 1.05 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They ask for permission to overfly Barbados from time to time and we have to say "Yes" or "No." We grant the permission through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but once permission has been granted, they are supposed to act in compliance with any instructions given by the Tower here. It has not always been so. In fact, you give them instructions and they do as they like and we have had to be very firm on that. There is a code of behaviour that has been worked out.

Now, Sir, in relation to boarding and searching of vessels, the Agreement restricts the right of U.S. law enforcement officials to board, search and detain within the 12-mile limit which is part of Barbados' territory. It is not so in other agreements, but we had to fight for that. It took a week to negotiate that because the only people who can exercise police powers on Barbados' territory or within Barbados' territorial waters are the police of Barbados. There is no authority in any law to devolve that responsibility on any foreign Government in the absence of legislative adaption so when they were saying: "We have to have this and we have to have that," we said: "No, you do not have to have it because we do not have any legislative authority. We cannot give you power. It is not in our law. You cannot."

Now, Sir, since we restrict the Americans from coming into our exclusive economic zone unless authorised and unless we agree, there is a point of departure between the Shiprider and this, the RSS Agreement. You will see that those restrictions do not apply to RSS vessels. Hot pursuit does not apply to an RSS vessel. It is in the legislation. It is Article 4(3) which says:

"The interests of one Member State are the interests of the others; and accordingly the Member States shall have the right of "hot-pursuit" within each other's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone."

Those are the answers, Sir.

I have not really spoken in this House on Shiprider. I did do a film on the Shiprider at CBC on May 24, but I was waiting on the debate on Foreign Affairs. I will discuss the Shiprider with the House more fully on that occasion. Perhaps there will also be an opportunity for me to update Honourable Members on the latest position with the various plans of action.

All I can say is that the implementation of the Clinton Plan of Action, as I call it, that implementation procedure is going very well on our side, the Justice and Security side. I do not believe we are making the same kind of progress on the trade and development issues.

The implementation of the Plan of Action that is being funded by the European Union The European Union, let me say, should be very well known by now. It is committed to spending approximately US\$100 million in this region on drugs in the next five years spanning from the Bahamas, the most northerly point, to Suriname. Four studies have been prepared and the European Union has set up a project office.

We believe that arising out of those studies there will be a number of jobs coming on stream, high level jobs at the level of project manager, director, if you like, but very senior and well paying jobs. That is on the European 1996 Plan on Action.

On the Clinton Plan of Action we can see a coordinator, deputy coordinator and support staff. There will be seven or eight jobs, two of which will be high level. In addition to that, I can also say as President of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force for the next year that there should be coming in the Press shortly an advertisement for a deputy director of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force. He will have to be based in Trinidad, but Barbadians are eligible.

With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 1.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr. SPEAKER:

This House is now resumed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. G. W. Payne the House resolved itself into Committee Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed. Parts I

and II were called and passed. Schedules 1 and 2

were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. G. W. PAYNE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. G. W. PAYNE the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Regional Security System Act, 1997.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the House goes into Committee, there are two Resolutions before this Honourable House. One Resolution was circulated before today, that is the Resolution in the sum of \$25 million and the second Resolution was circulated today. I alerted the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to this late circulation but the money is needed urgently. We did not experience any difficulty with it and I am

therefore asking that both Resolutions be taken together, that is to say, as we finish the first one we can move to the second one.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. G. W. Payne the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

ORDER NO. 9 - A RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$321 056 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 1997/98 AS SET OUT IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 9 - HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary in the sum of \$321 056 is needed to remedy a number of problems which have been plaguing the old National Insurance Building across the water for many years now. These problems include leaking roofs, poor telephone systems, light fixtures which give off malodorous fumes and irritating vapours, lifts that do not work, water that seeps into the building from car parks around the old National Insurance Building, breaks in the water supplies to the building, poor drinking water quality, lack of ventilation in the toilets, faulty windows, some of which cannot be opened, some of which cannot be closed and a very inadequate air-conditioning system.

Sir, in the early 1990s, the National Insurance Department carried out a condition survey of the building and concluded then that the cost of refurbishment, repair and renovation was so high that it would have been cheaper to construct a new building. As a result, they moved to Culloden Road and constructed the new National Insurance Building and other offices in the complex named Sir Frank Walcott Building.

In March 1992, five years ago, M. T. W., the Public Works Section advised on the condition of that building and recommended, I quote, this is what they say:

"When the National Insurance employees move to their building in September this year, no new occupants should move into the unoccupied area until appropriate inspection and maintenance are carried out".

Sir, at that time, Marine House was in a terrible state of dilapidation and on the point of collapse and the then Government was forced to vacate Marine House and to use the old National Insurance Building for space which was critical to Government's operations and very much needed. None of the major problems which I referred to in my opening remarks has been rectified.

This building requires major, major refurbishment. In September the last time when I acted, Sir, during that period, one day I was told by officers working in that department of the conditions of the building, that was a time when we were experiencing very great heat, that the heat was so oppressive that employees had to come outside and could not work in the building. I then asked the Minister responsible for the Civil Service to go down with a team of officials, investigate the problem, and let me know what was the problem and what we could do. That was done, Sir. I was informed at the time that a contract for refurbishing the air-conditioning system had already been awarded to Servicex (Barbados) Limited in the sum of \$309 834 but the fan coil units which were required for that system have to be manufactured according to specifications and could not be ordered just off the shelf. I gave instructions then, Sir, that all that was necessary should be done to start some remedial works at that building without further delay. This supplementary is therefore brought with the necessary haste to ensure that the workers in that old National Insurance building have better and more commodious surroundings within which to serve the customers of the Government and carry out their functions. 2.30 p.m.

The equipment has been ordered but it is not expected to arrive in Barbados before December this year. It will take 3 to 4 weeks to instal. At the same time firms have also been requested to examine the windows and quote with a view to the repair of those windows. As an immediate remedy however we have decided to order 100 fans to assist in the cooling to relieve some of the unbearable conditions that are prevalent in that building.

On the 24th October the Chief Technical Officer of the Ministry of Transport and Works indicated that a survey of the building would be carried out to look at the roofs and the floors in particular and based on this report the division of Public Works would be in a better position to make an assessment of the cost of total remedial works. That will come in due course. Today's request is for immediate relief from the oppressive conditions brought on by the unbearable heat that we have had, that we will continue to have and that the workers in that building have been undergoing for the last several months.

Some relief is therefore being brought to the workers in that building in terms of reducing the heat in

the building. As I say for the benefit of Honourable Members who have just come, the 100 fans will bring some relief but the ultimate goal of cooling the building by air-conditioning will not be achieved until January because the equipment has to be ordered and it takes 3 to 4 weeks to instal it so we are asking Honourable Members to look favourably on this request for supplementary and to accede to the Ministry's wishes in granting the sum of \$321 056.

I therefore beg to move that Head 13 in the sum of \$321 056 stand part.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this particular Resolution. I do not know if many people know it but that is the building in which I am housed and I too have my concerns. The Data Processing Department, the Ministry of Labour, the Labour Department, the Bureau of Women's Affairs, the Electoral Office, the Land Tax Department, the Statistical Services and indeed the Barbados National Bank are all housed in that building and workers in those departments, Sir, continue to cry out almost daily for the unbearable conditions at this old NIS Building.

Even after this temporary measure is put in place I do believe that the workers will continue to cry out. This must be seen, Sir, as a short-term measure. This is for fans and I do believe that the time is going to come, very shortly, when the people at the NIS building will realise that what those fans will actually do would be to circulate very hot air. It is also for flushing the air-conditioning ducts as well as for repairs to windows. But there are other concerns which I have as well.

Now, the building, yes it is very hot. It is very, very unbearable. The air-conditioning systems are definitely not functioning and as I have said, I am speaking from first hand information. I go up those steps every day. I know, almost on every floor what happens in the building. I sit in a room where the perspiration used to be pelting down my back every day. It was very, very hot and I remained and I bore it.

I have walked up those steps, Mr. Speaker, to see persons in the Ministry of Labour sweating profusely on the point of bad-feels. I have had to speak to them. Two of them came to me in tears about the condition of the building and they did it that way because they did not want to go down in any protest, in any walk out. They were actually putting up with it, I would not say for my sake, but they said they did not want to go down and join any protest.

I know of an instance where one of the female workers had to go into a room, take off her blouse and fan herself because it was that hot. The point I am making is

that I know of the very unbearable conditions at that building. Sometimes when courtesy calls are being paid by someone to the Ministry, when there are meetings, you have to push up the windows and put something to prop up the windows and at least on half a dozen occasions whatever the props were they fell out and the windows came down. It is in a deplorable state, especially at this time of the year, and it seems to me that the summers are becoming hotter and hotter. This year in particular, there have been more complaints about that building, than at any other time that I know about.

The toilet facilities, Mr. Chairman, are deplorable. There are in a very bad state. Here again, there is no ventilation in the toilets and very often you go into those washrooms and you come out feeling worst than when you went in. 2.40 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: This is the building I work in. The drinking fountains, Mr. Chairman, are not working. So, here you are, Mr. Chairman, working in a building where it is like a furnace and you are hot both on the outside and on the inside and you cannot even get cold water to quench your thirst.

The lifts in the building are always breaking down. There are three lifts and more often than not just one lift is working. Those lifts, from time to time, malfunction and sometimes they malfunction with persons in them, who are there for 20 minutes and so on. I know of an instance where a young lady who was pregnant was caught in the lift. She actually fainted and had to get medical attention. This is something which is virtually common place there with those lifts.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know what is the position in terms of the drinking water. What I can say is that there are lots of persons who work at the old NIS building who do not partake of the drinking water in the building. Apparently, the water is pumped from the ground, then it goes up to the top of the building where it is stored in a tank, and then it is fed back from that tank down to the floors.

There was a time when, I understand, the tank was collecting dust and moss and it was filtering through the water. They then painted the inside of the tank and even then, people had complained that as the paint peeled off, some of this too, was coming through in the drinking water. So, people at the NIS building, bring their own water to work. I was told not to drink any of the water from the very first day I went into that building.

Mr. Chairman, I know the point which was made just now, that the Labour Department is the department that has always made the point that health and safety of the worker is paramount, and that the irony of the situation is that the very building which houses the Labour Department is uncomfortable, to say the least. The point I want to make here is that the Labour Department has to wait on other Ministries and the Labour Department is virtually powerless and has no power to deal with these conditions on its own.

