

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 - 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 10, 1999

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, August 10, 1999.

PRESENT

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

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P. (Deputy Speaker)

Hon. Sir Henry FORDE, K.A., Q.C., M.A., LL.M. (Cantab.)

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs) (Minister of the Civil Service)

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

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

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

Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)

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

Hon. G. W. PAYNE (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)

Mr. D. CARTER (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Labour, Sports and Public Sector Reform)

Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Housing and Lands)

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL (Minister of Public Works and Transport)

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B.

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

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Mr. D. T. GILL, B.Sc.

Mr. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A.

Hon. A. P. WOOD, J.P., B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil., (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc. (Minister of Industry and International Business)

Prayers -were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, July 27, 1999.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, July 27, 1999, be taken as read subject to any motions for amendment thereto.

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

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

PAPERS

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

1. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Light & Power Limited) Order, 1999.

2. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (No. 5) Order, 1999.
3. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (No. 6) Order, 1999.
4. The Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1999.
5. The Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1999.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following:-

1. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1999.
2. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1999.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I was just going to move that we defer consideration of this item because I had not seen the members of the Opposition in their place but they are now coming in so we will take it now, Sir.

The Government intends to take the opportunity this morning to pay tribute to the passing of the late Harold Blackman, Member of Parliament formerly for the constituency of St. Philip South. In offering again condolences to the family of the late Harold Blackman, I have to say that his passing touched me greatly because of all the Members of Parliament with whom I have served, I cannot claim to have gone to primary school with any of the others than Mr. Branford Taitt for a short while at Wesley Hall.

Aside.

Hon. »D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, my father was headmaster at Wesley Hall in the late 40s, Sir, so it would have been about 1946 that Branford Taitt and I happened to be students at Wesley Hall. As I said on one occasion, we both received floggings from my father. After that we moved to St. Philip in 1948 at Dodds and that is where I got to know Harold Blackman.

Harold Blackman and family came from Cottage Vale just off Cox Hill in St. Philip. He and I went to school at St. Philip's Boys' School for two years until I went to the Lodge School in 1950 and then he went to Combermere. Throughout the years, certainly in the 50s we had a very close relationship. I can think of himself, Ainsley Robinson, Winfield Clarke, Hal Gallop and the son of the late Reynold

Weekes, Dr. Anthony Weekes. All of us regularly played cricket together as boys at Dodds so that it is as though someone very close to you, and we were very close at school, is suddenly taken from your society at a comparatively young age, 58. The passing of such a person does cause one to stop for a moment and reflect on one's own mortality.

Harold Blackman was always a dynamic person, an aggressive person, a forceful person. Those characteristics 4 which were observed at school he brought in full measure to his parliamentary service. At first he tended to plunge headlong into debates and he learnt the hard road of politics in here, in the Opposition. Many were the verbal upper cuts he received from the present Prime Minister in his early days and the former Prime Minister but I think that those upper cuts helped ultimately to put his head on a level posture.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The former Prime Minister to whom I referred, I should have said the former Prime Minister Adams and the present Prime Minister of Barbados.

Sir, he showed a tremendous resilience which was obviously one of the attributes of his character because he was able very much like Dr. Richie Haynes to recover from the fierce buffeting of parliamentary debate and he gradually honed his skills, tightened his arguments in debate and became a very, I mean this in a good sense, dangerous debater. You could not trifle with him and by the time he became a Minister he was a formidable debater who had to be respected and indeed won the respect of his colleagues in this Chamber on both Sides.

I believe the growth and development of Harold Blackman as a politician could be instructive for many of today's politicians. He was prepared to learn from his early mistakes, to have the rough edges of his personality softened and to obviously read widely, arm himself with a basis of fact and then debate. When he was a Minister he brought to bear a very reasoned approach to all of his work and presentations.

When it was necessary for him to be aggressive, he showed that he had not lost that innate attribute. When it was necessary for him to be more restrained, he was able to do that and his parliamentary personality became very rounded so that by the time he left the Democratic Labour Party leading up to the last election, it was 1992, when he spoke in here about the reasons for his leaving, there was a hush in the House. There was consternation, but there was respect that one who had all of his life been a member of the Democratic Labour Party virtually was able, for the sake of principle, to take that stand against his own party.

It is never an easy matter for a member of a party to disagree publicly with his party but so far as I was aware, and I am still aware, he did not receive vitriolic criticism or

comment at the time because his case had been so carefully and closely argued that it was indeed compelling.

One saw, perhaps, principles of politics played out at their highest in his decision to leave the party to which he had given so much, over 20 years or more, almost 30 years. I have to say that there has been one occasion in this Parliament where I felt personal embarrassment, almost shame, and to this day I am not sure how I was able to survive that day. I do try in a day as a deliberate policy to redirect my energies from thing to thing. The day on which the vote was taken in support of the No-Confidence Motion against the Democratic Labour Party Government of June 1994 would have to be in my political career the day on which I suffered the greatest sadness in this House for all that was happening. 11.35a.m.

I recall, and I am sure the Right Honourable Prime Minister will recall that in the afternoon - it must have been about five o'clock - we had not heard from Mr. Bradshaw. He was still in Antigua. We had a plane standing by on the tarmac all day to bring him back. The Prime Minister, the then Leader of the Opposition and I went out on the balcony and we were not tearing out our hair but very close to it. Harold Blackman came and joined us. The comment that he made almost made me cry. It was a day on which I felt a deep shame but more so great embarrassment. He said to us, "What is going on? Where is Bradshaw? Can you imagine that I am going to vote against Sandiford tonight? Trotman has come back from Geneva or wherever and you all cannot produce Bradshaw?" I have never been so ashamed in my life of my involvement in politics.

That was the fervour with which Harold Blackman approached politics. He felt the time had come when he had to take a stand against his own Prime Minister on a matter of principle. He could no longer continue being led by that Prime Minister. He was prepared to take a stand and we had the difficulty of one of our own members who should have been with us not being around.

Sir, Harold Blackman gave much of himself to the political life of Barbados. He was no doubt greatly influenced by Reynold Weekes and Reynold Weekes' style of politics but of course his political mentor was Errol Barrow. Before he ran officially for office Harold Blackman practised the politics of "educated loitering" with the constituents. He could be seen all over St. Philip interacting at the grass roots with the people of St. Philip and it is a political strategy that I personally commend because I know there are Members of this House who do not necessarily share my view in seeing the value in it but there is nothing more satisfying than a politician liming with his people, in or out of the House.

You get close to people. You understand people's needs and wants. You are able on the spot to be in a position

to do lots of little things for them. Maybe it is only signing a passport form or photograph for them. You get to know your constituents. It has been a facet of the political technique of some of those who ran for the parish of St. Philip to practise "educated loitering". The present representative of St. Philip South is the latest exponent...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ... The Prime Minister would wish me to add to "educated loitering", enlightened and educated loitering. I am grateful for his suggestion, a sophisticated form of liming.

Sir, Harold Blackman however suffered and his health no doubt suffered from the intensity with which he represented his constituency. There was of course an occasion when there was some public complaint about his lack of attention to the constituency but that was because I do not think that even now Barbadians fully appreciate the workload that attends a Minister of Government. He found it difficult to run a Ministry and, as it were, continue an ongoing campaign with the constituents as compared with the occasions when he was not holding ministerial office. It is very taxing physically to be able to interact at the constituency level and run a Ministry when you are in office. It is different when you are in Opposition. You have no ministerial responsibility. You can roam around and be more available and attentive but when you hold ministerial office, the constituency representation tends to slip a bit. You try as you might through the constituency office and attending functions and so on but you can never do it as well when you are in office, as when you are in Opposition - I mean, serve at the constituency level. 11.45a.m.

By the time Harold Blackman lost his seat, he had contributed handsomely to the political life of Barbados. He will always be remembered for the rumbustious time that caused him to acquire the name "Rambo". His style was vigorous. It is a pity, Mr. Speaker, that he died at so young an age. I would wish his family to be assured that he would be remembered fondly by those of us who had the privilege to serve in this House with him on both Sides of the House.

He will be missed in the sporting arena because he was a regular at cricket at Kensington. His seat was well known, towards the back of the Challenor Stand. He played cricket to a good level and he had a great understanding of the game and a fiery commitment to quality in cricket, Sir. I believe that Cable & Wireless, who are now BET, for which club he played, will also lament his passing. All of us who are interested in cricket will also remember Harold Blackman fondly as one of our great colleagues. He was a great commentator in his own way about cricket, Sir.

On behalf of my own family, I wish to offer personal condolences to his widow, children and other members of the family, particularly the Clarke family of Cottage Vale in St. Philip, who are his immediate relatives.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of sadness that I speak to the life of Harold Blackman. I say so, largely because he and I had an experience for the time that I knew him. We had some great times together and some very rocky moments in our relationship but I believe that we always had a great love and respect for each other's views. It was because of that, that regardless of whether, at the time of Harold Blackman's passing, whether I was in his good books then or not, and I happen, I believe, to be in them at that time - even though we had had times when we were in each other's bad books - I would have said exactly the same thing about Harold Blackman. I believe that all of us - they certainly would not be many in this Chamber who would have been in active politics with him because when you think about it, the people who entered this Parliament in 1986, except for the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, who entered in a different capacity, none of them are active in politics, I should say, one assumes, any more. The point is that there would not be many people in here who would have worked alongside Harold Blackman that would be able to speak with the authority of those who cherished the memory of the man.

Harold Blackman, essentially was, from that age group and background where he span two generations so that for me, many of the things he said and did, he was a link back to rural Barbados, the grass roots politician, the raconteur, the guy who would have spent a lot of time enjoying rural life in the rum shop playing dominoes but who later on in life opted for a professional career, but for whom that did very little to change his life experience. Then he was linked with the younger generation because it was to Harold Blackman that many of us looked in 1981 when Tom Adams was at the height of his political powers. Regardless of the criticism that was thrown at Harold Alfonso Blackman, he continued to press ahead with his view so much so that during a Budget debate when Members of the Democratic Labour Party walked out and Tom Adams had a field day in replying without interruption, misrepresenting the Opposition and breaking the Standing Orders in terms of the criticism he levelled.

In that particular debate, I recalled watching television and hearing words to the effect, from Tom Adams, that Harold Blackman's speech was so well presented, spoken with such passion and dedication and was so focussed that when he was finished, nobody hearing him, and he himself was not in doubt that he was talking absolute foolishness and the House erupted into laughter. That did not daunt Harold Blackman because by Sunday night, the Democratic Labour Party launched a platform in Independence Square and, as

usual, Harold Blackman's twenty-minute reply was a searing criticism of his opponents.

Therefore, as I have said, younger politicians look to that fire, that energy, that hunger which Harold Blackman had within him. He did not come into politics easily because at the time when he came in, he was challenged by a formidable opponent, Mr. John Connell, who had his eyes set, I presume rightly so, on getting into this Chamber,

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I have not communicated with him recently so I do not know what his present intentions are. That is all I can say, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I cannot assist him in any way.

The point is that he was also very hungry to get into Parliament and Harold Blackman's choice as a candidate was one of the most difficult and controversial times in the leadership of Errol Barrow because there was absolutely no doubt that Harold Blackman was Errol Barrow's candidate. I well remember an Executive Council meeting of the Democratic Labour Party that started at 8 o'clock. Everybody spoke at that meeting, The preponderance of support was in favour of John Connell and at 10 o'clock on the dot, Errol Barrow, who had appeared to be sleeping for the whole night, woke up, looked at his watch and said: Ladies and Gentlemen, I have invited some people to my house for dinner tonight at 9 o'clock but it is now 10 o'clock. I just want to let you know that if John Connell is the candidate, look for a leader. He took up his bag and walked through the door and left all of those men and women who had delivered very principled and well-reasoned speeches, totally dumbfounded and confused. Everybody knew from then that Harold Blackman was going to be the candidate. 11.55a.m.

I contributed to the debate as a very young and distant secretary and I believe at that time I was at the weight of opinion and this is because I did not really know Harold Blackman very well. He was not a party activist. In fact, he never sought to gain political office in the party and he never sought to work within the institution. So he had a totally different background in politics. He was in every sense of the word a grass roots politician who just wanted to serve and he was very strong in his opinions. He was frank but more than anything else, he always made it clear that he had two idols in his life. One was his mother and she was already gone and the second was Errol Barrow. His reference point on anything was what Errol Barrow said, even when he misinterpreted what Errol Barrow said, as I thought often he did. I remember when we were engaged in the privatization debate, even when I went to the Hansard and produce for Harold what Errol Barrow had said on the sale of Heywoods Hotel, Harold still relied on his impression and his firm conviction that somewhere along the way, Errol Barrow had told him that privatization was not a good thing. He went on those kinds of instincts.

Therefore, when Errol Barrow departed the political scene there were many people who wondered whether Harold Blackman lost the appetite for politics, whether he had lost his way and whether he would be able still to connect with the Democratic Labour Party as an institution without Errol Barrow. There was a considerable view in Barbados that Errol Barrow's death was so traumatic that Harold Blackman would often have asked himself why he was involved in politics at all. But he, as I said, had some very firm and fixed views and he was firm in expressing them, whether it was the role of the economic monetary fund, whether it was the conditionalities imposed, whether it was issues relating to religion or issues relating to schools. He was a voracious reader of contemporary publications. He was always on top of international politics and beyond that, he read every single school book that his children were given through the text books scheme, before they started school.

Sir, Harold Blackman would come to Cabinet or to Parliament with all the Macmillan Caribbean series and when you see him reading it and you ask him why he was reading it he would say,

"...well I have to know what is going into my child's head and, therefore, I read and when they come to do homework I have already done all of these math problems".

He was a person who had a thirst for knowledge and he could be stubborn in rejecting views that he did not respect or was not interested in. But, by and large, his greatest personal attribute was his fearlessness and his articulation.

As I say, he was also a very shrewd politician - no fooling yourself about that. No one could describe Harold Blackman as a simpleton. He knew exactly what he wanted out of politics and he had his own very crafty way of dealing with situations. I do not think that his object at the end of the day was to hurt anybody personally. It was merely to get across the fervent beliefs that he had, whether it was on economic issues, whether it was in relation to the housing policy or in any other aspect of his involvement in politics.

He could be seen in St. Philip South on street corners. Very often I have passed on the ABC Highway and seen Harold Blackman in animated discussion with somebody. He would flag you down when you are hustling to go somewhere and pull you aside and for extended periods, repeating the objective of the purpose for which he stopped you. At cricket, the same thing - he was a fixture at one point in the Challenor Stand. Then he would sit under the tree at BET on occasions and was extremely interested in the development of cricket, so much so that persons who merely watch cricket as I do and seldom discuss it, he would dismiss as not being serious. He felt that discussion about cricket was as intense as science and other intellectual arts but the fact that he had seen it for himself emboldened him to the

views that he had about the game. At the University of the West Indies he held court with people from St. Philip like John Goddard. You would pass the corners in the quadrangle of Cave Hill and hear the St. Philip twang as he and John Goddard and others from St. Philip argued politics, religion and other issues in social sciences.

He felt he had been unfairly for political reasons at the University of the West Indies and others may claim that. The point is that when you got below the surface, what you discovered was that Harold had a basic difference of opinion on formulae which were being applied in statistics and felt that the tutor and he simply could not see eye to eye and he was not going to bend to the tutor's views in the matter. He then extrapolated that that also had a political content to it. Again, that just goes to demonstrate the extent to which, once Harold held a strong view, he was unshakable in that view.

At Cave Hill though, as a student, he was always interested in entering into some discussion. He was at the time when he was studying economics, consumed by the theories which he was learning and he brought that knowledge to bear on his work in the Ministry of Finance. He was fortunate to be able to go to work every day with his Time Magazine and his little black pouch with a pen, perhaps a comb and few small items in it. Ministers of Finance nowadays walk with big brief cases and volumes of files. Harold Blackman never took home a file. By 11 o'clock the substance of his work, as he saw it, was over and he was on to other pursuits, whether it was cricket, or back in the constituency or whatever. But he certainly was not going to walk around taking files home, because Harold was very systematic in the way in which he went about his task.

It is not true to say, as some have said, that he did not perform as a parliamentary representative. The first point is that when the Democratic Labour Party won office in 1986, we only had a very short time to get programmes going. By 1991 we had a serious economic crisis and therefore a lot of the capital works which should have been done in terms of tenantry roads had to be placed on the back burner. 12.05 p.m.

But for those first five years Harold Blackman developed the housing projects at Six Roads and Church Village. There was a site and services kind of project at Foursquare and he was involved in other smaller projects. He also tried to generate private sector interest in the development of housing in the constituency. So generally speaking, he took on those tasks with great enthusiasm.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that Harold Blackman's life approach could have been summarised in the comments that he made to me during the 1994 Election. He stopped me one day and told me that I had made an error in the 1994 Election. He said, you have to understand in life that things are black and white. There are no shades of grey. He told me that after

the no-confidence motion that I and the party by extension should have made a decision either to back Harold Blackman and the guys who voted for the no-confidence motion or to back Erskine Sandiford. He said the problem is that the party really did not do either. But if the Democratic Labour Party had solidly put its case in favour or against, he felt that the result would have been a lot different. There are other people, Patsy Springer and other political commentators who did not get involved in the 1994 Campaign who felt that that was what was lacking that the party should have made out its case. Are you backing the Prime Minister or are you backing the position of the rebels? Harold always felt that in issues like that you have to take one side or the other; you cannot navigate and tiptoe through the tulips. You have to be clear in the message which you send to the electorate and you have to make sure that you communicate the viewpoints that you have on the issue so that the people can then decide based on that whether they are going with you or not. I think that shortly after the 1994 Campaign and reflecting on what Harold Blackman said, I believe that to some extent one is able to agree with that analysis, that the party did not clearly state its position.

