

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 1998.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), J.P.
Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and Minister for the Civil Service)

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. the Hon. 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. W. C. C. CALLENDER, J.P., B.A., Dip. Ed., B.Sc.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, May 5, 1998.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of proceedings of the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, the 5th day of May, 1998 which Minutes have been circulated be taken as read.

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

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

PAPERS

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

1. Exchange Control (Business Establishments, Purchase and Issue of Foreign Currencies) Notice, 1998.
2. Draft National Physical Development Plan 1998.
3. Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and Procedures for Barbados.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following:

Annual Report of the Barbados Investment Development Corporation for the year 1996.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, the Bill to repeal the Barbados Development Bank Act, Cap. 323 was read a first time.

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.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 5 - BILL TO AMEND THE
POLICE ACT, CAP. 167

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps I had better begin by just shortly, stating the two purposes of this amending Bill. But before I do so, I beg leave to withdraw the first copy that was circulated and to substitute therefor the copy that was more recently circulated.

There were some typographical errors in the first circulation and we just cleaned that up. It is the same Bill essentially, just the couple of errors cleaned.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill would amend the Police Act to provide for offences against the discipline of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the punishment of those offences in accordance with section 96(3) of the Constitution. In addition to that, Sir, we have taken the opportunity to delete words which appear in section 42 of the principal Act. The words "14 years and 18 years" should be changed to read "16 years and 19 years", thereby raising the age at which persons may be engaged as apprentices, if you like, for the Royal Barbados Police Band.

Mr. Speaker, the Police Act predates the Constitution and the Police Act has not been substantially amended since its promulgation. The Government gave a commitment in the Manifesto of 1994 to modernise the rules of the Police Force as they relate to promotions and discipline. I therefore set up a working party last year, Sir, comprising Members of the Solicitor General's office, the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, the Police Force Management and the Police Association.

The Working Group was chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Attorney General. Their mandate was to examine the Police Act and determine whether there was a need for any amendment to make its provisions more contemporary and to develop new promotion rules for the Police Force and also to revise the existing disciplinary rules.

I am pleased to be able to report to Honourable Members, Sir, new promotion rules for the Police Force have been finished and will be going to Cabinet on Thursday. If approved, they will be made thereafter by the appropriate rule making authority, in one case, the Governor General and in the other case, the Commissioner of Police and the Minister.

There will be new disciplinary rules for all Police Officers. We are changing the old rules of 1961 and replacing them by these new rules. The promotion rules and the disciplinary rules have been approved by the Police Association and by the management of the Force. They are very satisfied with them, and I hope that in the future we will have less contention than we have had in the past.

Every time there are promotions, there are disappointments, criticisms and allegations and as the Minister responsible, I want to take that area of dissatisfaction out of the system. Let me make it abundantly clear, Sir, and I would be glad for the public to know this, the Minister who is responsible for the Police has no say in promotion of police officers, no power whatever - let it be clearly understood that no Member of Cabinet, not even the Prime Minister - in relation to police promotions. The Police Force currently has their

own internal Promotions Board. They set their examinations and you will hear about people being in the zone and so on, Sir, and the recommendations of the Commissioner of Police are sent to the Police Service Commission. After the Police Service Commission has made the appointments, the Ministry is told by way of noting. We only note what has been done in the Force. So I want it to be clearly understood, Sir.

In relation to discipline, for a long time but borne on my experience representing many Police Officers over the years in disciplinary proceedings, I was very unhappy with a number of matters, Sir, and I will try to address them in the new disciplinary rules. One, Sir, that I was always concerned about was the fact that an officer could be suspended from duty without being asked if that suspension would have any adverse effect on him. 11.30a.m.

I know of a case where a very senior officer was suspended from duty. That officer had given a statement to another senior officer and the suspending officer refused to look at the statement even though that statement contained information which would have exculpated the superintendent. The senior officer refused to look at it and suspended that assistant superintendent. When an officer is suspended like that without being given an opportunity to be heard, without even taking into account what the man has to say, that is improper. It is wrong, and it is against the basic principles of justice.

So we are making sure in the new disciplinary rules that before an officer is suspended he should at least be asked to show why he should not be suspended and I will explain that again. Suspensions very often are on half pay and officers have obligations, particularly with the bank. You suspend an officer on half pay and his case is not heard for a year, you put that officer in jeopardy of penury or embarrassment because where is he now going to be able to get the money to service his mortgage?

We have provided for an opportunity where the officer can say, "Sir, if you are going to suspend me I have to pay the bank so much and so much a month. Don't suspend me on half pay. Could you make it quarter pay or something?" At least an opportunity will be given to the officer to show cause why he should not be suspended.

Those matters that deal with the rules, those rules are not the subject of the Bill but they form a package in pursuance of the manifesto promise. That is why I have dwelt on them. The Bill that we have before the House really sets up a Disciplinary Code. In clause 3, you will see that there is a Police Force Disciplinary Code and a member of

the Force who is in breach of the Disciplinary Code will have committed an offence against discipline. We have set out a number of offences. Some of these offences, a few of them were in the Police Disciplinary Regulations of 1961. What we have done is to have incorporated in the Act now a long list of offences and it gives more specifics about these offences than you would find in the existing Disciplinary Rules.

For example, improper disclosure of information we spell out:

"A member of the Force shall not

- (i) divulge any matter which it is his duty to keep secret;
- (ii) give notice, directly or indirectly to any person against whom any warrant or summons has been or is about to be issued, except in the lawful execution of such warrant or service of such summons;
- (iii) without proper authority, communicate to the public, press, or to any unauthorised person, any matter connected with the Force;
- (iv) without proper authority, show any person outside the Force any book or written or printed document, the property of the Crown;
- (v) make any anonymous communication to the Cabinet or any member thereof, or to the Police Service Commission or any member thereof, or to the Commissioner or to any gazetted officer;
- (vi) improperly solicit the opinion of any member of the Cabinet with regard to any matter concerning the Force; or
- (vii) sign or circulate any petition or statement addressed to any person or authority with regard to any matter concerning the Force except through the proper channel for correspondence or in accordance with the Rules of the Police Association."

So there is substantial particularity given to these offences against discipline.

Let me say, Sir, that the model that the Commissioner recommended and which we use as the basis for these rules was the equivalent English legislation.

The Bill speaks for itself and is very simple. What we are doing is inserting a separate part in the Police Act

dealing with the Disciplinary Code and these offences against the Code. It would be tedious for me to go through these offences in detail. I will just for the sake of completeness make a summary of them. You have discreditable conduct, misconduct towards another officer; disobedience to orders; neglect of duty; falsehood or prevarication; improper disclosure of information which I mentioned earlier; meeting without authorisation; abuse of authority; malingering; absence without leave or being late for duty; improper dress or untidiness; damage to clothing or other articles supplied to members of the Force; drunkenness; drinking on duty or soliciting drink; entering licensed premises; lending or borrowing or accepting presents; criminal conduct; being an accessory to a disciplinary offence; neglect of health.

Sir, the Government has tried to develop a strategy for improvement of the Royal Barbados Police Force starting first with improvement of the physical conditions under which members of the Force are expected to perform their duties. We have set about a programme of refurbishment and rehabilitation of existing police stations and that programme has gone very well in the last 3V4 years, except for the work on one station at Boarded Hall, and if that work is not completed by Monday then it will be completed shortly thereafter and the present contractor will be dismissed. There is not much more to do but there has been some lack of progress and due diligence in respect of that station. I give Honourable Members the assurance that the Government is itself dissatisfied and we are monitoring the work there and if there is not an improvement by Monday... Let me say, in another 2 weeks that work should be completed but, if substantial progress is not made by Monday, the contractor will be terminated and the work will be awarded to someone else. 11.40a.m.

There are substantial projects being planned for the further redevelopment of the Force. Central Police Station is being redeveloped in phases. The part along Coleridge Street has been completely rebuilt. All of the wooden floors that were collapsing have been taken out. They have cast concrete and it is there for everybody to see.

We have just about finished the Control Room. The plans are ready. I think the final detailed drawings should be available within a matter of weeks. We will start work down in what I call the backyard, down by the Barracks in Central where we are going to be building a new facility that will provide a proper lounge area and recreational facilities for the officers of the Force. There will be new Barracks for the women police. Where they are is in a terrible state and we are going to give them new Barracks down in the backyard. We are going to create new canteen facilities and armoury down there.

When that part is finished, Sir, probably in about 12 to 14 months, we will then come back into the yard itself near the roundabout in Central yard and the building where you get your Certificates of Character which is presently a wooden building, that will be demolished and there will be a three-storey structure, definitely two, possibly three. The Commissioner is pushing me for a three-storey structure. That depends on the dollars, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am told there was something about that in the paper this morning. I was not aware of it, Sir.

We are going to push down that building which now houses the stores and Certificates of Character where they used to be the old canteen upstairs, the table tennis room and so on. That will come down. It is dilapidated and a new structure will go up there and that will start the next financial year. In that way we would have completely redeveloped the Central Police Station area.

There will be a new station built at Cane Garden, St. Thomas in the next financial year. The District "D" Police Station has been demolished at Rock Hall. That was dilapidated and had to come down. Honourable Members are aware that the District "D" Police Station, before the present change of Government, was housed at Holder's Hill in a refurbished school there. The last Government had to create those temporary facilities for them. Not having a police station within the parish has proven to be inconvenient.

We have just completed negotiations for the purchase of three acres of land at Cane Garden Plantation, near to the Plantation House, but on the road. I think the agreement was to have been signed last week but they have arrived at a price for it. We will try and start the development of the architectural plans in this financial year with a view to starting construction in the next financial year of a new police station for District "D".

Sir, I will resist the temptation to build any substantial court structure at District "B" because I believe that most Members who are lawyers feel that sooner or later we must centralise the Magistrates' Courts. Once the new Supreme Court is built, that will give us an opportunity to centralise most of the Magistrates' Courts. I think Oistin and Hometown should continue but the other Magistrates' Courts should be centralised in what is presently the Supreme Court building. That would mean that the District "D" Magistrate's Court should come to town so it would be a duplication of facilities to try and build another court at District "D". One may provide some kind of basic

room that if for some reason the court had to function there it could function in limited conditions.

I did not get a chance during the Estimates to mention that we have also reached agreement with the Barbados National Bank to construct at the MTW site at Pine Plantation Road opposite Pearson's Pharmacy a small police station. That area is in need of coverage by a police station. It will take some of the load off District "A" which is the biggest station area and enable us to give a quicker response to matters in that Pine, Wildey, Clapham, even as far as the Worthing area. Hopefully, we might be in a position to start that later on this year. Those are the two major projects that will be going this year in addition to -1 think I have already spoken about this - a police post at the Glebe, St. George, just above Charles Rowe Bridge.

In this financial year we are building a new post office at St. George and a community centre. Attached to that area will be a police post. A fair amount of capital work will be going on in this financial year for the Police Force. That is apart from the usual maintenance and improvement of basic facilities such as will be done at Belleplaine, for example, where we need to refurbish that station.

The Black Rock Police Station is being substantially redeveloped and renovated in this financial year. There was a little delay in starting the works even though a contract was awarded because we could not find any satisfactory alternative accommodation near the general jurisdiction of Black Rock. When we did find something the owner of the property was charging a sum we thought was a little exorbitant. There were long negotiations between the owner of the property and the Ministry of Housing. I think they have resolved the price for the rental of the space and Black Rock Police Station will be completely renovated starting in a few weeks. As I said, the first element of the strategy was to improve the physical conditions for the policemen and policewomen. I have given an indication of some of the things we are doing.

The second aspect of the policy was to improve the training of police officers to make the officers more aware and more conversant with the latest techniques and approaches to the various aspects of policing. There has been massive training in the last four years but let me first confess that we have got assistance, very generously, very liberally from foreign Governments, the Americans, the British, to a lesser extent the Canadians. The Americans have been very generous in the provision of training opportunities for policemen from the Commissioner right back down to the ordinary constable and in specific areas. That intensification of training is going on all the time, Sir.

Thirdly, we wanted to ensure, Sir, that the internal regulations for the management of the Force would improve

and the police ranks that will shortly be made and the promotion rules are part of that effort to modernise the internal management of the Force. 11.50a.m.

Sir, I believe that a great debt is owed to the members of the Police Force for their commitment to service and duty.

Sir, it is all well and good for us to upgrade the stations and make them more commodious and so on but the Government has tried to meet the call for improved conditions by providing the officers with allowances. I think it was early last year or late the year before that I came for a supplementary to pay a whole set of arrears that were related to various allowances. We paid the driving licences of policemen, we pay for their spectacles and their medical care, all of these things.

There is an area that I am giving urgent attention to and that is to increase the amount of money that is paid to officers when they carry out special operations.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is not true. All those who went to Haiti were paid. There was some administrative bundling and they were just paid late.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is in the Estimates. The Estimates shows that \$75 000 is included for the last two years to pay them for service on Crop Over duty. We provided the money but if there is bureaucratic bundling somewhere else, can you blame somebody for that? We have provided the money. I would hope that this year we do not have that difficulty where an assumption is made that the NCF is to pay when the NCF is not to pay. The money is in our vote. We are to pay and that was the problem last year but we have committed the money because it is our argument that the policing of Crop Over is a necessary national activity on the part of the Police Force. They have to serve overtime and therefore we have to provide the funds for them. Rather than give the funds to the NCF, in the last two years we have put the funds under Head 30 to make sure that the police get the money.

I hope that that will not be a problem again. There was a problem in respect to who had been paid and for what period. Some got early and others did not get but eventually it was rationalised and I wish to say that fortunately in good time that Daniel Jemmott got his money for serving in Haiti before he died and that everybody has been paid.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the area I was speaking about is where we have to mount special operations. From time to time it becomes necessary to mount special operations. The rate of remunerations is now \$8 an hour. That is not an incentive. We are looking to increase that and we are going to have discussions with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Civil Service in due course.

However, pending that, only yesterday I approved the new rates of pay for police officers who have to perform duties at private functions. If you have a party and you want to hire two policemen to keep things in order or even to regulate the traffic and parking, the rate of pay is \$8 an hour. From yesterday it goes up to \$12 for a constable, \$17 for a sergeant and station sergeants and \$20 for gazetted officers. They have not had increases for years and as I have said, in addition to that, I am looking to increase the rate when the police have to do special operations. I hope that we can do that fairly swiftly.

Sir, the police, against tremendous odds, have done a very, very worthwhile and praiseworthy job on behalf of Barbados. I saw a newspaper article either yesterday or today where there was comment about the rising tide of crime in the region and the changing face of crime. Let us be aware that throughout the whole of this region there has been an increase in certain types of criminal activity, some of the worst kinds of criminal activity.

Trinidad has a terrible upsurge in rape. Jamaica in murder and in Barbados in February we had the unusual spectacle of a couple of armed robberies on high profiled businesses. Bahamas is complaining and St. Lucia has a serious crime problem. I am in touch with Ministers there frequently sending them information about all kinds of things to see if we can help them.

The causes of these new types of crime have not yet been identified scientifically but there is every reason to believe from empirical evidence which the police has that most of this violent crime is related to the use and abuse of drugs. In addition to that, in some countries more so than in Barbados, the impact of deportees in our societies is having a destabilising effect. I have said in some countries more so than in Barbados. We do not yet have any evidence that it is a substantial problem. There are one or two cases that we have come across where we know that deportees were involved but generally the level of deportee activity in Barbados is nowhere like in Jamaica or Trinidad or Guyana.

In the face of these new challenges, particularly these challenges formed by narco-trafficking and drug abuse, there

is a need for the Police Force not only to have contemporary equipment but more importantly to be in a position to share information with regional counterparts. We have tried to have a liberal policy where senior members of the force can go to meetings and conferences in the region and indeed outside of the region to meet with their counterparts to discuss strategies and see what is happening elsewhere and use some of the information gained for the benefit and development of the Police Force. 12.00 noon

I must say that the level of international cooperation, particularly in respect of drugs is very good. The Force has an excellent relationship with international forces and indeed I ought to put in the record, Sir, because I do not think I had an opportunity before, that notwithstanding the criticisms that we are bound to get, particularly in a small society, some of them of a carping nature, notwithstanding those criticisms, I am pleased to have been in this position, Sir, last year when the Royal Barbados Police Force was granted international accreditation status and became only the third country in this hemisphere to have achieved such a status.

I do not believe that we have been sufficiently appreciative of the efforts of the Royal Barbados Police Force. That a small country like Barbados could have reached the standard required is a matter of great pride. There were, I think, 922 standards that the Force had to reach to gain accreditation and they have achieved that level of competence.

Now, Sir, from time to time the general public make attacks against the Force. In every country, from time to time, there are allegations of police brutality, the most striking of which was a few weeks ago a newspaper article was published in Barbados, sourced out of New York, quoting an American document that said words to the effect that Caribbean Human Rights Network and members of the public had made allegations of brutality against the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I wish to place on record, Sir, that when I saw that, I was disturbed and I called Caribbean Human Rights Network and asked them if they had made a report in accordance with the newspaper article that there had been numerous allegations of police brutality by Caribbean Human Rights Network.

I was assured that they had not complained. In fact they have sent me correspondence passing between them and the US Embassy because they complained to the US Embassy of the use of their name in the article. But it went further, Sir. When the matter was checked we found that for the last 3 years the US Government has published that paragraph in identical language every year and I

have protested to the American Government. Every year for the last 3 years there has been that paragraph and it has not been substantiated in fact but is really an indictment on the quality of journalism that the person who writes the article, takes it up and reproduces it without checking to see what they said the year before and the year before that. If he had done it he would have seen that it is a standard form that the US Government had used. Now I think it is grossly unfair to the Royal Barbados Police Force and that is why I am taking it up with the US Authorities. I am taking it up with them next week, Sir.

Some months before that we had on the front page of the newspaper, an article which provoked a lot of emotional responses which suggested that in doing a drugs raid at a night club across the water, the police had searched women and even fingered them and whatever else. When you read it you might have felt disgusted and reviled. When you know the facts you must know that none of what was published is true. Two Barbados cricketers were there the night and have given statements that the behaviour of the police was exemplary and professional. I am not calling their names to embarrass them. We have the statements on file, two leading Barbadian cricketers saw what happened and as dispassionate observers are giving the evidence. Not one iota of what was written was true. Not one woman who was in there the night has sued and if you remember my first response, I will invite the Commissioner to give me a report and if people feel that they have claims for assault and battery, file an action against the Attorney General. Not one has been filed. This is the kind of behaviour that the police are expected to cope with, Sir.

Now having said that, let us also make it very clear that where the general public has a legitimate complaint against the police they must pursue that complaint. There is a system in place for the investigation and hearing of complaints. It is not satisfactory because as it presently exists it requires the police virtually to investigate themselves and to pronounce upon their own conduct.

I have been very concerned about it, Sir, for many years. I never forget when I was in private practice I had two matters about which I complained. Once I was away, as Attorney General between 1985 and 1986, gone to a meeting. My wife was home with the children alone and a man walked up my driveway and pulled at the front door, tried to shake it and my wife who is not a coward got up and went to him and said, "What are you doing? Who are you?" and the man kept shaking on the door. She told me about it and I told her to report it to the police. That happened a night. The next morning the same man came back up the driveway about 6:00 o'clock. Fortunately, she saw him coming, phoned the neighbours and one neighbour came

with his gun and arrested the man and kept him until the police came.
12.10p.m.

When I came back, I wrote a letter asking for the matter to be investigated, because it seemed to me that the man could have been charged for attempting to break and enter my house. I got a letter back telling me that the matter will be investigated and they will revert to me. Over in filing cabinets in my private chambers in Pinfold Street the two letters are still there. My letter and the response from the then Deputy Commissioner are still there and never, never were investigated. I have never been given the satisfaction as to say that we are investigating it again, nothing, nothing. I have never forgotten that and I will never forget it.

Members of the public have also complained over the years that when they make complaints to the police, they are told that the matter is being investigated and the police never get back to them. That is not good enough. It is to prevent the continuity of that, that the Government in its Manifesto committed itself to setting up an Independent Complaints Authority. The Membership of that Independent Complaints Authority in due course, will be of such persons in whom we can have confidence that their deliberations and decisions will be fair, reasonable and just.

Now, in order to ensure that the Complaints Authority becomes a reality, we have set up a working group in the Ministry to make recommendations to me as to how we should set up the Complaints Authority, Sir. We have the English model, provided for in the famous police and Criminal Act of 1984. We have the Trinidad model. They have a big office down there near Sackville Street. There is a large half-moon shaped Police Complaints Authority. Jamaica also has legislation. We are going to study the legislation and determine which features from the various legislations are attractive to us and are workable in our system. So that in future we hope to bolster public confidence in the police's handling of disciplinary matters by an independent body which will investigate complaints.

Mr. Speaker, on these matters affecting the police, law and order, every Member of the House is an expert. Every Member probably wants to speak on this Bill.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I know you will speak. Every Member will speak, Sir. When others ask me how long the House will last today, I said that we have a Bill on the police so everybody is going to speak so it will probably go on until this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I only know one scientific way of measuring the incidence of crime. All countries which keep proper statistical records of crime use official police statistics as the basic measuring standard. One does not deny that in the use of police statistics to measure the incidence of crime, there can be left out of those statistics, crimes which are not reported to the police. Indeed it is acknowledged in the criminological evidence that what Professor Jovanovic called the dark figure exists. That number of unreported crime, somebody commits a crime and you do not bother reporting it to the police for whatever reason. That is not recorded. But we have always used in Barbados the official police statistics as an index of the incidence of reported crime. I know that Honourable Members on the Other Side have taken me to task from time to time, particularly this year. But I have to say if these official statistics tell me that crime is down, I have to tell the country.

