THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 7, 1998.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 1998.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL (Deputy Speaker)
Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Rons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Leader of the Opposition)
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.
Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport) (Leader of the House)
Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. J. O. TUDOR, J.P.
Hon. G. W. PAYNE (Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing)
Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)
Mr. D. CARTER (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B., (Minister of Labour, Community Development and Sports)
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing)
Mr. J. M. EDGHILL
Mr. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.
Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, J.P., B.A., Dip. Ed., B.Sc.
Mr. H. F. LASHLEY
Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport)
Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Health and the Environment)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood. Mr.

SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, June 23, 1998.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of proceedings for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, June 23, 1998, which Minutes have been circulated be taken as read.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to report that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements, including the Appropriation and Revenue Accounts for the Financial Year 1996-97.

PAPERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Nos. 11-15) Orders. 1998.

I am further commanded to lay the following:

1. The Value Added Tax (No. 3) Order, 1998.

2. The Excise Tax Order.

3. The Annual Reports of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation for the years 1987-1996.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS since the abolition of the system of a Vestry for each geographical parish and the subsequent abolition of the regional District Councils which replaced the Vestries, a system of local government has not been in place in Barbados:

AND WHEREAS central government is the sole level of elected government in Barbados:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House call on Government to take steps to introduce an elected form of local government throughout Barbados."

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the following Bills were read a first time:

1. Consular Sendees Fees Bill, 1998.

2. The Maritime International Cooperation Bill, 1998.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the order of the day.

ORDER NO. 6 - THE REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL,1998

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, before I deal with this Bill just let me indicate that yesterday the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I spoke and I indicated a number of suggestions for the despatch of Government's Business having regard to the fact that there is a large number of items on the Order Paper in my name.

We agreed we would take this Bill first because the Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition has another commitment after lunch. If the Opposition is agreeable, we will also try later today to do the three Intellectual Property Bills.

The Maritime Cooperation Bill will be debated on a future occasion, within the next month, Sir, but it was only circulated over the weekend and Members would not have had enough time to deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill before the House is, in its terms, a short piece of legislation which, in the Schedule, follows a usual practice. But even though the Bill is short, the objectives for this Bill, with respect, Mr. Speaker, are quite large.

The Government Industrial Schools, comprising the boys at Dodds and the girls at Summervale have, for since the last century, tried to rehabilitate the young offenders, juvenile delinquents, perhaps, of this country. That institution, the Government Industrial Schools, has had a history which reflected the times in which it operated.

Up to 1949, the basic responsibilities of the staff were to secure the boys and girls and give them some basic instructions but to ensure that they worked in agriculture. In 1948 when my father moved there and I went with him, one could see the boys at Dodds still driving cow carts, heading and loading canes and doing very menial work. Their dress was khaki pants, khaki shirt. Some had what we used to call topees. None had shoes.

An attempt was made to change the regime in the 1950s. My father did a course in England in 1953 and on his return found a willing ear in the then Minister of Social Services, the late Freddie Miller. He was able to implement a number of far-reaching changes at Dodds. All of the manual labour, all of the agricultural work which young boys 9-19 were expected to do, all of that ceased on the plantation. Some acres were still retained for the use of the institution, but the emphasis then turned to the pursuit of academic study and relationships ere developed with Princess Margaret School after that was opened in 1955 as a result of which boys and girls of suitable aptitude and competence were allowed to attend Princess Margaret School and to participate in what was then, the ^{V}O' level examination. As I said, a

more liberal regime, one rooted more in concepts of rehabilitation was conceived and implemented. 11.30a.m.

In those days there was a voluntary body called the Board of Visitors which functioned to show an interest in the students at Dodds and Summervale but it was, as I have said, voluntary and it had no teeth whatsoever because it did not rest upon a statutory basis. Over time, the files show that the efficiency, interest and the effectiveness of the Board of Visitors waned and consequently, I suspect, where there was that gap in superior oversight by a body standing above the day to day management -1 speak frankly, Sir, and straight - there is no doubt whatsoever that the standards both at Dodds and at Summervale have fallen drastically. This is something that one witnessed overtime. In 1980, some of the boys rose up and burnt down the hospital. I was Chairman of a departmental committee that enquired into those events and reported. Many of the recommendations were implemented and there are still some to be implemented and some were rejected. Gradually, over the years, I have to confess that to my great disappointment, to my horror, Dodds have fallen far, far, down. It has fallen at all levels and I am not making any bones about it, at all levels.

It is the Government's responsibility to try and restore the standards in those institutions. It is going to be a massive task because I believe that attitudes and systems have become engrained. In those circumstances, the Government has thought long and hard about this matter. We have tried at the Prisons in 1995 by legislation, an experiment to strengthen management at the Prisons. Management at the Prisons was weak, undoubtedly weak, and we brought in a board, got rid of the Visitors Committee and established a statutory body in place of the Visiting Committee called an Advisory Board and that board has been able, not only to guide the Superintendent and officers, but more importantly to provide a channel of communication for the inmates as well as the officers. The last Chairman has been re-appointed, the present Chairman most recently appointed is Colonel Laurence Quintyne.

With the experience of the Prisons Advisory Board we are trying a similar mechanism at Dodds to strengthen the management by putting in the statute provision for a board which will not seek to undermine the authority of the principal who has certain statutory responsibilities but a board which will make recommendations for the improvements of the conditions at Dodds, I want this clearly understood as they relate both to the staff and to the pupils. In the past the Board of Visitors heard only from the pupils and the interest and the welfare of the staff were never considered. I am putting an end to that. The staff and the inmates have equal places in the institutions and their concerns must thus be addressed by a body which is sufficiently broad based and sufficiently composed as to appreciate the concerns of both sides and try to recommend solutions in the interest of both groups at Dodds and Summervale.

Mr. Speaker, you will find that the new Clause 48B (1) says that:

"The Board should advise the Minister on all matters relating to

1. (a) the welfare of the children within its care, including their conduct, standard of discipline, education and safety;

   (b) the proper maintenance and overall management of the schools; and

   (c) any other matter on which the Minister seeks the advice of the Board.

2. The Board shall advise the Principal on

   (a) the management and supervision of the school;

   (b) the welfare and conduct of staff of the school;

   (c) the education, training, recreation, discipline and welfare of the children; and

   (d) any other matter referred to the Board by the Principal".

The constitution of the Board is the Superintendent of the Prisons or his nominee, a magistrate and seven others appointed by the Minister.

Sir, I made a statement that the standards have fallen drastically at Dodds. I want to give some examples. As you turn into Dodds from the main road either from Padmore Village or from St. Philip's Parish Church there used to be on either side of the driveway two sweet lime hedges which used to be properly trimmed and manicured; nicely lined up and there was a certain precision about those. They are in any state from time to time. As you go into the driveway on your right there was probably 2 acres, or it may just be an acre and a half, a little plot of land which used to be called the garden plot and that used to be well tended, beds nicely laid out, always cultivated and the produce would go to assist in the feeding of the inmates. That more often than not is overrun with grass. 11.40a.m.

As you enter the place the ambience is one of untidiness that should not be in an institution that is there established for training and discipline and in which there is a ready pool of labour. It calls for some organisation.

We are not satisfied also about the consistency of the educational programmes. Those are being dealt with in the

Ministry. The level of discipline, both among the girls and the boys leaves a lot to be desired.

Now, one does not have to be brutal or inhumane to achieve adequate responses from young people even if they are juvenile delinquents. There are certain techniques that one has to use to win their confidence. Unfortunately in the last 2 years there have been allegations of staff heavy-handedness that are not supported in the Ministry but at the same time there have been at least 3 cases of boys who have offered violence, serious violence, to staff and staff cannot be expected to receive violence.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes but when a man is throwing large rocks at you that is a serious thing and should not be happening in that kind of institution.

Sir, several members of the public have complained to me about the fallen or falling standards at the school. I am well aware of it and determined that we must stop of all of that slippage now.

I appreciate, Sir, that the pace of physical redevelopment at those institutions has been slow but we have tried to address that. Years of neglect cannot be adequately repaired in one or two years.

The main block as you drive into the yard had to have a complete overhaul last year. The dormitories at the top are separated from the dormitories at the bottom by wooden floors, all termite infested, ready to collapse. We had to change the roof. We are changing the bathroom facilities. They were awful. The bathroom facilities that are attached to the main block were allowed not only to become dilapidated, you see broken toilet bowls and nothing done about them. You cannot have that in an institution. You have to show those youngsters proper standards of decency and sanitation. We are completely renovating the bathroom area of Dodds.

The workshops are in good shape and we completed the work on what used to be the storeroom, the administration block, year before the last. I would not go into the details of those repairs now, Sir. There were some very unhappy and unsavoury features about the contractual work that led to those repairs. That happened before our time, Sir. I am drawing a blind and moving forward. An election is coming and if certain people do not play with their batting pads properly, well then I might have to york them.

I am taking careful note, Sir. Now, Sir, we are trying this year to shift the emphasis to Summervale. Summervale is an interesting situation. Somebody will have to do an appropriate study in due course to explain the sociology of what has happened at Summervale. I remember there was a time in the early seventies when we were last in Government when very great consideration was given to closing Summervale because you only had 4 or 5 girls in Summervale and you had a large staff and it was thought that perhaps we should move them out somewhere else and perhaps when Dodds had 60 or 70 you could split some of the Dodds boys into junior fellows and send them to Summervale and so on.

Now none of that is possible because at Summervale the crime rate among the girls is increasing. Where you had 7 you have in the twenties now. I am getting the latest figures. It is creeping up and one is worried about it. There are 25 girls now and 35 boys as of last night's count.

Now, let us be fair, Sir. Not necessarily all of those inmates are in there for what we would ordinarily call criminal offences because if you look at the Act, the Act is so widely drafted as to allow for the admission of children into those institutions whose real need is care and protection. But you can still be sent to those institutions for wandering even though let us be fair, let it be balanced, the Magistrates in the last 10 years or so have been very loathe to send children to Dodds for wandering but it still remains on the book as an offence and one of the things we are seeing is that children who are uncontrollable by their parents, some of them end up in Dodds where the parents appeal to the Magistrates, I cannot handle this child anymore and as a last resort it is sent to Dodds or Summervale. Now that kind of situation suggests that we need to reorient our social services in this area to make adequate provision for the care and protection of that type of child and leave the institutions, Dodds and Summervale, for those who show criminal propensity. These are matters, Sir, I am not rushing them. 11.50a.m.

