

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 - 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 1999.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P. (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN, K.A., Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C, M.A. (Oxon.)
Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Hon. 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. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B.
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS

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.

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

Prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, November 2, 1999, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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.

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PAPERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay'the following:

1. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1999.
2. The Excise Tax (Rate of Tax) Order, 1999.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay of following:

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Petroleum Corporation for the year April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

Defence (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 1 - THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BILL, 1999 (Resumed)

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, there has been some agitating and clamouring for the last 15 years for those of us in public life to lend our support to a cadre of indigenous businessmen in this country so that they can grow and develop. There is also a new thrust and a new culture in Barbados where a lot of Barbadians are no longer seeing themselves as hewers of wood and drawers of water. In this country, there are Barbadians of various ages, many of whom are females, who believe that a time has come when, rather than earning an income employed by an employer, they should help themselves by investing in small business.

Mr. Speaker, we would have heard for the last 10 or 15 years many persons on call-in programmes indicating that they were keen to become small business people. We would have heard them talk about an absence of any programme for them. We would have heard them lament the fact that very

often the principal challenge facing them was to raise the necessary seed or venture capital that would empower them to launch out in business.

There is no person in this country, Mr. Speaker, who can sensibly deny that Barbadians have now reached a stage of maturity where, drawing on the experience of those few Barbadians who successfully invested in business and using their own natural spirit of enterprise, they are keen to ensure that rather than rely entirely on investment happening in Barbados from abroad or force this country to rely on big business already established and expanding; there are those Barbadians who feel that even though they are neophytes in the game, they are ready, willing and able to become true businessmen; and to ensure that they make a contribution to national development and their own development. This is basically the background.

We would have heard too, Mr. Speaker, of the concept of economic empowerment or economic enfranchisement. In Barbados the interesting thing about the movement towards economic empowerment or economic enfranchisement is not that anybody disagrees that we should have economic enfranchisement especially of persons who would ordinarily be poor and deprived. - The curious thing about it and the debate is, who is the real author of economic enfranchisement in Barbados? Who is the real person who was the architect behind this thrust towards economic enfranchisement? You would have recalled some years ago the famous debate on the Barbados Mutual Insurance Company. You would also have recalled too, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a learned academic at the University of the West Indies at the time pressing hard for us to empower our Barbadians by facilitating their desire to be business people.

You would also have heard, Mr. Speaker, even though you may not yet have been occupying that Chair, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, way back before 1991, repeatedly calling for Barbadians to become active participants in the movement towards economic enfranchisement. Mr. Speaker, irrespective of whoever is the modern author of the plan for economic empowerment and economic enfranchisement, what really hurt as the movement was beginning to gather publicity and attract people's interest, was that at that critical period when a lot of people were very keen on learning the ropes of being businessmen, they did receive a very bad set-back. I am not going to look at the politics of it, Mr. Speaker, because of not wanting to be openly partisan in this thing. I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to attack the Democratic Labour Party. All I am saying is that economic circumstances prevailing in this country between 1991 and 1994 caused the momentum towards economic enfranchisement to lose ground and to lose faith. That is all I am going to say.

Mr. Speaker, forgive me for not mentioning that in excess of 600 businesses suffered in that period. I will not mention that at all. I am not going to be openly partisan or political. What I will say, Mr. Speaker, is that as far back as 1991, both political organisations in their political plan had suggested that we should facilitate the involvement of more indigenous Barbadians in the process of investing and in the commercial sectors of Barbados. That is clear.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West saw that as part of this process the notion of widening the base of business ownership, should be encouraged. Both political institutions have given support to the co-operative movement which is largely dominated by four indigenous Barbadians. It is a source of tremendous gratification to all of us in here, Mr. Speaker, arrogating to myself the right to speak on behalf of all Honourable Members, that the co-operative movement, especially credit unions, owned; managed and controlled by people of my hue; your hue; the hue of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and the hue of the Honourable Member for St. John; have been able to so push the credit union movement that it is a source of tremendous pride. We can see how ordinary Barbadians can turn to themselves and generate from their own creativity that particular sense of enterprise which would lend itself to taking the opportunity and the risk to be involved in business and to carry businesses forward.

I make it bold to say then, Mr. Speaker, that both the Democratic Labour Party in 1991 and the Barbados Labour Party in their Manifestos, made pledges that once elected that they would encourage small business. 11.30a.m.

I know that again in 1999, the Barbados Labour Party committed itself quite clearly to developing small businesses. I know also too, Mr. Speaker, that in Barbados many small businessmen have repeatedly complained that under the influence of an operation 'Bootstrap' out of Puerto Rico and an operation 'Bee Hive' here in Barbados, that foreign people were given incentives to invest here, but never before were the locals given the necessary incentives to encourage them to invest.

Only recently I was speaking to a man who has been involved in small business for 35 years and he kept asking "How come 'Investor A' from overseas, 'Investor B' from over and away, 'Investor C' a denizen from abroad, could come in here, get incentives, exploit this country's resources and people and then when the incentives stop coming in, they flee and go back over and away? Why was that allowed and why local indigenous businessmen were never facilitated, either by incentives or by a culture or by existing commercial institutions to get involved in business?

I implore this Honourable House, Mr. Speaker, to put the matter in its proper context. We also know that over time in this country there were those who wondered what really is a small business. Do you describe or define a small business in accordance with its capital? Do you define it in accordance with its income and profits? Do you define it in terms of its employees? Do you define it in terms of the nature of its activity and measure them against either bigger activities or bigger businesses, or measure them for what they are worth? What do you do?

I make bold to say, Mr. Speaker, that this particular piece of legislation has made a serious attempt, for the first time, to define and describe what a small business really is.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is nodding his head, either in agreement, or because having been himself a very successful entrepreneur he may now find that the definition disqualifies him, because the capital requirements have far been exceeded by him. The total amount of profit and interest it refers to, have been passed by him. I still hope to hear the Honourable Member for St. Lucy speak, because if there is one thing the Honourable Member can say is that there are Honourable Members from the north who have never failed to patronise him. Putting political differences aside, Honourable Members who have patronised him can also say that he demonstrates the highest courtesy, protocol and certainly statesmanship when it comes to accommodating Honourable Members. He did so well in my constituency that I permitted him to catapult himself back in his own constituency and he made some fantastic profits there.

Mr. Speaker, this Act clearly, in a legislative way defines and describes in my experience, for the first time, what a small business really is. In addition, this Act also, by providing a programme of incentives, has had the influence of good people framing it and these people who have framed it recognise that if you are going to offer incentives, you must know precisely who or what qualifies for the incentives.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a system of registration has been designed as being necessary, not just to give notice to the world, because the register could be checked to know who is who there, but registration designed to so regulate matters, as to ensure that scamps and rogues do not abuse the system of incentives.

Let me mention this issue about scamps and rogues. I am no corporate lawyer. I may very well some day qualify to be a lawyer voluntarily helping a credit union or a corporation, but in corporate law it is well known that there are people, especially in England and over and away, who form a number of companies, incorporate them, try to get the benefits of the incorporation, sometimes forming several

companies owned by one man. They involve themselves in all sorts of corporate games and the corporate veil has to be removed to find out who is who.

Mr. Speaker, my passion is getting the better of me as I actively pursue the interest of the small man in a stronger way than the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. Forgive my passion. Old men at some point are subject to passion, particularly after 60 years old as you and I know.

Mr. Speaker, the position is that no system of registration where incentives are part of a package, will permit anyone to defeat the purposes of the registration by forming mock companies and then abusing the system.

I know a fellow who had six one-man companies and if time permits, I can illustrate a scenario where one man can form a company, contrary to many years ago. Certainly in St. Vincent it is doubtful whether one man can form a company, because under their legislation which is about 91 years old, a company means two or more people.

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: In this country one man formed a company and he went to a bank where the manager's low limit for unsecured loans was \$25 000. He got \$25 000 for each of his six companies. He was virtually, Mr. Speaker, a one-man operator of six mock companies, who induced a bank manager who did not carry out the appropriate searches, to lend him \$25 000 for six companies and when he could not pay the loan installments, the bank manager got fired. This type of operation is incredible and it can happen. This legislation foresees and anticipates that and therefore is likely to deal with it through its requirement for registration.

Mr. Speaker, the interesting thing about this legislation is that it requires incorporation. I believe the Honourable Member for St. Lucy when he speaks might be critical of it and will likely say that it does not encourage sole traders and partnerships, especially since they are not incorporated.

Forgive me, Mr. Speaker, but the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is going to say that it sets the standards so high, it allows for incorporation where the sole trader is not going to be a beneficiary and where the partnership is not going to be a beneficiary, because they are all incorporated, but the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has incorporated his company.

Mr. Speaker, pressure is being applied by this legislation to compel people to incorporate. The obvious reason being that incorporation, if you are going to be serious, is the way to go so as to give you limited liability.

This means that when a small man incorporates a business, it has a separate and distinct existence - separate and distinct from a position or degree that if the business has a little problem it does transfer to the business person, as with unincorporated people, one-man businesses and one-man firms. One cannot talk about an unincorporated business being a company.

Unincorporated businesses run the risk of financial ruination. The reason being that when there is an unincorporated entity or firm, the law makes no distinction between the man or woman who owns it and the little firm; the second the firm gets in trouble, the man is in trouble.

Picture a situation, Mr. Speaker, where a sole proprietor had a shop that owes \$30 000 and cannot pay. In law the shop and he are one. He is down the East Coast Road some evening having a good time in a car worth \$30 000, owing a lending institution \$30 000. The lending institution in the midst of his merriment, happiness and joy on the East Coast comes up to him and says, "We have come for security." It may not have been originally secured, but this is an asset you have. "We are holding this to satisfy a debt of your business." He would have been the owner of that car as personal property, but it would have been swept into the unincorporated business, the reason being that a sole trader's business has no separate legal existence from the sole trader.

This legislation foresees a scenario where through education and where through a measure of moral suasion and where through a measure of pressure, people will understand the benefits of incorporation which, I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you already understanding..

There is nothing wrong with signalling to people to incorporate to protect their own personal belongings. We are not going to suggest that incorporation be used when a veil is put on the corporate body for the 'purpose of fraud or where a range of mock companies are created and owned by one individual who goes around mortgaging them or charging them for debt in a situation as the one I had mentioned earlier. 11.40a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions in this Bill are excellent provisions which have been clearly thought out. Another area that requires the attention of this Honourable House is the fact that in the long title it is clear that in addition to financial incentives there is provision for technical support. Mr. Speaker, what is the import of providing technical support to small business? It is one thing to raise \$100 000 in capital either by share capital or loan capital but it would not encourage any new businessman to fund the enterprise purely on loan capital. If the funding of loan capital is exclusive and you do not have ordinary share capital, or any

other type of share capital, what is likely to happen is that, if there is no profit and you are still under that loan obligation you can be in serious trouble. If you have no buffer to keep your business going and the loan capital keeps increasing as a debt and no income is being made to fund the installment payment to that loan capital then you will want further financing.

It is best that small businessmen understand that they should as far as possible raise their first capital through equity or indeed to have a mixture of equity and loan capital and only resort to loan capital. Of course, if a business is very small with a tremendous amount of potential it can risk going the way of pure loan capital. However, I would like to appeal to all persons making use of these enactments to try their utmost to understand the critical role of equity capital in the first days of the business or if they have to borrow extensively to so manage as to ensure that the businesses do not get into trouble.