We will get from time to time certain types of crime being spawned which will create some public disquiet and comment. But generally, crime is down and I gave the figures time and time again. From January 1994 to the end of last year, December 31, 1997 overall crime in this country was down 34%. This year, we are showing a 4% difference, a further drop of 4% up to March this year.

But ever so often you get the situation where a few vicious, wicked, violent, persons in Barbados will combine with persons of similar disposition from other islands and come here and carry out crimes which shock the sensibilities of the country. Such has happened at the end of February, Sir.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have given those statistics once again specifically for the purpose of asking the public to judge this matter of criminal activity dispassionately and against the evidence rather than an emotional response to a problem and therefore likely to be infused with a certain degree of unrealism. The facts are that crime generally has been down, Sir, and the police must be suitably commended for their efforts. 12.20p.m.

The figures against tourists were also down. Crime against visitors: January to March, 1994 - 206 crimes reported against visitors, 1995 - 143. This is for the period January to March. 1996 - 127; 1997 - 134; 1998 - 105.1 want to comment however on the figure for burglary in hotels. In 1994, burglary in hotels, January to March were 117. For the same period 1995 - 73; for the same period 1996 - 70; for the same period 1997-71; for this year, January to March - 49.

However, I wish to remind the owners of hotels that it is their duty, their responsibility, to ensure that their properties are properly protected. If they spend money on proper security and management, I think we can reduce this figure from 49 in 3 months to even lower proportions. Let me tell you what I learnt recently.

I had occasion to visit Sandy Beach Hotel and as I was leaving I was hailed by a gentleman. When I went to him - I had known him for years, of course - it turned out to be and I called his name not in a disparaging way - Mr. Jasper Watson, former Superintendent of Police. He told me - I did not know that he was there - he had been in charge of security at Sandy Beach Hotel for the last 3 years and they have not had one crime at Sandy Beach Hotel for the last 3 years.

I think from that it could be reasonably deduced that here the hotel invested in the talents and services of one of the best crime fighters that we have had in my time in Barbados to head their security and whatever he has done has had positive results. They have not had a crime on that property for 3 years. That is what he told me.

I, therefore, wish to encourage other hoteliers to find out. Why don't they have a seminar to discuss this matter of hotel security and have people like Jasper Watson come and tell them how he has been able to do it? There might be a lesson there. We are glad that the burglary in hotels has gone down so dramatically.

Mind you, let me also say that we are dealing here with crime reported to the police and there was a time not so long ago in this country when we had ample and incontrovertible evidence that some visitors were alleging that they had been burgled, particularly of jewelry, and then making claims against their insurers in the country of origin and, indeed, I go so far as to say that there was evidence of a scam, a racket, on the part of some visitors who would falsely and fraudulently make claims against their insurers alleging that they had been burgled or robbed in Barbados. We have tried to tighten up the procedures in relation to those things and claims have been consequentially reduced.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on behalf of the Government to move that this Bill to amend the Police Act be read a second time. Before I sit, I also wish to say there was a letter in the newspapers yesterday criticising the Force and by amplification the Ministry in relation to special constables.

Sir, we have repeated time and time again that adequate provision is being made to move special

constables into the full constabulary as vacancies occur and as they qualify. Our special constables are not below age 30 and there is an age bracket for enlistment in the Force. I think it is 19-30. We are not bringing into the Force special constables of 40 or 42 years old but all of the others who have the academic qualification or service and commendatory reports on their service will be eligible for enlistment in the Force.

The article yesterday criticised us for seeking to improve the entry level of officers. Some of us grew up, all I suppose, and heard of big bad policemen all brawn and no brain. I think it is probably a stigma that was wrongly attributed to some of our policemen of the past. They may not have had 5 CXC's or GCE's but the quality of education of the 40s and the 50s enabled a lot of them to go into the Force as well equipped as some of today's with 5 and 6 CXC's. We know in our own experience of people without one certificate who held positions of high eminence in this community who spoke well, wrote well and just did not have the chance to go to secondary school but the old 7th standard qualification was a wonderful qualification in those days.

Sir, we are trying to ensure that today's policeman has the basic level of intellect, intelligence and qualification to be able to cope with the changing face and the nature of crime.

We will not follow the example of a newspaper some years ago in Barbados which advertised for reporters and said no CXC's are necessary for reporting. We believe that a policeman coming into the Force must be able to have a basic understanding of not only English and Arithmetic but of all the other matters which touch and concern policemen. 12.30p.m.

In my time I have seen statements written by police officers some years ago when I was in private practice with not a punctuation, from the top of the page to the bottom, common letters where there should be capital letters, no paragraphs, nothing. We are trying, as everybody else is trying, to improve the educational competence and ability of our people and in this case, Sir, the members of the Force.

The Ministry of the Civil Service has published improved qualifications for various other parts of the service. Why should not the Police Force? Why should we not try to enhance the qualifications of people who apply to join the Police Force? We try to do it and we are the subject of criticism for trying to improve the educational abilities and competence of new people in the Force. I wish to say that we have no intention whatever of relaxing the entrance requirements. In fact, they cannot be relaxed because they are put in the law. They will not be relaxed.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on policing generally, I wish to make an appeal though to the general public. I believe there are something like 9 000 - I think that is the figure I saw - additional vehicles which came into Barbados in the last three years as a result of the trade in secondhand Japanese cars. That quite dramatic increase in the number of vehicles not only causes congestion on the roads but it requires of everyone of us who is a driver a higher degree of skill and competence while driving, a higher degree of consideration for other people using the road, a higher degree of attention to what we are doing.

The incidence of accidents is far too high, very disquieting. I am disappointed, because one of the first things the Government did was to publish a Highway Code. We made thousands of copies of them and asked the insurance companies as they were sending out their renewal notices for motor vehicle insurance to send along a copy of the Code to their insurers. I do not think very many insurance companies have followed through. That was what they undertook when we printed and published the Code.

People have the Code and there was a time when it was liberally telecast to assist people in understanding their responsibilities. So that it seems to me that there is still too much carelessness on the roads. We are paying a price for it, not only in terms of injuries and the few deaths but I wonder if those who were so thoughtless and careless in their driving appreciate that they are contributing to an increase in the amount of insurance premiums because the insurance companies are being hit by this continual increase in accidents and they are going to pass on the cost to the average insured persons. I make an appeal to the public to improve the quality of their driving. I wish to tell the public that within the next two months the police as a matter of policy will be stepping up surveillance and prosecution of traffic offenders, so they can look out.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It has nothing to do with Jam-Bustering. There are too many cars and people are not paying attention.

On the last bank holiday, Easter Monday, about 7.00 p.m., I am coming along there from Life of Barbados to go to the Shell to turn right to go up the hill to go home. I am in the outside lane coming from Life of Barbados. The arrow pointing to me is red. I stopped and there was a long line of cars. The next thing I know I hear a bram and I feel myself going forward, a pain here and pain here, instantly. I am parked waiting for the light to change. The man came straight up and hit me in the back. Luckily he did not do too much damage. It is foolishness. Cars are parked and he ran into me. There really is no excuse for it.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If I sue the Attorney General? It was an ordinary man who works for a cooling company. I would have to sue him. He hit me. I would have to be the plaintiff, not the defendant.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the public by way of his comments by suggesting that it was an ordinary man. The Honourable Member should have said that it was a man like himself, and not an ordinary man.

Mr. SPEAKER: And this is the point of order?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: He should have said an ordinary man like himself.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You said I was not an ordinary man and I should not say ordinary? I am an extraordinary person then. Thank you. Sir, it was a little fellow driving a little Suzuki van with the back out working for a cooling company.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have given Honourable Members as much of a broad conspectus of what we are doing for the police for the last hour and twenty minutes as I can. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not an expert on this subject. I have never pretended to be. I do not even recall if I have ever participated in a debate on the police since being a member of this Chamber but the Honourable Member obviously recalls better than I do. 12.40p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party does not have any major objections to the piece of legislation which is before the House. There are some concerns which the Shadow Minister responsible for this matter I assume will raise over time but I want perhaps to deal with some other issues and also to comment on some of the points which were made by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in his presentation this morning.

I must say that I was heartened that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas enlightened us on what his strategy was in relation to the police force. I am not sure that the methods that he is using are bearing any results. From the time that he became the Minister responsible for the police we have been treated to some long dissertations in this Chamber on the building programmes which he has

undertaken but other than the Fire Station in St. John, I cannot think of one other project that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has undertaken which he has seen to completion in nearly four years of being Attorney General.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, let us start in the north with Crab Hill, District "E" on the Hill and Holetown which we found without furniture and equipment when we took over. It was opened on September 2, 1994, elections were on September 6, 1994 and the police did not have equipment and no provision was made. All of that was done. Coming up a little further there is Worthing. Belleplaine roof and the windows that they left at Belleplaine were windows that close and the rain could still come straight through because the windows had no panes of glass. Sir, District "C" is finished and he should know that too because he lives up there and District "D" will finish next week.

I cannot finish Central Police Station because that is a project that is being phased over three years. The first part is finished and I have told you that we are going down in the backyard and finish the barracks down there for the ladies and do a nice lounge for officers. It is a phased project. The control room that they allowed to fall into dilapidation we have finished that. At election time you will get all.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I have heard the Honourable Member say that his projects were progressing well in one breath and in a next breath he says that if the contractor at District "B" who has been hanging around there for about four years, that if he did not complete the project by Monday that he would be dismissing him from the contract. Those works which the Honourable Member has spoken about, some of those projects particularly District "C" have been going interminably and therefore the Minister's characterisation of the programmes as progressing well does not square with our understanding of what has been happening with the building programme in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Our concern is not exclusively with that. We believe that it is part of any Government's mandate to continuously upgrade the conditions under which the police have to function. Imagine that we would have spent four or five million dollars on Holetown Police Station, which is a lovely project undertaken by the Democratic Labour Party. The fact that it did not have chairs is something which the Honourable Member as Minister of Home Affairs came and rectified. There are schools in Barbados that are built and sometimes the chairs were not provided at the point of opening. There are many projects in Barbados which are undertaken in which the furnishings are not always completed on time. It has happened in a number of

projects but that is not the issue. I think all Governments have tried to commit themselves to improving the conditions.

It was the Democratic Labour Party which established the Police Station at Holders Hill which has been...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. They had to establish the Police Station at Holders Hill because they allowed the District "D" Police Station to fall into dilapidation. They had to move the men out otherwise they would have been soaked by the rain and bitten by the rats.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member loves to talk about dilapidation. I am glad to get him back to that because he spent the last four years as if he is a building officer and as soon as I talk about it, you can see that his level of energy has suddenly increased and he is up and down excited about these building projects.

What the Honourable Member for St. Thomas cannot tell us is that despite those building projects there has been no serious qualitative improvement in the conditions of service of police officers in Barbados. He cannot tell us, even though he can talk about the crime statistics, he cannot produce any statistics in here to establish that the level of morale in the Police Force in Barbados has improved significantly since he took office in 1994. He cannot tell us either of a single initiative which this Government has taken which would have advanced the interest significantly of individual police officers on the beat in Barbados. That is part of the concern which we are going to have to demonstrate in this debate.

I have no problem with the Complaints Tribunal which is being set up. I have no problem with attempts to try to put in place measures to discipline the police. This Government has such a sorry record of breaching the laws when it comes to discipline public officers that I am glad that it will no longer be able to terrorise public officers and that it will make an effort to put the relevant legislation in place so that proper procedures will be followed and that policemen will not be sent on suspension for long periods of time, that they will not be sent on special leave without pay, they would not lose their pension, they would not have to take the Government to court simply to get what is their just due and responsibilities under the laws of this country.

Any effort to protect police officers by a process of transparent disciplinary procedures the Democratic Labour Party would have to support, having regard as I have said, to the very sorry record the Barbados Labour Party has brought since coming to office in 1994 to matters of this sort.

The Honourable Member will enjoy our support and we hope he will bring other legislation to protect public officers from the oppressive hand of the state and to protect them from Ministers of Government who act beyond the limits of ministerial authority and encourage other public officers to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, that is the basis on which we will support it. I am not an expert so I cannot tell you about the efforts to upgrade and efforts on accreditation. I congratulate the Commissioner of Police who has my confidence for his attempts to let the Police Force reach higher standards particularly with the use of technology, particularly in focusing on the basic skills which police officers have to fight new kinds of crime.

The Democratic Labour Party believe that the time is ripe for a review of the terms and conditions of police officers. When we look at the responsibilities which the average police constable and station sergeant and sergeant have to undertake in Barbados, we believe that the time is ripe for a review and a possible regrading of the positions of police officers in the structure of our public service in Barbados. When I look at the salary levels of constables and then compare them to the salary levels of maids and other public officers, some previously casual workers, when I look at what they are being paid and consider that the work of the police is being made a thousand times more difficult by the absence of a serious community and social engineering programme by this Government to deal with the causes of crime in Barbados.... 12.50p.m.

I will digress to say that the resident police officers in Barbados do more social work and community work and bring to the attention of the authorities in this country more problems that exist in communities than community workers paid at much higher levels in the public service with social work degrees and other facilities at their disposal.

I can say that for St. John. I can say that for St. Philip and I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North may from time to time find that the slowness with which the community development apparatus here in Barbados responds to problems in communities will join with me in acknowledging that community work is done on a very large scale by individual police constables here in Barbados through the neighbourhood watch programmes, the resident beat officer, the community post and so on.

Yet as I say many of them are treated as though they are at the very lowest rung of the ladder, functioning in what is supposed to be a disciplined environment where they are subject very often to the peculiarities and the personality quirks of their senior officers who do not

often let them demonstrate the kind of initiative that they may wish to demonstrate. So they need to be regraded.

Police officers in Barbados are badly paid for the kind of work which they are doing and they are facing increasing challenges to their responsibilities in the society. Therefore whenever we hear that police officers have undertaken special duty, whether at crop over which by and large has been a very safe public gathering of Barbadians at various venues, where the police are called upon to do a lot of work, whether it be the East Coast of Barbados, King George V Park, Spring Garden and a high level of organisation and mobilisation is necessary, when we hear that a year and two years after they have done their work they are not yet paid, it is scandalous because many of them have to stand up in the hot sun all day long, many of them have to assist children in finding their parents, many of them have to undertake additional responsibilities that go beyond basic questions of detection of crime and that kind of thing.

The police officers who went to Haiti and were not paid for a number of years, many of whom were frightened even to speak out about it, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was a crying shame and a crying shame particularly because ...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. It is not fair to say that the officers who went to Haiti were not paid for years and it is not true to say that they were afraid to speak out.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the occasions when officers came to me and said that they had not been paid, I immediately acted. On one occasion a former senior police officer, no longer in the Force, when I called him about the matter he said to me, but the officer had no right coining to you. I said, but how would I have known? This money has been in the Treasury because the US Government sent it straight to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and they sent it to the Treasury. It never came through us and we did not know. When we searched we found that the money had been deposited in Barbados. But police officers were not afraid. Several of them came to me and said, we have not got the money and I acted immediately to investigate it.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I did not know the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ignored you so directly. I thought it was just part of the normal parliamentary problem that the Government faced. I did not understand why the Honourable Member for the City was so upset that I was talking about it. As soon as I raised it she

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: She says I am overstating it. Monumental incompetence by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led to a situation. That is why the Honourable Minister does not want me to state it. I will now over state it. Monumental incompetence...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. This posturing now on the part of the Leader of the Opposition. I went to Haiti myself and spoke with the officers. And it is not any years that they waited for payment. There were difficulties it is true but he is only overstating that now. You are looking for a headline, well make up one.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well that compounds it. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas must feel vindicated that it is not his responsibility because the Minister of Foreign Affairs even went to Haiti and still they were not paid for nearly three years and some of them returned to Barbados. That is a fact. Some of those officers had to wait nearly 3 years to receive money notwithstanding the fact that the Honourable Member for the City in one of her usual junkets overseas went to Haiti.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He cannot say one of the usual, he should say one of the several trips overseas.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: And still the officers were not paid. Now, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and I would have to agree, it is those little things that contribute to the perception that members of the Police Force have in Barbados that they go the extra mile, that they are willing to go beyond the call of duty and yet the bureaucracy and in the case of Haiti, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in particular, ignored their responsibility to those hard working officers. It is that that contributes to low levels of morale in the Police Force and Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we return after lunch I will continue to explain some more of this.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.00 o'clock this afternoon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.00p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, when we took the break, I was speaking about the many challenges which present themselves to Members of the Royal Barbados Police Force in discharging their duties. I was particularly appealing to the Attorney General to bear in mind the extension of the role of police officers into the community, through their various activities including those of Resident Beat Officers and those persons who work at the Police Force and to bear that in mind particularly from the point of view of the low position on the salary scale that policemen occupy.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas also spoke about one of the reasons why he was setting up the Independent Police Complaints Committee or Tribunal Authority. He said that when the police investigate complaints they often do not get back to you, but that is not peculiar to the police. That is a problem in my view that is endemic to our society. It is common in the Public Service. You will write and ask for reasons for decisions under the Administrative Justice Act and you do not get any reply from the relevant authority for the decision.

You will write to the Rural Development Commission for information on what work they are doing in your constituency, they will tell you that you are entitled to ask them, come and ask parliamentary questions in the House. You put questions on the Order Paper of the House of Assembly and Ministers do not answer them. So that the police are simply following a time warranted tradition in which the highest decision makers in the land set a very poor example, an appalling example in responding to the questions and concerns of citizens and in following up on action which is to be taken on behalf of citizens.

Therefore if you are going to set up a police complaint's tribunal for that purpose you will need to set up other mechanisms throughout the entire public service to try and ensure that the legitimate requests and complaints of citizens in a wide range of human activity are responded to. There are people who go to the Welfare Department and see their local Welfare Officer. They interview them and they say they will get back to them, or they will visit them at home and nothing happens. There are people who go to officers in the Ministry of Education. Somebody interviews them and they say they are going to investigate the matter and get back to them. That goes into 'file 13'. So that while it is very desirable for the police to respond and to get back to citizens who make complaints it is equally important to ensure that throughout the society we develop an ethos of accountability in which citizens' complaints receive response.

The Honourable Member spoke about a man going up his gap and pulling at the door. I was driving up in front of the gate at Ilaro Court but on the other side of the road and somebody threw a rock and broke my windshield.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: A couple of months ago. No, it came from the other side of the road. I know the Honourable Member for St. Peter knew nothing about it because he did tell me he was upset to think that happened.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Again the police did not get back to me, but true to tell, I did not expect them to get back to me. I do not expect it because I know that they have heavy onerous responsibility. But I also know as a Barbadian that we live in a society in which that culture of accountability simply does not exist. And, unless we are willing to challenge that perspective of life, then setting up an independent complaints tribunal to deal with policemen who do not get back to citizens will require the police to observe a higher standard of conduct in Barbados in relation to those matters than even Ministers of Government or civil servants and other functionaries in the Government.

I also want to urge the Honourable Member for St. Thomas to consider that you need to have more flexible entry requirements into the Police Department. All of these nonsensical requirements that you must be 5 feet 8 inches and a half and that you must be between, as in the Fire Service, ages 18 and 28. That cannot make sense to a modern police force, because you need specialists who can deal with money laundering.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The rule is being looked at sympathetically and I know why the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has raised this. That is the basis upon which Henderson Bovell failed to be able to join the Royal Barbados Police Band in 1980 and he has always had that in his mind. They said he was too short when he tried to join the Police Band and he has never forgotten.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I believe he would have been a good member of the Royal Barbados Police Band. That is the upsetting part about it. But anyway, it has provided the opportunities for other avenues of achievement in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No. It is not just that. I have a constituent who was a half inch short for the Fire Service and who has his heart set on being in the

Fire Service. This week I sent a gentleman to your Personal Aide who just turned 29, he wants to go into the Fire Service and sent forms to him but the law states he has to be between 18 and 28. It is the law and it does not make sense because he is already in the Government Service, a trained security guard, a disciplined fellow and will be an asset in the Fire Service.

But I am not making it for that reason. Those may be individual cases. What we are speaking about now is the kind of specialised training in technology which is relevant to money laundering, DNA testing, forensic testing and all across the scientific fields that are necessary for the Royal Barbados Police Force. You cannot stand on the ceremony of saying that somebody who may have a Ph.D. in some area of DNA testing or forensic science, but because he is 5 feet 7 inches cannot qualify to enter into the Royal Barbados Police Force or whatever. We need much more flexible arrangements to achieve the goals.

The police are more and more involved as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas heard at a recent conference in money laundering. I think he was saying at the Central Bank or something that this is one of the major focuses. It is going to be even more critical because as Barbados grows as an offshore domicile there are going to be more and more requirements for the Royal Barbados Police Force to have skills to communicate with Forces in other parts of the world.

In Britain they have the FFO with highly qualified and trained persons which accounting degrees, banking degrees, *et cetera*, therefore, these developments are going to require more adaptability in the entry requirements into the Royal Barbados Police Force in future.

I move on from the Royal Barbados Police Force to turn to the concern which I raised about the major problems in the area of crime. I cannot get into a statistical debate with the Honourable Member for St. Thomas on whether crime is going up or down. What I can say is that far too many Barbadians are locking themselves behind burglar bars at night throughout this country feeling unsafe. I am not surprised in many cases that crime has reduced in some areas because a lot of people do not even leave home, period now, once they get home on evenings.

We cannot hide ourselves away from the challenges of the causes of crime. The very people in Barbados who are locking themselves behind burglar bars hiding away are in fact the people whom we need to go back into the communities from which they sprang and try to assist in mobilising our young people to achieve more, and being

involved more and more in community programmes in those areas where they came from. And not enough is being done by this Government to deal with causes of crime.

I am still looking and waiting to know what the comprehensive community and social development programme is for this Government. There is a lot of overlap territorial warfare going on between the various agencies which collectively should be working together to devise a strategy to deal with the causes of crime in this country.