There certainly would have been nothing that would have created more pain for me than to have to journey to St. Martins in St. Philip to respond to Harold Blackman on behalf of the party. Because as I say, for a while it did rupture a very warm relationship and perhaps he said things that he should not have said and I said things that I should not have said. But we both acknowledged later on that we should not have said them and focused on the task at hand.

That he was able to serve on the Board of the National Petroleum Corporation under the Government while still criticising the Barbados Labour Party Administration and not feeling that he was beholden to them or in anyway pulled in by that national service to support policies that he did not agree with, was again an indication of the true Harold Blackman that I knew.

He lived with a very heavy burden of having broken his association with the Democratic Labour Party; just as he walked around with his letter of resignation from the Cabinet for many weeks and told me that he had it but he told me not to tell anybody because he is only telling me. I told Maurice King and I told Maurice not to tell anybody because I am only telling him, but I told almost everybody that he had it.

When he rejoined the Democratic Labour Party, he had been walking around with that membership form in his bag for weeks because again that was the nature of Harold Blackman. It had to be a clear decision that he was making but he also felt that he had to prepare the way for that process by letting others know that at the appropriate time he will be doing the right thing. That was, as I said, his approach.

I think that the qualities that he brought to politics were the images of a man born in extreme poverty with a great love for the advice of his mother and the generation that preceded him, who almost modelled his life on the sacrifice that they had made, but who got a good education when it was still difficult for people like him to get one and who did well. Sometimes doing better than the children of some of the more affluent people in St. Philip who, in one case, actually resented him for that achievement because they felt that a fellow like him should not do better than their children. But who went through all of that, with a unique quirk of personality, rising to the top, holding a post in the Ministry of Finance, ensuing the pleasures of politics, foreign travel and driving a luxury motorcar. All of that because there was something about Harold Blackman that said, 'that is not part of my personality.'

There was no myth-making about Harold Blackman the man. He was what he was. With Harold Blackman, you got what you saw. With Harold Blackman he said what he felt and with Harold Blackman he was simply the man himself.

The Democratic Labour Party Members, despite the differences that we had down through the years with Harold Blackman, and people who would have been very critical of him all turned up to pay their last respects to him with fond memories. I saw people who during his life felt that he did things that he should not have done, nevertheless, were able to point to the man who would stop them anywhere and shout to them and who could be seen enjoying aspects of Barbadian life that more of us should have a chance to enjoy to bring us into greater contact with people.

He was frank, articulate, he feared no man, believed firmly in the policies of Errol Barrow and was an icon of the attributes of somebody who came from extremely poor circumstances, moved to the top but in a very real sense never wanted to lose touch with the people who helped him along the way and with his origin.

The Democratic Labour Party will cherish the memory of this outstanding former combermerian and great Barbadian politician. We thank his family for the sacrifices they made in allowing a husband and a father to contribute as fully as he did. Therefore, we join with other Members of Parliament in expressing our sincere condolences.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with those remarks that are being made in a debate in this House which I could scarcely ever imagine would have taken place during my period as a Member of this Parliament.

I begin on that note because if there was an aspect of Harold Blackman's character that will live forever is the sense of vitality that he exuded but that is to anticipate. I join in the mourning of the passing of Harold Blackman not just as a former distinguished Minister of the Crown and a Member of Parliament but also genuinely so as a friend whose friendship I deeply cherished.

I came to know about Harold Blackman before I met him and the circumstances had a profound influence on the nature of the relationship I came to have with him. I had returned from Jamaica in 1981 and was working in the Ministry of Finance and was one of those public officers who were assembled to advise the then Minister of Finance as to the manner in which he should have responded to the Opposition strictures. I remember going deeply into my armoury of economic analysis to try to explain to the then Minister of Finance the intricacies of the momentary approach to the Balance of Payments and to answer all of the Opposition comments on strictly technical grounds. To be shocked and surprised, Sir, by the character of Mr. Adam's response, Mr. Adams, of course, as was his wont, dispensed with all of the technical analysis and came straight to the point. He said "The contributions in this debate", Mr. Speaker, "have ranged from the brilliant to the bizarre, from the Blackman of St. Michael East to the Blackman of St. Philip South." With an introduction like that, Sir, I had to take notice. 12.15p.m.

It became clear to me that Mr. Adam's 'mis-characterisation' as it was, because to describe Mr. Harold Blackman's contribution as bizarre was based upon an appreciation of the threat that he posed and that he felt the need to do the greatest damage to those whom he felt represented the greatest challenge. That stuck in my memory as something to take note of in any future relationship with Harold Blackman.

When I came to meet him, Sir, I felt that I understood Harold Blackman intimately and comprehensively because he was a product of a particular time and place in the development of the Barbadian society. The rural Barbados of the 40s, 50s and the 60s, threw up a kind of character, a person whom we would call a progressive country boy. Persons with very solid values based upon the strength of our educational system and their religious upbringing. People who were stripped of any vanities, persons who were basically decent by nature, had a great native intelligence governed by a commonsense that was driven into them by grandmothers and very faithful and loving parents who had a feel for people's issues and in that context, Mr. Speaker, did not see themselves as being constrained by the poverty of their origins but saw it as a challenge for them to make the most of what this country had to offer.

Harold Blackman really was a quintessential progressive country boy at heart. He represented all of those very strong rural characters which have served as the bedrock upon which the greatness of this Barbadian society has been rested. There is so much of the Harold Blackman in so many of that generation who came to adulthood in the 50s and 60s that have contributed massively to making this society what it has been.

Sir, he was also very much a St. Philip person. The people of St. Philip whether it be in their cultural norms in their way of life, feel sometimes that they are a special species apart and rightly so, Sir. To be a St. Philip person is in fact, very often to feel oneself possessed of a special distinctive way of life that is different from the rest of Barbados. It is not always a bad thing. It shows in the quality of their cultural expression. It shows in the way sometimes in which they play games and also in their general attitude. Harold Blackman was a quintessential St. Philip person.

It is to his credit, Mr. Speaker, that he was not only able to make a contribution to this country through this Parliament, at the level of a Minister and as a parliamentary representative but he also made a further contribution to commercial development in this country as an employee of Cable & Wireless and also to the development of sports in Barbados.

There were very many pleasing aspects to his character, Sir. It is within my knowledge, Sir, that he was utterly faithful to his wife but I do happen to know that he was also very much loved by the other ladies of Barbados, although I doubt very much that he ever acted upon their affections. But he was absolutely a very affable and affectionate man. I think that there was something endearing in the way in which he related to members of the opposite sex.

Sir, I do believe he had the most fierce sense of loyalty I have ever seen exemplified in an individual. He spoke about his loyalty to Errol Barrow with all the emotions of a religious faith. He believed fundamentally in the values and the political philosophy that he thought Errol Barrow stood for and represented. The extent of his loyalty to Errol Barrow was really best reflected in the fact that even when he had differences with the Democratic Labour Party, there was no circumstance under which it was possible for me to speak to him in terms of his being a candidate for the Barbados Labour Party. Harold Blackman would not have known, and he said as much, Sir, what it would have been to run for the Barbados Labour Party no matter what was the nature of the difference he had with the Democratic Labour Party. At the end of the day Harold Blackman had an overwhelming sense of loyalty to the party that Errol Barrow created.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I enjoyed a very warm friendship with Harold Blackman under some of the most strange circumstances. For most of my political life in Opposition, Harold Blackman was the person who was called upon by the Democratic Labour Party to make the Opposition's response to my response to the Budget and I have been the victim of some of the most savage onslaughts on an Opposition spokesman in this Parliament in recent times issuing from the lips of Harold Blackman. But it did not stop he and I from enjoying one of the warmest friendships I do believe had existed in the political life of this country in recent times.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I do feel that I would have been photographed on the balcony of Parliament more often chatting with Harold Blackman immediately after he had savaged me in this House than I would have been photographed with many of my colleagues and on that hangs a tale that I do feel is worthy of emulation. It is important that politicians leave their animosity or what appears to be their enmity in this Parliament when they leave it and go about their business of living their normal lives because we are involved in the public's business but it does not mean that we have to carry the spirit of opposition that some things have to be represented in the conduct of the people's business into our personal affairs.

Harold Blackman used to say savage things about me in here. I said very savage things about him in here in defence of our parties but we immediately joined as colleagues in every other sphere of social life in this country, putting the animosity and the enmity aside. I must say, Sir, that one of the most pleasing aspects of our relationship was as members of the BET Sports and Cultural Club. We played a lot of dominoes together but, more especially, we gathered under the tree at BET on Saturdays to be part of what they fancy is the people's parliament. 12.25 p.m.

If you want to hear a lot of what is happening in Barbados from persons who have access to a lot of information, then you can hear about it under the tree at the BET grounds. It was very fascinating to see the way in which Harold Blackman brought leadership to the people's parliament under the tree at BET/BARTEL and it leads me to wonder what might had been his lot had he been allowed to exercise that same leadership in the annals of the Democratic Labour Party.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, Harold Blackman in the tradition of St. Philip South politics, will stand to be remembered in this Parliament as one of the great grass roots politicians to have served in this Parliament in the second half of the twentieth century. As I said, Sir, he had a feel for people's issues. He had a good strong and native intelligence and he believed in the supremacy of common sense. He was able in debates to strip his contribution of any technical complexity and come to terms with those aspects of issues before this House, that he felt spoke to the issue as to how poor people in this country live and to the issue as to how their circumstances should have been improved.

It was not just a rhetorical relationship to grass roots issues. He lived the reality of the grass roots politician and that aspect of his contribution to political life in this country is to be deeply treasured and to be emulated.

Mr. Speaker, I came to know of his circumstances, his failing health, and I was in contact with him. It was a very

painful exercise for me. In many respects, Harold had become very childlike in his illness and it was a transformation which those of us who knew 'the Rambo' would only have been greatly saddened by it. He accepted his lot with a fatalism that was touching and as I said there was a childlike peace about him as he awaited what I think in his heart he knew was his death.

I saw an aspect of his personality then that could only have reflected the strength of the socialisation he would have benefited from when he was brought up in rural Barbados, to prepare himself with faith and with fortitude for that kind of eventuality. I am greatly privileged that despite the political divide I could have counted on Harold Blackman as one of my best friends with whom I enjoyed, both in this Parliament and outside of this Parliament, moments that I greatly treasure and it is my sad lot today therefore, Sir, to associate myself with the remarks of this House and also on behalf of the entire Government and on behalf of my family to express my deepest condolences to his family.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I believe that when the history of Barbados politics is recorded Harold Blackman will be remembered, ¹ parliamentarians that this conn¹

Mr. Speaker, thinking of t ^ - -iw ** <« -; - loved throughout that parish Minister has described the people :, , - ' - ^ l special species and they have that special and distinctive way of life and I can safely say that one of those people who helped to give St. Philip that identity was Harold Alphonso Blackman. He has also helped to give the people of St. Philip that reputation for being independent, a reputation for being what we in St. Philip call a 'together people', a reputation for being community-spirited. All these, Harold Blackman has helped to foster.

He was indeed, Sir, a St. Philip man. I do not think that there is any person who could drive through St. Philip and who could get as many hellos, as many hand shakes, people speaking to you, as Harold Blackman did, Harold Blackman represented St. Philip South but as far as he was concerned there was no St. Philip North. There was no St. Philip South. He was an all-St. Philip man. He had a large family in the north as well as in the south and wherever he went in St. Philip he was well received and he made his contribution.

He was very easy to get along with. There are some of us who, the moment we become parliamentarians and lawyers decide that we have made it and we forget our roots. Harold Blackman never forgot his. There was a charm about him as a man. That charm endeared the people of Barbados to him generally but in particular the people of St Philip.

Mr. Speaker, I well recall the time that he broke with the Democratic Labour Party and when he had what I called the one-man meeting at St. Martins. I do not know Mr. Speaker, whether at that time we could have had any other individual in politics who would have broken away from any party and who could have commanded that size crowd that we saw at St. Martins. It was a massive meeting. It is the biggest meeting that I have ever seen by any single person.

Wherever Harold Blackman was, Mr. Speaker, a crowd was always around him. He was a kind of magnet, a drawing card, and you could see him arguing and gesticulating. The more he did it, the more people tended to come around him. That is not a real trait of St. Philip people, when they are arguing, but that was his way of doing things. People gathered around Harold Blackman, Mr. Speaker, whether he was on a side walk in Broad Street, whether he was at a shop in Marchfield, or whether he was at a cricket match at St. Catherine's or under the tree at BET. As a sportsman, he loved games - dominoes, football, athletics, almost every sport you could think of. It was as a cricketer that he excelled. He was a good bowler at Combermere and he was an excellent swing bowler for BET. He was one of the best swing bowlers that I have ever seen. Mr. Speaker, I can see you nodding your head in appreciation as if to say yes, you know that that is so as well. 12.35p.m.

I played against him, Mr. Speaker, playing first of all for Harrison's College and secondly, I played against him, playing for the University of the West Indies. I remember, Mr Speaker, being bowled by Harold Blackman without playing a shot.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I was not alone in that respect, Sir. Many people have been bowled by Harold Blackman without playing a shot, in the Valley, at Boarded Hall, where he was virtually unplayable. I do not know what it was that caused him, more than anyone else, to get the ball swing like that in that Valley.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I know that when he came out of the Valley sometimes, he got some lashes but playing against him at Boarded Hall and in the Valley, he was virtually unplayable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have a love for a club in St. Philip called St. Catherine's just like the Honourable Member for St. Andrew has a love for Standard Club, Sir. I recall the very first time that my club, St. Catherine's played against BET for the intermediate final. They played that game at Kensington. I do recall that Harold Blackman gave them no end of trouble playing for Cable & Wireless, as it was then,

playing against St. Catherine's. St. Catherine's eventually won the intermediate trophy. What I remember most, Sir, about that game, was the kind of bitter-sweet feeling that Harold Blackman expressed to me at the end of the match. Obviously, Sir, he was sad that he was on the losing team but he was extremely happy that the intermediate trophy was headed for the east because he was a St. Philip man.

Yes, Harold Blackman or Blackie as he was affectionately called was a true BET man but he was also a St. Catherine's man. Whether you have to split your loyalty or not, I can say he was as loyal to St. Catherine's as he was to BET. Many Saturdays, I recall him watching cricket - at Bayfield watching St. Catherine's and he would stand at a particular spot in front of Richard Rudder's house and look on to the playing field and you could see him there once again gesticulating and saying whether you should change the bowler or the field and giving a running commentary of the game.

As someone had said before, I think it was the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, who said that there was a particular seat at the back of the Challenor Stand that you could always find Harold Blackman whenever a game was being played at Kensington. There again, you could see him and hear him. As I have said, he was very knowledgeable, very frank and very constructive too at Kensington. You could always tell this in his criticism of batsmen, bowlers, empires and of cricket administrators. He mixed no matters. He criticised anyone that he thought deserved criticism.

As a political debater, he was very dynamic and he was very shrewd. I think that the strength of Harold Blackman as a debater should not go unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, he clinched an argument within twenty seconds. He was not one of those speakers, Sir, who went far out there and then came in and gave a lot of peripheral talk before he got to the point. That was never, Sir, Harold Blackman's style. He zeroed in, Sir, on a point, in a split second. Whenever, he sat down, Sir, you knew where he stood. Not only did you know where he stood, but you understood every word that he had said.

There are some people. Sir, who would come to the House of Parliament and who would consider that gaining a seat in the House of Assembly is the be all and the end all and that for them there is no further to go. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have noticed that while he was a Member of Parliament, that he still thought it necessary to pursue studies at Cave Hill. He thought it was necessary to further his education and he believed that it would not only make him a more rounded parliamentarian but it would also make him a more sound person.

I have been told, Sir, that his employers always thought very highly of him. To the point, Sir, that I believed that he was told, any time you are ready, Blackie, you can come back.

I have seen that happened and I do believe that that is the way they operated. They thought very highly of him as a worker.

Mr. Speaker, I take it upon myself to say on behalf of all of the people in St. Philip - not only St. Philip north but all of the people in St. Philip - on behalf of them, I want to offer my condolences to his wife Marcia, his children and to that large Clarke family in Cottage Vale.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to say from the outset that prior to my entering this Chamber I had a habit of taping every Budget Speech or every debate coming from the House of Assembly - on television. I can assure you, Sir, that on many of those tapes, you will see the face of Harold Blackman and you will hear the voice of Harold Blackman.

I am one of those people who believe that he was very much an under-rated politician within these walls. Once you get into the meat of politics within Barbados, the person that people wanted to hear was Harold Blackman because they understood everything he said. It was rather interesting to hear the Honourable Member for St. Philip North saying that the late Harold Blackman had the ability to deliver what he had to say in a short space of time. He raised a number of issues within a thirty minute span while some Members were only able to raise two issues. Even though that happened, many people did not understand what they had said.

One of his famous outbursts, would have been the year 1981 at the time the so-called great Tom Adams was cutting across....

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is judgement. That is subjective.

Asides.

12.45p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: He was cutting across the thrusts of Parliament and I remember that in 1980, the revenues of this country increased to about \$ 100 million and by 1981 they dropped by the same \$100 million and the late Harold Blackman, standing in Parliament, said it was no big thing. That if you got \$100 million in one year that you did not budget for and you did not receive it the following year, you should not be in a crisis and I agree with him.

I am one of those who believe that no Minister of Finance, however great he is, should project his revenue based on *ad hoc* revenue. It would have been a point that made many people laugh at the late Harold Blackman, but when you are given the opportunity to study what he said, one would have understood clearly what he meant. I think that any future Minister of Finance - and I believe I probably said this before - who fails to acknowledge what was said in 1981, and plan for something which he is not sure on, then that person will be leading the country into destruction. That is advice that I thought the Minister of Finance would have learnt from. It is clear to me, Sir, that we need to repeat that, because I had seen that situation occur and I have seen it happen again. It tells me, Sir, that even though he had been able to give that advice to Parliament, it has not been taken as good advice.

