
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2001.

PRESENT

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

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

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (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. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister), (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Mr. G. W. PAYNE, LL.B.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., J.P. (Minister of Labour and Social Security)

Mr. D. CARTER (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

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

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Physical Development and Environment)

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS

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

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

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

Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)

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

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

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Prayers were taken by Reverend J. J. S. Atherley.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, October 27, 2001.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, October 27, 2001, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

- (a) The Limitation of Actions (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
- (b) A Resolution to rescind the Resolution for the sum of Five Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand Dollars which was passed in the House of Assembly as Supplementary Estimates 2001-2002, No. 2 and published in the Official Gazette on 25th October, 2001 as Resolution No. 20/2001.
- (c) A Resolution to approve the granting of the sum of Five Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand Dollars from the Consolidated Fund to be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2001-2002 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 6, 2001-2002 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.
- (d) A Resolution to grant the sum of Three Million, Two Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety-One Dollars from the Consolidated Fund to be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2001-2002 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 7, 2001-2002 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.
- (e) A Resolution to approve the borrowing of the equivalent in Barbados Dollars of the sum of Fifteen Million, One Hundred and Fifty Thousand United States Dollars (US \$15 150 000) from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to assist in the financing of the Barbados HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill, the Limitation of Actions (Amendment) Bill, 2001 be read a first time.

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 26th day of November 2001, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, a

Barbadian was elected as the new Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture familiarly known to us as IICA. He was elected as Director General for the period 2002-2006.

He defeated the Brazilian candidate, Mr. Benedito Rosa D Espiriter Santo by 23 votes to 10. Dr. Brathwaite will replace the outgoing Director-General Dr. Carlos Aquino Gonzales who will remit office on the 15th January 2002. Mr. Speaker, the election was the culmination of several months of intensive campaigning.

Dr. Brathwaite had previously received the endorsement of CARICOM Foreign Ministers at the Fourth Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations in May. I regret to say that CARICOM did not hold centre when it came the time for voting. Prior to the election, he had garnered widespread support in his bid for the position.

Dr. Brathwaite's competitors in the race were from Brazil, Columbia, Honduras and Uruguay. All the candidates, but the Brazilian representative, withdrew on the day of the election and on the ensuing contest, Dr. Brathwaite secured victory, as I said, by 23 votes to 10.

The Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture, Sir, is the specialised agency for agriculture in the Inter-American system. Our new and Barbadian Director-General holds degrees in Agriculture from the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Cornell University in New York, as well as a Diploma in Agricultural Development with Distinction from the University of London.

He was a senior staff member of the Institute, having joined the organisation in 1981. He is fluent in the Spanish language. He served most recently as Director of the Management Unit for the Co-ordination of Regional Operations at IICA in San José, Costa Rica and was IICA's Representative in Jamaica. Dr. Brathwaite has also worked in North America, Europe and Africa.

In his acceptance speech, Sir, Dr. Brathwaite outlined his vision for the organisation and called on the 34-Member States of IICA – meaning the 34-Member States of this hemisphere, Sir, including Canada and the United States of America – to continue their collaboration with the Institute and give meaningful support as they seek to reposition agriculture in this hemisphere in the twenty-first Century.

He stressed that in terms of its strategic direction, IICA has a very critical role to play in the rural development and the enrichment of rural lives and to quote him, Sir:

“As such, IICA will be collaborating with the various institutions, which have these issues on their agenda.”

Dr. Brathwaite thanked the Government of Barbados for its unswerving support during the period leading up to his election. He made special mention of the efforts of Prime Minister, the Honourable Owen Arthur, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Anthony Wood, Ambassador Michael King, our Ambassador to the United States of America and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. He also thanked various Member States of CARICOM who ensured that their votes mattered and the other States within the Inter-American family which supported him.

In commenting on the election of Dr. Brathwaite, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, noted that Dr. Brathwaite's victory was not only an honour for him personally, but in a clear statement by the CARICOM region that he had the kind of skills, professionalism and expertise to head organisations of international repute.

Dr. Brathwaite's nomination, Mr. Speaker, makes two Barbadians, the other one being Sir George Alleyne, to hold prestigious positions within the Inter-American system. Let the record show, Sir, that this Honourable House congratulates Barbadian Dr. Chelston Brathwaite on his election to the post of Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture.

I am much obliged to you.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, like the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for the City, I would like to use this opportunity to place on record, congratulations from not only myself, but certainly from the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development who worked assiduously along with officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and certainly Ambassador King and his staff in the Barbados Embassy in the United States of America. Our congratulations to Dr. Brathwaite's victory which is not only very well deserved but certainly a very resounding victory.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Brathwaite's victory is even more impressive when we recognise that he entered the race at a fairly late stage. I well remember that it was around June, when Dr. Brathwaite was urged on, not only by Barbados but by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture in Jamaica, Mr. Roger Clarke. Dr. Brathwaite at the time was IICA's representative in Jamaica. The Jamaicans saw the qualities of Dr. Brathwaite and they thought, along with us, that he would have made an excellent candidate.

It was around that time that the Canadians were considering putting forward a candidate, having assessed the

four candidates who were there at that time. When Dr. Brathwaite stepped forward, Mr. Speaker, the Canadians retreated because they saw in Dr. Brathwaite the type of person who could articulate the type of vision required for IICA to take the hemispheric institution forward.