There are matters which I have asked the Steering Committee on Penal Reform to study and they will have as part of their remit to consider how Dodds and Summervale can be used in the 21st century, Sir.

We need to make a number of changes in the system but I am not going to let my own predilections or my own judgement guide in this time. I am going to await the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Penal Reform.

Sir, one of the problems in the last eight or ten years has been the staff structure at Dodds and Summervale. The staff structure in my summation is two lowly classified for a start and that will have to be addressed elsewhere as part of any future reclassification programme, but there are several anomalies. People have come to work at Dodds from the teaching service and have suffered by reason of that change, a loss of emoluments.

It has been chronic at the level of the senior management. Whenever the principal goes on leave and nominates the Deputy, Mr. Carvallo to act, he has had to refuse the appointment, even an acting appointment, because to act would mean that he would earn less than he is getting

in the substantive position. It is the most weird and anomalous situation that you could ever get. We had a meeting last year, Sir, with the staff. I went to it, heard their concerns and we made representations to the Ministry of the Civil Service.

I can announce today, Sir, and hope that it would give some comfort to the senior staff, that on the 1st of July, the Ministry of the Civil Service wrote as follows:

> "Approval is hereby granted for the payment of a duty allowance of 15% of salary to the posts of Principal and Vice-Principal of the Government Industrial Schools, effective July 1998."

So, I believe that from this month, one of the long festering sores of anomalists, administrative situations, Sir, has been cured. Other matters which have been referred to us as matters of concern by the staff are being actively dealt with, within the Ministry.

But, we have at Dodds, five vacancies for teachers. Five areas to be filled and I hope that as a result of this presentation some persons who are interested in helping wayward youth find productive ways and develop the correct attitudes will be minded to offer themselves, Sir. But these vacancies are there and we need to have them filled, five alone for teachers.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the norm is that the Principal has to make recommendations and I think he has been so advised by his own colleagues. But anybody who is interested should get in touch with the Principal and let us get a full staff complement.

Sir, with 35 boys, I hear this thing about today's youth being different from other generations. Yes, other generations did not have the drug problem, but basically the boys of today generally are no different from the boys of other years. Apart from the allurement of drugs and the potential for disequilibrium that drugs have, Sir, most young people are tractable. We have estimated that there are less than 1 000 people who commit crime in Barbados and who give us the problems. The vast majority of Barbadians and young people in Barbados are law abiding. You have a little hard core of about 1 000 dotted about in every constituency that hang out at the street corners that will not work unless they want to work for two weeks to buy brand named gear and go to a fete. And in that 1 000 you will find the ones who harass people, smoke pot, peddle the pot and all of that.

But, generally and this is information that we are picking up from having the Youth Commissioners in the parishes interacting with these young people. We can say about 1 000 throughout Barbados that are giving trouble and being unstable, but the vast majority are tractable. In a situation of a custodial institution, these boys and girls at Dodds and Summervale can be made tractable with proper attitudes and counselling. Thirty-five, we should be able to deal with them easily, but I want to see better organisation of the time spent both by staff and pupils. I am not satisfied that we are getting 100%, and that responsibilities are properly assigned.

Those fellows should get up at 5.30 in the morning, this is the kind of regime there should be, a cold shower, parade for inspection, have some juice, and then be made to be assigned in little groups to clean the surroundings - sweep. 7.30 a.m., breakfast....

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: No, the staff there. I am dealing with an institution where you have to train and discipline youngsters. 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., academic instruction for all, except those who are in the cook house. Lunch, 12.30p.m. to 2.00p.m. 2.00p.m. to 4.30 p.m., trades. The trades are taught there, carpentry, tailoring, masonry and shoe making. Fellows are assigned to trades and they have their games, recreation in the afternoon after 4.30 p.m. They can decide whether they want to have it before dinner or after dinner. And in the evening there should be some time also for academic instruction. People can talk to them as a group about various things for educational and recreational purposes, if you like, nothing heavy.

Asides.

12.00 noon

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You see why I have to speak so frankly. I got reports about the financial management of the Government Industrial School and I cannot ignore those reports. When I say reports, people tell me things. I had to call in the management accounting section of the Ministry of.Finance to go and do an investigation into Dodds and Summervale last year and the Report has revealed that there are several weaknesses and lacunae in the system of financial management and management particularly of supplies and materials. Recommendations have been made for tightening up those systems and I believe that they are being followed.

We are trying therefore to improve the physical conditions by systematic repair and renovation of the buildings and structures at Dodds and, as I said, in this financial year we are giving emphasis to some of them, starting with the roof. We are trying to create better conditions for the staff. I think the facilities provided for the boys -*I know for a fact that they are second to none in the Caribbean but they can be better. We are doing that for them.

I want to see the staff and pupils of those institutions do something at those institutions for the benefit of those institutions. I want to see more organisation, more tidiness

for a start in the physical situation. The Government is meeting them more than half way. This Bill is going to provide an opportunity for nine people who may have an interest in juvenile delinquency to interact with the staff and produce a collective effort aimed at taking the institution forward and at the same time improving things both for the staff and for the pupils.

I am not going to make any longer speech on this, Sir, because I wish to accommodate the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who says he has to be at another function this afternoon. I want to give him a chance to reply. But the medium and long-term future of Dodds and Summervale is a matter that will be exercising the steering committee as to how we can integrate those institutions, having regard to these numbers and the space that we have. There was a time when Dodds had 80 boys. It is down to 35 now and I must say that the figures for boys have been holding more or less consistently over the last three or four years.

The figures for girls bother us. But there is a phenomenon again. Even though at that juvenile delinquent level there has been this pretty startling increase from the days when you had single digit numbers for girls to 25. Even though that is startling at that level it is not however being transferred when they leave Summervale. In other words, we are not seeing the increase in the female prison population coming from girls who were at Dodds or coming from women. There will be a few, not many. These girls who serve their time in Summervale tend not to become recidivists. That is what we are seeing. Why the female section of the prison may be under some pressure in numbers is that there are still women in this world who are foolish enough to accept an offer as low as $500 to bring cocaine from outside of Barbados into Barbados.

They will not learn. We are catching them every day at the Airport. I cannot tell you why. I would not disclose that publicly. We are catching them at the Airport every day and they are taking 10 years in prison. That is the problem. We have a number of foreign women in prison. I have not counted them recently. They are causing the female section to be under some pressure. The drug mules as they call them.

Sir, I wish the House to be assured that in this financial year we are going to be paying especial attention to Dodds and Summervale. We cannot do all at one time, the prisons, the courts, the police. We did the physical repairs at Dodds and we are doing some at Summervale and now we are going to get to grips with the organisation or to put it another way, the re-organisation of the regime at Dodds and the system.

Government is not going to let this matter slip any further or be content with the status quo and I have every confidence that the Board that will be put in place will help us to bring better management to the Government Industrial Schools in both sections.

With those words, I am obliged to you, Sir, and I beg to move that this Bill'be read a second time.

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I see no need to detain the House on this amendment of this Bill. The Honourable Member who has just sat down has indicated that there are administrative problems at the Government Industrial Schools which the Government thinks can best be addressed by the putting in place of a Board to advise the Minister and the principals of the Government Industrial Schools and we on this side hope that the Government is right and that the administrative problems which exist at the Government Industrial Schools can be adequately addressed by the mechanism of a Board being put in place. Like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas I am not unfamiliar with the Government Industrial School, better known as Dodds, having grown up about one mile as the crow flies from that institution. 12.10p.m.

I have spent the better part of my teenage life hearing adults, some of whom were parents, threatening young men of my generation with having them admitted to Dodds if they did not conduct themselves properly. Admission to Dodds was held over the young men of the village in which I grew up as a kind of Damoclean sword. It was held over them, *in terrorem*, admission to Dodds was supposed to be enough to knock one into line. So I know what the Honourable Member is talking about, and where he is talking about when he is talking about the Government Industrial Schools, Dodds and Summervale.

I have slightly different views from those expressed by the Honourable Member because, for one thing, the legislation which this Bill seeks to amend was legislation passed by this House in 1926, legislation that consolidated all the existing legislation in respect of both the boys' school and the girls' school. This was legislation therefore passed before the Riots of the 1930s and before the ushering in of modern Barbados as we know it today.

This legislation reflects and reflected the world view of the merchants and planters who dominated this Parliament at that time, who controlled the franchise, and who determined who got into this House at that time, and who had a projection of what should become of young black youths in this society if they did not satisfy the standards decreed for them by a merchant planter dominated Parliament.

The rationale for the existence and for the administration of the Government Industrial Schools with which we are dealing today is a rationale that dates back to the 1920s. The question we have to begin by asking is whether that rationale is still valid. Are we permitted to see the social deviance among adolescents through the same lenses as a merchant planter dominated society that saw a social deviance among adolescents or are we to adopt a more humanistic world-view in respect of social deviance among

adolescents in Barbados and that particularly since, as the Minister has conceded, not all the inmates of the Government Industrial School are there for having committed crimes. A wide range of circumstances determines whether youngsters end up at the Government Industrial Schools or not.

The Minister is quite right in suggesting that sometimes despairing parents throw their hands up and decide that since they cannot handle their children, those children should be dumped on the Government Industrial Schools. I was witness to that kind of spectacle only about two or three weeks ago at the Juvenile Court. So we still have parents around who believe that in circumstances where they have failed, it is not that the children have failed, it is that the parents have failed, they should dump their youngsters on the Government Industrial Schools and turn the fortunes of those youngsters over to that reform institution. I have some problems with that kind of approach especially since there is so much delinquency at all levels of Barbadian society today. The delinquency in this society is not limited to the adolescent who might or might not end up in the Government Industrial Schools. Right through this society now at almost every level there is evidence of indiscipline and irresponsibility. The tragedy is that while we have an institution on which we can dump some of the young adolescents in Barbados, there is none., it seems, on which we can dump some of the more irresponsible adults. Barbados, of course, has thrived over the years on solving problems by the crafting of catch phrases and slogans.

