

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 - 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 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.)
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Acting Prime Minister 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. R. C. EASTMOND, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources)
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)
Hon. H. F. LASHLEY (Minister of Social Transformation)
Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Acting Attorney General and Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
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.

Prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, November 09, 1999.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, November 09, 1999, have been circulated. There is one slight error in relation to myself. On November 09, 1999, I was not the Attorney General of Barbados and in case there is any matter that may arise in the future, I think the record of this House should show accurately.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North was acting and is acting as Attorney General and I wish to record of this House to correct the error on page 1 of the Minutes and put the substantive position in which I was acting and am acting.

Subject to that observation and any others which any Members of the House may care to make, I beg to move that the Minutes as circulated be confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE
SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to report to this Honourable House that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of February, 1999 from the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Public Holidays (No. 2) Order, 1999.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, Question No. 18.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following question.

Question No. 18:

To ask the Minister of Information:

1. Will the Minister state the amount, if any, owing by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for any CBC staff pension fund or any other purpose as at 1st August, 1999?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, Questions Nos. 19-22.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following questions:

Question No. 19:

To ask the Leader of the House:

1. Will the Minister state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the design of the Greenland landfill.
- (b) whether Government proposes to proceed with the opening of the landfill?

2. Will the Minister further state the costs, including consultants' fees and all capital expenditure, in respect of the construction of the landfill as at 1st November, 1999?

3. Will the Minister also state the cost as at 1st November, 1999 of maintaining the landfill?

Question No. 20:

To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands:

1. Will the Minister state the sums of money raised by or paid to the National Housing Corporation from 6th September, 1994, by way of bond issues, loans, grants, subventions or other contributions; and in particular
 - (a) the amounts disbursed by way of loans for the financial years 95/96, 97/98;
 - (b) the amounts disbursed by grants for the financial year 94/95 and each succeeding year ending 98/99;
 - (c) the itemized expenditure on any capital projects for the financial year 94/95 and each succeeding year ending 98/99;
 - (d) the disposition of funds raised by bond issues ending at the financial year 98/99;
 - (e) the amounts payable by the National Housing Corporation at the financial year ending 98/99?

Question No. 21:

To ask the Minister of Public Works and Transport:

1. Is the Minister aware of the condition of the road leading from Foster Hall to Bath in St. John?
2. Is the Minister aware of the number of accidents which have occurred on this road in recent months?
3. Will the Minister state whether there is a programme in place to effect repairs to this road?
4. Will the Minister further state when such a programme is likely to be effected?

Question No. 22:

To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands:

1. Will the Minister state when the housing project known as London Bourne Towers will be handed over to the Ministry of Housing and Lands and further when will the tenants take up occupancy?

2. Will the Minister state whether the delay in the opening of the London Bourne Towers has been caused by any design flaws in the construction of the project?
3. Will the Minister state the cost to date of the construction of the London Bourne Towers?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following questions:

Question No. 23:

To ask the Minister of Education:

1. Is the Minister aware that the physical infrastructure of the St. Margaret's Primary School, St. John has deteriorated?
2. Is the Minister aware that following such deterioration a resident of the area fell and sustained injuries as a result of her fall?
3. Will the Minister state whether there is a programme to have remedial work done at the St. Margaret's Primary School?

Question No. 24:

To ask the Minister of Labour, Sports and Public Sector Reform:

1. Is the Minister aware of the need for sports and recreational facilities to service the areas of Four Roads, Pool, Spooners, Cherry Grove, Henley, Lemon Arbor, Wakefield, Sherbourne and Knights Village, St. John?
2. Will the Minister state whether there is a plan to provide sporting and recreational facilities for these areas?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 1,16, 18,20,42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the Order of the day.

ORDER NO. 3 - THE SECOND READING OF THE DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to 1966 when Barbados received a written Constitution, the practice which developed was based upon constitution conversion that the sovereign or in the case of Barbados the Governor, subsequently the Governor-General exercised formal legal powers only upon and in accordance with the advice of the Ministers of Government, with a few very exceptional cases. That Convention, that the Head of State acts in accordance with the advice of Ministers is perhaps the best known and most established of all constitutional conventions. 11.30a.m.

When Barbados became independent on November 30, 1966, that convention was given statutory effect in the written Constitution of Barbados. Section 32 of the Constitution of Barbados provides as follows:

"The Governor-General shall act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet in the exercise of his functions other than:-

- (a) any function which is expressed (in whatever terms) to be exercisable by him or in accordance with the recommendations and advice of, or with the concurrence of, or after consultation with, any person or authority other than the Cabinet; and
- (b) any function which is expressed (in whatever terms) to be exercisable by him in his discretion.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to the functions conferred upon the Governor-General by the following provisions of this Constitution, that is to say:-

- (a) section 66(2) (which requires the Governor-General to revoke the appointment of the Prime Minister in certain circumstances);
- (b) the proviso to section 61(2) (which requires the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament in certain circumstances); and
- (c) section 84(4) (which requires the Governor-General to remove a Judge from office in certain circumstances).

(3) Where the Governor-General is directed to exercise any function on the recommendation of any person or authority, he shall exercise that function in accordance with such recommendation.

There are one or two exceptional cases where the Governor-General may act in his own absolute discretion. For example, the appointment of the seven independent senators who are nominated by him after a general election.

In understanding what this short Bill is about, one has to be aware of the constitutional context in which the Bill is being proffered to this House and that what is being done in this Bill ..is designed to establish conformity with the constitutional requirements of section 32, to the extent, that those textural arrangements in the Constitution merely concretize in positive law, the convention that has been the bedrock of the form of government to which we have become accustomed in Barbados.

Under the Defence Act of Barbados which provides for the establishment and operation of the Barbados Defence Force as the military power - if we can call it that - Section 169 of the Defence Act, Chapter 159 provides as follows:

"The Governor-General may appoint an officer who is a member of the Barbados Defence Force in whom the command of the Barbados Defence Force will be vested, and, subject to the terms of his appointment, that officer has the command of the Force during the pleasure of the Governor-General."

Without more, that section purports to vest in the Governor-General an absolute discretion in regard to the appointment of the Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force. It may be, that it is an old survival of the Royal Prerogative, although in England the arrangements are more complex. As Government, we believe, that section 169, as presently worded, would put the Governor-General in a very invidious position to the extent that it would require the Governor-General acting upon his absolute discretion, without any basis for consultation, to make an appointment in circumstances where he might not know who are persons in the Defence Force worthy of appointment to the high office of Chief of Staff. It is anomalous when considered in parallel with the provision which applies to the appointment of the Commissioner of Police as head of the civil power. Again, the Constitution, deals with that matter.

In sections 96 and 99 of the Constitution, provision is made for the Governor-General to act in accordance with the advice of the Police Service Commission in relation to the appointment of the Commissioner of Police. Sections 96 and 99 of the Constitution should be read together. You will see that in section 99(2), it says:

"This section applies to the offices of Solicitor General, Director of Finance and Planning, Secretary to the Cabinet, Permanent Secretary, Commissioner of Police, Chief Establishments Officer, Chief Personnel Officer, Chief Training Officer,..." etc.

If the Governor-General has to act in accordance with advice of a body such as the Police Service Commission in order to appoint the Commissioner of Police, we believe that it is appropriate and right that in regard to the appointment of the Chief of Staff, the Governor-General should be required to act in accordance with the advice of a particular authority. 11.40 a.m.

Now, what is that Authority? The Defence Act in section 9 constitutes a Defence Board. Just let me read it for you, Sir.

"(1) There shall be a Barbados Defence Board which is ... responsible for the command, discipline and administration of, and all other matters relating to, the Barbados Defence Force,"

I will read the whole thing, Sir, because it deals with the responsibilities of the Chief of Staff.

"(2) The Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force is, subject to the directions of the Governor-General, responsible for the operational use of the Force, but the Prime Minister may, where no directions have been given by the Governor-General, give to the Chief of Staff directions with respect to the operational use of the Barbados Defence Force in Barbados for the purposes of maintaining and securing public order and public safety, as the Prime Minister thinks fit; and the Chief of Staff shall comply with those directions."

"10. (1) The members of the Defence Board are

- (a) the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairman ...
- (b) such other Minister as the Prime Minister appoints;"

It has been usual and it is the circumstance that the "other Minister" is the Attorney General.

- "(c) the Chief of Staff, *ex officio* and
- (d) the Permanent Secretary, Defence and Security, *ex officio* ..."

The Permanent Secretary performs the duty of Secretary.

The Defence Board meets regularly and deals with a variety of matters as section (9) says. Not only operational matters but also other matters relating to the Force. Over time we deal with matters of promotion. When the Trident went up to Fort Lauderdale to be refitted we had to approve that exercise and to approve the funds. We receive the estimates of the Defence Force and deal with them like any other department of Government before they are approved. Promotions, awards, or various declarations, are dealt with by the Defence Board and it meets at least once a quarter.

The Defence Board is kept fully informed of a wide variety of matters pertaining to the operations of the Defence Force. There are monthly reports which we get on the operations of the Defence Force from search and rescue to counter-drugs operations and, as I said, generally we are well informed of the operations of the Force.

When it became clear last year that the then Chief of Staff, Brigadier Lewis, would retire in 1999, the Defence Board asked him to prepare a succession plan and carry out an exercise touching and concerning the persons who could possibly be in line to succeed him. A very elaborate exercise was done by the Chief of Staff. I am not going into details. Honourable Members would understand that there are certain details that one does not disclose. I am just dealing with the parameters of the matter. There were six names submitted and there was an evaluation process that had been developed and which accorded scores to the various persons.

I attended a meeting in August at which those papers were presented and I can say this because the newspapers have published it. The Defence Board requested to interview the six persons so that we could talk to them, get an appreciation of them and, generally, form our own assessment. I was not present when the interviews were done. I was away, Sir, but interviews were conducted, I believe, in late August or early September.

The Brigadier demitted office in September and it was deemed appropriate to vest the command in the Defence Force for the time being in Colonel Maynard who had been, as it were, the Deputy Chief of Staff for many years. He is presently performing the duties of Chief of Staff. Colonel Maynard is also coming up for retirement and soon a decision has to be made as to the medium-term or long-term successors to Brigadier Lewis and Colonel Maynard.

When we considered the procedure for appointing a successor to Brigadier Lewis we came up against section 169 which, as I said, just left it there for a Governor-General to appoint the Chief of Staff in his own absolute discretion without more - It was our considered view, as I said earlier, that the Governor-General could have been put in an invidious position to be asked to make an appointment without any objective criteria upon which to make a decision.

The matter was discussed with the Governor-General by the Prime Minister and it was agreed that it would be appropriate for Section 169 to be amended to bring it in harmony with so many other provisions of the law. In pursuance of our established constitutional arrangements the amendment would provide for the Governor-General, in relation to the appointment of the Chief of Staff, to act in accordance with the advice of the Defence Board. The Board has been continuously monitoring and directing, certain aspects of the Defence Force's operations and we believe that the Defence Board over time has built up a storehouse of knowledge and information on the basis of which it can make a genuine and objective recommendation to the Governor-General. Just as the Police Service Commission would make a recommendation in respect to the Commissioner of Police we feel that the Defence Board is a kind of equivalent of the Police Service Commission and we should be the ones who make the recommendation to the Governor-General.

This very short Bill is brought but even though it has one clause it is a matter that goes to the heart of our constitutional arrangements and a matter of great substance ... because it affords us the opportunity to make sure that even in relation to the armed forces, the overriding principle of fundamental law of this country; the supreme law of this country as expressed in Section 32 of the Constitution is recognised in the Defence Act for this and future appointments. 11.50a.m.

Mr. Speaker, it would be remiss of me if at this stage, I did not condescend upon general comments about the Barbados Defence Force. The Barbados Defence Force has, since its inception, served this country very well. In fact, the Barbados Defence Force, has served this region very well. This morning, Sir, I wrote the Prime Minister of St. Vincent & the Grenadines to let him know, that in a marijuana eradication exercise that will be taking place in St. Vincent & the Grenadines between 28th November and 15th December, that 10 members of the Barbados Defence Force will be released to participate in that marijuana eradication exercise as they did last year. However, because of Independence celebrations and the need for the Barbados Defence Force to participate, our 10 officers will not be going until the 2nd December.

Honourable Members are familiar with the work of the Barbados Defence Force years ago in St. Vincent when there was a problem in Union Island. Generally, as part of the arrangements for the Regional Security Systems, the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force are participants in that Regional Security Systems. Here in Barbados the Barbados Defence Force has performed well in times of emergencies caused by natural

disasters like Hurricane Allen and David in 1979 and 1980. When there has been flooding and trees have fallen across the road, the Barbados Defence Force is out there to help.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy wants to add some more information to what I have given. I am sure he will have the opportunity to compliment the Barbados Defence Force on the various exercises that I have forgotten to mention.

In the early part of this decade the Barbados Defence Force has been used for Crop Over events particularly on Kadooment Day to assist with the control of crowds and the preservation of law and order. From time to time, the Governor-General issues directions for the joint operation of the Police and the Barbados Defence Force for assisting in the preservation of law and order and the enhancement of the security of Barbados.

I wish to put this on record, Sir. I am not sure if I have done it in this House before but I have done it elsewhere in the open air at election time. I wish to say that in May, 1998, there was evidence which I have shared in interviews with the Press, that this country was targetted by drug barons in St. Vincent for the landing of large shipments of marijuana. They took advantage of the fact that the Trident, the large coast guard vessel which we have, was at the time in Fort Lauderdale being refitted. We were exposed particularly to the north and north eastern part of Barbados. We were exposed, by reason of the absence of the Trident, to attempts to land large shipments of marijuana.