At that early stage, we had the support of the Canadians. Dr. Brathwaite was given the opportunity, notwithstanding the short time, to articulate his vision for IICA at the level of the vote of Governors of CARDI. 11.25 a.m.

I was very fortunate to accompany Dr. Brathwaite to the executive committee meeting of the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) which ran from the 25th – 27th July, 2001. That was a special occasion for me because all of the five candidates were invited to that meeting to make presentations. There and then, Mr. Speaker, it was clear to all and sundry that Dr. Brathwaite would be the ultimate winner.

He presented an articulation of a vision for IICA to which none of the other candidates could have matched. He was by far the best prepared candidate. He made contact with all the pertinent issues confronting the agricultural sector in the hemisphere and articulated his vision in such a way that at the end of the day most of the countries represented there came to me and said: "Mr. Minister, we would like Dr. Brathwaite to have the opportunity to visit our countries to speak not only to the converted, meaning of the delegates from the Ministry of Agriculture, but to speak to representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade".

The Government accepted that it was important for Dr. Brathwaite to travel as widely as possible in order to take the message about his candidacy and his vision for IICA and that was done quite successfully. Mr. Speaker, he was given the opportunity to accompany the Deputy Prime Minister to the Organisation of American States' (OAS) session and he equipped himself extremely well. He was also given the opportunity to travel with us to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Conference in Rome a couple of weeks ago and he equipped himself extremely well. There and then we used the opportunity with most of the countries present to strengthen and solidify the support that Dr. Brathwaite had gathered up to that point. Once again he did an excellent job and we were in no doubt come the 26th day of November, that Dr. Brathwaite would be the winner.

On the 26th day of November, last week Monday, the Brazilians, having recognised the strength of our candidate, do you know what they did? Up to that point, there were five candidates in the race and in a sign of panic they convened a meeting on the morning of voting day and appealed to the good conscience of the representatives and candidates from

the other three countries that it was better to reduce the incident of embarrassment and they agreed to send forward one candidate only. They got the Hondurans, the Salvadorians and I cannot remember the name of the other country to agree. So they sent forward the Brazilian candidate and the Deputy Prime Minister just told us what the result was. Having convened that meeting, Dr. Brathwaite was fighting now not against one candidate but against four candidates in the form of one person but he defeated them handsomely by 23:10.

What was also interesting is that from that caucus there were about six other countries which pledged their unswerving support to Barbados and its candidate and did so in writing from an early stage. They allowed the Brazilians to know their feelings in no uncertain terms. This was quoted to me by someone who attended the meeting that they would have no part of such an arrangement because they knew where their support was going. They told them not to come at this last stage to try to introduce any scheme which would in any way reduce the strength of Dr. Brathwaite's support and those countries remained committed to Dr. Brathwaite's candidacy.

Mr. Speaker, I must agree with the Deputy Prime Minister that we have a Barbadian like Sir George Alleyne whom we can be justly proud of. He really was an excellent candidate. I must tell you that I myself have been involved in many serious elections but if at any other stage I am called upon to support a candidate who is as well-rounded and is as articulate as Dr. Brathwaite, I know my work would not be too difficult.

Many a person in this country worked extremely hard. The Deputy Prime Minister mentioned the agencies and Ministries from which they were drawn but I must state for the record that the strength of the candidate made our job very easy. We had steered the course. Dr. Brathwaite is a very confident person and there were times when I had to bring him back in line so as not for him to be signalling in any way that he is getting too cocky, over-confident or anything like that.

One of the things I admired very much about Dr. Brathwaite is that at the point of him having to deliver his acceptance speech, when persons gathered in the room who did not know how meticulous Dr. Brathwaite conducts his business, thought that the acceptance speech would be like any other acceptance speech, thanking this person and the next person and probably taking ten or 15 minutes to do it. Dr. Brathwaite shocked most persons in that room because he came there prepared to make an acceptance speech which not only allowed him to revisit certain aspects of his vision for IICA, but he was so much ahead of the other candidates that he was able to use that early opportunity to speak to the

implementation programme which he has to take IICA forward. The speech took about an hour but he signalled at an early stage that this is a man who has not only won the election but this is a man who is ready to work as of that particular day. You cannot find persons like him too often who are as prepared for the task at hand.

We are very proud of Dr. Brathwaite and the region is extremely proud of him as well because it is not every day that you can get the Americans and the Canadians to commit to a candidate at a very early stage in the same way that you can get the Mexicans or the Chileans to commit to a candidate. The Chileans committed to our candidate in July and told us to let any correspondence that leaves the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in respect of Dr. Brathwaite show that he is a Caribbean candidate and is heavily supported by Chile. So we were to let all the others know that Chile from as early as July was supportive of Dr. Brathwaite and in so signalling if we can garner any more support as a result of Chile being very open with their support then the Chileans would be very happy for that.

11.35 a.m.