Whenever we have a serious problem in Barbados, what we do is to search for a catch phrase or slogan and once we can fit a catch phrase or slogan onto the problem the problem is solved. There was a time in this society when all the problems here could have been solved by something called privatisation. There were other times when all the problems of Barbados could be solved by something called "management", more recently by something called "total quality management", and the most recent catch phrase that has been thrown out to solve all of Barbados' problems is the phrase "role models."

We tell ourselves and *try* to get others to believe that all the problems we have among our youth result from the fact that the society is short on what are called "role models." What I find interesting about this, of course, is that the persons who talk about role models always seem to be talking about somebody else. It is always somebody else who should be the role model. That person always excuses himself or herself from that onerous social responsibility of being a role model for the society. They abdicate responsibility and dump it onto school teachers or politicians and that is supposed to solve all of the problems of Barbados.

Now, the stage has to be reached soon where all of this has to be brought to a halt. I am intellectually and morally convinced that the first role model any child should have is its parents, if it has any. If a child is placed in a situation where it has to look past its parents for a role model, something is fundamentally wrong. There are too many instances in Barbados where children have to regard their parents with unpretending scorn and contempt because of the serious dereliction, the almost criminal dereliction of parental responsibility to look after the children of this society.

Now, this kind of talk does not normally come from politicians because a lot of politicians in this society spend most of their time trying to find out in what direction the wind of popular favour is blowing. They fashion their statements and fashion their conducts to catch these winds of popular favour. I went to a school, Mr. Speaker, at which the headmaster used to say once a week to the boys, 450 of us, that the path of least resistance is for weaklings and that if we were going to be men who make a difference in the society then we had to be leaders, we could not afford to be followers. Now, I do not follow anybody. I lead. It is the only language that I understand. 12.20p.m.

Asides.

Mr. F. J. STUART: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am leading today.

Asides.

Mr. F. J. STUART: I ignore the impish interventions from the Other Side. I am leading today because the *de facto* Leader of the Opposition is not here.

The point, Mr. Speaker is this ....

Mr. F. J. STUART: I do not follow. That is what I was taught at the Boys' Foundation School and it is the only language that I understand. I am not interested in catching the winds of popular favour. I am not in any popularity contest. There are certain things for me that cannot change and principles for me, do not change. The principles that under-girth and underpin effective parenting cannot change. I subscribe to the view that the principle from the depth of a cave is mightier than an army of many millions.

The issue of social deviance in this society must be confronted. It cannot be confronted if the parents abandon their responsibility and spend most of their time telling their children, I don't want you to pass through what I had to pass through. Therefore, they indulge their children in a wide and varied range of excesses, giving children the impression that sacrifice in life is not necessary, that there is nothing called hardship and that whatever they want, they can have and whatever they have and need is there for them. Unless most of the parents in Barbados suffer from inferiority complexes, that view of world, that view of parenting has to be wrong. For the parent who says, I do not want my children to pass

through what I had to pass through, is making a statement about him or herself. That parent is saying that because of what he or she had to pass through there is something wrong with him or her. If a parent begins by believing that there is something wrong with him or her that parent forfeits the moral authority to be an example or effective role model -1 hate the phrase but I have to use it - for the children committed to his or her care.

I know what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, because about 18 months ago, one of the leading newspapers published an editorial on the issue of role models. The editorial purported to hold up a name to Barbadians as a role model for the society. I intend no disrespect to the Barbadian identified and named but this is how the editorial summed up the issue of role models. It said where the man was born, it said who his parents were, it said where he went to school, where he got his primary education, it said where he got his secondary education, it said which university he attended, it informed the country that while at university he met his wife, it said what he studied and what she studied, it indicated when he came back to Barbados, what jobs he did and then it screamed, who said that we have no role models?

No where in the editorial was issue of sacrifice raised. No where in the editorial was there any indication as to what the individual had done for anybody but himself and his family but that was the view of the role model in Barbados as articulated by this editor of one of our daily newspapers.

If that is what we want in Barbados, we are getting it because all of our youngsters can easily fall into that slot if we want them to, of persons who just look out for themselves. Already we are witnessing it in the use of our roads. We now have a situation in Barbados where indiscipline reigns in the use of the highways of Barbados. It is now fashionable for drivers to overtake six and seven vehicles at a time even if they are approaching a corner. We are in a hurry going nowhere and hoping to get there very quickly. This indiscipline reigns right through the society. It is a matter that is concerning me, it is a matter in respect of which I think that some lead has to be given by those of us who are trustees of the public interests.

Mr. Speaker, I am not convinced that a view of juvenile or adolescent deviance that was appropriate to the 1920s might necessarily be appropriate in 1998.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas now has at his disposal a report from the Task Force on crime prevention. He also has another report on alternative sentencing. These two reports, in my view, although not perfect, do provide the kind of data background that allows for the formulation of clear, modern policy to deal with the problems of adolescent deviance in Barbados.

I urge the Honourable Member to turn his gaze away from a view of dealing with adolescents that concerns itself with while they are at Dodds having to sweep the yard or to cut fences or anything like that. There are teachers at secondary schools in Barbados who have to deal with problems of indiscipline and who have to deal with those problems without calling on the children involved to sweep the school yard, or to scrub the canteen floor, or to repair furniture, or anything of the sort. 12.30p.m.

If we concede that there are people who go into the Government Industrial Schools, not because they are criminals, but because there has been dereliction of social responsibility by their parents and by other leaders in the society, then we have to provide mechanisms for the rehabilitation and the rescuing of these youngsters and that cannot be by giving them to believe that the society is writing them off to hard labour or to menial labour because they may have made one or two mistakes early in their lives.

So we have to deal with this problem. This legislation, the parent Act which this Bill seeks to amend, at section 9 makes provision for the Superintendent of Prisons to be the official visitor of all the schools. It states that he should visit each school at least once in every 3 months.

Now, in an institution that contemplates the re-habilitation of adolescents, in an institution that contemplates rescuing young people who have slipped from the straight and narrow path, it seems to me a contradiction that the Superintendent of Prisons should be so much a part of the life of that institution. It is as though he is holding a watching brief over the Government Industrial Schools and basically surveying the scene with a view to seeing who amongst the inmates will come within his embrace as it will be only a matter of time.

I think we have to stop seeing the Government Industrial Schools as just a youth prison or an adolescent prison and begin to see that in that very turbulent adolescent period our youngsters are likely to go straight but that we have to put humanistic mechanisms in place to rescue them. In fact I have the greatest possible reservations about the Government Industrial Schools, Dodds and Summervale, being attached to the Attorney General's Office at all. It is my view that it should be attached perhaps to the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs because as long as the man who is responsible for the police, as long as the man who is responsible for crime and prisoners is also the man who is responsible for adolescent deviance that is how they will perceive themselves.

Now, I am given to understand that the Government Industrial Schools were not always under the Attorney General. I do not know who effected the change but whoever did it was wrong and misguided because children at that age do not need a perception of themselves that reduces them to wards of the police, wards of the Superintendent of Prisons, wards of a Minister who is responsible for law and order.

They are not responsible for any break-downs of law and order in Barbados and what they need, these adolescents, is an institutional framework with supporting mechanisms that rescue them from the deviance to which they have fallen prey

So, although this legislation is limited in its scope in terms of what the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has said to the House, it has wide ranging implications because it opens up the scope for debate on our vision of our young in Barbados and I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas will see the Bill in this way.

I do not believe that the same rationale that undergirded the Government Industrial School in the 1920s or even in the 1940s when the Honourable Member's father went there, should be the rationale to undergird it in 1998. A whole new set of dynamics are at work. For one thing, and this is a fact not readily embraced by Barbadians, in the context of an information revolution and in the context of access to a wide range of reading materials, that view that used to determine the relationship between adults and youngsters as recently as the 1960s or as recently as perhaps in the 1970s is no longer relevant.

Many school children go into the classrooms from day to day with more up-to-date information about what is going on in the world than their teachers because of the easy access to information and of course information is a form of empowerment, it is a mechanism for empowerment. And to believe that our youth are going to be reverential robots as were the youth of my generation and those that preceded me is really to misunderstand the currents of change that are running around us in Barbados, in the Caribbean and in the Western World as a whole.

Knowledge, access to information, narrow gaps and most of us in this Honourable House would concede that in our day at school we looked at the teacher as a man or woman who possessed knowledge which we could not possibly access, and that knowledge created distance. Today that is not so and teachers and students, parents and children, all alike have access to the same information. In fact that view extends to the relationship between the politician and the public as well, that there was a time when the public waited on the politician for information. Today we have a public that accesses information long before the politician accesses it sometimes and this must have implications for relations between people and it must have implications for concepts like discipline and order and that kind of thing. I think we need to take a hard look at all these currents of change that are running around us and devise strategies to combat them.

The other point that needs to be made is this. It is not the youth that have to change. That is the other mistaken notion that is abroad in Barbados. The youth know only one world, that is the world of their childhood. Adults know the world of the adult and the world of their childhood and it is unrealistic and naive to believe that adults are going to get our young people to abandon the only way they know to come and join the adults in a world that they have never experienced. It is to see the world through lenses that are distorted. The persons who have to make the adjustment in Barbados and in every other Caribbean country and in the entire Western World in all of its restlessness are the adults because the persons who have been empowered by developments in information and technology have been our young people who now feel greater confidence and who are much better equipped to solve problems.

That foresightful African leader Nelson Mandela, soon after his release from prison began to talk in South Africa about reducing the voting age to 14, because he understood that the 18 or 21-year-old person of his childhood was perhaps the equivalent of the 14-year-old today. And wherever we go in Barbados and I believe that the Youth Commissioners might feed this to the Government, our young people are calling for a greater say in the decisions that affect their lives and a lot of the restlessness that we see around us result from the fact that they feel no effective part of what is going on around them. 12.40p.m.

So, I think, Mr. Speaker, that while the mechanism which the Honourable Member is putting in place at the Government Industrial Schools may have a limited relevance in terms of the problem which he is trying to solve, the problem of structural deficiency at the schools and the problem of unsatisfactory leadership as he and as the Government perceive it. We need a broader view of what is happening in that world of our young people in our schools and after they leave school in this society.