I also believe that he was someone who believed that Ministers of Finance should not run a current account deficit and that was very easy to understand, because that was the philosophy of the late Mr. Errol Barrow. Mr. Errol Barrow had always stated that any good Minister of Finance should leave enough room in the current account to help with his capital projects and any good Minister of Finance should not depend on external borrowings to look after their capital account. So if there is anything that was said by the late Harold Blackman that will always register with me is that particular speech. I think, Sir, that it should not only be with me, it should be with all the Members who heard it and all those who have the opportunity of hearing it again.

Another thing that I admire him for, Sir, and I have regarded him as the prodigal son of the Democratic Labour Party, is that he left the Democratic Labour Party because he had a particular problem. He went out and he did what he liked, but he came back to the Democratic Labour Party and he came back with an understanding that he came to help build the Democratic Labour Party. He was not like a son who stood home and pretended he was doing everything well. He went out and he came back to help the party. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are people sometimes in your house, Sir, who pretend they are with you, they will do everything to give you the impression that they are with you and that the prodigal son is the worst person, but when you reflect the prodigal son is the best son. Because, what he had in his mind, he would have shown you and he would have told you what is on his mind. But the one who stood home and made mockery on the return of the prodigal son, is the one sometimes you have to watch.

So I am saying that we in the Democratic Labour Party never had to fear the late Harold Blackman, because we knew exactly how he thought of us and how he thought of the issues relating to us. He never kept it in his mind. He was open and

we did not have to look over our shoulders at the late Harold Blackman because we knew exactly where he was coming from.

I am saying to you, Sir, that political parties need more Harold Blackmans, because it is from the Harold Blackmans you understand the particular problems you have within yourself. But the ones who would stay home with you, Sir, and give you the impression that everything is well, are the ones you have to fear. And that is why I have the greatest respect for the political life of Harold Blackman, because to me he was one who would do a lot of work for the political party and for the country on the whole.

What was also interesting, Sir, when he spoke on a political issue, one got the impression it was coming straight from his heart, even though it was a political issue. He said what he had within himself. He never took time to develop a speech to give you a false speech, he brought it straight from the heart and that is what is needed in politics. That is why going into the 21st Century, I honestly believe that we need to get more politicians like the Harold Blackmans.

I would also like to say, Sir, that it might have been rather unfortunate that Mr. Blackman entered the Cabinet in 1986, because sometimes in Cabinet you get big names and the true contributions of the persons who are really contributing cannot be acknowledged. I think that our political history would not have been fair to Mr. Blackman, because he did a lot of work, but because of the big names that he was surrounded by, he was never given the true respect that was due to him. That is why I hope that the historians would sometimes research the mouthings of the late Mr. Harold Blackman and that they would give him the true respect that he deserved.

To his family, I want to say that they should be proud, because today we are speaking about a man who spoke on behalf of the whole of Barbados and what he said he meant. I am extremely grateful, Sir, to take part in this debate.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I too would be glad to lend my voice to the remarks of the late Harold Blackman. I had the fortune of serving with him in Parliament over two terms and a number of things stand out in my memory about the late Mr. Blackman. I do not claim to have the type of personal relationship with him that others claimed, but from my vantage point sitting across, I saw a number of things that appealed to me and I rather liked the man - I rather liked him. He was a very forthright person who spoke with a great deal of passion on any issue.

Indeed, Sir, he was a man who had the capacity to relieve the boredom of the House in those days. He was a master of that. When things were quiet and tended to send

people to sleep, he had a way of lightening up the day. What fascinated me about him was his capacity to speak with so much passion about matters that most others consider inconsequential.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: He really did, Sir. He talked with great feeling about things that did not seem terribly important. What I liked about him also, was the fact that he saw everything in black and white. The world saw it in all its variegated tones. He saw it only in black and white and it was right or wrong and compromise was not part of his vocabulary.

He felt very strongly about issues that, as he said, relate to ordinary man and in dealing with a number of issues that came before the House in his last term - the period of the early 1990s - when he felt that the country was being betrayed by the Government of which he formed part, was perhaps dealt with in the days when he made his final speeches.

Mr. Speaker, he used to go over to the southern balcony of Parliament all by himself and look over into Trafalgar Square and he would have been seen in introspection lining his brow and whenever he left the balcony and came into Parliament, we got the feeling that something was going to erupt like ashes in the air. 12.55 p.m.

He would come in, he would get up and in his slow, measured, deliberate way he would let loose a number of unquotes in those days primarily to get across his policies, not of his party but the policies of the then Minister of Finance.

He felt that in those days Government was not levelling with the country and he had an overriding responsibility to lay bear the true facts to Parliament. Therefore he stripped away the facade which had been put up. The then Minister of Finance made a number of revelations in Parliament that took many of us in those days, by surprise.

He was a man who, as I said, could not distinguish colours and this was manifested to a very large extent in the way in which he dealt with issues in Finance in which he had some temporary responsibility. He did not understand that there was a flexibility in the affairs of Government. That they were met with a number of competing interest and that there must be a balancing between one interest and the other. He look straight down the barrel.

He was a man of enormous grit and determination. If he believed in a cause, as others have mentioned earlier

today, he pursued that cause unrelentingly. That is, he gave no quarters. He believed in arguments. He believed in advancing his cause. He was a voluble debater. He was strong in argument and he was a man who was very much quite fired up by his beliefs and his own commitments. He was, as others would say, the quintessential grass roots politician. I do not know whether they used the term in the classical sense but I am using the words grass roots politician in the classical sense. Nowadays it has taken on all kinds of extreme twists and turns, but he really was a quintessential grass roots politician who knew how to work with people, deal with them on their terms, and discuss matters in a way that they understood. He made it clear that he understood them because that was the crucible in which he was raised in St. Philip.

He also was a man who could deliver the fiercest Philippics. He was a man who used language as a rapier in the true tradition of people like Demosthenes. He used language in a way that was not offensive but telling. I have been the target of some of his harshest criticism not in Parliament but on the political platform. I remember the 1987 by-election in St. John, driving to a meeting somewhere in the East and when I got to Gall Hill in St. John the road was blocked with traffic and I had to sit in my car and wait until the police were able to ease the way. I must have been sitting in the traffic there for about 10-15 minutes and during that period I heard Harold Blackman on the platform at Gall Hill call my name at least 20 times and he was not saying good morning.

Asides,

Mr. L. R. TULL: I enjoyed that. So I went East and I reciprocated only to be called by Harold Blackman the following morning and he said, "you are a true gladiator." But he understood the need in the political system for there to be sharp debate on both Sides. Like others have said, he was not one who allowed the sharpness of his wit to make him alienated either from an individual or from the system. He understood his need. He bore no malice.

I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my family to express condolences to his family. I met his wife Leonora, she is a fine and charming woman and I know this must be an extremely painful period for her. But I want to give her my personal assurance that my family and I bear her pain and will remember her.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker I beg to move that this House be now suspended until 2.00 p.m.

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

The question that the House be suspended until 2.00 p. m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.08p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to join in this Resolution before the House. There are three quotations made from this Parliament by Members of the past Parliaments, Members of the Democratic Labour Party, which I will never forget, quotations like: "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." "Lord help me to know my friends, my enemies I can take care of." The third one, Sir, which I think is most indelibly etched is: "If I had served my Lord half as much as I served my party, then I would be assured a place in Heaven." That was the one coming from the late Harold Blackman. Sir, I think to have made that quotation sort of summed up the man himself, his ideology, how profoundly and how great he considered his political party.

I happen to know Harold Blackman for over 35 years and as a young boy he visited my house. The doors were open to quite a few people. Blackie and my second brother were inseparable friends, we could almost say like brothers and to count him as the tenth child for my parents would be more than reasonable. So close was that association with my brother, that my brother was on holiday when Harold passed and either 24 or 48 hours before his interment he had just left New York and gone to London for a holiday. He had suffered a ruptured disc in his leg. I feel that, more than anything else stopped him from coming home for the interment because it would not have been a proper thing to fly. My brother said to me: "David, make sure that my two sons are at Blackie's funeral tomorrow" and I made sure of that.

The point is, Sir, that the two of them went to Cornwall to do engineering. They were both employed by, in those days, Cable and Wireless and you could not get a letter coming home without reference being made to Blackie whether they were in the same place on campus, or whether it was with a fellow otherwise but that closeness transcended the years.

We have heard a lot about Blackie, his sportsmanship and his debating skills. I never had the opportunity to play cricket against him and circumstance would have it that I did not enter this Parliament earlier than was possible, but he had the ability to soften the most difficult and refractory atmosphere with his witty humour.

Many previous speakers would have alluded to his forceful debating skills and his scalpel tongue but he possessed a *droit d'auteur* and a *droit de vive* unparalleled. He liked life. He enjoyed life. I could remember Blackie coming to my house, even if he did not get wickets because I do not think he would have bowled in the bottom but one thing could be sure that Blackie's flannels were always imbued with the red of the cricket ball. If it only conveyed the impression that he had taken part in the game at the highest level. Sir, he deemed himself a good cricketer.

You would have people like himself and Joe Coward, Sam Eastmond and Tony King coming back to our house and talking cricket, sitting outside with the old man, then it would have to end in a little political talk and I have never known him to spare a quarter. I have never known him to be sympathetic towards the Barbados Labour Party so it meant that himself and my old man would have argued until it was time to get up and go separate ways to imbibe.

Sir, they would discuss at length the selection of the local Barbados team and nothing was more eventful in those days than the Shell Shield cricket. If a West Indies cricket team was about to be selected, you could expect a long discussion.

Blackie was a people's man, Sir, as we have heard. Like some of us here who journey to the East and maybe to the centre of the island, St. George, as you leave Parliament and you go up, no matter which of the highways you take, there are still some of these persons in this present Parliament who would have to pull in and hear some concerns of people living in constituencies other than St. Philip or St. George and Blackie was one of those folks. He would give his opinion which was often sought. He would sign documents and he would direct people in areas where they were not so clear. Not only was Blackie an avid and keen hailer for St. Catherine but he liked town teams like the Wales and the Royals. Notwithstanding all I have said, he was a tough politician and notwithstanding the close family ties. I would remember as well as I remember the quotation, to which I alluded earlier, the Sunday night. I have learnt since coming into this sphere of life that elections are won or lost the weekend before.

Sir, in 1994, although I had a certain degree of comfort, it was that Sunday night meeting where Harold Blackman, not by chance but by choice, was the key speaker. Blackie could have run for St. Michael South Central and done very well. I am not saying that he would have won. He bolstered his then political leader tremendously when he came on and had to give a speech. He said: "I just do not know this Gill boy, I know the others but I do not know him and I do not think he has any worthwhile contribution to make." Sir, this shows you the tough character the man was. He renounced and denounced me and that was to a packed crowd.

I am not sure what role he played in 1998 but I know when he had reverted from whence he came, his name was among the long list of speakers. They went for the demolition squad but my fellow back-bencher and villager in an aside has summed up the then situation.

He was an educated man. He may not have been a LL.B. or a MD. but it was a joy to hear Blackie and my brother talk about telecommunications and the new technologies. Sometimes you would hear them talk from the days of the Morse code. These are fellows who joined Cable and Wireless and there was no other corporate entity as far as they were concerned like Cable and Wireless. They would talk about the days where they used the Morse code. As you moved from midnight you could be in Barbados Christmas night and these people were already moving into the 2nd January or just moving into the 29th December as one went through various time zones. He had great knowledge and great respect for modern technology and the computer. As I said, he was very well learned in the science of telecommunications.

I do not think, Sir, he had the opportunity to contribute his knowledge of telecommunications to the political administration as he would have liked or as one would have liked to pursue but such is life. As they say, many are called but few are chosen. 2.20p.m.

Sir, those years of knowledge and association with Blackie coming to my house, hearing him debate at the village level or the constituency level, going to St. Philip, hearing him and watching him on television, one cannot say other than he was a *tour deforce*.

Sir, not only on my behalf but on the behalf of my extended family, I would like to extend condolences to his dear wife and two sons whom I have known for quite a while. May he rest in peace.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add my quota to the well merited tributes being paid to the memory and to the work of the late Harold Blackman.

Blackie, as he was affectionately known, was a man of very strong relational skills and a very genial and pleasant personality. My memory of him goes back to 1958. Mr. Kenneth Simmons, of blessed memory, the father of the Leader of the House, conducted a class in hygiene at Princess Margaret's School once a week for a few weeks in the year and I rode up from St.- Patrick's to attend his class. Even though Harold Blackman and the Franklin boys, Warwick and Valence, were not members of the class most of the boys and the girls, particularly the girls in the class, spoke very feelingly about them.

I was to learn then that Warwick Franklin and Harold Blackman were the two most popular men in St. Philip for their generation. It is not surprising that they were later to come to this House to represent their parish. In particular, Sir, they had a very large following among the ladies that is not to be doubted.

When in subsequent years I was to renew my relationship with Blackie in this House there were many features about the style and the personality that were absolutely striking. One has been alluded to and that is the overwhelmingly forceful manner in which he spoke, often abandoning logic as he made his point. There was a very memorable moment that I had with him in the course of a debate, when as Minister of Agriculture I introduced the price support scheme for the sugar industry and justified it on the grounds that the ECUs, the currency in which we were paid for our sugar in Europe had moved dramatically downward in relation to the American dollar and we had lost about \$40 million overnight.

Blackie in response to that, said that that was no big thing, that the loss of \$40 million overnight was no big thing - in his usual forceful way. I was to retort that he had brought the same lack of attention to the issue, as was his wont when dealing with issues under the street light at Ruby Corner, and the House broke out in laughter and it was really a very memorable moment.

Blackie had so impressed his side with his style of debating that he used to be the first speaker for many years after the Budget was presented so that when the Leader of the Opposition replied, Blackie was the first speaker on the DLP side attracting prime time.

He was called 'Rambo' but he did not care whether he rambled or not. It did not particularly matter. He spoke on a large range of matters in the first five years that I shared in here with him and always he tried to reduce them to simplicity and to take the perspective of the poor man and small man, a reminder of the theme of our friend from St. Lucy. Blackie, like most men, who came to maturity in the 1950s and 60s and who had an interest in public life, there were really only two Barbadian leaders that divided our loyalties depending from where in the country you came. If you were coming from a sugar belt like St. Patrick's, your hero was Grantley Adams; but if you came from invincible DLP territory, and that was the view then, no longer so, Errol Barrow was understandably the hero.

Blackie was absolutely devoted to Barrow. They enjoyed a good relationship, from all that I have learnt, and he was particularly loyal to the Democratic Labour Party. It was very painful for us who were in here in his last five years to watch the growing divide between himself and his

Party. He really found it insufferable to remain in here for long periods and often he would go on the balcony beside the Senate and overlook Nelson and the Careenage for hours. Whenever he was approached I sometimes got the impression that he was otherwise focused and that he would very much have preferred to be left alone. It was a very painful period for him indeed.

I would say that part of his contribution was that he knew rural Barbados well. He was very much in touch with the plight of a certain class of Barbadian that he called 'the small man' and he often articulated their side of the story, their perspective in Parliament. Notwithstanding his passionate and devoted loyalty to his Party, that never interfered with the cordial relationship that he enjoyed with those of us across the political divide.

Outside of Parliament Blackie was a loveable character, congenial and very amusing, very entertaining and very human so that all of us who learnt of his passing did so with considerable regret. I think he was only 59 at the time of his passing and though a lot of us do not live to 59 we felt that he had been prematurely called.

It gives me pleasure on my own behalf and on behalf of my constituency to lend support to the Resolution before this Parliament to express sympathy to his family and to his loved ones over his passing. 2.30p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with the sentiments expressed about the late Honourable Member. On behalf of my family and the constituency of St. Michael Central and myself, I express sincere condolences to the grieving relatives. This House, with acclaim, accepts the Resolution of sympathy and so instructs that the appropriate Resolution be sent to the family.

As a mark of respect, I now invite all Honourable Members and all present to observe with me one minute silence in memory of the late Honourable Member.

One minute of silence was observed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT
OF \$25 750 910 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO
SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 1999-2000 AS SHOWN IN
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1999-2000 NO. 5 WHICH
FORMS THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a supplementary in the sum of \$25 750 910. It may appear, Mr. Chairman, that this is a large supplementary and indeed, it is a large supplementary. What has happened, Mr. Chairman, is that at the end of the last financial year, the Ministries were requested by the Accountant-General to make submissions for funds through the Central Bank. In response to this request, the Ministry made a number of submissions but unfortunately, the Central Bank did not pay those funds in a timely manner. Part of this supplementary is in respect of the failure of the Central Bank to make those payments in a timely manner.

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, in doing the remedial work at the Grantley Adams Airport, it was realised that additional work had to be done to the Airport in order to stop further damage to certain sections of the runway on both the southern and the northern sides because they were doing the work more towards the middle of the runway. This additional remedial work is in the sum of \$4.25 million.

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, the bulk of this supplementary relates to the pavement works at the Airport and a contract which was made between Government and Associated Asphalt U.K. Limited for \$44.5 million.

The CDB had agreed, under the loan arrangements to adopt the direct invoicing method of draw down and as a consequence, this does not result in any outflow of cash from the Consolidated Fund. At the time of the Estimates, we were not aware of the actual amounts which would be needed towards the end of the financial year. It was always agreed that at the appropriate time, we would bring the requisite supplementary once that amount had been known. That amount has now been determined. The provision under this classification is \$12 100 032. The consultants projected Cash Flow for the pavement work at the financial year is \$30 298 060 which would result in a short fall of \$18 198 028. When this is added to the additional works, which is felt by the consultants should be done at this time - \$4.25 million, in addition to the adjustment from the Central Bank of \$1 458 300, which was not processed at March 1999, that gives a supplementary in that category of \$23 906 328.