The Government, acting on the advice of security officials, took a decision to request the Governor-General to issue directions for the joint use of the Police and the Barbados Defence Force in operations aimed at controlling the coast of Barbados. If we could not cut them off in the sea because the Trident was not around, we had to ensure that landings were prevented. The only way to do that effectively was to police the coast particularly at night with a combination of policemen and Defence Force personnel. That exercise worked so well that we were able to capture boats, large quantities of marijuana and in excess of one dozen person. It had the dramatic effect of reducing the supply of marijuana in Barbados. Consequence of that reduction in supply was firstly in a shoot-out at Club Edey in July 1998 when I believe two persons were shot and one was killed.

There was a kind of internecine activity among those persons in Barbados who had limited supplies of drugs. They were trying to get drugs from one another. There were a few kidnappings and the problem escalated from

internecine activity to armed robberies against businesses and persons who had a ready availability of cash. They were shooting one another to get hold of the limited supplies of drugs. I am not going to highlight too many actual instances because some of the matters are before the courts and I do not want to appear to be commenting or in any way seeking to prejudice any matters that may yet be up for trial.

We then had an escalation in armed robberies against minibus men going to petrol stations at night and counting their money in the glare of the lights of the petrol station.
12.00 noon

We had armed robberies against banks and supermarkets and those kinds of activities persisted to December. We were able after some three or four months to intercept and arrest a number of persons who were involved in those activities. The only point I am prepared to make is that it was due to the success of the operation of the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) and the Barbados Defence Force (BDF) working in tandem around the coasts of Barbados between June and December last year that we were able to reduce the supply of marijuana coming into Barbados, principally from St. Vincent. Even though there was an unsavory consequence which we did not anticipate in terms of the robberies, the salutary effect was that the supply of marijuana was significantly reduced. There is no doubt about that.

I wish to compliment the men of the BDF and the RBPF who were engaged in that exercise.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That exercise has continued this year, Sir. In June this year, directions were issued again to continue that exercise from June to December. When I saw some weeks ago, a sporting personality with political ambitions calling for the use of the BDF in league with the RBPF, I smiled, Sir, because he was speaking from a position of profound ignorance in that he had not read *The Official Gazette* to see the Governor-General's directions issued in June for the RBPF and the BDF to continue working together up to December 31.

I wish to give the House this assurance that the directions are given for six months, but they are renewable and they will be renewed so that there will be no hiatus between the end of the present directions on 31st December, 1999 and 1 st January, 2000.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is working well, Sir, and there is no reason to change. It is of importance to remember that when the Governor-General issues directions for the

joint operations of the two forces, he does not specify - and he cannot specify - the operational modalities of that joint operation. It is left to the discretion, because it is an operational matter, of the Chief of Staff and the Commissioner of Police, so that if they want to deploy the forces in various ways not necessarily one night doing drug operations but for example, in the first part of the year doing cane fire patrols, that is a matter for them. It is done every year and sometimes the BDF is used in manners other than necessarily patrolling the beaches. They may be used in gully operation as they are during the year from time to time. They go through the gullies with the RBPF to look for and eradicate any marijuana that may be growing in the gullies in Barbados and Honourable Members will have seen the results"of those efforts from time to time.

I just want the House to be assured that the joint use of the RBPF and BDF from time to time in operations deemed appropriate by their respective heads will continue, particularly with a view to reducing the supply of illicit narcotic drugs in Barbados.

Sir, the BDF, however, for all the good that it has been doing since its inception, I believe in 1979, remains a bit of a Cinderella in relation to certain terms and conditions which apply to the Members of the BDF.

A member of the Royal Barbados Police Force, having put in the requisite years, Sir, can leave and get gratuity and pension. A member of the BDF, as the law presently stands, does not get a gratuity or pension. This is not a matter that should be left to the discretion of the Defence Board, because we are dealing with a large number of men and women. I think it is but fair, it is but right and it is their due. I think that all members should be entitled to gratuity and proper pension arrangements and not just reliance upon the NIS pension. I will be glad to hear the views of Honourable Member on this matter.

The present Defence Board is committed to regularization of that very anomalous and I go so far as to say unfair situation. We are therefore asking the BDF to work with the Ministry of Civil Service and indeed the National Insurance Department to develop a proper scheme for the payment of gratuity and pension to the members of the BDF when they will have completed their service.

I wish to give the House the assurance that that matter is being actively pursued and I expect that early in the new year the Defence Board should receive a paper dealing with those matters and recommending a scheme which I am sure the Defence Board would be pleased to recommend for implementation. I trust that Members of the House will agree that the provision of those benefits is desirable and entirely in consonance with what we should wish for the people who render the kind of service that these Officers render. 12.10p.m.

There are regulations available in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guyana which can inform the kind of exercise that the Defence Board has requested. Therefore, I do not foresee that it will be any great difficulty to provide adequate gratuity and pension arrangements for members of the Barbados Defence Force.

Sir, I wish to touch on two other matters. One is a small matter which is in relation to the Cadet Corps. Presently, the law in the Defence Act provides that a person can become a Cadet at age 13. This has been so for a long time, from the time I was a cadet at the Lodge School where I joined at age 13. We want to reduce that to age 12, with so many reasons that we cannot go into today. We are of the view that the age for becoming a cadet should be dropped to 12 where we can start to inculcate precepts of discipline and training in young people at an age earlier than 13. I will let that rest, because in due course, we may have to bring another amendment to provide for that situation.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to give assurance to the public, the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force that Government is paying attention to the equipment and vehicular needs of the two organisations, although this is not a Bill that deals with the Royal Barbados Police Force. However, I mention it tangentially.

I cannot, under the Standing Orders of Barbados reflect on any matter that is coming up or anticipate a vote but shortly we will be coming to this House for approval for substantial funds by way of a supplementary provision to support the establishment of an anti-gun unit in the Royal Barbados Police Force. This unit is to deal firmly and consistently with the problem of illegal guns in this society. I am not going to say any more on that. When the resolution is brought to the House, within the next two weeks or possibly by next week, if we can get it to Cabinet on Thursday, I will have other things to say about that.

We will have provision for additional vehicles but those vehicles which would be used to support the anti-gun unit will be a few. Government, for some considerable time now, has been concerned that the vehicles used by the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force has a very short life span of no more than perhaps three years. Honourable Members know from their consideration of the Estimates, that every year we put in money under line item to buy vehicles for the Royal Barbados Police Force. We do not do the same thing for the Barbados Defence Force because that is a block vote. That sum does not provide enough vehicles for the kind of coverage that we need in Barbados.

However, we have wrestled with another idea. The Prime Minister appointed me as Chairman of a committee to bring this matter to a head. I am happy to report that I have brought it to a head in the second week of October after I

returned from overseas from such places as London, China and Malaysia. It is this, we believe that the time has come for a substantial thrust to be made to provide adequate vehicles and equipment of all type - I am not going into the type of equipment here - for the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force, not through the Estimates but off Budget. I wish this to be clearly understood. We are not aiming to increase the deficit by providing these vehicles through the Budgetary process.

Just as we have done for the Barbados Transport Board and just as we did for the Sanitation Service Authority last year, when we came with a special resolution seeking separate funding, we will be doing the same for the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force. Fairly soon, a resolution will be brought to Parliament for reasonable funds, in excess of \$12 million, to provide a fleet of vehicles and other types of support equipment to properly equip and motorize the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force. We hope this will be able to satisfy the vehicular needs of these two organisations for at least four to five years. It will allow us to sell by auction some of those vehicles which are still being used by the Royal Barbados Police Force but are no good. There is a big, ugly Toyota that used to be M 50 that late Rt. Honourable E. W. Barrow, used to drive.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It has a new registration number. That vehicle is still in the fleet and it dates back to pre-1985. A certain officer, who is close to me, was required to use it recently. In front of my house around the little circle, there is a slight gradient. It could not get over that. It stalled in my yard. It had to be towed away. When they got it to start, Sir, it kept more noise and sounded worse than any motorboat you could find down in the Careenage. We want to get rid of that and others like it. We want to sell or auction them off and provide a proper fleet of vehicle.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill which is a short Bill deals with a matter of fundamental constitutional importance. It also provides for me, the opportunity to discuss with Members of this House some of the plans for the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force. For the sake of completeness and lest they become jealous, we are also planning a similar package of equipment for the Barbados Fire Service. If I do not call their names they will get jealous and say they have not heard me say anything about that. I cannot do that. 12.20p.m.

The Fire Service has had a long relationship with a firm in England called Angloco which provides them with vehicles and equipment and even provides training. Only last night the Deputy Fire Chief went up to London with another officer on a training course. They have a good relationship.

There are now 15 new posts being filled in the Fire Service because we are gradually building new stations and expanding. We will need additional vehicles and equipment for them.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There was an examination that was done last year. The papers were corrected by the Ministry of Education. We approved 41 posts here in a Civil Establishment Order in August. It is in pursuance of that now that those 50 (it was 41 but with the moving up and down of people an additional nine were created at the bottom) will improve the strength of the Fire Service and allow the hours worked by the men and women to be reduced even further.

Government is carefully planning for the proper equipment of those three forces. Early next year they shall see the benefits of this planning.

Mr. Speaker, with those words, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I will not be long on this Bill. The import of the amendment itself is not something that we would oppose. I agree with the perspective that the decisions of the Governor-General should be informed by the advice of some entity, preferably a constitutional entity. Where that does not exist, where there are more modern institutions that are not specified in the Constitution by other entities and that except in a very limited number of circumstances should the Governor-General act on his own advice.

This, of course, may change assuming that there are going to be constitutional amendments to usher in the changes which the Government says it wishes to introduce. Until such time, I believe it is vital to keep that distinction between the functions of an executive Head of State and a Head of State who is essentially ceremonial and who should therefore act on the advice of the Prime Minister, in some cases the Leader of the Opposition and maybe, as I say, a statutory or constitutional entity. We support that and we do not have a problem with that aspect of it.

I know that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas wanted to wax warm about related matters. Sometimes I wonder if he records his speeches and plays them back like his calypsos for a little entertainment because when I listened to what the Honourable Member said today and I contrast what he said when he was in Opposition to the more urbane, experienced and greying acting Prime Minister that he is now, there has been a dramatic difference.

As a young parliamentarian, I distinctly remember very bitter criticisms hurled then by the "three blind mice," as they were then called, and since then against a previous Administration for crossing the line and involving the Barbados Defence Force in activities which were previously the preserve of the Police.

We have made a long march since then. We started with Crop Over, policing the Spring Garden Highway. The then Barbados Labour Party parliamentary team bitterly opposed that decision and felt that more should be done to enhance the role of the Police since their role was to deal with contact with civilians in that way.

The role of the BDF and the Police as separate entities is becoming more and more blurred. Some of the most difficult, scientific and also peculiar community functions of the Barbados Police Force are now being severely encroached upon by the Barbados Defence Force. I think Government needs to make a very clear distinction.

While I have no problem with the Attorney General praising the success of specific operations, can you imagine what would be happening in this debate had any one of those operations gone wrong and had the BDF, acting as soldiers do in a very different way to how the Police do, either exceeded what was perceived as the remit of the BDF or what was reasonable in the circumstances?

The Attorney General, though acting Prime Minister and acting Minister of Defence, to my mind, has an important role in requiring of the Government that it understands the special functions of the Police Force and provides the Police with those resources. While today the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is not Attorney General and therefore has had to trumpet the role of the BDF, I hope that when he returns to his role as Attorney General next week that he would then speak to the Prime Minister and seek immediately to restore in our society the role of the Royal Barbados Police Force to its primacy, particularly in areas where it has had to call on the Barbados Defence Force for temporary assistance.

What we now have is a situation in Barbados where having called on the BDF to assist in providing these functions which were once the preserve of the Police, we have now become accustomed to that and have institutionalised it which means either that the Minister of Defence believes that is the role of the BDF or the Attorney General believes that is the role of the BDF.

I still believe there should be a healthy situation in which the Barbados Defence Force functions on the basis of its traditional responsibilities and those set out in the Defence Act and the Royal Barbados Police Force be restored to, as I say, its position of dealing specifically with

the detection and prevention of crime, the maintenance of civil obedience generally in the country. Resources should also be provided for the police to play a more creative role in the communities in this country to ensure the maintenance of law and order.

I have heard everything the Attorney General said in his ten-point plan. I cannot disagree with it. I have my doubts that any of those things are going to work unless more resources are given to the Attorney General's Chambers and to the executing entities, including the Royal Barbados Police Force. 12.30p.m.

I also feel that there is still a perception that the other disciplined forces in this country are being treated far better than the police are being treated. That is the perception in the police force. What you are therefore doing is creating a scenario where those other disciplined forces are going to attract better applicants than the persons who are going to be interested in the police force, not necessarily from the point of view of qualifications but from the point of view of motivation and from the point of view of those personal characteristics which once made up the character of policemen in our country.

It is not just a matter of pay. Pay is very important and I support the call of the Royal Barbados Police Force constables and the non-gazetted officers for significant regrading in their positions. I am speaking particularly of those who are in the corps of the police force, some of whom may be earning the equivalent of a maid in the public service, whose lives are on the line and who can play a very important role in restoring discipline to our community. We support that call and we believe that in a democratic framework there are ways for the police to get across that message strongly. We would support those methods that are used by the police that fall within that particular framework.

At the same time, we must not continue to do things which reduce the position of the average B officer, the average investigating officer and the average policeman in carrying out his function by either elevating the status of other uniformed groups in our country or by basically sending a message to the society that the police are incapable of carrying out certain functions.