As I said, I think a lot of the research which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has got done now puts him in a position where we can move from the domain of paralysis by analysis and to get into the creative world of problem solving and that has to begin with the articulation of a clear policy that covers our youth. It cannot be done by the Attorney General's office alone, it has to be done in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs because this is a problem that crosses Ministries and we have to make sure that we are dealing with the problem holistically and not just segmentally as is so often the case.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side are not opposing the amendment. We wish the Government well in its attempt to solve the problem at the Government Industrial School as the Government perceives that problem, but I think that we are dealing with a much larger issue here and that after four years in office or well near four years in office, the Government has to get away from this piecemeal approach to problem solving and come with a holistic view of the world of our youth and the world of law and order.

A nexus, of course that I do not always subscribe to in fact, very seldom do I subscribe to it. I do not think that there is any organic link between law and order. I do not believe that where there is law, there is order and where there is no law, there is no order. Law reacts and has a very limited capacity to react to social problems and what we need is creative social policy tjiat embraces as large a number of our people as possible and that gives them a vision of themselves that transcends arid and barren obedience to this or that rule.

So with those few words, Mr. Speaker, I take my seat assuring the Government of our support to this amendment and looking forward to hearing more from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas on the issue of our youth problems and on the issue of adolescent deviance in Barbados.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a brief intervention in this matter. For many years, Mr. Speaker, I have felt that whilst we embrace the philosophy of democracy in this country, that term 'democracy' did not seem to me to embrace those under 18 by and large. I have always felt that what was badly needed in this country was a charter of children's rights, a charter of the rights of children. I say this, Sir, and I became even more convinced of it as I heard the Honourable Member the Attorney General and the Honourable Member for St. Philip South speak.

If we had such a charter, it would certainly inform us of the parameters in which institutions such as Dodds and Summervale should function in relation to the young people who are sent to those institutions. The major point I wish to make is the need for a charter for children's rights in Barbados and if that is done, we can all then be quite sure of the dimensions in which we operate in respect of every aspect of response to problems faced by young people.

1 say this, Sir, because we seem to be living in a world where the whole question of adulthood and childhood seem to be coming quite blurred. In the United States today they are trying 11-year-olds as adults. Now, this is a concept, Sir, that seems to me to be so remote from anything that I have ever thought about, even challenging I believe a very fundamental principle of men's rape. How can you assume that an 11-year-old can form the kind of intent that can lead to a conviction for hanging and so on. I am talking about the United States.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order just to say that in the Bill to reform the penal system, we are making provision for changing the age of criminal responsibility from where it is now at age seven, which is ridiculous, to age 12. That Bill will be in the House in October, Sir. We have a draft already and will clean it up during the vacation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much. I think these things need to be sorted out and that is why I speak to the issue of a Charter of Children's Rights. Now, I cannot challenge the Honourable Member for St. Philip South on any matter relating to Dodds, because he spoke from a position of long familiarity and long experience with the institution and therefore I have to be guided by him in those matters.

There is one point that was raised by the Attorney General that bothered me when he referred to the state in which the sweet lime fences were kept and the half an acre of land in front of the entrance, 12.50p.m.

But then you mentioned especially when there was a pool of labour available. I think that is something that needs to be clarified because, as you, yourself, indicated, there are children admitted to that institution who were not guilty of any offence and they were put there simply because there was no other means and nowhere else to deal with the problem of delinquency which did not reach the stage of criminality. Therefore, such children should not be subjected to punishment. Discipline but not punishment. They did nothing for which they should be punished.

Then you have another group...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member clearly did not quite understand the context in which I was speaking. The context in which I was speaking was to suggest that here you have 35 boys in an institution where they are to be trained and disciplined and you are not trying to show them an organised approach to life to get them accustomed to doing things, clipping the sweet lime hedge, making up the garden beds. We all had to do them when we were at school and it never did us anything. They did us good. What I am saying is that there is no organisation of a day in a structured way for those 35 boys who can be deployed doing different things: look after the animals. They used to do it in the past and it never hurt anybody. They become familiar with a variety of activities.

Dr. R. C. HAY1MES: I am not saying it is a problem. I just want to be sure that the people at Dodds would clearly have the same concept of the use of these young people in that particular way, whether they are gardening, looking after animals, if they are doing workshop work and so on is part of the education and part of their development and not as a matter of punishment.

There again, I think those children's rights should be enshrined in some form of written charter which cannot be violated by anyone whether the children are in Dodds or in anywhere else.

Then there is another category of child who gets admitted to Dodds. We think of those who have committed some offence. There are those where the parents have given

up in despair and asked for them to be admitted but from time to time, you come across a parent who is in great despair because their child has been admitted to Dodds for what they consider unfair treatment.

Here is a parent that is willing to accept the responsibility of taking care of its child and the parent feels deeply aggrieved that the child has been taken away and taken to Dodds. This is something that needs to be looked at because I do not think that it helps the situation to remove a child like that unless there is a significant criminality or some kind of gross behaviour or something like that. That situation does arise and I have certainly had to deal with two or three instances over the years where parents are ready and willing and able to enforce discipline and they are severely and emotionally traumatised because of the fact that their children have been admitted to Dodds or Summervale.

They are the three main points that I want to make and I would urge, Mr. Speaker, that we give serious consideration to this whole issue of a charter of children's rights for Barbados. I think that should inform everyone in this society dealing with children, teachers, parents and those responsible for children who are admitted into institutions whether the hospitals, places such as Dodds or Summervale or any other institution in Barbados.

I believe that whereas you get a piecemeal approach or a kind of progressive concept towards dealing with children which we have heard here today, this is nowhere to be found in writing. There is nothing to guide people anywhere in terms of how they deal with children.

You know, Sir, there are children for example with mental deficiencies that end up in the Psychiatric Hospital in this country for life and they never come out? They spend their whole lifetime in a psychiatric hospital. Where are their rights? Nowhere. Those rights are not enshrined anywhere except in the generality of the laws of Barbados. I believe that if we have a charter for the guidance of everyone dealing with children that this would be a great help in Barbados. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: At this point I would like to recognise the presence of the Honourable Minister of Health from Trinidad & Tobago, the Honourable Mr. Hamza Rafeeq. We welcome you, Sir, and your delegation to our Honourable Chamber.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.00 o'clock in the afternoon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPFAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

1.00p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I wani t<; MW just a few words on the whole question of the Government Industrial School. First of all, Sir, the Government Industrial Schools happens to be in the constituency of St. Philip North - and from time to time I have to, for one reason or another, pass through or go to that school. I therefore think that I am fairly familiar with what goes on at that institution.

I was, however, a bit astonished at the fact that there is a single Principal at the Government Industrial Schools. In other words, there is not a Principal at Dodds and one at Summervale. There is one single Principal and, to the best of my knowledge, there is no Vice-Principal. I believe that is predicated on the old-fashioned idea that the institution is a small one and since it is small, there is no need for a Vice-Principal.

I would recommend very strongly that Government looks at this again. Indeed, the whole question of the number of teachers on staff at the Government Industrial Schools is something which I believe Government would have to take note of because we cannot equate the pupil/teacher ratio of the Government Industrial Schools with the teacher/pupil ratio at primary schools and at secondary schools.

I think that a lot more individual work per pupil has to be done at the Government Industrial Schools and, therefore, we need to have a much smaller pupil/teacher ratio there than at primary or at secondary schools because there are lots of 13, 14 and 15 year olds there who may not be able to read and write and you have to give them far more intense attention than you would have to give to the others.

Indeed, I was speaking to one of the teachers there quite recently only to learn that one pupil had actually written a letter for another pupil to the second pupil's mother. Since this second pupil could not read and write, he believed that something wrong about him was in the letter when, indeed, and in fact, all it was, was a list for toiletries. He, thinking that there was something bad in it, began to beat up the other chap simply because he could not read and write. The point I am making is that you have to give much more individual attention to those pupils than you would have at the secondary schools.

One of the other negatives at the Government Industrial Schools is the whole question of the regularity with which some of the inmates run away. Only recently in the newspapers we had the whole question of two of those

inmates running off. The compound at the Government Industrial Schools is really quite open. It is not fenced around with any walls, barbwire and that type of situation because, obviously, being a reformed school you do not want to give the impression that the Government Industrial Schools is a mini prison. The environment should not suggest that it is like having maximum security cells. This is not really the idea of what a reform school is.

Another real concern is the fact that the penalty in the Act for those pupils who ran away is simply a flogging and that is all it is and that is a real concern. There is no possibility - that is from the Act itself- of a transfer of an inmate to prison or anything of the sort. Personally, I believe that there are times when you have to be a bit more strict with those fellows who run away from Dodds. Some of them run away and commit very, very serious crimes. Some are in connection directly with those who sell and control drugs. On recapture and readmission to the institution, they have a very negative influence on the other young inmates and those fellows have a way of influencing their peers in a way that adults simply cannot.

Indeed, I know of occasions when some of them have returned and the staff became very very scared of them and that is one of the things I think we have to address. What can we do? I believe there is a place for the Government Industrial Schools. I believe it can remain as is but I think that Barbados actually needs a secure juvenile detention institution, a real custodial institution, a stage above the Government Industrial Schools to bridge the gap between the prison and the Government Industrial Schools. I think it is absolutely necessary now that we think in terms of this because we are having, as I said, a lot of them who run away returning and committing very serious crimes.

However, Sir, I, perhaps, want to bring a different line to this whole debate because I do not want to concentrate simply on the negatives of that institution. I think that society always tend to dwell a bit too much on the negatives of institutions such as the Government Industrial Schools. I want to say, Sir, that there are some positives at the Government Industrial Schools. As I said, I pass through there. I know some of what is gcing on and I therefore think it necessary that we highlight some of these positives.

A few of the pupils at the Government Industrial Schools have actually represented Barbados in boxing. To represent Barbados in a sport, in my mind, is an achievement. I challenge the young fellows in this country to tell me that they do not have any ambition of representing their country at a sporting event. I am saying that I know for a fact that at the Government Industrial Schools they have a very good boxing programme where people like Gary Bowen, the coach, goes there and does a fantastic job with those fellows.