Also with respect to the failure of the Central Bank to make timely payment, an adjustment is necessary in respect of sums which were due to Aquaclean for the incinerator and the provision for retention money and other monies amounting to \$229 000. Expenditure at the end of June 30, 1999, was \$506 947 and the commitment was \$7 700. Under this classification of Equipment and Furniture, the supplementary required is \$735 948.

Under Professional Services an adjustment is also required with respect to the failure of the Central Bank to make the payments in a timely manner. An adjustment in respect of \$176 312 payable to Cyber Miller and \$54 620 payable to British Aerospace, are amounts which were not made. 2.40 p.m.

In addition to that, there is a final installment of \$75 410 which is required under this classification of professional services, together with an additional sum of \$735 392 which is required to supplement the amounts in respect of the designed phase of the new Arrivals Hall and the pavement construction at the Grantley Adams Airport.

Mr. Chairman, with those remarks, I beg to move that Head 27 do stand part.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, as you know, from the last session, I have always warned Parliament about these large sums coming in the form of supplementaries to this Parliament. I cannot understand, Sir, how you can have a situation where we have just come out of the Estimates and before we can have the Budget presentation, we are faced with two large supplementaries before this Parliament, when we had the opportunity to include all of this expenditure in the Estimates.

To me, Sir, this does not speak well for this Parliament. It tells me that we are operating on a piece meal realisation and this type of procedure needs to be stopped. We must be able to know, Sir, the amount of expenditure and revenue that we are about to debate at the time of the Estimates. We should only be discussing how we are going to raise revenue and how it is going to be allocated, after we have dealt with the Estimates. But we cannot continue, Sir, every year to go through the Estimates and then we are asked to go through the Estimates about five times during the period. I cannot accommodate this type of behaviour. Sir. It tells me that either the various Ministers do not understand what they are doing or that the information given to them by the civil servants are not being used properly. And, this House cannot continue to come every month with supplementaries of this magnitude.

I can appreciate; Sir, that during the life of a Government that sometimes there are things that occur that you cannot account for. But it is clear to me, Sir, that the Airport Expansion Project, is a project that the Government knows well about and that they have a good idea about the amount that they are expected to spend on this particular project. I do not appreciate the Government telling me that the project is going to cost \$18 million. They brought a certain amount in the major Estimates and then later on bring it in a piece meal form in Supplementary Estimates.

I am saying, Sir, that I want to see the total expenditure so that when I am dealing with the Estimates, I know that this is the total sum that will be spent. If we allow this habit to continue, what you are going to get is a situation where Governments will be allowed to hide certain expenditure and they will be able to give this type of flimsy excuse to Parliament.

I feel that every year when we are discussing the Estimates that the total figure we expect to spend on a particular project should be known. Not you telling me, Sir, that you have revenue of \$ 1.4 million, total expenditure of \$1.5 million and that you expect a deficit, Sir, of a certain amount. Then, later on to come back and to revise that figure when you knew upfront that the deficit would have been much higher. I am saying that the financial planners and those at the Central Bank cannot give a correct forecast of what is going on in the economy and what is expected to go on in the economy. When you get this type of - I cannot even call it propaganda, Sir - expenditure where you get piece today and piece tomorrow. This type, Sir, provides problems for economic planners. It creates problems and what is regrettable, we are at a stage where sometimes you are told that 2% and 3% are not enough for the economy to grow. Then at some later stage, you hear that the economy is doing well and acting Governors of the Central Bank are telling you that the economy is doing well, when the economy is only growing at 2% and 3%. But when a country is coming out of a crisis, Sir, and the economy is growing at 4%, you are told by the same persons that the economy is not doing well.

I want to know, Sir, what type of financial advice we are getting in this country. We are getting advice that you cannot rely on where in 1994, coming out of economic crisis, that 2%, 3% and 4% are not enough and in 1999 people are telling you that 2% and 3% are a lot for the economy to grow by. I want to know what is going on? I want to know what is the signal being sent to Barbadians, whether Barbadians must be prepared to accept information that they cannot rely on or not? If the economy is doing well, I expect to hear the Governor of the Central Bank giving good advice. I expect the Governor of the Central Bank to tell me that he or she expects the economy to grow by 2% and 3% and this is based on certain facts.

In a country like Barbados now, Sir, you are hearing that the economy will grow by 2%, 3% and in the next breath you are hearing that tourism is down, agriculture is down, manufacturing is down and the only thing up is construction and one expects sensible people to fall for that. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that in a country like Barbados where we have spent so much money educating our people, you cannot come, because you are the Governor of the Central Bank or anybody and put that type of foolishness for people to accept. Anyone who understands the planning of any economy would tell you that when you have an economy where only construction is growing that that economy is in trouble. I am saying that I expect better, Sir, from the economic planners in this country whether it be the Ministry of Finance or whether they are sitting in the Central Bank. I do not buy the excuse that because somebody is waiting to get a position that there must make any pronouncement for which they cannot use logic. Because this country belongs to all of us and the advice coming out from the Ministry of Finance or the advice coming out from the Governor of the Central Bank must be advice that we can rely on.

I am saying today, Sir, that I cannot rely on anything coming out of the Central Bank, because it does not make any sense now and the warning to the others at the Central Bank must be that the advice coming to the public of Barbados must be advice that people can rely on. You cannot tell me that an economy led by construction is an economy that is going anywhere. If you tell me that it is being led by Tourism, or Agricultural produce or Manufacturing, I might sit on that Committee, but you cannot tell me that everything that is positive about the economy is Construction and that we are doing well. My question, Sir, who are we fooling? You can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time and it is time to brace this country for what is about to happen. Stop fooling the people. 2.50p.m.

The next thing, Sir, there are many people in this country who feel that their job is to create red herrings and to remove sensible thoughts from the minds of people and create a lot of strife about black and white. What we need in this country now is growth not stupid political confusion. It is not important about Nelson or anything now. It is important to see the economy of this country growing. That is my job, to help to see this country growing at a pace that the masses of the people in this country, especially the small man out there, know that he has hope. I am not going to be involved in this talk about black and white because my job here is to see the country of Barbados growing. Sometimes what is rather interesting is that many people who give you the impression that they will be the losers in this black and white talk that the...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I hope you stick to the Resolution. You are going off track slightly here and I will like you to stick to the Resolution. The black and white thing, forget about that. Just stick to the Resolution.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I will stick to that, Sir, because we are dealing with the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport and how we deal with our race relationship is very important to tourism. As you would agree, Sir.

I am saying that the time for drawing red herrings across the trail was in January and that time has past. The time for the growth of Barbados has started since January the 22nd and one would have expected that that type of behaviour would have been coming from the Opposition. I must now congratulate the Opposition for being progressive in not getting involved in that nonsense but looking forward to seeing how this economy can grow. I must compliment my Leader for not getting involved in that type of red herring. One would have expected ...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying that as we go into the 21st Century that Barbados must be a country that must be counted on the world market. We cannot sit back and use the argument that because we are small we cannot go forward. It hurts to hear people behaving as if size is the only important factor. That is not true. Because back in the slave days it was a country like Barbados that made a great contribution to the economy of England.

I am saying that if we do the right things today we can get back that position we once had. But the days for dividing and ruling must stop and we must not allow other people who already have wealth to encourage us to get involved in talk that we should not get involved in. Because at the end of the day, it is the small man that will be kept down. That is why this airport expansion must not be seen as giving contracts only to those who have the money, because in one breath, the money from the airport expansion is going to a group of people who are caught up in this race talk and while the poor people are suffering they are getting the large contracts. That airport expansion is exactly what I am talking about. In one breath the Government gives you the impression they are for the masses but when they award the contracts they are landing right in the laps of those same people, that, they are claiming they are fighting against and the masses are supposed to jump on the bandwagon with those who have nothing to offer them. But, yet still, we talk about a black and white issue where the whites get the contracts and the blacks get the talk. I am saying it must stop.

I sometimes wonder, how much out of this \$25 million that we are dealing with today in a supplementary will land in the laps of those people who are caught up in all the race

talk. But I can assure you that the whole \$25 million will go to the 5% that need not get involved in this particular discussion because they have people to sit in Cabinet and to look after their welfare. But in one breath they give the impression that things are different and they get caught up in the tidal waves where they go out there and they believe that everything sounds well and they join the talk.

At the end of the day it is those at the top and the same people that you are supposed to be fighting against that are growing bigger and bigger, so big they are getting that they could tell you how much they own and which property they will be acquiring next. I hope that somewhere in these supplementaries for \$25 750 910, we can see some progress for the country of Barbados and we would not only be seeing political patronage to friends.

I thank you.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, whenever the Barbados Labour Party is in office one of its lot is to provide massive infrastructural development for this country. This Resolution is in that way. We are here in the last closing months of this century making preparations for the vital infrastructural development of an expanding airport.

I welcome this opportunity to congratulate the Government on their decision to proceed with this project because I had the good fortune of being a Minister at the time when the original expansion of the airport took place. I also have been alive long enough to know when in this very House I was part and parcel of a movement at that time to persuade the then Democratic Labour Party, that it was good sense, to acquire not part of Seawell and Fairy Valley Plantations but the whole of Seawell and Fairy Valley Plantations. Because we envisaged at that time, that some day Tourism and Industry would develop to such an extent that the whole area would have been needed.

It is a very interesting point that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, in his usual manner, has mentioned the need to protect and to make sure that the small businessman in Barbados has an opportunity to participate in some of the commercial activity at the airport.

Now, I want the record to be made clear. It was not a Barbados Labour Party Administration that gave the big duty free merchants in Bridgetown the opportunity to exploit the departure halls at the airport. It was the Democratic Labour Party that allowed the joint venture between - we all know them - the two big duty free giants in Bridgetown to put up a proposal that they would finance the redevelopment of the inside of the shops. The Democratic Labour Party of which the Honourable Member is a proud supporter they granted

that concession. It was not the Barbados Labour Party that provided the opportunity for the major stakers at the airport to have a monopoly even in the workers canteen. It was not us. In our time, we specifically divided the restaurant facilities between - I remember these things very well, Sir, - because when the Honourable Member talks, we act, they only talk. Of course the Honourable Member was not in a position to have any influence at that time. He may have some now because as he himself said in a band of 2 one is 50%. 3.00p.m.

The position is that when we examine the records you will see that it is an unfortunate coincidence that the very things the Honourable Member preaches about, occurred to a very large extent during the period of time the Democratic Labour Party was in office but I support the concept.

We have always acted to make sure that advertising, that restaurant facilities, I want to remind Honourable Members of something, inside the Departure hall itself it was under a Barbados Labour Party administration that we awarded the drugstore to a person who one would assume, because of their intimate connection with the Democratic Labour Party leadership at the time, would not have got it. But on the basis of tender and on the basis of a policy decision that the area was reserved for small business persons that group was allowed to have the drugstore. Go in there now and see who has the drugstore still, so that in both the courtyard and the inner area, that policy that the Honourable Member now espouses was pursued.

Now, I think that very often small businessmen are their own enemies in this respect. Government has to have enough revenue to service the debt. As a matter of fact in today's world, because of the method of financing of something like the airport redevelopment, more and more Governments, not only in Barbados, but the world over are being forced into the concept of privatization of a project of this nature.

Now, I am very pleased and I hope that the Government while it acknowledges that there is a role for the private sector to play in the commercial development of an area like this, I would hate to see the day in Barbados where we have only one airport that the whole airport is handed over, so to speak, to any private sector company. I would not like to see that day. With all due respect to those who trumpet the cause of privatization, I would not like to see it because many of them do not understand what impact that would have in a country in which there is only one airport. You would be granting a monopoly to a small group of people who would exploit it to such an extent that the providers of services at the airport may not be able even to afford it. This is a matter that should be looked at in an objective way.

While I support 100 per cent the concepts and the desire and necessity for a policy that would result in a greater participation, I think some things we have to take into account. Many of our small business people do not necessarily have the capital to exploit all of the opportunities. It may well be that sooner or later they would recognise that if they really want to exploit many of the opportunities which are available today and which call for far more capital than previously, they will have to combine their capital resources.

Of course we also have to do something else» We must make sure that banks in this country do not lend preferentially. I have never heard of some of the brazen things you are hearing nowadays how people can say they have preferential financing for one housing project. I never heard that yet. I thought we had such a great amount of capital available now in Barbados under this Administration that there should be no need for anybody to advertise anything like preferential financing. It should not be. I think the banks who are dealing with that should be ashamed of themselves because what they are indicating is that they are participating in a regime in which they are telling the public and allowing themselves to be associated with a theory that there are certain people who have preferential access to capital in Barbados and it is definitely not right, Sir. It is bad advertising. If it is true, it is bad and if it is not true, it gives the wrong impression that any particular group of people have preferential access to bank capital in Barbados, particularly in the context of a country in which the vast majority of the capital that is in the banks in Barbados belongs to Barbadians. Because many of the other people who have capital have some of their money abroad. The vast majority cannot have theirs abroad. That is a fact so we have to be very careful on these things. Impressions count a lot and that is a very bad impression.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: The difference is that you talk but I act. When we have the opportunity, we demonstrate what we intend to do and we carry it into effect.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is misleading the House because it was during his time that particular advertisement was put out. It was not during the Democratic Labour Party's time. I have never seen that advertisement under the Democratic Labour Party's time where you could get investors being offered preferential rates. It is only in his time I am now seeing it.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is precisely why I criticize it because I do not agree with it. It is precisely why I, like a man, stand up in the House of Assembly and say so and why I have been saying so all the time that it is a bad

advertisement. It should not be put in the newspaper because it has a suggestion behind it, wittingly or unwittingly, that preference is given to certain developments, something that I abhor. Developments must be judged on their own intrinsic merit. That is the point.

Now, Sir, I also want to place the airport within the context of something that is very significant. Something we have been working on for years, I personally for 30 years, and that is the integration of the southern area of Barbados in the developmental process in Barbados. The airport is sandwiched between one part of Christ Church, St. John and St. Philip.

It is no mystery, Sir, that the electoral results on this last occasion showed that the landscape was changed. What was hitherto regarded as untouchable territory by a political party has, in truth and in fact, after all of these years become the property of the other political party. It is because of this consciousness of the Barbados Labour Party over the last 25 years that this area is the one area that is suitable for integrated development.

I drove through the Honourable Member for St. John constituency and I was surprised and glad to see the development that is touching the Honourable Member's parish. In Gall Hill, we have a whole town there. He has roads and all of those things. All of that I saw. In St. Philip I saw the big highways between St. Martins and the Airport between Four Roads and Six Roads being put together because of the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party that, that part of Barbados must move equally with the north and I know the Honourable Member is proud of what is happening in the north. 3.10p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member may have to use a second fifteen minutes to expound his point.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, I fully support and I endorse this development, Sir. I hope that the Government will not succumb to any blandishments whether of the bank or political philosophers. This is a serious thing that you should not create by way of privatisation, a monopoly for a certain group of people because of their preferential access to capital. The whole infrastructure of an airport should not be handed over. The Government must retain at least 51% in any new arrangement. I do not mind bringing them in but they must come in and know their place.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I enjoy the contribution of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I have been in this Chamber long enough to know that when political parties are under pressure and lose their focus that it is the elder

statesmen who have to harken back to antediluvian statements and propaganda to prop up the image of the Party I do not mind that and I know that part of it was to refocus the Barbados Labour Party on what apparently it should be boasting of at this time.

I have no doubt that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is interested in the development of the airport. We share on this Side a passion to see both the airport and the seaport developed. Fortunately, the Barbados Labour Party is in office at a time when the Government, itself, as well as the private sector have the resources available to undertake in more creative ways that kind of development than would have been the case in 1992.

If the Honourable Member would take off his glasses for a minute and wipe them off from that political heat that he just generated, he would reflect. That is the first set of heat I have heard since January 20th and I am glad to hear it. I thought you had all on that Side gone to sleep. I hope that what the Honourable Member will accept is that the tentative steps which were taken, even if he says they were misguided and he is entitled to say that, using scarce capital that was available at a time of economic crisis were nevertheless steps in the right direction of focussing on the contact between a larger number of entrepreneurs and tourists at our ports of entry. That is what it was all about.

Now, whether you argue that it was wrong to use the two principal Barbadian duty-free concerns, there are some people who may have gone into bed with non-Barbadian firms. That was not our option. What we sought to do was to mobilise capital that was available from the players who would have had easiest access to that capital. Enough time has passed for the new Government, if it did not believe in that strategy to make new changes. But it did not exist under the previous Democratic Labour Party and it does not exist, even now, any monopoly situation in relation to the seaport or to the airport. At the seaport, as I understand it, 60% of the shares will be held collectively between individual shareholders - they have a tranche of 20% - and Government and it is 40% which is under the control of what you may call the traditional private sector.

One of those private sector companies is itself a public company in which several Barbadians have shares. And therefore what you did was to take an area of Barbadian property which was an empty shed being used for immigration and other activity, transform it and bring hundreds of new investors into a form of economic activity which was not previously taking place.

At the airport it was slightly different and the Government undertook some arrangements with those companies to make some changes to the Departure Hall. I

believe those changes were positive but more can be done. At no point did the Democratic Labour Party feel that those arrangements were the end of the matter and that there would not be need for further development. If Members consult the development plan that we left in place, it spoke to developments that should take place up to the year 2000 in relation to the airport and to the seaport.

We do not have any problem supporting the initiative. Like the initiatives in St. John, all of those, as the late calypsonian, the Informer, who hailed from Clifton St. John, said, were on the drawing board. It is true the calypso said that they do not get off the drawing boards but in this case they were on the drawing board. The Clifton Hall project, not the construction of the houses but the lots. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew explained to me the circumstances that led to him not being able to give it the priority he would have wished and I would have wished.