I cannot think that there could be a more appropriate time to discuss that. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas speaking of Barbados' vulnerability recently and that because of that vulnerability we were targeted by drug pushers. The substance of the Honourable Member's argument was not that we were vulnerable in relation to the police force that has the responsibility for dealing with the problem of drugs but the vulnerability that the Honourable

Member spoke about was vulnerability in relation to the Barbados Defence Force which essentially has a limited role in relation to the detection of drugs.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member has misunderstood. I was not dealing with detection of drugs. The coast guard of Barbados has a primary role to patrol the waters of Barbados and to prevent illicit narcotic drugs from being trafficked in our waters. If we did not have the boat there, what could we do other than let the people come in but make sure they do not get on land? That is what we did, Sir. We could not stop them in a maritime situation but we had to stop them on land and that is where we used the joint operation.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I want the Honourable Member to play back tonight that speech which he delivered in here today because the reason why that argument can be very quickly defeated is that even after the Trident was refitted, returned to Barbados from Fort Lauderdale or wherever the refit was carried out, not only have drugs washed up on the shores of Barbados but dead bodies have also washed up on the shores and those have been attributed to incidents relating to the drug trade.

What I am saying in this debate and I want the Attorney General to understand this, is that if the perception is that Barbados is only safe from the importation of illegal drugs when the Trident is in operation that statement sends a very strong message to the other uniformed groups, the customs department in this country, the police department in this country and any of the other entities which are responsible for dealing with the problem of the importation of illegal drugs.

In other words, if I came into this Chamber today and had no familiarity with the way that the Barbados judicial and legal systems and the disciplined forces functioned and heard the statement of the Attorney General, I would have come to the conclusion that the role of the police force, the customs and the ports and so on essentially is so significantly diminished that the really important factor is whether or not the Trident is operating off the coast of Barbados.

I say to the Attorney General and Acting Prime Minister that he has to be extremely careful if the perception is there that the primary entity for the interdiction and dealing with the issue of illegal drugs in Barbados is the Coast Guard because that is not so. That needs to be clarified because the impression may unwittingly have been given in this debate too that the role of the Barbados Defence Force in that area far surpasses either the role and/or the responsibilities of those other groups. Therefore the Honourable Member has a responsibility to play back that part of his speech and make sure that message does not go

out and that we do not further demoralise the Police Force in Barbados by giving the impression that they play a very secondary and minor role in this whole process.

As I said, there must also be a reason why even with the Trident back that you had that problem. I do not know if the Trident was out in the first quarter of 1999 but the police themselves said that in the first quarter of this year around the time of the election there were more illegal drugs circulating in Barbados than at any other time in the history of the country. They said it, not the Democratic Labour Party. They issued a statement and I heard it on the radio with my own ears and I said you mean all the time we were out there during the elections seeking to deal with major problems confronting the country that in truth and in fact more illegal drugs were circulated. Some people felt that there might be a connection, I do not know but the point is that at the end of the day that is a serious indictment.

I do not know where the Trident was then and we may have been targetted by St. Vincent. For that matter, they could have come and taken over the entire Government since all of us were out.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member will recall that the Trident returned to Barbados on National Heroes Day. 12.40p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is what it tells you. When Trident is away, the drugs will play. That is essentially it. That, as I have said, worries me and it is a serious impression that needs to be clarified.

We have reservations about the use of the Barbados Defence Force in that context. I will go even further and say that I know for a fact that the more responsible persons at the higher level of the Barbados Defence Force have reservations about the use of soldiers in that context because they are not trained for that type of activity. There may be persons who like to see the Barbados Defence Force playing that kind of role because it boosts the significance of the Defence Force in the society and therefore they are happy when Barbadians go down to the Spring Garden Highway to Crop Over and see men in green with big guns. It makes people think they play an important role.

A prudent soldier, a prudent leader of men trained for combat in that way would be extremely reluctant to see his men performing those kinds of roles which are basically the preserve of the Barbados Police Force.

Asides

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not criticising anyone. I am saying that generally speaking we need to move to a

point where we can restore the Police fully to that role and extricate the Barbados Defence Force from that scenario. We have been extremely lucky. There are other countries in the Caribbean, like Jamaica, even with strong leadership of the Jamaican Defence Force (JDF), where there have been several investigations into massacres and other forms of irresponsibilities in Jamaica, because of the fact that the JDF had to be called into a role which previously was the preserve of the Police. Soldiers are trained for different things. That is all I am saying.

I will support the Attorney General in any steps that he takes to improve the terms and conditions of the Police Force and resources which he asked for the Police Force. Redeployment of the Police Force to do more work in the community, any attempts that are made to raise the perceptions of the Police Force and the morale in the Police Force - the Honourable Member for St. Thomas will receive our full support. I am extremely reluctant in any circumstances to approve the support - not that that is before the House today - of the use of the Barbados Defence Force in a continuing role that does not support the training for which the soldiers in the Barbados Defence Force have undertaken. Those will be our principal concerns in relation to this.

I would like to congratulate the Brigadier who is the first Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force, as I have already done personally, for his role in moulding the BDF. In particular, I thank him for helping in the establishment of the Barbados Youth Service (BYS) and lending us officers when we first started it on an annual budget of \$400 000 with five members of staff. We had no maids or any of the comfortable conditions which now exist. The youngsters themselves, essentially the pioneers of the Barbados Youth Service, were the people who got that enterprise going together with the assistance of the BDF, using retired or seconded officers. They were not functioning in their military role but were integrated into the BYS using those skills in management and discipline which they had developed in the Force.

That is a role which is very helpful throughout the governmental system. To use persons who have that kind of training and deploy them elsewhere because military training is very expensive, very intensive and has a great impact on the persons who benefit from it. I believe that rather than have them ensconced in St. Anne's Fort, there may be ways in which some of those well-trained personnel can be better used to assist in other areas of the society.

As I have said, we have no problems with the terms of the amendment *per se* but I do have some concerns about perceptions that may have been left in the course of the debate by the Acting Prime Minister, speaking as Minister of Defence and not as Attorney General today. I wish to place on record our concern about those perceptions.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I will be pretty brief. I want to say that I fully support the amendment before the Honourable Chamber. I think it is a very sensible and rationale amendment. Indeed, Sir, I fully believe that the Governor-General should be given the benefit of the expertise on the Defence Board. The Members of the Board would have what I would describe as 'contextual information' because they are close to the action. Indeed, as we heard from the Acting Prime Minister, they meet very often and deal with awards, promotions *etcetera* and they know the demands of the job. They know the people, unlike the Governor-General who would be a bit removed from the personnel. Even though they may not see the other members of Barbados Defence Force on a daily basis, I do believe, as I have said, they are closer to them than any other agency would be.

Sir, it is a way of saying they would know who would be ideally suited for the position and after they have informed the Governor-General, he would then be in a position to make his decision.

Mr. Speaker, after the amendment is made, a lot will depend on the Board. In respect of the appointment of a Chief of Staff, therefore, they are going to be acting as an advisory board to the Governor-General. Very often the question is: Whose call is it? I am sure that there are many of us in the Honourable Chamber that would say when it comes to certain matters, even in our homes, we usually base those decisions on information or advice maybe from our spouses. When it comes to changing the curtains and so, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that those are decisions that you will have to take advice on.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the ultimate question is: Whose call is it? The ultimate appointment is therefore with the Governor-General.

I recall when we were discussing the matter last night a point was made as to whether or not it would be appropriate to have someone ... I think the Chief of Staff sits on the Defence Board *ex officio*. 12.50p.m.

Therefore the question was whether it would be appropriate to have someone who has an interest acting on the Defence Board. The question of the appointment could very well come before the Board and that person could be a candidate. This is the point I am making. I do believe, Sir, that when someone has an interest in a matter, natural law insists that person does not vote on that particular matter. If you have an interest then you do not vote on it.

Quite recently we had some confusion in the Barbados Cricket Association where the President of the Association was up as a candidate and there was a situation where it was a tie virtually and he cast the vote. People said that was not the correct thing to do that it breached natural justice because you are voting for yourself and you can affect the voting. You will know that there are times when someone's presence could make people very uncomfortable at a meeting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you referring to the Speaker?

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: No. This is a general 'you'.

Mr. SPEAKER: Oh.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: People feel very uncomfortable when they have to vote in your favour or against someone in their presence. It is a fact. Even sometimes when we go to our Branch Committee meetings, the people on the Committee do not want to speak out if we are there. Sometimes I feel a lot more comfortable not being at those Committee meetings and allow the group in the branch to make the decisions. When we are there, they always tend to want to go along with us.

This is why I am saying that natural justice will insist that if someone is there *ex officio* and they are voting on a matter which relates to that person, the person does not take part in the voting. That is the only point which I am making.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to join with the Honourable Member for St. John and congratulate the Brigadier for having done what I consider to be a good job as Chief-of-Staff. I think he has brought some respectability to that position and to the BDF, generally. At school when you saw him you could see that he had these regimental qualities about him. He looked like a natural soldier and I think he has maintained that dignity about him.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few points on the BDF's Sports Programme. I want to say that much good has come out of that Sports Programme. I know for sure that the BDF has won the Team Championship in Barbados on many occasions. They have won the Championship in spite of the fact that when they went to the Stadium they had the smallest contingent numerically, and still, because of the quality of the athletes they could win the Team Championships.

The BDF, Mr. Speaker, has always been a force to be reckoned within football. I believe that Mr. Kevin Milard has done a good job, so has Mr. Jones who works in the athletics programme. Mr. Hector Edwards who does an excellent job in cycling and Mr. Gary Bowen who does a first-class job in boxing are good coaches and they have a good programme.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the time has come when we need to restructure and we need to revisit that particular sports programme. The big question that I am confronted with, and I had that problem even before I had the responsibility for Sports in Barbados. The big question always was whether it is more strategic to have that programme placed under the Ministry of Sports proper, or let it remain with the BDF.

Personally, I have no problem with its physical location at the BDF. We can continue to use the facilities there. We can use the BDF for the disciplinary aspect and the feeding aspect of the programme but responsibility for the payment of the stipend should rest with the National Sports Council and the Ministry of Sports. I feel very strongly about it.

I feel too, Mr. Speaker, that if the Ministry of Sports continues to be denied oversight for that programme, it will degenerate into a kind of military operation with no emphasis on sports whatsoever. I fail to see how we can have responsibility at the Ministry of Sports for Barbados' top athletes, even the ones who participate in the Olympics and the overseas based ones, but when it comes to that particular group at home, the Ministry of Sports has no responsibility for that whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, the opposite is happening and people are not realising that it is happening. I believe that a military philosophy is now dominating that programme and we have to make the point that we do not consider the Sports Programme to be a military one.

It is not unusual to find that when those chaps at the BDF who are on the BDF Sports Programme go overseas to compete - to the Hampshire games or wherever - it is not unusual to find that a lieutenant in the BDF goes with them or some military sports person goes with them. A coach does not go with them. The Brigadier then and his successor now, have the total responsibility for the Sports Programme. I believe that the Sports Programme needs a civilian person who has sporting skills to be in charge of the Sports Programme.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, a time when in preparation for the Olympics in Atlanta, one of the top cyclists in Barbados was to go to Cuba to ride to qualify for the Olympics. When he was about to leave there was an order at the BDF that everybody should be confined to the Barracks. It meant even those persons who were in the Sports Programme and that chap was denied the opportunity to fulfill a dream because as I said, it has a total military philosophy where that Sports Programme is concerned.

That cyclist did not leave at all and he was in tears. The reaction of the Chief-of-Staff then was 'orders here are orders'. This is a very military bent-operation. Eventually, Sir, that chap dropped out of the Sports Programme.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Another matter, Sir, is that there was an educational component of that Programme as well and I think that too, has suffered. Many youngsters who went there used to go the Polytechnic. 1.00p.m.

I think at one stage, Mr. Speaker, you offered them scholarships at the Barbados 'O' Level Institute.

Mr. SPEAKER: Still do.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Still do. But that aspect of it has suffered. They have lost direction because of the military thing that has come over them. Many of them are now complaining, that whereas they used their skills before, they have now resorted to washing the dishes in the Mess Hall, and so on. That is how they use up their time. They have become handymen at the Barbados Defence Force. They are people with a lot of ability. I consider them to be bridging that gap between our Olympic athletes and the local ones. They are good enough that they too can have a medal potential in meets overseas and so forth. Therefore, I believe, we should revisit that programme to see if it is doing the things that we thought it should be achieving at this stage. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to share my view on the Barbados Defence Force Sports Programme.

I am in total agreement with the amendment that calls for the advice of the Board to be given to the Governor-General before he makes a final decision as to who should become the Chief-of-Staff.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is now 1.05 p.m. I beg to move that this Honourable House be now suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 1.05p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am lending my support to this Bill but as you are aware, Sir, it is the duty

of the Opposition to point out any problem there is with the Bill for the simple reason, it seems to be the role of the Government to show all the positive sides. One can only come to the conclusion that when you prepare something, that you prepare it and hope that there is nothing wrong with it. You must forgive Government on this particular occasion.

I want to say from the outset, Sir, that we have been dealing a lot with the Barbados Defence Force and the Defence Force Act. We must recognise, that the naval side of the Barbados Defence Force should be its strongest side. It is that side that we depend on for the protection of the country and our territorial waters.

I want to make a suggestion, Sir. If the Trident happens to be our major ship, it is foolish of us to have that ship in the Carenage for so long. I believe, Sir, that the Trident should be treated as the mother ship where nobody should be able to tell where that ship is at any particular time. I believe that the smaller ships should be operating as the feeder ships. All of its supplies should be brought to it by the smaller ships. The Trident should be in a location wherever the captain and the Chief-of-Staff think it should be at any particular time. Concerning the manpower and the capacity of the Trident, if we are really serious in protecting our territorial waters, it should not be in the Carenage at any particular time unless it has a major problem. If the workmen on the boat decide they want to fish, they should be allowed to fish outside but they should not be ashore. That ship is too important in fighting the drug trade to be tied up at the Carenage.