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: But I was talking, Mr. Speaker, and you must forgive me, because I do not have a note, I do not know where I left them last week.

Another very important provision I want to refer to is this provision for technical support. I feel that though a particular businessman might be inherently and naturally enterprising certainly at the level of being able to do something in the business in the form of working for the business that where he has no managerial skill and does not understand the critical importance of accounting he should be given assistance. Many indigenous Barbadian businesses of the 50's and 60's crashed because many of them were run by persons with technical expertise as their own self-employed workers in their own plant but they did not have a sense of accounting. Many of them saw whatever money coming in as the profit, without factoring in expenses whether it was annual fixed expenses or current expenses and such like. We saw a number of indigenous businesses crashed unsupported in this country because of an absence of management. Some of these businesses were headed by progenitors of persons who became members of this Parliament. I can also add that a lot of small businesses over time crashed because of absence of incorporation. Many of the small businesses, that were run by sole traders and partners, died when the sole traders and partners died. Incorporation, if I can go back to it, therefore allows perpetuity of existence.

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Right. Qualified, Mr. Speaker, but time does not permit me, unless you do allow

me to speak for two hours which I can, Mr. Speaker, to speak to this whole question of the life of a business.

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I feel that if a little fellow from the parish of St. John, which is a place where persons have a "Barbadianness" about them and are therefore likely to be quite honest, sincere and well-meaning in...

Asides.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, If a person has the enterprise and the will but does not have the management, accounting and marketing skills, especially since he or she is operating in a competitive environment or in a financial culture which is not excessively friendly to small businessmen, he or she needs, in my view, a critical amount of support in terms of management counselling, training and education to be able to properly keep his or her business going.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this legislation. Another very interesting thing about this legislation is that it makes bold to itemize the types of business activity that will qualify for incentives. Without being entirely exclusive about it, there is a list of the types of businesses that qualify for the incentives. I believe the wording is, that it includes these businesses without being exclusive about it. In other words, it is not saying that these businesses are the only businesses; it includes these businesses.

If I can speak briefly on the point, Mr. Speaker, I recognise that you have no natural will today to be entertained for another half hour beyond what I have, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member has 5 minutes to go, please.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: If I can conclude, I want to suggest to those persons in Barbados who see themselves as businessmen and ready to become local investors, to recognise that careful thought has to be put into the type of business they will run. Generally, the one fair criticism which can be made of the Barbadian economy, not just the small business sector, is that too many people go into retail trade without careful thought and sometimes set up a retail establishment in the heart of intense competition and then suffer. What a beginning businessmen in Barbados have to try to work out is, in an era where virtually every local economy is establishing themselves on services, whether there may not be a niche out there in this economy for services of various kinds to be sold that do not necessarily require an enormous amount of capital.

I know a chap who used to teach Latin. He was bright enough to transfer his latin expertise into economics without doing a course and he invested in a business selling insurance services involving a measure of exporting of services. You will know from your knowledge of economics, Mr. Speaker, that the export of services would be categorised by an economist to be invisible export which earns foreign exchange.

Our Manifestos of 1991 and 1994 spoke highly of investing politically in small businesses and of encouraging an export driven economy. Beginning Barbadians businessmen must wonder whether the time has not come for them to realise that the retail sector here is impregnated. In every little village now, you see six and seven - impregnated - and are virtually bursting in that condition. The time has come when the creative genius of Barbados must be encouraged to stay in front. I said that to say this, Mr. Speaker, that many of us do not see ourselves as hewers of wood and drawers of water. Invariably, the population will want to work as a clerk, a teacher, a policeman or to serve selflessly as a politician. There are those who see themselves as being natural businessmen who need the financial incentives provided by this legislation, who need a system of control in their own interest and who need the type of support contemplated by this piece of legislation. They also need to measure the financial climate and the economic climate of the world. 11.50a.m.

Great Britain, a conservative country in its behaviour, has at last recognised that modern economies are not relying exclusively on agriculture, on mining or even tourism. A lot of modern economies are succeeding by selling services. I mentioned the small businessman who was a Latin teacher who now has a small business selling insurance services, not for himself, Mr. Speaker - he is not even a widely travelled man - but he is earning in foreign exchange for this country.

Any politician who would have heard the debate on economic enfranchisement over the years, any politician with a political conscience who knows this thrust to economic enfranchisement was set back between 1990 and 1995, must from his marrow lend his support to this piece of legislation. Any politician with a sense of morality must, from his guts, support this piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, I think it signals the commitment of the greatest political institution in Barbados to do something and not for the first time on the behalf of the small poor black man. I am obliged to you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, when one looks at this particular Bill and when one studies this particular Bill one cannot understand why the Honourable Member who just sat down would have said that good people framed this Bill. When one looks at the Bill and understands

that it is supposed to be encouraging people to incorporate their businesses one would have to ask how we can have a situation on page 5 of the Bill that still refers to income tax deductions.

If you are dealing with incorporation you cannot be talking about income tax deductions. Companies pay corporation taxes not income taxes. That is a small matter and you need to clean up that particular point.

If we are going to be dealing with Protocol II and Protocol V this particular Bill conflicts with those two Protocols. One must first study Protocol II and Protocol V and if one had studied them one could not have brought this Bill, especially when on page two it tells you that 75% of the shares must be locally owned. The Minister must explain what is "locally owned". Also, Sir, that the share capital must be \$1 million. Also that the sales...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. Before the Honourable Member misleads himself, in clause 3(1) it says:

"For the purposes of this Act, a small business is an enterprise that:

c) has not more than \$ 1 000 000 dollars as authorised or paid up capital."

It does not have to have \$ 1 million. It could be \$500 000.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It is true that we can always rely on the Honourable Member for St. Thomas when he is Prime Minister to defend the truth but there is no reason for him to defend the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know that whenever people think about small businesses they tend to think about scratch grain. Let me give you an example. A man who is involved...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member would not even read his own document. I have the DLP Manifesto for this year. On page 12, column 1, item 2:

"The DLP's Pledge to Help Entrepreneurs:

Tax Incentive will be created to help expand opportunities for entrepreneurs to survive, thrive and create more good jobs. The DLP will waive duties and taxes on all businesses with less than \$1,000,000 turnover..."

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have not even reached "turnover" yet, so I do not understand the point of order. I was on capital.

What I am saying, Sir, is that when one considers the amount of money that has been given to certain projects in Barbados, the Barbados Labour Party cannot come to a group and talk 'chicken feed' to this particular group hoping that they will catch at 'scratch grain'. I am saying that Protocol II expands the market within the Caribbean and Protocol II must have some relationship with this particular Bill. It is clear to me, Sir, that Protocol II was not connected to this Bill when the Minister was doing this particular draft because it is okay for a large business to have a relationship with a company outside of Barbados but what this Bill is saying is that small business cannot have a relationship with a business within CARICOM or otherwise. What makes it different, Sir?

The small businessman must be able to use the same expertise that is being used by the large businesses to develop his business. There are certain companies who were not allowed to come to Barbados to manufacture certain products. What they did, Sir, was to combine their particular interest with certain companies in Barbados and they were given all the incentives they needed. What is wrong, Sir, with a company that needs capital allowing another company within the Caribbean, that offers a particular product that can help his business, to come and give 49% of those shares. Why can it happen for large businesses and it cannot happen for small business?

There are small businessmen who are now producing onions. They do not have the necessary capital to export that particular product when it is grown in December. They also need to have a market outside of Barbados and I hope the Minister of Agriculture is listening because we are going to have a serious problem in this country as it relates to small farmers where they are producing but the Government is not providing the market for the particular product.

I will tell you, Sir, that I am going to give the Minister two months warning because in December and January we are going to have a surplus of onions and we will not have a market for it.

I am saying that this Bill stops a farmer on the land lease, whether it is in St. Lucy, St. Philip or anywhere in Barbados, from developing a fifty-fifty relationship or a forty-nine/fifty-one relationship by which that farmer can say to someone in St. Lucia or in Jamaica that he will produce the product while the other provides the capital, he will grow the product and export x amount to St. Lucia. It cannot happen with this Bill, Sir.

If a farmer has twenty-five acres of land and he wants to produce onions then he will be regarded as a small businessman. That is nonsense. This Act looks at share capital and the number of shares owned locally and the

turnover, but it should also be look at the export potential of the particular product of the particular business person. It should also look at the possibility of his contribution to import substitution to the country. Figures are tossed around whenever it comes to the small man in this country. That is exactly what you get. Sir, I am saying that this Bill is flawed. I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, now that he is acting as the Prime Minister would have a look at it for the first time and give some advice to his junior Minister. 12.00 noon.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Before this Bill gets to Cabinet, I have to give a certificate that it is in order, so that it can have the consideration of Cabinet and for introduction into Parliament. I cannot give that certificate unless I have read it, otherwise, it would really be dishonest on my part to certify something that I have not read. I wish to assure the Honourable Member that on Monday last week, although I had certified the Bill previously, the parts in heavy black type were amended in the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's Office and was faxed to me last Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock. I believe that at a similar time it was also faxed to the Ministry.

I am very familiar with this Bill and the Honourable Member must not presume that I carry out my responsibilities in a vacuum or oblivious to what the law requires.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am saying that we must understand that when Protocol II which allows people from within the Caribbean to set up business throughout Barbados, some of these people will be quite prepared to come and have joint ventures with people in Barbados. I want to know what is the position of 3(b) now that this Act is being discussed and when Protocol II and V are fully implemented.

Sir, any small businessman must be given scope to expand. What is happening with this particular Bill is that you have a situation where you are limiting small business people by producing certain figures. If you were to ask the Minister how he arrived at these figures, the Minister cannot tell you or give you any logical reason why he came up with the \$2 million. The Minister is saying that if we were manufacturing cars in Barbados, all a manufacturer has to do is produce one car per week at a value of \$40 000 therefore limiting his production. The \$2 million must be removed and we need to look at the gross profit or the net profit of the business. It would have been better to look at that aspect of it instead of tying it to sales and paid up capital.

I would like the Minister not to see it as a personal criticism but to consider what is being said. He should also

consider what the Honourable Member for St. James North said because you need to connect the Protocols with this Bill. If the Protocols are not connected with this particular Bill, it is nonsense. There is also a need for businesses in Barbados to get a better understanding of what they are faced with in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I can describe you as a small businessman. I would like to think that I can describe you as a small businessman even if your sales are over \$10 million. What we do not understand in this country is that we as politicians call our people large business people but there is a particular sector down town regardless of what your sales are, they still consider our people to be small business people. Our people are not judged by their sales. The Minister needs to understand that and he needs to find out why this is so.

Whenever concessions for large business are being asked for in this country, these people know that they regard themselves as large business and they put their arguments for themselves...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed orderly.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: We have a situation in this country where certain business people feel that they can only write proposals on their behalf and whenever a proposal is written for small businesses, they feel that it should be limited in a particular way. I am saying that this particular nonsense must stop. Government need not look at the expansion of large businesses but should set up a framework that allows small businesses to grow and develop into large businesses, especially those who export and especially those who, when in a crunch, remain in Barbados. Many people in this country do not understand that whenever a country goes through a crisis, it is not the small businesses that run but also the large businesses. We must understand that.

I am also saying that the Minister must understand that this Bill comes at a time when small businesses are going to be affected in a major way. The decline in foreign exchange and the credit squeeze inflicted by this Government over the last few days will affect the small businesses more so than the large businesses. The Honourable Member for St. James North spoke about equity and loan capital but I will speak about equity and working capital.