I must say that as Minister of Labour, I am extremely concerned about the conditions which exist in the old NIS building. I want to give my support to the Resolution because any measure that goes toward alleviating the problem at the old NIS building will be welcomed and so, as I said, the Resolution has my support.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, as I look at Head 13 Object No: 211, Sir, I must admit that it gives me some concern because it is asking me to support, an amount of \$306 556 to meet the cost of repairs to windows, contingencies, as well as to make payment to Bajan Cleaners to flush out the ducts of air-conditioning units.

When I saw that, Sir, I asked myself how long ago that Bajan Cleaners happen to be a company that deals with refrigeration and things like that. I am saying that this is a very serious error because...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I do not care who Bajan Cleaners belong to. I am making a point and the point I am making, Sir, that I believe a job like this should be done by a company that deals with refrigeration work, Sir. I am saying that Cleaners should not be dealing with air-conditioning ducts. It should be done by a company that deals with refrigeration. I see nothing here that tells me that a refrigeration company is flushing out ducts. I am saying that I need to know the breakdown of the amount it will cost to repair the windows and the cost that it will take for flushing out these ducts, Sir, because it is clear to me that something is wrong here and it seems to me to be a wrong priority. I will ask if, at the end of the day, you will not have the same problem at the National Insurance Building.

What is rather amazing, Sir, is object 65, because after you have done all of this, you still have to buy 100 fans. If you flush out the ducts, Sir, there should be no reason to buy 100 fans. So already, the Government is admitting that they do not even trust the work of the cleaners, under Object 211. So, I need to ask the Minister and I know he is only holding the papers but I need to find out what is going on here because something is wrong. If

you are going to flush the ducts and then turn around and buy 100 fans something has to be wrong with the job that is being delivered to you.

So, Mr. Chairman, I want to know what is wrong. I want to know how much it is going to cost to repair the windows and how much it is going to cost to flush out the ducts in the air-conditioning at the National Insurance Building. That is all I want to know, Sir.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I heard the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in his introduction of this measure and I think that the particular building in question has been neglected for a long time. That building was opened by the Queen when I was a school boy.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes. I remember they asked students to come out and so on. Even after it was opened, initially in the early stages there were problems with that building and the problems persisted continuously down through both administrations.

I am wondering whether the Government should not consider, as an alternative to the stop gap measures which would cost \$315 000, seeking to relocate temporarily, as has been done with the courts and so on, the workers in that building and undertake the substantial works that need to be done as a matter of urgency. 2.50 p.m.

It seems to me that what happens in Government, and we know this from past experience, is that you have these stop gap measures. You may have the air-conditioner installed. A couple of months later they will be fooling around with the elevators. They would be fooling around with the windows and it will be an interminable process to get that building in the state which is desirable for work of the nature carried out there and a building in which the public comes into contact regularly with persons in that building.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip North talks about the use of the stairs but the last time I went there I was even frightened to use the stairs because my recollection is that the stairs themselves were defective. Either a piece of concrete had fallen off one of the steps, or the tiles were up, or there were other problems, so it is entirely critical, in my view, that that building be vacated and major works be done on it if it is to remain in use by Government for any prolonged period. I would suggest that very strongly.

I know the Government has other projects in mind, the major project at Warrens and those things but, at

the same time, I think this one is priority and that an effort should be made for Government to design a project to rehabilitate that building and to move the persons who are presently sited in it out to other accommodation for the time being.

It is not like Marine House where, as I say, there were stop gap measures and attempts were made to relocate the workers in other buildings until the building was of no use whatsoever. That building must have still a useful life in it as a building for Government and major works should be undertaken to rehabilitate the building as a whole.

I commiserate with the workers down through the years, not just those who have suffered in recent weeks because of the heat, but those who worked in that building when the National Insurance Department was there and when it was overcrowded, when other Ministries were located there. The people who worked in the Savings Bank now the Barbados National Bank, I commiserate with them, the Electoral Office, the Labour Department, the Data Processing Offices and the many other offices.

I believe it is a tribute to their dedication that they continued to work in that building while it deteriorated. That is why I am suggesting that even what is recommended here, cleaning out the airconditioning and repairs to the windows are not enough to make that building habitable. So I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and will go a step further and urge on Government that it gives the kind of priority to this that was given to the Registry and that was given to other Government Departments.

These are Ministries that deal with major issues that affect the people of Barbados. Imagine you have a Chief Labour Officer with people working under him in sub human conditions and then he has to go out and adjudicate disputes relating to the rights of workers and the relation to unions. It must put him in a compromising position and it is not satisfactory. I think, as I say, that the same level of attention that has been paid to other Government buildings now that Government has the resources to do it, that a major rehabilitation of that building should be undertaken.

I should also like to hear from the Acting Prime Minister whether these repairs to the windows and the contingencies which were undertaken whether these were tendered for, whether they fall under the new limit which Government had introduced and, perhaps, he could indicate what other works would come under the Head of Contingencies.

Those are really all the questions I have. I believe the location of that building where it is, that it is because of

that location that serious attention has not been paid to it, right onto Nelson Street and next to the bus stand. People generally do not regard that area as an area where serious attention should be paid to the environment, the aesthetics and so on. Therefore, the external and internal conditions of that building have deteriorated very rapidly and I think Government needs to set an example in its efforts to rehabilitate Bridgetown by doing immediate work on the National Insurance Building so that the workers there will be able to do the very important task which they perform efficiently and in some comfort, and the public who have to use these facilities on a daily basis would find them conducive.

The last time I was there was for a hearing at the Electoral office. There were many other senior members of Government there too and I was surprised going up the steps, as I say, at the condition of the building. There were other senior officials of Government. It is true they had other issues on their mind at that time, but the point is that it was clear that there had been major deterioration beyond what I had even imagined.

We will support this Resolution, late though it is, because we believe it is important for the safety and comfort of workers, the public and to the efficiency of Government's operations.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a short intervention in this debate. I used to visit this building as far back as the late 1970s and early 1980s. From the mid 1980s that building was having its share of problems. At that time, I remember, people being stuck in the elevators and this building that housed at that time such important Departments like the National Insurance Department that caters to so many people and have a lot of traffic coming in and out of the building all the time and nothing was ever done to the building. Complaints were made back then about the windows, doors and so on of the building.

The National Bank rents the same building and I believe that they themselves, since they are tenants, any problems they might probably try to rectify themselves or get it done and probably deduct the cost from the rent I believe that these Government buildings should have a special committee for the maintenance of the buildings. Private enterprises do the same thing. They have committees and they make sure that their buildings are well maintained.

Some time ago they had some serious problems at the Treasury Building where all kinds of mites and asbestos were in the air and people were complaining. My previous wife was transferred from working there because of health reasons.

Asides.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, they are getting on as if some of them were never divorced.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He said his "previous wife" but he really meant "one of."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the NIS building has the kinds of problems the Treasury building had. But, as I said, some committee should be in place to take care of the building.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that if you let things get out of hand you will have to spend a large amount of money but if over the years like every two years or so you do some maintenance of the air-conditioning I do believe that you would be nipping things in the bud.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy talking about the air-conditioning but I am quite sure that the firm which will carry out the repairs to the air-conditioning is a reputable firm. I believe at the end of the day the amenities to the building can be restored.

I would say right now, Sir, that one of the best things about the building is the view one gets when one goes to the top of the building and looks out.

I thank you, Sir.
3.00 p.m.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, a few comments were made with respect to this Head pertaining to the actual maintenance of the building concerned. I would just like to state here that the Division of Public Works has the responsibility for the maintenance of these buildings.

This building, like the Treasury Building, is one which was constructed over 25 years ago and within the Division of Public Works we have actually been looking at the demolition of some of these old buildings. The problem is what would we do with those offices that are presently housed inside of the buildings. I know that the repairs to certain equipment has been a source of some concern. In many cases in particular with respect to the air-conditioning systems, a lot of the manufacturers have gone out of business and there are no new parts in order to effect meaningful repairs and all of the measures that must be put in place are stop gap measures. Even though there may be

concern about the fact, the fans would not actually solve the problems, all we are doing, as a temporary measure is making life more comfortable for the workers concerned but it is not a situation which the Division of Public Works will be able to remedy overnight. It would call for a complete re-wiring of the entire building which would not serve much purpose, it would be too costly to go through that exercise because it would involve actually going into the walls and the strength of those buildings over a period of time is something which would have to be taken into consideration.

There are presently eight government offices in this particular building and as you know, Mr. Chairman, we are presently looking at the Warrens area but the Warrens area would not be able to accommodate all of these. At the moment there have been a number of requests from various government agencies with respect to office space. The situation is so serious that within the Ministry, the Division of Housing, we have actually placed advertisements in the newspapers in order that persons in the private sector who have buildings and are interesting in renting them that they would be able to make them available to the Government. We have had very little response and the response that we have had so far has not been satisfactory in that there are some individuals who have been asking for exorbitant rates for very, very small properties.

The problem is one which is serious and we would like to urge all of those various government departments and other departments in this building at least to bear with us and hope for the best and hopefully when we have completed the Warrens Complex we probably might be able in the long term to look at another site where we will be able to put up a similar building and at that time the question of the demolition of these two buildings is something which Government would definitely have to consider.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to make a couple of observations on this because I really do not believe that this building is of sufficient antiquity that demolition should be regarded as an answer to these problems.

This building, I believe was built in the mid 1970s, somewhere along that period of time. I remember it very distinctly because it was financed by a loan from the National Insurance Board. It was designed by an architect at that time who was of the school that air-conditioning was to be an end of all kinds of internal ventilation and it was not necessary to have windows. This was not the only building, the CDB building in Wildey also has the same kind of design. Eventually, of course, the CDB had to provide an alternative method of ventilation as a standby in case the air-conditioning system went down. I believe it was at the time of what was supposed to be called the energy crisis, early in the 1970s, the first energy crisis.

The history of this building illustrates a fundamental problem that we have and it is that sufficient attention is not paid on an annual basis to maintenance of buildings and that is the problem. We are now repairing the Supreme Court, the new section of the Registry. I remember when that was built in the 1970s and no major repairs had been carried out to the Supreme Court building like no major repairs have been carried out to the old National Insurance Building. The Supreme Court Registry was built in 1956 and it was built in the old style with windows and ventilation and so forth. What we need to do is to recognise that there is such a thing as 'a sick building'¹ syndrome and to recognise that every building has to have a maintenance programme attached to it and to recognise that as part of our annual Estimates we should try and provide money for the repairs of the building.