I was eating my breakfast this morning when I was reading the *Advocate*...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not know if the story is sensationalised, but imagine the story of the *Advocate* of a six-year old trying to commit suicide because he or she was a victim of some kind of sexual abuse, 2.20 p.m.

There are alarming levels of sexual abuse in Barbados and domestic violence. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas pointed to the incidence of rape in Trinidad. I think the reason why Trinidad is registering higher levels of reported rape is because there is a little more confidence in the justice system now. When I was a student in Trinidad there were many students who were raped but simply did not bother to report it.

So when you see the large numbers of rape which are being officially reported within the system, that should tell you not that there are more rapes but there is a higher level of confidence in the judicial system to deal with those kinds of problems.

As I said, crimes generally against women in Barbados - we had one against a man so far reported and prosecuted and the woman was acquitted but I am speaking generally of crime against women and it is a serious matter. I urge the Honourable Member for St. Thomas not to gloss over the concerns that some people are raising in the society about values. I am saying that everything they are saying is right because they may have their own standards. There must be some common basic standards of decency and appropriate behaviour re-established in the Barbadian society and a commitment to certain basic values which all citizens must be interested in enforcing.

Right now as I speak to you and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas may very well be aware of this. I believe that the police have given up by and large

in their fight against young men using marijuana at public events. I go to football and sometimes I go to shows at the stadium and there is substantial open use of marijuana. I believe that the police have given up. They do not think that they can handle it.

I was sitting in a pavilion which I will not name and next to me on a bench, a guy pulled out his spliff and lit it up and started to smoke, something that I have not witnessed myself as happening for a long time. Sometimes you would smell it in community centres and a fellow at a dance might smell it outside, but they are done with that now. The fellows are coming next to you and if you are not careful next to a policeman and lighting it up. Now that tells me something. I am not getting into the question of what the police are doing about it. We have a position on the use of illegal drugs in Barbados and we send a very strong and firm message to those persons involved in illegal drugs and I will say for emphasis the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said that many of the crimes that are being committed in Barbados today are as a result, I assume, of increased drug use.

Let us take a very firm stand again and remind people. I am saying that until the Honourable Member for St. Thomas recently said that he had a zero tolerance approach to drug use, something that I have tried to emphasise myself in those Family First advertisements which were on television.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You were speaking particularly on drug use. I do not know where it was you were speaking but you used the phrase "zero tolerance" for drug abuse.

I believe that at this level on all occasions that when the opportunity presents itself we need to reinforce that the Parliament of Barbados, politicians, administrators and the police believe and will adopt a zero tolerance approach to illegal drug use in Barbados. I think that is very necessary.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas will find the full support of the Democratic Labour Party because there are too many families, communities and homes which are being disrupted by drug use in Barbados. Families which otherwise are making progress economically, materially and socially in Barbados in which children by and large are getting a good education in which the parents may be making a contribution to the community life and the social life of our country can be entirely decimated when one of those youngsters get involved in drug abuse. Then the whole family, and sometimes a whole community of persons, the

embarrassment and the concern and the preoccupation in trying to solve this major problem in their lives causes them no longer to be effective citizens. The victims of drug abuse are not only the people who are taking drugs but their parents, grandparents, their bosses, their girlfriends and their wives and their children. A whole range of people in our society are being affected by the incidence of drug abuse in Barbados. It is serious.

As I said, one wonders sometimes why it is that more is not being said and more focus by the Government in its social and community programmes is not given to the problem of illegal drug use in Barbados because it does not make the work of the police any easier. They will feel that they are the only people in our country battling illegal drug use. If Government does not help and if in the communities throughout Barbados we do not design policies to make it very clear that illegal drug use is something that we are not prepared to accept. I think that is something that in this particular debate, I would be very grateful to hear from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. The information is there.

I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East pooh-poohed a report which was done many years ago on youth problems in Barbados in a committee chaired by Dr. Farley Brathwaite but that was in a heightened, adversarial, political environment. I would suggest that the Minister send a copy of that report to the Bishop of Barbados who recently said that there should be a committee to study youth violence and drug use. There may be many others. I do not know but the point is that the information is there but I am not hearing enough about the policies being designed for young people who are not in the mainstream. Youth in Business programmes in a sense is pulling some young people who are already attracted to that kind of thing into the mainstream. Some of the community development programmes aimed at unattached youth may, but it is still a large reservoir of people who spend all day watching television and the only time you see them working with other people is when they come out on an evening at 4 or 5 o'clock and play football. Very often they are there alone. No adults around. No organisers. No role models. Nobody to encourage them. Nobody to give them a few pep talks.

Politicians cannot do it all because very often we are the ones who are sponsoring those teams. We do not always have time to be there with them but we need to get the community workers out into the communities of Barbados in the sports programmes which are going on, organized by communities, helping by providing resources and working with the large number of young people who are involved in those activities. That is the kind of social community development programme that I have been looking forward to hearing since 1994 from the Barbados Labour Party Government.

There is no Government that has been elected in the last decade that has not recognised that it had to have an agenda for dealing with the problem of crime and not just an agenda for penal reform, important though it is, not just an agenda for the justice system, important though it is, not just simply an agenda for the police, important though it is, or to fix buildings, but a major agenda of social engineering, to help deal and work with our young people. 2.30p.m.

Recently in Britain one of the new initiatives of the Government there was to set up a Cabinet Sub-Committee to deal exclusively with young men at risk. And a whole panoply of varying Ministries and persons with varying responsibilities were brought together to look at that issue because the violence we see in Barbados that the police have to contend with is youth on youth violence. People who live next door to each other being extremely violent and careless about life and indifferent to the loss of life.

The slightest altercation in a small confined environment you can see tempers flaring. You have seen it at the Gymnasium one day over somebody sitting in the wrong person's chair. A fellow just started to take up chairs and throw them. There were children around. There was a pregnant lady around and he did not see any of that. That kind of irresponsible behaviour has a background to it and we have a responsibility to deal with it. Five minutes after that incident took place, at the other side of the Gymnasium another one took place. Likewise at the Stadium. There may have been a time when there would be one incident for the night. The police would go and round up the people and that was the end of that. Nowadays you have 15 or 20 incidents in one night. But that is not the principal concern. Sometimes young people living in the same communities commit some of these very heinous and violent crimes against each other. We have to look at that, adopt a zero tolerance policy on drug abuse, confront the issues of drug abuse and design a programme in Barbados to assist our men and women who are at risk. It is not only men liming on street corners in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Maybe, but that is the point I am getting on to that, that social development programme is not just aimed at men because I am not putting all the responsibility of the policymakers on failing to provide a social programme to deal with the problems of men at risk because many of our women, I say, are at even greater risks. There is a major problem inherent in that statement.

I read Mr. Ikin Alleyne's comments from the Probation Department about many of the challenges facing young women but in a society like ours which is basically matriarchal...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am looking at the Honourable Member for St. Michael South but if I was wrong I would have seen the right look on his face.

It means that when our women are at risk our men are at even greater risk because women by and large are people who are transferring their values in households in which they are heads of households and their children are at risk.

I will not go any further than that, Mr. Speaker, because I know you want me to get back to the police but since I started by saying that the police are doing more social work in Barbados we are only alerting them to some of the major challenges which they may face so that you can start to deal with that and throwing money at social problems is not the answer. You do need to have imaginative social and community programmes in Barbados.

I do not wish to be partisan but I frankly do not feel the presence of the persons charged with the responsibility in my constituency of undertaking any kind of community programmes. I do not feel their presence at all.

I read the comments of the Chief Youth Commissioner Programme this week about the wonderful work the Youth Commissioners are doing. He did not say where, but I know he could not mean in the constituency of St. John which I represent. I would like to have those kinds of support mechanisms throughout Barbados to help the community councils that exist, the Independence organising committees, the football teams, the organisers of cricket competitions, the young men and women who may be involved in dance classes in a community centre twice a week, the Church Youth organisations, the Mothers' Unions who may wish to be working on some project in the community and the youth at risk on the corners in Barbados. I do not feel that kind of presence and therefore what is basically happening in our society is that in terms of those kinds of programmes there is nothing going on. It is a free-for-all.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that kind of programme, creatively designed, would assist the work of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in facilitating the reduction of crime in Barbados, not statistically, but a reduction in people's fear of crime which is where it is important because you can have a statistical reduction in crime and people are still more fearful than when crime was at its statistically highest level, and that is what we need to deal with. We can only deal with it if we deal with the causes of crime.

The last point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that I agree with the Honourable Member's prediction that there will be more centralisation in the Magistrate's Court. As he knows, I have always called for that. Holetown, I think makes sense. Oistins makes sense but a man who lives in Edgecliff, St. John, has to take two buses to get to District "C" so he has to get up at 5:00 o'clock to get to Court for 8:30 or 9:00 o'clock. I cannot think of that many people from my constituency, and I know from St. Philip, who really object to going down to St. Matthias because the bus service is more reliable. They have airconditioned courts. It is more comfortable. When they are finished there they can go into Bridgetown if the court finishes early enough and maybe do a bit of shopping.

The essential point I want to make is that it certainly would be less costly, less wear and tear on the Magistrates because the physical conditions in some of those Magistrates' Courts were horrendous. The Government obviously would have to have spent substantial sums of money upgrading facilities and sometimes you have a court list with five matters on it in one of those rural districts Magistrates' Courts so it is a policy I support. I am not one of those who believe in centralisation of everything but I think basically it is a good area where centralisation will benefit the country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in tough policies on crime as well as creative policies to deal with the causes of crime. That is why since the police are at the centre in a very real way of the communities of Barbados in ensuring not only that law and order is observed but also by their involvement in community programmes through this country, we believe that any effort to improve their conditions of service is a step in the right direction and beyond what has happened today, I hope that the Government will give urgent attention to increasing the levels of pay and improving the conditions in service of policemen throughout Barbados.

Thank you. 2.40
p.m.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to be very long but there are a few things that I would wish to address particularly in response to the last speaker. Suffice it to say that I am generally in support of the terms and provisions of the Bill that is before this Honourable House now. I believe that the Bill seeks to bring about a greater clarification of the rights of policemen within the Force so that there is a clear understanding of the rules of natural justice as they apply particularly in relation to the breaches of the disciplinary code.

I want to pick up where the last speaker left off on the whole question of the social work which is being done by

policemen and indeed other agencies in Barbados. Suffice it to say that while there were elements of the last speaker's speech that may well hold water, the truth is that he has significantly ignored or chosen to ignore the fact that there is considerable work being done in this country over the course of the last few years in relation to opportunities for young people and programmes for young people and indeed the consequences thereto.

I produced in this Honourable Chamber some months ago statistics clearly showing a decline in unemployment among young persons in this country. I clearly also, at that stage, Sir, indicated that there were a number of efforts which I would wish to go through one by one. I want to say this too. That there can be no doubt about the fact that there has to be a strong position taken by all persons in public life in relation to the use of drugs and the whole question of drug abuse. I think that all of us who are right thinking would be *ad idem* on that point. The fact of the matter is that abuse of any drug is detrimental to one's body, detrimental to one's mind and the extent to which it undermines the social fabric of the community and the family and the extent to which it destroys that individual life, would cause all of us to take a very strong position.

Sir, I do not believe that it is an easy battle because we are dealing with a sub-culture that is perhaps much stronger than we appreciate. Because even when persons are taught a different way and one would feel that they should know another way, there is still the strong temptation to be lured into that sub-culture by persons within the community. Not just here in Barbados but this is a worldwide phenomena and one that we will have to grapple with.

I want to go through one by one a number of initiatives which this Government has put in place, certainly in my Ministry, to deal with problems faced by young people in relation to it. Suffice it to say also, that the statistics also show a reduction in the level of crime. I really find it very amazing because in 1991/92 we saw perhaps what has been our highest levels of criminal activity ever seen in this country. We heard week after week about gangs in this country and that occasion ... whether it was true or not - the point is that that was the public focus of discussion. The criminal statistics clearly reflect that there was a high level of criminal activity and there is no doubt about that. We have also the survey done by the current Director of Youth Affairs which clearly showed that 60% of young people had no hope of anything improving in their lives.

Sir, we do not believe, unlike other persons that Governments can solve all the problems facing young people or all the social problems in the society. They did not create it and therefore they cannot solve them

overnight or over a period of time for that matter because the reality is that there are a number of forces coming together in a person's life or a family's life that cause them to stray off the straight and narrow path. The reality is that it must be a combined effort of all groups and bodies in this country towards reaching a point where we can have a sufficiently large number of options in terms of strong organisations guiding people, supervising people, providing moral leadership, providing responsible examples from which then the large population of young people we have, will benefit.

Unlike others, Sir, I am not one of those who believe that all young people in this country are running riot either. The number of young people who give trouble in this country is probably less than 1 000 throughout the entire country. That includes those who go to prison too. That does not mean that we do not have a problem to the extent that we should seek to deal with those 1 000 who are getting themselves in trouble or who are the victims of drug abuse or sexual abuse or all of those other things but it is not at any epidemic stage.

Furthermore, on top of that, the reality is that the majority of young people, certainly as evidenced from the Schools Tracer Survey that we have done for the last two years and that we are doing again this year, more than 70% of them find themselves in either other training programmes after leaving secondary schools or some form of gainful employment. It is not that there is an epidemic situation out there with people running riot.

The unfortunate thing is that in a small society when we do have incidents that offend our sense of what we expect, unfortunately, we have the media there playing them up very often and giving greater focus to them than perhaps they even deserve.

Sir, I was appalled last night to see as the lead item on Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation News a story dealing with a teenage girl at a particular school in Barbados who was involved in an incident with a school teacher. What is even more appalling is that the Ministry of Education has received both reports. The one coming from the girl and her family and the one coming from the principal and the teacher. Both reports are so far opposite that further investigation really has to be done to determine who is right or wrong. That does not deserve to be put as the leading story on television because all you do now is to begin to encourage people in the belief, subconsciously, that this type of behaviour is acceptable whether on the part of the teacher or the child or whichever story is true.

I am saying to you that rather than dealing with the fundamental issues that cause the breakdown in society, we

continue to pick out incident by incident and highlight it as if the solving of that one particular incident could solve the problems that permeate throughout the society.

Sir, I sat when I was in the Senate on a Select Committee dealing with domestic violence and abuse and I would challenge anyone in here to remember how many times the Press concentrated on stories affecting the whole issue of domestic violence, sexual abuse, incest and all of those things at the time, when we were systematically looking at how to deal with these problems. We were in Opposition then, but they did not carry much. Yet day by day, we see incident by incident singularly highlighted in the newspapers and on television. I think that we have to sit back and examine whether that in fact assists the situation or whether that does not create the impression that the situation is far worse in terms of numbers. Because once an incident happens, it is bad but in terms of the numbers of incidents that are happening, then there is an inflated view largely because of the manner in which the Press handles it.

We, as I have said, have tried to undertake a number of serious programmes over the last few years. We set up a Youth Development Programme with youth commissioners with the expressed intention of having youth commissioners deal on a one by one basis with youngsters at risk in particular, but young people in general, at the level of the community to be able to get them access to other social services or to be able to get them access into training institutions or to provide generally an opportunity for us to be able to match their needs with the services and programmes offered by Government. Very often we have said that those youth commissioners represent the eyes and ears, the hands and feet of Government. So successful has the programme been that we have been able to make a substantial difference to the lives of a number of young people.

One of the reasons we do the Schools Tracer Survey is to be able to narrow down immediately those young people who may need our assistance rather than simply assuming that we can go out there and deal with 1 000 or 1 200 young people at one time. Through the Schools Tracer Survey and through their own interviewing process, they have been able to narrow down the numbers that they can deal with. 2.50p.m.

At the end of the day even when they do that and they provide their mass based training, because we have trained more than 3 000 young people a year, for the last two years, out of that we have been able to develop in excess of 20 clubs across this island on the basis and on the understanding that when persons are involved in

structured group activity then they are less likely to fall off the straight and narrow path and to become involved in socially deviant behaviour.

So that we have been successful, Sir, in encouraging more young people to join clubs, to join organisations, to form organisations where none exist and to be able to participate in activities throughout the day and night. Indeed, Sir, only two months ago or three months we announced that the Division of Youth Affairs would be funding the provision of street lights across a number of grounds and hard courts across this island with the express intention of allowing persons to be able to participate in leisure time activity and serious sporting activity up until 10.00 o'clock and 11.00 o'clock at night so that they would have their energies diverted to that wholesome activity rather than in activity that may bring them before the law courts or at least in the hands of the police.

Sir, that is not all. In addition to that we are now about to embark on a new programme within the Youth Development Programme and the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme geared specifically to children who are 8 years old and up because we believe that if we can get their trust and work with them continuously from as early as that, that when they reach the age of puberty they are less likely to walk off and to be outside of the realm of social behaviour or to put it another way, they are less likely to become anti-social in that instance.

This programme, Sir, will start later this year, both the YES Junior Programme as well as with the training which will be geared specifically to teaching youngsters as early as 8 and 9 years old how do you form a club, how do you record minutes, how do you keep the meetings going, how do you keep activities going.

It is unfortunate that the Honourable Member for St. John has not felt the presence of the Community Development Officers or the Youth Commissioners in his area and I would only want to suggest to him, Sir, that he really has the opportunity to meet with them and see exactly what programme they are doing and how best he in his own programme can work with them.

At the end of the day, Sir, the whole question of activities by young people on the ground must be structured in a way where they work with all agencies. It is not for me to tell the Honourable Member for St. John who is his youth commissioner. If he is on the ground he will know who his youth commissioner is or call the Youth Development Programme and request a meeting with his youth commissioner. In the same way that when he was Minister for Community Development, Sir, he never indicated who the community development officers were to members on both sides I am sure.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am not personal, Sir. I am saying genuinely that the way to deal with it, because this is not the first time he has made the comment, instead of complaining about it, pick up the phone, meet with the person and see what programmes are being done and what programmes you would wish to have done. That is how we have been operating with other persons who have been willing to do it.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West I am sure knows the youth commissioner in that district exceedingly well. But in addition to the programme on youth commissioners there are a number of other things that we have done.

Within the area of the Ministry of Education, I announced in this Honourable Chamber last month that we had set up a committee chaired by the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Forde, dealing with the provision of social services for students in schools because we recognised that more than allowing the individual or the particular social service to deliver whatever service they deliver, that we needed to have a programme which sought to bring together...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation, I do not want the Honourable Member as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South says, to take the criticism personally. The Honourable Member's presence in here predates the Youth Commissioners. All of our presence in here predates the Youth Commissioners. They came after us. I am going to recommend to the Honourable Member that she tells the Members of Parliament who their youth commissioner is and make arrangements for the youth commissioners to meet with the Members of Parliament. That is what would be a creative approach. Ninety percent of the social workers and community workers in Barbados will tell you to your face that they do not deal with politicians. That is what I am trying to say. Check that because there is this perception that if they have to work with politicians in undertaking these policies that at the end of the day they may be branded in one way or the other as partisan. I want to see a programme that is going to help and I cannot justify one way or the other why the youth commissioner in my constituency has never made any effort whatsoever to come to see me to lay proposals before me or to hear my views about what should happen in the St. John constituency. I think that is endemic.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I want to be very clear on this issue because I feel very strongly that those persons who are engaged in the delivery of social services have a responsibility to work with Members of Parliament, just as they have a responsibility to work with other

non-governmental organisations such as the church, such as community groups, youth groups, sporting groups, every one. It is unfortunate that that has happened to the Honourable Member for St. John but I will give this undertaking that I would at least speak with the Director of Youth Affairs and say to him that the persons involved really must make an attempt to meet with everyone. But let me say this, being in a position to work with a Member of Parliament does not mean that you are canvassing with a Member of Parliament. It simply means that you are delivering government's social services and there are areas being identified by Members of Parliament as deserving the attention of government support.

I want to make this very clear because I believe that the provision of social services is too critical an area for us to let wallow in the pits of partisan politics and at the end of the day that person is free to vote for whomever they want. That person is free to invite a family but they must work with whoever is there as Member of Parliament.

Indeed, Sir, I am not only speaking about Youth Commissioners but as the Honourable Member for St. John said, all persons who work at the level of the community in delivering social services. I really would urge all Members of Parliament, because the Youth Commissioners are doing a good job, they are in fact mixing and building trust among young people. Almost all of them come from the districts within which they work and therefore there was already a relationship of trust in the majority of them, a relationship of trust where people who lived and worked in the area and I believe, Sir, I do not need a youth commissioner or I do not need a member of the social services to be able to canvass votes for me, neither does the Honourable Member for St. John I am sure.

Therefore what is required is to build faith with the people at the level of the ground who are the ones who badly need the assistance and need it not just in the form as I said of whether you are dealing with welfare. Welfare very often is only engaged in delivering whatever services welfare is giving but invariably when you go and look at the circumstances of that family there is a need for a combination of two or three different social services. There is a need to systematically work with that family to bring them out of the circumstances within which they find themselves. Therefore, I am saying to you that the Committee which we established, chaired by Senator Forde, is geared specifically to do that for students within the school system because too many social problems are impacted on children's capacity to learn. If we are capable of solving some of those social problems so as to allow the family to better provide for itself, whether through a coordination and Welfare training capacity to get employment for the person and indeed counselling, if necessary, then that family is put

in a position where they do not need to rely on the social services, on the MP, on the principal or anybody. 3.00p.m.

I really feel, Mr. Speaker, that it is going to be one of the most significant structures that we will leave in the Ministry of Education because it is going to impact in a very real way on children and families' lives throughout this country. We have already met once to set the framework within which they will work. I believe that once the guidance counselors, the principals and other teachers who work within the system recognise that they can refer people to the School Attendance Section within the Ministry who will then have the capacity, where necessary, to refer them to this Committee. That will make a fundamental difference on the lives of many of our young people and many students in this country who now face problems from having to deal with sexual abuse to domestic abuse to simply not having enough money in the household, the lack of somewhere proper to live, the lack of a presence of male models in their lives, to a whole host of things, Sir.