We need to have a road connecting Station House Hill in St. Philip right across to Malvern, District C, Station House Hill. Beyond that, the Foster Hall Road is still cut off despite a change of Minister so I cannot blame the Honourable Member for St. Andrew because it obviously was not his fault. I have to say that something must be peculiar about that. We are not dealing with that today. We are dealing with the seaport and the airport and I believe that all Barbadians would have to accept that there is need for physical improvement. Anyone who travels in the vicinity of Grantley Adams Airport on a Sunday evening or on an evening when there are a large number of flights would know of the congestion. Anybody who travels regularly on international flights in or out of Barbados would know the pressure that is brought to bear on those persons who have to function at the airport. The stress and strain on the workers need to be reduced and the physical conditions as well as the general ambience of the airport need to be significantly improved.

The Honourable Minister did not outline what the proposals were and I have not seen a model or any plans or anything come before Parliament but I hope that at some point he will bring this Parliament into his confidence and will make it available for Members.

I do not just speak for the Opposition because I know the Members on the Back Bench have never seen it either. Yet you will expect us to go out and promulgate and defend sensible policy but we do not know they are sensible unless we can have access to the information to say this is a good or a bad development. I urge the Minister not to get into the bad habit of other Ministers and allow major projects to be undertaken, expending millions of dollars, without at least bringing Parliament into his full confidence on the

parameters of those projects. Not only Parliament, I believe the public of Barbados would like to see what developments are proposed at the airport. I think you should lay out those plans. There is physical space in the foyer. Instead of advertising motor cars and so on, let the people see what proposals there are for the physical development of the Grantley Adams Airport and its environs. 3.20p.m.

I do not necessarily believe that a 51/49% is the answer because the majority of Barbadians own shares in companies in which they still do not have any control or rather, they may own the majority of shares in companies in which they do not have control. The ownership is not important. What is important is that you put a structure in place for control of the operations which brings all of the parties who have an investment in it, into the process, and is also accountable to the policies that Government wishes to implement. I am saying that there is no 51/49 formula.

I think that if you can have a public company and have all the shares sold to Barbadians on the understanding that this company is to carry out the national objectives in relation to the operation of airport or the operation of a seaport. If you can enter into a venture in which the returns from it are so significant and the level of management which Government brings to bear is so good, that it attracts a lot of private sector investment, not just from the traditional private sector but from a newly defined private sector. People who would have invested in CIBC shares or Life of Barbados shares, people who may be interested just in having the opportunity to invest some of their excess cash and resources, that Government should use all of these opportunities to involve them. But with the proviso, that the objective of the enterprise is to carry out Government's policy in relation to the operation of the airport and the seaport. We agree on this Side that no situation should be developed which would allow any one group of individuals to exploit a situation.

As the world moves towards liberlisation there is still a recognition that countries need to have some control over areas of national life including access through the airport and seaport. Elements of food security come in to the equation, which is something that I do not think we are looking at carefully as we should be. The question of access to energy supplies and a whole range of other things in which Government still has to play a critical and important role. It does not mean that Government has to own it.

If tomorrow morning the Government decides to sell the shares it has in the Barbados National Oil Company, I am certain there will be a market for it. Arrangements could be made, either in the way in which we set up the corporation or through the legislation under which it has to function, to

ensure that national policy still, at the end of the day, dictates the direction that the company takes broadly. But that more and more Barbadians can still benefit financially.

I urge the Minister to see his remit as not fighting for control of the airport or the seaport but to see it as an opportunity to give a wider cross section of Barbadians an opportunity to be involved in, to own and to share in the benefits of a well managed airport and a well managed seaport. That should extend across the board to other areas of Government's activity as long as these enterprises are controlled to the extent necessary to carry out Government's policy.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I support this Resolution, a supplementary expenditure for \$23.9 million. I note, Sir, that part of the reason for this supplementary is to facilitate the relocation of residents in Thyme Bottom, which is in the constituency, I am proud to represent. I note that because of this supplementary, this particular matter will not have to drag on until the beginning of the next financial year.

Sir, this is not a matter that has its genesis last week or last month. In speaking to the residents of the area, Sir, they have been hearing about relocation from certain areas surrounding the airport for ten years or more. The situation is such that they do not know if to sit down, stand up or lie down. Because of this situation, Sir, Town Planning applications have been on hold, people do not know if they can develop their properties or not and in some cases residents are unsure of whether they should spend money to fix a door which is rotting and then be told that next week this will be dismantled for relocation.

If there is one obligation that a Government has to its people, it is an obligation to ensure some reasonable level of certainty in the planning of their personal lives. We need to do that, Sir. That is our obligation as a Government. Sir, the residents there, having now been fully briefed, as a result of a series of direct meetings with officials in the Ministry as well as Parliamentary Representative for the constituency, are ready and simply waiting. What I am glad about, Sir, is that with the voting of this supplementary, we will not have the unwholesome and unholy situation which, unfortunately, has been a part of the affairs of Government in relation to the compensation, which is due, in cases of land acquisition being long in coming. Whether that compensation, Sir, is by way of passing on conveyance to a new lot of land in exchange for a lot that has been used or compensation by way of monetary value. I am pleased to note, Sir, that with the allocation of these financial resources, that that issue will not arise.

Sir, I want to speak to a wider question. The residents of the wider area surrounding the airport, which is smack in the middle of the constituency of Christ Church East, have asked me to urge my colleagues in Government to complete

the process and all of the other aspects of the planning of what would be done with the wider airport area. It is not widely known, Sir, few persons other than perhaps the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would be as acutely aware, Sir, that in addition to the narrow physical space requirements for the airport, there are also constraints which are enforced by the requirements with respect to radar installation. Sir, one section which is on Charnocks Hill, and in which there is a particular arc stretching out on either side of the beam which affects planning commissions that may be granted in Coverley, Charnocks, Pilgrim Road and Gibbons.

Also, Sir, there is always the question of how much land should be held to facilitate future expansion without having to go through the pain and disruption of actually physically removing facilities. It is my view, Sir, that if we are going to go through an exercise of relocation of residents, if we are going to have to, in the interest of the wider national development disrupt the lives of a few individuals or a community, let us do it as infrequently as possible. In any given relocation - it may be relocation in 1999 but we went through this 20 years ago and 20 years before that and we will perhaps go through it 20 years from now, but I hope, Sir, that the area that has been contemplated is such that we will not have to go through the same exercise again in too short a period. 3.30p.m.

This proposal therefore, Sir, as far as the level of relocation which is being planned, should give nothing shorter than a 15 to 20 year planning horizon and will be able to accommodate both the Civil Aviation safety and other issues as well as the narrow space requirements as far as the departure lounge and the like.

I want, Sir, to urge the technical officers who will execute this project, to show a greater level of sensitivity than has been demonstrated in the past. Not only in relation to this project, because we all know of one or two unfortunate incidents that have occurred last year, but also in relation to other technical problems. Officers sometimes, because they are acting for Government, assume that they are of the law and they do not have to be either obedient to the laws as they may exist, or be considerate of the fact that they are dealing with properties of individuals and they can cause disruption by noise, dust and other issues. I would certainly want to urge the greatest sensitivity possible in the execution of this project.

I certainly, Sir, as Member of Parliament for the area will be working as hard as always to ensure that they get the best possible deals. In fact, I am certain that given the plans as they have been outlined to me by the Honourable Minister for Tourism and International Transport that the residents will be better off at the end of this entire exercise.

This supplementary will also I thrust, include the cost of the relocation of the Airport Playing Field. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, as a parliamentary colleague in an adjoining constituency, that playing field on the airport compound is a Mecca for sports in the eastern part of Christ Church as well as in southern St. Philip.

The area, Sir, is to be included in the expansion and the plan is to have a spanking new facility on the north side of that road, just north of the existing roundabout at the airport and just west of the Pug's and Frankie's Bar and adjoining Charnocks No. 1. That facility will be even better than what exists now because funds have been allocated for the construction of a pavilion and community centre and hard courts and other amenities not currently part of that framework.

I want to commend, Sir, the airport authorities and the Honourable Minister for International Transport in recognising that not only can Government use its moral authority to ask private sector businesses to show greater community leadership and responsibility, but also that Government enterprises have to lead by example. Therefore, the airport authorities have agreed that as part of the project, they will also take the opportunity to clarify what has been an issue of concern with respect to the right of access to the playing field, which is on the eastern end of Fairy Valley. There is no problem of access as it stands today, but the fact is that the land is privately owned and therefore at any point in the future the right to continue to play can be a question.

Aside.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Below the Regional Training School - and that is to be included in the lands that are to form part of the airport compound. Therefore the airport, in effect a commercial enterprise, will be sponsoring the use of two fully developed playing fields for the residents of the area. This is something the Government enterprises need to do. Private enterprises need to do. On behalf of the residents of that area, I want to thank the goodly Minister.

Sir, the airport has for many years been a centre of economic activity in the southern part of Barbados. It has provided jobs for the people in the area and it has spurred on other economic activity. With this expansion, Sir, and I certainly support the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition that it is such a grand proposal that we need to show it off a lot more. Because, I am not too sure if there are many people who are aware that a great transformation will result from this expansion. But this expansion will also have economic implications for that southern cone of Barbados. I would want to certainly urge that a number of considerations must be borne in mind with respect to the expansion.

First of all, Sir, in terms of the level of shops that are to be made available, the increased retail space and the uses - there must always be a balance between the level of expansion in the duty free business at the airport and what we are proposing for Bridgetown. Under no circumstances, would I be willing to support a level of expansion which is so deluxe, to what is available in Bridgetown as to make Bridgetown non-viable. Whereas in the airport or other confined area you will only have a limited number of shops, the advantage of Bridgetown is that in addition to your high profile shops which could do your marketing and which could pull numbers, there are a number of very small entrepreneurs, vendors and others who are able to get the spill off benefits from having a vibrant trade in Bridgetown.

As far as the expansion goes as well, Sir, I would certainly want to see the increase square footage of retail space, being occupied by the emerging business class, Sir, the new entrepreneurs. People who not only are part of that social economic transformation, but who also in terms of their approach to business, the products and services they offer, represent a departure from the norm. And to offer, rather than more of the same, just in greater square footage, a wider range of options with respect to the commercial activity in the airport.

Sir, perhaps of even more fundamental importance to me particularly as a parliamentary representative, is the fact that there has been a number of entrepreneurs who have over the years, been able to use the level of traffic generated by the airport - not only because of airport staff and those of us who, from time to time visit the area to transport family and friends - but also visitors who have been wise enough to recognise the quality of the fair which is offered. And, visitors who are also anxious to interact with the ordinary man and woman in the street.

I am speaking for example, Sir, of Pug's Bar and Frankie's Bar on the opposite side of the airport car part and further down the road, of the Flash Inn and more recently the Starlight Bar and Restaurant. I am making the point, Sir, that there still remains tremendous opportunity for increased and enhanced commercial activity generally in the area surrounding the airport.

In fact, Sir, I would think that an area within a 5-mile radius of the airport, really constitutes a prime opportunity for a number of entrepreneurs, because of the level of traffic which is guaranteed, because of the quality of the infrastructure in the area. And certainly subject to the requirements as I mentioned earlier for radar activity, because of noise restrictions and other physical space requirements, there is certainly opportunity there.

Mr. Chairman, the final point I want to make is that one of the critical factors for success in a project such as this, is

the taking of a fully integrated approach to the development. So that, Sir, I am also in the direct contact - but I will use this forum to also strongly urge the other services of Government, for example, the Transport Board to plan their re-routing of the buses to take account of the airport expansion and of the relocation of the road through Tyme Bottom, as proposed. To take account, Sir, of the longer route which in some cases will have to be taken by school children or by church persons. Similarly, Sir, on the other side of the road, because some of the posts relocated from Tyme Bottom would be going to Coverley where there is a need for additional access to be provided so that those persons who would have left the south side of the airport to go to church at St. Bartholomew and who now live on the north side of the airport would be able to continue that important social activity of going to praise their God and Saviour, will be able to do that in a good and comfortable manner. That would mean fixing the road known as Factory Road going from Lead Vale in the West to Charnocks and Waldron in the East.

Sir, the final contribution is that I want to urge a fully integrated approach to this project. This project cannot be implemented as an airport expansion within the confines of the airport security fence. Its success will rest on having a strong focus on the airport exercising its responsibility for good community relations and for the relocated residents and residents in surrounding areas to feel as if their lives have really and truly been enhanced by this project, rather than their inconvenience increased. Because, depending on which way we go, I am sure that this Government, being a good and caring Government, will go the route of enhancing the quality of life. I compliment the Honourable Minister of International Transport for the very strong position he has taken with this project and I will give him my strongest support in seeing its successful implementation. 340p.m.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I will just briefly wind up this matter, but before I do so, I wish to respond to the constituency concerns of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. I would just like to say that while I might not be able to give an answer to the extent of the result of the negotiations with the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the Ministry of Public Works, I think some of them might be related to the Ministry of Labour as well. I will like to assure him that those aspects of the constituency concerns which deal directly with the Ministry are being addressed. We have been having ongoing consultations with the residence in the area and it is hoped that the relocation exercise will be completed speedily to the satisfaction of most, if not everyone.

With respect to the Honourable Member for St. John and his concern that more information was not given on this

project, I speak subject to correction, but I think I recall the Honourable Member for the City giving a very detailed outline of this project when it was first conceptualized.

With reference to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy he has made it appear as though a contract has been awarded on this big project and the local contractors were not given the opportunity to be part of that process. I think that by now he should be aware of the fact that in dealing with projects of this nature, the Government is constrained by the amount of funding it could put into the project. It must seek funding from certain international agencies and according to the regulations of those international agencies there is a tender process which we must follow. That tender process was followed in this particular case. It was a construction contract awarded, after public tender under the procedures of the Caribbean Development Bank, to a joint venture with Asphalt Associated (UK) Ltd. and C. O. Williams Construction. We had no control over it. In the circumstances I do not see the point that he was trying to make with respect to the small contractors. If it is a matter where Government had the funding, well yes, we could make some decisions where the small contractors from St. Lucy are concerned. But in situations like these it is extremely difficult if not impossible for us to change the process.

I do share the feeling of Honourable Members with respect to the information which has been given on this project. It is only when you pass the airport that you realised the amount of work that is being done. It is something that I realised only when I came to the Ministry. I hope very shortly that for the benefit of the public that we will be seeing and hearing more about this project in the newspapers, on the radio and through the Government Information Services (GIS) which would give everybody a full idea as to what is taking place at the airport. As a matter of fact, we have just awarded a contract to one of them after the normal tendering process because this is the type of contract where we could have taken certain initiatives in keeping with what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy referred. Very shortly this person who was awarded this contract will be starting to work towards giving the public more information.

I would like to assure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that the same facilities that I have extended to him in the past with respect to the sharing of information will be extended to him on this matter. I would like to assure the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that the same facilities will be extended to him on any matter pertaining to the Ministry. There is nothing to hide, he can even have the files as well.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 33 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SPORTS AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM \$66 900

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: In moving that Head 33 stand part I want to say that very rarely is the Ministry of Labour, Sports and Public Sector Reform the beneficiary of any real supplementary vote and even when we do come for supplementary vote it is usually a very small supplementary vote.

This \$66 900 is to help us to prepare and to ensure that we get our Labour legislation on the statutory books. The criticism of the Ministry of Labour has been that we have not been able to put labour legislation on the statutory books so far. Our thrust this year is to ensure that such legislation comes to fruition.

I am convinced that unless a resource person oversees and monitors the legislative programme for one year that we are not really going to achieve much. Mr. Chairman, I also believe that the person who does this work has to have an understanding of the law as well as a grasp of labour issues. At the moment we do not have anyone in the Ministry who does this monitoring of the legislation. We are a very very small Ministry and even now we are stretched for numbers. 3.50p.m.

As you know, Sir, we have at the Ministry coming on stream legislation such as the Recognition of Trade Unions, Unfair Dismissal, Occupational Safety and Health. I think those are the major ones. In addition to that we also have Sexual Harassment at the Work Place, a National Minimum Wage and so on. These are bits of legislation which we intend to make sure are brought to fruition.

As I said, Sir, everybody knows it is not a wasteful and extravagant Ministry. I beg to move that Head 33 stand part.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if I understand the last remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip North he has clearly implied that there are other Ministries which are ravaging the economy, that are wasting the taxpayers' money and that they are always before Parliament for large supplementaries but his Ministry is not one.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I never made such a statement nor did I imply such.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am very grateful to hear, Sir, that his Ministry is not like that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He has refuted the charge. Carry on.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I hope it has nothing to do with the output of the particular Ministry that is why the supplementary is so small.

We as a Parliament have been promised by this particular Ministry that we would have been blessed with some legislation coming from this Ministry. We were told that the Unfair Dismissal Bill was prepared and ready for Parliament that the only thing that stopped it from coming to Parliament was the election of January. We are now six to seven months after that period and there is no sign that this particular Bill is ready.

We were given the impression, Sir, that it went to the Attorney-General's Office, everything was well and now we are hearing today that the Attorney-General's Office is not capable of preparing legislation like this and they have to get a consultant to help the Ministry of Labour.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member has provoked me by implications which cast aspersions on the competence of the staff in the Attorney-General's Office. I understood the Minister to say that within his department he wanted to have a person who would give attention to the four pieces of legislation which have been drafted and work with the draughtsmen to ensure that they come to Parliament in a timely manner. That is all. That is what this is about.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You know, Mr. Chairman, you can always rely on the Honourable Member for St. Thomas for clearing up that it is not his Ministry that is the problem but it is actually the Ministry of Labour and I am extremely grateful to him.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member must not carry on in that way because if he is as close to the unions as I believe he is, the unions would be able to tell him that they have had for some years now a draft of the Trade Union Recognition Bill, a draft of the Occupational Safety and Health Bill, that is a big bill. They have had Termination of Employment. They have had Sexual Discrimination and all of these drafts were approved years ago by the CARICOM Ministers responsible for Labour. The whole region has approved this package. It is in Barbados at the consultative process, as I understand it which is ongoing between the unions and the Ministry.