The air-conditioning system, the same original system has been in there for 20 years and to expect that an air-conditioned system would last that period of time, I think, is to be out of touch with reality, the ideal life of an air-conditioning unit is five years, you may stretch it to seven years or ten years but to stretch it to 20 years is remarkable service. My understanding of the air-conditioning system that will replace the one that is there now after the system has been flushed out is that it will be rewarded to a contractor who is the agent for York. York air-conditioners are widely known systems used the world over and it is one of those companies that specialise in big air-conditioning systems and those big systems are the type that are ideally suited for the nature of the building.

Lifts are another problem, lifts have a life. This House has only been recently refurbished and we have a new lift which periodically breaks down too. So all of these things have a finite life and I think that we really have been abusing some of these building and that we really have to decide in our minds as politicians that we must take the criticisms that are legitimately leveled at Governments when expenditure is incurred on housing and public services, not only here, but the world over. As a matter of fact, the modern tendency in many countries is to leave this area, the provision of Government buildings, except in a few instances, to what is known as the 'private finance initiative'¹ and that the Government will rent from investors. We have not got accustomed yet to paying rents in Barbados and a true economic rent on a new building in Barbados is going to be somewhere in the vicinity of 20% to 25% of the capital cost. I know the Honourable Member for St. Lucy will certainly not invest in any such building unless he could get a gross return of 20% to 25% because he would tell you that having to pay 8% or 10% interest on the money, having to apply 3% or 4% for maintenance, having to have a return on his equity that he would want that facility. 3.10 p.m.

Now, an interesting thing is, Sir, that the Honourable Member and Minister of Public Works has said that all of the rents that come up are exorbitant. Well you must look at the cost of the building and see what it cost in today's market so that a decision has to be made on Government's part. We have to provide proper annual maintenance. We have to keep these buildings in good condition and it may be, as the Honourable Minister has said, that there will be increasingly a trend in which the Government, instead of building these buildings will be renting these buildings from property institutions but we have to accept the fact that the property institutions are going to want a rate of return. So that is the choice that we have to make, whether it is cheaper for us to build for ourselves and keep it properly repaired or rent from the private sector. That is the position.

There is no shortage of capital in Barbados at the present moment. Absolutely none and all those banks that say they want permission to export money want their heads examined because there is such a great need for secure investments in these kinds of activities so that the Government, you cannot want a better tenant than the Government, although the National Insurance Board and the other people will tell you that is not true, they do not like to pay. The basic point is this, that we have to use our money in Barbados for the purpose of providing the infrastructure that is necessary in Barbados and if Government provides it, Government must understand that it has a cost and maintenance is an essential part of the cost. Unless we change our attitudes in relation to this we will find ourselves in a position in which, every year, many of these 20, 25 and 30-year buildings will have to undergo a major reconstruction and there will be problems of intolerable working conditions for employees and in this modern era that is not going to be accepted by anybody.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few brief remarks about the concerns that members have with the National Insurance Building at Independence Square, Fairchild Street. I have worked in this building temporarily. I have gone to it on numerous occasions. I have always found that there is a problem of ventilation. It is always hot and sticky, the lifts are always dirty sometimes stuffy as well and I find that there is need for us to pay more attention to the buildings that workers have to work in. I believe that if this is done it would help to motivate workers in a meaningful way.

We need to motivate the public servants to produce and surely in this building workers who work in the National Insurance Building, those who work in the Ministry of Labour, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the bank cannot be motivated after 12 o'clock on any day because it is always hot and therefore we need to spend money in helping to alleviate the problems that now exist in this building.

I am not sure that the sums that are now going to be voted will be adequate to provide ventilation and help the workers in any way. I believe that there is a need for a complete overhauling of the system.

I also believe that the time has come, as all members have already pointed out, that since capital may not be a problem today that we have to overhaul the system but we cannot overhaul the system over night and this is the point that the Minister made because it would mean re-housing a number of workers and we surely do not have the space.

As the Minister of Public Works made the point before, the demand for office space is there. There are a number of buildings that are needed to house a number of civil servants. The public service is growing and therefore adequate space is needed. I am aware that there are times when officers complain they do not have a desk to sit at. They do not have chairs and so on. The space is limited so we need to take into consideration the space for the civil servants. We also have to understand the problem of parking. I think there is the problem of parking in this building as well. Sometimes you have a number of cars driving into the car park area and there is no place to park. This building was constructed at a time when there were not as many vehicles as there are today but as all Honourable Members realise most civil servants now drive to work and the problem of parking is real. So again we may have to look at the site at the Warrens Complex where we can move out some of these offices in time but this may take another 3 or 4 or 5 years down the road. Until the question is answered what are you going to do with all the workers in this building? They will most likely have to endure some of the problems until they can be solved by a new building.

I understand that some of the offices are to be removed to the Warrens Complex but this is still down the road. So the problems will remain for a little while and members of the public and members of the House can be assured that the Government is trying its best to make sure that workers have better conditions to work under in terms of lighting and in terms of adequate facilities and parking and so on.

I also believe that in a modern building we need to provide more windows and so on for ventilation. I think we rely too much on artificial ventilation. I think we have to provide more windows so that in case of shortage of electricity, in case there is any breakdown in the system that the workers would not suffer as they do.

I can think of the Ministerial Building in Bay Street. To my mind that building could serve as an example, a building that was erected since the 1950s yet it still looks modern and if the system breaks down workers are not affected as they are affected in either the Treasury Building

or the National Insurance Building. If you look in the new National Insurance Building at Collymore Rock you will find that the problem of ventilation occurs as well. 3.20 p.m.

If the system breaks down, you have a problem and the workers have to go home. In many cases as well you will find that every time you go into the new building at NIS, and that building is not even five years old, that the lifts are always out of order. It seems to me that we need proper maintenance staff. We need personnel to keep repairing these lifts and I am not sure if the contractors, who were the contractors from the beginning, did a good job. Because, I cannot understand how the lifts could break down so often. Every day in the week you will find lifts breaking down. So something is wrong.

I lived in North America for a number of years and I lived in a high-rise apartment building and we never had problems like this when you had lifts going up 18 storeys. So, I believe there is a problem here and we have to look carefully at those contractors who are contracted to repair and to maintain these lifts and air-conditioning units.

The Minister reminded me that this problem occurred in the Ministry of Housing as well. We have to look at these buildings and we have to look at providing adequate space and accommodation for the workers in order to motivate them to produce. As I said before, I believe that more architects, planners and engineers should take a leaf out of the book of the person who designed the building at Bay Street.

I hope that the new building at Warrens will take into account that natural ventilation is important. Then again, Mr. Chairman, one finds that even some of these artificial ventilation machines usually make workers very sick. There are many respiratory problems occurring today where workers suffer and have to go home sick on a daily basis. I believe the sick days in the Civil Service today is higher than before. I believe sick days are very high and it is only high because of poor ventilation. To my mind, we need more natural ventilation within the buildings.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would want to support this cause and I hope that we can look at this problem not only in the NIS building, but also in all Government buildings. I hope that we can look at adequate parking and I believe when we look in the future at what will happen to Barbados 25 years from now in terms of parking and in terms of a growing civil service, we have to plan for that time.

Thank you.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I recall when this particular building, which is the subject to

this Resolution was built and, Mr. Chairman, it struck me in the early 1970s when the foundation for that building was being prepared that considering the question of the cost of it, its size and the time it took for completion, I formed the view, Mr. Chairman, that such a building should be available to us for a very long time.

I rather doubt, Mr. Chairman, whether this building is yet 25 years old and I therefore support the sentiments of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South who indicated that in a situation where a building that is costly and is relatively young, that such a building should be available for a long time and should not be wanting or readily demolished.

As far as I am aware, Mr. Chairman, this building houses a number of important government institutions and I recall more than once, Mr. Chairman, that workers occupying this side, have come out in protest against the types of conditions under which they were made to labour. I recall instances when staff came out protesting that the conditions were unsatisfactory. I even recall union involvement where the principal bargaining body and representative of the workers made indications to Government that the time had come for something to be done about the conditions prevailing inside the building.

Just recently, Mr. Chairman, I had the opportunity to look at a magazine that was talking about a number of variables that affect workers, including workers health, workers welfare and such like, and without being able to remember the author of this article, Mr. Chairman, an argument was being made out in the article that even though some managers and bosses are apt to criticise workers for low levels of productivity, that managers and bosses should realise that notwithstanding what poor characteristics a worker might manifest and notwithstanding what skills and abilities a worker would normally have that also fundamental to the whole question of a worker's productivity, is the work environment.

Mr. Chairman, this article was making out the argument that a worker's work environment goes a long way toward affecting a worker's productivity. In fact, the article even argues that if the work environment is closely allied to the organisation as a principal feature in the organisation, then such an environment might impact more on productivity than the workers own skills, abilities and attitudes.

I therefore agree with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for St. George North who made the clear argument in a very brilliant speech that it is the Government's responsibility to ensure that its workers work in safe and hygienic conditions and that the Government should do its utmost as the model employer, to set the

stage for a situation to prevail where workers can be comfortable. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, to his credit, the Honourable Leader and Honourable Member for St. John made a very strong point when he said that in a situation where a principal person involved in the Labour Department is often called on to arbitrate in matters affecting health and safety at work, in a situation where he, himself is working in substandard conditions, then such a person should compromise. I think the Honourable Member for St. John made a truly brilliant point on that score, because it would be most ironic, Mr. Chairman, if anyone was to work in a job where he was called in to access and evaluate the physical conditions of the workers' workplace and their environment, when he, himself functions in a substandard environment.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the mood of this Honourable House at this stage is not only to support this Resolution, but the mood of all Honourable Members is that if we in Government, are supposed to set examples out there, we have to do so sending clear signals and we have to do so in a situation where we accept responsibility as the model employer for ensuring that the types of standards that we would expect of private sector employers are indeed set by Government. 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, as important an office as the Electoral Office operates in this environment, as important an office as the Land Tax Department operates in that environment, and I believe that members of the public have to go there from time to time and there have been complaints from the public about the conditions in there. In fact, so hot can in there be that there are times when the person operating the PBX is unable to spend a whole day from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. working because of not being able to sit and concentrate especially in the afternoon.