Many people would know that small businesses suffer from equity and working capital. They need to connect and they need to find agencies. I am not talking about the seven or eight agencies that were set up by the Government where the majority of the money instead being issued as loans to

the small businesses is paid in wages. I am saying that is the difference between having a bank like the Barbados Development Bank and the other seven or eight government agencies. If I had to operate anything and I had to brag about anything I would prefer to brag about the BDB instead of bragging about the other seven or eight entities that were set up by the Government. Wherever one goes in this country, be it construction or in the hotel industry, one can see the work that was done by the BDB and they did not need seven entities to do that. One bank - the BDB - and some of the major construction companies in this country have been developed out of that one bank. 12.10p.m.

The BDB which was set up to help small businesses never said to them, "you are too large and we are going to stop lending you money." They continued lending them, but now there is a situation where this Government is bringing a Bill and instead of looking at the enlightened policies developed by the Democratic Labour Party when they formed the BDB, they are now going to limit small people. In other words, the country is progressing, inflation is going up and you are pushing a figure and saying that this is where you are going to remain. It is nonsense. There must be room for expansion and sales. The sales of a company does not necessarily mean that they are profits. It is clear to me that this is the same thing that the Honourable Member for St. James North spoke about. He was not speaking to us over here. He was speaking to his Honourable Members over there, because when one is going to see only the sales figure of a company in this Bill and cannot relate to the profit margin of the company something is wrong.

Making money in sales does not necessarily mean that a profit is being realised and that must be understood. Small businesses need to have the avenues where they can develop and also make profits. That is why, Mr. Speaker, in this debate, I support my Leader, because small businesses must not only get Bills being laid in Parliament, they must be able to get an equal share of the incentives that the large companies in Barbados have had for years in order to enable them to develop their businesses. Small businesses must be able to tap into the various ministries and must not be seen as those businesses where you come when the Government does not have the necessary money to institute them.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I would expect you to say I am struggling because honestly this morning when I listened to the Honourable Member for St. James North, I really thought he was presenting the case for small businesses on that particular side.

Another thing that small businesses must understand is that they should have the right to demand a particular portion

of the purchases of Government. The same way that there are large businesses who know every year how much money in sales they balance sheet will reflect coming from the Government, small businesses in this country must be able to do likewise.

It is regrettable that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is not here, because if he was here I am sure he would support this particular point. I know the Honourable Member for St. Thomas will support it too but as any good leader, he has to defend his troops.

Sir, in the year 2000, we will be getting free trade. The World Trade Organisation will be dictating the policies and small businesses in Barbados will be scrambling to get a share of the cake. I want the Honourable Member for St. Michael North when he gets up, to tell me how this Bill is going to stop free trade from affecting small businesses. I want to know how trade liberalisation is going to impact and how this Bill will cushion that. I will be waiting on those issues to be discussed by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North. One would expect that as Minister, he would get up and declare his policy as it relates to trade liberalisation and that the small business sector will have something to hold on to, because it is from the Ministry that he knows they will be looking for that hope.

I expect the Honourable Member, Sir, to get up and tell this Parliament how many times and at how many Cabinet meetings he has brought a case for the Small Business Association to get a share of the trade developed by the Government sector.

I also expect the Honourable Member to tell me how many trade missions he has gone on within the Caribbean or outside the Caribbean to make sure that come December that the onion crop will not have a particular problem. I am giving the Minister of Trade two months to look after the farmers in that area. This Bill must be connected to what is happening within the country, because within the country the farmers are moving quicker than the Government. The farmers are producing, but the Government is not delivering the necessary legislation to protect their interest.

I also want the Honourable Member for St. Michael North to tell me what impact the inflow of vegetables will have on small businesses and small farmers when the year 2000 is ushered in. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North should be sitting down with the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and discussing our agricultural policy to make sure that the impact of trade liberalisation would not wipe out all the small farmers and all the small businesses who strive off the backs of the small farmers in Barbados. I expect when the Honourable Member for St. Michael North gets up he will answer these issues and give solutions to

correct the particular problems facing small farmers and small businesses within Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: My Honourable Leader is telling me that it is not fair to call on two ministers and only one to deliver. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael North is quite capable of giving those answers. I have confidence in him. I have always felt that he has not delivered because he has not been given the opportunity. Now he has these issues to deal with and I know he will deliver today and he will tell us what plans he has in place to deliver the small farmers and the other small business sector out of their agony in this country.

Mr. Speaker, one must understand that the dictates of the large businesses cannot continue to dictate the policy of Government. I have said in this House on more than one occasion, on nearly every Bill, that we are coming to a stage and we are coming to crunch time. Whenever there is crunch time in this country the large businesses tell you how much money they are going to invest elsewhere.

In the early 1990's I recall about five companies, when the country was in trouble, fled from the country and set up businesses elsewhere when the country needed the foreign exchange, but you cannot tell me one small business which left the country, took foreign exchange from the country and went out of the country. That is why it is regrettable that this Bill did not come in 1996 or 1997 when the honey was flowing. Now the honey has dried up, Sir, this Bill is before us; an empty promise in a Bill and nothing to alleviate the problem of the small businessman. If they have good intentions, it is clear that if we do not do the right thing the small businessman will shortly be faced with a mini budget which will inflict more pain on him.

The credit squeeze will have an impact more so on the small businessman than on the bigger one, because he already has his reserves stashed away and the small businessman, even though the economy has been flowing - according to figures - has not been able to get that fair share. I am saying that the intentions of the Bill might be right but the timing is wrong.

Asides.

12.20p.m.

It is flawed and I have pointed out the flaws. Every Bill you bring to this House I must interpret it for you. You have intentions and you place them wrong so I have to interpret them the right way. I have always said to my comrades, no matter what ideas they give you, you deliver them wrong.

I am saying, Sir, that the timing of this Bill is wrong. I have always said this in this House and you are aware of it, Sir, and you can agree with me, Sir, that I have said it, not that you might agree with what I am saying in here.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Let me say something about the Honourable Speaker. Nobody either on this Side or that Side can dictate the mind of the Speaker. We are fortunate to have a Speaker not like some within the Caribbean.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is why you have two more minutes.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Right. That is why, Sir, I honestly believe that when you are privileged to have a Speaker like the one we have that he should be treated the way he should be. I say no more on this matter at this particular time. I have gone to Trinidad and seen other people treated in a particular way. I want to see my Speaker treated better because he is a small businessman. I do not expect the Barbados Labour Party because he is a small businessman to deal with his particular problem. But the Democratic Labour Party will deal with them soon so do not worry.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Anyhow, I am saying, Sir, the Honourable Members on the Other Side must understand that the key thing to this debate is the timing of concessions to a particular person. Any good doctor will tell you that you cannot wait until your patient is dying to give the patient the medicine. Even if you have given the patient the medicine, you must give the patient the medicine in the right way. I am saying that you have given the medicine wrong and you have also given it to the patient at the last breath.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I am lending my support to this Bill. Indeed, I think this particular Bill which is now before this Honourable Chamber is almost revolutionary. It is both revolutionary and timely which is the exact opposite of what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was trying to say.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, what is happening here is that Government is targeting small business as an area worthy of incentives, that are crying out for financial and technical support. Government is offering incentives to small businesses and this area of incentives was very clearly and ably expounded and explained by the Honourable Minister for Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development

where small businesses will now attract a 25% rather than a 40% corporation tax. There will be an exemption from import duty on plant and equipment for use and from stamp duty on documents relating to their business. These are just some of the incentives being offered by Government.

I am also very pleased, Mr. Speaker - this is an area that has touched me - to learn that Government will also be making provision for technical assistance to small businesses. I have, Mr. Speaker, quite a few friends who may be regarded as small businessmen and they are small businessmen, what they have been saying to me over the last couple of years is now actually happening. It is almost as though, Sir, that Government is meeting them halfway.

Mr. Speaker, Government will be providing technical assistance in the area of quality control, product design and business plans. These are areas in which many of them really need some guidance and assistance. The whole question of the business plan, managerial accounting and budgetary analysis - I will say something on this later - these are areas in which there is definitely a crying need for help. These are very important issues, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, to criticize the Bill and look for loopholes in it, in the way in which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy sought to do, is* Mr. Speaker, to close your eyes to the challenges and the problems which the small business sector is facing. Sir, there is the question of the high cost of raw materials and this is worrying a lot of small businessmen. Wrapped up in this whole question of the high cost of raw materials is the question of costing and pricing the end product. Many of the small businessmen do the pricing and costing in a very *ad hoc* manner, they just charge. You can go to someone who is making furniture or who is repairing the motorcar and the pricing methods that they use is very *ad hoc* and they need assistance in this. I do not see why we should come here and make something like this partisan.

What the small businessman does not do is, sit down and say, well look, if I charge myself \$80 an hour and I worked on this car or this furniture for 3 hours, my raw material is so much and so much, and I need a profit of so much and so much, what should I charge for the end product. Many businessmen do not do this. It is in an area like this particular one that they really need a lot of assistance. There is also the question of poor packaging and marketing habits. Government is seeking to put measures in place to assist the businessmen with these things - outmoded designs, outdated tools and equipment. Many small businessmen, Mr. Speaker, do not follow the technological development in their area of work. It is a fact. They are concerned with using what perhaps their father or grandfather used. To this end, they do not have best practices in the areas of operation and they need guidance and some of the technical assistance that we

are planning to put in place will be to alleviate the problems such as these. There is a lot of wastage due to poor production practices. As I said, I have friends who operate as small businessmen and I would know some of the problems which they cried out for. What we are seeking to do, as I say, is to give them technical support to overcome these challenges.

I said, Mr. Speaker, that I know people in the area and it seems to me that more and more people are getting into small businesses. Many of them see the entry into small businesses as being a type of safe shelter now for job losses and so on in the formal sector. There are people who are saying that I used to do this and I used to do that but never again will someone be in a position to dismiss me, I will get into small business myself. They are seeing it, as I said, as a very safe shelter from the formal sector. They realized, as I said, some friends have told me this, that there are limited employment opportunities in the formal sector and that it is better for them to work as small businessmen than to be perpetual job seekers. 12.30p.m.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is an acknowledgment that in harsh economic times a lot of people will be forced to create avenues for personal advancement. It is an acknowledgment too that Government needs to equip these small businessmen with the tools to effectively manage the businesses they create. This Bill is an acknowledgment that small businessmen need help.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is Government's responsibility to see that these businesses which are being created are neither 'fly by night' businesses, as Barbadians would say, nor 'flash in the pan'. There is no doubt that many of them come up and fail, as the Honourable Member for St. James North said this morning. Government is not interested in numbers. We are interested in sustainability. In other words, if 1 000 small businesses spring up tomorrow and then 900 of those small businesses go under by year end, I think Government has a duty and responsibility to put measures in place to ensure that does not recur. We are not interested in saying that so many hundreds of small businesses were created. What we are saying is, if more than half are going to go under, we want to make sure that when they are created they remain there in operation.

The point I am making, Sir, is that legislation is one thing but we also have to create the mindset. We have the responsibility as a Government to create the correct attitude among small businessmen.