Yesterday afternoon, I was appalled. Three different things were brought to my attention. One was a letter written by a 14-year old boy which his father found in an exercise book. Mr. Speaker, the language was riddled with expletives and threats to kill the father. Another one was a letter which I believe the Press once again, unfortunately highlighted, because I do not believe that these are the types of things you highlight in the Press because you only encourage other people to go and do the same nonsense. But a letter, written by a mother to a principal of a school abusing the principal of the school for the fact that she is required to write an excuse for the child being late, abusing the principal in the worst possible language that you would ever want to hear.

There are, of course, Sir, isolated incidences like this throughout the system. But at the end of the day that is not something I believe deserves focus in the media. It does not carry society forward any further. All it does is to encourage and give full lips to other people who want to behave in that type of lawless behaviour.

In addition to the committee, Sir, we have also set in train the process of curriculum reform which sees us in three critical areas trying to impact on the attitudes and abilities of young people. I say abilities too, Sir, because lack of competency in language is perhaps one of the single greatest contributors to violence among our people, young and old, largely because of an inability to express themselves, a frustration that emanates as a result of that inability to express themselves and also the inability to link choices with consequence. For example, if I do X behaviour this will lead to that consequence.

We have a situation, Sir, where our children's competency in language continues to need serious work and it is for that reason I was particularly glad last week, when in our stake holders meeting at the retreat held with the Ministry of Education that there was general agreement that we need to look at the teaching of English as a second language, recognising that many of our people do not have basic competency in standard English. Recognising also, that the official language of instruction in a classroom really has to be English and that our children are in fact bilingual, if they acquire the competency in standard English, because their natural language inclination is for dialect.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with dialect, but when we restrict our children to the use of dialect alone, we have handicapped them in their dealings not only with the rest of people in this country but in their dealings generally in the world. Also we restrict them in a country which has people moving in and out and is relying on a services sector and the interaction with people for its economic development.

So that there has to be a commitment and I am happy that all of the stake holders in the Educational Sector have agreed that the review of the methodology for teaching English must reflect teaching it as a second language and there must be a commitment on the part of all teachers to use standard English for instruction in classrooms.

In addition, Sir, we have also developed a draft curriculum which would be released to the public shortly on values of education, reinforcing values such as loyalty, love, non-violence, peace, and a whole host of other things which are basic core things that we believe do not reflect the bias of any one religion or any one group. But represent the same core values that the Honourable Member for St. John spoke about just now that there must be a minimum understanding that these must be enforced.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I rise, Sir, mostly on a point of order, but I would wonder if in her speech the Minister could explain a little more, when she says that English should be taught as a second language in Barbados. For me, and for others it is our first language and I want to know what she means about a second language.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Given the fact that I have limited time available, I will undertake to explain to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South that his experiences do not reflect on the many younger Barbadians.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. In addition, Sir, we have also developed a programme which will also be included in the citizenship module on conflict resolution, as well as programmes on social and negotiating skills. A large part of the problem faced by many of our young people is their capacity to interact with persons, to negotiate for what they want and to have the social skills that are necessary. For example, whether it is in respect of job interviews, interviews to enter further training institutions, they seem to lose the capacity to be fluent once they are put in an environment where they must interact formally with persons. We believe the development of social skills and negotiating skills are critical, equal in their relationship with persons. Part of the problem of AIDS and the contraction of AIDS in this country is not that people do not know about it, but that very often when two people get together one does not know how to tell the other "well you cannot do anything unless you protect yourself." There is a serious problem in the capacity of persons to represent themselves. We hope that in the curriculum for social and negotiating skills and conflict resolutions, this can be done.

All of these curricula, Sir, will be compulsory for persons in junior secondary school. In addition to that, Sir, we believe that if that is reinforced by strong core curricula and extra-curricula activity, monitored by persons within the school environment, whether they are teachers or whether by ancillary workers at the schools. These ancillary workers very often are the ones who interact with children as much as the teachers and know more when the children are doing wrong sometimes than the teachers. If they can see this strong example as well as the one from the rest of the society, we will go a long way toward providing them with the kinds of values and the kinds of skills that they should have. But that does not mean that they will not be tempted by elements of the subcultures that are so pervasive in a world that developed in such a way that communication of values, communication of lifestyles, from wherever else in the world becomes a very real opportunity to persons accessing these things, largely because of the development in technology. Just because you have taught a child the right way does not mean that that child will stay on the straight and narrow path or will not be tempted by things that are wrong. This is something that knows no politics, knows no class, knows no status and station in society. As we all know, Sir, the task of raising a child is one in which you must have faith and you must do your best. At the end of the day you have no guarantee as to how that child will turn out. 3.10p.m.

The provision of values through the curriculum by making it compulsory and the examples that we may give children does not guarantee us that those children would take that example as the right one but they may well be tempted by other elements or sub-culture as all of us in our youth at some point have been, as that is the nature

of a human being, that it operates in group fashion and that very often different standards of behaviour are established for different age groups and people. What is critical is that we get them to understand that this is the very least that represents what is decent and acceptable and that all of us must be involved in the effort of reinforcing that in our communities without it becoming a partisan affair and without it being reflected in vitriolic attacks as we seek to score points against one another.

I hope that this can be done and that all of us, whether it is the police, the social services agencies, the Members of Parliament, the Press, the Church, recognise that we have the responsibility to do that in building this country. And that if we seek to resile from that responsibility, or if we seek to believe that we are better off and move beyond that station in life where we have to help somebody else then we would be preparing ourselves for entertaining a country where our young people live in exile in their own country, without recognising that Barbados is not big enough for people to run anywhere where it does not impact on the rest of us. Where are they going to run from, Sir? From Bush Hall to Bathsheba? From Proute to Brereton? They cannot run.

Sir, I wish to thank you for your indulgence in letting me go over but it really is a problem that requires all of us to come to the task willingly and without seeking to put any form of partisan behaviour or any other considerations in it. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Speaker, the delivery of quality service by the policemen of Barbados is really an interaction of social, political, economic and various other human skills and given that complexity it means that in supplying services of this kind to the community that the first requirement is for the identification of appropriate persons to staff the ranks of the police force.

These persons must have unique skills not only in terms of their academic worth but their ability to socialise and interact with the general population. In this regard, it is instructive that the speaker that preceded me is in fact the Minister of Education because only last year or year before the Minister of Education made it quite clear that performance of students at the level of CXC is of a magnitude that is disconcerting in that it is identified that about 60% of those persons who sat CXC "O" Levels got only one certificate.

That makes it very interesting for policemen in that in today's Barbados a policeman must now be a member of that lower percentile of individuals who succeed at the academic level in gaining at least three CXC general certificates. It means therefore that when one is looking to fill the ranks of the Royal Barbados Police Force you are selecting those

individuals from among the ranks of those privileged few in our midst who manage to succeed in achieving the level of at least three CXC certificates. I make that point to say this. In today's Barbados a policeman must now therefore be considered to be part of that special group competing with clerks, competing with persons seeking to go into the banking system, perhaps competing with those who may go into teaching. Therefore, if you are now requiring the levels of policemen to be no less than three CXC certificates then you must at this point in time be very concerned with the need to upgrade and regrade salaries of the police officers in Barbados.

By mere dint of economics you are seeking to supply the service from a selected few who have now been able to acquire through our educational system three or more CXC certificates making a policeman now not an individual who is six feet tall with broad shoulders but an individual who would come from among the special group of persons who have been able to achieve that level of certification, through the secondary school system. Therefore there is no need for me to speak in this debate any longer because by simple reasoning a policeman now is an important individual, not on the basis of physical structure but on the basis of academic achievement and therefore requires immediate attention when one is seeking to look at the academic requirements in such a scarce pool of achievers in Barbados.

It is not my evidence. It is the evidence of the Minister of Education, who said that at first sitting even perhaps second sitting less than 40% of the individuals in Barbados get at least one certificate. Out of that 40% I can assure you that according to the evidence half of that would represent about 20% of the entire sitting population for certification who will be getting about 3 CXC certificates. Therefore, a policeman now comes from the ranks of that special group of those who qualify at the secondary level in Barbados.

On that basis alone, a policeman is now entitled to a regrading. A policeman is now entitled to a much higher salary. It has nothing to do with the responsibility which he has but simply he is now in fact an even scarcer commodity coming out of that limited amount of persons that qualify on the basis of academic achievement in Barbados and he is now competing among a very small pool of individuals, and I am saying therefore that I should not even have reason to go further into any discourse on this matter.

I am calling for an immediate regrading and reclassification of the salaries of policemen in Barbados based on that simple argument alone.

Aside.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: It has nothing to do with headlines. You cannot be saying according to the Minister of Education that we are now in a situation where less than 40% of the people get one CXC and in fact we are now saying that policemen are required to have this kind of certification and cannot see an immediate need to reclassify the salaries and regrade the salaries of policemen in Barbados.

Let me just explain something else. That is one point. The other point that has to be recognised in this debate is this whole question of crime statistics. When crime was committed in 1996 or 1995 there was a specific group or set of individuals who produced that particular crime. In 1997, it may be a completely different group of individuals. So from year to year to look at crime statistics - and this is not any attempt to belittle what the Attorney General said - only on the basis of the number; that is, you have 100 crimes committed in 1996 and 50 in 1997 then to look across the spectrum and say there has been a reduction in crime is to suggest that you are comparing like with like. I am saying that it would have to be the same group of individuals who committed the crime in 1996 and likewise in 1997 to make a comparison across the two years on the basis of whether or not crime has been reduced. It is a very simplistic argument. It is simple. Different individuals have committed crime in 1996 versus 1997. 3.20 p.m

Therefore, on that basis alone, I do not care who you are, you cannot really make the comparison across the two years in terms of suggesting that there has been either an increase or reduction. That is, at the end of 1996 all those who committed crime in 1996 had vanished and you start fresh. It is like putting on a tap in 1996, allowing it to flow, then you stop it at the end of 1996 and start it back.

Now, in this instance the crime which has been committed in 1996 becomes a burden to the community. It is pressure on the community because those crimes have inflicted a certain kind of degradation. It has inflicted a certain kind of fear. It has imposed a certain perception of the community from the people of the community. In fact, it becomes very dangerous from year to year, regardless of whether or not there has been a so-called increase or a reduction, to use this measure as a serious indicator as to whether the society has battled effectively with crime using pure statistics from year to year. It can only be done, as I said, I repeat, if the same individuals in 1996 were guilty of crime in 1997 but once it is a new crop of individuals, I am suggesting to you that the argument of making that comparison can be refuted. It is a difference between a flow and a stop concept which I will not go into.

The whole question of the supply of police services - having suggested that the first requirement is to have

adequate labour skills and to suggest further that those adequate labour skills come from a very limited population, the supply of a police service must be seen within the context of the quality of the individual who you happen to attract to the service. That constitutes a major concern then in terms of the provision of quality service from within the Police Force.

The other point we need to look at is the whole question of the use of technology in the provision of this service and how technology will impact on the provision of services by the Police Force in years to come. It has been stated already in the debate that we need therefore to be able to attract not just persons who are 5' 8" but persons who have the capacity and the wherewithal to execute in terms of being able to utilise the new technology in the provision of these services. Let us not feel that to have 40 new officers per year who are skilled in certain areas can quickly transform the service being provided by the police service. It becomes even more crucial in the service to manage and train the existing officers in the service because it would take generations for us to be able to replenish the stock of policemen who we have now. Just adding those new persons who have three CXCs who may be more, or we may perceive to be more capable of absorbing the new technologies or whatever, but having already had thousands of policemen from the past who did not have to meet that requirement, will require us to look at an extensive method of training to bring the older policemen up to a level that is required in today's world.

Perhaps, it is not just a question of looking to upgrade the qualification requirement, but more importantly, looking to put systems in place to guarantee the training of established policemen who are already within the ranks and can be at various stages throughout the ranks of the Force. Technology must be seen in two senses, one introducing new technology but also improving the human capability by increasing the levels of training throughout the entire Force at all levels of the Force constables, sergeants and gazetted officers, which they are called. The whole question of quality, therefore, in the provision of this service is crucial in the execution and provision of quality service.

The other side that is important in this whole exercise is to look at what I refer to as the demand side, that is, what is happening within the society, the demand for services within rural Barbados versus urban Barbados, the demand for police services within the City versus the peripheral or the outskirts of the City, the demand for services within housing areas versus some built-up Height or Terrace so that it will vary according to the location where we are seeking to demand these services.

It will vary according to what one can perceive as the time required to execute a particular service in a

given area, that is, if you are called upon in a more built-up area to execute a service then it will have different implications in the Farm Housing area than in the Fort George Heights area. That has to do mainly with the social interaction or the differences in social interactions which you will find in these various communities.

It has to do with the abundance of crime that one may also find in some given area as opposed to another area, that is, you would expect greater cooperation with the police in certain areas and less cooperation in some other areas. Therefore, the question of time which you require to investigate a particular crime will vary even if the crime is similar in nature across the two different communities. A whole range of factors has to be considered in the provision of quality policing across Barbados and across any society.

Let us not underestimate the skills that are required to manage a Police Force in Barbados, the skills that are required to manage men, people and women. Let us also recognise that perhaps the structure of management within the Police Force requires a new look so that we can more effectively deliver the services into the 21st century.

The old systems which you have employed may be in need of a revisiting. The old systems which you have employed may require that the top level management of the Police Force be sent overseas for greater training, be introduced to different and various other techniques of management in today's world, and overall in the introduction of new technologies into the management of systems within the Police Force.

Certainly, although my speech may seem academic, I have every reason to believe that it has some very practical applications which need to be considered in the management of the Police Force of Barbados. Let us again not take it for granted that a station sergeant at Black Rock Police Station requires any less managerial skills than perhaps a middle management person in some store or firm on Broad Street. The requirements, in fact, for managing the Police Force may be greater because you are executing a service and you are dealing with individuals as opposed to a product, therefore, a wider cross section of persons whom you have to deliver this service to.

I am not taking it lightly that the management of a Police Force is simple, or that you must have less skills to manage the Police Force of Barbados than you need to have to manage BS&T, or DaCosta Mannings. 3.30p.m.

In fact there is every reason to believe in Barbados that you do not need to have much managerial skills to be in a

certain position at BS&T and the rest. Once you have a certain pigmentation and socialisation, you will be accepted and adopted into the ranks of those organisations. You do not have to have any great managerial capacity or requirement for those areas but you cannot use that same criteria when you come to address the managerial skills within the Barbados Police Force. There are greater requirements within those areas of management than what is required in Broad Street. If you think about it logically most times these people are importing a product, they are competing with their friends, they collude to put on the market, they have a guaranteed market and they are guaranteed of a profit once they manage their cost effectively.

Whereas in terms of managing a Police Force you are not talking about identifying any specific product. This is a product that can vary large and wide. This is a product that requires different kinds of skills to managing a firm on Broad Street. As I have said before, as far as I know, you do not get into the managerial ranks of the Royal Barbados Police Force based on any location within the society. We all know that and we all have to be fair about it. We have to be very fair that we do not believe that these areas within the public service of Barbados require less managerial skills.

At the end of the day to truly deliver a proper quality product to Barbados we need to be in a position to truly cost that product. In fact, it was pleasing to hear the Attorney General say this morning that for certain services there would be increases from \$8 to \$12 and what not. I am saying that while the increase would be welcomed, that there is a broader picture to be considered, not just in the provision of special services to the private sector or the private community in Barbados but for us to better understand what it is that we are putting out in terms of cost of running the Royal Barbados Police Force and what we are in fact getting to have an effective and fair understanding of what are the level of prices on the price of a police service in Barbados. In this regard one is therefore asking for use of greater computer skills, one is asking for collection of adequate data in the Police Force, data on the basis of cost, data on the basis of managing stocks, data on the basis of managing human time, data on the basis of allowing eventually the Royal Barbados Police Force to be able to adequately assess the overall cost of managing the Police Force in Barbados.

It is not just a question in today's Barbados of coming to Parliament and providing an estimate for the Royal Barbados Police Force but trying to get systems put in place that can better reflect the real cost of providing such services to the community of Barbados.

It may seem, as I have said, to be an academic approach which I am using. I am constantly accused of that within the walls of these Chambers but you cannot adequately manage any service whether it is private or public sector without having appropriate information with which to do so. The call is being made, therefore, for proper systems of management to be put in place, proper systems to be able to evaluate the overall cost of the provision of new services and that in today's world, and I repeat that the Police Force must be given the kind of skills required to put these systems in place to adequately provide such services to the society or the communities of Barbados.

In this respect, therefore, I am saying that a proper attack on crime in Barbados has more than just a legal component. A proper attack on crime in Barbados has more to do with the social management and perhaps something to do with the political management that is required to carry the Force forward. In terms of the whole question of the social environment, we have had delivered to us in today's debate a whole discussion surrounding communities and the educational systems and the use of community based officers and the like. But it is time for us to fully recognise that the shift that has occurred in the development of community watch and neighbourhood watches across Barbados provides us with an even greater opportunity for greater social interaction with the Police Force and the communities and perhaps the opportunity for the discipline of the policeman to be used in such areas as Fernihurst and the Farm communities to ensure that role models who the people can look up to are present to provide the sort of leadership that is required on a day-to-day basis.

It is true that as a politician we can offer certain kinds of guidance in certain communities but you need to have a constant ongoing presence within these communities to effectively tackle many of the social problems and social ills within these communities. We have seen evidence in my constituency of the cutting of trees as a perceived correction to social ills which exist. And certainly I then suggested that that could not have solved the problems in the area and that all we have actually done is shifted the location which is now occupied by the youngsters in the area but we would not have succeeded in solving social problems that exist within the community.

So that to utilise such a method is only a short-term approach to dealing with some of the social ills within particular communities in Barbados. I was later informed that it was because of the interaction of certain forces that that particular action was taken out or conducted at that time in the Fernihurst area.

I am asking for more appropriate utilisation of the time and energies of the Police Force in ensuring that some systems can be set in train to guarantee the execution of more meaningful programmes to ensure that the youth are not taken down particular roads in constituencies across Barbados. It can happen, all it requires is for there to be greater interaction between those who are willing to solve problems in the communities and those who have, in fact, devoted their lives to such and utilising the apparatus available to politicians, available to Government and available to other social institutions to guarantee that we put systems in place to ensure the solutions which are required for solving many of the problems in communities like the one that I represent.

The belief that the Police Force can be easily managed is really to mis-diagnose the importance of managing human resource in Barbados. It is not just a product, it is an individual, it is the complexities of combinations of individuals who create severe problems for managers of social problems in our society. In this regard, the policeman must be regarded as one of the major persons who can in fact turn around the social ills within the community.

I am therefore asking for many things to be considered but more importantly that the policeman be recognised for what he is. He is now coming from a much reduced population of academically qualified people on the basis of information provided earlier by the Minister of Education. We have a situation where less than 40% of persons who sit every year get less than one subject and therefore to ask the policeman to now have three or more CXC's is to put him among a very special group of about 20% or so persons. In that regard, automatically, his position needs to be regraded and I am simply calling on the basis of that for an upgrading of the salaries of policemen. 3.40p.m.

I also wish to suggest, as I said earlier, that for us simply to look at the whole question of crime in terms of numbers and to treat these numbers as if a reduction of 50 from 100 constitutes a decline of 50% is not to recognise that you are not really comparing apples with apples because you are really comparing a different group of individuals who have committed crimes across two time periods, that is, in 1996 one group, 1997 another. And you are boasting about some reduction in crime without recognising that you actually had a widening of the pool of the criminal and not a reduction of the pool of the criminal based on these numbers.

It is a simple thing but to go through it would require too much explanation so I would ignore that point for what it is but simply to ask the Honourable Attorney General

to give consideration to the fact that you cannot use those statistics like that either to reflect increases in crime or reduction in crime.

On that score, Sir, I wish to end my contribution by once again requiring us to respect and recognise that the managerial skills required to conduct the affairs of the Royal Barbados Police Force are as onerous as they are in any private sector organisation in Barbados. In fact I make bold to say that because of the nature of the product which the Force is seeking to deliver to the people of Barbados, that it constitutes a far more complicated method of management than in any private sector organisation or perhaps in any other sector of the public sector of Barbados.

On that score I am asking not only for new and able bodied persons to be attracted to the Police Force on the basis of competence but that the established lot and stock who are there be fully trained to come to terms with the new requirements of a new Royal Barbados Police Force which has to look and take into consideration, in fact, the technologies which will become available for solving crime in this country. I thank you.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I hope to be brief on this matter because it is with a certain amount of diffidence that I speak on these subjects in the presence of so many of my colleagues who work much closer with the law and those who come into contact with the law more than I do. But I would like to focus on a particular aspect of the Bill that is before us which is entitled the Police (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

I would preface my remarks with two general statements. The first one is that I believe that for the good of our country we should seek, as a Parliament, to take the matter of law and order out of the realm of partisan politics. I believe it is too important a subject to be treated in this way. I know that up to this particular point that has been the approach. I myself, out of my long experience, and knowing that politics is about who gets what from the society that persons will seek to score political points on these matters but I believe that this is too important a subject particularly when we are dealing with certain aspects of the establishment and operation of a disciplined force like the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Secondly I would like to make the point that here we are talking about or dealing with a Bill relating to offences against police force discipline or punishment but I do not believe, Sir, that we can deal with this particular matter without putting it into a broader context. This deals with matters relating to offences, a code of conduct, if you can call it that, in relation to the conduct of the members of the

Royal Barbados Police Force and it purports to put in place such a code.