We fought a good fight but the strength of the candidate had a lot to do with it. He has a lot of work to do but one thing we are certain about is that he has the ability and vision, if he is given the right level of support by all the countries. That is the front on which he presented himself, that he wants to engage the Canadians and those of the United States more and more in shaping a proper future for IICA.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to close at the point where I started by supporting the Deputy Prime Minister in recording our congratulations to Dr. Brathwaite, an eminent Barbadian who has risen to the lofty heights of being in charge of a very important institution in the American system like our own Sir George Alleyne.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say much on this matter since I do not know the gentleman involved but it is clear that his reputation must have preceded him in relation to the appointment that was made, but what I will say is that the success of a Barbadian anywhere is the success of Barbadians everywhere and, therefore, where any Barbadian has been able to be elected by a large number of independent countries to hold a position of significance within the Inter-American system or anywhere within the administration of any of the international organisations, it is an indication of the high regard with which our country is held and we need to feel happy and proud of those achievements.

I join with the Minister of Agriculture in congratulating Dr. Brathwaite on his achievement and I hope that he will use the opportunity in that position to further the interests of countries within CARICOM particularly and ensure our full integration and involvement in the organisation which he now has the honour to lead.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, under this Head of the Order Paper, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Dr. Chelston Brathwaite. He was the most wonderful candidate to work with, that he was fluent in Spanish was important, and let that be a message to our young people remembering that Spanish is the designated second language in Barbados. He accompanied me to the OAS General Assembly in June. I took the opportunity then with him to call on the outgoing Director-General and I have never seen anything like it, Sir. From the top to the bottom in that institution which he will now head he is known and loved. They call him Don Chelston. The handyman putting in a light bulb got down off his ladder and embraced him. The middle range officer ran and threw her hands around his neck and said, "Don Chelston, Don Chelston, I took your advice. I bought that condominium." I mean intimate and personal, a wonderful personality with whom to work.

It is making a statement, Sir, about how we in the Caribbean feel about agriculture and rural development. His vision was published and I have made it a document of the House in both English and Spanish and, as the Honourable Member for St. Philip South put it, it outclassed anything that was published by any of the other candidates. It was no small thing in the campaign that the United States and Canada, Mexico and Chile fell to our support that long before El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras called in their candidates and threw their support behind us that they had indicated that that was going to be the situation.

This is a great moment for Barbados and there are two things that I regret and I feel that I must say them here today. One is that the Press in Barbados has given short shrift to this. This should have been front page with a massive photograph of Dr. Chelston Brathwaite. With a name like that you would have to know anywhere in the world that this was a Barbadian. Short-shrift! All kinds of trivia get front-page and back-page treatment in Barbados and in his own hometown, but for this debate, the man on the streets in Barbados would not know of this major achievement, not only for him, but for us in Barbados and for the Caribbean as a sub-region within the Americas. That was painful.

It was also painful to me, Sir, and it has to be said because I am going to raise it at the next meeting of CARICOM Foreign Ministers that there is a clear agreement and understanding among us in CARICOM that when a Caribbean candidate is going forward for a post that CARICOM will close ranks around that candidate. We

thought that we had achieved that. Our colleagues had given their word. Dr. Brathwaite's wife is a Trinidadian and the Trinidadian Minister took the attitude that he was a Trinidadian too and canvassed as we would say "like a dog" for him. He was the IICA representative in Jamaica. The Jamaicans took the attitude that he was a Jamaican and nobody canvassed harder than the Jamaicans for him. That is why it was particularly painful that Guyana, whose President among CARICOM Heads has lead responsibility for agriculture, abstained. That hurt.

Prime Minister Arthur, one of the last things he did in his tour as Chair of CARICOM was to pay a visit to Suriname. Suriname is a country that we are trying to embrace within CARICOM, one of our newest members and we are trying to embrace it. Prime Minister Arthur went to Suriname and did much to raise the profile of Suriname within CARICOM and among the private sector as well. It was hurtful to us that in the end we did not get the support of Suriname.

I heard the word and spoke to the Foreign Minister twice and to other people but it did not come to pass, and it is not a good feeling. If at this level CARICOM cannot come together and stand as one, then what can we expect? Barbados is always there for the CARICOM candidate, whoever it is, and this, I have to say, Sir, does not leave a good feeling and I fully intend to raise it. We have to understand that in a single market and a single economy at a time when the world is becoming a more and more competitive place that if we do not hold together as one and speak with one voice...

Mr. Speaker, when we do, we always reap success. When we hold together as one, we always reap success. So it is even a larger statement about the quality of the candidate that despite the fact he did not in the end garner every single CARICOM vote he was able to win 23:10. I, too, would wish to add my congratulations. I expect Dr. Brathwaite to come home over the Christmas period and I will seek at that time to raise his profile in Barbados so that Barbadians understand who is this son of the soil who brought such high achievement and brought such honour to his country.
11.45 a.m.

It was very pleasing that it happened at Independence time as well and it was a happy moment for me. Sir, I cannot deny it. I was giddy with excitement when the news came to us. I take this opportunity again to say thank you to all of those who worked hard to bring our candidate home.

Mr. Speaker, it has been drawn to my attention that despite the fact that the Press in Barbados did not see it fit to give this event front page recognition or give congratulatory remarks to Dr. Brathwaite, he appeared on CNN World Report where he was seen by millions of people the world

over and was, therefore, able to enjoy congratulations from the world over.

Mr. Speaker, I am very much obliged to you.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO TAKE NOTE OF THE GREEN PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I consider it to be an honour to introduce this national sports policy in the form of a Green Paper. Sir, for years now we in Barbados have been speaking about having a national sports policy. Many sports persons consider this to be one of the main ways to show that as a Government we are serious about sports being integral to our development.