What the Minister wants this consultant for is to make sure that there is somebody who goes to work every day and only deals with this legislation, resolves any little problems, any little points of style and whatever and get it back up to us. It then has to come back to me for my signature but the drafts are out.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, as you know, I honestly believe the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that his department has nothing to do with it. As we are aware, Sir, he prepares a list of an action plan and I am sure that this is on his action plan as completed. Now I am also hearing, Sir, that the hold-up of this is the trade unions. I can understand why the trade unions...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I have said if he checks with the trade unions they have had the drafts. I believe some time earlier this year or during the election Senator Trotman spoke about the Trade Union Recognition Bill. The interest groups, the Confederation of Employers, I believe also had the chance. Mr. Thomas Roach had them before he died. That is as long as it has been out there.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: So you can understand, Mr. Chairman, how long these Bills have been out there in the public domain. I could understand why the trade unions would not accept the Trade Union Recognition Bill because if they were to accept that particular Bill...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I have to be interrupting the Honourable Member so often but my memory tells me that there is a Standing Order which prohibits reflection by the House on legislation which is about to come, Sir. It is anticipation.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas for ruling himself out of order because it was the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who reflected on that particular Bill.

I would say, Sir, that these Bills have been out in the public domain for a long period of time and seeing that these particular Bills are supposed to be Bills that represent the interest of the workers in this country, it is my opinion that these Bills are taking too long to come before this Parliament.

You would know, Mr. Chairman, that whenever we have Bills in the interest of other people we do not wait on them to bring them before Parliament for them to apply pressure but they have Members of Cabinet who are prepared to come in here with less than one hour's notice and beg you to debate them. Bills which are important for the masses of this country they have been dragging their feet for over five years and I want to know why.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because when he refers to Cabinet he probably might create the impression as though he is referring to this Cabinet. The Unfair Dismissal legislation was out in 1986 and for 10 years they were in Government and they did absolutely nothing on it, so I do not know which Cabinet he is referring to. I think he should clarify that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the Honourable Member be more specific in what you are saying?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is nothing to be more specific about. The Honourable Member is now admitting that for 13 years the Unfair Dismissal Bill was in the public domain, that the Democratic Labour Party could take blame for eight years and they have added an additional five so thirteen years they were responsible for it, eight in Opposition and five in Government. They want me now to say, Sir, that it has not been out there for a long time.

I am saying, Sir, that if the Bill was in the public domain for so long, when the Barbados Labour Party took over the reins of Government they should have done everything in their power because all the discussion would have been done and all they had to do was the necessary drafting and pass it on. I would hate to believe, Sir, that we spent eight years having a Bill in the public domain and now they are going to spend 13 years going back over the same said thing that was done before.

I am saying that because this Bill represents the interest of the masses in this country that is why this Government is dragging its feet. If this was a bill to compulsorily acquire a piece of land for some large business in this country or to come to Parliament to sell some large corporation land at \$20 a square foot, this Bill would have been before this Parliament a long time. You would not hear about discussing anything. It would have been dealt with and we would not be in here discussing the particular matter but because this is in the interest of the workers, we have to come to Parliament and every time a Minister gets up he tells you it will soon be coming.

Why is it, Sir, that whenever we are discussing something for the masses of people in this country it is a promise and whenever we are discussing something in the interest of the "too few" it is a delay? Tell me a piece of legislation now to represent the interest down Bridgetown that is waiting on the draughtsmen to draft? You cannot tell me one but I can tell you many that have the interest of the masses of the people of this country that have not seen the light of Parliament as yet.

We must be serious that the same way we are prepared to come to Parliament and discuss the interest of the "too few", we must be prepared to come with the same urgency to discuss the interest of the masses in this country. For too long this Parliament has seen the underprivileged as a group that must wait on them and they must come begging, beseeching and behaving as if the politicians are their masters but the "too few" are the masters of the politician. This nonsense must stop, Mr. Chairman. This Parliament must reflect the views of those people who went out there in January in their large numbers and gave Xs to the Government to perform their duties to alleviate them of their problems, not the 5 per cent who voted for the Government to get large contracts. It must not be seen like that. It must be seen as in the interest of those who went out there and voted for good governance, not for what they can receive.

I am saying, Sir...

4.00 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. The arguments being used by the Honourable Member were the same arguments used on the previous Head. There is a Standing Order against repetition. I would like to ask the Honourable Member to desist from repeating the last speech.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy that you did not rule on that particular matter because the record of the House will show that you could come in here every Tuesday without reading the Order Paper and make the same speech and it would be that the Barbados Labour Party cannot make decisions. Don't care what they do, they end up in one direction. In other words, every Tuesday you expect them to come and do the same thing that they did last Tuesday. So there would be no need for Parliament.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You know you are the only Minister who has created a module to help you become a Minister.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that this Cabinet and this Parliament must recognise that Parliament is not only as I said before for the "too few". It must be a parliament for the masses in this country. I cannot understand how the Honourable Member for St. George South could come to Parliament every Tuesday, recognise what is going on in this Parliament and not be prepared to put his voice in on matters like these. The Honourable Member for St. George South is known for speaking on behalf of the underprivileged in this country and I am also calling on my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, to lend his voice to the voice

of the masses or he will be failing the great leader, Jesus Christ, because when Jesus Christ came to this world it was the underprivileged he fought for.

I will always remind my honourable friend that he must lend his voice to debates like these because whenever he sees obstruction of the masses it is his duty to put in his five cents.

Thank you very much.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 33 stand part.

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

The question that Head 33 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 1 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT OF \$10 700 000 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES, 1999-2000 HEAD 27 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.

In moving Head 27, I would just like to refresh this Chamber's memory with respect to a contract which has been awarded to Design Collaborative for feasibility studies under the tourism development programme in the sum of \$1 850 712.

The feasibility studies have been completed and they have been accepted by the Government. The principal objective of these studies was the rehabilitation of areas in Bridgetown, Speightstown and St. Lawrence Gap to develop the tourism potential of those areas. The consultant has made a number of recommendations and some of these recommendations have already been acted upon. We have seen improvement in the Wharf Road which was in the news quite recently. That particular project was taken out of the programme which was recommended by the consultants because of the urgency of the situation there. It is a ten million dollar project which is being dealt with under the Division of Public Works.

It was also necessary to take the St. Lawrence project out as well. A separate contract has already been signed for that area mainly as it refers to the lighting. The recommendations involve certain traffic, transportation and car park improvements in these various areas. The commercial improvement of Bridgetown, the improvement of buildings in places like Baxters Road Roebuck Street, also

the improvement of certain heritage buildings in Speightstown, the improvement of drainage and housing in some respects.

It was envisaged in the recommendations which were made that some of these projects would be dealt with by the private sector and some would be dealt with by the public sector. Those projects which it is envisaged would be done by the private sector include places like Suttle Street, Hope's Alley Mall, Tudor Street public service, the vehicle terminal at Princess Alice Highway, Church Village and certain improved street lighting and also the heritage buildings in Speightstown.

The final designs are still to be completed and this supplementary will allow us to amend the contract which was made with Design Collaborative in order for them to be able to deal with the final design under the contract. The feasibility study which has been accepted by Government did not include the final design. The total additional cost was \$4.7 million. We are using funds from the Caribbean Development Bank so that it would not involve any direct pressure on the Consolidated Fund and it is hoped that we will be able to pick out a few of the major projects in those three areas, St. Lawrence, Bridgetown and Speightstown to deal with at this stage. The project involves improvement of a long list of areas. Here again, if my memory serves me, correctly, it is the previous Minister of Tourism, who is also the Parliamentary Representative for the City, who brought this Chamber up to date on all of those projects. 4,10p.m.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks, I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to speak on this Resolution. This Resolution represents a finalization of a development plan, certainly so far as the St. Lawrence area is concerned, which was conceived about 15 or 20 years ago. Every Barbadian must recognise* the peculiar characteristics of the St. Lawrence area. It is an area that has been part and parcel of the tourism development of Barbados and from the turn of this century there was a hotel, the St. Lawrence Hotel in that area. It was always recognised that the physical development of hotels in that area out-paced the infrastructural development.

I well recall, Sir, that it was my good fortune to be part of a decision making machinery that started this infrastructural development in the form of ensuring that the beaches in the area, which were threatened in the late 1970s and early 80s with erosion, were protected. As part of the Oistins Development Scheme, a comprehensive beach erosion prevention scheme was established from Kendal

Point to the St. Lawrence Church. I am so happy to have seen the success of that work. You, yourself, Mr. Chairman, have taken full advantage of the development of the beach in the Dover area, in company with a large number of retired Barbadians from abroad, as well as tourists and visitors from other parishes and great use is made of that Dover Beach area. There is one regret that I have, though. The regret that I have is this. There is a feeling amongst some foreign people who are granted the privilege of being allowed to own property in Barbados that they can somehow defy Town Planning laws. We have an example in the Dover area that I am going to speak publicly on. I cannot understand how, up to now, despite repeated reminders to the powers that be, that there is an encroachment on the public beach area by a newly built hotel in defiance of the laws of Barbados. And that the enforcement notice that has been issued has not been carried into effect.

Now, I welcome foreign investment. Everybody knows that. But I want to make it clear that the breach of the law in the Dover area by the newly built hotel there is known by all and sundry. I call upon the authority to ensure that the fence, which is erected illegally on the Government's property, that is public property, is removed.

I have a picture of that area before the public works were carried out by the Government in 1979 and I know where the sea used to threaten Half Moon Hotel. Subsequent to that, and as a result of the erection of the groynes in that area, that beach was reclaimed. My understanding of the law is very clear and if the Government puts in a groyne and there is accretion to the beach, there is no doubt about it at all, that it belongs to the Government.

Asides,

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: It is different with private enterprises. They have to get the permission of the Government but very often the terms of the permission is that the accretion belongs to people who have expended the money but not when Government puts it in.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I know that law good, good, good. It is the public's money. Everybody knows that Half Moon Hotel when it was owned by Dr. Trieloff had to put up a wall and whenever the sea came in at certain times of the year that wall used to be destroyed. Everybody knows that.

That is the kind of injustice, the kind of defiance of the law that causes problems in a country like this. People cannot understand how it is that everybody in the area knows that that beach is the Government's beach and some little tourist from abroad could come here and feel that they could defy the laws of Barbados and do that.

I have walked down there already and I let it be known 100 times that this has to change. I cannot understand how people can claim that they are representing the hotels' interest in Barbados to the extent of being the holders of the highest office in the public sector organisations, and that they can be part and parcel of the abuse of the laws of Barbados. It is my constituency but I am not going to see an injustice done to the laws of Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: It is wrong and it has to be talked about. The second thing about St. Lawrence that I would like to emphasize is this. I made the decision in conjunction with the then Minister and I remember when we made the road a one way. The hoteliers had a meeting and they wanted to hang me and the Minister at that time. Luckily, for us, we were strong enough to tell them that we believe, having regard to the advice that we had, that it was in the best interest of Barbados and in their best commercial interest. I know that today, anybody who suggests that you have that street as a two-way street again that they would then be hanged. The decision was taken because the traffic in that area was such that it caused too much dislocation.

An integral part of making that road a one way is that there was going to be parking created so as to keep the cars off the road and that the area known as Chapman Swamp between Highway 7 and the St. Lawrence Road would be developed with access from St. Lawrence onto that. Sir; this Resolution now, after all the years is going to permit the finalization of those plans. I am 100% in favour of it.

There is still another problem. The Dover, St. Lawrence, Maxwell area was an integral part of the historical drainage pattern for the high grounds in Christ Church such as Kendal Hill, Maxwell Hill and all of those areas. You had Maxwell Pond, Salt Pond and you had the Coral Ground where water collected and came down before it went on to the sea. 4.20 p.m.

Many Honourable Members would not know, but I remember the time when we used to have an irrigated small farm in Dover in which there was a fan mill and people used to pump the water. So much went down there that you had a lens of water that used to be pressed into the seawater and you could get that water. Now we need a drainage scheme as a result of the tremendous development that is taking place in the whole of that area. You need a drainage scheme that will permit the water to go back into Chapman Swamp and back into the sea like it used to. This professional services vote would facilitate that too.

There is only one other thing, Sir, that I would like to see. I have one regret that we are passing this money for the redevelopment of Speightstown, I do not begrudge them, Bridgetown, I do not begrudge them and I welcome St. Lawrence. But, Honourable Members will recall that at the time when this first started that I said that St. Lawrence extended to Oistins.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Now, I very much hope, Sir, that just as these areas have been earmarked as being worthy of a specific sub-plan, so to speak, that very very soon the other areas in Barbados, like central St. George, Six Roads and Oistins Town will also have the same treatment. I am very pleased. When we projected this question of the development of sub towns in Barbados, we were ridiculed by the Democratic Labour Party. They walked about saying that we wanted to create a lot of inner cities.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I know that the Honourable Member is still hoping that Crab Hill will come into that...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House, Sir. It is not known in St. Lucy as Crab Hill anymore. It is known as Crab Town.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Very Well. I congratulate the Honourable Member that he has a town in St. Lucy now, Sir. Half Moon Fort was always one, but I know that the Honourable Member would not be promoting any development in Half Moon Fort because it is too near to St. Peter.

Sir, it is necessary that the Government takes the initiative in the creation of the infrastructure so as to facilitate the full development of these areas. It is a fact that we have some undesirable activity in the St. Lawrence area. There is no question about it, because of the business activity that takes place there, it is like a magnet and attracts a number of people, some undesirable, from the rest of Barbados. It is a fact also that considerable effort is being devoted to controlling this activity.

I want to say that I have had a lot of experience in observing activity over the course of the years and observing the efforts on the part of successive Governments to curtail this activity. But in truth and in fact, unless we as a society are going to be prepared to have some kind of preventative detention for people whose mental condition, however caused, either by substance abuse or otherwise, unless we are

in a position to say that we are going to permit laws to be passed for them to be prohibited from going in certain areas under certain conditions, then we are going to have to deal with this problem. It is not a problem only in Barbados. It is a worldwide problem. The problem of harassment is a worldwide problem and anybody who reads some of the comparative legal journals, will see how attempts are being made in many countries of the world to proceed along the lines of the delicate balance of preserving freedom of movement and at the same time creating a law which permits, in certain given restricted circumstances...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of elucidation. I wish to assure the House that I was recently in London and I had a visit with the British Home Office. I have a copy of the Crime and Disorder Act of England, 1998. Much of it is not relevant to us, but, as I have written in my report for Cabinet which goes on Thursday, they have created a thing called the Antisocial Order which deals precisely with those types of vagrants, harassers who are persistent in their conduct and who do not necessarily have to be shown to be mentally deficient or incompetent. I have a lot of literature from the home office on it and I am looking at it to see if we can adapt it. I will have to come back later on in the year if it comes back. We are studying the Antisocial Order that is provided for in the Crime and Disorder Bill of 1998 in England with a view to its adaptation for Barbados.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, I am very glad about that because I have been reading about it and it only illustrates the point that I made that this is not a problem that is peculiar to Barbados. It is a problem which has surfaced in many parts of the world and we cannot afford, with our great belief in democracy, to treat this problem in the same manner in which it can be treated in a place like Cuba. We have to recognise the fact that in some countries: China, Cuba, other countries, Malaysia, they adopt a different approach to antisocial behaviour by a small group of people.

I just want to make it clear, Sir, there is only a small group of people who create this impression and I am all in favour of preserving fundamental freedoms which we value so much. At the same time one must recognise that there is this small group of people that one has to deal with.

Sir, it is not only in the area of St. Lawrence Gap itself, in areas where you have shopping centres, you have the same problem too - that is coming to Barbados - you have the same problem coming here. In other words, wherever there is a public congregation, a target group, some of these people are beginning to carry out their activities. In Bridgetown, in the olden days it used to be diving across the Careenage for pennies. Your Honourable Member, you will remember that, Sir,...

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, you will remember how people used to be harassed in that area, so that it is a pattern of behavioural change. But these infrastructural developments are indispensable to the proper development of the area. One of the things about St. Lawrence, Maxwell and Dover is that the entrepreneurship in those areas is very much Barbadian or West Indian. These are areas which essentially were developed by Barbadians and West Indian people, both male and female. Some of the biggest proprietors in those areas have been females. I welcome this.

The last thing that I would like to say is that in addition to the drainage and other problems, there is a question of playing fields. There have been a lot of rumours and foolish talk about the Government wishing to terminate the activities that take place on Dover playing field. Sir, nobody in their right senses could think that they could interfere with activities of a club which has such a long history - it has over 700 members, from four years old up to grandpa status - the Dover Club.

What they need is a bigger outlet to facilitate the game of cricket which takes up a much larger area than the small Dover playing field can provide. Because you know, Sir, in Dover when a man hits what would be a sky shot in other playing fields that it goes straight into the roof or windows of a number of the houses around there - so that it is the cricket activity at Dover which causes the problems. 4.30p.m.

I look forward to the day when that area of land next to the roundabout as you go up Dover Hill and as you go up St. Lawrence Hill is devoted to that activity. I am not going to give up until that part across the road by the playing field as you pass Braddie's Bar and you go out is devoted to that kind of activity.