As I say so, Mr. Chairman, I want to make a very important observation. I notice that at the new National Insurance Building, the one in Culloden Road, there is a full-time Property Manager employed. I do not know whether the old National Insurance Building has a Property Manager. I rather doubt it. I am saying that if it does not have one it could very well be that because of a lack of a Property Manager at the old National Insurance Office a number of things relevant to the property have not been highlighted. I do not know if the Honourable Minister and Member for St. Philip North has yet given his mind to it but in view of a fair situation where Government is going to need that old National Insurance Building for years to come, I believe the time may have come for us in Government to consider whether we should appoint a Property Manager for the old National Insurance building so that as problems surface and evolve they can be tackled expeditiously and in a timely manner.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, what can also be said is that what we are seeking to do here this afternoon is something that may very well have been due now for some time. I believe that a number of the problems that are expected to be addressed after the passage of this Resolution could have been around for a considerable time.

I note, Mr. Chairman, that a considerable amount of the funding that Parliament is being asked to provide is to deal with the whole question of ventilation, and the air-conditioning system, as well as the problem of addressing plant, equipment and furniture. Bearing in mind then all that has been said in this debate, bearing in mind the fact that our Government is committed to ensuring the best possible standards of health and safety at work for all workers, including Government workers, bearing in mind that for some time all types of problems have been in existence affecting the workers in there as well as members of the public who have to go there from time to time, and bearing in mind too the fact that more than six Government offices are housed in there, I have no difficulty whatever in supporting the Resolution and in commending it to Parliament.

As I close, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Honourable Members who had spoken before me with the very wise words they have uttered and in particular my good friend from St. George North whom I thought made a very good speech. With these few remarks, I am obliged to you.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution which seeks to raise funds for certain temporary measures to be taken in respect of the National Insurance Department. I think there is no divide on the fact that the conditions under which these workers have had to endure have really been intolerable and that this is the very least we can do. I sincerely hope that as others who have already spoken have indicated that plans are, in fact, in place to be able to ameliorate the conditions on a more permanent basis.

I speak, Sir, from the perspective of having spent almost 2V₂ years in the previous site of the Ministry of Education at Jemmotts Lane which was the home of that Ministry for some time. We were tenants there. The Ministry of Health was the superior landlord. Therefore, we had even more limited ability to be able to ameliorate conditions for persons.

We ended up in a situation where the size of the Ministry over the course of the last 20 years expanded at such a considerable rate that not only were you dealing with difficulties pertaining to the standard of the

environment within which workers were being forced to function, but it was also a severe problem in relation to space.

Successive Governments saw the urgent need for it and I believe when the Deputy Prime Minister was Minister of Education, the planning for a new Ministry of Education headquarters would have started. I understand the original site then was to have been around by the Marine. That site was then changed to the present site at the former Queen's College on Constitution Road.

Sir, the point of my referring to that was simply to say that the conditions then were such that even with the most thorough cleaning which we, as a matter of course, undertook for sure every three months, that you still could not clean enough to get rid of the kind of stuffiness in the environment and the kind of dirt that was just simply engrained and dust that was engrained in the environment.

When the offices were finally moved this year, when we were walking through the building to see what we had left behind, it was incredible to see that once desks had moved, whereas the rest of the carpets where they did the heavy industrial cleaning were cream or light coloured that under the desks and behind the bookshelves were black, black, black. You could not imagine the fact that they had at least about 3/4 in. of dust layered right around the place. You well understood how persons therefore could develop serious respiratory problems in those conditions.

I believe that we as a Government have to ensure that workers to the best of their ability are given the opportunity to function in an environment which is conducive to good health. There is an opportunity that we will come to shortly in this debate where I will deal with that in respect to the question of schools but since this Head does not allow me to do so at this point I will reserve my comments for that when we reach that Head.

I also want, Sir, to urge this Honourable Committee that I believe, perhaps, a new approach is needed in respect of the maintenance and rehabilitation of Government buildings. We at the Hospitality Institute, this year once we opened it, provided funds in the Estimates for a sinking fund to be established so that every year we will be putting funds in that sinking fund so that they will have a ready pool of money available to be able to do basic maintenance and as time goes on with more thorough rehabilitation because we recognise that especially with the environment of a hotel, that it is absolutely critical that we be able to keep things in good repair if not the very public that you are serving and the very students whom you are training will be unable to have their expectations met in respect of the type of environment within which they are being served or within which they are working.

We feel, Sir, that this sinking fund approach is one that perhaps merits duplication in respect of certain other Government properties. In addition to that, the question of the funding of major rehabilitation needs also to be addressed seriously by means other than relying exclusively on the Consolidated Fund as the sole source of financing for that type of rehabilitation.

I believe, Sir, that we should look into the possibilities of having the rehabilitation financed by way of loans and secured perhaps by way of some form of mortgage because invariably the life of a major rehabilitation will be at least 20 to 30 years which is more or less the life of a mortgage. To that extent, the Consolidated Fund will therefore only be called upon to service the loan as opposed to having to find large sums of money to do major capital works at one point in time, particularly when Government's Capital Works budget is already under pressure in respect of other demands.

I feel, Sir, we need to categorise the types of Government buildings that we can seek to do the rehabilitation in this way. Certainly in respect of schools, as I have said, when we come to another Head without anticipating debate, I will speak more expansively on how we have, in fact, done that in respect of what we are seeking to do with the schools.

The question also, Sir, of air-conditioning and ventilation, I really believe that in our climate, while it may be desirable to have air-conditioning to be able to deal with the kind of intemperate weather we have had recently in the last few weeks, that as far as possible the design of buildings must allow for adequate ventilation. One of the good things that the Ministry of Education is presently doing, is that even if the electricity goes off there is such a breeze moving through that property and indeed the design of the property was such that it could facilitate use without air-conditioners once you did not have an inordinately hot day. 3.40 p.m.

I really feel, Sir, that in a climate such as ours, we should not be overly preoccupied with the use of air-conditioners and other forms of ventilation to the extent that we forget the basics in terms of ventilation. I am not a great naturalist but I always grew up hearing both my father and grandfather talk about the cowshed principle and that the breeze must be able to flow from east to west and therefore any house that was designed without adhering to the cowshed principle really was badly designed. I think, Sir, that to a large extent, many of the designs that we have in Barbados have deviated from that concept in the same way that many of the practices which we had in the past in respect of water storage and collection in respect of other

husbandry practices as it relates to the land have been abandoned and we need to be able to recognise that there was a wisdom in many of these practices that allow people to be able to survive for centuries. Simply because technology has come about and provided alternative sources of dealing with these problems, it does not negate the value, the intrinsic value which many of these practices have in being able to allow our people to live in an environment which they were capable of sustaining for centuries.

I would like to see most of the designs of buildings and the use of consultants, particularly as it relates to engineering and other technical areas that perhaps we spend a little more time studying the cultural practices of the people who were forced to inhabit this country for three or four centuries and who found ways of dealing with problems that are not just current in today's world and in so doing perhaps even seeing how they can use technology to improve upon that but establishing and accepting the basic premises which they accepted in respect of how they sought to find solution to these problems.

I believe, Sir, that that requires a formal policy decision, it is not something that is going to happen just overnight and I really feel and would urge my colleagues particularly in the Ministry of Housing that as the superior landlord of Government that they seek to incorporate much of this in their development of policies particularly as it relates to the rehabilitation and maintenance of government buildings and as it relates to practices providing for the sustainable use and development of water resources and indeed, husbandry of land.

Sir, with those few words, I would wish to strongly support this Resolution. I would wish to take my hat off to those persons who have had to endure those conditions, including the Minister of Labour who to his credit, has always forcefully made a case for the improvement of those conditions and to say as the Minister of Housing pointed out that part of the genuine difficulty of Government is that you cannot simply just seek to do extensive rehabilitation works unless you have options in relation to where else you are going to house these people. Those options are readily available in the context where that is not the only building, you have the Welfare Department, the Probation Department and a whole host of other departments like the Courts and the Registry undergoing similar difficulties. It has been a very real problem for us in the Government to grapple with, but one that I believe that we have the commitment to deal with and we exhibited a sense of care and we have also exhibited a sense of action in relation to how we can seek to improve these physical conditions for Government workers.

I would at this point just wish to support strongly the Resolution and to commend those person who have to undergo those arduous conditions and to say that I know what it is having come out of the Ministry of Education for two and a half years where from every door to window was falling down and where the dust was just unacceptable and where the conditions really were too poor to want to duplicate anywhere else.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad to speak in this debate and to be able to give support to the measure which is before the Chamber for funding.

The Government is the largest employer in Barbados and we have a responsibility to create an environment for workers which not only recognises their right to be properly remunerated for the labour that they give but which acknowledges that they deserve to work in a climate that is physically comfortable and a setting in which they can feel a sense of dignity where they can give of their best to the public and where the public will feel comfortable coming to them to be serviced.

This administration in its 1994 Manifesto, in recognition of the development of such a policy and the need for it to be translated into action said these words on page 24.

"A BLP Government will foster programmes of education for both employers and employees on safety in the work place in an effort to reduce the incidents of the under-utilisation of protective equipment and the resulting injury to eyes, ears and other parts of the body".

It goes on Mr. Chairman. The point the Government did recognise is that we must create such an environment where employees are safe in their work place and where their health is not threatened.

At times, when the Government's resources are under stress as during the structural adjustment programme, the physical upgrading that is necessary and the continuous maintenance of property that is owned by Government can sometimes be forgotten or put on the back burner while attention is paid to those areas which immediately absorb money and which have to be paid up front. They have, in the course of time, developed in Barbados a number of buildings that people tend to describe as "sick buildings". The old National Insurance building which is before the House today was known as one of those buildings that traditionally for many years have given problems. There

are others, the old Treasury Building, what used to be the Child Care Board or still is but that is under refurbishment at this time, the Welfare Department where the entire staff had to be relocated to another place. There are problems at schools like the St. Leonard's School, one which for many, many years needed serious attention. The Probation Department is another department where there are problems and where the staff had to be relocated. There are problems with many of our government buildings and over time we have not developed the kind of maintenance programmes and invested the kind of money that is absolutely necessary to maintain these buildings.

Some of the buildings have tremendous historical value. We have seen how beautifully they can be refurbished when the effort is made as indeed the pedagogic complex of the Ministry of Education. We are about, Mr. Chairman to redevelop the compound which some elderly Barbadians still refer to as the old hospital building meaning the headquarters of the Ministry of Health & Environment. That too is a building of "soft" stone with historic value and which can be refurbished and made to look extremely attractive.

The problems that people have traditionally complained of in relation to these "sick buildings" arise out of a number of things which we have to address as a policy matter and I am therefore very anxious to see the new building code come before this Parliament for us to debate it and put it on the Statue Books so that it can benefit Barbados. There is a tremendous need for it a lot of people, including persons who are constructing buildings where a large number of people will be working do so without any reference to what are the health considerations when you put people to work in a physical space. Several members in here have spoken to the issue of ventilation, that there are many buildings constructed in Barbados that do not have adequate window space and this is a tropical country. When the air-conditioning shuts down, when the electricity goes off, when the air-conditioning systems malfunction you cannot open the windows and get adequate fresh air. 3.50 p.m.