Sir, this national sports policy is like writing an essay in policy form entitled "What is this country's attitude towards sports?" This is like having a set of commandments for sports. It is like a manifesto on sports alone. It is how we intend to and seek to administer sports in Barbados. This is the most candid statement ever made about sports to date in Barbados.

Sir, I want to say at the very beginning that all of the sporting groups have collective ownership of this national sports policy because in order for us to come up with this policy, we had meetings with the national sporting groups. We heard how they felt about sports, what was happening to their respective sports and we asked them to let us make this journey together so a lot of what has come out of the national sports policy is as a result of discussions with the sporting bodies of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, everybody knows what is lacking in sports and everybody knows what is the solution because sports is one of those things where everybody wants to make a contribution. Mr. Speaker, Barbados abounds with sporting gurus. I do not say that in a negative way because I think that Barbadians pride themselves in knowing a lot about sports and, therefore, whenever a topic relating to sports comes up everyone has an opinion and some people pretend to have all the answers. Sir, this sports policy does

not claim to provide all of the answers but it speaks to the way Government sees sports.

Mr. Speaker, there are too many people who are not committed to sports as an end in itself. They see sports as an end to get somewhere else. Quite recently, Sir, I heard a winner of an athletic scholarship say before he left these shores that he only wanted to get out of Barbados. In other words, to excel in athletics was not the main motivator but getting to the United States of America was the motivator. Sir, I am saying that in this day and age, this should not be so.

Mr. Speaker, people go off to study sports administration as a way of life. Nowadays people sell sports souvenirs for a living. There are various revenue streams in sports and it can have a significant economic benefit to Barbados.

One of the objectives in the sports policy is that we should see the promotion and development of sports as a productive sector of the economy. The business aspect in today's sports cannot be and should not be overlooked. I believe that if we make people as comfortable as we could at sporting venues and the facilities are there to sell souvenirs and other sporting items, persons can then make a living through the business aspect of sports.

Sir, sports is not what it used to be 50 years ago. It is now big business and there are athletes who employ people. It is because of sports more so than anything else. We can let people in Barbados know that by being good sportsmen they can succeed in life without having to get a degree from the University.

Sir, sports is a very pervasive and all-embracing influence and it seems to have a hold on the entire society. It has become a lot more powerful and sophisticated than it was in the 1950s. Sports has made Barbados more aware of its uniqueness as a nation than all of the political speeches that have been made on Barbados as a nation in itself because sports seems to have this hold on the entire society.
11.55 a.m.

I think that Barbados stands out when it comes to sports in a way that it does not stand out in other spheres. When people hear of Sir Garfield Sobers, I do not think they think immediately of Sir Garfield Sobers. I think they think a lot of Barbados and, when you hear of Suki King, you think a lot of Barbados and St. George. Indeed, Sir, when the name of Obadele Thompson mounted the screen at the Olympics, BAR came up beside it and therefore Barbados was also represented there.

I think that our uniqueness as a nation stands out and we must think that sports has indeed played its part. There is

now a kind of interconnectedness between sports and almost every other sphere of life. Between sports and tourism, there is that interconnectedness and also between sports and education, business and virtually every single thing.

The society now finds itself, as I have said, under the spell of sports in a way that it never has before. I think that we as Barbadian sportsmen and sportswomen now believe that sports has become all embracing and a national sports policy is required. Those of us in here today, Sir, urgently need to enlighten the public to make them understand the seriousness of sports. I think that we have that as a duty to tell them, Mr. Speaker, about the impact, benefits and the importance of sports. We have to convince them that sports in this country will in this decade and the next play a very important role in human development. We have to show them how sports can provide a springboard or jumping off point for many businesses as well as for many individuals.

Sir, our sports policy therefore seeks to define the domain of sports. It seeks to articulate a clear vision for sports. It seeks to create certain standards for sports and an optimum environment to enable sports to fulfil its role as perfectly as possible and with as few obstacles as possible.

Sir, those words were the exact words I used to the sporting group when I met with them on February 2, 2000 during the process of putting the policy together. I do not think we should have a situation where we continue to regulate sports just as a footnote. I think that we should be seeing sports from now on as being part and parcel of the mainstream of Barbadian life. I think it is our duty to ensure that sports is always very high on the national agenda. Our national sports policy, Mr. Speaker, represents to my mind not an end but a beginning or a new way in which we look at sports.

Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that a lot of what is in the sports policy is not new in the sense that we are not inventing something new. A lot of what is in the policy has to do with what is being practised already. We have actually built on what we have in place. The policy is written in broad and generalized terms. Indeed, when we first started to put the sports policy together, there was a time when we had put a bit too much detail in the sports policy. When we looked at Trinidad's policy and others in the region, we came up with the idea that the sports policy is not to be written with a lot of specificity but it should be in broad and generalized terms as we have it.

What we have also done is to have at the Ministry of Sports a working document as well. The working document has become a vehicle which will drive the sports policy and which will tell us exactly at what point we should be doing what. In tandem with the actual sports policy document, there is another document which the Ministry has and it is

called a "Plan Of Action". That particular document, Sir, is going to be used in conjunction with the sports policy.