Indeed last year in the Cayman Islands when Barbados won the championship, Barbados got two Gold Medals and three Silver Medals through the efforts of the chaps from the Government Industrial Schools. They made a significant contribution to Barbados actually winning the championship.

I want to say too that this year right here in Barbados when we had the boxing championship again Barbados won three Gold Medals and two of those three we won through the efforts of the chaps from the Government Industrial Schools. I also recall, I think it was about 1991, when the overall school's body building champion actually came out of the Government Industrial Schools. There are a few positives coming from the institution and I do not think that we should all be crying it down. I know for a fact that many of them who actually go into the Government Industrial Schools would go there without being able to hold a bat or ball. There was a time last year when I contemplated playing cricket once again and if I had played again, it would have been at the Government Industrial Schools. I thought I could be of some assistance to them. A lot of them go in without actually being able to hold a bat or ball and when they leave there, they leave there having played Second Division cricket. Some of them even carry on from there and have played Intermediate and First Division and so on in Barbados. 2.10p.m.

The School can also boast, Mr. Speaker, of having very very good cricketing facilities. Not only have they done a lot of work on the grounds themselves but I remember when I used to play in the Barbados Cricket League for St. Catherines we had to play quite a few matches at the Government Industrial Schools and what that out-field was in those days cannot compare with what it is today at all. The boys have done an exceptional job to make it much bigger and to make it far more level and so on. In fact, the boys themselves did the masonry and carpentry work on the pavilion which is there now. When I used to play there, Mr. Speaker, there was no pavilion. I am saying that the boys there actually built the pavilion from the skills that they learn from the masonry class and the carpentry class. You have the pavilion now in such a way that you have visiting teams sharing one part and they, the home team, sharing the other part of the facility. The crowning thing there, as I have said, is the fact that they have actually built the pavilion themselves.

I know for a fact too that they are some of them who when they leave they continue doing their furniture making and so on. Indeed, I have been informed that at exhibitions like BMEX you can see some of them who have continued having their work on display at these exhibitions. The pupils there, they make their own clothes for themselves and for the other inmates. I know that Mr. Robert Estwick who is the tailor instructor there has been doing excellent work over the years with these youngsters at the Government Industrial Schools.

As I am saying, Mr. Speaker, the School can boast of a few successes. We do not always have to be looking for the negatives to highlight about the institution. There is a very vibrant agriculture, a vibrant poultry, a very vibrant 'black-belly' sheep project going on at the Government Industrial Schools. Of course, once again, all of the animals' pens were built by the inmates at the Government Industrial Schools. The Government Industrial Schools is virtually self-sufficient in things like the production of lamb. I know that it is almost self-sufficient as well in the production of eggs and once again it is trying to get back to the stage where I believe that soon it will become self-sufficient once again in vegetables. There is no need for us to keep hammering about, it is no use, when we can actually point at some good that is actually coming from the Government Industrial Schools.

I would therefore, Mr. Speaker, want to pay tribute to the staff at the Government Industrial Schools. I think that sometimes we tend to overlook the hard work which the staff of the Government Industrial Schools is doing. I am thinking of those persons who have worked under very very trying situations, who have worked in run down buildings, who have worked with problematic children and where the working conditions were modest to say the very least, Mr. Speaker.

I do not want to single out any particular member of staff. Mr. Speaker, but I want to say that Government should be very thankful for the repair job which those members of staff would have done on these children in a way that their parents could not do. Sometimes it is very heart-rendering, it touches your heart when some of those boys actually leave school and meet their teachers and say to them, if I had not gone to Dodds, I would have been lost altogether. I have to say thanks for what was done for me when I was at the Government Industrial Schools.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if, in that mode we can save a dozen of those children a year, we would done a fantastic job.

One of the most difficult things, Mr. Speaker, and one of the biggest problems that those children have to face is the whole question of getting them into jobs, the whole question of job placement. I think that is extremely problematic. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that businessmen should realise that a job can very often make the difference between total destruction of that particular inmate or total rehabilitation. Some businessmen seem to resist it but I think it is a very practical piece of social engineering which sometimes escape some of our businessmen. All in all, I am saying that the Government Industrial Schools, even when the boys leave school, the teachers there make an effort to get them in jobs so that they can get back on their feet once again.

I think too, Mr. Speaker, that we have to realise that there are a lot of agencies, a lot of groups that actually go into the Government Industrial Schools and make a significant contribution to the welfare and the well-being of those youngsters. We have groups such as the Anglican Youth Ministry where Rev. Dr. Michael Clarke helps with the use of computers and trying to get the youngsters to become skilled in the use of computers. We also have a very good mentorship programme where the question as was mentioned this morning of role model and the big brother concept and having somebody to emulate is taught and is practised.

The Soroptomist International is another group that goes into the Government Industrial Schools and helps with things like drapery, cake icing, handicraft and so forth. We have to say thanks to such groups. We have to say thanks to the Lions Club East which is made up of a lot of individuals from the St. Philip area. In fact the Lions Club East actually have the headquarters there at the Government Industrial Schools and they virtually help in almost every aspect of running the institutions.

There is a Women's Forum that has also from time to time gone into the Government Industrial Schools and has done a lot of work in the whole question of violence reduction. There is a very good violence reduction programme where one of the key things is to teach conflict resolution. This question of conflict resolution is something which we cannot downplay because very often it is that problem which caused many of those youngsters to be there anyhow.

The Pinelands Creative Workshop they also do very very good work at the Government Industrial Schools. They go there and they teach drama, dancing and drumming and the youngsters seem to like these activities. I do believe that when they leave these institutions a lot of them continue to show an interest in drama and such like. 2.20p.m.

Additionally, Sir, I think it was just last Friday that there was an award ceremony at the Government Industrial Schools for those who participated in the drug awareness campaign where Pastor Victor Roach spearheaded a drug awareness campaign there. All those who did the course were awarded certificates at the end of it.

Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that all is not lost where the Government Industrial Schools is concerned. And even though we know that the kids who would have gone there would have gone there because of certain problems, we have to appreciate the fact that the staff and other agencies are continuing to do an excellent job to rehabilitate those young ones and I think that Government must be appreciative of whatever efforts are made to assist our young people and in particular those who have been inmates at that institution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this actual amendment does not of itself offer any difficulty but the

bringing of the amendment offers an opportunity and I regret very much that the circumstances in which we are debating this matter would seem to suggest that it is of relatively low importance and in a sense that is the problem of the whole subject which this amendment allows us to discuss.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, quite recently a young boy who was incarcerated in the Dodds as it is called, after he was re-arrested on the occasion of his third time having absconded from the place, went before a Magistrate in Bridgetown and according to the newspaper report the Magistrate said to him as she was sentencing him to a place at Glendairy, she said "If we have not been able to hold you at Dodds we are going to have to send you to a place where we can hold you".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was particularly saddened by that story first of all because I know the young boy very, very well and secondly because it was a commentary on what has happened to this society over the last 35 years and perhaps beyond that in relation to this whole question of how we deal with our young people who are deviating from what we choose to call the norm.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Magistrate was able to say to him, if we cannot hold you at Dodds we are going to send you to a place where there is real security and he is now in Glendairy. He is not yet 15 years old and the Magistrate sent him up where he is going to stay and no one knows exactly what, I certainly do not know, what will be his disposition. I did not read nor have I heard nor has anything I have asked that boy's mother has led me to believe that anyone has checked to find out why it is that a boy 14 years old, in an institution, left it three times in a row. No one has given any information as to the fact that he was not the only one. There were 3 or 4 or 5 of them who were out. No one has checked to find out that this young boy had been sent to the psychiatric hospital and that at the psychiatric hospital they had confirmed that he had a problem. He is being treated as a cipher. The systems says in essence he is a cipher and he is condemned as far as any of us can make out to a life or perhaps a non life of "cipherdom", my word, over the next 15 or 20 years. He will, unless there is Divine intervention, become a regular visitor to Glendairy from time to time. Indeed once he becomes steeped in the practice of going to Glendairy, when he comes out he will do something so he can get put back in and all of the rest of the society will continue as if nothing has happened. That is one more child we would have lost. And yet if you examine the structures that we have had for the last 30 years or so, you will find that there is a single psychologist in the Ministry of Education.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well I am grateful to hear that there are 3. As far back as the same Honourable Member who has introduced this Resolution, the same Honourable Member had chaired a committee which in July 1980, a report of a committee which was appointed to investigate the causes for the deterioration in conditions and control of the Government Industrial Schools and to make recommendations for the better administration of the schools, in 1980 a subcommittee of that committee recommended that there be a psychologist attached to this institution.

Now, Sir, that Committee was able to complain that a committee that had been established in 1962, the Carol Fields Committee that had been established to examine legislation affecting children and young persons in Barbados, the Simmons Committee in 1980 lamented the fact that not a single recommendation of the 1962 committee had been implemented up to 1980 and in 1998 the Chairman of the Simmons Committee, in his capacity as the Minister and Attorney General in introducing this legislation is able to say truthfully that there are still a number of recommendations which have not yet been able to be carried out.

Mr. Speaker, thereby hangs a tale. We in this country pay lip service to the concept or to certain concepts about how we should socialise this community and while there is a particular crisis that recommendation or that set of recommendations take sway and then we recede to a position of comfort until the next set of situations and we make further recommendations.

Now, the Honourable Member is recommending that we have a committee that will be an advising committee, that will function in the way that the advisory committee at the Prisons has functioned and since the one at the Prisons has shown some evidence of being successful, hopefully the one at Dodds will prove equally successful. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that none of that addresses the fundamental issue regarding how we deal with this type of child, these types of children. Our child care legislation makes no provision for those children under the child care auspices who reach the age beyond which the child care board has no responsibility and they are left to fall between stools. And this has been going on, as I said, from 1962. We talk about it, we write about it, we set up committees to look at it and we have essentially the same situation where we kind of hope that all will be well and we move on to the next exciting episode.

Mr. Speaker, first of all we should determine whether we are creating a prison or whether we are creating a rehabilitation centre. I think that the Attorney General has had advice, and sufficient had been given to various Governments over the years that by now we should be in a position where we can determine whether Dodds and Summervale are correction centres, whether they are rehabilitation places or whether they are prisons for young offenders. We are in a situation where none of that has been decided and I have to say, and this is how I feel, Mr. Speaker, that we are still in the beat and lock up mode that characterises much of the attitude of persons in this society many of whom are believed to be knowledgeable in how you should treat humans.