The whole issue of the circulation and how air circulates in the building is another issue of critical importance which is not often looked at. How we locate a building on a site and the implications of that location for ventilation and the cross breezes which will come through, the extent to which the materials used, or the shape of the window, or the blocking of air from accessing the building by the fittings put on the windows are also critical issues. The type of air-conditioning system used can also have implications for air ventilation. Whether bad air, hot air, dust and so on is being circulated back through the building, that is an issue which needs to be confronted because there are times when buildings have been put

up and quite the wrong ventilation system or air conditioning system has been put in it and then the expenditure having been made, people do not want to make the effort then to correct it.

The servicing of air-conditioners - very few people service their air-conditioning systems on a regular basis. Here in Parliament, members of Parliament have complained after long days and they have been coughing and sneezing. We have to make the effort to have the systems here serviced on a regular basis. But this is not the practice in the labour market and it is not the practice in a number of government institutions.

The question of dust - to what extent is the daily cleaning given to these buildings adequate? Do people clean above areas where their hands cannot reach? Are book shelves regularly dusted so that dust is not lying on top of all the books or papers packed up in boxes or packed in various areas. Mr. Chairman, very often you can open a filing cabinet and find that nobody has gone into this cabinet for a long time so nobody has dusted it and therefore there is a large amount of dust that immediately affects the people in the office or those in very close proximity to the unit. This whole matter of dust in buildings and ventilation has very serious implications given the number of people in Barbados who are complaining of rhinal, tracheal and respiratory infections, the large number of people of all ages who are coming down with asthma. So this issue though it may appear to be a trivial one has to be addressed if we are going to speak to the long-term health and safety of the people who work in the building and the people who come into the building to access government services of whatever type.

Carpeting: We tend in the Caribbean and in Barbados to like carpeting. We think it is an affluent sort of symbol and we put carpets down in a lot of government offices but the reality is that these carpets are not frequently cleaned. I have never seen in some departments carpets shampooed. You may or may not have a vacuum cleaner. There are still some government departments that have a hard broom to clean the carpet. When one thinks about the kind of pedestrian traffic which walks through a government department every day, particularly one like the Ministry of Health where large numbers of the public come every day and where on the compound of the Ministry of Health for instance we have something like 300 people on that compound alone, that gives you some idea of the kind of dust that will be tracked into that building and yet we do not do the follow up cleaning that is necessary to really clean these carpets. We must consider whether or not it is more practical in the tropics and in settings where there is not a lot of money available for maintenance and for the proper upkeep of these kinds of fabrics whether or not we

should not move to tiling, whether it is the ceramic tile or whether we should go for wooden floors because you can have beautifully finished hard floors from purple or green heart, that will wear well over time, and are easy to clean, polish and maintain. All of these are things that must be considered.

A lot of government buildings are made from traditional "soft" stone and you will find that now during the rainy season the stone absorbs the moisture created when there is heavy rain and the paint starts to peel and flake and chip and then the dust from the paint is in the atmosphere and affecting the people in that institution. Whether we should paint at all, the quality and the type of paint that is used, its suitability for use in the tropics, its suitability for use against the background against which it is going to be put, all of these are issues that we have to consider.

People, sometimes in designing buildings look for what is the most aesthetically pleasing material or the cheapest material without reference to the life of the material, the area that it is going to be used in, the kind of traffic that is going on it and therefore the suitability for use in government offices.

We have to give consideration to what goes into our roofing material. We have had tremendous problems throughout the system with asbestos roofs and asbestos shingles in the housing areas, and in government offices. We have had to make the effort to change them out of the old Treasury Building and other government buildings that have asbestos as part of the construction material. When we are constructing new buildings we must not repeat the mistakes of the past and we must be very careful to select material bearing in mind not necessarily the cost but the health and safety of the persons who are going to have to work in the setting where those materials are placed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has 2 minutes.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The ratio of persons to building space is another consideration that is often overlooked because that has implications then for the air that is circulated and the air quality within the room and within the building. We have had a large number of complaints about these sick buildings, problems relating to air flow, dust mite, respiratory problems, general sickness, non specific symptoms, dermatitis and so on and it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that what the Government is doing here is commendable. What the Ministry of Education has done in terms of refurbishing several of the schools and what the Ministry of Health has done in relation to refurbishing and starting the systematic refurbishment of several of the health institutions is commendable.

But what is needed most of all is for Government to set up a systematic maintenance programme for all of its buildings so that we can truly fulfill the commitment made in our 1994 Manifesto and ensure that Civil Servants all across Barbados and I use civil servants here in the very broad sense, to include those persons who work for Government in Statutory Corporations, enjoy a standard of existence in their work place that is truly comfortable because of the thought that would have gone into the construction and the maintenance of the building. 4.00 p.m.

Government is the largest employer. We are under a duty in this regard to lead by example, and to ensure by the creation of the correct legislative framework, if necessary, that the private sector follows in our footsteps. But we do not have a right as a government, being a large employer and being the one who sets standards for the rest of Barbados, or who has the legal right to set standards for ourselves breach the laws and not create the kind of environment that we insist that the private sector must create. So I am happy to be part of an administration that is systematically going about the process of refurbishing government buildings and ensuring that the health and safety of government employees is guaranteed.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to thank all Honourable Members who contributed to this debate. Everybody made very important points. A few questions were asked about the breakdown. The 100 fans will cost \$14 500. Bajan Cleaners is apparently the only company in Barbados with the necessary equipment that can do the flushing and they have carried out the estimate and have quoted \$286 555.85. The repairs to the windows will cost \$10 000 and we left in a contingency amount of \$10 000. We are dealing with an old building and you never know what you will come across so they have left in contingencies of \$10 000 and that explains the \$321 056.

The Departments affected are the Data Processing Department, the Labour Department, the Bureau of Women Affairs, the Electoral Office, the Land Tax Department, the Statistical Services and the Barbados National Bank. There is an In-house Committee of public officers to follow up the problems and the repairs at this building.

The 100 fans are being distributed as follows:

The Ministry of Labour - 18, the Valuation Department - 15, the Statistical Department - 10, the Labour Department, Second Floor - 12, the Bureau of Women Affairs - 7, the Data Processing Department - 15, the Electoral Department - 10 and the Barbados National

Bank - 10. That is 97 fans and we allowed three, so we are purchasing 100 fans.

With that information, Sir, I beg to move that Head 13 in the sum of \$321 056 stand part.

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

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

ORDER NO. 9(a) - RESOLUTION TO GRANT
THE SUM OF \$25 272 739 FROM THE
CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT
THE ESTIMATES 1997/98 AS SET OUT IN
THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 8

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary, Sir, is in a number of parts, but I believe that before I introduce this, I ought to give the House an explanation because the document that was circulated to Honourable Members in time for our respective parliamentary party meetings yesterday, was more an addendum to Head 42 that was quite inadequate and thoroughly inappropriate.

Honourable Members of this House were asked, on this document to consider voting \$24.6 million for the Transport Board.

"To affect the settlement of all arrears and to finance the operating deficit for the period October 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998."

Now, I think to give Honourable Members that kind of information on an addendum is scandalous. I have therefore taken the liberty after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition to circulate a fuller addendum and I have taken steps with the Ministry of Finance early this morning to let them know that in future, certainly when I have responsibility for the conduct of business in this House that I want proper addendums brought to the House so that Honourable Members have information on which to form their judgments and on which to frame their arguments. Therefore, there is a supplementary addendum to Head 42 which replaces the original one. So that explains, Sir, the reason for the Supplementary Addendum when we get to that head.

Turning to Head 30, Sir, we are seeking \$25 272 739 to do a number of things. Honourable Members will see from the schedule that has been circulated, that under Object 624, purchase of vehicles, a sum of \$450 000 was provided in the Estimates this year to provide cars for the four Judges of the High Court and the Chief Justice. Last year there was provision for the Chief Justice's car to

be replaced. That is the large ugly looking Mercedes, MP97. That car was not purchased in the last financial year and it was agreed that this year, everything would be done to replace that car. An order has been placed therefore for a replacement of that car. The Leader of the Opposition said they have been delivered but I have not yet seen them. 4.10 p.m.

In addition to that members would recall that during the Budget...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: During the Budget debate I pointed out that there were four Mercedes cars which were to be replaced in this financial year. Those are the cars driven by Mr. Justice Payne, Mr. Justice Waterman, Mr. Justice Chase and Mr. Justice Husbands. Those four Mercedes in the last four years I think it was, cost us \$193 000 in repair bills. Now, I say nothing about the cost of hired vehicles.

Sir, the Mercedes have given a lot of trouble in the last two or three years. They have been a real embarrassment to the Government and to the Judges. Honourable Members may have seen them stuck up by the side of the road. Mr. Justice Waterman has blocked traffic many a day and been abused because the car conked out with him at Haggatt Hall and out by Chefette in &ockley. Mr. Justice Chase's, I believe, was even worse. The terrible thing about this is that a few months ago his driver was called to say the car was ready, come and collect it. He went to Warrens, collected the car and by the time he got to the Everton Weekes roundabout it conked out again. We cannot put up with that.

A number of firms made offers to Government for packages. The Government secured what we thought was a reasonable deal for the Governor-General when the Governor-General's Volvo had to be replaced. We turned in the old one, got a credit for that and set it off against the purchase price. Subject to memory, I think we ended up paying \$24 000 or \$27 000 for the new Volvo which the Governor-General has.

The firm Plantrac has made a proposal to the Government that they will take in the cars every three years, value them and set off the value against the purchase price for new ones. In the meantime, they will maintain them and provide us with alternative transport when the cars come in. We are going to try the Volvos this round, Sir.

Those four for which we had the \$450 000 originally voted, having regard to the fact that we are paying for the

Chief Justice's car out of that, that has depleted the \$450 000 by the amount it cost to pay for the Chief Justice's car, which is about \$120 000.

Two new judges were appointed to the High Court in October. They have to have the same terms and conditions as the others so we are taking the opportunity to also order for those two. The other judges, I think, come up next year. Certainly, Mr. Moe and Mr. Colin Williams theirs will be replaced next year. I am not sure about the later judges.