Mr. Speaker, I will not read this Green Paper on the National Sports Policy. I will simply give an oversight. I hope that Honourable Members will read the policy document. I will say what the Green Paper states in broad terms, but I will not get into the actual specifics of the document.

The sports policy, Sir, explains the way in which sports in Barbados will be governed. It is really, Sir, a rationalization of how sports will be governed in the future. In other words, it is a written statement of how we at the Ministry will govern and control our sports. We had a sports policy in the past but it was never put down in this form. There was always a very informal way of dealing with sports. As the Barbadian society becomes more and more developed, Mr. Speaker, and as the people begin to ask more and more questions, the country will be forced to get something which is a lot more formal and comprehensive which gives more transparency to our perception on sports.

Mr. Speaker, this policy formulates the all embracing statement at where we are and how we should go forward. Because society is changing so much and because sports can now give you so much professional mobility, it is necessary for us to treat sports with the importance and seriousness it deserves. We have to admit that sports touches our youth, adults and heritage, the tourists who come here, professionals, education and life in Barbados. Because of all of those linkages, Mr. Speaker, it is necessary for us to chart a course.

12.05 p.m.

I can remember a few months ago having to chair a Caribbean Minister of Sports meeting in Barbados. At that meeting, Sir, I remember telling them that as Ministers of Sports, we were not to devalue our Ministries. We have to see our role as no less significant than those who are Ministers of Education, Tourism, *et cetera*, and that the time had come where Sports Ministers have to stand up and speak on behalf of sports in the same manner as other Ministers speak of their Ministries. Sir, far too often persons tend to relegate us to the bottom as a kind of Cinderella ministry. Sir, at that Ministers of Sports' Meeting, the item on the news was not news as far as the media was concerned. It was not the Ministers of Tourism, Finance nor Education meeting and, therefore, it was dealt with in that manner.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said and will repeat again, sports is a vehicle for social and human development. It enhances the relationship between people and their countries. It involves persons from all levels of the social strata. Sports improve international relations. It has united this Caribbean in such a way as to make advocates of political unity jealous of what it has achieved.

Sir, I do not think that point can be made any more stronger. If there is one thing that has united this Caribbean, it is cricket. Sir, our athletes have all come together in such a way that we have not been able to, both politically and otherwise. Sports have helped Barbadians to overcome some ethnic and social barriers. It has straddled political partisanship and touches every single strata of the Barbadian society.

Sir, I think we underestimate the power of sports. I do not think it was the economic sanctions that brought South Africa to its knees. I think it was their isolation from sports such as international cricket or the Olympics which hurt them more than anything else and that has always been the point made by Ali Bakr, the South African cricketer.

Mr. Speaker, we do not appreciate the contribution and fame which certain sportsmen have brought to their respective countries. We can think of Pelé in Brazil, Sir Garfield Sobers in Barbados, *et cetera*. Neither, have we appreciated the fame and glory that teams have brought to their respective countries – the All Blacks of New Zealand, the Cameroons Football Team, the Sri Lanka Cricket Team, the Kenyan distance runners, *et cetera*. I do not think we appreciate what those sports persons have done for their countries. I do believe that on average, the best faces in the world are not the politicians. The best and most known faces of this world are our sportsmen: the Mohammed Ali's, the Evander Holyfield's, the Michael Jordan's, the Serena and Venus Williamses, the Curtly Ambrose's, the Brian Lara's, the Tiger Wood's, *et cetera*. I think they have done so much for their country that we never seem to appreciate the power of the sportsman and the sport.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of character building, I also believe that the playing field can be as influential as the classroom. To my mind, Sir, sports teaches the great lessons of life. The skills one learns in losing are far more important than the skills of winning. Mr. Speaker, you too would have learnt some of those skills in your days and I am sure you will agree with that. I think it was no less a person than Mr. Nelson Mandela who said that every child has a right to participate in sports. Sir, I believe that when he made that statement he was very cognizant of the value of sports. Sports combats idleness and other social ills. It emphasizes the respect for law and order. It is a privilege not only to see people but also the countries of the world, irrespective of their political persuasion, respect the rules of games such as football.

Sir, coming closer home, in spite of all that has so far been said of the value and the power of sports, there are still those among us who bitterly oppose sports and want to abolish it. They seem to want to see the death of sports. Sir, first and foremost in my mind are some very old-fashioned employers who believe that...

Sir, at page 4 of the document where it speaks to incentives and awards, there is need for the sensitizing of employers to the need for athletes to train and compete at international competitions without any attending loss of income, status, or benefits.
12.15 p.m.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that as Minister of Sports, and I am privy to a lot of what the sports persons were saying. I used to have the portfolio for Labour so I would also have been privy to a lot of what the employers were saying, I have to tell you, Sir, that in Barbados we still have some very insensitive employers where sports are concerned.

Sportsmen and sportswomen, Sir, have telephoned or have visited my office to say that after going overseas with their local club and even sometimes with national teams, they have returned to Barbados only to find themselves without a job. Sir, the attitude of such employers who take advantage of our sportsmen and sportswomen, has to be frowned upon.

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I have to say, Sir, that where the Amendment to the Shops Act is concerned, it is clear that a person is entitled to two compulsory days off. This can be the whole days Saturday and Sunday, the whole days Thursday and Saturday or the whole days Thursday and Sunday, but they have to get two days.