Now, I believe that there is nothing wrong with that. I believe, Sir, when I research these matters as a general citizen, I find that the proposals in this Bill that is before us would meet the approbation of any Chief Constable in a police jurisdiction in the United Kingdom. I do not know whether it will meet the standards set by those police authorities in the United States with whom I understand the Royal Barbados Police Force sought or won an accreditation. I do not know, Sir, because I believe that we should set the standards for our country and then make sure that we monitor those standards to see that they are being observed or where there are deficiencies to correct them. I do not think that necessarily we should be seeking the stamp of approval from some other jurisdiction but that is a matter on which we can have differences of approach.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member would give way on a point of clarification. The accreditation process began under the last Government while the Right Honourable Member was Prime Minister. It was never achieved and we were spending \$30 000 every year and not doing what we had to do to achieve the 922 standards.

Sir, the other point I wanted to mention was in relation to the development of the legislation before the House. The Honourable Member was not in his place when I began and explained, Sir, that this legislation is the product of a working group that comprised officials of the Ministry, Senior Management of the Police and the Police Association and we sat around the table. We used the English legislation as the model but everything in here is fully agreed and approved by the Force at the level of management and also at the level of the Association. 3.50 p.m.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am grateful to the Minister for that intervention because he has prevented me from going on to make points which may have already been made and I am glad for his intervention. Yes, I was not present when he gave that introductory information and I am grateful to him for explaining.

The point is that the important thing for Barbados is not that we must look as though we are a well-behaved little country or well-behaved little boys seeking the approbation of a big brother over there. What we must do is to seek out what are acceptable general standards for us to follow in whatever realm we are talking about. If it is professional policing, fire fighting or whatever else it may be and then seek to put those standards in place and that is what successive Governments have been seeking to do. Just as successive Governments have been seeking

under their mandate to put in place the necessary improvements in the premises, buildings, vehicles and whatever else may be incidental to or necessary for the development and improvement of the Royal Barbados Police Force. So I think we should be able to bring an end to all of this talk about that Government was not interested in improvement, this Government is not interested in improvement and to realise that within available resources and to the extent that the Minister may be creative in his management of the particular portfolio that we seek to raise the level of security and the feeling of security in the country so that all citizens can enjoy their full rights in their homes, on the street, at the places of work or at their places of recreation.

Whatever statistics we show, Sir, there is not gainsaying that there is a feeling of insecurity in the country because of the incidence of crime and the incidence of other activities that reduce the level of security that we should feel in this country. That is not a political point. That is a fact. It is certainly true in my own constituency because those of us who are in contact with what is going on knowing of the different incidences that occur and knowing that there is this feeling of a lower level of safety that we have to do something about. That is the responsibility of the Government. It is the responsibility of those who command the discipline force. I refer to the Royal Barbados Police Force in this country. I wish to call for the establishment of a community post in the built-up Brittons Hill, Bay Land areas.

Now, there was a police station at Brittons Hill and then that was removed and I think we made a mistake, Sir, in moving that police station and distributing the responsibilities to the Hastings Police Station and to the Bridge and Harbour Police Station. Well the Bridge and Harbour Police Station is no more and I hear that buildings of cultural significance have been destroyed there. But that is for another debate, Sir. But that is what I understand that a building of significance, it should be 'a cultural significance' has been destroyed here and Hastings with its increased responsibilities in an area of particularly Western Christ Church is overburdened, leaving the built-up Bayville, Brittons Hill area under-manned and without the necessary level of resources.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have made my call and I hope that this will not go unheeded, Sir.

I now wish to move on to the other point, Sir, and that is that in this particular Bill, the clauses of this Bill which I have scrutinised, I find, Sir, that in some of the formulations I am left with a little concern as to how the provisions will

actually operate. For instance, there seems to be a clamp down on flow of discussion, consultation between any member of the Royal Barbados Police Force and anyone else. I see references that nobody can go to, they said, the Cabinet or any Member thereof. I was wondering why this is formulated in this particular way.

Is the Attorney General being bombarded with complaints or with referrals of issues to him? Why is it worded in this way? Those other areas where jurisdictions which I have been able to look at, I do not see it formulated in that way.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It says the Cabinet? It refers to the Cabinet, or it refers to anyone?

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On page 4 of the Bill, Sir, talks about improper disclosure of information.

"The Member before shall not make any anonymous communication with the Cabinet or any Member thereof, or to the Police Service Commission or any Member thereof, or to the Commission or representing Officer."

In other words there has been evidence of people sending letters creating confusion and not signing their name. You have a complaint, write and sign your name, but do not annoy people with these anonymous letters. The other one is improperly soliciting the opinion of any member of the Cabinet with regard to any matter concerning the.... not that you cannot answer the question, improperly solicit.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I was mainly asking why is it formulated in this way? I was not aware that it was so formulated in the jurisdiction, referring to the Cabinet or any Member. Sir, now that the Attorney General and Minister has referred to it, there is a clause here, 'meeting with authorisation' on page 5.1 am dealing with the general principles and not necessarily with specific clauses. But it says,

"A member of the Force shall not call or attend any unauthorised meeting to discuss any matter concerning the Force."

I would like further information as to how the Minister envisages that this will work. I go no further because I would believe that this, may lead to a drying up of information about important matters. This is a possibility, that it may create more fear. I would wish that the Minister would expand on this point. 4.00 p.m.

Generally speaking, those are the few points I wish to raise on this matter. I believe that it is important to have a code of discipline. I make that point without hesitation. I believe, Sir, that if we are talking about a code of discipline we have to talk also about the broader circumstances and arrangements within which the Force operates. I agree, Sir, that if we can pay exorbitant salaries to others in other positions that I will have to join my colleague in his call for a look at the pay and remuneration of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the other disciplined forces as well because they work on a level. I think we should examine that point.

I wish also to repeat a call that I have been making without success. Sometimes it is believed that a Prime Minister or a Minister can just say so and something happens. That is not so. We have two former Prime Ministers in this Chamber and I am sure that there are many things we would both have liked to achieve which were not achievable and there are many Ministers who are chaffing, who have not been able to achieve all that they would wish to achieve.

I wish to repeat my call that there should be established in Barbados a police complaints authority not to deal with initial complaints, Sir, because the initial complaint can be or should be examined first of all by the Commissioner or whoever he may delegate that. It is when there is residual dissatisfaction and the person or group making the complaint wishes the matter to be further examined that the instrument of the police complaints authority could be activated.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: If the Honourable Member would give way. Sir, you will recall that during my opening, I fully addressed this matter and explained to the House that we set up a working party of officials of the Ministry, Management of the courts and the Police Association to look at the legislation of England, Jamaica, Trinidad with a view to establishing an independent police complaints authority later on this year.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: What I have said is without prejudice to what the Minister has indicated. In a number of instances we share views on some of these matters and I was referring to the fact that this is now probably more than 10 years that I have placed this issue on the public agenda but it has still not been achieved. You want to dispute that.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: My learned friend seems to be a little disgruntled, but I do not wish to ruffle any feathers I am simply referring to the record that I may have to call for other documentation as well which may more

appropriately come from George Street rather than elsewhere to establish the point I am making.

I wish further to call for and support an upgrading of the training that is provided for the Royal Barbados Police Force. Long ago I indicated that there should be a collaborative arrangement between the Barbados Community College and the Training School, particularly in those areas of the study of our society - sociology, and the study of the economic foundations of our society, our culture and religion. I believe that they could be useful areas because we operate at different levels. They can have relationships with the University at a particular level and with the Barbados Community College at another, but all aimed at upgrading what my colleague from St. Michael North West referred to as the human resource. I do not like to use those terms as I said already because they sound lifeless and dead to me. So I do not like this "human resource" thing.

Sir, I think if we place the operations of our Force in this context we will see that not only is it necessary that we should have the most effective and efficient Force that our resources can make available but from this Parliament we must demonstrate to the best of our ability our interests not in criticising for the sake of criticism but to support the efforts of the Royal Barbados Police Force where those efforts are aimed within law to enforce order and justice in this society. This is a prime responsibility. 4.10p.m.

I would like to pay a tribute to those hardworking officers who have done and are doing so much. Some of them have left the Force, Sir. Some are still toiling there. I think we should recognise the effort that is being made.

I think, Sir, with those few words, I will take my leave of you and permit the debate to continue. I thank you.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I am going to make a relatively brief intervention in the debate. I want to begin first of all by saying that I do not agree with the Honourable Member for St. John when he made the statement that the police outposts and the Resident Beat Officers do more community work than the Community Development Officers. I know that both the Police and the Community Development Officers work assiduously in the respective districts but I think that a lot of people underestimate the programmes of the Community Development Department, in particular, the training in ceramics, handicrafts, things like the island-wide community games and the leadership programmes which the Community Development Division does. Indeed, Sir, only last week the Community Development Department organised a

Seminar at Queen's Park in which they had all of the chaps that they said were chaps on the block, and where the unattached youth came to the Seminar in the hope that the two would assist each other, the Community Development Division as well as the youth on the block.

I must say too, Mr. Speaker, that since that particular Seminar was held, I have got calls from some of the youth on the block to tell Community Development Division that they want to have a similar one because some of the things they wanted to say they did not manage to put it on the table because of time on that first occasion. I just want to put that in the record so that people would not get the impression that the Police outposts and the Resident Beat Officers have taken over from the Community Development Officers.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of the points which I wanted to make, I note have, indeed, been made already so I think what I could do is just focus primarily on this Disciplinary Code which is being inserted in the Police Act. I think it is an idea to be commended. What it does certainly now is to clarify what really and truly is misconduct. I think it is good for the general public to have accessible in the law now what exactly constitutes police misconduct.

I think it is also good too for young policemen to be able now, as the Act spells out a lot of it as well:

- "to use obscene, abusive, or insulting language;
- to make false complaints or statements against any member of the Force;
- to assault a member of the Police Force;
- to improperly withhold any report or allegation made against a member of the Force;
- by carelessness or neglect to permit a prisoner to escape;
- to fail to report any matter which it is the duty of that officer to report;
- to omit to make any necessary entry in any official document or book;
- knowingly to give misleading or inaccurate statements;
- to destroy, mutilate any record or document..."

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I am saying this is what is detailed here as misconduct and I am just giving examples of it. I am saying it is good to have it done this way because it is now accessible to the public. This is the point I am making. It shows, Mr. Speaker, that when we do it this way that we are serious about law enforcement and that we are serious about regulating the activities and the general conduct of police.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think we should use an opportunity like this to criticise members of the Police Force. Indeed, I know that sometimes the temptation is there for the general public to make the statement that there is all bad in the Police Force. Clearly from what we have heard today, and it did not surprise me, that we have actually gained the international accreditation by meeting over 900 standards.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that we do have a good Police Force. I think we are fortunate in Barbados to have one of the best Police Forces in the region. Indeed, I would, perhaps, even stick my neck out and say that we have what I would consider to be the most educated Police Force in the region. The policemen in our Police Department are extremely professional.

I know of some countries, Sir, where they actually substitute brain for physical force in some Police Forces, perhaps, some in the region as well. I have noticed a trend recently where a lot of policemen are now going to the University to further their education and in an effort to further themselves along the way.

The majority of policemen in Barbados serve out their full tour of duty without having one serious complaint lodged against them for their working life. There are policemen in the Force now, and I can think, perhaps, offhand of about 20 of them, who are working in excess of 20 years and who, as far as I know, have never had an adverse report or comment made against them. I think this is good for the Police Force in Barbados.

I do not think, and I will not be one to join with anyone else to say that corruption is rife in our Police Force. I do not think that disobedience abounds in our Police Force. I do not think that neglect of duty is the norm in our Police Force. I would say, and I believe others will join with me as well to say that one bad policeman is one too many, and we would like to have a Police Force in which we have no bad apples and no bad eggs, but we have to realize that human nature being what it is, we are going to get professional groups where you are going to have bad eggs and, indeed, sometimes some rotten ones. You are going to get some bad teachers, you are going to get some bad lawyers and you are going to get them in spite of the legal profession having what we call

the 'canons of the profession' which set out exactly how lawyers should behave and the standards to which they should aspire. We are going to get bad priests for instance. 4.20 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Yes, you get a handful of them. You are going to get one or two. I have never heard of a bad doctor in Barbados but you get professional organisations where this is going to happen. The point that I am making, Sir, is that similarly you are going to get one or two bad policemen. It is that handful of bad policemen that you get which is going to give the Police Force a bad name. Just like a handful of lawyers who from time to time end up before the disciplinary committee of the Bar. You will get one or two policemen ending up before the committee as well.

I agree with the call for the Independent Complaints Authority although I must say that the dozens or so matters in which I represented the policemen before their Disciplinary Committee, what I can say is that the matters were always handled very very seriously. I know that there is the perception that as long as the police is investigating that you may not get justice but believe it or not, I do believe that the police will stand a better chance of getting a better deal before the Independent Complaints Committee than even before their own Complaints Committee.

The truth of the matter is that sometimes you tend to think that they bend over backwards to say, we stand for this and we mean that this Force is always to be a discipline force. Very often you leave that committee thinking that the benefit of the doubt did not go to the accused policeman. Perhaps it would be a good thing if we had this Independent Complaints Authority because in a way, I do believe, that we will get a better deal for both parties. At least if a member of the public brings a matter against the police you will feel that at least an independent body heard it and certainly where the police is concerned, he would not feel that he did not have a chance because they want to weed as many of the bad ones out as possible and perhaps the axe will fall on him.

Sir, I do think that any profession which wants to uphold its integrity should have a disciplinary committee. Rules and regulations such as we have here are necessary to control its members. We have the same thing with the pharmacists, the doctors, the lawyers, the nurses and so on. I do believe that these rules are essential to build public confidence and to ensure that there is an avenue through which the public can seek redress. We must have these safeguards because, as I have said, the perception is very very important. I believe that if you do not have these rules

and regulations that we have here now that in the eyes of the public you will then be having a bad Police Force but once you have these rules and regulations, the public tends to feel a lot more comfortable once you have the rules and regulations.

The public must feel, Mr. Speaker, that the guardians of law and order are honest and hardworking. As I have said, they must feel very comfortable about the Police Force. In our society there is a strong regard for law and order. If society knows that there is a framework in place to control the police and that the police are accountable then there will be no need for the public to go after the police themselves as happened elsewhere. It is when people feel that the police can do virtually anything and get away with it that you run the risk always of having a kind of vigilante retaliation to the police as happens elsewhere.

I have lived in a jurisdiction where the public felt that the police could do anything, that they were not accountable and almost every day there was some confrontation and very often it ended with someone lying dead on the ground and sometimes it was a policeman because the public felt that the police were not accountable. Once we have this kind of framework in place, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the public perception out there will be the same as it was in that place in which I lived.

Mr. Speaker, I have said that I would be brief, I welcome the whole idea of having this disciplinary code inserted into the Police Act. I think that it is the best way to do it, I think it shows that we are extremely serious about what we are doing and I believe that it is a matter which is going to be extremely pleasing to the Barbados public.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to say that when I first came to Parliament this morning I had one opinion of these amendments but after sitting and listening to the debate in this Assembly today, I am clear that these amendments are not in the interest of the police, that these are anti-police. And after hearing what was said by the last Member I am asking the head of the Police Force to go back and study these amendments. A Police Force that has passed over 900 standards and have been given the green light by international bodies and now we are going to see some amendments in here starting from (a) to (s) and when you read them every single thing is against the police and the impression is being given that they are so bad that you have to bring these amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I honestly believe that the Attorney General when he brought them did not see them in

that light but after hearing the Honourable Member for St. Philip North I have no other conclusion. I am asking.....

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I really cannot abuse the rules of the House by saying an Honourable Member is making a fool of himself but I have to be on a point of order because he is speaking from a position of fundamental ignorance. It shows his thorough incompetence in researching this matter before he opened his mouth.

I have in my right hand, Sir, the existing law relating to police discipline, the Police Disciplinary Regulations, 1961, which are the Laws of Barbados now and which are almost identical with these. The difference is that we have taken these from subsidiary legislation and put them in the parent Act. All we have done is tidied up some of them. What he sees here is substantially what is in the existing law. Mr. Speaker, he is going to make a fool of himself because these are not new. Read before you get up and talk.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, a brilliant point of order and that is why the Attorney General should be repealing some of these things and not putting them back in. That is why I am asking the police to go back and study them because I cannot agree that the police would agree with something like this after passing the test of 900 standards to come back and tell me that in this day and age policemen are still doing these foolish things and you need to repeal these things. If the police agree with them that is up to the police but I am saying that no right thinking policeman would agree that these things should be back in the Act again in any amendment. They should be out. 4.30p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, I do not think you would seriously want to cast that kind of imputation against the police force.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Of course I am not casting anything against the police force because what I am saying is that they tell me we have the best police force and that they have passed all of these standards internationally and then could come back and put these in Regulations, something is wrong with the thinking.

Mr. Speaker, could you imagine tomorrow morning a policeman has a case against a criminal and it is before the High Court, what a lawyer would do with something like this when it is passed? He would use this same information against the same policemen that we are supposed to be protecting.

People can call it foolishness or not. Am I to ask the Police Force to go and sign this? I am asking the journalists

to sit down and be rational about it and study what has gone back into these amendments.

Another thing, Sir, we have a serious problem in the way people look at law and order in this country. For over 4 years I have been asking for a certain amendment in the Police Act. Do you understand, Sir, if you are not of a certain height you cannot get into the Police Force. They are saying, Sir, that if you are the MP ...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. That MP would not get in the police force, Sir, because he is not 5' 8". He is bare height. He is not 5' 8". I have explained already, Sir, that the police do not stick strictly to the 5' 8", Sir. If you are 5' 7" you will get through.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that this particular amendment has a northern problem with it because it is clear to me, Sir, that if the Members of Parliament for St. Peter, St. Andrew and St. Lucy wanted to be policemen they would never be able to be policemen because of height and I want to know who is discriminating against those M.Ps. This is a northern problem it seems like.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also have another problem. When the Youth Commissioners wanted jobs and money had to be paid for them everybody knew how to come to Parliament and get money for the youth commissioners. The policemen in this country have been working hard for a long time and since 1994, I have been calling for better conditions of service for the policemen. I have not seen anything done about it but we can get an Honourable Member saying that they should not be on the West Coast of this country. I want to know if the policemen should continue working in certain conditions and if certain good conditions are not suitable for them.

I must admit I cannot blame the Honourable Member for St. Thomas for that because listening to what he says he is trying at least to give them better working conditions but I want those better working conditions to apply at the Police Station in Crab Hill too because the piecemeal patchwork that happened down there I am not satisfied with. I want to see police stations looking like home sometimes because if you are asking policemen to spend so many hours in a particular area they must be able to appreciate the surroundings that they have to work under and in. I am saying that the conditions at Crab Hill Police Station must be better if you want the policemen to do what they need to do. How can you have better policemen when you are underpaying them, where you give them working conditions that are not suitable to be working under and when you give them good ones there is a Member of Parliament who is prepared to come in here and criticise the conditions that they are working under?

I want to know, Sir, if we are happy. And if all the other members are happy with these amendments they are happy. But I want to put it in the record that this is a field day for the criminals because the impression given here, Sir, is that these policemen do not do this and I do not even want to read some because I do not want these things to be repeated in the Press but when you look at them, Sir, and I want you to read yours, Sir, you would agree with me that these are not things that should have been repeated.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I would never say that about that Speaker. That Speaker is no deputy. That is a real Speaker and I would never reflect on him.

Sir, I am saying that we are asking the policemen to do a job and we are still treating him as if he is working in the 1930s. The policeman of today is not the same policeman as in the 1930s and he must be treated in a particular way. Imagine you have a Commissioner of Police who has to supervise over 1 200 people and there are some high flyers down at the Board of Tourism working for more money than the Commissioner of Police and you are going to tell me that is right. You are going to tell me that the morale of the police could be high? I am saying that the Commissioner of Police must be respected and treated in that appropriate way. People must understand that law and order is important also because it is the police force that help to build the tourism industry more so than the men down at the Tourist Board.

I am saying, Sir, that if we have a police force and we expect them to do what we want them to do that they should be compensated.

Another thing, Sir, most policemen join the force between the ages of 18 and 19 and they have to put in some long years. I am saying that we need to reduce the number of years that policemen have to work under that stress because what we are doing is destroying them faster than we should and we need to cut the number of years so (hat they can retire earlier from the police force.

You need to bring in some short people too because of this amendment the Barbados Labour Party is saying that short people cannot be good policemen and that all short people cannot keep law. I am saying that I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the Honourable Member for St. Peter would make good policemen and I will support them. I am saying, Sir, that any Act that discriminates against the Honourable

Member for St. Andrew and St. Peter, I will fight that particular Act.

I am saying, Sir, that the police might at first glance have agreed with these new amendments but I am asking them to go back to the drawing board and look at them because if they agree to these what they are saying is that they are agreeing to certain things about themselves that is not true. None of these charges are true about policemen so how could the police agree with them. This type of Regulation is something new and expected back in the 1930s. You do not expect in the 1990s to come and see Regulations like this. We have a way, Sir, of accepting things and oppressing our own and these Regulations are oppressing our own policemen and sometimes we do worse things to our own than what we expect the colonial masters to do. I would have accepted these Regulations if they had come from the colonial masters but not from our own. To come and tell me that we are putting them back because they were there before is foolishness, Mr. Speaker. This is not the 1930s. This is modern Barbados and we must have modern Regulations and I am calling on the Police Force to go back to the drawing board and tell the Commissioner to get his team together and resubmit some more proposals to the Attorney General. I am not saying that when we brought them we meant any ill will to the Royal Barbados Police Force, but on reflection when you really study them it is clear to me that he could not have studied these. It is clear to me that the Attorney General could not have studied these. 4.40 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member is attacking the Commissioner of Police in his competence and his ability.