Sir, this supplementary under 624 is being sought to replace the four Mercedes by four Volvos and to purchase two new Volvos for the two judges who came on in October, 1st and 7th respectively.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I would wish to take the opportunity, however, to say that I am very pleased with the work that has been done at the High Court between August and October. We had to get some small contractors, I think Mr. Hamilton Holder, Mr. David Moe, and Weston Construction, I think those were the three, to really do some work on the High Court. We have been waiting for a long time for those works to be done otherwise, but I think that Honourable Members who practise in the courts will see that some significant work has been done to upgrade the High Court.

The Library has been refurbished. Courts Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 and the Chambers of the judges have been refurbished. The lighting, the air-conditioning in those courts have all been upgraded. I think now that there are a credit to the profession. However, more still has to be done and next year the Chambers of the Court of Appeal judges will be refurbished.

This is only a temporary situation. We do not intend forever to remain at that site. Government is proceeding, quite expeditiously, to prepare for the construction of a new Supreme Court in the new financial year with construction to begin, hopefully, around May and no later than June next year.

Construction of a new Supreme Court will be a two-year project, the minimum. Government will be seeking to acquire the old Foundry site. We have already agreed what we would like to acquire. We have the model for the court. We have fitted it on the site and it can fit.

The Ministry of Housing had suggested that we also make provision to bring the Corporate Affairs Registry and the Land Registry at that site. We are going to do our site visit next week and finalise that. Thereafter the acquisition process should proceed. I cannot disclose what kind

of money the new Supreme Court will cost because it is subject to public tender.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This is at the corner of Gill's Road and Whitepark Road going back from that corner to where Modern Living ends. We do not know if we want to take Modern Living but the original plan was not to take the Modern Living Building at all, just the burnt-out site and we were going to take out the bend in that road and widen it.

There is provision being made, if necessary, to house the Caribbean Supreme Court or whatever we are going to ultimately call it at that site. As soon as the final decisions have been made I will share the information, the drawings and so on with the Bar. They have seen them before but the revised drawing I think we need to go to the Bar and the Judiciary and discuss with them.

Now, Sir, if that project is completed, as we hope by the year 2000, and we have an upgraded and refurbished Coleridge Street property, which presently houses the Supreme Court, at that time we can give consideration to centralisation of the courts because we can use the present Supreme Court for Magistrates Courts. All that has been said in previous debates applies with equal force to this debate. You cannot expect persons who have to run the administration of justice and work in the system to work in less than commodious surroundings. It certainly has been a deliberate policy on the part of this Ministry and the Government of Barbados, systematically to modernise the administration of justice. I hope that in December there will be a separate programme on television showing how the administration of justice has been modernised in the last three years. I am not making any apology for that, Sir. 4.20 p.m.

District A has three magistrates courts...

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said that a programme will be done on the modernisation of justice and people will be obliged to watch that. We have tried with the Police Stations. District B and C will shortly be finished. I invite Honourable Members to go and look at what has been accomplished at those stations. I do not think that anyone can quarrel with the structure of Central Police Station at Coleridge Street. Tomorrow at 11.30 a.m. we are going down into the backyard to see how we are going to do Phase 2 at Central Police Station including putting in the new quarters for the women police constables including an officers lounge.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am being reminded, Sir, that I am not Attorney General today but I am going on the visit tomorrow to make sure that the police have even better facilities at Central.

Black Rock Police Station is going to be done for \$235 000. The tenders have been out, I am not sure they have been awarded.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will draw the problems at Bridge Gap which is almost opposite Black Rock Police Station to the attention of the Urban District Commission. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West will get an upgraded station in his constituency by the end of the financial year.

District C should be finished in two weeks time. On another occasion I will give further information about the police stations and the court.

Sir, the operating expenses of the Ministry has been depleted principally because of the number of conferences and meetings which we have had to attend or host this year. Some of these meetings were anticipated, two meetings were anticipated. There was a meeting of Law Ministers of Small Commonwealth Jurisdictions the last week in July, that was budgeted for. There was a meeting of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force in October, that was budgeted for. The meeting of the Council of Legal Education and the meeting of Ministers of Legal Affairs, those were budgeted for but in between this we had a number of others we could not foresee when the Estimates were prepared.

Sir, as a result of the difficulties with the Council of Legal Education this year, we had to have a number of additional meetings; February in Trinidad; May/June in Antigua, then we had the meetings for President Clinton's visit and the joint committee meetings on justice and security. Two meetings here, one in March and another one in May and then the most recent one in September and Barbados was asked to host them. We had to pay for those out of this vote and it is going to continue. As far as we can see, Sir, there is going to be additional expense in this area between now and the 31st March and we will be asking for a supplementary under Object No. 212.

There is a small amount that we are asking for to assist with the Forensic Services. I had better also indicate that the new Forensic Lab will get off the ground next year. There is a \$22 124 to purchase some new equipment and this equipment for all Honourable Members who

are male, this equipment will among other things help us to resolve disputed paternity. There is also a sum of \$49 000 for the Probation Department and that accounts for the \$552 739 made of:

Purchase of Vehicle	\$ 387 815
Operating expenses	\$ 100 000
Plant, equipment & furniture for forensic services	\$ 22 124
Probation Department	\$ 42 800

Sir, I beg to move therefore that Head 30 in the sum of \$552 739 stands part.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make a few comments on the whole matter of the procurement of cars for the Judges.

I do not believe, Mr. Chairman that anyone will make any negative comments about the procurement of cars for the Judges. I believe that these vehicles can be said to go with the office. These learned men, the Judges of our courts are indeed the protectors of our society. I think that so far we have been extremely fortunate with the types of persons that we have chosen to be judges. I do not think that anyone in Barbados can say that at any time any of them have compromised our judicial system at all. I think that these Judges have actually lived up to our expectations. I see no earthly reason, Mr. Chairman, why the office of Judge should not be on the same level, at least, or commensurate with the office of other very highly paid officers in this country. There are certain CEOs, Mr. Chairman, in Barbados who have very expensive cars and they have it as part of the trappings of their office and no one makes any fuss about it so I see no reason why anyone would want to make any negative comments on this measure to have the new cars for the Judges. 4.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we live in a material world and very often it is the only yardstick we use to measure ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN; Quiet, please. Give the Honourable Member an opportunity to speak.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I will have 15 minutes, Mr. Chairman. That is the only yardstick we use to measure or determine whether or not a particular job is worth any thing.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, there is a reluctance on the part of some of our eminent jurists, on the part of some of

our leading attorneys-at-law to become judges because they do not consider the terms and conditions, even now, to be attractive. Mr. Chairman, the Judges have to make their own handwritten notes. They have no clerk, Mr. Chairman, to do research for them. They do all the research themselves and they write their own judgements. One judge has virtually said to me that...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please give the Honourable Member a chance to speak.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I will have 15 minutes. Some judges have actually said, Mr. Chairman, that they have had to change their lifestyle because we do not expect in Barbados Judges who stop and have drinks at the average rum shop in Barbados and so on.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is being repetitive. He said "judges" at least 7 times in his speech, Sir. We are familiar with the judges. We know about the judges. Judges do not travel by bus. We want to hear about the buses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe because he was interrupted he had to use judges a few times. Carry on.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: The point I was making, Mr. Chairman, when I was rudely interrupted was that the work is very stressful and they are called upon to adjudicate on matters which even lawyers themselves cannot agree. They have to adjudicate, Mr. Chairman, on people's lives. Very often they have to make decisions, even though not wrong decisions, which sometimes hurt families.

In Barbados the court is the repository, Mr. Chairman of everything which is virtually ugly in our society. There are family matters where spouses leave the courts in tears and judges have to be putting up with this type of thing almost on a daily basis. Land law matters which involve brothers and sisters, very close family and judges see this coming before them every day.

It is not an easy job, Mr. Chairman, to listen day after day to cases of ugly and sordid crimes and to listen to argument after argument almost on a daily basis. So the point I am making is that it is a very stressful job indeed.

Mr. Chairman, I heard that a few weeks ago one Judge's car broke down. In fact it had broken down twice in one week and that on the second day when his car broke down another Judge's car broke down as well. The point is that it was very highly embarrassing to both of them I believe, Mr. Chairman and even though Barbados is

a relatively safe society to live in we have to realise that judges give sentences to criminals and I do not think we can afford to have them driving around very unreliable vehicles that break down here there and everywhere. That is the point I am making. The point I am making therefore, Mr. Chairman, is that I see no earthy reason why anyone would want to make any negative comment as to the procurement of these cars for the Judges who really and truly have to protect our society.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND CULTURE
- \$24 720 000.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in begging to move that this Head stand part, the sum provided for, \$120 000 is actually available to us under the Head of Primary, Domestic Education Programme, Professional Services, but because of the fact that the consultancies which would be carried out would in fact relate not only to primary schools but also secondary schools for the cost estimates in relation to the pilot schools under the EduTech 2000 project we had to bring a new sub-program to tidy it so that this will in effect result in no increase in expenditure under this Ministry since we will be showing savings of the same \$120 000 under the Primary Education Domestic Programme in this Ministry. 4.40 p.m.

These funds, Sir, will be used to carry out the consultancy services. For example, architects, quantity surveyors, civil engineers, mechanical and electrical engineers, so that we can have the detailed drawings and estimates of costs provided for, in the EduTech 2000 pilot schools, so that we might be able to commence the rehabilitation works at these 16 schools by the end of June next year, so that they may be ready for use by early September.

In doing so, Sir, you will recall that I would have earlier indicated to this Honourable Chamber...

Asides.

A quorum was called for and the bell was rung.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I was indicating before we lost the quorum, the Education

Secretary Enhancement Programme, better known as "EduTech 2000" has as its single largest expenditure item, the sum of \$76 million or thereabouts, for the civil works rehabilitation at primary and secondary schools at both the private and the Government schools in this country.

Therefore, Sir, what we have sought to do is to ensure that within the next five years there will be rehabilitation of each and every primary and secondary school in this country within a five-year period, so as to ensure that a lot of the problems that we are dealing with today...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member will help the country by telling them how she expects the children to get to the schools that she is talking about. The children cannot get to school. There is no possibility of children getting to school. The Honourable Member gets up telling us what she is going to do. Tell us how the children are going to get to school. What will they travel by?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: As I was indicating to this Honourable Chamber, Sir, what we are seeking to do is to ensure that within a five-year period all of the schools, at both the primary and the secondary level will have been rehabilitated.