We are suffering a syndrome in this country, Mr. Speaker, which has caused me pain from age six as I have watched it where the solution to every problem is to beat somebody and we do not recognise and will not accept that the society itself at the level of administration engenders violence.

I read in the newspapers recently two distinguished Barbadians writing at different times. Each of them recommended that what we need is some more beating in the schools. It is accidental that they both have the same surnames. I do not think they are relatives. Both are retired school principals come to think of it. I have respect for them as people, but they are anti diluvium in their approach to how we should be solving problems. They think that we should apply science at one level but not at the other.

I am talking about, I am not permitted to call names, I did not acquaint you, Mr. Speaker, but they are both [4]Blackman\ They both recommend that we beat people. Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, mine is a very simple philosophy. If a child sees in its household that the way problems are solved is that somebody beats somebody, that child will come to the conclusion that the only way you solve problems is by beating somebody.

Mr. Speaker, you yourself with much experience in this field can relate that when you observe children at play, you will find that the child who is playing school always has a strap and is always beating the chair. These are the children that "won't hear."

Mr. Speaker, that is as much a training ground for problem solving by fisticuffs and by violence as any other ground. I wish to go on record, I stand as one of those people who believe that violence is a problem of health and who believes and I verily believe that there is no place for anybody who is 6 feet 3 inches in a classroom to be beating anybody who is 2 feet 6 inches in a classroom. There is no place for it and I do not understand why it is only certain kinds of societies which seem to feel that the only solution to problems is for somebody to beat somebody.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are those who say that you are talking off the top of your hat, very often, but I have been looking at this problem for a fairly long time in my life. I do not sound off about it a lot because in this society, Sir, you have to be very careful. If you have not been teaching for 20 years, you really should not have a view on these matters. I am permitted to have some views if I am working in a Ministry and I am permitted to have views on that. If someone becomes a Minister yesterday, even if the person had never passed by the subject before, that Minister has authority to speak on the subject. But he might have spent 20 years before that on another subject, he or she is not authorised to speak and no one pays you any attention. But this is a field in which I have a lot of interest because I think that we can eliminate violence in a society and could train people not to be violent.

We teach them how to be violent and they are violent, but there is some work that has been done, Sir. Recently in the United States there have been some publication and the concluding paragraph of the 26 page article says,

> "Ironically, our correctional system produces all of the ingredients known to promote violence: isolation, discomfort, exposure to other aggressive individuals, insecurity and lack of intellectual stimulation. If in our prisons we have demonstrated our ability to make a laboratory which predictably produces and reinforces aggressive behaviour, surely the possibility exists that with a little ingenuity we might, just as reliably, be able to create an environment to produce and encourage the opposite."

I share that view, Mr. Speaker, and the writers of that article were able to demonstrate in their studies that:

> "When children's aggressive behaviours were punished severely by parents, they tended to continue. On the other hand, when positive behaviours were reinforced by praise and aggressive behaviours given less attention, aggressive behaviours diminished."

A man called Patterson demonstrated that clinically in 1979. Science in 1978 also found that:

> "severe physical punishment was an antecedent of aggressive delinquency".

There are a lot of others, Sir, I do not want to go into a dissertation on it at this point. This article incidentally was published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, published in 1992. One of the things they said they proved, and I think conclusively is that:

> "No particular ethnic, racial or religious group had shown itself to be innately or enduringly more aggressive than any other (although from time to time throughout history, the people of one country or another have attempted to so distinguish themselves)."

And they went on to say:

> "that probably the most important influences on the development of violent behaviours are environmental or experiential. Although violence does not invariably beget violence, there is abundant evidence that a history of maltreatment is often associated with aggressive behaviours."

Let me pause there, Sir, and go back to the Simmons' Report. The Simmons' Report of 1980, a report which I recommend that all Honourable Members should read and that the Press should read, reported that in the place called Dodds at that time, the conditions were unacceptable for humans.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I am sure we did not put it like that. We never said the conditions were unacceptable for human beings. That is not true, Sir. The conditions were not unacceptable then, nor are they now. There were several areas of weakness that we pointed out and made recommendations and one of the things we said is that we needed to reconceptualise the future of those two institutions. And, I will deal with that in my reply, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It would have probably been useful if the Honourable Member had refreshed himself on what he said then. His mind was sharper then and his conscience probably untrammeled by any need to satisfy any ministerial responsibility at that time. The Report which was submitted then said from a consideration of all the evidence placed before us and coming as it did from a variety of sources that it is patently clear that the manifestation of violence which occurred in 1979 did not suddenly happen. There has been a gradual deterioration in the standards of all kinds since the year 1977. Then, Sir, he goes through and I read this:

> "When the Committee met with members of the Board-of-Visitors to the schools, one member who has only been on the Board for two years said that when he first visited Dodds he was "shocked by the inhuman conditions at the institution".

When Professor Howard Jones visited Dodds in September, 1979 he reported that he "found conditions appalling in this school"." 2.40 p.m.

The Honourable Member reported today when he introduced the Bill that conditions at the school -1 only have an half hour, Sir, and I recommend members to read it. In this Report in 1980, the Honourable Member said that "combs and toothbrushes were alien to the institution". So do not tell me that they did not say those things. I am entitled to extrapolate from this report what I understand it to be saying, that the conditions were not acceptable in 1980 and I am saying that in 1998 there has hardly been much change if only according to how the Honourable Member is reporting today.

I make the point that even now parents who visit that place to visit with their children have to meet them outside in something akin to a cow shed, that if the rain falls the children have to run back in.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. That is not true. There is a separate room next to the Principal's offices. It is enclosed. It was renovated by Mr. Sealy as part of his undated contract.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not going to get into a discussion as to what I said. I will now say that a mother who visits Dodds to see her son who is incarcerated there told me - and she may have been lying to me, but she had no reason to - that the conditions up there for visiting are unacceptable. She said that when the rain falls and she is visiting and the other parents are visiting that they have to scatter. She said there is no privacy when a parent is visiting the institution. There is no privacy between the parent and the child. Furthermore, when a child goes to that institution and something happens and that child has to appear in court - I can speak with knowledge - the parents are not notified that the child has to go to court.

The child goes down and is summarily dealt with and in the case of which I spoke earlier that child was sent to Glendairy and to this day the parents discovered it in the newspaper. That cannot be acceptable in 1998.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. That boy who was sent to prison by the magistrate was an escapee from Dodds, was on a rape charge and the magistrate remanded him for one week only to Glendairy and thereafter he was sent back to Dodds and he is probably still there. In the interest of protecting the society from a boy who was on a charge of rape, instead of sending him back to Dodds, she sent him to prison for one week. You can talk about that!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newspapers' report and the mother's report differ but of course they might be biased. I was unaware that he was remanded for rape. What she said in the newspapers is if they cannot hold you... She did not say a ping about any rape charge and no one is going to tell me what I read. If we cannot hold you at Dodds we will send you to a place where you will be secure. I have no quarrel with the magistrate if that is how she perceived it. I have a quarrel with the fact that that child is under 15 years old and is sent to prison and at the time he was sent to prison there was not a single person in *loco parentis* - the people from Dodds.

Because he had the capacity to get out somebody should have started to find out what it is that allows these children to get out, how do they get out, why do they run. It is incidental, Sir, that the Honourable Member addressed absconding very specifically when he was a Chairman but now he is a Minister he has a reason why not.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not asking you to reply to anything except that in this day and age when we are looking at how we are going to deal with deviant behaviour we cannot dwell almost exclusively on the capacity to provide a prison. We have not addressed the underlying causes. We continue not to address the underlying causes. We continue not to provide the framework within which the underlying causes can be examined and I am satisfied that the society as

a whole regards most of these young people as extraneous to what is going on in the middle stream. I am putting forward the view that not much is thought of them and not much is done for them and if we are not careful, we will go into the millennium with nothing being done for them.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip South addressed the issue of reports coming to the Ministry. I have reasons to feel that the whole question of alternate sentencing, that the whole question of what happens to young people is of much greater priority than a large quantity of the legislation which we pass in this House. It is my view that if there is anything that ought to be fast tracked in this country, that dealing with the questions of the young adults who are so-called deviants would be one of the things qualified for fast track.

The Honourable Member can correctly state that we had 20 years in the Government. The Honourable Member must understand that one is not criticising him personally but if he falls into that category then he must fit.

Asides,

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You have promised for four years. You continue to promise. What do you wish me to get up and say, that you are doing well?

I was the Minister for Foreign Affairs and you know what I did. Do not ask me what I did. I had no responsibility for you for four years. You came and promised. You said that you were going to do this. You are in here now and what you are coming to do is to make the prison more secure. What you are saying is that you want to make the prison more secure and I want to hear you saying that you have been successful in putting together the new approaches which the Honourable Member promised even before he was Minister.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member for the City is the last person...

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The member who brought this here has promised and promised. He has been giving the society every reason to expect that a new day had come and all we get is a continuation of the same. He is going to get a committee to make the prisons for the young people at least as successful as the prisons for the older people in society.

Mr. Speaker, recently in April in the United Kingdom, the Government of the day went to the House of Lords with a Bill and the House of Lords defeated them on that Bill. Here is what some of the law Lords had to say.

> "The Lord Chief Justice Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and his predecessor, Lord Lane, voted along with the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, and the former Home Secretary, Lord Hurd of Westwell, to force a defeat of the Government by 114 votes to 105 on an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill.
>
> Hurd expressed concern over a crisis in prison numbers and urged the creation of a body which they believed would take party politics out of criminal sentencing and ease prison numbers.

The former Lord Ackner who proposed the new body said they were considerable concerns over the rapidly rising prison population." 2.50p.m.

They went on to say:

> "A standing advisory Council on Criminal Justice and the Penal System would show the limits of imprisonment as a means of dealing with crime."

They said:

> "It will bring out the advantages in some cases of punishment within the community.
>
> Lord Ackner said Britain sent more people to prison, for longer, than almost any other European country. If the matter was left to the Government, there would be no reduction in the prison population as it had put forward no initiative to deal with it."