Sir, this file will show at Minute No. 1, the Chief Parliamentary Counsel dated the 12th June, 1996. The Attorney General has instructed that:

- (1) a working group be established to examine draft proposals in respect of both the promotion and disciplinary rules for the Royal Barbados Police Force.
- (2) an Officer with drafting skills should form part of this working group. Grateful if you would nominate an Officer to perform this function, Sir.

That is how it began. Sir, the Commissioner of Police was present in November last year when I chaired a meeting with all of the Members of the working group, and went through this Bill line by line and the promotion and disciplinary rules which will come line by line, all of it and

questions were asked obviously about... Do you really want to say this? Should we say that? And so on and so on. All of us had a long time on this legislation.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest respect for the Commissioner of Police and he knows that I would not say anything bad about him. But I am saying that he needs to go back and to reflect on these again. I am saying that sometimes we say things in here and we take things at face value and they come to haunt us years after. I am therefore using this opportunity, as has happened already in this Parliament...

This Parliament has passed many things that on reflection, we realised were wrong. I have pointed out many things that have been wrong in this Parliament and it took us a long time to realise what I am saying and I am saying that this is one of the things.

I expect, Sir, that the Parliamentarians would have a second look at it and they will call for certain amendments. I am saying that these amendments are anti-police. I do not see why any Commissioner would get angry for me to say this because on reflection, when you look at it the other side...

The problem in here, Sir, sometimes you can only see...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member should withdraw that because he is imputing to the Commissioner of Police dishonest motives.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is saying that the Commissioner of Police sat down and deliberately agreed to the introduction of legislation which is against the Police. He said 'anti-police'. You are saying the Commissioner did something 'anti-police'. When what he has agreed to is what is substantially in existing law. I hope the papers write you up in truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, I think you have to withdraw those words. I do not think it will be fair to say...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, if that is the impression of the House of what I said, Sir, I withdraw the remarks. But I would like to say that when these were first looked at and the angle was put, they looked good, but now that another angle has been placed on them they need to look

at them and realise that if they are accepted, they will not work in the interest of the police.

I am saying, Sir, that a word to the wise is enough and I rest my case there. I am calling on the Attorney General to make sure that he does everything in his power as he has promised and I have no doubt that he would, to make the policemen in this country happy. There have been too many things to show the policemen in this country that one group seems to be special and the next group, not.

The youth commissioners have everything they wanted and what have the policemen received in return? It seems that it is better now to leave the Royal Barbados Police Force and be a youth commissioner when it should have been the other way around, Sir. Because when you look at the grades that you can climb in the Royal Barbados Police Force, one would have thought that people would be leaving being a youth commissioner to enter the Royal Barbados Police Force. But it is a *vice versa* situation and we need to change that.

We need to put proper salaries for the policemen so that people could feel happy leaving as youth commissioners and want to be policemen and not policemen wanting to leave the Royal Barbados Police Force to become youth commissioners. The head problem has to be solved.

Nobody is going to tell me that discretion must be used. I am against discretion. Change the law and accommodate the situation. There is nobody that can tell me that short men cannot be good policemen. I want you to bring the statistics to prove to me that they had short men that were bad policemen. And, I can bring statistics to you to prove that in other countries they had tall men who were very bad policemen.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking that these amendments be looked at again and I will repeat my point. I believe that when the Commissioner of Police looks at these, he honestly thought that these were the best things on the Royal Barbados Police Force. But when he hears my side of it, I am sure that he is prepared to take another look at these.

Everybody in this Parliament knows that I am not anti-police and that every time I speak, I speak on behalf of the policemen. The record is there, so nobody is going to come and bring a red herring in here today to give the impression that I am criticising the Commissioner of Police. I am here to represent the interest of the Commissioner of Police and his men. So no red herring can be thrown across the table that I am anti-police. I

have no need to be anti-police and I will always support the policemen. Whenever I see a red herring out there in the face of the policemen, I would let them know it is a red herring and not a real fish.

Thank you.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to ask him a few comments in relation to something that he said and also my observations from this piece of legislation.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, debates about the Royal Barbados Police Force usually generate a lot of heat and uninformed comment and today has been no different. When I listen to the debate and I hear how the whole thing has been sanitised, everybody gets on as if they are in a village revival meeting and testifying about how good the police are and they are the greatest things in the world.

One would suggest that, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said at least a dozen times, that something is terribly wrong with these new arrangements because, they reflect very unfavourably on the Royal Barbados Police Force. The police only represent a small segment of the population of Barbados. I believe there are about 1 200 men and women in a population of 258 000 or 259 000 people.

I do not have to get up in here, Sir, and testify like the others. I believe that every decent law-abiding citizen in Barbados has a responsibility to see what the police have to do in these circumstances, in fact in all circumstances. Nobody can deny that the society is in greater turmoil now than it has been for a long time and as the society grows in turmoil so does the responsibility of the police and so much harder is the work. Every law-abiding citizen in this country would give the police the maximum support as they go about carrying out their lawful duties.

I am in agreement with the Attorney General for bringing this Bill to Parliament. He set out in detail a lot of what ordinary laymen in Barbados passingly heard about but could not find anywhere. The law must be clear. We learn that within the first month as a law student that the law must be clear and that people must have access to what is the law.

Therefore anything that has been wrapped up in all the mystery such as the code by which the police discipline and punish their own. I represented police officers who have been charged and all these various doubtful things before the Commissioner and myself had some difficulty in understanding the basis for the charges. To have these things spelt out in the legislation, in my submission, makes good sense. It also makes for good governance. People now know and can read and find out exactly what it is that police can and cannot do inside the Service. 4.50p.m.

I have a problem with section (h). I have no problem at all with the others because all these sections relate to indiscipline by police officers inside the Police Force, internal acts of indiscipline. Section (h) however, deals with the public and all the others deal with the police, if he is rude, does not turn up for work, if he is malingering, all the internal problems in the police force are dealt with as they should be.

When I look at (h) abuse of authority, we are not now talking about what goes on wrong inside the police force. We are talking about what happens between the police and the public and that is my concern. I am not getting into any sanitised debate saying the police force are men and women who belong to the angelic host. I am not taking that line at all, because the fact that the Commissioner of Police has throughout the years been constantly, week after week, holding disciplinary hearings inside the Police Force on charges brought by himself is testament to me that the leadership of the Police Force themselves recognise that there are persons in the Force who do not always behave the way police officers should behave.

Therefore, for a layman to say the police are saints in heaven is an assault on my common sense and on the experience of the leadership of the Royal Barbados Police Force. All of us accept that we have a good Police Force and generally speaking it is not suffering the same afflictions that a lot of police forces both in small countries and big metropolis experience; and we are grateful for that. Do not let us in exuberance say what a good thing we have got and turn a blind eye to many of the things that go wrong.

I would want, for instance, Mr. Speaker, to mention two or three things although this is the kind of debate I wish I could talk for hours. The Attorney General in his introduction mentioned the question of promotion of the police officers and the widespread perception for many years is that it is the political directorate, the Minister of Police, whoever he is, the Prime Minister, whoever he is, the Cabinet, are the ones who determine who shall be promoted.

I will tell you Mr. Speaker, what has been my experience. When a police officer is promoted, the big up, the Commissioner or somebody at the top, will let him know you see how I have helped you but when he does not, when people complain about not being promoted, he says those people in the Government. So they take responsibility. I know of what I speak. I have abundant experience of it. When they get a promotion you let them know that you helped them, but when they do not get a promotion on their recommendation it is "them wicked people" in the Government.

I am glad it was spelt out today with utmost clarity that it is not the Minister of Police, the Cabinet, the

Prime Minister, who determines who shall be promoted. I remember, Sir, I have been in endless debates in Parliament many years ago and more particularly in 1984 when a Resolution was brought by the then Democratic Labour Party Opposition criticising the Government about law and order and the position of the police force in this country, and a number of outlandish things were said. I sent for the debate a few moments ago and when I read some of the things that were said at that time I feel as close to vomiting now as I felt then.

Although the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South starts in his usual manner to say that some things should be above partisan politics, that law and order is too important in this community to be treated in a partisan way so let us get together as political parties and as people in the community and get this thing sorted out, those are fine words but it never translated into practice. I sit down here in this debate and I wonder, because the more things change the more they remain the same. If you look at all the debates on the police over the years it comes up again. I almost used a word "hypocrisy" but I understand that is a bad word so I would not say it is hypocrisy. It is the same thing over and over again. It seems to me that people conveniently shift their position on these issues according to where they are sitting at the particular time. I cannot operate that way.

I want to get back quickly, Sir, because there are only about 4 points I want to raise and I will keep my eye on the clock.

Abuse of authority. I have a special responsibility that I give myself to speak about abuse of authority by anybody, whether it is the police, the Ministry of this or that, or whether it is Government, when it affects the public negatively. Abuse of authority is under section 3 (h), page 5:

"... a member of the Force shall not

- (i) treat any person with whom he may be brought into contact in the execution of his duty in an oppressive manner;"

I am saying that however good our Police Force is that happens almost every day.

- (ii) shall not without good and sufficient cause, conduct a search or require a person to submit to any test or procedure, or make any unlawful or unnecessary arrest;"

That happens every day, Sir.

- (iii) use any unnecessary violence towards any prisoner or any other person with whom the

officer may be brought into contact in the execution of his duty, or improperly threaten that person with violence;"

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if there is one thing the people in Barbados want to hear about when we talk about the police and law and order is this question. People are concerned about security in their homes and on the streets. They are concerned about law and order. They accept that. After that, what they are concerned about is not a lot of irrelevancies that have been visited on us in this debate but they are concerned that in a society like Barbados that is rooted in the rule of law where we have learnt to accept right and justice as a God-given right where the police are in a position of respect and authority they expect a certain measure of reciprocity in how things go. They will cooperate with the police because they want a good and safe society, equally they want to be sure that their fathers and their brothers and their children are treated the same way by the police. They have rights and too often in this country the rights of persons, including the relatives of police officers that I am called -1 do not answer the calls anymore as I am tired with all that - but I got the calls all night, all weekend, for years, about going to the police station over this body who is held and all kinds of things. I get the calls from police officers whose relatives were with the police. There is no respecter of persons when it comes to this. 5.00p.m.

I am concerned, like every other decent thinking Barbadian, that in 1998 we are still talking things that we were talking a long time ago. Nobody under the Constitution of Barbados should be subjected to any unnecessary violence or threats of violence by any police officer in this country, and it has to stop, Sir. If it does not stop it will cause an unravelling of the social fabric of this community. If anybody interprets that as an attack on the police, so interpret it. I am not playing like others. It is wrong, and I am going to be fair and say that it is not the normal thing among the 1 200 policemen and women because our Police Force, as I say, is made up of people who grew up with us, lived with us in the same district and are our friends. Therefore, the vast majority of them are good and decent citizens doing a proper job.

I am not going to be hypocritical and stand up here or anywhere and put any case for any of those whose aberrations not only bring discredit to the Police Force but also work against the rights of Barbadian citizens and cause a lot of unnecessary suffering and heartache among families across this country.

This section the "abuse of authority" I find does not fit in with the rest of this where it is located. It is located with meeting without authorisation, located with lingering

and located with absence without leave or being late for duty. It is located with improper dress and untidiness, damage to clothing, drunkenness. It is not the same thing.

In legal construction there is such a thing as the *ejusdem generis* meant that offences of the same kind should be put together. You do not put pears with apples. This one on abuse of authority as it affects the public with wrongful arrest, beating, unlawful search and all that kind of thing, is not, in my view, fairly located among what are essentially inter-police disciplinary problems. I want to reiterate it, Sir. This is a constant complaint among people all across this country, this business about violence to people, beating and all that kind of thing.

Police raids are usually carried out at the crack of dawn. I do not think I am letting out anything that the police would not want me to let out. They go just before daybreak when you are at your most vulnerable. There are districts in this society where people tremble in the early hours of the morning. Mr. Speaker, they talk to me all the time.

I got myself involved for better or for worse in doing a lot of criminal work through the years so that is a cross I have to bear. There are districts where people tremble until the sun comes up because that is the time when the big knock comes. The door gets broken down. The windows get licked open. The policeman stands up on the beds with the babies sleeping on them. That is what is happening and I am supposed to come in here and get up and sing in a refrain with people who say all is well? I am not going along with that, Sir.

I want, Mr. Speaker, to make a quick comment because I do not want to spend much time on this business of the Independent Complaints Committee. This Committee was something that was canvassed many years ago. I canvassed that in here when I was Attorney General sitting on the Government side. I even recommended at that time that the work had been done already by Professor Roy Marshall who had done seminal work on this for some Authority in the United Kingdom. He has done a lot of writings on it. He has set out the position that there must be a proper balance between the maintenance of law and order, and the protection of the rights of individuals in the community. You do not want to go so far in one direction as to completely trample the other. This has been done. It has been recommended. I am going to give 100 per cent support to the establishment of an Independent Complaints Committee.

It is almost cynical, Mr. Speaker, that a citizen of this country should have to complain to a police officer about what another police officer did and that no outsider has a say in it. You get unfaired, or you perceive that you got unfaired so you proceed to complain to a police officer and you have

to go through this. I do not even think it is fair to the police themselves to put them to sit in judgment on their peers. It is not easy. I think it needs to be changed, this appeal from Caesar to Caesar. It cannot work. It has not worked well.

It has caused a lot of disgruntlement and disillusionment in Barbados because people feel something happened. The police did me something and then I have to walk into Central Police Station, get shuttled around by some other policeman, complain to him and he is the one working with the same fellow and that kind of thing. What kind of justice is this. I hope the Attorney General, as he promised he will, will move with some expedition and get this Independent Complaints Committee going.

I want to mention also, Mr. Speaker, this question of the Evidence Act. It ties in with the point I am making about confessions. Too many convictions in Barbados are acquired out of confessions allegedly made by an accused person. It does not suggest, Mr. Speaker, that Barbadians are as educated and intelligent as we think they are. If a man is going to go into a Police Station and confess, sit down freely without threat, any violence, any force, any oppressive circumstances, and go and freely admit that he stabbed up somebody, or he broke into some place, or he raped somebody, it is an assault on our intelligence.

We passed an Evidence Act, a big long Act, pretty, but the section that deals with the confessions has not been proclaimed. The reason is that the law requires that there be use of electronic equipment to tape the confessions and it will take a little while to get the equipment available, and the people trained in them and so on. But it has to be done like yesterday because that is the only way in which we can feel comfortable with all these so-called confessions.

I will tie that into something here in this Bill, Sir. A police officer is required to record certain things in his police notebook. 5.10p.m.

One of the things that I have found very difficult as I get older is a police officer making a number of statements saying that a suspect has made a number of statements that are against his interest, these so-called oral statements. The police always say, that he has made a record of it at the time in his police notebook.

I do not know if it is generally known that most police officers... I better not say most because there are 1 200 of them and I do not know what each one does but many police officers make entries in their notebooks with pencil and not in ink. In fact, they are issued police note books with pencils and rubber. A police officer will say that the man said to him, yes officer I did it, but so and so and so. The man said that and he wrote that down.

There is no requirement, as I understand, that the man who allegedly made the statement should initial his statement in the police note book. If the police wrote down that the man said so, it should be a requirement of the law that the man who said it should initial it.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Well, if he did it in pencil it can be erased. All this has nothing to do with the integrity of the Police Force. It has something to do with the integrity of one or two policemen and I am not going to defend them. Far from defending them, I am going to go after them.

I was the Attorney General for a while and the first time I went to a meeting of the Police Association, there was an inspector now deceased, I shall not call his name, who was all over me. He jumped on me and carried on and I spoke to the Commissioner of Police who was Mr. Prescod after the meeting was over. I asked him why he was flying on me so like a stinging ant. Mr. Prescod said that the fellow said that when you were practising criminal law you used to be hard on the police. I said, is that his return? It was kind of feeble but they have to understand that I live in this country. I want my house protected like everybody else. I want to feel good when I travel the road that people are not going to jump on me. I want when I am in here talking that my family at home are comfortable and safe. So I would have to be retarded not to want a good, reliable and responsible Police Force. I would have to be foolish not to want a good Police Force.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I am coming to the money now. One or two Members on the Other Side said....

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: They say it because they are in Opposition. Sir, when you are in Opposition, you can say anything. You can say to give everybody money because you do not have to care where the money comes from.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that I am calling for more money for the police because I am in Opposition. I want them to know that a couple of years from now, I will be the first man to call for it again.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I really did not say anything about the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, my friend. I did not say a word about him. But if the shoe fits him, let him wear it.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I rise, Sir, on a point of order. Maybe you have said something about me. I wish to

make it abundantly clear that while I made a reference agreeing with my colleague from St. Michael North West that there should be another look at the salaries of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force, I did not say that because I was in Opposition. While I had the honour of being the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in this country, my Government did make proposals for increases in the remuneration of the Royal Barbados Police Force. You cannot accuse me of saying it because I was in Opposition.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I would have thought that the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South would have left that one alone and let that ball pass outside of the off stump. Because my recollection is that the Right Honourable Member cut the police pay by 8% when he was advised that you cannot have a cut across-the-board and that there are certain departments, who far from having cuts should have increases. The record will show that.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. If it is outside the off stump or outside the leg stump, I will play the appropriate stroke. That is a good lawyer's technique of ignoring the main point and making a subsidiary point with all due respect to the other lawyers in here. This is not a criminal matter now. I made the point that there are instances to prove that the salaries of the officers were increased and I was not making a call because I am on the Opposition. I am repeating it now that you are challenging me, that this Government which has all of the VAT money should repay what was taken from the public officers.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, the figures are here so do not let us get into that, Sir. The figures are here and I can pull them out of the Civil List.

Sir, I want to make another point here about the pay. I am on this Side but I really believe that the pay of the police officers is appallingly bad. That is my view.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: It is different when you say it in Opposition than when you say it in Government. It is a different thing altogether. Sir, the pay is appallingly bad. When I find out that police officers who were sergeants for 30 years in the Force are making \$1 900 a month, I find it hard to believe. I think we have to look at it. There is no doubt about that and I do not think we need to quarrel about that one. The pay is bad and times are different. Nowadays, young people walk about with long knives down in their double pants and there are more guns out there than there were in Vietnam. And the police officer has to go out there now and deal with men who are

walking HIV positive and who feel that when the police approach them they should bite them. I believe that the police officers in Barbados are badly paid. If they want an advocate on that one, they have an advocate in me. When they do foolishness, they do not have any advocate in me.

I also believe that the question of insurance has been raised over and over again. I am not quite sure what is the position in respect of the insurance for police officers who are injured on the job.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I am assured by the Attorney General that it is now under active discussion by the National Union of Public Workers so I will pass that one.

Sir, we heard a whole lot today about the community involvement of police. I just want to blow my own trumpet which I have to do occasionally. All these schemes, the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, the institution of the crime panel, all these things were instituted when I was Attorney General.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Sir, we are talking about people who now want to re-invent the wheel. 5.20 p.m.

Some Honourable Members are speaking as if these are brand new ideas about community policing and the involvement of the police in the community as if it is something that has just come into their minds and it had never happened before so I had to mention it just to put this thing in perspective.

I want to make one final point, Sir, because one could go on and on about these things. I want to raise the question about guns, Sir. I always feel, Sir, that there are certain areas of public administration where the qualification for a licence or whatever must be clearly set out and must be known by those who have to advise their clients.

I do not know what is the required criteria for getting a gun licence in Barbados. A client came in to me saying, Mr. Tull my situation is A, B, C and D and I would like to know whether I qualify for a gun. I cannot tell him. And I would really like, Sir, for the Attorney General in consultation with the Commissioner of Police ...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. If I could just help the Chamber. I am glad the Honourable Member has raised the point. There is a Firearms and Ammunition Bill in preparation, Sir, which should soon be before the House. It will follow the Bermudian and the

English model and repeal the Firearms Act and the Ammunition Act. I am glad the Honourable Member has raised this point about criteria because in the draft I do not believe we have any criteria listed. I will raise it with the Commissioner of Police. I am not going to give an assurance that we will but it is a matter I will raise with him to hear whether they wish to maintain a large undeclared measure of discretion. What I can say we will be doing, however, is giving a right of appeal to a person who has applied for a licence and been turned down to the Minister just as in other areas of governance. Certainly in the Ministry of Finance, I remember with insurance matters you appeal from the Supervisor of Insurance to the Minister of Finance. So we will give a right of appeal but as to the criteria I do not think we have anything in any of the legislation about setting out the criteria. But that Bill will soon be here, Sir.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I am glad for the words of the Attorney General and I will make one final point, Sir, because time is running out. I am glad to hear, Sir, that we are finally going to have a police station established at the Glebe in St. George. The gestation period for this, Sir, is longer than an elephant. This is a long, long gestation period because as far back as the Annual Estimates of 1985-86 provision was made in those Estimates for money to start the construction of a police station at the Glebe in St. George. But as the lawyers say, Mr. Speaker, there was a *novus actus interveniens*, 8 years of Democratic Labour Party rule and that was shifted to the back burner. I am glad, Sir, it is coming to the fore because it is not something, Sir, as the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South says, that needs any partisanship over it. The fact is that on that side of St. George, the Rowans area, there is a massive new area in the last 15 years where thousands of people live. The Rowans, the Walkers, the Valley area where considerable new housing is built and it is that area that needs a police presence more than Boarded Hall. Boarded Hall was located, like most of the police stations in Barbados, like Bissex, District C and District E, up a hill so that the police were in a position to see when the slaves started to misbehave down in the valley. That is a historical fact why the police stations were on a hill. But we move away from that and a police station at Boarded Hall may still be useful but certainly in the Northern part of St. George in the area of St. George Church where there is a tremendous build-up over the past 15 or so years it is a pressing need for a police presence.