After listening to the Attorney General today, I am convinced, that when we do not have the services of the Trident, we are in trouble, because the drug lords feel that they can do whatever they like.

I am saying, Sir, it is time that we invest in another ship. We should not have a situation in this country where the Trident has to be refitted, and it has to leave Barbados, that we are prepared to surrender this country to somebody. I am also saying, Sir, that on many occasions this has happened. I am throwing this out to the Attorney General and I will give him all the support he wants. I know, Sir, giving him a month as Minister of Finance or Acting Prime Minister we will get another ship. I know that, because his heart is in the right place, but it so happens, he is not accorded that privilege.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Well, I am glad that you have recognised the seriousness of this Minister. I wish I could say the same about many others.

I am saying, that we have a situation where the Trident is the most important ship and when we do not have that ship we are in trouble. No country, considering the location of Barbados, should find itself in that predicament. It is too important for us to be without a ship with the capacity of the Trident.

Sir, it is clear to me, that something went wrong between the period of December 1998 and now. I am calling on the Attorney General to investigate why it is that in December 1998 he came to this Parliament and told us that he had the drug lords under control and that the supply of a particular product was under pressure and that they were doing certain things. I believed him and *Hansard* will bear me out on this. I am telling, you, Mr. Speaker, until December 1998 the Police and the Defence Force were doing a very good job. I saw the evidence as I walked the street that the fellows were suffering. The Attorney General was doing a good job up until 1998 but in 1999 something went wrong because the streets are in a mess and we need to find out why. The Barbados Defence Force is still out there. I can assure you that the same way I gave him the praise in 1998, I have got to slap him on his legs now. I hope nobody has slapped anyone on their hand and tell them that they are working too hard. I know that cannot happen.

Sir, we need to find out why until December 1998, the 'drugs lords' felt that they were under pressure and since 1999 somebody seemed to relax something. I do not know what. It is now commonplace that you cannot drive with your windows down because the smell will interfere with your nostrils, those of us who do not appreciate the smell. I do not appreciate the smell, Sir, so we need to find out what has gone wrong. 2.25 p.m.

There are people in Barbados now who feel within themselves that you cannot even say anything to them anymore. There are some people who feel they are not running from anybody. They openly feel they can do these things and nobody can touch them. We need to stop this.

Another point, Sir. We have a situation in this country where we pay men well hoping they will go to war and we have people who have to work every day and they are not paid well. Take an Island Constable who is supposed to help protect this country. All he gets is \$5 an hour and sometimes I even wonder how this could attract anybody to do that particular job at \$5 an hour.

It is no wonder, Sir, that you have a situation that the police who are under severe pressure also cannot find a good case. When I say a good case I mean a good case for someone to accept, not that their case is not good. They have been able to put good cases-but they have been treated as they are not good cases.

I am begging this Parliament to recognise that whether we have the Defence Force or not law and order is the important thing. We must make sure that the Police Force must be the ones that are treated in the right way because the Police Force is even expected to oversee the Defence Force and not the Defence Force oversee the Police Force.

I am hoping that any amendment to the Defence Act, that whosoever becomes the Brigadier, that it must be understood that the Commissioner of Police is the man solely responsible for law and order in Barbados and that no Brigadier should feel that his powers are such that he must dictate to the Commissioner of Police. That understanding must be made clear up front.

I hope when this particular amendment is made that it is not made with the hope that the Brigadier could feel that he could talk down to the Commissioner of Police because the day that happens we would have serious problems in this country.

I must congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Philip North for a speech he made in here today because he said the sports programme as it is arranged by the Defence Force trains people in a particular way. I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Philip North. It is not often I agree with what he says but I must agree with him. It is the same thing with the Defence Force Officers. You cannot take a Defence Force Officer, put him to do police work and expect him to behave like a policeman when he feels he is above a policeman. I congratulate the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip North for pointing that out to me. It was a point put very well. I hope that the acting Prime Minister would listen to the Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It is not a matter of interpretation. I can only interpret the way the Honourable Member says it. If he wants to back off from what he has said because I have interpreted it the right way, I will sit down and allow him to do it. If he wants to say he has lied to Parliament in his interpretation I am prepared to sit down.

One must acknowledge that the Defence Force has a particular role to play and that role must not be mixed up in the role that the policeman has to play in this society.

I watched a rather strange scenario. A month ago when we were under a state of emergency when the Defence Force took over the role of the police ...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot say that. There was

no state of emergency in Barbados. For a state of emergency to happen you would have to invoke the provisions of the Constitution.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the Attorney General for telling us that it was not done legally.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The record must always show accuracy. I am at a loss to deal with the illogic of the Honourable Member.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, if we were not in a state of emergency then I was blind because I saw Defence Force personnel driving around police vehicles without policemen with them. I am going to say this. It is something I might have forgiven last month but I saw it again one night in a road in St. Lucy and I was shocked where a police car had a flat tyre and all I could see were Defence Force personnel around that car.

I must apologise to the Attorney General because I was to bring it to his attention. Nowhere in my country Barbados I want to see the Defence Force personnel driving around a police car without policemen with them. It sends a wrong message.

I am glad that the acting Prime Minister made a comment today about the sports politician because there are some people in this country who do not understand the role of the Defence Force and that of the police. Calling on the Defence Force to take over the role of the Police Force! I am telling you that cannot be allowed to happen in this country. People must understand that because the Defence Force came out for a couple of weeks and people got scared it does not mean that crime was abated for the simple reason that nobody in Barbados will call the Defence Force and report a crime. If you do not have policemen, you are not going to get the crime reported. Anybody who wants to argue that the Defence Force was able to stop crime during that period, I will find the counter argument. It is that there were more crimes committed that were not reported during that time when the police were out?

I do not care what statistics people want to bring to say that the Defence Force stopped crime. That might be true but I am also saying that nobody will pick up a phone and call the Defence Force and say that somebody is committing a crime because they know they do not have the power to correct the particular problem. All those commentators who are now beating their chests and saying to forget about the Police Force and bring in the Defence Force, it is nonsense.

A country like Barbados that depends on tourism cannot allow this situation to continue because any of us who travel to other countries would know that we feel a bit insecure whenever we walk and see weapons all around in the streets. Barbados is not a place that we can practise that. Barbados is a place which we regard as peaceful and a place where people come together and congregate. It is true we may have some rogues among us but we must understand that tourism is our business and we cannot project our tourism product by promoting the Defence Force.

I have heard also, Sir, people talking about the Defence Force and what it does to help Jamaica. Jamaica is a large place but Barbados is too small. The day that we use the Defence Force to help us with our tourism product we would have failed the whole of Barbados. That is a point that the people in tourism must understand when they are flogging the police force because what they want is to have a police force stretched all across Barbados not realising that as soon as we do that we would create a negative impact on our tourism product. Some of us feel that once we get revenue we do not care what happens to the country. 2.35p.m.

I am also glad to see that the Barbados Labour Party has changed its 1991 -94 stance on the Defence Force. It must be pointed out that it was the Democratic Labour Party which introduced the working relationship but at the same time it was done for a particular reason and it was done occasionally but now it seems that this is an everyday thing and everybody expects it to be an everyday thing and it cannot be permanent. It must be temporary and we will support the Attorney General or the Acting Prime Minister whenever there is a particular reason and a logical reason.

We cannot use the Defence Force to pamper to the wishes of the people in the tourism industry when they cannot even recognise that the same thing they are asking is to destroy the same industry they operate. It makes you wonder, Sir, what is going on in this country. It seems as if we have adopted a selfish attitude and as if everything that relates to us is only the important thing and not the long-term plan.

I am happy that we have this amendment today, Sir, because these things must be said because there are a lot of people out there who feel that they can just give an opinion on everything without even thinking what effect it is going to have on the country of Barbados. I wonder sometimes if it is because they have no close connection to Barbados, and this is where the policy makers must be able to stand up, Mr. Speaker, and tell those people that we must represent the interest of Barbados and not the interest of a small group.

For too long we have been prepared in this country to stand up and represent the interest of a small group without looking at the long-term interest of Barbados. I am saying, Sir, that the Police Force must be given the necessary machinery and the necessary compensation for the work that they have to do.

It is with regret that I have to remind this Parliament that in the 1999 general election all the media would have carried a statement by me at a political meeting that the police in Barbados have been relegated to the use of vehicles rejected by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for St. James North, I must thank for lending the police some white vans to drive around in when they did not have any. YQU did a good service, Sir, but the only problem was that those vans should have been on the dump heap but you at least lent them something to move around. Instead of the police having to drive around a "pucka-pucka", as I referred to them during the General Election - that is exactly how they sounded - the Government of Barbados should have brought a supplementary prior to the elections. They could not do it during the election time so I do not want anybody to get up and tell me that I called for a supplementary during the elections to make sure that the police had proper vehicles to move around.

I am also saying that the Minister of Transport and Works must understand, and I want him to listen very carefully to this, that the Ministry of Public Works has a lot to do with the condition of the police vehicles. You cannot ask the police to drive around in motor cars when every single road in Barbados is bad and they have to go into every cart road or dirt track. If the Ministry of Public Works were doing their job they would not interfere with the finances of the police force.

Do you know what is amazing, Sir? The Defence Force gets more money for vehicles than the Police Force but they do not have to go where the police have to go on a daily basis. We need to talk to the Minister of Finance and we also need to tell the Minister of Finance that he needs to look at the possibility of increasing the vote for the policemen and improving the type of vehicles that they have to use. Maybe it does not make sense to give them cars anymore to drive around in. It might be better to give them range rovers when you consider the terrain that they have to use today.

My advice to this Parliament is that we have to make sure that the interior of Barbados is protected and not only the coast line. We also must remember that the coast line is important and that the type of vehicles that we should be supplying should be vehicles for the naval side of the Defence Force, the Coast Guard side, more so than the inland vehicles because we need to protect our beaches. Thank you very much.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to wind up this debate and to thank all Honourable Members who contributed to the debate. Some useful points were made and I assure Members that I will bear them in mind and where necessary ensure that action is taken.

The way this debate has gone today, I think emphasises the importance of the step that we took two weeks ago, Sir, to set up a Joint Select Committee on Law and Order. The two members of the Opposition are on that Committee and some of the points they made today they will be able to make to the Committee but, more importantly, in the presence of people like the Commissioner of Police, who like the Chief-of-Staff will be invited to the Committee to discuss with us approaches to law and order, what is happening and the state of it, what is being done and what we need to have and so on, so that Honourable Members will now have a regular platform from which to make their contributions in a different environment.

I would expect that the first meeting of that Committee will be in January because both Forces would be pretty stretched between now and the end of the year so we would have the statistics for this year by the time of the first meeting.

I am grateful to the Opposition for their support of the Bill and their reinforcement of the constitutional arrangements that are provided for in section 32 of the Constitution.

As I indicated, the time will come very shortly, possibly next week or the week after, when we will have two matters on the Order Paper, the Police (Amendment) Act which is currently before the House and the supplementary for the Ministry of the Attorney General in which we will be seeking support for the resources to set up the anti-gun unit to disarm this country of illegal guns. The opportunity will be provided then for Honourable Members to have as long a discussion as they want on the police.

I am not therefore going to anticipate the debate, and a number of matters which I could deal with now, I would prefer to leave to that debate so that I could deal with them in the context of what we are doing for the police, except to say, however, Sir, that I think I need to make a general point first about the role and function of the military.

Mr. Speaker, the end of the Cold War has brought with it a retreat from the need - in some countries and in others, indeed, a necessity - to look for the possibilities of militaristic conflict. The end of the Cold War has not only seen a retreat from Communism but also the proliferation of a new and insidious threat to all societies in this world. I say all societies including Malaysia and Singapore which retained the death penalty for drugs. In those countries drugs are still a problem just as much as in ours here. 2.45 p.m.

Last year in June, at the United Nations' (UN) special session on drugs the Minister for Singapore gave the figures in relation to drugs in Singapore. They were far in excess of what we have in Barbados. All countries are affected by the drug phenomenon. It is now called 'the new world phenomenon' by the UN. Arising out of that special session of the UN last year was the development of a programme of action which all 189 countries in the UN are expected to follow to deal with the drug problem.

This new threat to the stability of civil society has therefore raised the question of the role and function of the military in a changed international environment. They no longer have to be looking to fight wars, they no longer have to be looking to deal with the Communist threat but there is another threat, that of drugs which the civil powers - the police - are struggling to deal with.

The question arises and I throw it out for Honourable Members to think about even before we get to the debate on the Police next week or week after. Should we not be using the military in another role to aid and assist the civil powers? That is the question that we have to answer in the first part of the new century.

In Latin America where there were military dictatorships, gradually the military dictatorship are receding and democratic forms of government are taking over. Again, the question is being asked in Latin America: What is the true role and function of the military given the changed international scenario?

Barbados addressed this as early as 1992 in the Estimates debate when the Other Side formed the Government. On Thursday, March 19, 1992, the debate on the Estimates began. The Government moved that the sum of \$27,058,957 000 stand part. It was moved by the then Prime Minister. At page 1526 of the *Hansard* for 1992, I wish to reiterate the position that I took then. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke today, the first thing he said was that when I was in the Opposition, I levelled bitter criticisms about the use of the Barbados Defence Force. He reminded me that it was 1991/92.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I was a Member of the 10 blind mice at the time in 1992. Mr. Speaker, I have the debate for 1992. We have learnt on this Side never to trust the memory of the Leader of the Opposition. Its accuracy is always in doubt.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House, Sir. When the Honourable Member spoke about that particular debate, he referred to the 'three blind mice'. I want to assure

you that if one looks at that *Hansard Debate*, one would see that it was not the Honourable Member for St. Thomas but it was the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would also read what was said by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West because it was not the Honourable Member for St. Thomas to whom he referred.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is now saying that the statements attributed by the Leader of the Opposition to me, when he rose today at 12.25 p.m. were not meant for me but somebody else, I understand, Sir. For the sake of the record let me read what I said at page 1526:

"Nobody, and certainly this side had denied the right of Government, in circumstances which the Government deems to be an emergency kind to resort to the use of the Defence Force. But it is all a question of the degree to which the Force is used. When they came out in respect of the fire at Swan Street, they were out for a night trying to control that area there by Sports and Games. When we used them in respect of Hurricane Allan, in 1980, it was to clean up the country. Nobody could object to that.