Basic management training, I said I would have come back to it, Mr. Speaker, is crucial if small businesses are to be successful. One of the biggest mistakes which a lot of

small businessmen make is the whole question of the mixing of accounts. The Honourable Member for St. James North also touched on it a bit. If a man works for his business then the business pays him, I see no problem with that. That is the way it should be but what some businessmen do is to take up the business' money, whether he is travelling to Las Vegas or to Europe, and there is a single account. That single account is the business account as well as his own personal account. That businessman hardly knows what he has spent on his business and how much he has spent on himself.

Mr. Speaker, it is a basic accounting fact that if one uses money which is not his and uses it on himself that he creates a debt. He owes somebody for the money he has just used. It is not his and it should be paid back. A lot of small businessmen use the money from that single account in the same way as if I were borrowing from my friend so I do not have to pay it back. A lot of small businessmen operate in that fashion.

Mr. Speaker, then there is the whole question of shortsightedness too. Businessmen have to realize that in a business profits could very well come in spurts. One does not always have good days or good years. The thousands one makes in one month may not be a real pattern. It may not be that one is going to make that this month, next month and the following month. They have to realise that there will be lean weeks, months and years. They need guidance in this particular area as well. Too many of them are not prepared for those lean months. They then choke the businesses and they do not give the businesses that opportunity to grow. As soon as the lean months and the lean years strike them a lot of them are willing to throw in the towel. I think this is something we have to explain to them.

All these things which Government is putting in place by giving them assistance in these areas will go a long way to making them far more resilient and successful than they were in the past.

I have heard on the Floor of this House of nearly all the businesses wanting to do the same thing which the other person is doing, a kind of follow pattern. If I see the chap next door having a motor mechanic shop or auto paints then I should have that type of operation as well because he is making a dollar and I want to jump in there too. It happens even on the highway where fellows sell corn. One fellow will set up there and begin to sell corn, the next fellow goes and starts selling corn the same place. They do not change the type of product, not even the type of corn. One would not even say he would oil the corn, put a little pepper on it to make it taste a bit different. They all want to do the identical thing. These are some of the things we will be addressing with this particular piece of legislation.

I want to urge small businessmen as well to pay the NIS. I am not speaking of the company. I am speaking of the persons operating the businesses. Too many of them default on this particular issue. It is something for their benefit. I hope they understand that. Too many of them see the payment of NIS as an imposition. It is not an imposition. It is a social security system that is put in place to help them. When some of them take ill and have to be off work, there is no unemployment benefit for them and the businesses fail and go under.

I also want to urge them too to make provision for their retirement. Too many of us have good businesses and we do well when we are working but in the days when we cannot work any longer and we go home there is nothing. I know of cases in St. Philip where it virtually brings tears to my eyes to know how well the people were doing before and in their retirement now they have nothing at all and the only thing they are depending on is the old age pension. 12.40p.m.

I do believe that when all these technical assistance programmes have been put in place that small businessmen will come to realise that they have certain responsibilities to themselves to make sure that they prepare themselves for their years of retirement.

Mr. Speaker, as I wind up, I do not see the need for us to be partisan in debating a Bill such as this. I see no reason why when something of this nature which is positive comes before the House the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in particular has to be looking for faults, saying the Bill is flawed and looking for confrontation.

I remember at one stage the Honourable Member said the Bill limits production; that a man only needs to provide one car a week. Why go to that extreme in something like this which is trying hard to help businessmen? I do not see, Mr. Speaker, how he could propose to put the case for the small businessman in Barbados, the small black man that he always talks about because if they had done what they should have done when they had the opportunity this Bill would have been a *fait accompli*. I can hear the small businessmen in Barbados saying, when they listen to what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has said, "I came to you when I was hungry and you did not give me any meat. I came to you when I was thirsty and you did not give me any drink. What are you talking about now?"

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

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

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

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I offer my full support for the Bill before this Honourable Chamber. I believe that this Bill will come to be regarded as one of the landmark pieces of legislation in respect to this administration and certainly in respect of this period of governance of Barbados as we come to the end of the twentieth century.

When we look at the development of our society and our economy over the course of the last sixty to seventy years, there is absolutely no doubt in our minds that the task which confronts our generation in particular will be the one that lies in securing the sustainable economic prosperity of Barbados and hence the improvement of the quality of life for all Barbadians in a meaningful and sustainable way. Equally the economic enfranchisement of thousands of Barbadians who for the most part have remained marginalised or outside of the centre of mainstream economic activity in this country for the largest period of our settlement to date.

We have seen previous Parliaments and eras of politicians, particularly in the last sixty and seventy years, set about the task of political and social enfranchisement in a massive way. That in large measure has led to our pride in the fact of being regarded as within the top three developing countries in the United Nations Human Development Index.

For the most part, in spite of the gains we have made as a country, we have not yet attained the goal of full employment nor have we attained the desired goal of ensuring greater equity among our people in terms of the wealth distribution.

We believe as a government, Mr. Speaker, and we have maintained this hope in the last parliamentary term as well as this one, that the maintenance of a strong and vibrant small business sector is an essential ingredient in our strategy towards trying to attain as close to full employment for our people as possible. There is absolutely no doubt in our minds that the proliferation of small businesses in this society will do more to the creation of jobs than the expansion of medium and large size businesses. To that extent, Mr. Speaker, when we indicated in our 1994 campaign before we

became the Government at that time that we were prepared to treat the creation of jobs as our number one issue, we also understood that it would be incumbent upon us to develop certain strategies that were capable of achieving that goal.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that we not only designated a cabinet minister with specific responsibility for the small business sector but that throughout the series of the Budgets delivered by the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance over the course of the last five years, there has always been a great focus on the development of the small business sector. One of the first moves of this administration in its last term was to ensure that the secretariat of the Small Business Association was fully funded so that they could develop all of their skills and that they could provide for the members of their organisation in a professional way. At the same time that that was happening we went about the task of institutional strengthening, developing a policy unit within that Ministry to ensure that the Ministry would be in a position to respond to the policy issues that would raise their heads during the course of our interaction as a government with them.

We also ensured that a sum of \$2 million was allocated for a small business venture development fund, and it was with some regret that we discovered the difficulties that attached to the activating of this \$2 million so that small business operators could genuinely benefit from this fund which we had allocated through one of the Minister of Finance's budgetary presentation.

I am happy, however, having said that, to learn that by January of 2000 the funds from that \$2 million will actually be activated and small operators will in fact be benefiting in respect of their programme and their assistance for venture capital. Detailed plans and construction actually started for a small business and new enterprise centre at Fontabelle, St. Michael. I want to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that when all these initiatives are combined with the legislative framework which is before us today and the fiscal incentives which are now being codified in this legislative framework, as well as the special tax regime which is being offered for small business, that this in fact, provides an excellent framework for the development of business. All of this was done within a period of five years. 2.10p.m.

Mr. Speaker, you, of course, will remember the establishment of the five separate institutions to assist in the funding of small business. The Micro Enterprise Lending Agency; Fund Access; Enterprise Growth Fund Limited; in terms of further venture capital, the Urban Development Commission; the Rural Development Commission and within my own Ministry, the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme working in collaboration with the Youth Business

Trust. We must remember that apart from the funds Government has put in those other agencies, since 1995, my Ministry has been providing funds for the Youth Business Trust in the sum of or about \$200 000 a year to ensure that those funds can be lent to young entrepreneurs at concessionary rates, coupled with them committing to undergo a period of training and monitoring to ensure that they can benefit from it.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that when you look at all of these initiatives and you add to them the fundamental one of training, then we will have a holistic regime that has been designed to ensure that Barbados can benefit from the expansion of the small business sector. Indeed, we can see persons coming to the fore and being able to create jobs for themselves, their families and their communities.

I want to spend some time speaking on some aspects of the legislation in terms of the groups that it will impact upon.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is important to expose young people to aspects of entrepreneurship if we are to reach anywhere near our goal of trying to attain full employment. We have established the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme which got off to an excellent start by the person who is now Consul General at Toronto.

We were able to work with a number of established private sector entities and personalities to create a membership scheme so that those young entrepreneurs would have established businessmen on whom they could call at any time of day or night. We were able to put a programme of training in place for them. Invariably, it was a six-month programme of training relating to the fundamentals of accounting, marketing, planning and all of the various things that they would need to be exposed to if they were to become successful small businessmen like the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

We also put in place, Mr. Speaker, Sir, opportunities for them to be able to access financing. Not from the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme itself but through application to the Youth Business Trust to whom the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme committed a sum of money every year for on-lending. May I say that it was possible to borrow \$5 000 at one time or a maximum of \$25 000 over a specified period of time - I think it was three years or four years- at concessionary rates of interest. In addition to all of that, there have been specified services that we have now been developing both in terms of accounting and marketing so that we can provide technical assistance to those young entrepreneurs.

There is an excellent magazine, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether you have ever seen it, which is produced by that organisation every quarter and which details the

successes that they have had with the creation of young entrepreneurs. We did not want to become all things to all people but we recognised that if we could get a group of young people who had either already exhibited an interest in small business or whose ideas were so excellent and whose commitment and discipline were such that we felt they would steer the course, we would work with them irrespective of their background and their focus.

There are people in that programme who are making glassware and lingerie. There are people in the eco-tourism project and in the more traditional areas such as catering. It spreads the whole gamut. I am very happy that we have been able to provide that impetus and fillip for young people in this society who want to become successful in their own business enterprises.

The fundamental point, however, in relation to the establishment of the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme was not that it sought to go to hundreds of people at once but we tried to create confidence in young people. Not that they would never lose money in a year but that they recognise that there was a course of action and a type of behaviour that was required of them and also a confidence and willingness to take risks that were required for business and to be successful in business for the long haul. If this was not instilled in them from the very beginning, we would have a situation where they would go into business for a year or two and then go to work for somebody to be secured as we as black people have been taught to do through the educational system.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in working with the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme, it was also recognised that because we could not be all things to all people, that we needed a separate public education programme that could reach the broad masses of persons if we expected an entrepreneurial culture to develop in Barbados. Indeed, Sir, it is for that reason that the Ministry of Education, in taking decisions about curriculum reform, took a decision that in the citizenship module which is being designed and piloted in part at the moment, which will span from Form 2 to Form 4 of the secondary school, that in Form 4, for the entire three terms, there would only be two modules, one on social and negotiating skills and one on entrepreneurship.

Meaning, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that within the foreseeable future, every school child in Barbados at secondary school will have to go through one year's programme in entrepreneurship because we recognise that even if they end up working for someone, they must be exposed to the basic rudiments of what is necessary for a person to be a successful entrepreneur. We hope that in working with existing programmes such as Junior Achievers and the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme that we can actually

give them opportunities to practise those skills and not just learn them in a classroom fashion by way of chalk and blackboard.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, when the time comes over the next year for us to present the new National Curriculum to the country that it will be included as a significant module for a core course for all secondary school students in Barbados.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, and I have suggested this to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, that in our adult literacy programmes which we are signing off and funding as we speak, that part of the contents of those adult literacy programmes should reflect a module on entrepreneurship in the same way that it will also reflect a module on the rights and responsibilities of citizens and a module on parenting. While you are teaching those adults to read and to improve their education, you are at the same time giving them the content and information base so that they can improve their own skills as persons.

I also believe that the Poverty Alleviation Programme and the Social Investment Fund have been targetted to create enterprise among many of our people who are now marginalised or disenfranchised. To that extent it is going to require an element of training at the community level in order to be able to get them from the position of dependence to the position of independence.