That is in Britain. These are the lords, the Lord Chief Justice who has sent people to prison, who had presided in the courts over the criminal law in the United Kingdom. These are the people in their wisdom who were saying to the Government the time had come to find new and different approaches to this whole question of how we handle certain behaviours.

Lord Lane said:

> "A prime requirement of criminal justice was consistency. The Advisory Body would provide consistency and courts could operate "knowing the whole system will not change overnight."

Lord Oliver, another former law lord, gave warning of a crisis over the prison population. And this is the key point:

> [k]The public had been educated by the media into believing the only effective method of dealing with crime was prison."

I want to repeat that, Sir:

> "The public had been educated by the media into believing the only effective method of dealing with crime was prison."

Mr. Speaker, this is my contention that merely making Dodds and Summervale more secure, merely ensuring that it worked like the prison is working, will not by itself carry us to the points which the Attorney General properly led us to believe we could look forward to.

The Attorney General, if no one else on either side, promised us that we could look forward to progressive approaches. It is time we see the evidence of it. We over here look forward to supporting the progressive approaches, but we are not simply going to accept that because the Carol Fields Committee was not dealt with in 1962, or the Simmons Commission was not dealt with in 1980 that we are to feel that we cannot now speak on what ought to be. What ought to be is hastened by what has not happened, so to point a finger and ask what did you do is no answer to the problem which confronts us.

The problem which confronts us is that we have a responsibility to use whatever ingenuity we can muster to take advice from countries, people and places that have passed this way and to see if we can come up with a solution that is going to be different from the run-of-the-mill solutions.

In the United States they are building more prisons. They have three stripes and you are out. They have tried as best they can to see if they can isolate those with deviant behaviour.

When the Honourable Member was speaking today he said that there are only approximately 1 000 young people scattered about in various places and one got the impression that if you could somehow find these 1 000 and hold them that the rest of the society would be all right. That is not true because the reasons why children become deviant are still rampant in this society and anyone who is familiar with the overcrowding, with the inability of parents to send children to school sometimes, with the hunger and the conditions under which some of the children and the verbal abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse which they suffer on an ongoing basis in this country nowhere in the legislation or any of the presentations anybody discusses when the staff interferes with its pupils. It is all right when the pupils interfere with the staff.

We are familiar, Sir, and I do not mean the present staff of this institution -1 am talking in general - those of us who have been to institutions in this country with situations which are hushed in Barbados, which are not talked about in Barbados but which we all know about where the children are victims. What do we have? We have discussions which suggest that we have to find ways to deal with the children. We have to find ways to deal with those who corrupt the children, those who interfere with the children and those who abuse the children. In this society unless we bite the bullet and start to recognise that we are no different from societies that have abuse and deal with that, we are going to continue to have committees followed by committees, followed by committees.

The Attorney General has promised more and, therefore, we have a reason and right to expect more. If the Attorney General is offended, I am sorry for him but if the Attorney General is not going to produce, then he must not raise my expectations. He must not raise the expectations of the rest of us, some of us who have looked forward to a change in the *status quo.* If you come and you offer us that change, we expect it. What you have brought here to us today does not suggest that any progressive attitudes within the bosom of the advisors of the Minister have led him to be able to say: "Here is what I promised you."

Before this Parliament gets up the Attorney General must come here in this Parliament and must bring the fruits of the various studies which he has commissioned, the various Commissions he has set up. He, that Attorney General, because there is none other that could do it on that side, must come and lay on the table the framework that will carry youth development into the millennium. The Government promised it and it is my duty to insist that they produce it.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot more to be said in this field but time does not permit it to be said, but I can promise that every opportunity which turns up that allows for serious discussion of this issue, and I repeat serious discussion, I will wish to participate in the discussion because this country is not going to continue along the path of development at a certain level and of a certain quality unless we find solutions to the problems that are affecting our young people today.

I share the view expressed by my colleague that we cannot look to see how we may change the young people. We have to look to see how we may change our attitude. Now, that is not to be construed as saying that we must throw out the baby with the bath water because there are a number of basic principles on which this society has managed to survive but one of them is not, and I repeat, is not the answer of beating people.

Mr. Speaker, let me finish with this last paragraph. There are many people who left Barbados and who have gone into other parts of the world, especially the United States, and who have done exceptionally well who, if they had remained in Barbados, were almost certain to end up on the intellectual dump heap. One of the reasons why people are successful in the United States, notwithstanding the United States' non-progressive attitude against certain kinds of people, but the fact is that anyone who wants to use an opportunity can usually find one there.

One of the principles which exists in the United States is that you do not - and I am not discussing the United States policemen, I am talking about in the classrooms and in the institutions of learning and development - and they have not found it necessary to beat anybody in order for them to learn. I accept that it is a progressive method. There is no reason why Your Honour and I and all the others like us in Barbados cannot feel that we can develop intellectually, develop morally, to bring moral suasion and intellectual persuasion to bear on the growth and development of our progeny. 3.00p.m.

It is not necessary for us to use the tools that were used by those who enslaved our foreparents.

I am grateful to Your Honour.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to address the Bill before the House. In addressing this Bill I look at the aspect of reform under consideration. The last speaker referred to the fact that we need to look at solutions to the problems of the youth of today. I want to begin by looking at that.

Sir, I notice that we are trying many things when it comes to our youth and education but I am wondering whether these efforts are being informed by a sensitivity for what is actually going on among the youth today.

Sir, we come with all these piece-meal efforts, but at the end of the day are we seeing the results for the efforts that we are putting in. If we are not seeing results we need to ask ourselves whether we are on the right track. In this regard I wish to point out that the proposal for the Edna Nicholls Reform School falls in line with this thinking. Thinking that says that we build institutions and we put people in institutions and we get names but at the end of the day are we seeing the results and are we going to see results for what we are doing.

Sir, as we look at this reform school in St. Philip, I think that we need to look at the proposed reform school in St. Peter called the Edna Nicholls Reform School. Sir, since it seems as if we are not really sure where we are going, I wish to propose that we abandon any attempts to have that school started in the immediate future until we are sure what its impact will be on the youth. We need to abandon the Edna Nicholls Reform School, I will be more strong in my statement. This idea of segregation should be used to a limited degree in a society in which we believe that there should be segregation along class lines, I do not believe that we should perpetuate it along school lines. Already we have older secondary, we have newer secondary, we have this reform and industrial school and now we have this Alma Parris and the Edna Nicholls Reform School. Sir, this is perpetuating snobbery, it is perpetuating class distinction, it is perpetuating division and I think, Sir, at this point in our history we should be looking at methods that can bring greater social cohesion. That is why I believe that more needs to be done within the existing school system.

We can talk of spending $300 million on EduTech because that is technology but why are we not spending more money on having more counsellors in the schools, why are we not spending more money on having psychologists in the school? Why are we not spending more money on having counsellors and psychologists attached to communities, why are we not having a special division to look after these matters and to really look after the youths who are faced with the problems of modern societies? Instead of looking at it in a positive way we proceed to look at it characteristically in the divisive way where we just separate people instead of trying to integrate them into what exist.

Sir, I am calling for a greater integration. If the problem is so acute that you need to have a little separation for special care, like you have intensive care in the hospital where there is a need for that, such as there is a need for a reform industrial school as we have here, Sir, no problem. Why are we seeking to have so many institutions to place our children into? And where you have more of the same kind in one institution you are really aggravating the problem. Those people who work with communities know that you are aggravating the problem when you put more of the same in one institution. This is clear to see. They are going to wait until they find the problem further down the road and then try to correct it.

I say that it needs to be corrected now. Stop the Edna Nicholls Reform School now and have more counsellors in the schools, have more psychologists to address these matters and look seriously at making a connection between the school and the community so that we can offset the problems that we currently have and prevent ourselves from aggravating the situation. The same approach needs to be adopted to the current reform school in St. Philip. We need to review that institution. We need to see what role it is playing and we need to look at modern techniques for dealing with the youth instead of trying to ostracise them. The more you ostracised people, the more they feel outcast and the more there are inclined towards deviance. We have to seriously address these issues. I believe that it is time that we have a serious discussion on these issues in Parliament. These are social problems that need to be addressed. We can bring matters relating to foreign policy in Parliament but when it comes to social policy that is critical that can impact on the society, I am not hearing anything about that, Sir. We need to look at that.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Perhaps the Honourable Member was absent from the House and has no knowledge of what occurred in here even before he came into it. The world did not begin when he came in here. There is no country in the Caribbean that has

put more social legislation and the implementation machinery behind it, than this Barbados. There is no country in the developing world that can boast that it has made a larger investment in the social sector and the social services, than this Barbados. We will not be second to anybody in that regard. Why are we going to be in here running down ourselves because there are a few people in the gallery.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Sir, I need to repeat that as we approach the new millennium we need to seriously address the social issues that are causing problems in Barbados. And no divisive person is going to make me stop saying what I am going to say. 3.10p.m.

I understand the modern generation and I am going to speak. I will not be intimidated by anyone in here. We need to address in this Parliament the social issues out there that are causing problems and we will not address them simply by legislation like the Vagrancy Act and those kinds of things and the Act that says that if you bring to school a beer they will lock you up. It is not to be addressed by legislation. It is to be addressed by positive action for the people out there in the community. That is what I am talking about not this legalistic approach to governance. I am talking about a social approach to governance. You will understand it because you have seen children in your institution. I have been with children all the years of my life. I understand what it is about. Those who understand the criminal approach to social policy will not understand it, Sir. But those of us who have been there understand social policy as regards the reality in the streets, as regards what we hear from adolescents we will speak and we will not be silenced by these people who think that governance is just about passing a few laws and locking up people.

So I am saying, Sir, it is no piece-meal things we are looking at. The problems are severe and instead of dividing our children we need to get to the heart of the matter. Societies have become disoriented because people have moved away from the original communities and there is a need for greater leadership at the community level. We have to find a way of addressing that problem in a fundamental and positive way which will allow for greater cooperation from the social institutions that we presently have instead of creating institution on top of institution and not understanding what the underlying problem is. It is like having a weak foundation in a house and you keep building on and building on. It will soon fall down. This is what we are talking about, Sir. So while I can agree with these things I am saying, Sir, that we need to come and seriously address these issues and see how we can tackle them.