What we have now is the Defence Force being used for an extended period of time. Let me just trail in before I come to that. When this Government used the Defence Force on Kadooment Day 1990, they got the support of this Party for that limited exercise.

What is concern now is that the use of the Defence Force on an extended basis of four months and that matter itself, if the reports in the press are true, is something which has caused the Prime Minister himself, who has responsibility for the Defence Force, concern. I read last week that he said that he is not in favour of any - I am paraphrasing now - extended union between the Defence Force and the Police. So it is a matter certainly in that regard for which there is common ground."

I was joining with Mr. Sandiford then in using the Defence Force and the Police Force for limited operations. Sir, that was in 1992. Seven years since, the drug threat of which I spoke just now is still real, is still proliferating in this region and as I have said, we have to examine the question ...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I happened to hear the Honourable Member's voice drifting through the door and I wish to further clarify the matter. I am glad that you read in the records exactly what my position was. Although you expressed concern back then, in your introductory remarks this morning no concern

was expressed about the use of the Barbados Defence Force for these activities. I am saying that had you played your own speeches as often as you played your calypsos at home, you would recognise that your position has changed. That is all I said.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I wish to let him know, Sir, that I do not get a chance to play calypsos now. Neither by record, CD nor even on my trumpet. I am too busy.

Sir the Opposition and ourselves are, therefore in agreement that there is a role. The question is, as I have said in that speech in 1992, is the degree and the modalities of operation. We are also *ad idem* that in terms the preservation of peace and maintenance of law and order in Barbados, the principal authority for attaining those objectives must be the Police Force. Where there are areas of concern, where there are deficiencies, then a government, in the interest of national security has, from time to time, to consider the use of the military power, as I have said earlier, and I repeat, in aid of the civil power.

Mr. Speaker, I will leave the question of the recent impasse between the Police and Ministry of Civil Service until we come to the amendment to the Police Act and the supplementary.

However, I want, at this stage, just to precis some of the things I will be saying in a week or two. This Government has made it clear, Sir, in its source document. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start first with the Manifesto for the 1999 General Election, that part of the Manifesto, Sir, that deals with the fight against crime and constitutional reform. I wrote all of that, Sir. We had a committee, a very broad committee, not only of Parliamentarians, but other persons. We also had various papers out of which the Manifesto was then developed and submitted to the committee for approval. The Chairman of the committee was the Prime Minister.

On page 61 of this document, Sir, this Government pledged itself with respect of Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) to:

Improve the terms and conditions of service of police officers, re-grade posts and increase the number of officers.

This is a political commitment made to the RBPF to re-grade them, give them more men and more resources. I would expect the RBPF to determine the reliability and the genuineness of the commitments in this Manifesto against the commitments and the promises and the actualities of the 1994 Manifesto.

Mr. Speaker, systematically since 1994, but responding particularly to the science of Nigel Harper when he was the President of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW). He said to the country in those days, "Now is not the time to press for any increase in wages, there are other terms and conditions which need to be addressed by Government". Our Manifesto in 1994 was premised on the basis of that posture adopted by Harper. Thus, carefully we were aware that for many years, the physical conditions under which the Police were asked to work were less than satisfactory and this Government set out on a systematic course of upgrading the Police Stations in this country. The work is there for all to see. It was done in the last four or five years.

District "C" was completely renovated and refurbished. District "B" at Boarded Hall was also completely renovated and refurbished. I am not dealing with the stables because we have not taken a decision on them. We do not believe that they will have horses at those places anymore and we may just demolish those stables, but the living quarters and operating areas were completely redone. The Belleplaine and Black Rock Police Stations have been completely renovated. We did some work at the Crab Hill Police Station and we are going to do more shortly, Sir, if we get the supplementary of what we have asked for.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We are seeking \$90 000 to do the urgent work at the Crab Hill Police Station.

Sir, the Central Police Station where the jalousies were falling into the road and were threats to passers-by under the old administration, has now been corrected and every office has a computer and is air-conditioned.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I thank Mr. Lunn for what he wrote in the *Advocate* two Sunday's ago which was complimentary to the Honourable Sir Henry Forde and myself. I have been aware for many years of the disparity in the conditions between the BDF and RBPF. I have vowed and it is my mission as Attorney General to make sure that I do all I can and all that the Minister of Finance will give me the finances to support, to bring the Police up from those awful conditions that were inherited in 1994.

Sir, if you go into the backyard at the Central Police Station, or if you stand in Tudor Street and look over, you will see a large building being constructed. They told me it will be finished by the end of the financial year in March next year, where I will be giving the Police a lounge area. The BDF has their 'mess' and all their fancy style up at the Drill Hall, but the Police have no such facility. In Coleridge Street we are building a facility with modern quarters for the

female Police Officers. Presently, they are using an old chattel building between the cells and the James Street Methodist Church that is a threat to human safety. It is full of termites. This facility will also be equipped with a new canteen, so that when officers come from other Caribbean islands or beyond, our Police will be able to entertain them in proper surroundings in the backyard. The complete project will be done in phases.

The Coleridge Street renovation was phase one. The backyard renovation is phase two. Phase three, which will continue after that project in the backyard is finished, embraces the knocking down of the building that had the little tuck shop. On the top of the wicket gate, there is a building that runs from the wicket gate between the yard and the Magistrates Court that has the stores at the bottom, back across to the old chattel building - that part of the building where Certificates of Character are obtained. On approaching the Central Station circling the tree on the right of the building which used to be the recreation room years ago and is used now for finger printing and Certificates of Character, that building will be demolished and a new three-storey building will be erected to provide all the space for stores, administration and all the space that is required by the Police. 3.05 p.m.

We will have to knock down the part upstairs that is attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) building where the Criminal Records Office (CRO) is located. We will have a proper new facility there. That redevelopment is to be done in phases, at a cost on budget that is manageable, rather than trying to go up by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), the original site that was identified in the '70s, for the building of the new facility. To go there will run into \$50 million or \$60 million. We can do all that redevelopment for less than \$15 million.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I just want to say, Sir, that the strategy was not to try and build any single new police station in Barbados. There is a need for a police station in St. Thomas because the people of St. Thomas have to go to Holders Hill. It would have been selfish and poor planning on the part of Government to go and construct the new station at District "D" for \$3.5 million to \$4 million and leave all the other stations in a state of dilapidation. What we did, was to systematically upgrade all the other stations. St. Thomas is being drawn now. We will get the money and work will start next year.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Having done that, there were matters relating to the internal relationships of the

Royal Barbados Police Force that needed to be addressed. They had disciplinary rules dating back to 1961 which had been used oppressively against police officers particularly in the '90s. An officer would receive a letter from a senior at the level of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner, telling him that he was suspended, very often without pay. That disciplinary case will take months and sometimes years to be heard. I pointed out to them, and the Opposition will appreciate this point, that it seemed to me that before a police officer was suspended he should be afforded the opportunity to show cause to the Commissioner, without going into anything, why he should not be suspended. In other words, he should be given a hearing not on the merits, but to say to the Commissioner, "Well, Sir, look, you want to suspend me but to suspend me is going to ruin me. I have a wife, a car loan, and a mortgage to pay. Sir, could you put me on half pay rather than suspend me without pay?" Those kinds of human consideration should be brought to bear.

A working party was set up between the management of the Police, the Police Association and a draughtsman in the office. We have developed new disciplinary rules that include that situation, where before suspension, the officer must now be given the opportunity to make representation why he should not be suspended. Those rules were signed around July or August last year.

The system of promotion within the Force has been a source of disquiet and concern, and of all kinds of accusation and oblique insinuation. A call was made for a new system for promotions. Again, we set up a working party and they have new promotion rules that have been accepted by the Association. Therefore, I do not expect that the rules developed by the Association and Management will in future cause any disquiet. It is not for want of trying so in terms of the internal management of the operations of the Royal Barbados Police Force we have done that for them.

Next week, I am going to give all the allowances that the officers get because the Bill is to deal with the lump sum allowances for Gazetted Officers. I found a situation, where in 1985-86, an ordinary member of the public would hire police services and they were paid \$4 an hour. In the one year that I served as Attorney General between 1985-86, I changed that to \$8 an hour. It was never changed until last year when I moved it from \$8 to \$18 an hour for those policemen at the bottom, \$20 for inspectors and \$22 at the top. If you rent police services now for a function or special operations that is the rate that has to be paid.

We have been trying, as a government, to meet the concerns of the police. I wish to assure them that the Manifesto speaks to the need for their regrading and they will be re-graded. All this Government has asked is that they wait until the general regrading exercise is carried out and they will be accommodated in that exercise. Right now, they

are in line for back pay from April and the new rates, a share in the \$7 million productivity bonus and the first tranche of the 8 per cent. Hopefully, they would be able to get all of this before Christmas. I will deal with the whole business fully next time.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy raised the issue of island constables. We have about 1 300 island constables on the roll. Only about 500 are serious and committed to their jobs and are worth thinking about. We are doing an exercise now to weed out those who are useless to the system. I met with a large number of island constables on May 18, at the band headquarters. That \$5 an hour which they have been getting has been there for years. Most people cannot remember how long it was in vogue. Most of them believe it was for more than 10 years. You cannot, as the saying goes, in this day and age for all that is happening, ask an island constable who is unarmed to offer security services for \$5 an hour. I made them an offer of \$10 an hour. I told them that I would speak to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Civil Service to get it increased from \$5 to \$10. They told me, to do that would affect their tax position.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Because some of them rely exclusively on the pay for serving as island constables. They have asked to put it at \$8 an hour which would give them \$320 a week which they say would not affect their tax position. I want to assure the House that is a matter which is being dealt within the negotiations. We can all rest assure that the island constable's rate of pay will be moved from \$5 to at least \$8 an hour and I am sure this will be backdated. 3.15p.m.

Sir, I ask the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to check with any of them who were at that meeting and hear what they said. They said \$8 is what they are happy with.

Mr. Speaker, I hear what the Honourable Member has said about the use of the Trident continuously on patrol being fed by a number of other ships. That is something the Chief-of-Staff will have to assist us with. However, there are additional crafts in the complement of the Defence Force vessels, the 36-footer we got from the Americans and the smaller ones. The smaller ones are problematic.

I believe with the advent of the first aircraft - in fact, it has proved its worth already in ways I cannot disclose to the House. The first C-26 aircraft that was handed over in August is proving to be very helpful in the drug fight. They were saying there is another one to come with special equipment in December. I cannot tell the House today if that target date is still on but we were promised it for December.

I would expect if it does not come for December it will come shortly thereafter. The two C-26 aircraft, one with special equipment and the other one for generalised operation, plus the Trident and the other craft that we have, will considerably enhance our capability both on sea and in air to deal with the drug problem.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have said enough on this Bill. We have had a good debate on security matters generally. I think it is important from time to time that the House deals with these kinds of matters. I wish to thank the Opposition especially, for the sensitive but restrained manner in which they spoke to the nature of security. I am obliged again to all who contributed.

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Defence (Amendment) Act, 1999.

ORDER NO. 5 - TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF BARBADOS

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is in Committee.

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$602 243 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 1999-2000 AS SET OUT IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, NO. 8

HEAD 20 - MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CON- SUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT- \$143368

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, consequent upon the reassignment of responsibility for areas of Government business that took place on January 25 this year, certain staff assigned to the then Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Business Development were, in fact, reassigned to the then newly created Ministry of Industry and International Business. As a result, the Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development found itself short of necessary officers.

A request was made to the Ministry of the Civil Service for the creation of four posts, Chief Economist, Senior Economist, Economist I or II and an Administrative Officer. The posts were approved in May and were filled on August 16 and September 15 respectively this year. We could not at the time of the preparation of the Estimates have budgeted for the payment of the officers because the posts were not then created. 3.25 p.m.

This very simple supplementary request being sought of \$132 275 in the first instance under Other Personnel Emoluments is to cover the cost of these officers and to deal with certain adjustments made to acting and substitute arrangements in the Ministry when officers go on training and maternity leave and such like that crop up during the course of a year and to finance these core officers whose posts are approved and created since preparation of the Estimates.

The smaller figure of \$11 093 is to go with those figures to deal with the issue of the compulsory nature of National Insurance in terms of National Insurance attaching to the creation of those posts and the other officers who were substitutes and acting over that period of time.

With those few remarks, I beg to move that Head 20 stand part.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to stop this particular Ministry from getting any funds but I honestly think that something is wrong with the way these things are presented to Parliament. I cannot understand why a ministry would know what it wants before the Estimates and for some reason has to wait until...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. That is really unfair. In a normal year, I could understand that criticism but here we have an election on 20th January, the House met sometime around the middle of February, we had to do Estimates and the Minister had scarcely gone in to know what he had to deal with. It was impossible then to make a guesstimate even of the staff that he needed to support the Ministry. It is only now that he has got into the work that he sees the need for the staff and he has come at an appropriate time. I do not think it is fair to criticise the Minister for not foreseeing this, given the timing of the elections in relation to the budgetary process and the Estimates.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I must congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in his new role. He is really defending his troops even when there is no need to defend them because it was not a general criticism of the Honourable Minister. I was just talking about Government policy on the whole because being in here since 1994, I have come across occasions where arguments were presented to this House where you were told that Ministers could not budget something until it actually happened and I am saying if that is the general policy I would like to see that policy changed.