There are too many women in this country, Mr. Speaker, particularly in the parish of St. Michael, Christ Church, St. Philip and parts of St. James - in urban Barbados and suburban Barbados who are without jobs and who have families to support. They have skills but do not believe in themselves and therefore do not know how to translate those skills into a marketable commodity. They do not know how to recognise that there are services they can draw on from these ministries. 2.20p.m.

I believe that it is incumbent upon the Minister to ensure that there is a massive public information campaign so that persons are aware of what services are there for them to draw on in terms of technical assistance. What funding options there are in terms of the Urban Development Commission, the Micro Enterprise Lending Agency and if they are young people, the Youth Business Trust. Wherever and whatever opportunities there are for those people under this piece of legislation, for those who may move and become more established at a quicker rate and who therefore have the opportunity to be able to plan and provide for themselves.

One of the important things that this legislation seeks to do too, Mr. Speaker, and we may take it for granted

because it is not a fiscal incentive, but it is the provision of technical assistance in areas that will allow people to be more competitive with their product or service. I refer specifically to the section that deals with the provision, section 9 subsection 2 of the Bill, which allows them to receive assistance in the development of the product design, the development of packaging and labelling, the provision of assistance and quality control. All of these things are important.

You know, Mr. Speaker, that if someone were to offer you a service and it is presented badly, and the next time you go back the service varies in terms of the quality of the product or the quality of the service, you are not going to go back to them again. Part of the needs in the past of being a successful small businessman is to be able to build confidence and loyalty to your brand, product or business.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Minister is misleading the House, because the Honourable Minister is giving the impression that the Act states that "there will be". The Act states that "there may", so I would like the Honourable Minister to clarify that point and tell the House whether "may" will be removed and that these services will be offered.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will forgive the Honourable Member for St. Lucy for his lack of knowledge in respect of his legal language, but "may" is inclusive of all action that can take place. Anybody who is drafting for the Government departments that exist, will know especially where they are not specified in name and number, will recognise that you cannot make a mandatory requirement on things that do not exist for the future.

Suffice it to say, and I will refer him to the Budgetary Proposals of Wednesday, September 2, 1998 where, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister made it absolutely clear in his Budgetary presentation that this package of technical assistance will be made available to small businesses. The Use of the word "may" there, is just simply a matter of drafting, but I do not want to dwell on that part for too long. I want to get back to the substance of the technical assistance.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Minister is stating that the Prime Minister is saying one thing, Sir, and the Minister who comes after the Prime Minister is saying something quite different.

I need this particular position clarified, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, page 22 of the Prime Minister's speech it is very clear that the

technical assistance will include: package design development; marketing; label design development; participation in overseas trade shows; preparation of business plans to facilitate access to start up finance and management.

In the piece of legislation that is before us, the language that is used conforms with language that is used by parliamentary draftsmen. Perhaps the problem lies in the fact that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was not accustomed to persons when they said that they will do something following through on it. Therefore, he wanted to bring his own lack of good faith, experienced on that side of the House to judge what legislation is before the House, Sir. I will forgive him for that part.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move on to the Cultural Industry. Very quietly, this Government has put a regime in place for the development of the cultural industries that no other Government in independent Barbados or before has ever put in place, or further it is one that is even more attractive than any other to be found this part of the Region for the Cultural Industry.

To what do I refer, Mr. Speaker? We have given the cultural industries in this piece of legislation, the opportunity to apply to the Minister to be designated as an approved small business, so that they may benefit from the fiscal incentives outlined in this legislation. As well as the technical assistance package to which I just referred. As well as opportunities under the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme. As well as the incentives which existed under the Income Tax Act for export tax allowance, research and marketing and research and development.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are very few cultural industries that have a gross turnover at the moment in excess of \$2 million or that employ in excess of 25 people. The majority of them existing in Barbados will have an opportunity to have a life line to allow their businesses to become competitive. But we did not stop there. For the musicians, we ensured in the Budget speech of the Prime Minister three years ago that incentives were given for duty free access for the plant and equipment necessary for recording studios and for the manufacturing of compact discs of local music. We also indicated a willingness to put in place a regime for a Bill and I am dealing with that on a one by one basis. We also amended the International Business Companies legislation allowing Barbadians now to benefit from the provisions under that legislation.

It means, Mr. Speaker, that if we have an artiste who is selling his goods or services outside of CARICOM he can set up a company, an international business company, and be taxed at the special rate of taxation provided for those classes of companies. Within the CARICOM territories if he is

exporting goods or services under his domestic company - local company - under the Companies Act, he can export to them but still benefit from the export tax allowance by the foreign exchange generated in those other territories.

Now, for his domestic activity in Barbados, instead of being taxed at the 40% he now has an opportunity to be taxed at the 25% as well as benefit from all the other fiscal incentives that may reduce the amount of taxable income before the rate of taxation is applied.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I venture to say that there has never been a regime put in place for artistes that has been as attractive to encourage them to expand their activities and to become a major player in the foreign exchange earning industries of this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Special Development Zone legislation which is also for approved cultural and artistic activity, allows persons to benefit from the tax incentives there within the four special development zones that have been so far designated by the Minister of Finance. All of this is in place for artistes now to become mainstream players in respect of this.

There is one area of activity that I believe we need to work on more assiduously and that is access to finance, not from the point of view that it is not available but that very often what artistes require is a greater amount of working capital. To that extent there needs to be a sensitivity campaign more so with the commercial banks than with the funding institutions that Government has established to assist small businesses. I look forward to being able to help with that.

Suffice it to say that the National Cultural Foundation has also through its business development section started to collect a number of databases and baseline policy data to allow us to be able to assist artiste in the music field or the field of fine arts or any other field, to be able to meet the market challenges. Many of them are under-capitalised and do not have the base to be able to put on promotional and marketing campaigns or participate in trade shows. We have filled that gap for them during the course of the last three years. 2.30p.m.

Mr. Speaker, there is one last point I would wish to make before sitting and this relates to the impact of globalisation on the small business sector. The reality is, whether we like it or not, there are challenges which we will confront as a small island developing state in relation to the opening up of trade. We have, strategically as a country, to try to make a special case for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who by their very size are inherently vulnerable to a

number of things including economic activity natural and man-made disasters at a global level that can impact negatively on a small open economy such as ours.

We have been trying to make a special case for Small Island Developing States such as ours in our negotiations in the international trade economy. By the same token there has to be a recognition that it is no longer good enough for us to rely on preferences and subsidies in order to be able to compete with our neighbours or with the international world. Barbados has a global destiny. The sooner our businessmen and our people recognise that we have a global destiny and one to which we must now prepare for, the better we will be in meeting the challenges of the early 21st century. We have to determine what sectors we can be competitive in by reason of the structure of our society and our economy, and by our labour costs and utility costs and other related things.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I could not believe yesterday when I heard the Opposition Senator, Senator Mascoll, in a press conference actually telling investors that they should go and invest in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica and everywhere else but Barbados by reason of what he perceived our competitive advantages to be or not to be. I want to suggest, Sir, that it is the worst act reflecting a lack of patriotism that I have ever seen from a Member of Parliament of either House over the course of the last ten years. I want to know when the shoe is on the other foot whether he will still be telling the same persons that they should go and invest in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica and everywhere else except Barbados. I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that the time has come for us to be more selective about those activities that we do go in and I refer to small, medium and big businesses because whatever activity it is, our goal must be to provide service that is world class and to be competitive with any form of business any part of the world. We do not need to expand far and wide and in everything but we need to be selective and to build the right policy environment for that to happen. While I recognised that they would be challenges placed by the new international trading environment, I also believe that they are going to be opportunities for us to expand into other countries in a way that we never would have before. Certainly, in terms of services, technology has made the movement of information cheaper than the movement of people. Therefore, it allows us to be able to participate...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, sorry I took so long to rise on this point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is seeking to impute some motives to a Senator of the Other Place. In fact, Sir, she is saying that it would have been quite in keeping with the notion both of a single market and the right of establishment which this Government has signed on the behalf of the people of Barbados in term of Protocol II

which essentially wherever you establish your business, be it Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago or elsewhere, once you do it within the CARICOM region, is domestic. If he were unpatriotic, it would mean that what the Prime Minister signed and urged on other Caribbean Governments recently would be an even greater act of unpatriotic behaviour and I would not wish to accuse him of that. Likewise, I do not think that the Senator should not be accused of lack of patriotism merely for stating what, as I understand it, is in fact the policy of the Government. They should be grateful. 2.40 p.m.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: It is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition through semantics seeks to extend it now to Protocol II and the rights to establishment and the single market economy. If he were in the country and he heard Mr. Good Senator Mascoll, he would have heard him totally speak as though the single market and economy never even existed. He spoke from a perspective that he was telling people that they should not invest in Barbados because we were uncompetitive and they should go to other territories. You can go and call for the log tape yesterday morning on the 7.30 News of VOB or you may prefer to ask a parliamentary question to find out what he said as you would have done with other colleagues within the party.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak very briefly on the Fair Trading Commission for the two minutes remaining to me. I started my speech by saying that this piece of legislation, I believe, would go down to be one of the landmark pieces of legislation to be associated with this Government during the course of the governance of this country.

I also believe that when we look at the framework that this piece of legislation as well as other initiatives creates for the small business sector and we then look at what can happen under a fully and properly functioning Fair Trading Commission, I want to suggest that those two policy initiatives when combined with the proper and adequate enforcement mechanisms and political will backing the administration of both initiatives, we have the opportunity to fulfil the mandate of our generation and to bring this country closer to enjoying greater levels of equity in terms of the distribution of wealth that is created in this country in a way that has been unparalleled in its history. Equally, we also have the opportunity of maintaining fair practices that will allow us to meet the challenges of the international trade economy as we move into the 21st century as a small island developing state.

I want to salute the Minister for Business Development, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, for bringing this piece of legislation before this House in as quick a period as he has brought it. I want to salute him for being as diligent with every single provision within this legislation

and to be as responsive to all sectors and all queries in relation to the terms of the legislation without assuming that because they drafted it, it was supreme and did not therefore need improvement.

I believe, Sir, that he will come to be regarded as a pioneer in the development of small business in this country by ensuring that he has put the framework in place so that we can see a new sector, a new level of entrepreneurship among our people and an ability to change the fortunes of the average Barbadian in the early 21st century. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I commend the Honourable Member for St. Michael North on what I think is a very necessary piece of legislation. In determining what sort of social economic landscape we want to create for Barbados, it is important that small business and small business growth and development be located somewhere in that landscape. I think this piece of legislation seeks to create a place for the small businesses in Barbados that will allow them to grow and develop and move from the sometimes niche businesses they might have started out as, or the model focus businesses they might have started out at and allow for the broader growth and development which can happen when small businesses are channelled in the right direction.

It is important, I think, not only to create a legislative framework but to put in place the kind of environment which will seek to give support to the persons who manage those businesses. Invariably with small businesses, particularly with black entrepreneurs, very often people have extremely good ideas, once they go into business they tend to focus primarily on the production of whatever good or service they are seeking to supply to the public and the management components of the businesses tend to suffer. As a result, many viable small businesses go under partly because of an absence of managerial skills, especially among persons who have good creative ideas but have no background in the management of businesses and do not have that kind of support network within their family structure or within their social setting.