Many sports persons used to request, maybe, the whole day Thursday off, a half day on Saturday and a half day on Sunday, so that they would be able to use the afternoons to play their various games. Some employers insisted that they were not going to agree to the flexi-time arrangement. In some cases, they just got one weekend day off, that is Thursday and Saturday, or Thursday and Sunday. Therefore, those who played cricket on Saturdays and Sundays found themselves unable to play under those circumstances, so this messed up the cricketer considerably.

Some umpires experienced that obstacle where the employers were not making it possible for them to have the Saturday and the Sunday off, but that is the reality. Why there is this attitude towards sports persons by their employers, I find it really difficult to tell, because sports persons are usually fit and punctual employees. They have to practise and these are the same sports persons who have to get to cricket by a certain time and to football by a certain time and to get to work by a certain time. They are usually quite punctual and very often employers get very good returns for their money, when they have sports persons working for them at their places of business.

Yet, too many employers tend to give them a lot of trouble and make it very difficult for them. Sir, some

employers are very anti-sports persons and many of them only think about profit and I had to speak to them on this. Many of them do not seem to have any social or civic conscience and they do not want to give our national players time to go overseas.

In spite of all that, we have an understanding with the Employers Confederation of Barbados that whenever a person is to represent Barbados at a national level, that person should be given the required time off. Yet, a lot of the employers drop their remarks and threats, and very often the Labour Department has to be called in when they lay-off the person, or when the person comes back to find himself without a job.

I also want to touch briefly, Mr. Speaker, on the whole question of Sports and the Church and I am dealing primarily with the objective on page 2 that speaks to the development of a healthy and a well-disciplined society and the development, stimulation, appreciation and interest in sports.

Mr. Speaker, in the early part of the 20th Century, the Church was very concerned about the profanation of the seventh. In those days, Sir, it was said that it was sacrilegious to play a game of any sort, even rounders or pickups, on a Sunday.

Sir, today, Sunday is a heavily packed sporting day. I know that we have, on this Side of the House one of the leading clerics and I do believe that he will have something to say about it, but I do not think that playing sports of any sort on a Sunday, should not be considered to be a slap in the face for the Church.

The Church, Mr. Speaker, must be commended over the years, for trying to assist people by helping them to control the hours when they are not at work. If someone does not do it, some Barbadians, Sir, I know, will self destruct. Therefore, we have to applaud the Church for trying to restrict gambling, drinking and feting and so on because sometimes, it is necessary to save people from themselves.

We should not, Mr. Speaker, confuse sports with these vices. We should not confuse rest and recreation with idleness and profanity. I think, Sir, that we are better off playing sports on a Sunday than remaining idle at home. When sportsmen are on the field of play, their minds and bodies are being positively occupied and other temptations are pushed in the background.

A large part of the Church's commitment, Sir, is social and one of the ultimate aims of the Church is the cementing of relationships. It is the Church's duty, Sir, to encourage the unification of the society. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, friendly games on a Sunday should not be treated as an enemy. Sports on a Sunday, Sir, should not be relegated as

simple a matter as drinking and swearing on Sundays. It should be seen as the interconnection between communities, organisations and families. It should be regarded, Mr. Speaker, as encouraging fellowship, in particular, the idea of community games on a Sunday because it does not offend any of the sacred principles of the Church.

I think, Sir, that the connection between sports and the development of this country's human resources must not be downplayed because sports touches people, Mr. Speaker, in a way that sometimes they do not even realise that they are being touched. This is one of the reasons why the Church should socialise people through sports because it makes for much better and more disciplined persons. You would remember, Sir, that I said in the beginning that I was speaking on this objective: The Development of a Healthy and Well-Disciplined Society.
12.25 p.m.

Sports teaches a lot of things that the Church would want us to adhere to. It teaches equality and tolerance. It teaches fair play and honesty. All of those are tenets of the Christian religion. I think that sports makes you a better person and a better Barbadian and I think that we need a lot more sportsmanship in Barbados at this time when a lot of negatives are being injected into our society.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many Honourable Members will speak on this particular Head because it has to do with the whole question of providing sporting facilities and venues for Barbadians which is the very first objective of the national sports policy. As Minister of Sports, I am very concerned when we get communities calling for sporting facilities and then do not use them. That is hurtful.

As the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is saying, you may as well put that facility somewhere where you know somebody else is going to use it than to provide a facility where people just refuse to use it, which reminds me of something which is fashionable among a few of the ladies in Barbados who buy a lot of pretty clothes and put them in their wardrobes and some of them will wear them once and never wear them again, so they have them there but they just would not use them. Therefore, to have facilities such as the ones which we are providing being placed in areas and we see very minimal use being made of them can be very, very hurtful.

By and large though, I do believe that the facilities are being put in very strategic communities in Barbados and a lot of those communities do make very good use of them. We have been building very good facilities in Barbados over the last eight to ten years. I have worked in places like the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands and so on and I have lived in Jamaica. The point I am making is that we look at a lot of the facilities we are placing in places like St. George

and Christ Church and so on as just another facility, but in some of the places overseas that I know, these facilities would be termed their top facilities in that country. We just put it there and say, ah, another one, another one. We do not really appreciate the standard and sometimes those facilities are built to a very high standard. There are places that would be very happy to have these sports facilities that we build who would say if they got one that this is the best that they have in this little place.