If you know what you expect to happen you should be able to budget for that. You should not wait until it has happened then to put in a figure for that. That is all I am saying. It is not a criticism of a particular item or a particular person. It is a matter of policy. Government must work in the modern age. Government cannot continue and nobody can continue to tell me because we were doing something like this in the 1960s that we must continue to do it even in the year 2000. If we are going to be Y2K compliant, we have to change the way we operate.

The Government must understand that when Estimates are presented and they have an idea of what they want to do, they must at least give us an indication that this is what they are going to be doing further down, even if the figure is not correct you can come back for a supplementary to the estimates.

What I am saying, Sir, is that I will not be prepared to come to this Parliament come March, discuss a particular issue, knowing full well that a Minister is going to do something later on and I do not have the privilege of seeing

at least a figure in the Estimates to give me some indication that they are going to put a particular policy in place during the particular year.

I am calling on the Government - it does not necessarily have to be an accurate figure but at least it gives a true reflection of what the Government is going to do later in the year. It does not have to be a situation where you do not budget for it but later in the year you come and you see something being presented and to be told that you knew about it before but you could not put it in, because you did not have the full complement.

I am saying that you need to supplement something that you have budgeted for previously and not to introduce something new. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, in case one gets carried away by the drift of the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, he did expressly say that he is not criticising but I still want to cover all bases.

The fact of the matter is that as the Rules presently stand you cannot budget for an entity in any form or fashion that does not exist at the time of the preparation of the Estimates. When I assumed responsibility in January they were in the course of the preparation of the Estimates and it became clear at the time that we needed to have an additional complement of staff and the Ministry decided that it was going to assess its needs rather than rush willy-nilly and say it wanted something and then to realise that it wanted something else.

As a result of that, the Ministry having evaluated its needs, submitted a memorandum in March to the Ministry of the Civil Service saying what it felt it needed in terms of manpower. That had to be evaluated by the Minister of the Civil Service who then approved the posts in May and it was thereafter that the recruitment process began and the posts were filled in the months of August and September. It is not a case of anybody really being able to do something and not doing it.

With those remarks I beg that this Head stand part.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe if you give people enough rope they will hang themselves. Only last Tuesday, although I am not reflecting on a vote, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North in derisory tones and with much laughter say that the Democratic Labour Party had provided only \$100 for small business in 1994. Now, Sir, he does not understand the meaning of a token vote so he is trying to explain to the House today why he failed in the Estimates of this year to make token provision for the establishment of entities. He is trying to tell the Honourable

Member for St. Lucy that an election intervened and all kinds of other excuses which are irrelevant to this particular debate.

All that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is saying is that it is better that you get these things into the Estimates. If you do not get them into the Estimates you should come to the House at the earliest opportunity before the person is brought onto the staffer before you set up the enterprise that you would have an idea of the direction it is taking. Since the Honourable Member for St. Michael North in the Estimates said he knew nothing about his Ministry and has continued in that state of ignorance since then until the introduction of a small business legislation, it would mean that he is still not in a position to defend adequately the matter which is before the House.

All the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is asking is for a fair day's work for a fair day's pay from the Ministers on that Side. Come prepared to explain yourselves properly before the House because you are not going to use rules in here or any other procedures or excuses to get away from the searching comments of the two of us on this Side. Nothing is going to pass. We serve warning on you, understand it and therefore come prepared to answer questions about anything which you bring before this Chamber. 3.35 p.m.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, I fully expect that during this term we are going to have the 'jack-in-the-box' approach from that Side. The Honourable Member wishes to say that I accused him of putting a token vote of \$100 to small business. In no wise can anyone put any kind of vote, nominal, token or whatever you want to call it, to a situation that does not exist. In March when the Estimates were approved in this Parliament, the posts that I am referring to were not in existence so there is no question of allocating token votes or anything of the sort to the posts. The Honourable Member for St. John knows that. I am not going to detain the Chamber anymore with this 'jack-in-the-box' approach.

I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

HEAD 26 - MINISTRY OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES - \$100,375.00

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, in a text book called 'Barbados our Island Home' written by the distinguished Educator, Writer and Historian, Sir Alexander Hoyos, repeated reference was made to the fact that in historical times one of the most interesting topical features

would have been the existence of an enormous amount of gullies. Sir Alexander Hoyos stressed that it would have been a most daunting task between 1625 and 1627 to develop Barbados with the presence of all these gullies and enormous amounts of shrubbery, bushes, forest and such like. The point he was making, Mr. Chairman, was that Barbados has always been a small country where the presence of myriad gullies could not be ignored.

Mr. Chairman, a formal count indicates that there are in excess of 300 gullies in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, as times progress, various thinkers, including politicians, have different approaches to the existence of particular resources. There would have been a time, in history, Mr. Chairman, where early man would have seen land as a resource for agriculture and housing. As time passed, man went beneath the top soil and discovered fossil fuels, hydrocarbons and such like. There would have been a time, Mr. Chairman, way, way back in time, when man the wind for its oxygen and for his survival and the sun for what the sun did.

As time progressed, people started to see the wind as a greater source with special potential. The wind is now seen as a source of energy, especially to tourism development in Barbados, in the same way as the sands were seen forty years ago.

The point I am taking some time to make, Mr. Chairman, is that there would have been a time, many years ago, when everybody knew that there were these gullies and perhaps people took them for granted. I believe firmly that 100 years ago people understood that there were gullies, saw them as being different in many respects from the rest of the topography of Barbados and took them for granted.

We in the Barbados Labour Party have made bold to conceptualise a programme for the development of our gullies. At page 56 of the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto as presented to the people of Barbados this year, there is a promise that the Barbados Labour Party, on being re-elected to Government would develop and rehabilitate our gullies as nature trails.

Mr. Chairman, at the time we made this Manifesto proposal we had determined that in the fullness of time we would do our utmost to see how we could develop these gullies primarily as eco-systems with a strong environmental value but also with a value not just as environmental eco-systems but a value for eco-tourism.

At the time of the Election, Mr. Chairman, we were hoping to start a proper programme to develop these gullies after April 1, 2000. Internally, within our Ministry, we have had talks and we have even formed a small committee. Earlier this year, the Government through its Cabinet, decided that we should embark on a preparatory programme

in this financial year and try to develop the programme properly in the year 2000. We were a bit disturbed over the fact that, notwithstanding a significant amount of progress in Barbados certainly at the level of general public sector administration, that we could not really find anywhere an inventory of the gullies that would have satisfied us. We came across one person who had something of an idea as to how many gullies there could have been and where they were located but he could not even suggest what names were given to these gullies. In any event, he left the country.

We also discovered informally, from highly trained environmental officers, that when these officers got to some gullies, they had seen some fauna of interest and certainly a variety of flora of significance. There was mood in the Ministry, Mr. Chairman, that we should really jump in, literally at the deep end, and try to get a programme for the development of the gullies going.

I take it that many Members of Parliament in this Honourable House know about the existence of particular gullies in their constituencies. To tell you the truth, Mr. Chairman, I would welcome any suggestions from Honourable Members who are aware of these very special eco-systems in their constituencies. In respect of where to find the gullies. In respect of what Honourable Members can do to diversify their constituencies and help develop Barbados and also get the maximum out of the exploitation of these gullies. Mr. Chairman, I would welcome a list of gullies and their locations as well as comments on them from Honourable Members on both Sides.

Mr. Chairman, we have thought about this matter very carefully and we think that, notwithstanding our own modest efforts within the Ministry to develop a programme, that the time has clearly come when we should get an independent consultant at a reasonable cost to study these gullies and to make proposals to us.

I personally, Mr. Chairman, having seen a large number of consultancies done in Barbados over time, am astonished at the very poor quality of the work and have come to the view that we should not invite high cost consultants from abroad who are ignorant of what Barbados is like and who would have to come here and ask Barbadians for information. 3.45 p.m.

In fact, when we consider, Mr. Chairman, the many reports of consultants for the last 40 or 50 years, we are sometimes amazed, not only at their high costs, but at the fact that sometimes when they report, they do not really report anything that a Barbadian or a group of Barbadians could not have reported and a lot of them charge fascinating and frightening fees.

In fact in recent times, large numbers of professionals in Barbados have been complaining that they are denied an opportunity to do these consultancies and when the foreign people come they ask the Barbadians for information and the Barbadians get no fees. I saw a study recently and I saw a David Thompson, Mr. Chairman, as being a resource person and I wondered if it was not a David Thompson who is not entirely unknown to us having to take a consultant to rural Barbados to show him where Codrington College is?

I rather suspect that quite often when these foreigners come here, they really have no idea as to what is going on here. Their biggest thing is to pick our people's brains and then write a big report with a lot of drawings and pictures and sometimes their final product is quite weak and poor.

I am going to ask this Honourable Committee, Mr. Chairman, to approve the sum of \$100 375 of which \$80 000 have been identified as the very maximum at which we will go in respect of pay ing whatever consultant is appointed. The figure, of course, suggests quite clearly that we are not contemplating bringing in anybody. The other \$20 375 which go along with the \$80 000 are funds which are necessary to support the programme.

Mr. Chairman, we have evolved some terms of reference for this preparatory programme. We are going to name it the Gully Ecosystems Management Study. The terms of reference, briefly are:

- To require the consultants to develop for us a national gully system technical database.
- To help us in respect of bio-diversity conservation in respect to of any possible legislation that may be necessary, bearing in mind that a lot of these systems may be in private hands.
- To sensitise the public as to the importance of these eco-systems.

In speaking about sensitising the public, we in Barbados have had the very unfortunate experience over the years where too many Barbadians have seen gullies as depositories for garbage. I would want to urge all Barbadians to stop that. Not only is such dumping illegal, but when all these things are dumped in gullies it is possible that the ground water could become polluted. I suspect that in some instances it may have been polluted. There is this thing called leachate migration which travel downstream and which may not occur at the exact point where the garbage is deposited but may occur further down the stream or close to people's residence and gets into the ground water supply. In any case it creates a very unsightly scene for our people to be dumping illegally in gullies.

Mr. Chairman, if we are going to do anything by way of properly preparing these systems for economic exploitation they have to be in a prim and proper state.

I want to make the observation that in 1994 the Democratic Labour Party and the National Democratic Party in their Manifestos indicated that on winning an election they would clean and tidy the gullies. I believe that in the 1999 Democratic Labour Party Manifesto the whole question of cleaning of gullies was also stressed again. We have gone a stage further. We want to make them into trails.

There are Barbadians in the private sector who have informally developed a few trails at little or no cost. On some Sunday mornings I believe there are nature walks where some people under the guidance of the Barbados National Trust or some other private sector group would walk the gullies.

Mr. Chairman, in an era of fast-paced living and fairly high stress, there is nothing more relaxing than walking two or three miles through a clean gully, in fresh air. It really does something to you. If Honourable Members had a chance to walk a gully when it is in a good state, the air is clean, there is a peace in it, you hear the chirping of the birds on high ground, sometimes when one tree branch rubs against another tree branch, or against a rock, a particular sound is created. It is really an enthralling experience.

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I heard a sound that cannot be properly described as part of this debate and there was no one else on his feet the same time as I. I would rather think that Hall would be more bunked up. I believe Hall might be the subject of some reference in here later on. Hall might be more bunked up somewhere else with a cellular phone and sophisticated communication equipment which he might have had when he was in Barbados. I do not think we will find him. I do not know. I have not been searching myself, nor would I recommend to Barbadians to go searching for him, unless they are members of the RBPF or if the Police are leading a special team to look for him.

The point is, Mr. Chairman, that even though we are a small country with limited resources, our people have to be encouraged to take an active part in enjoying these resources. I am personally disappointed that not many youths go to Turners Hall. I am very disappointed that not many youths even seem aware of the existence of Turners Hall. I would want before coming to the whole question of eco-tourism to emphasize that in a fast-paced culture where we sometimes loose our cool or get burnt out easily and become very tired, that walking gullies for the experience or as a form of relaxation, can really do something by way of reinvigorating a tired and worn out body; a body in need of that type of peaceful relaxation.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, the whole question of eco-tourism has to be stressed, but bear in mind that I started by saying that we should develop these gullies for Barbadians. Inasmuch as I am prepared to talk about eco-tourism and adding to the number of places of interest in Barbados, I would want the record to reflect accurately that we would want to develop these gullies for Barbadians first. I am not the type of person who feels that every initiative must be an initiative that bears the tourists in mind ahead of the Barbadians. This place is ours and even when the tourists go and do not come back, we are here.

Mr. Chairman, I come now to the point of eco-tourism. Recently I heard someone complain that a possible reason why Barbados is not pulling tourists in the numbers that we want to, is because of our small land size and our limited number of places of interest. People might be going to bigger countries with more variety.

In fact, in the Caribbean situation, places like Dominica and St. Lucia are becoming very strong competitors in tourism generally and also in eco-tourism. 155 p.m.

A person who loves nature-tourism would love a place like Dominica. Mr. Chairman, in getting back to the whole question of gullies, we believe that those tourists who traditionally use the beaches for their relaxation can now have an opportunity to add to the beaches, walk through nature trails created in gullies. Mr. Chairman, I believe that this whole question is one which requires some initiative and creativity. We must be determined enough to carry out the programme without flinching and without feeling that we are about to embark on a risk where we do not know if we will succeed.

I believe that a properly conceptualized plan consequent upon good advice can be carried out. I believe, that in the same way that one or two gullies have been used successfully by a few enterprising Barbadians to develop nature trails in the areas between The Whim and Speightstown that if we can locate the gully systems that bear potential as nature trails that we might be able to add a few more attractions to what we have as our stock of tourists attractions.