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I live far away. I am grateful to you, Sir.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support efforts to bring law and order to Barbados in various forms. In this debate I have noticed that other

speakers have sought to look at various sectors in Barbados and to make reference to the involvement of the police and the impact on these sectors. I would therefore want to have the same privilege of speaking in similar tones and similar manner as the Minister of Education spoke when she addressed this issue before the House. So I will be guided accordingly.

I wish to say, Sir, that the pressure on the police has increased over the years and this is because there has been a change in our society and our society is now being influenced by a lot of external sources. We have the advent of all these various televisions, multi channel television, direct television and all these movies which have come on to the scene within the past 10 to 15 years and in recent times now we have other forms in the multi-channel television, direct television and so on.

At the same time, Sir, that we are being exposed to all that is good, all that is bad in all parts of the world we have an erosion of a number of our key institutions in Barbados. We have an erosion at the level of the family because we now have a dilution of the extended family where with the arrival of new developments, new housing estates and so forth, people have tended to move from the traditional communities into the heights, the terraces and whatever you might call them, but in essence what has happened is that the community structure has broken down.

In essence, Sir, the forces of the extended family on children, these forces have been diluted with people spreading all across Barbados. So that the work of the Community Development Department is now cut out. But what has happened is that the Community Development Department has not responded appropriately to this dilution of the extended family in modern times and it continues to work as it was working 20/25 years ago where they would just put on a little programme here and a little programme there and so on.

At the level of the school, Sir, we also have a problem. I am being told, Sir, that the role of the male within the school has been diminished over time. I remember reading an article in the newspaper just last week in which, even if you look at the Ministry of Education itself, it is female dominated to the extent where you have at the Ministerial level a female. 5.30 p.m.

At the level of the Chief you have a female. At the level of PS you have a female and persons went on down the line and they were all females, about ten of them who were controlling education. There is nothing wrong with that, but

when you look, Sir, at the schools themselves, we also see a tendency for the schools to be dominated by females as well.

So what we have is a situation in which the balance between male and female has been skewed to the extent that the control which is normally exercised by males has been diminished over time within the schools in Barbados. At the same time, Sir, we find too that within the schools, a number of problems have arisen over time. The schools now have to deal with violence which encroaches in the school and outside of the school. They have to deal with drugs and the schools have to deal with all of these matters.

Meanwhile, Sir, the influence of the Church which traditionally had served to give some focus in terms of values to the community, and also the school, because the church has historically been attached to the schools. But we have found that with the disestablishment of the Anglican Church, over time the influence of the church on the school has tended to diminish.

So that what we are finding is that within the schools a sense of the traditional values that we know which had tended to keep Barbados as a stable and peaceful society have become watered down over time. We have a stage where people do not know what is right from what is wrong. We have gotten to a stage where we have been looking at values education.

I know there was a big document which was prepared by the last Government, Mr. Keith Simmons, he was working on this big document on values education. Over the past four years, I had not heard anything about this document until today and I was happy to hear about the re-emergence of this document. What I heard today, Sir, really reflects what I saw in that document.

But what amazes me, Sir, is that with the difficulties that we are having in schools, before today, I have not heard any attempt being made to look seriously at the issue of values education and this is where the problem rests.

The problem rests with values and values education. But instead of hearing about values education, Sir, we are hearing about all the high flowing things, EduTech, anything that sounds fanciful. But if we are looking at the problems that we presently have and if we want to look at where our primary focus should be, I believe we have to look first of all at values education. I was happy to hear the Minister mention it today. But the same way I am hearing about EduTech, I want to hear more about what is being done to execute this programme on values education which is critical at this point in time. That is very important.

I wish to hear, Sir, about what is being done to provide the kind of support that the children within

the schools environment need. I want to hear what is being done about providing more guidance counsellors. We have guidance counsellors now at the secondary schools. We have one at each secondary school.

But problems start in primary schools, Sir, and I do not hear of any guidance counsellors in primary schools. I am not hearing about any attempt being made to train these teachers in guidance counselling. I am not hearing anything about that. I am not hearing about any addressing of the psychological matters relating to the students. For years there has been one psychologist in the Ministry of Education. But I understand there was an ad out for another one.

Can you imagine with a school population such as we have that we could only have about two psychologists to look after all of them? We need to have more psychologists to look after the concerns of the students. But instead of looking at these matters in a developmental way, Sir, instead of looking at it in what I call the positive approach way, we are looking at it in a negative way. I call it negative, because if you are thinking about stigmatising students if you are thinking about putting them in an institution and things like that.

I believe the age of institutionalising people and stigmatising people should be over and you should look first of all at other ways of dealing with these issues instead of looking at establishing institutions such as the Edna Nicholls School.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, I have given a lot of latitude today, obviously because the debate can be a wide one. But, surely like all the other Members, I would really appreciate if you would in some way connect what you are saying to the Bill that is before the House. I am sure you can do that.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I know that you have been involved in education and that you are very wise. I know that you can see clearly the connection as clearly made by the Minister of Education between education, the school and crime.

You cannot talk about the policemen without talking about crime. We are hearing about crime in schools and clearly, Sir, the Edna Nicholls School is being established because they say there is crime in schools. You cannot have these people in the schools and therefore you are going to put them in Edna Nicholls School.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the connection that you have made. Press on.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: So the Edna Nicholls School, Sir, is to be established named after a decent lady. If I was she, I would not put my name to it, to put these children who they say are suspended and all these things in a separate institution which in a sense will stigmatise those who go into that school. Just like when one went to school at Dodds, they said you were a Dodd's boy. If you go into the Edna Nicholls School, you are an Edna Nicholls boy or girl.

Asides.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: So I am saying, Sir, that you may have a good idea, but to put people in an institution I think should be the last resort. You should only resort to that after you have put in place a number of psychologists in the Ministry of Education. After you have given every primary school a guidance counsellor. When you are satisfied that you have tried all your best before you can reach that stage. Because all you are doing is creating more problems. You are putting all of the same in one institution and they will contaminate one another. So instead of doing that, my proposal is that you leave them in the schools, you have guidance counselling, they can go in a separate area in the school, they can be under the advice of counsellors, psychologists, whoever. That is the first approach and I am not satisfied that enough has been done before we thought of institutionalising these people and stigmatising people, who essentially are the children of those who are usually poor and black.

Most of these problems occur, as I pointed out because there has been a breakdown in the communities because a lot of the role models in the traditional communities have moved out into the heights, the terraces and parks and whatever they choose to call them. So that is the price we are paying for progress. But at the same time the Government has to put measures in place to deal with that gap which is widening.

So we have the policemen who are heavily burdened. We have brought special constables to deal with the problem. But the problem still exists because we are not dealing with it at the core.

Sir, to assist the policemen, we have to have leaders at the community level. There will not come naturally from the community because people have diverted to other areas. Youth Commissioners, I understand have been put in position to assist in that regard, but some of them do not come from specific areas. Some of them are not geared to connecting the heart of the communities and so forth. So we still have a problem. We still have the community development department and instead of looking at developing the community development department we

have just gone and added another theorem to the problem. So we have to identify the problem and we have to put appropriate people to deal with these matters. 5.40p.m.

A lot of these people can be found in the churches, especially the non-traditional churches, and I am speaking of churches like the Pentecost, the Baptists, the Nazarene, the Wesleyan Holiness. Anytime you go to those churches you can see all of those children under command. They come in and they are singing, playing in the band, doing all kinds of things. It is fantastic when you go into one of those churches in a community. The only problem is that usually they get ahead with their own business and therefore you have a division between their getting ahead with their own business and the others out there who now need some kind of proper leadership.

The result is that they resort to their own kind of leaders, therefore, you have informal leaders out there whom these people follow and that is where the problem starts. Who is going to deal with that sub-culture? That is the question that we have to answer. So we have the community police force and some of them are doing a fantastic job but it depends on who is at the particular post. We now have to identify people who can deal with these sub-groups within the community. We have to focus on that.

I therefore believe that we need to give encouragement to all the groups at the local level who are trying their best. That is why I take great interest in what the churches are doing. That is why I always make a plea for these churches so that when I see a church beside the road because it does not have anywhere to go and is pushed off the land and I keep begging for this church for a piece of land to put it on because I understand the significant social role that the church is playing. One cannot turn a deaf ear or a blind eye to these matters. This is at the heart of the matter.

There was this church which was at the corner of Gibbons for the longest while and not a fellow, despite my pleas, would help these people because as they see it that is not a big-time church. The church has in about 70-90 people. It is playing a significant, social role but instead of doing that, you are looking here, there and everywhere for the answers while the answers lie in the communities and you just have to give encouragement to the people who are there already. That is what it is all about, dealing with the people at the community level.

Sir, we are groping for answers so much that we have now reached a stage where we are talking about teaching English as a second language. I consider this to be almost

offensive that we can come publicly talking about teaching English as a second language. What this means is that the teachers are being slammed. You are saying that the teachers over time have not been doing a good job at teaching English. This is what you are saying. So, therefore, you now have to turn around and make English an official language and you are now coming in 1998 and you have the audacity to have in a document about the teaching of standard English as the official language of instruction.

Can you imagine, this is no place where people speak patois or that kind of thing. You are speaking, after so many years of our teaching English around here, of teaching standard English as the official language of instruction. This is offensive. I am not making any sport. This is a document of the Ministry of Education. We are at a conference talking about teaching standard English as the official language of instruction. Do you know what it implies? It implies that the teachers are not teaching standard English.

So they have to stand up and let us know if that is true. If they are not teaching English, as the official language then they have to tell us why. We are hearing that because the children do not know English that they are committing crime and all of these things and even catching AIDS as the Minister alluded to because they do not know standard English. This was said in the House today, Sir, that a girl might be telling a fellow, "Please put on a condom." He may not understand the standard English so he might proceed. This was said in here today, Sir.

We are talking about a lack of understanding of standard English as the problem. So the teachers have been abysmal failures. This is what we are being told. I do not know if it is true. The teachers will "have to say if they are teaching standard English or not. What I do know, Sir, is that we have always been taught that English is the standard. Standard English is number one and then there is dialect. You go from one to the other with great flexibility.

In St. Lucia, you have English as the standard language and then you have patois. Some people cannot speak anything other than patois so we have patois stations. In Barbados, Sir, we always speak standard English. It is true some do not speak it as well as others. What does this tell us then, Sir? Even though we have English as a standard, we still have to respect the dialect and our people should be sensitive enough to know when you use standard English and when you use dialect because people are not accepting any person walking around a playing field speaking standard English. You do not speak standard English on a playing field. So there has to be that flexibility.

I do not accept this absurdity of telling teachers that they have to teach standard English as the official

language of instruction. They know that already. What it means probably is that we have to look at methods of doing that.

I am making the point, Sir, that we are groping around, looking for every excuse why things are what they are, but we are not looking at the basics and we tend to blame the policemen for everything. Everything that is wrong, we blame the policemen; but the policemen cannot do the job by themselves. The church cannot do the job by itself. Politicians cannot do the job by ourselves. We all have to do it together and this is why I believe that a lot of this political partisanship that goes to the extent where people do not want to cooperate because you are for this party or that is foolishness. At the community level, politics and political parties are irrelevant.

If you have a community activity, whether you are a B, D, or Thee you should be in it. If there is an effort to help the community B, D or Thee, you should be in it because that is what it is all about. Political parties only become relevant when it comes to major policies and we have to come in here and one side has to come with a policy and the other side has to hammer it out to make sure that they do the right thing. That is where it is relevant but it is not relevant at a level where you will say because a man is a D you cannot deal with him or because he is a B. That is ignorance.

All parties should be involved in any community activity and no matter what party we should be involved in it and be allowed to be involved in it. That is where a lot of erosion of the standards will come when people take strong political stances and do not want to cooperate. Many times, Sir, there are deep, underlying political biases which impact on things that happen at the community level where, for example, they might try to stop me from using a pavilion, where they might try to stop me from using a school, all of that foolishness. But that should stop as we go into the 21st century. 5.50p.m.

A lot of that foolishness is still going on in Barbados and it has to stop. People should have access to the facilities of this country because if they do not, they will remain in their subcultures and you will get more crime and there will be greater pressure on the police so all of us need to play our part to ensure that the policemen can do an adequate job.

I wish to make one final point, Sir. I think that we as policy makers, legislators or whatever we are, depending on who it is, have to send a message that people in this country can feel a sense of belonging, they can feel that they can achieve. We have to struggle so that we do not put

impediments in their way otherwise it will cause people to become angry. It is therefore in this context, Sir, that I am a bit amazed that we could be seeking to reduce the number of people who could now do medicine. I do not have all the answers but it does not seem right to me that in this day and age we are going to try to limit people at all levels.

I am making the point, Sir, that people should not see a message being sent to them that you do not know exactly where you are going because you can be stopped at any point from pursuing what you want to pursue. We have to think it through. There are ways to do it. I do not have all the answers but we have to be careful that we do not send the wrong messages to the people who are looking up to us.

I think together with the police who are just there to give us support and to maintain law and order, we have to do it. It does not depend on the police alone but I do agree that the police also need regulations because no group in Barbados can feel that they are a law unto themselves so, therefore, the police have to be regulated as well. In that regard, I do support the Resolution today.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a very short intervention on behalf of a group of people who I would term auxiliary police, as it were. Now, we have the regular Police Force and then we introduced the Special Constable, but before the dawn of the Special Constable but as a boy coming up I always heard about Island Constable. Here of late I have found that they are playing a more important role.

In the past you would see these Island Constables working at times probably at an emergency or election time, but I have found that recently they have been working not only at night but during the day in the company of police officers as they make their beat and so on.

Some time last year there was an incident at the National Stadium, I think there was some Sports Day occasion, where an Island Constable was beaten by a school boy with a piece of stick with a nail in it and that Island Constable had to seek medical attention. She was hospitalised for a night. She then went home and was out of work for a good few weeks as well. At that time there was no kind of compensation for her although she was paid some kind of stipend for working by the week, but she had no kind of insurance. I understand from the Attorney General that right now there is some kind of insurance being negotiated on behalf of the police. I just would like to know that the Island Constables will be entitled to that kind of compensation in case of injury on the job.

At the same time, I was asked a question concerning whether these Island Constables that work by the week if they are not also entitled to vacation pay because it is not clear if they are entitled to vacation pay in that one Island Constable, as I said in my constituency, brought my attention to the fact that one or two people in the Force were telling her that she was entitled to vacation pay and some person said she was not entitled to the vacation pay. As I said, these are people that go out there every day and every night and work. Sometimes they go as a shield to the police where they work in front of the Police and protect them.

I am just asking that if the Attorney General in his winding up would just give this House an idea on the role of the Island Constable and any other future plans where these officers are entitled to salary and vacation pay as well as any new medical plan that the Government will be instituting for the members of the Police Force.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Honourable Members for their contributions on this Bill.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member said he had one point to make about Island Constables and he made the point and I can shortly dispose of the point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there a problem whether a point was made?

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, only recently we had a ceremony to reward and honour a number of Island Constables. I explained then that we are trying to develop the Island Constabulary and integrate it as part of ongoing law enforcement. There were problems a few years ago with the Island Constabulary to form themselves into two competing associations, and you know what happens, Sir. One group would not talk to the other group and so on.

Commissioner Watson has tried through Assistant Superintendent Carter to get the groups back together. I think Mr. John Sealy before he retired had done some work and we had a very good ceremony at Queen's College a few weeks ago. The Commissioner is working on a rationalisation of the Island Constabulary and in due course, Sir, I will be able to tell the House more about that when it comes to my attention.

Just to say that I also would like to see the Island Constabulary increased by making Marshals of the Supreme Court all Island Constables. Presently, there is no obligation for a Supreme Court Marshal or a Court Process Officer, as they are called, to be an Island Constable. I think it is a

weakness in the existing system. Now that we are increasing the number of Marshals by 14, seven of whom started last week, we should be in a position to make representation to the Commissioner for all the Marshals to be given Island Constable status. It would strengthen their hands in the discharge of their duties.

The matter of insurance is one that the Police Association has raised with us. It has been raised through CTUSAB in the Ministry of the Civil Service. Currently the matter is being examined to see what kind of insurance we can develop to give adequate coverage to policemen to compensate them in times of injury. If the Island Constables can be brought into that, Sir, we will have to look at it. I really have to confess to the Honourable Member that at this time my memory does not serve me as to whether the Island Constables are part of that package but I will investigate it and let him know. 6.00 p.m.

The vacation pay is a matter that we have to address. It has been problematic over the years because island constables technically are only used on occasions and they are not in continuous regular employment. That is something that will be rationalised now that we are putting the Island Constables on a firm basis and as an integrated element within the law enforcement system.

Sir, Honourable Members made a number of very important points and contributions and I have a duty to respond to them and I will try to do that quickly. First of all I hear the call by the Honourable Members on the Other Side for increased pay for the Police and that matter is being looked at. It follows a submission from the Police Association, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There are requests in with the Ministry of Civil Service through CTUSAB. I just wish to say, however, that the last substantial pay increase for Police apart from anything that they have got last month was in December 1990. Honourable Members forgot that. The Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South forgot that it was he, who in December 19, 1990, a month before the elections gave certain police handsome increases. Those at the top took home like \$30 000 in back pay but the fellows at the bottom, the constables, did not get a cent. Then from 1991 to 1994, not an increase for the police under the Democratic Labour Party. They have had two, possibly three in 1994, little ones and then the one in April.

This Government is not unwilling to increase the pay of police officers. I agree that their pay is in fact low compared with other groups of workers in the

public service. It is a matter that the Government will address sympathetically and deal with in due course.

Mr. Speaker, I was a little surprised that the Leader of the Opposition should say that not enough is being done in respect of the causes of crime. It was disappointing. For eight years when the Democratic Labour Party formed the Government no attempt was made in the face of a spiralling crime rate to try and search for the causes of crime and analyse it. Now that this Government has become the first Government in the history of Barbados ever to try to understand what are the factors that are predisposing to crime in Barbados, we are hearing that we have not done enough. No Member of this House of Assembly, on either Side, since July when this document was laid last year, not one Member of this House of Assembly has had the interest to take this document and even look at the recommendations. Does that say that anyone is interested in crime or interested in the causes of crime?

This has been circulated and laid.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Cabinet dealt with this and brought it here. This is the report of the Task Force. It is not only Yolande Forde, she is only a worker. There is the Task Force of about 10 or 12 people which she reports to. The whole Task Force including magistrates...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is being unreasonable. There are seven people on the Front Bench there. His own colleagues in Cabinet are not bothering to listen to him as he is explaining what he is doing about the causes of crime. Do not attack us. Deal with your people who are failing to deal with the problems. There is nothing that I can do from over here. I am appealing to you to appeal to them to read it and to do something about it. And to refer to it so that you will be satisfied that it is being thought about.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker this looks like the attorney for the defence. I say this because a Government appointed Task Force on a major area of Government policy is set up. The Minister lays the report in here and it is the duty and responsibility of the Minister to initiate a debate on that matter. You do not blame the Opposition for that. It is for the Government side to initiate this policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point of order, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, more than once in here I have used this report to inform the speeches

that I have made. What I am complaining about is that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said that we had not done anything about the causes of crime. I said that we had a report here which addresses that and no Member on that Side has ever taken this document and say, let us look at the recommendations.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is not correct, he cannot say which member on this Side has done that. I know for sure that I did not.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I said used it during a debate, Sir. Mr. Speaker, the report gives 28 recommendations about how we can address some of the factors that seem to be putting young people at risk. I just want to make this point. This report came out in July last year and the Task Force is beginning to implement the recommendations.

The first thing that we did was to have public discussion on it, something that that Government never did. We went to the public with it at Sherbourne Centre, there were 500 people. They never did a report on crime.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You had something done about 20 pages that was not even laid in the House and never discussed with the public.

What I am saying is that we took this report to the public at Sherbourne and discussed the recommendations in June this year. As the work plan for the Task Force continues in June this year these recommendations will be dealt with by bringing together all of the people affected, community development, health, the police, the churches, everybody to look at the next step to implement the recommendations. 6.10p.m.

So do not let us get carried away, Sir, that nothing has been done. A report has identified certain risk factors. The report has been discussed with the public, the next step is the implementation of recommendations in the report and that requires because there are so many different factors at work...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Outside of any debate, Sir, we are trying to bring together all of the Ministries and organisations that have been pointed at in this document to look to see how they can implement...

Let me just give you an example. One of the weaknesses in the community is a lack of community spirit and poor socialisation among the youth. I think they recommend here that a definite plan of action be devised to promote interest in organisational activity among Barbados' young, what they call "professional idlers". These individuals should be approached by the relevant community organisers and encouraged to form clubs, groups and associations. Such groups can act as mechanisms to take youth away from the liming block and place them in holistic training programmes which can prepare them for life as productive citizens. You have to bring together the Youth Commissioners and the Community Development Officers and voluntary groups and discuss with them and start to implement.

We have a Task Force, Sir, which comprises the Permanent Secretary as Chairman, the Chief Education Officer, the Registrar of the Court, Dr. Rao, the Chief Welfare Officer, the Commissioner of Police, Principal of G.I.S., the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Dean St. Hill, Superintendent of Prisons, Mr. Philip Martin, Mr. Erwin Leacock, Mr. Merlyn Watts. Those are members of the Task Force and they give instructions to the day-to-day workers like Ms. Forde and Ms. Farley and there is another lady, I cannot now remember her name, as to what to do.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Sir. The point which I would now like to hear the Minister respond to is that which was made by more than one speaker on this Side at least, that the representatives for the constituencies, the Members of Parliament are ignored in all of this exercise. You want to bring people together but the people who are excluded, treated as a special form of leprosy, are the Members of Parliament.

Sir, I have been a Member of Parliament for more than 25 years, almost 30 years, as a Member representing a constituency...

Mr. SPEAKER: You are still on a point of order?