It is critical, in my view, if we are to help black businesses and if we are to help small businesses that we allow them an opportunity for training, growth and development which seeks not only to ensure that they produce quality products or service for the public but also seek to ensure that they themselves are equipped to manage the businesses and to cause them to move from one stage of development to the next stage of development.

It is important that in developing a class of small businessmen in Barbados because of the upward social mobility for those particular individuals who will then go into the class of entrepreneur, I think, particularly for black

Barbadians to be able to see and identify other persons of their hue who have businesses and who have successful businesses. These businesses have an opportunity not only to create jobs and upward social mobility for the individuals immediately concerned but certainly in expanding the economy.

The Honourable Member who just sat down, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, spoke in terms of where small businesses should go in the new global economy. We tend as a small open economy to have some degree of trepidation over what the future holds for us as a small island developing state which will be forced to compete on equal terms with large countries who are more competitive, who have the means of forces of production and who can create economies of scale in relation to production in a way that many small businesses and many small islands cannot.

The reality is that part of the openness of the new economic order which is coming will allow us to access international economies and bigger economies particularly with knowledge-based services in a way that we could not previously have done.

It is a fact, and we have seen it already happening that because of the kind of educational base Barbados has that it is already open to businesses which would not normally have been resident here, the fact that American Airlines was, I believe they still are, having many of their airline tickets processed here in Barbados. There is a small Barbadian company called Doyle Offshore Sails Ltd which is now the second largest manufacturer of sails in the whole world. There is another company operating out of St. Philip. They are building mini moke type vehicles. I am not sure what they call them but they are being produced and sold here, and sold in other islands of the Caribbean.

We must not be narrow in focus in this new global economy. Small businesses must not only think of their markets as being those persons who walk on Broad Street or the 266 small businesses which comprise the local market. That is the kind of support which I think this legislation will ultimately give.

We have to be prepared and give support to persons who have businesses which may be classified as small for finding their niche in the international economy and by so doing bringing valuable foreign exchange to Barbados. Now the conditions are such that there is an opportunity to do it that did not previously exist, therefore, we have to prepare our businesses for making that next step into the next century with the kinds of market forces that are going to be at work.

It means that we will have to be World Trade Organisation ready and WTO compatible. We are already

seeing the notion of saying to people "Help us. We are small. Do not let us suffer" does not work anymore in the new international regime.

The Windward Islands understand it perfectly in respect of bananas. Therefore, we must now be prepared to stand up and compete with others toe to toe because no concessions are going to be made to us, if we are to do that then we have to talk the language of the new international market. We have to understand the language of the new international market and we have to be prepared to compete on terms in which persons in the international marketplace are competing.

I am not satisfied, even in my practice - I was not on the front bench and I am not now even in my practice - that a large enough number of businesses understand that they must be WTO ready. They do not have a sufficient understanding of what the new international marketplace will bring. What are the rules relating to WTO, how do these rules impact on their trade, how do these rules impact on their manufacturing, how do these rules impact even on the labelling of the products they are producing, on the manufacturing process, what are the requirements they have to meet in order to make "the step into the international market?

It has implications for large businesses and small which are going to be doing the exportation of food. It has implications for persons who are conducting trade, for instance, as refrigeration technicians because soon from now only the ozone friendly gases are going to be available and if you are going to be able to service the new technology you have to be trained. A person who is running a small business as a refrigeration technician may not think that WTO and the changes in international standards have implications for him, but it does.

In order to prepare small businesses, we have to move beyond just helping them to set up and create the kind of environment which helps them to grow and come to grips with the kind of market in which they are going to be operating on a daily basis and on a long term basis. We need to do that.

I think the Bill is the first step in the right direction but other steps need to be taken. There has for too long, in my view, and continues to be complaints in relation to small businesses being accepted by financial institutions. Government has to create the kind of framework that opens up financial institutions for the small entrepreneur and the new entrepreneur. Far too often you are asked to bring everything, including a birth certificate and your mother's marriage certificate in order to access basic financing to help set up a small business, or to help carry the business through

a rough period. These kinds of obstacles which really are significant barriers to people achieving sustained financial viability in their business must be removed.

I am satisfied now that the Minister is putting information in my hand that a certain amount of loan guarantees are going to be advanced to these small businesses and that is critical. Very often for the small entrepreneur the difficulty in the business to get it off the ground and to maintain it during a period of difficulty is access to capital and sustained access to capital.

Let us understand that some will be lost along the way because there will be some people who will never pay their loans but the point is, if this kind of provision is in place then it means that a larger number of persons are going to be able to go out there with a dream and a vision of the kind of business they wish to create and have access to the kind of capital that will allow them to create it.

Government alone cannot provide all the capital. In this regard we have to look at the policies of the banking institutions and other financial institutions because unless they are a little more liberal in their approach to individuals even though they will tell you they do not lend venture capital, then a number of persons who will normally be able to succeed will flounder as a result of the lack of access to or lack of sufficient access to capital. 2.50p.m.

It is significant in my view, if one were to trace the development of small business in Barbados that it is not a small thing. It is something that I have been watching for many years. As you know, Your Honour, I am a child of small business. If one were to go back to the fifties, the decade prior to my birth and beyond, one would recall a class of black entrepreneurs with names like Maxwell, Tudor, Rollock, and I could go on. These were the names of individuals who had tremendous status in their communities because they developed small businesses and ran the businesses in a way that allowed persons to get credit and to assist individuals. They raised entire families and then they educated their children to move away from the businesses.

It seems that the time is right for us to do some kind of survey that allows us to understand why it is that so many small businesses, particularly black businesses, collapse when they get to a certain critical point. What is needed is for us to find the answer to that question and be able to provide the support for businesses during that period to take them beyond that step, whatever the difficulty is. One wonders what happened to these businesses, why it is that they were not able to pass from the founding generation to the second generation. Unless we can do that it means that there will be no black equivalent to the COW Williams or the R. L. Scales

or the BS &Ts and so on. That is really what we should now be seeking to create in Barbados, a corps of black businesses which move from the first generation to the second and third generation which diversify from what was the core function of the business into other functions.

We should be creating a tremendous amount of new entrepreneurs in this economy at this time of our history because there is no better time than now. Opportunities in some regards are slipping. For instance, if I can take us again back to the period of the Maxwells and the Tudors and the Rollocks not only did you see those businesses but look at the properties that they owned, substantial properties on Baxters Road, Tudor Street, Milk Market, Swan Street and there was even a time when there was black ownership on Broad Street. The reality is that many of those properties have now passed into the names of persons from foreign shores who are not going to marry people looking like us; so they will never pass back to us again. They will move within certain groupings in Barbados.

We have to seek to secure a lifestyle, an opportunity, a place for all Barbadians. Very often I have been speaking to black business and very often I am accused of being anti-white and so. I believe...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I have never been in here and heard anybody on this Side accuse the Honourable Member for St. James South as being anti-white.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Miss H. E. THOMPSON: It is important, Sir, that we make it clear that there must be and there are opportunities in Barbados for all of us to grow and that each of us of every class, every race, of every social setting, must be entitled to a piece of the national cake; and some of us must get some of the icing too, and not so thin a slice that it is almost transparent. All of us must be entitled to a slice.

Let us understand that there are persons in this country who are born in poverty, die in poverty without ever knowing what it is to have a water toilet and the persons of succeeding generations know nothing else. It is legislation like this which I hope if used correctly by the persons on the Front Bench can effect social transformation in Barbados.

Social transformation is not only about what the Urban Development Commission does or what the Rural Development Commission does. If there is to be social transformation it has to be effected at the social level and at the economic level because that is what really makes the difference. If we are to develop small business in Barbados we have to ask ourselves the questions, who are the persons

we wish to identify to develop as a corps of entrepreneurs? What nature of support are we seeking to put in place for them and what is the ultimate vision for those persons to move to the next generation? Far too often our vision is too limited. We are too myopic in our focus that we do not move sufficiently into what the macro picture can be and determine how we move beyond where we are. Perhaps the problem with the Maxwells, the Tudors and the Rollocks was the problem of vision. Perhaps the founding fathers felt that since they themselves did not have the benefit of a good secondary education that if their children had it and they became professionals then they had status which the founding fathers did not have and the founding fathers were happy with that. Perhaps that is the mindset that we need to change. Perhaps we need to say to people, be prepared to take a risk.

Far too often black people are not sufficiently courageous to take a risk. There are risks involved in business at every level and we therefore have to be prepared to take those risks. It means, too, encouraging it in our children. It means telling our children even though we are not owners of businesses ourselves that they can become and must become the owners of businesses, that they must not only seek to be employed but they must become employers in the next generation.

Sometimes schools can kill entrepreneurship. I once heard a story of a young man in the last couple years who was not from a well-off family. He decided that he wanted to earn some extra money and he hit on what he thought was an excellent idea. His grandmother had a golden apple tree so he would take to school the golden apples. He would put them in a bag and you could get one peeled and salted for 25 cents or you could get it green unpeeled, no salt for 10 cents. People at school started to buy the golden apples and he was very pleased that he was going very well. The teachers said that they did not want any school children selling things to other children during school. So his business, because that is what it was - he was in fact operating a business - had to shut down. There and then were the seeds of entrepreneurship but the teachers did not have the vision to recognise that here was a person who was entrepreneurial by nature. Hence all they could see was that he was causing a fair amount of disruption and blockage in the corridor at lunchtime and they regarded it as a matter of discipline instead of saying to him to move the business under a tree on the pasture or something of the sort.

It is good to have YES, the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme, but that needs to target persons in the twenty plus age group, I think up to 30 years old. Entrepreneurship has to be built in from early.

Let us face it, there are persons in Barbados who would come along seeing their families owning tractors or having

businesses. They will go and help in the business. They might drive the tractor and they know that they have an opportunity to inherit the tractor, the land and the business of whatever sort. They hear other businessmen come to the home and they are discussing business ideas all the time so that they then start to think in a business oriented way. They think of profit and loss. They think of how to deal with certain transactions. Whereas another type of person in Barbados is hearing his or her parents come home and say, "Oh Lord, I got unfaired at work today and we are going to have to go out and strike." Some people are bred and nurtured in different cultures and that is why it is important that even at the level of the schools that children have to be nurtured to think like entrepreneurs and that is why it is important for us to instil in our children the spirit of entrepreneurship early.

These are the things that we need to do if we are to expand the economy, if we are truly to create the kind of opportunity that the framers conceptualised by this legislation. Legislation must be made to live; it is not to be a static thing. It has to be made to do its job and to do it effectively. Too often the government - I am not saying only this Government - all Governments do good things without necessarily publishing them sufficiently. If the provisions of this Act do not become known and familiar to the public, if they do not understand what opportunities are being made available to them, if they are not aware that there is loan support, that they can get management structure support and that they will be offices specially to help them, then nothing will happen. The legislation will be there but its provisions will not be accessed nor the benefits will not be realised at the national level simply because people will not have sufficient knowledge of what is on the ground that can inure to their benefit. 3.00p.m.

In this regard, I am therefore urging the Minister to go for the widest possible publicity in order to make sure the public understands what the meaning and intention of this Act is and how it can benefit them.

Sir, since I had not intended to speak on this matter, I think I will draw my comments to a close. I feel very strong about the things I have said. I was talking earlier about having a vision of entrepreneurship. When my father decided to go into business, he was living outside of Barbados and wanted to come back and open a dry-cleaning business. He went to the place where the machines sold in London in the 1950s. Of course, my father is a black man who turned up to make enquiries about these machines and the owner of the business laughed at him and said to him openly: "This is not for you". My father was very excited about the dream that he had of coming back to Barbados and opening his business. He came back in the 1960s and opened his dry-cleaning business and today, it is still operating.