We believe, Sir, that we cannot continue to finance this rehabilitation totally and exclusively out of the Consolidated Fund because the costs of so doing really are too much for the Government to handle on its own. But, if we view it as a project that will cause these schools to have a life of 20 to 30 years once the rehabilitation is completed, then I believe, Sir, that we can then seek to service the loan in a realistic manner. Also to ensure, Sir that the plight of the past which has been the lot of primary and secondary school children and teachers where they have had the building in which they have worked ignored, largely because of the inability of the Government to meet these costs, Sir, will be a thing of the past.

Now, Sir, the reality is, Mr. Chairman, that the \$76 million has been a rough estimate that we have used as a result of an audit which was done of the primary schools some three years ago and rough estimates in relation to the secondary schools. But the time has come in the life of the project for us to better detail these costs. And as a result, we need therefore to hire the services of the professionals to do the detailed drawings and to better give us estimates in relation to the costs which will be required.

No actual work will start on those 16 schools during the course of this financial year. But, we expect that it will start by the end of June 1998 so as to be ready to plan for September 1998.

Mr. Chairman, it will be impossible and insensitive of me, Sir, to address this Honourable Chamber today on the issue of the provision of our funds for civil works in respect of the EduTech 2000 pilot schools, without saying a few words, Sir, on the situation at the St. Leonard's Boys School. The Barbados Union of Teachers has once again, sought to issue an ultimatum to the Ministry of Education without even giving the Ministry of Education the courtesy of being able to be made aware of the fact that they, as a union, had concerns, difficulties and problems with things down at the school.

Now, Sir, I just want to say very simply and for the records, I am in no way condoning any difficulties that may currently exist at the school, but I believe that it is the duty of the Principal and his staff to ensure that things are corrected where they need to be corrected and that where there is an absence of funds available, then the responsibility should be to the Ministry to seek to ensure that those funds can become available.

The list of the grievances which I have seen in a brief presented from the Education Project Implementation Unit to the Chief Education Officer, Sir, all indicate that the concerns of the staff, in fact will be met, but they have always understood that in the context where the construction was split into two phases, that there will always be some element of inconvenience until both phases were completed.

We finished phase one last month, Sir, where we spent \$1.79 million and we took the classroom blocks and we ensured that in taking those classroom blocks that were there to the right-hand side as you drive in by the old Girls' School that we totally rehabilitated those classroom blocks. We provided a temporary staffroom which would later become the Library at the end of the construction. We had to move the Science Labs and we had to move a number of other specialists rooms which were completed. 4.50 p.m.

The reality is, Sir, that to do major rehabilitative work within two to three months is a mammoth exercise in anybody's books. But the reality also is that we completed it.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: On a point of order, Sir. My interpretation of the rules of this House...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: The point of order, is, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is breaching the Standing Orders of this House which clearly states that where we are discussing matters in

committee that the issue should relate to the service being sought and the policy relating thereto. I am saying, Sir, that she has gone on quite extensively on a matter which could be dealt with in another forum.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, clearly there is still a desire for certain people to be elsewhere in this Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would just ask the Member to just stick to the subject matter.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: With respect, and I will stick to it. The Supplementary before this Honourable Chamber is for the engagement of professional services for civil works in schools under a CDB/IDB Government of Barbados project. I am now addressing . . .

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: On a point of order, Sir. I will not allow the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East to mislead this House and via you, Sir. We can all read what the Addendum clearly states. We are all intelligent and honourable people in this House and snide remarks will not suffice to keep us in ignorance. We are aware the Honourable Member is breaching the rules and would she please comply and behave in a decent manner.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I would wish to read the Addendum and in so doing say that perhaps my understanding of the Addendum is as complete as the Honourable Member's understanding of all of the comments that have been unanimous that he has no future in politics in this country and that he is not serving the people in his constituency. My understanding is as complete as his.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am asking the Chair again that the Honourable Member respects the rules of this House. It does not matter whether she respects me or not and my future does not concern her. It is not the concern of any Member in here. Let her deal with the issues of this House and treat the House with the decency it deserves.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: With respect, Sir, I am reading to the House the Addendum.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In relation to his future in politics I have nothing to do with that. I just want you to stick to the...

Certain remarks made by Honourable Member for St. Michael North East were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Sir. It is fairly obvious that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is attempting to dictate to you in the Chair. In addition to that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West is clearly making certain comments which reflect on your integrity as Chairman of Committees.

I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that these remarks would not be repeated. I would also hope that you ignore the remarks from the Honourable Members for St. Michael West and Christ Church East. In the same way that they are attempting to mislead you, I am attempting to lead you with respect to your deliberations.

An Honourable Member cannot just get up and make statements as though he is in the Chair. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East is behaving as though he is in the Chair. He is making rulings. He cannot do that and it is insulting to this House that an Honourable Member who has been, I would say, summarily dismissed from his position, because there are certain positions where when a manager wants you to resign, sometimes he asks you for your resignation. What he did was tantamount to giving a letter of resignation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please sit. I am making a point. I believe that in my position I will be guided by the Clerks. If I am wrong, they will guide me. I do not need anybody else to guide me.

Please carry on. What did you want to say?

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Chairman...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this a point of order?

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: I am on a point of order, Sir, which relates to the privileges of this House where the implication was being made by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew that Members of this House cannot ensure that the rules are being adhered to. When Members rise on a point of order they are seeking to ensure that the rules are being adhered to. That is all they are doing and this is all that I sought to do. I am not talking about being Chairman of Committee or anything. I am talking about application of the rules.

An issue does not have to get to the petty stage...

Asides.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Chairman, I think if they want to deal with me...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is still your point of order?

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: I am dealing with the rules of this House and all this petty talk will not deter me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I have had sufficient. Please, let us proceed with the debate.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East, you have made your point of order already. Please proceed with the debate.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I go back to the Addendum, Sir, and it is a very simple and plain matter that even a primary school child who has not yet reached Infants A can understand. The Addendum clearly states that this money is for a programme that is being financed under the Government of Barbados, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank.

I cannot be responsible, Sir, for the ignorance of people who are unaware of the fact that the funds which were spent at the St. Leonard's School were financed by the Caribbean Development Bank and therefore form part and parcel of the same subject area of discussion which is now before this Honourable Chamber. Both relate to civil works so that if certain people cannot understand what CDB stands for they should perhaps go and get guidance as to what the letters CDB stand for before they come in here and make...

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would just ask the Honourable Member to carry on the debate. You are doing quite well.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I would not bother with that, Sir, because the reality is that I have always known that the higher monkey climbs the more you see his tail. I believe that adage will guide us well in this Chamber today.

The reality also is, Sir, that Phase 1 at St. Leonard's Boys' School has been completed. Phase 2 will start as soon as the tender notices have been prepared and as soon as we have the opportunity to make sure that those notices go out we can hire the services. In Phase 2 they will be dealing with the construction of the auditorium which I believe is well and earnestly waiting upon by the residents of that area so that they will also have an opportunity to have facilities at not only the school but also the new staffroom. 5.00 p.m.

Indeed, Sir, the wickedness and the misleading nature of the photograph in the newspaper today, that

building was never part of Phase I of the construction and therefore to put that building in the paper as if it was part of a building on which work was to be done but was never done and completed would tend to suggest to the public that Phase I was deficient in what it set out to do. That building that is on the back page of today's *Nation* was never part of Phase I of the project and it was never part of any usage for the rest of this academic year because we recognise that all of the buildings on the left hand side as you enter the school, other than the first two where the workshops are still being used would constitute part of Phase II, it would allow for a neat cordoning-off and it is an out-of-bound area for the boys on the compound.

Sir, further than that, I want to say a few things. I believe that the time has come for the Ministry of Education to be as frank and brutal with the facts as they have been with us. Sir, over the course of the last three years this Ministry has sought to foster a spirit of co-operation and consultation with both teachers' unions and all stakeholders and all major policy decisions have been made after consultation with these persons. Indeed, Sir, as recent as Friday evening at the function for the retired educators, the General Secretary of CTUSAB who is also in the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union, agreed with myself that we would hold a two-day retreat to review policy decisions for the financial year 1998 to 1999. They have never had that opportunity under any previous Government, never. In spite of all of that, in spite of giving them the opportunity to come in and participate in an atmosphere of good faith in the decision making and planning process of the Ministry we continue to be confronted with a situation where they will get up, receive a complaint and go straight to the media without even picking up the phone to call the Ministry of Education to give them an opportunity to fix or remedy the matter.

I say to you, Sir, that it is unacceptable behaviour, it is a breach of standard industrial practices and it is unbecoming of any organisation who wishes to be known for high standards in industrial practices in this country. I say further to you too, Sir, that since last year they started with St. Catherine's school. They went to the media behind our backs and then issued the complaint. In January of this year they did the same thing with St. Matthias although they knew that we went under the financial rules for quotation for tenders in order to do the fence because they were over the then limit of \$25 000.

They then went, Sir, and on every occasion after that when they had a difficulty with a school in this country they never picked up the phone to call us but you know when we hear them? We hear them when they want to go on trips and to conferences, they know the number to the Ministry of Education. We hear them, Sir, when they want to do all other sorts of things and I have difficulty because

my understanding of procedure is that if you have a difficulty with a situation you give the other party the opportunity to be heard and equally an opportunity to remedy it.

Sir, I have no difficulty in remedying the repairs if they are indeed genuine representation. Indeed, during the course of the last summer vacation we went into more than 42 schools in this country. If you go into Bay Primary, a school that was untouched and we are able to at least bring back decent conditions there. If you go into a whole host of other primary schools across this country, we did more work in the last two summers than has been done in over 15 years in repairing primary schools in this country.

It did not stop there, Sir, when we had a difficulty with the opening of St. Leonard's and St. Thomas, do you know what we did, Mr. Chairman? We called the Executives of both teachers' unions and informed them of the difficulties that we were having and invited the Barbados Union of Teachers to a site visit at those schools and when we went to St. Thomas they were even involved, and at St. Leonard's they were in the consultation process as to when the school should open and whether we were satisfied that we had dealt with all of the conditions for safety in respect of those campuses of those two schools. But not even the decency of a phone call, not even the courtesy of a phone call.