We have reached the stage now where we are not simply building a pavilion as a pavilion and the Ministry of Sports in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Transformation, will continue to work to make every single pavilion we build into two levels where the second level will be reserved as a resource centre where we will do some skills training and so on because we believe that it would be a much better arrangement to have a multi-purpose facility to be used for sports and community development which will be very economical.

To my mind, it would be uneconomical to have two separate buildings, one for the skills training and one as a pavilion. We are hoping that persons would go there and use those facilities, especially the resource centre there, because we are trying to bring the Internet to the masses. That is the point. Yes, it will be a pavilion but it will be used as a resource centre as well. Many Barbadians do not have access to things like the Internet and we are trying to improve their computer literacy by having a resource centre where they will be able to go and have computer classes and people who have their own small businesses but do not have these facilities would be able to utilize them as resource centres as well. I do know that the resource centre at St. Marks in St. Philip will be outfitted very shortly. There is one for Inch Marlow and one at Indian Ground. I know the one at St. Elizabeth Village and the one at Black Bess have already, to my recollection, been outfitted.

Occasionally, Mr. Speaker, we do get clashes between the sportsmen and other users of the pavilions but I believe that all they have to do is to co-ordinate those activities properly and if there is good co-ordination then I am sure that you can have two activities going on simultaneously.

We have also been getting reports that some of those who should be taking care of the pavilions are not doing so properly and we have to be very serious where this particular complaint is concerned. I know, Sir, that there are people who would want to treat pavilions almost the same way they would want to equate things like pig sties and so on. People run through the pavilions with their feet full of mud and leave them dirty and do not look back to help clean them and so on. I know of an instance where a young lady who is in charge of a pavilion had actually spoken to some youngsters who had run through the pavilion and left it messy and

muddy and so on and their retort was, "if we do not dirty it, you would not have nothing to clean". That is the position and the attitude of some of the very people who use our pavilions. When you think that they would care it, this is the kind of response and attitude we get from them.
12.35 p.m.

I would also like to see a lot more of the pavilions we build around Barbados being named after people who have come from the bosom of those communities. I am sure that there are persons in the communities who would have contributed substantially to sports and other forms of community life. We do believe that there should be a memorial to those persons. We have done some already.

We have a Wayne Daniel's, a Desmond Haynes' and quite recently we had one being named in The Pine. Minister Lashley was the person who was instrumental in getting that done, the Keith Boyce Pavilion. There are other persons as well whom we would like to see and the recommendation should come from some of us in here to the Ministry of Sports to have certain pavilions named after those who would have contributed significantly to their communities.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said one is named after Victor "Gas" Clarke. These are the types of things we want to see and the response we would like to get from some of us in here.

Mr. Speaker, on the question of facilities, I want to say a few words on the question of a mini stadium. The Barbados Labour Party in its 1994 Manifesto had pledged to commence a mini stadium programme and we very much want to ensure that certain mini stadia are indeed built throughout Barbados. We feel that if mini stadia were constructed in strategic locations throughout Barbados that the national associations could use these facilities as venues for raising funds. We also think that Government would itself through rental be able to gain some revenue from mini stadia.

When we first conceptualised the idea it was to have the facility enclosed or partly enclosed with a few small stands or bleachers where patrons would pay for their entry. It was also acknowledged at that time that in some areas construction would have to be commenced from scratch but where possible we would utilise existing facilities which could be improved or which could be added upon.

What was the real thinking behind the mini stadia concept? The rationale for the construction of these facilities was that the mini stadia could be fashioned or tailor-made for events of a certain size and it would go a long way towards the further development of sports in Barbados. We have to realise Sir, that there are certain sporting events while being

too large to be accommodated at the average community playing field they are much too small for venues such as the Stadium or the Gymnasium.

Occasionally, a lot of the planned social and sporting activities have had to be cancelled at the National Stadium because the average crowd anticipated for the particular event could not justify payment of the prescribed rental and other overheads. If the organisers were to realise a profit to put that particular event at the Stadium or the Gymnasium, they would not make any money. Such a crowd, on the other hand, could easily be accommodated at somewhere like a mini stadium.

Right now, all of the major football matches are played at the National Stadium. All the major volley ball and netball matches we go to the Gymnasium for those. We feel, Sir, that there is a need to decentralise and shift some of the major sporting activities from the Stadium, from the St. Michael area generally, to other parishes in Barbados. I think that the mini stadia concept would effectively take those activities to the people.

Sir, I have to say that it is indeed a fact that in Barbados nowadays the support for parochial sports has increased tremendously. When sporting events are localised, the crowds can be very massive. People who would normally refuse to attend an event at the Stadium would be quite prepared to lend moral support to make a financial contribution to a sports person, and they would be likely to support the sports persons in their own areas.

Sir, quite recently we saw a night cricket series organised by the National Sports Council where we did it at a parochial level and I have to say that the final was played between St. George and St. Philip and that St. Philip won it and they beat St. John and Christ Church. The point I am making is that the crowd that turned up at those parochial games was massive. We want to put emphasis more on parochial games. Indeed, I would venture to say that if the Barbados Cricket Association would be enlightened enough to run for a year as an experiment a parochial competition under the auspices of the BCA, they would get better results than what they are presently getting in their First Division Cricket Competition. Mr. Speaker, I think that we can put our emphasis now on parochial games.