Everybody knows what is happening up there that economic activity has grown to such an extent that the area from Braddie's Bar around that roundabout is now an integral part of the night activity. I see Honourable Members from the Other Side up there regularly.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: It has gone around the corner. The development has expanded. There is a brand new gas station that whole area has grown and we say let it continue to grow, let us have the infrastructure there. I am proud of the fact that, as usual, it is taking place at the right time, with the right party in office and that the beneficiaries no doubt will reap the benefits of it.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I also would like to support the development plan as mentioned especially after hearing so much about the Christ Church area.

I would like to compliment the Government so far for the work that has been done on the Wharf Road. I have noticed that there is a lot of work that has been done there. I think that the placing of the sidewalk is an excellent idea where it will enable those people who have to travel along the Wharf as pedestrians to use the sidewalks in safety. But what I have observed, and I hope that this will be rectified before it is fully turned over again, is that no provision has been made for those people who are disabled. I think that something should be done now in the early process of the repairs to that road, even though there is a sidewalk placed on both sides of the Wharf Road that some provisions be made quite early in this exercise for those disabled people who might have to journey to the Immigration Department at times. From what I have seen in that area, the Immigration Department is perhaps one of the busiest departments on that side. Only yesterday I was observing that there is also provision made in that area for what can be considered a sidewalk as well. I would hope that because of the situation with the Immigration Department where disabled people and people who are in wheelchairs are not allowed to get up the steps of the Immigration Department that something be done for them. I would like to see as part of this redevelopment plan, some considerations given to that area in front of the Immigration Department as well.

I would also like to mention that what I have discovered is a lack of public relations and since there is going to be an exercise of redevelopment in various areas across Bridgetown this is needed now. We have just seen it here with the closure of the Wharf Road. I believe that as a motorist one of the important things you need is satisfaction and you need to remove stress as a driver. I think that although the motorists welcome the plan, not enough was done in terms of public relations to enable the motorists to either divert to other areas or perhaps to feel comfortable that they will have to sit for a few minutes in the traffic.

One of the other things I believe is extremely important is that you need to have a second look at the traffic system on Broad Street, on the Wharf Road and in Bridgetown in general since within the last couple of years we have seen an increase of vehicular traffic on the roads of Barbados. If you journey into town a Friday evening or a Saturday morning you would notice a backup of traffic. I know one will want to tell me that the time is coming when people will have to park away from the city, but there is also the occasion when people will have to pick up their young ones or perhaps a package within the city. When you look at the movement of traffic, I believe that a system should be introduced to regulate the flow of traffic.

There is too much cross movement of traffic as far as Bridgetown is concerned. I say that to say this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that when you look at Shepherd Street, you have a situation where traffic comes onto the Wharf Road and they merge onto Shepherd Street, moving onto Broad Street which causes a complete blockage of traffic on Broad Street and the Upper Wharf. There is a similar situation when you look at Philadelphia Lane which is the lane just outside of the Immigration Department. You have a situation where traffic has to move along Philadelphia Lane onto McGregor Street and onto Broad Street. In saying this I will also like to establish that you consider and have a look at the movement of traffic at the lower end of the Wharf Road.

Asides.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Yes, all the redevelopment that we are looking at and we do not put these things in place then I do not think that we could at least receive the praise and the congratulations as a Government for the work that we are doing because people can become very stressed out and very annoyed and whatever you do, you can get no thanks for it. I hope that these would be areas that will be considered.

When you look at the redevelopment plan for areas in Bridgetown, I am wondering if some of the very store owners in Bridgetown will be aware or have been shown this redevelopment plan and have been brought up to date as far as the redevelopment plan is concerned. I want to know what provision is made for these people to be given the right to have 'No Parking' areas made for them in front of the stores and the buildings. I think it places a lot of people at a disadvantage when even you as a person might have to do business at the very establishment. You see too many 'No Parking' areas available to private businesses in Bridgetown. I think that this is something that has to be looked at. Too many privileges are given to some of the business establishments in Bridgetown in terms of parking and I think we need to look at that if we need to have a better system as far as parking is concerned.

Those of us who have had the privilege of travelling overseas will see that parking happens to be one of the major things in any city that is progressive. But we seemed to be favouring here in Barbados people who own businesses and allowing those people the right to park in front of their establishments. As I said, I will be brief on this and I think that so far that I have been able to put my point across.

If I should move a little further, quickly, to another point of the redevelopment plan and look at the area of Holetown. Some of us are not aware of the redevelopment of Holetown. I can tell you that within recent years Holetown, perhaps, is one of the most thriving places as far as business is concerned. For example, if you take the area of Second

Street in Holetown, it can be considered as a street that, I personally believe, does more business than St. Lawrence Gap in relation to the various restaurants that are on Second Street in Holetown. I believe that when you look at Second Street as well there is a need for more lighting. There is a need for the resurfacing of the roads on Second Street because there are many international restaurants there. As I said earlier, there are not many Barbadians who are familiar with Second Street because it seems to cater mainly to non-nationals or people who, are visitors to the island but it is perhaps, in my opinion, an area that does more business than St. Lawrence at certain times of the week. 4.40p.m.

As far as the redevelopment plan is concerned, I hope that Holetown and that area of Second Street would be looked at fully because it has a lot of tourist potential in relation to the future of Barbados' tourism.

I would like to thank you for allowing me the time. Sir.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I give the Honourable Member the assurance that those details of this programme with which he is not aware I will make available to him as soon as possible.

I think that with respect to the situation pertaining to the traffic, even though it is a matter which is within the Division of Public Works, there are certain aspects of this programme that call for the pedestrianization of Broad Street. We still have to face the fact that there are too many cars on the road. It is something that the country will have to face at some point in time; the question of restricting the amount of cars per house. I know there will be some resentment to it initially but the more we talk about it, I guess when the time comes that we have to take those measures people will be fully aware.

It is hoped that if we are able to complete this programme more car parking facilities will be made available in the Bridgetown area. It is also hoped that people will get accustomed to what happens in the big countries whereby they can park their cars in certain central areas on the borders of the main Bridgetown area and use public transportation but that also assumes that public transportation is at a level which would permit this type of activity.

I am particularly pleased to hear that someone outside of the planners of the programme has mentioned the Holetown area. Holetown is an area which I believe was only omitted from this programme because maybe they wanted to deal with it separately but certainly it is an area which should be given attention. Hopefully, depending on the success of this programme we will probably move toward a separate programme for the Holetown area.

This programme, I had omitted to mention, is now under the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation. It has been given to them as one of their programmes and they have already started to run with it under new management, under Mr. Teddy Griffith who has recently taken over as the Chief Executive Officer. They are in the process now of putting out a \$20 million bond issue so that we will see some fruition to the plans which have been put in place.

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

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

The question that Head 27 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 34 stand part, I would wish to just briefly describe the purpose of the supplementary for the \$6 million which is being requested in this Honourable Committee of Supply.

As we are well aware, in December last year the Government of Barbados launched and signed for the funding of the Educational Sector Enhancement Programme, familiarly known as EduTech 2000. One of the key tenets of that programme, apart from the civil works and teacher training, was the provision of the technological solution by way of information and communications' hardware and software.

In order for us to be effective in bringing about a situation where schools would be connected to the Ministry of Education and where schools themselves would be connected to one another, we had to deal with the question of the connectivity between the schools and what kind of technological solution we should go with.

We had a consultancy which was carried out by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) out of Britain that recommended a certain framework and also that we look at the comparative advantages between wired and wireless solutions. Wired, of course, being those solutions that could go on the back work of the wired network which already exists in the context of Cable and Wireless/Barrel, and wireless using satellite dishes and microwave links.

Their recommendation was that in the country areas we should go for wireless because Cable and Wireless/Barrel had not yet wired most of those areas and in the town areas we should use wired where, in many instances, fibre optic cable was available.

Since then, however, Sir, we also conducted further research and it was determined that in truth and in fact when one compared what was being recommended by CCTA with what was available from the existing infrastructure, that we could, in fact, meet the entire requirements of the country through the wired network that exists within Cable & Wireless/Bartel with minor modifications being done by them.

We hope, Sir, to be able to implement an integrated managed Intranet service generally, "Intranet" as opposed to "Internet". This would allow for a dedicated wide area network to be serviced by a wired solution for Internet connectivity, for services such as web-posting and E-mail which are commonly known as the value added services, and the installation and management of local area network on the school compound itself. Indeed, Sir, that maximum use should be made of the remote systems management facilities, for management of both the local area network and the wide area network as well as the software being used.

The advantages, Sir, of a wire-line solution, as it is otherwise known, over a wireless solution briefly are that with the wire line solution, generally, you have a flexible and expandable framework; it has an integrated remote access for Internet dial traffic, it becomes a seamless network with a single network management system, and it represents a single point of contact for the administrators of this system and those responsible for the maintenance.

What is being proposed by Cable & Wireless/Bartel, very simply, is to implement a frame relay ATM network solution. This is based on this point, very briefly, Mr. Chairman, that they design, build and overlay data network that is optimised for multimedia use, (video, voice, et cetera). The existing circuits which network that we use now in order to get phone calls across the island have been designed and optimised for voice traffic. However, they do not have the ATM frame relay network solution in place, we have, in fact, been transporting data, whether it is the private sector, the public sector, whoever, in Barbados over that voice network. What is being suggested and agreed upon is that they will build an overlaid data network that would be used exclusively for data and that would allow for effective use of the system. It would optimise the usage of voice by removing the pressure on the voice network that is created by having data travel over it. At the same time it will create a dedicated network for data that will benefit not only the schools in EduTech but, more importantly, the entire country of Barbados and in particular those businesses that rely heavily on the transmission of data in order to make a living or to employ people. 4.50p.m.

Equally, Sir, it would also eliminate the requirement for a large modem pool at the Ministry's headquarters which is significant because all of the things that we have felt and held firm to in the execution of EduTech, is not bringing into the Ministry those kinds of functions that do not represent our core functions as a Ministry. We have therefore, as you will see, in the execution of this project, taken decisions all along to ensure that those areas that require specialist knowledge, that we allow specialists to deal with them rather than bring them into the Ministry and develop an expertise overnight for them.

Equally, it means also, that in addition to the businesses who can use this data network that all Internet service providers in Barbados, whether it is Sun Beach, Carib Surf or whoever, will now also be able to use this data network which would therefore be a fillip to the Internet business generally.

One of the advantages, Mr. Chairman, of the wireless solution - because many of us see technologically the dish and figure that this is the way of the future, with wires. The truth is that there is some advantage in that wireless, this gives us a monetarily high band width. It allows us to own the infrastructure that we use. In other words, we can put out our dishes and they are ours. It also reflects a much lower monthly telecommunications-cost. You do not have to pay the kind of phone bills that you would pay normally for this.

However, there are some severe disadvantages in that if we own it, it means that we have to spend much more in terms of the capital cost to acquire it. It also means that it is going to require us to erect some very tall unsightly towers across the landscape of Barbados if we were to go with that solution. But worst than that, Sir, we would have to be faced with the sight of continuous tower and be faced with infrastructure maintenance in some harsh environments across the Scotland District, St Lucy, St. Philip which, indeed, would be a nightmare.

The final point is that whereas the wire line solution allows us to have a single network administration point of contact for administration and maintenance, if we went with wireless we would have to have two network management systems which would also create additional administrative nightmares for us. Given all of that; and given the fact that the frame related network ATM solution also allows us to consolidate multiple protocols over a single network; that network traffic would be variable as opposed to fixed; and it would allow for multiple locations to connect. In other words, if School A wants to connect to School B who then wants to connect to School C and D, this would be capable of happening rather than having to deal with a single point in connectivity which we would be handicapped with otherwise.

It also allows for a fairly rapid expansion of the band width provisioning as well as for the network configuration. Given the fact that in any school system you have to be able to plan for any eventuality in the future this is a necessary point that we must take into mind.

Guaranteed availability of service is what Cable and Wireless BARTEL and Cable and Wireless BET are in business to do. Therefore we believe that they are best positioned to manage this rather than us taking it up on our own.

Finally, Sir, there is a transparent remote access to the Internet. In other words, we do not need the modem bank I just referred to that would have to be carried otherwise at the Ministry of Education.

The negotiations between Cable and Wireless BARTEL and Cable and Wireless BET have revealed that, in truth and in fact, were we to go with this wire line solution the initial capital cost is lower for us; that we can in fact bring about the service at a much sooner time; that the payback would be realised much sooner than was anticipated by the original consultant COB A, out of England; and that there is a faster

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own the infrastructure but we will lease the infrastructure from them because the lines, at the end of the day, and the network will still be owned by Cable and Wireless. The arrangement that we are entering in with them will be a seven-year arrangement and we hope, Sir, that after those seven years are up that we will then be able to negotiate with them a much lower cost, which we do not want to bind ourselves to at this stage because the technology is moving so rapidly that the costs are likely to drop significantly by the time we get to that point.

Cable and Wireless BARTEL has indicated initially a cost of \$8.1 million to cover the seven-year programme as a one-time payment or seven annual payments totalling \$11.245 million. After lengthy negotiations, the Ministry of Education was able to get them down to a total price of \$5.95 million as a one-time payment for the seven-year programme. Really, Mr. Chairman, I do not know that we could have done any better in the circumstance because that represented almost a 25% decrease from where they would have started.

This will require us paying \$2.975 million upon the signing of the contract, once this Parliament approves of the funds, and the other \$2.975 million will be paid one month after the successful connection of the first phase of the schools in the local area network to the ATM frame relay. In other words, when the schools can connect to the data network to allow them to communicate with the other schools and the Ministry.

It should be noted, Sir, that that sum of \$5.95 million also includes full maintenance as well as remote and dedicated access to the network over the seven-year period. Indeed, Sir, the arrangement with Cable and Wireless BET

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budgeted our cost estimates for the entire Edutech Programme, which we used as the basis for our negotiations with the Inter-American Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank and the Ministry of Finance, we had in fact included a total sum over the seven years of some \$24.657 million for the telecommunications solutions. \$7.793 million for telecommunication specifically, \$3.6 million for the microwave equipment and \$13.258 million for the Internet support. If we go, however, with the wireline solution as being provided by

Cable & Wireless/BARTEL and Cable & Wireless/BET, it means that we will save as a Government and as a Ministry, \$14.2 million over the next seven years using this option while at the same time ensuring that responsibility for the management of the option remains with those who are trained with the expertise to be able to manage it, and who, therefore, will accept responsibility for the continued maintenance and operations of the said solutions. 5.00p.m.

Mr, Chairman, Cable & Wireless/BARTEL does in fact have a monopoly in Barbados and, therefore, it represents a service of a specialised nature. Cabinet, therefore, in accordance with financial rules, particularly Rule 137A, has already agreed for Government to enter into negotiations with both Cable & Wireless/BARTEL and Cable & Wireless/BET in accordance with the financial rules of the Government of Barbados.

What I would like to say, Sir, before sitting is that the other significant point is, were we to go simply with monthly cost, it would not be a reimbursable sum to the Government of Barbados but with us negotiating a one-time payment up front, which is obviously discounted because of the fact that you are paying it up front, we also have the additional benefit of having this being reimbursable by the Inter-American Development Bank, so that the foreign exchange inflows will come back to match back what we are paying here.

The total sum of the two contracts, therefore, Sir, is roughly \$10.143 million, with \$6 million needed right away to be able to sign the contract with the two entities and the rest of the money will be needed, Sir, some time early next year before the closure of the financial year or early into the next financial year. Therefore, when that is required, depending on the progress of the work, we will come back to Parliament to supplement for that particular sum. As I indicated, this is almost fully reimbursable and to that extent we are not only saving money but we are also ensuring that there is a foreign exchange inflow to meet this expenditure.

Only to say otherwise, Sir, that the civil works on the primary schools have started on Monday of this week. It is expected that that will go into the next academic term starting in September. We have been meeting very closely with the principals, the unions, NCPTA and all of the stakeholders. In fact, Sir, on average we have been meeting with them once every six weeks to discuss all aspects of the management to the programme, particularly the training component. What is significant, Sir, is that there has been a considerable amount of goodwill in terms of recognising that for this level of civil works to be implemented, we will have to go into school terms and, therefore, it is going to require

very detailed and close management of how the schools' premises are used. It is hoped, Sir, that secondary schools will start in the near future and they too, will, in fact, not only go into the next school term but into the whole school year, because we have broken it down into blocs so as to ensure that there can still be a fairly smooth attendance at classes.

The tender for the supply of the hardware appeared in the local newspapers and in the international press, I believe, on the 31st July. We therefore expect the equipment to arrive in Barbados by the end of December or the beginning of January so that it can be installed into the schools at the beginning of term two in this academic year.

With those few words, I would like to beg that Head 34 stand part.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I must admit that we on this Side are not surprised by this particular supplementary because when we were discussing the Estimates earlier in the year, we pointed out that the Ministry of Education has been able to get a large sum of money for the Government of Barbados. This Ministry seems to be a very special Ministry. Some time ago, it was able to come up with a very creative plan on how to reduce the unemployment statistics in Barbados. Now it has come up with a plan on how to increase the foreign exchange reserves of the country. That is, they have been able to come up with a plan to borrow large sums of money to put into the economy of Barbados and now they are only taking a small share of this money out of the large borrowings. It is not surprising to us that they are now coming to Parliament and getting a small supplementary even though they have gone and borrowed large sums of money.

Sometimes, one wonders why Government borrows money. Whether they borrow money for projects or whether they borrow money to get foreign exchange. It is clear, Sir, that this particular project might be two-fold. That is, that the long term plan is to create a particular project that will help the educational system of Barbados but the short term plan is to create foreign exchange for the Government of Barbados.

I must compliment the Minister of Education, she has been able to do it once again where she has been able to help the economy of Barbados by some master stroke. This time it is not reducing the unemployment statistics but boosting the foreign reserves.

One thing I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see the day when this full project is implemented because as we go into the 21st century, we must recognise that if we are to compete with the world, that we must have people using the right type of technology.