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, I am on a point of order and I cannot say, Sir, that in terms of community mobilisation that I have ever been involved. I am not necessarily referring to me personally now but Members of Parliament and this is not under one administration and not another. There is a general institutional problem which we have to face as a country because as the Member said, we have to do it together. That is the only way we are going to do it.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am very grateful for the intervention of the Honourable Member. I wish to confess to him that it had not occurred to me when I spoke to the Task Force soon after Estimates, this would have been early

April, to look at the work plan for this year to suggest to them to involve M.Ps. I really have to confess it did not occur to me. If Members are telling me they would be willing to be involved in discussions to see how we could move towards reducing the incidence of crime, I would be happy. I would give those instructions tomorrow to write all Members of Parliament to say when they are having their meetings and so on, invite them. We have had public sessions, no M.Ps came on these and on the steering committee Penal Reform Report. I will make sure that movement comes. You know why I will do it too, Sir, because when I was over there and my name sake was over here responsible for crime, I suggested that Government should set up a task force on crime prevention and offered to serve. He did say to me that he would look at it but of course the task force was never set up. He did say to me that he would be willing to have me serve but nothing ever eventuated and I will make sure. But the point raised *sotto voce* by the Right Honourable Member is important. Sir, today for the first time in the history of this Parliament we had an approach today to the matter of crime that I hope can continue. I think it augurs well for us as a country. The Right Honourable Member said that the approach to crime should be non-partisan. The only way you can get that, Sir, is to develop a parliamentary committee that must meet. I think we can resolve at some time in the future that we should have a select committee on crime.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Well, whatever. You can have one on Foreign Affairs. Some countries have on foreign affairs but these social problems we agree ultimately are non-partisan or ought to be non-partisan. We could approach them on that basis and that is something I think we could look at in the future.

Sir, the Right Honourable Member has asked about a community post in Brittons Hill. I could not tell him yes or no about that now. These matters are determined by the Ministry and the Police after evaluating demographic shifts and also patterns of crime in particular areas.

Now for this year the geographical distribution of crime has been very, very illuminating. Most of the increase in crime between January and March this year has been in the jurisdiction of Central Police Station. We have had 102 more crimes in January to March this year within the area serviced by Central Police Station so that shows the concentration. I will tell you why. It is significant because when you look at the north of Barbados there are all decreases. In the north of Barbados District D-41. Last year District D had for January to March 78 crimes. This year 40. 6.20 p.m.

District E, small drop just two, from 112 to 110. District F, no crime out there particularly, from 31 to 29, but this one is dramatic, Holletown 228 crimes in the period last year, this year 133, a drop of 95.1 can show the Honourable Member this. But the problem areas and every other station district has shown drops.

District B, minus 26. Oistins, minus 34. Worthing, minus 16. Black Rock, minus 30. But Central, plus 102. District C, plus 23.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Your districts are good. I looked at them earlier. There is not a lot of reported crime...yes...true. They have them according to streets or areas, but in your area, specifically in relation to burglaries, for example. Brittons Hill, five burglaries. Bay Street, three. Club Morgan, one. Culloden Road, one. Collymore Rock, one. Dunlow Lane, one. Belmont Gap, one. Jemmott's Lane, one.

Sir, these statistics however, are of importance because they help to focus the Royal Barbados Police Force on where the crime is being concentrated so that the Police can target. There are responses adequately as the crime is distributed.

Sir, I want to just wind up on one other matter and that is the role of the media. The media has a function to report crime. I think it is important because crime reporting can have the effect of bolstering values in the societies and apart from merely informing and can have a deterrent effect. But I really must say that the Press in Barbados allow themselves to be used by criminal elements. I repeat that, Sir, the Press in Barbados allow themselves to be used by criminal elements.

Now let me illustrate that. In December last year, CBC-TV carried telecasts during the news, highlighted allegations of people in the Chapman Lane area and a man in Sargeants Village who alleged police brutality. Without more, anybody could call in with an intervention. Not only CBC but the accomplice with CBC was the *Advocate Newspaper*. You could call the *Advocate* and tell them that the police are doing anything, create any scene and the *Advocate* will run, tape it and print it without being critical and without proper analysis. Do you know what was happening? Whenever the police have to move in on an area where there is heavy drug activity, the people in the area who are involved in drugs set up a cordia to keep the police out so that they cannot get to the drugs.

In the middle of December the police went somewhere in the Chapman's, Emmerton's area because they had information. They had the car number. They knew that the

drugs were loaded in the car and when the police went, the people started to get on bad and said that the police came up there to lick them up and beat them up and all that. And the police had to back out.

The *Advocate Newspaper* and CBC carried those reports without checking the reliability of the reports with the police and placed them all over the paper as though the police were taking advantage of people. I spoke to the Commissioner and said that he should make sure that the next time they go they have one of these video cameras to tape every movement that they do and the people do. They went back down two days later, with the video cameras and as soon as they saw the police with video cameras, everybody went quiet, because they did not want to get on camera. The police came away with eight bags of drugs which were on the front page of the newspaper.

Another day they had to do a raid in Sargeant's Village and I saw a man on television the night complaining about his house had been damaged. This is not true. CBC carried it and refused to check the reliability of it. After the police left, the man went and licked up his house himself and they carried it. How could the police raiding have the kind of morale that people talk about when in the face of their very best efforts, there are people out there who are so uncritical as to publish anything that is critical of the police. It is not fair to them.

All I ask the Press to do, we are dealing with matters of security. When you are going to carry a story, make sure you check and get both sides. That is what the police have had to face in the drug fight. People run protectionist rackets, they want to protect the drugs and would not let the police come through and then cry out for police brutality. This is not true.

I spoke earlier today, Sir, about the incident at the Club to say again that what the *Nation* carried on the front page of their newspaper was a lie. A lie is a disgraceful thing to do...it held up the police of this country to ridicule. Privately I told them.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order. I find it very difficult to be a Member of this Parliament and hear a Minister make those kinds of charges about a statutory corporation which amounts to the subversion of justice in the country.

I would like to know if the Minister has spoken with his colleague or with the management of that Corporation and discussed these matters with a view to their repudiation, because it is a very serious charge. When the Minister responsible for law and order can make those charges from the Floor of this Honourable Chamber, I believe he has a grave responsibility to this Chamber to set out all of the facts for us.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have drawn to the attention of the management of CBC and I spoke also to the management of newspapers to tell them not to allow themselves to be used for the purveying of information that has been distorted to paint the police in a colour that they do not deserve. I have never had occasion to speak in here, Sir. The Commissioner, I believe, when he had his Press Conference addressed the matter of the Club. I do not know if he addressed the other matters. The information that I give is absolutely 100% accurate and when I stand here I do not make jokes. When I speak, I speak as a Minister with full consciousness of the solemnity that attaches to what I say, and when I say that the Press have allowed themselves to be used I use those words advisedly. 6.30 p.m.

It is not everything that I know that I can speak. I am talking about the journalists who work for it. Do you see what the Minister of Education said today? The first thing on the News last night was something to which there are two sides. The Ministry has both sides and the sides are at variance with what was on television last night. Nobody checks? I did not see the thing myself but the Minister of Education mentioned it in her speech. I only call for some responsibility on the part of the Press in dealing with these matters because I am grateful to the Honourable Member for his intervention because he used the word that I was searching for. What they are doing could have the effect in fact of subverting the legitimate activity of the police force.

Sir, in regard to brutality, the Honourable Member for St. George South spoke very passionately about police brutality, and allegations of police brutality are not new. We have always had them. We came along hearing of police officers who were alleged to be rough. In my practice, I had to deal with this many times.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ... the first few years of practice yes, but then I gradually eased out of criminal work. I said I would tell the House a story when I came to wind up and I am not going to detain the House much longer but I must tell the story.

When I practised criminal law I never did what is called a *voir dire*. I did 33 murders and never did a trial within a trial, that is, I never put to the police you beat this statement out of my client. The police would say they cautioned the accused and he said and then the police would give a set of words which would amount to a confession. I used to say to a jury, "Do you believe that after you tell a man he is not obliged to say anything and if he says anything it will be taken down and given hi evidence that the man is going to say, "But officer, I do it or I killed him." Sir, 32 of the 33 murders I won.

In 1983, six Rastas broke my house one Saturday. We were going to a party in Warrens at Gordon Greenidge and we took the children and Billy Fergusson's children to a place called Skate-On in those days. We left home at 8:20, picked back up the children at 11 O'clock and got back home probably about 11.15 or 11.20. By the time I got back home 6 Rastas had broken into my house, mashed everything they could find, went in the study and stole my safe. My gun and all my wife's jewelry were in the safe.

Two weeks later, the police called me to tell me about 9 o'clock the night and asked if I had reported my gun was missing. I said yes. Do I know the number of the gun? I said, "Officer, yes - R153024, Smith and Wesson, a 32." He said, "Skipper, we got it."

They arrested a man over by the Bridge and Harbour with the gun. That is a separate story that I will tell you all downstairs how they got him because he was driven.... He broke another property, Chally Jones' house, out by us. That time they were hitting houses every Saturday, because we used to go to races so the houses were empty. He broke Chally's house and went to the main road and caught a van. The driver of the van suspected him of breaking his own house and drove him to the Bridge and Harbour and when he got there he stopped the minibus and said, "Officer, I got a man in here that I believe break my house." And they caught the fellow. He got 10 years.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sometime after, Superintendent Cummins -1 think he was superintendent at the time - called me across to identify my gun. I go upstairs in the CID and I see a man sitting down inside a room on a chair and at the door a big Chris Lashley. Mr. Cummins said, "Come in." I go in and he asked this man sitting on the chair, "Do you know Mr. Simmons?" Sir, the man did not have a mark or anything on him. All Mr. Cummins asked him was "Do you know Mr. Simmons?" He began his reply, "Mr. Simmons, I ent know you but you remember the night, the Saturday night, you and your wife passed down Belle Gully? We were on the side of the road there opposite Mr. Welch's shop and Lionel said to we," "Looka David Simmons and he wife gone down. Let we go and brek dem now. We went through the back of the Belle..."

This man put out a spiel. Everything. He ended up telling me that his function was to throw rocks at the four dogs that I had. I never kept one since. They are no good. They threw rocks at the 4 dogs while the others went around the bedroom and broke the house from the bedroom side.

It is a fact that a criminal confronted with a situation where he cannot escape may very well confess. I saw

it for myself. I used to doubt it as a criminal lawyer before. I saw it happen and I will never again impugn the alleged confession.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sometimes you believe the instruction. I saw it happen. Nobody asked him any more than did he know me and this fellow rowed a ripple. He told the whole story.

Sir, the time will come when we will deal with confessions electronically. 6.40 p.m.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member may, in fact, be misleading the House. He did not indicate whether the event had been properly recorded that we could check the veracity of the comments he is now making.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, all I can tell him is that when they charged the six fellows, they appeared on the front page of the *Nation*. Those are fellows that were robbing Texaco by the "Y." They shot a man there. They robbed a man up in St. John at the Gas Station.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Be that as it may, I am grateful for this debate, Sir. I wish to give Honourable Members an assurance that we will get an opportunity shortly again to debate other matters because there is a Bill coming about setting up a Board of Management for the Industrial Schools.

Just to say, Sir, that the computerisation project is nearly finished. Honourable Members have some concerns about the training of the Police. Police are given training in management, not only at BIMAP but overseas at other police colleges and so on. There is a programme that started with Mr. Durant to upgrade the training of senior officers in the Force.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 7 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Police (Amendment) Act, 1998.

ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING OF LAND AT REED STREET, BRIDGETOWN, TO THE SALVATION ARMY TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF A FEEDING CENTRE FOR SKILLS TRAINING AND FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PERSONS IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution to approve the vesting of land at Reed Street to the Salvation Army. This is a matter which has been ongoing for some time. The Salvation Army has been in occupation of this spot for a number of years and, as you know, has performed yeoman service in terms of shelter for the people in Reed Street and the surrounding areas. As a matter of fact, most of the people who have benefitted from shelter in the building as a result of the generosity of the Salvation Army have come from outside of the City area.

It was agreed, Mr. Speaker, by the previous Administration that this building should be leased to the Salvation Army. The property had been leased to the Salvation Army from the time they have so occupied it but this Administration is of the view that the purpose for which this particular building has been used would be better served if the property is permanently vested in the Salvation Army so that they would be able to utilise the premises for security or any other purpose in order to do any extensions in the area.

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

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, it gives me the greatest possible pleasure. I am delighted beyond belief. An Honourable Member in here today said earlier

that I have been smiling all day long and I seem to be very happy. This gives me a lot of happiness, Mr. Speaker.

The 12th day of this month would have been 22 years ago that I came into this Chamber and from that time through Government, through Opposition, through Government again I have campaigned for this. 6.50 p.m.

I am pleased to say that my association with the Salvation Army goes back a long way. My father's mother was a Captain in the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, my nanny was a Salvationist so I have to tell you that I have had my time in the Salvation Army. I went with her many Sunday evenings at 6 o'clock. When you went home from Sunday School you would get a little grapefruit juice and maybe a piece of sweet bread and then you would go with "Na Na." to open air. Anywhere on Tudor Street they would have the open air and you had the fellows with the cornet and the tambourines and so on. When the open air was finished you would go up to the Central Court at Reed Street and get the service. At harvest and occasions like that you were always there. My father and all of his brothers all played instruments in the Salvation Army band.

For those who are not knowledgeable about these matters, William Booth who founded the Salvation Army started out as a Methodist and decided that he wanted to go the evangelical way and formed the Salvation Army and there continues to this day, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very warm and close and collaborative relationship between the Salvation Army and the Methodist Church in Barbados. In fact, between James Street Methodist Church and the Central Court at Reeds Street in particular.

The Salvation Army, Mr. Speaker, has done sterling work in my constituency, the City of Bridgetown. In fact, there is an army corps at Wellington Street and I have to say that I am very kindly disposed to the Salvation Army. I would urge upon Honourable Members that they might consider a little support, a donation from time to time to the Salvation Army. They get that cheque from me, I will not say what is written in it, that is my business and theirs but they get it every Christmas from me.

They do tremendous work with the feeding programme in the City. It is an interesting thing, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This piece of land which the Government is now vesting in the Salvation Army used to be the family home of my paternal family in Bridgetown. When my grandfather and his wife came back to live in Barbados, she said that with the babies coming she would have to give up the work with the Salvation Army but could he please try to find a place to live

close to the Salvation Army. He bought the land next door to the Salvation Army so that she could still hear the hymns and join in the services.

Way back in the days of the development board, the family lost that property and that is how it came into the hands of the Government. When I became the Minister of Education, I found that it was the site of a school meals centre which was in such a terrible condition that we had to close it and from then on it has been used for one purpose or another. As the Honourable Member has pointed out, in more recent years, the Salvation Army has been making some use of it.

For many years the Salvation Army has had a plan drawn for reinstating their Night Shelter. Those of us here who are old enough will remember the Night Shelter at the Salvation Army. It was mostly for men although sometimes you would see women going in. People who jobbed around town, carrying parcels, pushing a box cart, portering one way or another would come and sleep on the old time cot. You would get a hot cup of tea and a salt bread and in the morning you get up and have a bath and you would get another cup of tea and a salt bread, possibly with a little salt butter in it, then you would job around town. They would earn enough money to buy lunch and they used to buy their clothes off the nail.

I know that there is a generation that does not know what 'off the nail' means. When people die sometimes clothes would be bought by a certain gentleman in Suttle Street. He had a strip of wood around the shop and he had nails pound in at six inch intervals and he would hang up an old pants or a jacket or shirt or whatever he could get when he bought a bundle. When you were going to buy you would say, I want that pants off the nail. That is how the 'off the nail' purchases came about. It allowed those people to keep their dignity and we did not have any sleeping on the pavement such as we see today.

The Salvation Army truly, Mr. Speaker, has been in the business of poverty alleviation long before the initiatives of the present day. I think that Barbados and indeed any country in the world where you would find the Salvation Army and they are nearly everywhere, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Salvation Army for the tremendous social conscience that it has been able to engender in Barbadians and the great social work that it has done and continues to do in Barbados.

It pleased me greatly also, Sir, that in this Administration we have arrived at a level of sophistication in the way which we dispense social services in Barbados. There are some NGOs, many of them centered around churches like the Salvation Army and there are

many others besides, the Seventh Day Adventist who do tremendous work, and the Soroptimists and we can think of many non-governmental organisations. This Government has such a degree of confidence in the proven track record of some of these organisations that the Government is now in a partnership and prepared to delegate certain functions.

I am pleased that the Salvation Army again is at the forefront of that. It should not surprise anybody that that is the case. In truth and in fact, the Salvation Army has been a leader in that respect.

This also pleases me, Mr. Speaker, because it is finally happening in the year when the Salvation Army is celebrating a centennial anniversary. In this way, Barbadians are in a position to say to the Salvation Army that this is a little token of the gratitude that we feel for the tremendous work that the Salvation Army has done and continues to do.

I know that the plans are well on the way. They are going to completely rebuild the feeding centre. I have seen the drawings myself and there are really very pleasing, they are very clear on the way in which they are going to implement this new project. I am really very happy indeed to lend my support to this Resolution and to use this opportunity to again congratulate the Salvation Army on the tremendous work that it has done in our communities and to hope that they will continue in that vein.

The Salvation Army depends very much on the support of the community in order to help the community. I am very serious when I urge Members that whenever they find it possible if they could make some contribution. The Salvation Army takes contributions not necessarily only in cash. They will take it in kind as well. 7.00p.m.

There are gifts of food which many businesses both large and small around Bridgetown give. There are people who give of their time, who go to help with the feeding programme and who do a limited meals-on-wheels, all in the name of the Army. So there are many ways in which Honourable Members can give their widow's mite so to speak and if they could make it on a regular basis it would be very much appreciated by the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I lend my support unreservedly to this Resolution for the vesting of the land at Reed Street in the City of Bridgetown to the Salvation Army for the purpose of the feeding centre, the skills training programme and the general work that they do in rehabilitating people who have fallen by the wayside. It is something that is found in all communities. It is not anything peculiar to Barbados but the Salvation Army has always been the Samaritans, the one who like the Levite did not walk on the other side of the

road. So this is the very least, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Barbados and I include the Opposition in this, all of us. This is the least that we can do to help to advance into a new century, the tremendous community work that the Army will continue to do.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I too want to join in congratulating the Salvation Army for the work they have done over the years and the work they will continue to do. But I also want to congratulate the Democratic Labour Party for first leasing the land to the Salvation Army because as you are aware, Mr. Speaker, if the Democratic Labour Party did not lease that land to the Salvation Army that some big business in Bridgetown would have bought that land and today the present Government would not have been able to vest that land in the Salvation Army.

At the same time while we are congratulating the work of the Salvation Army we must also appreciate, Sir, that the Anglican Church of Barbados has also done a lot of work in this country and that we need to compensate the Anglican Church for allowing us to use their schools which would have educated a lot of us in this building and we should be grateful to the Anglican Church also. We should listen to their pleas and compensate them also for the work they have done in this country. Thank you, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 7 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF AN INCREASED COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO PENSIONERS WHO ARE IN RECEIPT OF A GOVERNMENT PENSION

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, it is customary on the occasion when the salaries of public servants are revised for what in essence are cost of living allowances to be granted to Government pensioners on the understanding that the rate of basic pension of Government pensioners cannot exceed half of the salary of the recipient.

It is now proposed, Mr. Speaker, that arising from the recent 9.5% increase to public servants that we should grant an allowance to Government pensioners in the amount of a 5% increase subject to a minimum of \$25 per month with effect from 1st April 1997. This will apply to some 6 500 pensioners who are on the roll and will impose an additional cost of \$3.2 million to the Treasury.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, there is a special class of pensioner who retired before 1976 and it is proposed that that person will benefit from a \$15 per month increase again effective from 1st April 1976. Mr. Speaker,

this is really however an interim measure and I am hinting that we have been reviewing the whole complex range of legislation pertaining to pensions and have been examining the nature of pension arrangements. May I say in this respect, Sir, that the cost to Government of providing pensions to public servants has been one of the most rapidly expanding areas of public expenditure. In 1975 for example this item cost \$8 million. Ten years ago, 1987/88 the cost of pensions to Government pensioners was \$42.3 million before this increase it is now at \$80 million.

As you are aware, Sir, it is not a funded scheme it is a pay as you go so it comes straight out of the revenue. We have been looking, Sir, at a large amount of legislation pertaining to different types of pensioners and there is need for us to review how pensions are dealt with in the public service, Sir. I will soon be addressing that matter among other issues that I think are of crucial importance to the country. This is interim.

I am also announcing, Sir, on this occasion that there will be a change in the way in which we approach the treatment of Government pensioners and that review of the legislation of pensions is part and parcel of the review of the legislation pertaining to casual employment because the effort to make casual employees public officers will also bring about consequential adjustments in the pension legislation.

I would therefore, Sir, commend this measure to Parliament on the understanding that perhaps in a month's time or thereabouts we will be again addressing this issue in this Chamber when we will deal with this whole question of pension management.

I beg to move therefore, Sir, that this Resolution be agreed to.

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

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

ORDER NO. 8 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE TO EBRAHIM ADAM OF A PARCEL OF
LAND AT BRIGHTON, ST. MICHAEL

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution which seeks parliamentary approval for the sale to Mr. Ebrahim Adam of a small parcel of 168 square metres adjoining his existing property. This is in keeping with Government's policy of offering for sale to land owners, adjoining parcels of land which are presently used as open spaces. This parcel of land is an open space which adjoins land that is owned by Mr. Adam on which he has a dwelling house and he has expressed an interest in purchasing this land. 7.10p.m.

The land is not really needed by the Government for any specific purpose and is only of any real use to the owner of that land. In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B.A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned to Tuesday, the 26th day of May, 1998 at 11:00 in the morning.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 26, 1998, at 11:00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 7.15p.m.

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