Mr. Chairman, there is a consideration that many gullies hold water. We learned that a gully running at the back of Green Hill just under Warrens has been successfully sunk. The result of that was, that the sinking of that gully held back water from flooding parts of St. Michael. We have looked at this because there are some of us who are very worried and inconvenienced when coastal areas in Barbados are flooded. We perceive, that in a modern age, we should be able to undertake some remedial action to save ground and look to see precisely what creative ideas we can come up

with. There is a very strong view, that if you sink the gullies, they can hold back some water and prevent flooding in some areas. There was a view, that some of them should be dammed but damming is expensive and time consuming. At any event, the force of the water can sometimes burst those easily or can cause a situation like what happened sometime ago in Weston, St. James.

In addition, we are also looking at developing nature trails by using them to capture flood waters and examining the special flora that could be in some of them, for the purpose of enticing people to become exposed to resources that very well could have been in a virginal state. Some of my advisors, who have had a chance to look at some of the gullies, told me, that in some of them, you see flowers that you do not see elsewhere in Barbados.

I am interested and excited at the whole prospect of exploring these systems further in the interest of ensuring that environmentally speaking we can make use of them. Economically, we can use them to pull tourists and Barbadians alike to them. We may be able in the future to exploit them and put them to greater use than they would have been before.

Mr. Chairman, we are of the view, that a highly trained consultant or two or three of them together - I understand that there are more than six potential consultants in Barbados with the requisite expertise - can, advise us, at a reasonable cost, after testing and evaluating these systems, as to what potential there may be. I mention earlier that there could be as many as 300 or more gullies in Barbados. I would be a simpleton to believe that all of them could either be exploited at all or all of them could be exploited at the same time. There are some that might defy exploitation because some of them are not deep and virtually hold water all year round. I see one in the parish of St. Peter, which is not deep at all, but which holds water all year round even in the dry season. Two hundred years ago, I believe, some persons would call that a river but I would not call it that.

The whole point, Mr. Chairman, is that we have to be careful. We have to be able first of all to know where they are; how many they are; know what they can do by way of what potential they bear and ensure that eventually by the time we get the programme working it can be properly developed, designed and implemented on a phase basis.

In my estimation, looking at the \$80 000, the consultancy is going to cost us no more than Z6 800 a month. We expect that after ten months the consultants should be able to give us a preliminary report and within 12 months the final report should be ready. We expect too, that on a monthly basis, they should be reporting to us what their findings proposals are. We are therefore going to get behind them to make sure that they report frequently to us although we are going to use them as our principal advisors in respect of this proposed programme.

I will be happy, if Honourable Members in here, and the wider public of Barbados will be able to feed us with the type of information, where, if there are particular gullies owned by the Crown that can be developed at a cheap cost immediately without having to wait on the consultants final report.

Those of us, who are Members here, know the frustrations in having to wait long when you want things done in your constituency. I do not think there is any Member in here who will ever be able to properly appreciate the final workings of bureaucracy when such final workings militate against speed and efficiency and when people hide behind bureaucracy and illegality that go with it to justify keeping us back. We want our programmes to go fast. We want them to be delivered with speed and efficiency. I am talking about speed, efficiency and not slow moving bureaucracy. An officer, who was in the bureaucratic system for 25 years said to me, "Minister, in the bureaucracy of Barbados, 50 years is a short time". Mr. Chairman, we are not prepared to wait 15 months. We want to get things going. I want to urge all Honourable Members of this Committee to support this application for this supplementary so that for the first time in Barbados' history we can seek to exploit our gullies as natural resource with potential to make life better for us in more ways than one.

With these opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 26 stand part.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am offering the Minister, the gully by River Bay. He will find that it is very much government land and I give him permission to start using it from tomorrow.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am excited by the words spoken by the Minister of Energy when he stated that most of the consultancies should be offered to our local consultants. The reason why I am excited by that, is because straight off the hand I can think of about three people who can do the job. They are Dr. Mark Griffith and the St. Hill sisters, who can easily land consultancies contracts from government especially in this Ministry. However, these people had to leave the country and go overseas to seek work because they found that most of the contracts for consultancy work were given to foreigners and they were getting sub-consultancies. 4.05 p.m.

When one looks at the amount of money that is paid out in Barbados every year to consultants, it is regrettable that consultants within Barbados cannot make a cent. They have to beg people for work, then they have to be paid by consultants that do not know anything about Barbados.

We as Barbadians who have been educated under the educational system are shortchanging ourselves by giving foreigners the impression that they are the only people who have knowledge about what we know. Can you imagine that we live in a place, we grow up with people in a place but we hire people from outside to tell us whether Greenland is suitable or not, or whether River Bay is a good place to have a gully? Can you imagine that? We go there every day but yet Barbadians have to do the donkey work while foreigners get the cream. I cannot be a proud Barbadian when this type of foolishness is allowed to continue.

I am also going to say to the Minister that I welcome this project but I do not expect that when this project is finished that the group who is walking around now scouting out the idea - you have to be very careful. When you see people in Barbados walking around and they claim they are doing one thing, you have to watch what they are doing.

When these gullies are developed, I hope Barbadians like myself will get the opportunity, not that I *want per se* to get a piece of the cake, but the small man around the streets must get the opportunity to use these gullies to help show tourists what good qualities we have in Barbados that lie in the gullies and not those people who walk around looking for business ventures on Sunday mornings under a disguise.

I am serious about what I am saying. I do not want to hear any minister from today onwards telling me that the only people who are interested in gullies are those people because Barbadians have always been interested in gullies. They used to play "hiding hoop" and "hiding seek" so do not fool yourself that I do not know anything about gullies. My people know about gullies.

I am calling on the acting Prime Minister when he turns up at Cabinet meeting on Thursday to appoint the Honourable Member for St. James North as the Minister of Health and I will tell him why if we are so serious about the gullies and people disposing garbage in the gullies. It is clear to me that the Ministry of Health is not serious about that because the garbage trucks they have on the roads are not even capable of crossing the roads.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I wonder if the Honourable Member would also approve of my sending a letter to the Governor-General to appoint him as 'Minister of Small People'.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am not part of the politics of inclusion so you cannot do that.

The reason why I am asking for the Honourable Member for St. James North to be the Minister of Health is that it is clear to me there is a conflict between the

Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment. I believe the best way to implement the policies spoken by the Minister is to also make sure that he is the Minister of Health so that the garbage would not be left along the streets, so that whenever there is a heavy rainfall the garbage would not be washed off the roads right into the gullies. Sometimes, do not let us fool ourselves, it is not only people tossing garbage in the gullies. It is whenever you get a heavy rainfall that garbage is taken right into the gullies. Watch it good! It is a fact.

It is true there are people who feel within themselves that they do not have a suitable garbage disposal system in place and some of them get careless and throw their garbage in the gullies but I am saying that if the Ministry of Health was functioning correctly, and I am talking about the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) with the necessary number of trucks, that you would not have that problem. Someone with an old car would not feel he has to throw it over a bridge. At least he would know there is some place he can call and it will come and collect the old car and dump it somewhere for him, even at a small fee.

I am calling on the acting Prime Minister to make sure that this policy is implemented correctly by making the right connection between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment. Right now the two, in my opinion, are fighting against each another. Something has to be wrong in Barbados and I do not know the reason. Last year or year before we had some new white garbage disposal trucks. They were supposed to be new but last night I passed one broken down in the middle of the road leading to Haymans and the one taking you into Speightstown across the Highway. Those particular trucks have been suffering that particular problem.

I want to know, Sir, how all of a sudden Government is importing new vehicles into this country and they are not lasting long? I want to know if we are looking at the body or whether we are looking at the engines because something seems to be seriously wrong. Somebody seems to be shortchanging us.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would encourage the Honourable Member to stick to the subject.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is exactly what I am doing, Sir, dealing with the environment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I thought you were buying a truck. Just stick to the subject matter. Please continue.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You thought I was getting into something fishy? I would not do that, Mr. Chairman, while you are in the Chair.

We need to make sure that there is a relationship between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health. We need to make sure that relationship is working quickly and smoothly because if we do not have that, the same problem we speak of in the other gullies, we are also going to have at Greenland where the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment are not working hand in hand and serious problems are going to be created for those people in the Shorey Village. I thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I did not realise that someone else wanted to speak. I was only rising in as much as the Honourable Minister was not in his seat and not ready to wind up, I was literally only going to be saying a few words to let him get back to his seat.

Mr. Chairman, this has come at a very good time. It has come at a time when there is an apparent worldwide craze for eco-tourism projects. I think Barbados has every right to get on board. We cannot afford to be left out. If we do not pay attention to eco-tourism, we are going to be leaving an extremely important component out of the Barbados tourism product. Therefore, I welcome any attempt such as this one to get us on board so that we can compete with the other neighbouring countries.

Mr. Chairman, we have to realise that sites like Broad Street and the hotels are manmade. We have to realise that eco-tourism, the gullies, *et cetera*, are closer to nature. They are about the birds, the bees and the trees. Some people will even go as far as to say that when you are part and parcel of it you tend to feel even closer to God and closer to creation. If you really listen to people who are involved in eco-tourism in a big way you would realise that is exactly the way they speak.

Obviously, Mr. Chairman, everybody does not appreciate it. Some people can pass by what is an excellent tourism project and not even realise it. As I said, other people are really fascinated by it. Barbadians tend to take these things for granted. I think the Honourable Member for St. James North has already said it. People who come from those concrete cities would give an arm and a leg to enjoy these facilities and gullies in Barbados. 4.15 p.m.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, if anyone had told me when I was a boy that I would live to see the day when we would be developing our gullies to become part and parcel of a tourism product, I would have told them that would never happen because I knew that in those days the gullies were where you threw your things. So if somebody had told me then that that is what would have happened I would have said, "No".

Whenever a project such as this crops up I always think of one of my teachers at school by the name of Maurice Hurt.

I used to see him come to St. Philip and he would always find himself up in the East Point area and he would sit there and look out to sea and walk across and enjoy himself. Sometimes he had a little bird trap that he would use and he was the first person I knew who would admire nature in that fashion.

I am almost sure that if he were alive today he would have been one of the resource persons that we could ask how many gullies there are in Barbados, where they are and what are their names because he always had a very keen interest in them.

The point of a nature trail is that you should be walking sometimes, sometimes you should be climbing, sometimes holding on to something and swinging. I believe that through the gully there should be some obstacles. I do not think it should be just a matter of walking as if you are going for a walk around the Garrison. I do not think that that is what a nature trail is all about. As the Honourable Member for St. James North has said it can be extremely healthy and it is very good for stress.

I live at the tip of St. Philip and east of me is a gully and very often I walk there. Sometimes I see some creatures and trees that you do not see anywhere else. I am hoping and praying that when they begin to develop the gullies in Barbados one of the first calls will be made to that area that stretches from Ragged Point Lighthouse and goes towards the St. John area, passing through by Culpepper Island, through what people in Bayfield call Mastic Gully and end up towards St. John. I think it is a rich site for something such as this.

I support the idea too that we have to maintain the gullies and let people know that we are serious about developing them, because if we do not, people will always be dumping in them. We have to let them know that we are developing them. I do not think that we should approach it in such a way that they believe that we are clearing it of bushes because we have to leave the shrubbery there. The way we will have to do it is to send that message to people early that it is not a debushing programme. I feel that if people see this happening, Mr. Chairman, they too will make sure that they do not dump and they will help us to keep them in that condition as well.

Mr. Chairman, I remember the Three Houses Park area. I know that people used to pass there and throw things out of their vehicles before the Three Houses Park was developed. That does not happen now because they realise what we are using it for and they would think it is sacrilegious now for them to throw anything onto the Three Houses Park. If we send that kind of message to them, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that they too will ensure that the gullies are kept in good condition.

The only point that I am worried about, and I made the point last night when we were discussing this, is that the gullies are really the natural habitat for a lot of creatures, monkeys, insects and so on. Ever so often when there is a fire in the gullies in St. Philip the monkeys take refuge and come towards the houses. There are a lot of honey bees in caves there and I do believe that if you disturb them you are going to cause a problem as to where exactly they will go. They will come under cellars. Therefore when the consultants begin to do the work they also have to let us know exactly what we have to put in place in order to cope with this particular problem.

I agree with the Honourable Member for St. James North as well that the whole question of the old quarries which are used as dumping grounds by people who throw old beds, old car parts, even fish entrails and you can get the scent coming from them. People tend to do this, even people who are paid. Let me say this very strongly that they take up things for the dump, find a short cut and they end up in a gully. I can say it because I have seen it happened on more than one occasion that you pay somebody to take the garbage to the dump but they see a gully and so they circumvent all of that and dump the garbage in the gully. I do not think that we have enforced enough in Barbados punishment for that kind of thing. We have talked and talked but very few of those cases ever get before the law courts and people will always continue to do it.

Mr. Chairman, I am very heartened by this new initiative. I can share with the House that it was just a little more than a year ago when the people of Padmore Village in St. Philip were asking for a playing field where they could have some recreational activities and the developer agreed and said yes we could have one. He sent the drawing showing where exactly this facility will be. Looking at it on the plan and reading that in the distance, going to the site to see where it is it looked good. I said let me check it since I was not too sure. We visited it with the National Sports Council and Town and Country Planning. When we got there the part that he had allocated ... • 4.25 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: He only got the subdivision because of this particular facility. The subdivision was given and the proviso was that the facility would be created for the people. Do you know where it was put? The recreational facility was put in a gully in a watercourse.

Since then another plantation has offered them recreational facilities somewhere else and I am very grateful for it. I want it to be made known to that developer that we will keep the first recreational facility in Padmore Village which he gave us in the gully. We are not giving it back.