I, Sir, am not going to ask if their only interest in this is to let the public know that they are making noise because if they were interested in getting it done then their first call would be to the Ministry of Education. I am led to believe that they must obviously have some other reason why their first call must always be to the media and not to the people who must solve the problem at the end of the day. I would not be so uncharitable, Sir, as to suggest that the behaviour in there is akin to the behaviour being advocated by one person who sent a letter to the Leader of the Opposition suggesting that the Opposition should ferment strife, one Nigel Harper "For the Eyes of David Thompson Only" and who ironically in that letter....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister of Education is a Minister, she is not somebody who came in yesterday, she is a Minister who really knows that you cannot just be calling the names of persons in here pejoratively and suggesting things about them. The Minister cannot make that kind of statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point of order is taken. Honourable Member, please wind up.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am entirely grateful for the point of order by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West who reassured me that the behaviour advocated by the same person would be such that it

would be construed as pejorative. I am entirely grateful for him. He knows exactly why he is saying that.

Nevertheless, let me end by saying this. We have tried our best to encourage a relationship with persons. We cannot tell you that everything is right for the physical state of the school but we are doing our best to fix it and we have done more to fix it in the last two years than has been done in 15 years. In respect of the relationship with the Barbados Union of Teachers, all that I have said here I have made known to the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados and I am happy that the very hour that we speak now that there is a meeting going on between the Ministry of Education and the Barbados Union of Teachers chaired by the Chairman of CTUSAB to see if some sort of reason can be brought to the entire relationship between this.

I will tell you this, Sir, we will not continue to turn the other cheek every time. If you expect us to treat you in a decent and respectable manner we expect to be treated with the same courtesy and I will not be tolerating it nor will the Ministry of Education.

I beg to move that Head 34 stand part.
5.10p.m.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second the motion, Mr. Chairman, and also to speak at this time.

Aside.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I rise to second the motion and also to compliment the Ministry of Education for the job they have been doing in this country.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One second, please. This debate will finish at 28 minutes past 5 o'clock so we have got about 15 minutes to go. I would appreciate if the speaker is brief so that the first speaker can wind up.

Honourable Member for St. George North please continue.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, one has to compliment the Ministry of Education for the job that they have been doing. I am aware that the Minister and the Ministry of Education have been doing a job to correct the problems that they had in education before 1994. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that all Barbadians are indeed happy that the Ministry of Education has been spending money in a direction to correct the problems that existed.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. The Honourable Member has said and I quote him "All Barbadians are happy that the Ministry of Education is spending money". That is not true, Sir. He cannot just get up and say that, Sir. The people of Barbados would be much happier if they could hear why and how they cannot get transportation for their children to go to school. They would be much happier. Do not get up and mislead the public.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I can say that all Barbadians are happy because they recognise that the Ministry has been trying to correct the problems in education which existed before. For example, Mr. Chairman, in my constituency there were a number of problems at the schools which were corrected. St. Jude's School for example, tremendous problems existed there. Children could not get in the toilets properly, doors were broken, toilet bowls scattered all over the place. The school had not been fixed and painted for a number of years. Since 1994 the Ministry has been repairing schools, not necessarily in the Minister's constituency but in Christ Church and St. Philip. In St. John, the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition, schools were fully repaired, painted and new tops put on. Schools were repaired in St. Andrew, in St. Lucy and St. Joseph. All 28 constituencies in Barbados had schools repaired. At St. Leonard's they have been complaining for years and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has represented that constituency for 28 years.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He has invoked St. Leonard's into his debate. He is saying that the Honourable Member has fixed St. Leonard's. It is clear to Your Honour and myself and to the rest of Barbados, if St. Leonard's had been fixed do you believe that the teachers at St. Leonard's would be giving the Ministry of Education an ultimatum until Friday to fix things? You cannot get in here and mislead the House. The teachers are worried about dengue. They are worried about the incapacity of the headmaster and the teachers to go to the bathroom. They are worried about the inability of ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I want to say it is not the teachers who are worried. There may be a few teachers at the St. Leonard's School...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. George North cannot in his responsible position come to this Honourable Chamber and say it is a few teachers when the body representing the entire teaching profession in that segment of teaching

in Barbados has taken on and has made representation. The Honourable Member cannot say a few teachers, the Barbados Union of Teachers does not represent a few teachers, they represent the entire gamut of persons who teach in the particular school, therefore the Honourable Member should not be in here saying a few teachers. I think that is a disgrace. No one should be saying that.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for St. Michael West, when he was the Minister of Health, there was a severe health problem at St. Leonard's. It was not corrected and the unions did not come out and give deadlines.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the reason why the union did not give deadlines was because the unions recognised that a serious attempt was being made to solve the problem unlike the present when the Government is doing absolutely nothing and the Minister is arrogant and behaving in a manner that is unacceptable to the union and the teachers in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this point we have got 8 minutes to go. This debate will finish in 8 minutes. I will ask the Honourable Member to wind up the debate.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, that the teachers' union must be responsible. They must be responsible and direct teachers in the right way. You cannot come out and tell a Ministry what to do, without even giving them a phone call. We have to understand in this country that the Government is trying to do a job and the unions and other persons cannot attempt to get in the way of progress, to sabotage the Government, only for their own selfish means. 5.20 p.m.

I believe that if the General Secretary of the Teachers' Union wants to be a politician, she should resign the General Secretary's job and join the political party that she has supported.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I must say that she does not represent the entire teaching staff because I know...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member must be aware of the rule which says that you cannot attack a person in their job. The Honourable Member is referring to a person who is identifiable. The Honourable Member knows that you cannot refer to persons in their public capacity without permission from your Honour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point has been taken, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Thank you.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am not reflecting on a Member. I am just saying that any Member who could not serve on the Executive between 1986 and 1994 of a Union, but who could come back after 1994 to serve on the Executive to cause destruction, is important. We have to understand that the Members of the Teachers' Union do not like it. They have called in over and over again and they do not like it.

But, I am satisfied that the Ministry of Education is making a serious attempt.

Aside.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I had to resign. I resigned to contest a seat. Let the General Secretary resign too and contest a seat. She could do that. I think the Teachers' Union must set an example and make sure that the teachers go to school tidy and dressed properly and set examples.

I thank you.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I recognise that Members of the other side of the Opposition did not really participate. As I said, time is against me now and I would ask you to be as brief as possible, so that the Minister can then wind up. The truth is that I have only got five minutes now. The whole debate was being interrupted and I believe that you are a person who has got a good command of the English Language and I am sure that within one minute you can do that for me.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of privilege, Sir, I have rights in this Chamber like anyone else.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of privilege?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I have rights like anyone else.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I-Jiope you realise that you will still have the opportunity to wind up.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, that is not the point. I really am resentful, Sir, I got up to speak and none of the two other Members were on their feet. I was on my feet, Sir, for almost 30 seconds.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe that at this juncture, you should be fair to me.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am being fair to you but, I wanted to respond to something that was said by the Honourable Member for St. George North and I think, Sir, that my rights are being prejudiced and trampled. I think that I should have the opportunity too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe you can do that when you are winding up. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I must confess, Sir, some disappointment in the Honourable Member the Minister of Education in her wide ranging speech. I realised that you have asked me to be as succinct as possible and I shall try, but the Members on the other side have said that I am incapable of that, Sir, and so I will do the best I can.

But, I really am disappointed in the Honourable Member who just sat down, the Member for St. George North. All the persons who know him, know that as a teacher, he was assiduous in carrying out his duties and I think that people will be very disappointed that just for the sake of expediency and in keeping with some notion they have over there of holding the line that he would deviate from a point of principle to attack the Barbados Union of Teachers and more specifically, a Member of the Union.

The General Secretary of the Barbados Union of Teachers must do her job.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is accusing the Honourable Member for St. George North of attacking the General Secretary of the Barbados Union of Teachers. I did not hear such statements. He stated the fact that he was a teacher at a Secondary School, he wanted to contest an election and he resigned. He simply said that the General Secretary of the Barbados Union of Teachers, whoever she or he is, should resign. That is all he said. It is not an attack.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it is not the first time that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew has been mistaken in his understanding of what constitutes an attack. When he said, it was environmental madness for the...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us stick to education now, please!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Very well. As I was saying, I was really disappointed because I have a lot of respect for the Honourable Member for St. George North, but I was disappointed that he would want to attack a woman.

You see, Sir, they keep saying that women do not come forward for positions. Then, when you get a woman

of distinction in the teaching profession, who comes forward and functions as a General Secretary and an efficient one from what I understand, Sir, then you get a Member standing up in Parliament with all the privileges attacking her for doing her duty to her teachers.

I know about St. Leonard's, Sir. The Honourable Member said that phase one is finished. Phase one should not have included leaving two pools of water to breathe dengue fever from the constituents.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. In respect of the two areas where there is water, it was not left there. One of those areas was a pre-existing one since there were no major changes done or any construction done on that part of the school at all, Sir. In any event, that area was unclaimed and it was ultimately identical to the landscape. So we did not create that pool of water. It was a natural thing that occurred there.

In respect to the second one, Sir, there was unfortunately water that started to collect behind the holding area where there are seeking to build the auditorium which he has been urging us to build as fast as possible so that he can meet in it. And, as I am trying to help him out, as a Member of Parliament, Sir, we have had to make accommodation which led to a depression and water collected. Sir, that water will be removed before the end of this week. It is not a simple matter at all.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am glad to hear that the Honourable Member will reach the deadline and will remove the water and that it was a crime of omission. I accept that she said it was a crime of omission, but in the same way that she pushed down the entire boys' school and promised that when the children go back in, they will have a playing field and if you go down there, your Honour, you will see that they do not have anything at all, Sir. 5.30 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member, please! Will the Honourable Member please sit.

At this point I am asking the Clerk of the House to give me some guidance because the time is up.

Would you just wind up, move the Head and let us get it over.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I appreciate the concerns expressed, Sir, both by the Honourable Member for St. George North and even the Honourable Member for St. Michael West in his histrionics just now. I believe

his concern was as genuine too as ours in respect of the first pool of water which is really a problem. That water will be removed. In fact, we were dealing with the matter even before the Union went down there yesterday.

I really just want in winding up to end, Sir, by saying that it really cannot be acceptable for persons to be relating to people where we seek to operate in an atmosphere in good faith with the level of discourtesy and disrespect and breach of natural justice as they have been so doing.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 34 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS TRANSPORT & HOUSING

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 32 stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. G. W. PAYNE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to

His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of two Money Resolutions in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. G. W. PAYNE, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today. I beg to move that this Honourable House do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 11, 1997 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

I had better indicate, Sir, speaking on the motion for the adjournment, that there is a new Copyright Bill that should have been circulated to Honourable Members. It had its first reading today. I do not propose to debate that in second reading until late in November. I give Honourable Members the opportunity to read it and to draw any matters of amendments to my attention in the meantime. We will not do it just yet.

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

The question that the Honourable House do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 11, 1997 at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.40 p.m.

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