I am proposing, Sir, that we have more counsellors in schools, we have more psychologists in schools and not only in schools but we have them in communities and we attach them to community organisations. I do not know where we will find all of them, Sir, but we need to find them. If we have to take some teachers out and train them specially to do this, it has to be done. You can find money to spend on all kinds of things but you are ignoring the heart of the matter when you are not looking at the human resource component in social development and this is critical because you need to have more people to stand in place of the traditional leaders within the extended family and within the community. We need to have these people who will be paid officers who are doing a job that was traditionally done by people in the community and the extended family.

This is my plea. I hope it is addressed and that we just do not go into the 21 st Century looking at these matters on a piece-meal basis. Thank you.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I will wind up on the Bill, Sir. Just to respond to some of the points made by Honourable Members. The Member for St. Philip South made the very important point which I had alluded to in my opening on the Bill that essentially the legislation dealing with Dodds is rooted in antiquity and needs to be modernised. In due course that will come, Sir. We do not propose to make a comprehensive overhaul of the Reformatory Industrial Schools Act and the Prisons Act in a vacuum. The Steering Committee on Penal Reform is an ongoing committee. They have done their first report which recommends non-custodial punishment. I am tired of saying that we are not bringing the non-custodial punishments until we have adequately sensitised the community because those punishments will be community punishments. I may be wrong but it was my judgement that we should have meetings about the country. We should even have meetings with the Press, explain to them what the legislation would be about. We have been doing that. There was a meeting with the Press a few weeks ago. Prior to that we have had meetings with the Lions service club. We had a meeting at Sherbourne. We had a meeting at Queen's Park.

The first draft of the legislation is ready. It has come to me but I have delayed on it for about a month for the reason that the legislation as drafted does not make any provision for counselling services and mediation. I think that we should take the opportunity when we are bringing a new Bill, not only to provide for attendance centres, community service, suspended sentences and all those things but to look at mediation and counselling. I am therefore studying some model legislation that I have seen to see how we can work that into it rather than bring a separate Bill on mediation. I want to bring all together.

I have told the consultant to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Mr. Griffith, when I return from leave at the end of the month I am going to give him clear direction. I may even be able to do it before, in regard to mediation and counselling. But the first draft refers to the Bill as the Penal System Reform Bill. I am not so sure that I like that title, but that is a detail. But we make provision in the Bill for attendance centre orders, community service orders,

suspended sentences, absolute and conditional discharges, curfew orders, and there may be something else that has slipped me. I am trying to see how I can fit in mediation and counselling services.

Sir, the Steering Committee has reported. And the Bill, arises out of the recommendations of the Husbands\Paul Committee. That report was laid in here last year July. We are now implementing the recommendations by way of legislation but I say to Honourable Members I am not quite happy with the first draft. That is what I said in my opening that by November, so you can keep saying I promise. By October it will be here. I said it in my opening but I would like, if Honourable Members have any ideas, to write me or drop me a note on it so I could look at it. Mediation and counselling is being provided for in some jurisdictions and I would take the opportunity to include provisions on mediation and counselling in our Bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is really a distortion for the Honourable Member for St. Michael West to have spoken as he did about Dodds and the ambience of Dodds being focussed on lick and lock up. It is not true, Sir. Dodds is an open institution. When we sat...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: When I discussed lick and lock up I was not referring to Dodds. I was saying that the underlying philosophy is still... If you would recall I had spoken about the two Blackmans and what they were saying in the schools. I was not suggesting that Dodds, or even that this amendment was introducing lick and lock up but the mentality which is rooted in lick and lock up has not been shaken as can be seen from the two missives in the newspaper over the last few weeks.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Dodds is a custodial institution with limited security. I think we have to appreciate that. Those boys, if they are so minded, can walk out of the gap any time. From time to time, from the time we were there, we would get absconsions and escapes. It happens in any approved school. We even have them in Glendairy. Hall got away. Not for much longer though.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Can the Honourable Member now give us the assurance. He just said not for much longer and I don't want to say he is misleading the House but you will recall there was another prisoner who had absconded to Britain and the Honourable Member came in here and gave us the impression that it would not be long before that person was back in Glendairy. 3.20p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I cannot speak about Mathieson, Sir. I have more direct control in this other matter.

Sir, the boys are free to abscond as their wish. But that does not derogate from the need to ensure that while they are there, they are subjected to discipline and training. They are there for punishment, if you like. I prefer in the context of young offenders to speak of discipline and training rather than punishment. And what I was suggesting about the regime without refreshing my memory about what we had proposed in 1980 was that there should be some organisation. It is in one of the appendices at the back of that report, where the Committee recommended each hour what would happen, what would be the various functions and what would be expected of the boys and the staff. They set out a daily regime and my concern is that that regime has not been consistently followed. There were times in the last 18 years when observance was given to the recommendation, but there has been too much inconsistency.

And, we set out a clear regime, I cannot put it any better, at the back of that document which I am asking the management of the institution to try and follow as nearly as possible. That was a very strong Committee that I had with me, very intelligent people, very committed people and we thought long and hard about that. We discussed it with people overseas, Howard Jones was one and we came to our conclusions and wrote up that regime.

I believe, Sir, that if the regime is followed, it gives the inmates at the institution an opportunity to learn to live disciplined lives. If they were in the Army, they would have to follow a special regime and no one would complain. In the Police Force you have to behave in a certain way. You cannot have your hair in Rasta locks. You must look neat. You have to have your shoes polished and your brass cleaned, otherwise you will be marked down and penalised.

All we are saying is that in a place like Dodds, the same thing should happen with young boys who ought to be impressionable, who ought to be malleable, who ought to be tractable and you ought to be in a position to say to them, "these are the rules of this school. This is what you do at eight o'clock and this is what you da at ten o'clock."

They have a lot of free time. People come in and see them, do things for them and so on, nothing is wrong with that, but I am saying that the management over the years has not insisted on those proper standards of discipline and we are trying to catch the ball before it falls to the ground.

The function of the Board is to make recommendations as to how we can rebuild standards and maintain the consistency of the standards. That is all it is and we are giving the inmates as well as the staff an opportunity to represent their concerns and interests to the Board. We are trying to deal with the matter in a democratic way.

Sir, we are working in the Ministry on developing a holistic approach that was called for by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That report had recommended setting up a department of correctional services, bringing probation prisons, industrial schools and now with the non-custodial punishment all the Community Service Officers and so on

under one Department of Correctional Services. We have even identified land for such a department in Hastings. We are developing the organisational structure and indeed a structure has been put to me as a first draft from the Officers in the Ministry and I have concerns and some amendments and suggestions to make, but, Sir, we are on the way. Soon we will be in a position to go to Cabinet with an agreed organisational structure for a new Department of Correctional Services. Now, many of the recommendations in my report of 1980 are being worked into this scheme, Sir.

For example, that report spoke of the need to set up an expanded Social Work Unit and that will happen with a department of correctional services. It calls for psychologists and psychiatrists attached to the institutions. In the Department of Correctional Services, we are making provision for such persons, Sir.

The Honourable Member knows how long these things take, Sir, to conceptualise, plan, and implement, but I want to give the House the assurance, Sir, that we are working on it and that is why I am glad that he spoke in the way he did. It gives me the opportunity to inform the House of what we are doing. I am not putting a date on that because the Department of Correctional Services has to go to the Ministry of Finance because of its financial implications, then to Cabinet and then to the Ministry of Civil Service.

It is not something that we can rush. And as I say, we are planning to build the Department at Hastings where there will be a new Hastings Police Station. There is plenty of land behind that, we have asked the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the GEMS people, HRL whatever that Company represents, to reserve some land behind there for the Department of Correctional Services.

Now, that Department when set up will give us an opportunity to give employment to people who have training in social work and social work techniques as well as offer employment opportunities for people who are intent on maintaining discipline. I have said already, I am not bound by the details of it, but I have said, for example, the attendance sentence. When a magistrate makes an attendance sentence order for a boy to attend on a Saturday afternoon, which will impact on his leisure time between certain hours, he will go to that school, we are using schools for attendance sentence, he will find in place somebody, maybe two persons who can give him instruction.

If he has been identified in the pre-sentence report as having literacy problems, he will find somebody there who can help him with his English, Maths or whatever is his weakness. But he will also find somebody who will talk to him about values and who will impart discipline and training. And, I am looking for some retired policemen for the attendance sentencing, because they will be part timers just working on Saturday afternoon.

For the Community Service Officers, I want strong and firm people who are going to follow up on the reports.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But we will come to that later on, Sir, and when we bring the new Penal System later on this year, I will give an expansive presentation then.

I wish to say, Sir, that the first effort that we have made by legislation in this area, was the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. It is working well, but we have found a weakness in the Act, where it provides for two convictions, but you see, in many cases there are people who have four and five minor things tacked on. And so I had a recommendation from the Committee and the Chairman last week to do an amendment. I do not think we may be able to do it before we rise for the vacation, but I have given instructions for an urgent amendment to be brought.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, on that point, can he confirm or inform on whether it is true that two North American countries have indicated that they will not pay attention to the decisions of this Government and for example, one of our established schemes for moving labour persons who in fact have been rehabilitated from our point of view are being told that as far as they are concerned, they are not rehabilitated. 3.30p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, that is news to me. I have had no official or unofficial comment from any foreign Government about the operations of the Act. You see, when your name is expunged, when the conviction is expunged and you apply to the police for a Certificate of Character it shows that you had no convictions. It does not say you had convictions but they have been expunged. So you get a clean slate and that was deliberately done because, like the Honourable Member, we were aware that in The Bahamas that problem arose between The Bahamas and the American Government. And that is why when I introduced the Bill I spoke as bluntly as I did and said that I did not care what they would say. For Barbadians, I think that it is but an act of humanity or a matter of social conscience that if somebody committed some little crime 30 years ago which had no bearing on their future conduct or their future life that that should be expunged and they should not have to bear that cross for the balance of their lives.

They have not come to us. They would know better than to come to me. They can send messages to other people but they would not bring it to me.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. D. A. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 were called and passed.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do adjourn until Tuesday, July 28, 1998 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 3.40p.m.

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