We will keep it and we are going to plant some beautiful flowers and so on along the watercourse. We will use it as a recreational facility and we will also have the playing field. In a way, it was a trick which was played on us. Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful and I hope that St. Philip will get their share of this development in terms of the gullies when things come on stream.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make my contribution to this Resolution. Before I do so, I would like to make reference to a statement the Honourable Member for St. Lucy made concerning the Minister of the Environment regarding the linking of the two Ministries as if he were suggesting that they should still be one. If he is saying what I perceive him to be saying, then that is the old way of thinking, that the Ministries of Health and Environment should go as one. Actually, health is about the population and human beings, whereas the environment is about the air that we breathe, the sea, soil and nature. I do not know what his religious persuasion is but if he listened to the chants where they speak about the fowls of the air and the water, that is what the environment addresses.

Really and truly, Sir, the environment touches all Ministries - Agriculture, Housing and Lands, Education and Tourism. You will see the billions of dollars right now that America is spending, the millions of dollars that Germany and Canada pump into the environment in an attempt to keep the environs, those things which surround us, to keep them free of toxic waste and to preserve them.

The Minister in his presentation showed his mastery of words with his poetic language. I would urge him now that he is the substantive Minister of that Ministry to urge his staff to put in place as soon as possible a Bill to look after the environment in as comprehensive a way as possible.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Mr. Chairman, if I could just explain to the Honourable Member that currently there is being drafted an Environmental Protection Bill, a comprehensive piece of legislation. That is separate and distinct from any clean air Act that we have to bring or any noise pollution legislation that we will be bringing as indicated in the Throne Speech. There is a draft of the protection of the environment Bill which has been circulating in the Ministry responsible for the environment.

Mr. D. T. GILL: There is the way of thinking that only the rural areas have gullies. Those of us from St. Michael would know that there are some ...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Since this debate started I have not heard any member referring to gullies as rural or urban, Sir.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Sir, I did not say that. There are some fairly well forested gullies in St. Michael. Right next door to Her Majesty's Prisons there is the gully going into the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Michael East and through South Central. I know, having grown up in an area right next to a gully that the youngsters in the areas really know these gullies. I would urge the Minister that when the consultants are working that they do so in consultation with people who frequent these gullies and who know the gullies and caves. I would like to urge them at the same time to start a programme of re-afforestation. Many of the species which are endemic to the gullies have died because of age and infestation with wood-ants and certain fungal outbreaks which, over the years have taken their toll. This is something which has to be addressed as a matter of urgency. It is a good opportunity not only for re-afforestation of wild plants, but at the same time for certain species of fruit trees like hog plums, guavas and sugar apples.

Sir, there is something which concerns me. Everybody speaks about dumping of solid waste like big metal objects when buildings are demolished, but what concerns me, when it comes to dumping in gullies, is dumping of oil from garages. There is evidence, Sir, either directly or indirectly, that there is dumping into the streams which flow into the gullies. We know the damage which oils and detergents would have on the wild life of streams. It is to my knowledge that there is a company in Barbados which is already involved in recycling these oils. I would wish that some of the smaller garages get to know this source and, in their operations, send all their waste oils to one common site. Sir, what we must understand is the connection between what we grow, what we eat and what we dump.

Asides.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Sir, there seems to be this desire from my colleagues for me to wind up. In the opening I alluded to the fact that I would not be too long and since am I getting this urging from Members, I will comply.

With those few words, I make my contribution to this debate.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all Honourable Members who took part in this debate. I note what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said.

I beg to move that Head 26 stand part.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.35 p.m.

HEAD 28 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS -
\$358 500

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this sum is required to provide funds for the Commission of Inquiry into the escape of Winston Hall on 23rd September this year, Sir.

Since the Commission of Inquiry has been set up, Sir, I do not think it would be in consonance with the Standing Orders for us to go into a debate on this matter. The inquiry was set up so that a person with judicial training and experience could elicit the facts and ultimately publish for public consumption what were the true circumstances that related to the escape of Hall.

The terms of reference have been very carefully drafted and I will read them into the record:

1. To inquire into all of the circumstances surrounding the escape of prisoner, Winston Leroy Hall from Glendairy Prison on September 23, 1999, including any acts or omissions on the part of any person or persons (and this is key, Sir) inside or outside of Glendairy Prison.

I have certain reports which tell me about things that happened outside of the prison after Hall was alleged to have escaped.

2. To review and report on the adequacy or otherwise of the existing security arrangements at Glendairy Prison.
3. To determine whether any person or persons were culpable in regard to the escape of the said Winston Hall.
4. To make such recommendations as the Commission may deem appropriate or necessary in all the circumstances.
5. To deliver a Report to His Excellency The Governor-General on or before January 31, 2000.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Commission intends to begin its work on the 22nd of November. These funds are required to pay the fees of the Commissioner, the secretary to the Commission, the legal counsel to the Commission, the transcription services, because there is a situation where the evidence will be taken daily and it will be ready in printed form the next day. It covers stationery and rental of the Gymnasium. It is expected that the Commission will take evidence over a period of about 25 days, but there will be a period also of writing up the report and presenting it.

Mr. Chairman, I just wish to say that it is not right for me to express any view on the circumstances since we have asked an independent and impartial person to deal with it, Sir. I wish to say, however, that tomorrow afternoon at 2.30 p.m. I am meeting a delegation from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) to discuss with them a project which the Government started in November, 1998 and in which the bank is very interested.

It is a project to help us develop the penal system, particularly the custodial aspects of the penal system, as well as the modernisation of the administration of justice. Broadly, Sir, the concept that has been put to the IADB envisages first of all in terms of the administration of justice, the complete computerisation of the administration of justice and the necessary ancillary training that will eventuate as a result of making the administration of justice more technologically contemporary.

Sir, shortly Phase I of the modernisation of the administration of justice in its broadest concept will be ready. That is, vital statistics will be available to members of the public in less than five minutes. We have started a project at the Registry which should shortly be completed - I believe I have to open it sometime in December - by which birth certificates, death certificates *et cetera* will now be available to the public in a matter of minutes.

The next phase will be to computerize all the information related to Wills, Probates *et cetera*, but more particularly, we have to ensure that in the Magistrates Court and the High Court there is an interconnectivity of the system that will allow, first of all, for information to be shared across the board in law enforcement. If I could highlight it by example: a person is convicted today and fined by the Magistrate \$500 payable in two months or in default six months. We want to so develop the system that on the day of that conviction, that information is entered in the computer.

The Police will get that information. The Court Marshal Department will get it, the Immigration Department will get it and two months from today the Clerk will be able to go into the computer and see that on that particular day, on January 16, a person was to pay \$600 or \$500 and he did not pay and steps will be taken the next day to enforce that order. 4.45 p.m.

Right now, because of the manual System where the clerk has to enter the information in the various order books, there is a large amount of uncollected fines and fees.

In 1991/92 when large numbers of public officers were sent home, many of them were taken from the court system and they have not been replaced in the same numbers. Therefore, because of the few officers available to do the large volume of work there has been a gap and a slippage.

In terms of the Magistrates Court and their relationships with the Police Department, the Immigration Department and the Court Marshals, computerization will help us to clean up that situation.

In order to render the administration of justice efficiently, effectively and speedily in the High Court we have to provide for case flow management which is best done by computerization. Barbados has to get in line. Next year, we are embarking on a project with Australian judicial assistance to modernize and simplify the rules of civil procedures in the High Court. That is one thing.

Early in the next century, there will have to be a complete change in the culture of legal practice in Barbados. A change to the extent, that judges are going to be required more and more to take control of cases and to ensure their regular and diligent progress through the system. Throughout our history, the progress of a case has depended upon counsel. If you are for the plaintiff, you will try to get the case off fast. If you are for the defendant, you will try not to let it get on. The Rules provide a number of manoeuvres and mechanisms by which counsel, legitimately playing the game according to the rules can delay cases. For example, they ask for particulars and if they are not satisfied, they go and ask for court orders and then they ask for discoveries and they look for all kinds of things.

The contemporary thinking and activism is that more and more the judges should take control of the cases and not leave the progress of the case to counsel. That is going to happen in Barbados. I am not going to rush it and make the mistake that was made in Trinidad and Tobago. I am not going to allow anyone to bring Lord Woolf Report and foist it on Barbados.

I had discussions with an Australian Judge and we have been corresponding. They have a system of support for the Commonwealth that has modernized their rules beyond Lord Woolf and what England has done. Next financial year, I am hoping to get funding to allow me to bring this Australian Judge here who will meet with a large committee from the Bar and Bench to work on modernizing the rules. When the rules are prepared to the satisfaction of the committee, we will then make the draft available to the whole profession. It is my view that between six months to a year, before the new system starts, the draft should be out to the profession.

I am also hoping that from January 2000, the new Magistrates Court Act and Criminal Rules as well as the new Bail Act and Bail Rules will take effect. That is our aim. Everything is almost in place for that to happen. I am leaving the new Magistrates Court Civil Rules to await the process while we do the High Court Civil Rules.

Sir, I have given an indication of what we are doing for the administration of justice. In terms of the penal system, for the meeting tomorrow for the project with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) what we are putting to them is in a "capsule". We should also be introducing in January 2000, the new penal system that focuses on non-custodial punishment in pursuance of the Bill that was passed in here in November last year. We have asked for the support staff and we should shortly be getting approval for that.

As the Minister of Home Affairs, three days ago I signed the Attendance Centre Order Rules which will allow us to set up the Attendance Centres early next year. That will mean that we will take six schools and we will use those schools on Saturday afternoons for about three hours. We will pay part-time people \$35 an hour to come and give instruction, training, education and discipline to young people who are deemed in need of that kind of instruction by the Court. There would be a new non-custodial system in place from January. However, we have a problem with Her Majesty's Prison. It is overcrowded and has been for donkey's years. It has 350 cells and 700 inmates. Among those are a large number of first offenders, low risk non-violent types who should not have been sent there. If there was a need to put them in a custody they should have been sent somewhere else. Her Majesty's Prison should be for the hardened and violent types.

For the last four to five years, we have been studying the trends at Dodds. Generally, the complement is in the region of 36. It never goes beyond 40. Last year, we spent \$600 000 to fix the bathrooms and dormitory areas there. It can hold 120 persons with ease. In the days when my father was there, they had 120. They have about six large dormitories that can hold about 20 beds side by side, not in a bunk style. They have all the facilities there, the playing facilities, the cook shop, dining facilities and all of that. It does not make economic sense to continue with 36 boys in that massive institution. Our interest would be better served to build something separate and distinct for at least 50 boys and use the existing facilities there to accommodate 120 inmates from the Prisons who are the low risk non-violent type. We will need to do the fencing and so on. In pursuance of our Manifesto commitment, we will have a young offenders institution and Dodds would be the ideal place.

At Summervale, there is a need for expansion and this can be done on budget. There is a little phenomenon going on and the numbers of girls there are increasing. I remember sometime in the early 80's, we were giving consideration to closing Summervale. There used to be six and seven girls at Summervale. Now the number is in the thirties. The good thing is that we have the land. Dodds plantation is 182 arable acres and you can expand Summervale. These are the kinds of things we are putting to

the Inter-American Development Bank to seek support and financing from them to help us develop and modernise the penal system and the administration of justice. 4.55 p.m.

From time to time, I will keep the House informed as to what progress is being made. As I said, they have the concept already and they are meeting with the Chief Justice, the Registrar and various other people between tomorrow and Friday. We will hope to get funding for the project. The Bank is becoming more interested in justice projects although it has taken the Bank 20 years since the Honourable Member for Christ Church West first raised the idea that justice and development are aligned. They have now come around to the view and they are prepared to support certain projects.

I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that we will be supporting this particular Supplementary but we also have some concerns and I do not want to interfere with anything that has been said by the Honourable Attorney General neither do I want to interfere with anything that the Commission of Enquiry will be looking into.

I want to remind this House that some time in the early nineties we had a particular situation in this country ... and this is not the first time anybody has escaped from Glendairy. I remember that when Pain escaped from prison, Sir, Members on the Other Side accused the Democratic Labour Party of releasing Pain at a time when the country was under pressure to remove the minds of the people from thinking about what was going on in the country.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. I have never heard that. I may have heard that there were problems at Glendairy, there was slackness which led to Pain's escape. There was an enquiry into the escape of Hall, Bradshaw and Roberts in 1992 done by Sir Frederick Smith. Nobody accused the Democratic Labour Party. Who was the Chief Warden, Taitt or Sandiford?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is correct. I am glad for the comments coming from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas because quite clearly nobody in the Democratic Labour Party would have been the Superintendent of the Prisons or anything at that time. I can assure the Government that the Democratic Labour Party, Members on this Side, will not make that same charge now.

It is true that I am not aware of Mr. Pain being in prison in two cells neither was I aware that he was shackled. I want to make that observation, Sir. All of those who accused the Democratic Labour Party of releasing Pain at the time, to

remove the people from what was going on in the country at the time must now realise that it is quite possible that these things can happen and there is no interference by any Government. Thank you very much.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I have never heard it said. He is confusing Pain with Mathieson. When Mathieson left here everybody knew that Mathieson had certain friends in the Democratic Labour Party, and everybody knew that Mathieson used to make rooms available. Do not let me bring over my hand!

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: We are not dealing with Mathieson and neither are we dealing with anybody who is related to Hall.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I have never heard that. An administration might have been accused of incompetence and the Smith report found that there were breaches of security but no one ever accused anybody in the Democratic Labour Party, not in this House of Assembly, not when we were sitting on that Side. Search Hansard from cover to cover and you will not find it! It is not fair, Sir. It is a slur and I have to defend my colleagues who were in here in the early nineties or whenever Pain went to prison.

Mr. Chairman, with those words I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

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

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

On separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS seconded by Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do adjourn until Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.05 p.m.

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