This world is becoming a very competitive world, Sir, and the same way that the Chinese can use technology to gain what they want in this world, I expect that Barbadians, in spite of the size of the country, must be prepared to also use the educational system to develop the minds of young people so that Barbados can move forward.

I do not buy the argument and as you would know, Sir, I have always said that because we are small, it does not mean that we have to depend on other people to dictate the pace for us. It must be recognised that before the United States was dominating the world, that Barbadians were dominating the world, we were doing things that the United States could not do. It is rather surprising today to see that we have to take the lead from the United States. We need to get back where we were before. England had to depend on us and I am hoping, Sir, that with these new found loans, somewhere we could find some young man to put in the Central Bank of Barbados where he could sit down on a daily basis and make sure that we are holding the right foreign exchange at the right time. I have said in this Parliament already that growth of a country does not necessarily have to depend on the productive sectors, but can also depend on how you hold your foreign exchange and it is a point that we have to study, Sir. When one studies how the foreign currencies fluctuate... 5.10p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: This is part of the educational system.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You seem to be going on finance now.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, education is about how you deal with things, Sir, even the economy.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please stick to the Resolution.

Mr. St. E. KELLMAN: I am asking the Ministry of Education to make sure they put systems in place where they can educate people to help the Ministry of Finance. They have always been finding ways to help the Ministry of Finance and that is why I am saying that the educational system must be such that we can educate the young ones, so that some day we can get people within the Central Bank of Barbados to make sure that we are holding the right foreign reserves at the right time and the right currency.

The only way that can happen is through our educational system. So when people point at me and tell me that the time is going, I am sorry. It is important. I have to

look after the economy of Barbados. You can appreciate, Sir, that the economy of Barbados is under stress and that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education have to make sure that these things are turned around. I am hoping, Mr. Chairman, that EduTech can be that programme, Sir, that can help us to get back to that prominent position that we once held in the world. History will prove that back in the 16th and 17th Centuries we were on the world chart, but for some reason, for the last five years we seemed to have been slipping very far, Sir, and we are not being recognized like before. In 1992, the Japanese recognized us as the ones to produce the best quality cotton. But I am not sure, Sir, in 1999 if we still have that recognition.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 34 stand part.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of two money resolutions in Committee of Supply without amendment.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported to me the passing of two money resolutions in Committee of Supply.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. G. W. PA YNE, the Resolutions were read a first, second and third time and agreed to and passed.

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) ORDER, 1999.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving that this Resolution be passed, I wish to draw attention on page 1 on the resolution approved a typographical error in the third paragraph beginning with the word 'resolve' says that,

"RESOLVE that His Excellency the Governor-General be asked to asset and take the necessary steps to give effect to this resolution."

I would like to delete the word 'asset' and substitute the word 'assent'.

Mr. Speaker, this Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1999 was laid earlier today, makes a number of important provisions in respect of the organization, management and structure of the public service. First of all the Order seeks to correct certain errors in the Civil Establishment (General) Order of 1998- S.I. 1998 No. 123. The Order reflects the changes associated with the allocation of ministerial portfolios, consequent upon the results of the general election of January 20th this year, Sir.

In the Civil Establishment Order, the Government is seeking to bring to fruition several aspects of Government's policy in relation to Human Resource Management and Development in the public service, including improvements to the conditions of service of public employees. I wish first of all to draw attention to the security of tenure that was afforded casual employees last year. A decision was taken to convert the post of casual employee to that of public officer. As a result of that the S.I. No. 123 of 1998 was made and laid in Parliament in October last year to give effect to the establishment of more than four thousand such post.

Since the making of that S.I. it has been recognized that there has been a number of discrepancies in relation to the numbers and allocation of the posts and the Ministry of the Civil Service undertook a review of that Statutory Instrument. This order, subject of the present motion, is brought in part to clear up some of those discrepancies that we have been able to identify. In addition, the Order seeks to regularize the status of 1,444 temporary officers. Particularly those whose posts have been in existence for more than five years.

Briefly, if I can just run through the Heads of the main areas which have been addressed in this Order. First of all the Public Health Inspectorate, the Honourable Member for St. James South will be pleased to know that commitments given to the Public Health Inspectorate have now been Honoured in this Civil Establishment Order. 5.20p.m.

A commitment was given to the National Union of Public Workers, representing the Public Health Inspectors that with effect from 1995 several posts in the Public Health Inspectorate have been reclassified and redesignated and there are all set out. The important thing for the Public Health Inspectors is to know that they will be paid arrears of salary in accordance with the regrading and the reclassification backdated to April 1, 1995.

The Civil Establishment (General) Order also makes provision for the establishment of 41 new posts in the Fire Service. I think they have sought 50 but they have been allowed 41.

At the Prisons 29 posts of Prison Officers II and 3 posts of Prison Officers I, are also being established in this Civil Establishment (General) Order. At the Prisons we are always playing catch up as the prison population increases, it is now about 700. As the population increases we have commensurately to increase the number of Prison Officers. The basic level of Prison Officer II is 171 including females and Prison Officers I is 3. There are 7 Instructors, 5 Orderly Officers and 3 Assistant Chief Officers, as well as the Superintendent and the Deputies.

Twenty-six posts of Instructor at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic have also been established by this Civil Establishment (General) Order.

The Civil Establishment (General) Order also upgrades the establishment of posts at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the District Hospitals and the Polyclinics. Honourable Members will see when they go through the Order that under the Ministry of Health, there are 35 posts of Clinical Medical Officers at the various Polyclinics which have been in existence since 1990. Thirty-seven posts of Nursing Assistant I and II at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; 34 posts of Nursing Assistant I and II at the Psychiatric Hospital; 10 posts at the District Hospital; 58 posts of Health Aides for the District Hospitals; and 26 posts of General Workers at the Psychiatric Hospital are all being established.

At the Post Office 42 posts of Postmen and 9 posts of Postal Clerk will be established under this Civil Establishment (General) Order. Twenty-one posts of Airport Security Guards are also being established.

We are changing the designation and nomenclature of the senior people at CERO from Supervisor of Emergency Services to Director and Deputy Director of Emergency Services. The Director will now be at S7 in the salary scale and the Deputy Director at Z6 - I. I fought long and hard to have this improvement in the status of the management of CERO because they do a tremendous job on behalf of Barbados. CERO is a small organisation but they produce a tremendous amount of work during the year and the staff are called upon to exert themselves in the most trying times almost every year.

Those are the main aspects of the Civil Establishment (General) Order and I beg to move that the Resolution enabling this Order be now passed.

Mr. D. CARTER: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to this House for passing this particular Resolution but I want to point out to this House that although we are being asked to consider this Civil Establishment (General) Order,

there are certain things within the Ministry of Health that we still need to clear up. That is, the Public Health Inspectors are asked to go out and study and do certain courses, after they come back they are asked to serve in a new position for four years before they are compensated for the qualifications. If they come back and there is no provision, it means that even though they have qualified they are not compensated for the work they would have gone out and studied for.

I am calling on this Parliament to make the necessary adjustments so that when Public Health Inspectors become qualified, they are positions for them and that they are compensated. I think that we are encouraging people to study and then to work for other people. I think that if we want to develop progressive minds we must put progressive plans in place so that after they have completed their studies they are assured that there is some place for them to be.

We also have another situation where there are young bright men and women leaving school going on to work at the various hospitals and when the opportunity arises for them to go the Barbados Community College to study to be a qualified nurse that they first have to resign their positions at the hospital. They are not sure when they come back from studying that they can get a position at the hospital even though there is a public cry in this country for proper services to be provided at the same hospital.

I am saying that we cannot continue to encourage young people to devote time to their country and at the same time we are not providing the opportunities for them to progress life. I think it is a backward step and we need to make the necessary changes so that young people can believe that there is hope for them. In this country it seems to me that the only people that have hope are those who are coming into this country with large sums of money in their pockets, but the young men and women who go to school and learn well they are not assured of a position in this country.

I am calling on this Parliament to make the necessary changes so that we can give hope to young people because we are very fast to criticise young people when they do the opposite but whenever they are doing something well, we do everything in our power to keep them down. What type of example are we setting for them? We are not making a leeway for them and I hope, Sir, that you would use your Chair to influence the decision makers of this Parliament to understand that we have to build a foundation for the youth of this country.

There are bright young women throughout St. Lucy and throughout Barbados who would like to develop a professional course in nursing but they are deprived of the opportunity. However, people can come from Timbuktu,

walk into Barbados and get whatever they want within the Ministry of Health and other departments of Government. 5.30p.m.

I am saying, Sir, that we have to develop a Barbados for Barbadians first because if we do not, we are going to destroy the moral fabric of this country. Young people are going to be frustrated and instead of advancing toward the positive things you are going to be encouraging their minds to go toward the negative. We cannot continue to blame young people for everything but we must be prepared to change the system because it is the system that is destroying the minds of the young people in this country.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I was a bit lost when the Honourable Member spoke about the Administration depriving the young people an opportunity to study nursing. Sir, to the best of my knowledge, there is certainly basic matriculation there, if you meet it, you are entitled to go to the Community College and do the theoretical side of it. It even goes as far as if you do not matriculate you could go and do something called "pre health" which gives you a great opportunity.

Sir, the other point is, I am not aware that public health inspectors still go overseas to be trained. As far as I know, it is all done here at our Community College. I think those days of going to Jamaica are long gone. That is something of the past, Sir, so I think the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. It is not well populated at the moment but I do not think I can sit and give him so much latitude.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that the Honourable Member seems to be on cloud 9 because nowhere in my speech did I mention anything about public health inspectors going to Jamaica to study.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Mr. Speaker, I never said he did. He said they go overseas and come back so I said I remember the days when they had to go to Jamaica. Sir, I am a very keen listener.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is true, they go overseas and come back but I never said for what reason so do not imply anything to me. The important thing is they go out and study and when they come back they are faced with the problem. Do not deal with the side issues. Deal with the issue.

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that young nurses have to resign from the QEH and other public health institutions to go on to the Community College and they are not given the necessary leave. That is all I am saying. I am saying that in this day and age that study leave must be provided for these young people because if the study leave is not provided, you

are going to stop brilliant young people who want to have a profession in nursing and you are going to force them to go and do something else because they need the money. Things are tight.

It may not be tight for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central because he represents the right constituency, a rich constituency, but I have people within St. Lucy who need to do nursing and they are being told that they have to resign their positions to go into Community College.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that cannot be fair to those young people. Barbados can only develop when you develop the minds of young people. If you play on young people you are going to destroy another generation and people must understand this.

We are always prepared to criticize young people but yet we are doing nothing to help them. Stop flogging them then. That is all I am simply saying. Stop flogging them and provide the opportunities for them. It appears that whenever there is a problem in the country the fastest people you can blame are young people but we never stop to ask ourselves what we are doing for the same young people.

It is easy for someone whenever there is a crime problem to say: "Oh, it is the fellows on the block liming." What are you doing for the people on the blocks liming? The people who are working within the Ministry of Health have their problems too. What are you doing for them, Sir? They want to progress and there is no opportunity for them. Do not believe that by firing one minister you have solved the problem because whoever comes, once the Cabinet of the country does not provide the necessary training programmes you are still going to get the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that it is okay to come with this Civil Establishment (General) Order but you also have to come with the other things because you can give the public health inspectors all the money they want, if you do not give them the right things they are requesting, you are not going to go anywhere. It is not only the money aspect, it is also the treatment that is sometimes meted out to these officers. I rest my case there, Sir. Thank you.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I am grateful to the Honourable Member for his observations about the public health inspectorate in particular. I think some of the broad concerns implicit in his speech are matters which could usefully be raised in the ongoing negotiations about the terms and conditions, which are being carried on between the Ministry of the Civil Service and CTUSAB.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) ORDER, 1999

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, this is a companion piece of legislation. The Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order 1999 makes provision for the establishment of 50 temporary posts in the teaching establishment, in accordance with an undertaking given to the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations.

Provision is also made for the transfer of 25 posts of Guidance Counsellor from the Civil Establishment (General) Order to this Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order. It is a matter of just tidying up.

The Order also discontinues two grades of Principal of Primary Schools. What has happened is, it was recognized that with the amalgamation of some primary schools the relationship between the number of pupils and the emoluments paid to Principals could no longer be rationalized under the two tier salary points of S8 and S9 in the grades. That has been discontinued and one grade of Principal at S8 is now established irrespective of the number of pupils so that your grade as a Principal, no longer depends upon the number of pupils in the schools. It is standardized at S8.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. Hon.

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

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

MOTIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, out of an abundance of caution, I move a motion on behalf of the Honourable Member for St. James North. The Honourable Member has recently been very ill. He had surgery and he is recovering and doing well. His doctors have advised that he be granted leave until October 4. 5.40p.m.

In the circumstances, Sir, I have been advised by the Clerk earlier today that it would be appropriate to have a formal Resolution granting leave of absence from this Chamber to the Honourable Member for St. James North until October 31, 1999.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government's business. I have some important announcements to make.

In moving the Adjournment, I wish to inform Honourable Members that the Economic Report for last year will be going before Cabinet on Thursday and will be circulated over the weekend to Honourable Members.

It is proposed, to formally lay that Report on August 24. On the 24th of August at 3 p.m., the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance will deliver the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

Mr. Speaker, the present configuration of Parliament places the Opposition at a great disadvantage to contribute to the debates. Government has no intention whatever of using its numbers in any heavy handed or oppressive manner. Government is equally sensitive that a debate in which all Members would seek to exercise their right to speak on television would be very boring, to say the least, to the public. We would be asking the public to hear two Members of the Opposition intersperse at whatever point and then twenty-five from this Side. We think it is not in the public interest to subject the public to that kind of lopsided debate.

Government proposes that the Leader of the Opposition would reply to the Budgetary Proposals on August 25 at 3 o'clock and speak on television for as long as the Minister of Finance has spoken, thereafter, only eight Members of this Side should speak.

It is hoped that next year those eight who spoke in 1999 would not speak. In the year 2000, another eight will speak and so on. Over and above that, however, I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for this suggestion when I discussed the matter with him earlier today.

We will seek at various points during the parliamentary calendar, as appropriate, to feature on television certain debates which will be of public interest and in so doing that would provide an opportunity for Members who did not speak in a televised budget debate to address the country and their constituents.

The other consideration is that we have had a long series of debates this year. The parliamentary session has run very late due to one or two delays which have faced the Minister of Finance in bringing the Budget earlier. We are virtually working in what would normally be the vacation period for Parliament. Some of us are not going to get a holiday yet again.

I have every intention, and I will make the specific date known later, of giving a long adjournment toward the end of October, probably the third week, but we would hope to rise on or about the 25th of August after the Budget so that Honourable Members who have vacation plans, family plans and travel plans, can now organize their arrangements around the dates of the 24th and the 25th of August.

I beg to move, Sir, that this House do now adjourn until August 24 at 3 p.m.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly, 5.50p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of
Tuesday, July 27, 1999.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR

1. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments
(Exemption) (Barbados Light and Power
Limited) Order, 1999.
2. Value Added Tax (Refund) (No. 5) Order,
1999.
3. Value Added Tax (Refund) (No. 6) Order,
1999.
4. The Civil Establishment (General) Order,
1999.
5. The Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order,
1999.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS 2

1. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment,
(General) Order, 1999.
2. Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment
(Teachers) Order, 1999.

OBITUARY SPEECHES 2

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 2; Mr. D. J. H.
Thompson, 4; Rt. Hon. O. S. Arthur, 6; Hon.
R. N. Greenidge, 8; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 10;
Mr. L. R. Tull, 11; Mr. D. T. Gill, 12; Hon. Dr.
R. L. Cheltenham, 13.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
GRANT OF \$25 750 910 FROM THE
CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT
THE ESTIMATES 1999-2000 AS SHOWN IN
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1999-2000
NO. 5 WHICH FORMS THE SCHEDULE TO
THE RESOLUTION.....

15

Hon. G. W. Payne, 15, 23; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman,
15; Hon. Sir Harold St. John, 17; Mr. D. J. H.
Thompson, 19; Hon. R. R. Farley, 21.

HEAD 33 -MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SPORTS

Hon. R. N. Greenidge, 24; Mr. D. St. E.
Kellman, 24.

ORDER NO. 1 - RESOLUTION THAT THE
SUM OF \$10 700 000 BE GRANTED FROM
THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLE
MENT THE ESTIMATES 1999-2000 AS
SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES No. 5, 1999-2000 26

HEAD 27 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT 26

AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM 24

Hon. G. W. Payne, 26,31; Hon. Sir Harold
St. John, 27; Mr. M. Z. Williams, 30.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND CULTURE 31

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 31; Mr. D. St. E.
Kellman, 34.

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL)
ORDER, 1999 . . . i..... 35

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 35, 38; Mr. D. St. E.
Kellman, 36.

ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO AP
PROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT
(TEACHERS) ORDER, 1999 38

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 38.

MOTIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS 38

Leave of absence granted to Hon. R. C.
Eastmond until October 31, 1999.

SUSPENSION 12

ADJOURNMENT_____ ____ 39

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 39.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ARTHUR, Rt. Hon. O. S. (St. Peter)
CHELTENHAM, Hon. Dr. R. L. (St. Joseph)
FARLEY, Hon. R. R. (Christ Church East) GILL,
Mr. D. T. (St. Michael South Central)
GREENIDGE, Hon. R. N. (St. Philip North)
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy) MOTTLEY,
Hon. Miss M. A. (St. Michael North
East)
PAYNE, Hon. G. W. (St. Andrew) ST. JOHN, Hon. Sir
HAROLD (Christ Church South) SIMMONS, Hon. D.
A. C. (St. Thomas) TULL, Mr. L. R. (St. George
South) THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St. John)
WILLIAMS, Mr. M. Z. (St. Michael North West)