We must be careful not to kill the dream of those of us who dream large dreams. Sometimes even at the time the dream is conceptualized, people do not have the means to execute it but we must have faith in God that the means will come and we must have the Minister's effort to make sure that the provisions are there to give support to those persons.

It is in this way, Sir, we will truly transform the socio-economic landscape of Barbados. It is in this way that we will guarantee into the future a place for a certain class of entrepreneurs. It is in this way that black businesses will survive from the first generation to the next generation and hopefully, Sir, we would live again in a Barbados where black entrepreneurs are owing prime tracks of commercial land from which they run their businesses, the nucleus from which grew and then flourish out and diversify into other areas. Most of all, Sir, that those businesses then pass from the founding generation to the following generation, otherwise, we will only see surviving in Barbados certain types of businesses and businesses of certain classes and I say, colours of individuals. That we have to guard against.

I believe in my heart that nobody has to suffer for black business to grow but spaces and opportunities must be created for black entrepreneurs to emerge, to survive and to sustain themselves. Indeed, not only be sustained in their own business but then help to sustain the wider economy and guarantee social cohesion and a proper social fabric by making people feel good and being good examples of the fact that there is space in the socio-economic landscape, particularly the economic landscape, for all of us.

I am much obliged to you. Sir.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I am slow because I like speeches such as those to sink in fully before comment is made after. They are very powerful, stimulating and co-incidental to what I believe and think. I wanted them to sink in before we proceed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all those who have contributed to this debate from both Sides. This Side, of course, was more focused than the Other Side. Let me begin by saying that I am as proud today as I was last week when I introduced the Bill and no amount of hollering, raving or ranting from any quarter would make me feel less proud. The Other Side, insomuch as they made comments on the matter, surprised me somewhat because at the very beginning of the contribution of the Honourable Member for St. John, he pointed out that he had no difficulty with the legislation. That was his very first comment. At the end of the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy he too indicated that he had no problem with the legislation but having both agreed with the legislation, though at different times, they then proceeded to set up some straw men only to

knock them down, to give the impression to the on-looker that they were making some valid points.

I want to emphasise, Mr. Speaker, that this administration inherited a situation where we were virtually starting from scratch in relation to development of small businesses in Barbados. They had gone through a period of almost total devastation and neglect leading up to 1994 when this administration took office and we virtually started from scratch. I want to say, and I stress that we move from a situation where we first of all set up and funded entirely a secretariat for the Small Business Association. We set up a vast number of organisations and institutions to ensure that small businesses received assistance. We came from nothing to ensuring that there was a Small Business Development Unit in existence to advise on the small business development policy. We set up the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme; the Barbados Micro-Enterprise Lending Institution; the Rural Development Commission; the Urban Development Commission, the Enterprise Growth Fund and the Small Business Venture Capital Incorporated. Eight agencies were set up by this administration in the course of four years to ensure that small businesses, who had been largely neglected for a number of years, were in fact able to receive some assistance.

Having built on that, Mr. Speaker, we decided to ensure that there was some legislation in place to guarantee them by force of written law, certain incentives to ensure their sustenance and survival. It was with that determination in mind that this Small Business Bill is before this Honourable Chamber today. That is the focus of this administration. The Honourable Member for St. John is famous when any speech is made in this Chamber to introduce a Bill, no matter how many things you point out you are doing in the Bill, the sole real point that the Honourable Member for St. John makes is that you have not shown any vision. That is the common thread that runs through his contribution. Ten or fifteen things are outlined that you have done or intend to do but still he says there is no vision.

Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, I want to be continued to be labelled as a man with no vision and continue to bring Bills of this quality to this Parliament. I want to continue to be so labelled by the Honourable Member for St. John. 3.10p.m.

Building on what I have said earlier, we have now brought a Bill to Parliament that ensures that small businesses qualifying under the Act, first of all should incorporate. That was a decided policy position taken by the Government. We want to ensure that businesses structure themselves in such a way that they can be well organised and again ensure their survival. We started a requirement that they must incorporate. Again, sensitive to their needs, we decided that we are going to set up a fund. We said last week

that in discussion with the Minister of Finance, he authorised me to say that in order to cover the expense associated with incorporation the Government is going to set up a fund to assist in some measure with the cost of incorporation that would have to be incurred now by small businesses qualifying under the Act. We want to see them structured and we intend to assist them with being structured.

Then we ensured that a number of incentives, which I read last week were given to small businesses, such as corporation taxes, relief from import duty, and other things which I outlined. In addition to that, we ensured that by force of law they are going to be guaranteed technical assistance, again funded by the Government. This is the technical assistance which the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East spoke of so eloquently in her contribution that is so necessary to businesses' survival. We have enshrined it in law and also ensured that the Government is going to pay for the provision of the technical assistance.

Having done that, we went the step which the Honourable Member for St. James South mentioned. I heard a comment last week which was the only thing that one person who disseminates things in Barbados saw it fit to reproduce what I said, I commented on the attitude of commercial banks. It was with that in mind that we ensured that small businesses now have a large and expanded accessibility to loan finance. We ensured that no longer are you going to be restricted when you go to banks having to bring every single thing to guarantee, but that now even non-bank financial institutions and institution at all that the Central Bank sees it fit to designate will now have the authority to bind the Central Bank under the Credit Guarantee Scheme to guarantee a loan requested by a small business person who goes into a commercial, a non-bank financial institution or as I said, any institution so designated by the Central Bank.

There are things that we have decided to build upon and enshrine in law. Instead the Honourable Member for St. John goes on to his own fantasy world, set up his straw men, not even reading the Bill, Mr. Speaker, because at one occasion I pointed that he was not reading the Bill, because provisions were in there that he was saying were not.

For example, we are trying to ensure that big businesses and we stand on this point, do not so splinter up or dilute the composition of the small businesses to frustrate and abuse the provisions of this Act, that those who are intended to benefit will not in fact receive the benefit. We stand by that and we have enshrined certain provisions to ensure that cannot happen.

The Honourable Member for St. John takes the position that we are only talking about ownership of these small

businesses but we need to look at control and restricting control of the small business, presumably by the big business. We are only talking about ownership. That is what the Honourable Member said.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am quite alarmed at what I am hearing today and I must rise on a point of order. The first point I made is that I do not think that it is necessary for any provisions to be in the Act to stop businesses from breaking down into small entities. I said that in fact may end up being a good thing. Therefore, I did not see a need for that provision.

The second point that I think the Honourable Member is essentially misunderstanding is that I suggested that he should be more creative in understanding that it is not only a question of ownership of the business, but control of it and that a big company may own a business, but as long as the person who has the idea - the small business person controls it, that your job is to empower him. I am not interested in who owns it. I am interested in the question of control and the extent to which that individual benefits from the idea and the enterprise which he brings to make the institution work.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, having said that, I pointed out to the Honourable Member for St. John that in fact the law makes provision for control and not only ownership and if he would read Clause 3, he would see that one of the things that it is safeguarding there is that in order for a small business to qualify as a small business, it must not be controlled by a company whose share capital and annual sales exceed the share capital and annual sales mentioned in the paragraph above; or is not more than 25% owned or controlled by a company whose share capital exceed the share capital above.

When I pointed out to the Honourable Member that he was talking about a position that has been enshrined in legislation, he told me that he knows what is in the law and that he is not interested and he wants me to look beyond that. He did not realise what was in the law. It is as simple as that. He sets up his own straw men to come and knock them down to look heroic, but the documentary evidence proves what the Government is doing in this regard.

Asides.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have had two good days of debate. In all fairness to the Other Side they made some points. If you search long and hard enough you will find them. This is not the end of our plans for the small business sector. This is part of the continuum that we recognise has to be followed to ensure the continued development of the small business sector.

I am grateful for those on this Side who spoke. The Honourable Member for St. James North made a speech which I believe should be reproduced particularly for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. Mr. Speaker, this is really part of the continuum. I did not want to be long in my winding up but I had to clear the air on some of the matters and the impressions being given by those on the Other Side.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker Sir, on a point of order. I would not want the Honourable Member to finish the debate and inadvertently mislead the House. First of all, the Chairman of his party and the previous Minister for small business has also taken some credit for designing the Bill. I notice nobody wish to give him that credit and I feel that the Honourable Member should, in all honesty, credit the previous Minister since he is not here and cannot speak for himself, he had drafted the Bill and done all the basic work as he alleged. I hope he will do that in all fairness to the previous Minister.

Asides.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Sir, due mention was made of the fact that I completed a process that was started. That is why last week when I said that these provisions were the icing on the cake, I said that I almost said they were the 'topping' on the cake, but I was not in fact going to say that and that is why I withdrew the words 'topping' on the cake.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the contribution made by the former Minister, the staff in the Ministry for working beyond the call of duty on this matter. I want to ensure you that I am truly grateful for the assistance that they have provided and I am honoured to be the one introducing the Bill, but I am not saying that I am the only one associated with the preparation of the Bill.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair. 3.20p.m.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 2 -were called and passed. Clause 3 was called.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move an amendment to Clause 3(1)(c) on page 2. Technically, since 1982, the capital as referred to, is no longer "authorised" but "stated" capital. I am therefore begging to move that the word "authorised" in paragraph (c) of Clause 3 (1) be deleted and replaced by the word "stated".

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: There is just one point, Mr. Chairman. The expression - "has more than 75% of its shares locally owned" - in Clause 3(1)(b). The expression "locally owned" is not one that I think is defined either by the legislation locally or for that matter is it a term defined either in the Interpretation or Companies Acts. There are two concerns one has to have about this expression.

- (a) That "locally" would not even qualify as an expression to include CARICOM when Protocol II is introduced but "locally" may not include Barbadians either, for all I know.
- (b) I think that word or expression should be changed if you want to say "owned by Barbadians" or "owned by Barbadians and citizens of CARICOM" or whatever you have decided is the specific policy that you want to apply,

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The recommendation of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has merit. However, at this stage, I would not wish to attempt a definition because although the one that he proffered which having regard to all that is happening with the Treaties and the Protocols it is perhaps workable, what about the position of residents? I would prefer to leave it and let the Ministry and the draughtsmen work out a definition and subsequently we can amend it. I do not think that it is something that you can do in regulating, perhaps, we would need to provide for a definition in the Act itself. I would not wish to attempt it on the Floor, Sir, so if the Honourable Member would take my suggestion that we accept that there is need for a clear definition of what is intended, we would get it done as soon as possible and that will provide for a small amendment.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

The question that Clause 3 as amended stand part was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 4 was called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I beg to move that Clause 5(1)(b) be amended by inserting after the word

"declaration" these two words "to be". It should then read "a copy of the declaration to be published in the *Official Gazette* pursuant to section 4".

The question that Clause 5 as amended stand part was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 6 was called and passed.

Clause 7 was called.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Before Clause 7 is put, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in his contribution made a very important contribution in relation to Clause 7, subclause (3) paragraph (e). The word "income" should be deleted and the word "corporation" be substituted therefor.

The question that Clause 7 as amended stand part was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, just a little typographical error. Please recommit Clause 7 as there is a small typographical error on page 6.

Sir, I have a small amendment to make to Clause 7 on page 6. It ends with the word "or" after the semicolon (;). However, I beg to move that the word "or" be deleted after the "semicolon (;)" and the "semicolon (;)" becomes a "full stop".

The question that Clause 7 as amended stand part was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 8 was called and passed.

Clause 9 was called.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not know if this is a new development in drafting or in administration and I want to register my concern about the legislation which vest power in the Cabinet itself. While that is so in relation to the Financial, Administration and Audit Act and the Financial Rules, I think it is generally bad policy for the Cabinet to be vested with administrative powers. A Minister should be the final person responsible for administrative decision-making because he is accountable to Parliament.

The Cabinet as a Cabinet is not accountable to the Parliament of Barbados. Therefore, one makes the assumption that when a Minister makes a decision that it has the support of the Cabinet. If he has controversial decisions to make, he is supposed to take them to Cabinet and not

make them without Cabinet approval. When you vest authority in the Cabinet, an entity which really does not have any formal procedures, or no regulations governing its conduct - it is basically an informal meeting of Ministers to determine matters of broad policy - then what you are doing is elevating the Cabinet to a statutory entity but one that does not have any form to it. It is an amorphous object which is the best way to put it.

I do not like to see as I have noticed in recent times and one of the persons who does it is the Minister of Education - I have seen letters from the Minister saying that the Cabinet has decided. It is the Minister who has decided, but the Cabinet agrees with her because the ultimate person who is responsible, is the Minister, and that person is responsible to Parliament and to the people. 3.30p.m.

The Cabinet as an institution has no such responsibility under the Constitution; nor is there such a thing as a Cabinet Act or any other legislation governing the existence of the Cabinet.

I, therefore, object and want to let the Attorney General know I object because I have noticed this has been creeping into administrative practice where Ministers either unwittingly, or some wishing to hide behind the fact that Cabinet has agreed, write and say the Cabinet has agreed to x, y and z. It is wrong. It is the Minister who is the ultimate repository of the power. A reckless Minister ignores the Cabinet. A Minister who does not agree with the Cabinet decision must resign, or rather, who cannot get the consensus of the Cabinet, on his decision, must resign. The Cabinet itself is not like the BIDC, or the Small Business Development Unit, or the Substance Abuse Council, or any of those things. The Cabinet is an informal meeting of Ministers. If you move it away from that categorisation, what you do is create a situation where Cabinet Ministers are never sure whether their decisions are decisions governed by statute or whether there are decisions which form the normal course of informal meetings coming to some conclusion which everybody abides with.

I hope the Attorney General understands my point because I feel very strongly about it. It is this kind of problem that created the 1994 scenario where a Minister had the ultimate power, did not want to make the decision, took the matter to Cabinet and gave others the opportunity to tell him that they disagreed with the person whom he was going to appoint. The matter had no right before the Cabinet unless he felt he did not have the strength.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It did not have to be. It was for information purposes. I think what happened in that case

was the facts were put before the Cabinet for a decision. I do not think that practice is the correct way in which Cabinet should function. Where it has statutory obligations that is so. I think we need to maintain that informal nature of the Cabinet for the system as we know it to work unless, of course, there is going to be a constitutional development which is going to change the character of the Cabinet as we know it.

The question that Clause 9 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 10 was called.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am in trouble here and I need your guidance. Earlier on I objected to the word "may" and I was told that was part of the legal drafting but now in Clause 10 it has "shall" so I need some clarification on "may" and "shall".

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to move a small amendment to Clause 10, the very first line: "The Minister shall cause of each approved..." I am asking that the word "of" be deleted. It should read: "The Minister shall cause each approved small..." and the word "business" to be included after the word "small".

The question that Clause 10 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 11-17, the First, Second and Third Schedules were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Small Business Development Act, 1999. 3.40p.m.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 27 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT - \$895 383

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, this is a simple request as broken down on the Order Paper. First, in relation to International Transport, this request is to ensure that the salaries related to the two temporary posts which were established can be paid. Two new temporary posts are the posts of Chief Airport Security Officer and Deputy Chief Airport Security Officer which were created during the financial year and therefore were posts for which no funds were provided when the Estimates were prepared. The sum being sought is \$67 500 and the consequential \$3 879 to cover the National Insurance Contributions.

The other sums of some \$614 004 and \$210 000 are being sought in relation to Barbados Conference Services Limited which is an institution that receives a grant from Government and having received initially the sum of \$200 000, now finds itself in need of an additional \$614 004 for expenditure in relation to payroll, administration and general expenses and operations, depreciation, marketing and so on. The sum of \$210 000 is to enable it to meet certain capital expenditure - replacement of vehicles and that sort of thing.

It is not a matter on which the House should be detained.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would first like to find out from the Honourable Minister what happened to the persons who were in these positions previously or whether these positions are now being held by the same personnel who were acting in the particular positions. If so, Sir, why is there a need to change the said personnel from these particular positions and employ new people? One would appreciate that airport security is an important factor but one must also find out the reasons for these changes because it is very important that the security of our ports be safeguarded. If that is the reason I would like to find out from the Minister.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Obviously, the substantive Minister would be more able to answer that question fully. Based on the information supplied to me since I became acting Minister, I can say that the post of Deputy Airport Security Officer is new entirely. It never existed before. The other post of Chief Airport Security Officer has been frozen because it was at too low a scale to attract a satisfactory applicant for the position. Therefore to make the post attractive to someone whom it was felt could competently do the job it was necessary to upgrade the scale of that particular post. Hence a new temporary post of Chief Airport Security Officer was provided at a higher scale.

To the best of my knowledge the officer who was in the post of Chief Airport Security Officer, acting, is not now the Chief Airport Security Officer.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would further like to find out whether the Deputy was not capable of being the Chief Security Officer. Was there an acting deputy? Is the deputy a new post also? What was the description of the person holding the post prior to this? Because somebody had to be responsible for security.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: As I said, the substantive Minister would be far more able to answer all of these queries. They have been noted and there will be other opportunities for the Member for St. Lucy to raise these points in another forum when the Honourable Member is here.

Therefore your concern has been noted.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: As you would know, Sir, when a Minister is acting he is supposed to be briefed on matters that he brings before Parliament and these questions cannot, considering the importance of the posts at the airport, be answered by anybody else different from the Minister who is in place now.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy as a matter of basic courtesy is entitled to an answer to his question. The whole purpose of appointing an Acting Minister for the substantive Minister does not mean that the work comes to an end. When the Honourable Member for St. James North was very regrettably in a state of indisposition the person who held on for him was, one assumes, fully knowledgeable of the issues and seized of the critical aspects of the Ministry's operations. I believe that a day's work would not have been completed by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North nor would his responsibility to this Parliament have been discharged if he fails to answer the legitimate question asked by the Honourable Member.

As I understand it, all that is being asked is what impediment stood in the way of the person acting in the Number 2 position whatever that Number 2 position was. Number 2 to the contract officer, in other words, in the second position at the Airport becoming the Deputy Chief. That is all he is basically asking.

In other words, if an ex-policeman had a contract and was in the position of Number one there would have to be a chain of command. It means there has to be somebody under him and I believe all he is asking is that. You might say that you do not have the information now, apologise to the House and say that as soon as it comes to hand you will make it available. I do not think you should dismiss my friend on this Side. Not that the Honourable Member would allow you to do it. 3.50p.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am just checking on that point.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: I appreciate the personal involvement of the Honourable Member for St. John in wanting the answer to that particular question. I appreciate the personal nexus to the issue that the Honourable Member for St. John has but as he rightly said in the end, I really and truly, Mr. Chairman, with the best will in the world, cannot possibly know what would have been informing those who took that decision this year when I was in no way at all involved in the Ministry. I would not have the slightest clue as to what impediment there was, if there was any impediment at all that existed, as to why the person did not continue acting.

As I have said, I have noted your concerns and I will convey it to the substantive Minister and he will perhaps contact the Honourable Member for St. Lucy personally to give him the full answer to that question.

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

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

On the 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 that concludes Government's Business for today. I am going to move the adjournment until next Tuesday but before I formally move the adjournment, I wish to speak on behalf of all of us to say that we are delighted today to see that the carpet in this Chamber has at last been changed. I was despairing last week because we had expected it to be changed then. I spoke with the Marshal this morning and he told me that what the Leader of the Opposition, Members and myself had suspected was, in fact, the case. There were oceans of dust and dust mites in that old carpet. No wonder so many of us were suffering from nasal and respiratory problems. I hope that this will improve the health of all of us. I wish to compliment all those who have worked to ensure that the carpet has been changed.

Sir, I want to inform all Honourable Members of the arrangements thus far in relation to the funeral of

Mr. Malcolm Marshall. The body will lie in State between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Friday at the St. Michael's Cathedral. Members of his family will be there. Members of the House and Cabinet who are desirous of viewing the body are asked to go to the Cathedral at 9.30 a.m. of Friday. On Saturday, the funeral service will be conducted at the Sir Garifield Sobers Gymnasium at 10 o'clock. All Members of Parliament will be receiving from the Cabinet Secretary tickets enabling them to sit in the seating provided on the basketball court where there are a number of chairs. There will be special tickets to facilitate seating in the Gymnasium.

We hope that many members of the public will pay their due with respect to Mr. Marshall by turning out in large number. The overall seating in the Gymnasium will be available to the public. The burial will take place after the funeral at St. Bartholomew's Church near the Airport.

Mr. Speaker, with those observations, I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at 11 o'clock. I propose on that occasion to do the Amendment to the Defence Act and the Police (Amendment)

Bill, 1999, which are on the Order Paper and I am expecting to be bringing a supplementary to do with the Police also. I wanted to have the debate on the Police on one day. We will have the Bill and the supplementary at the same time.

Mr. D. J. H THOMPSON: I would like to second the motion and also to say two matters on the Adjournment. The first is that I will not be able to participate on Friday morning. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy will represent me as I am not likely to be here at 9.30 a.m. The second matter I want to mention relates to a notice that went out for a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee at 2 o'clock on Thursday. In fact, that meeting should be at 3 o'clock on Thursday. It was inadvertently printed as 2 o'clock rather than at 3 o'clock. There was an error in the notice that went out. The Public Accounts Committee is at 3 o'clock here in Parliament on Thursday.

The question that the House do now adjourn to Tuesday, November 16, 1999, at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 4.00p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS

Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting of
Tuesday, November 2, 1999.

PAPERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS

1. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order,
1999.
2. Excise Tax (Rate of Tax) Order, 1999.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND.....1

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the
National Petroleum Corporation for the year
April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS 2

The Defence (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS 2

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18,
20, 42 (5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the
Sitting.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 - SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BILL, 1999

Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 2; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman,
6; Hon. R. N. Greenidge, 10; Hon. Miss M. A.
Mottley, 12; Miss H. E. Thompson, 17,24; Hon.
R. St. C. Toppin, 21.

HEAD 27 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT - \$895 383 ... 25

Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 25; Hon. R. St. C. Toppin,
25; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 26.

SUSPENSION 12

ADJOURNMENT 26

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 26; Mr. D. J. H.
Thompson, 27.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

EASTMOND, Hon. R. C. (St. James North)
GREENIDGE, Hon. R. N. (St. Philip North)
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy) **MOTTLEY, Hon.**
Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East) **SIMMONS, Hon.**
D. A. C. (St. Thomas) **TOPPIN, Hon. R. St. C. (St.**
Michael North) **THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St. John)**
THOMPSON, Miss H. E. (St. James South)