I want to mention quickly the whole question of women in sports. That is also one of the objectives of our sports policy. I would have to say that the Ministry of Sports, and I am sure the National Sports Council as well, we would want to encourage more women to get involved in sports. Far too often we get a situation where too many of our school girls stop sports immediately after leaving school. Some of them may stop because they have a baby. That is no reason for us to put sports on the back burner. A lot of the medal

winners at the Olympic Games have been mothers. I think Evelyn Ashford who won a bronze at the Olympics was a mother.

Too many of our ladies have decided to call it quits as soon as they leave school.
12.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, things like netball falls into oblivion because as far as they are concerned, sports is only for them when they are at school.

Mr. Speaker, we in this country have been trying for the longest time to have a national female football team because female football is becoming a big thing in the world. I have to commend the Barbados Football Association because they have been making the effort to get ladies interested in football. The interest does not seem to be there but we will continue to encourage it.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have good female athletes but a lot of them seem to concentrate on netball and those who play netball double up sometimes and play basketball and volleyball but in terms of percentages, the participation by our females is below the level we want. If we tried to find out in the region how compared with other Caribbean countries, we would be one of the biggest defaulters because our females do not participate long enough in our sports. In Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad there is wider participation but for some reason in Barbados there is no participation. We have tried to no avail but we will not stop in our efforts to encourage our females to become involved.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that female sports in Barbados can hold its head up if only the numbers would come forward and we then would not have to inject males into our hockey and volleyball to get a crowd because very often to get participation we have to join male and female together in order to get a satisfactory attendance.

We can look at the examples of Venus Williams and Serena Williams who are virtually dominating the world scene and from that we see that there is money in it as well, yet we seem not to be interested.

Sir, I was reading an article in the newspapers before September 11 and it said that in Afghanistan women wanted to run at the Olympics, but the Taliban Government said they had no problem as long as the women ran in their long dress with their veil. Sir, that is their opinion about female sports because females are not allowed to take part in sports in Afghanistan. They are not allowed to show their bodies so they cannot wear shorts even for sports. In Barbados we have to continue to encourage our females to take part.

SUSPENSION

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.00 p.m.

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

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

RESUMPTION

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

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I want to continue this discussion in the same vein that I was speaking when the House broke. I want to say that Barbados and Barbadians, Mr. Speaker, must appreciate the fact that a country of this size and with our resources will never be able to threaten the United States of America, Australia and Germany in the area of sports generally.

We are disadvantaged in many ways. To begin with, Sir, some sports do not lend themselves to a level playing field. For instance, Sir, in basketball we have a case when Barbados plays against the United States of America it might very well be a matter of giants playing against midgets. Sir, in certain other sports such as cycling, we will have situations where those countries might have access to the very best in terms of technical and hi-tech equipment and we may not be able to access such cycles and so on.

I recall during the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996 there were some African athletes who were there because of what we call a wild card. They did not qualify but they got a wild card to be there. Some of those athletes had never run in running shoes and in that part of Africa where they had come from they actually had said that a person's salary was less than the cost of a pair of running shoes. Then there was the class example in Sydney 2000 of a man from an African country again who was christened "Eric The Eagle". He was disgraced in the swimming pool. In fact, in a 200-metre where the people had finished, "Eric The Eagle" still had another lap and a half to go.

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: That is a fact. Do not laugh. The point I am making is that he had explained that in his country there was only one swimming pool and it actually belonged to a hotel. He had to get permission to use that swimming pool in which to train.

Mr. Speaker, I make that point very early in this session because I know that some Members might very well recall comments made by a former Minister of Government when he actually called on this Government through the National Sports Council to scrap some sports in Barbados. I made the point about the difference and disadvantage in sports because I wanted to tack it on to comments made by Mr. Keith Simmons who was a former Minister of Government. He called on us to reduce the number of sports in Barbados. His tone in the lectures that he gave was that if he had his way, this sport and that sport would not be classified as sports and would not be played in this country at all.

I want to say that at present Government is not prepared to do this. Indeed, Sir, we are a very democratic country and we cannot afford to do something like this. If some of our citizens, Mr. Speaker, think that they should play these sports, who are we to say "No" to them? I think that when the comment was made the former Government Minister also made very heavy weather about the height of our netballers and basketballers and so on. He said that they were too short. How can we tell 90 netball teams and 90 basketball teams that we as a Government will have nothing to do with them? I do not think we can super-impose our will on those players in this very democratic country. I do not think we can justify that approach to our people. I think, Sir, for us that it would be too artificial, restrictive and much too arbitrary an approach. We do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that sports should be governed by raw expediency. I think that is too myopic a view for us to have as a Government.

Our rationale for being involved in sports, Mr. Speaker, cannot always be restricted to producing world-class athletes and world-class competitors. In this country, Sir, we cannot simply concern ourselves with producing professional sportsmen. I believe very strongly that if a youngster from Marley Vale, St. Philip wants to play polo or drive a go-cart, that he should be allowed to do so. Our approach in sports is sports for all and we will not neglect or destroy any sport whatsoever. Who is to say, Mr. Speaker, that we do not have one of the best polo players in the world right here in Barbados? I believe that were it not for Suki King perhaps the call would have been made for us to scrap draughts, but Suki is the world's best. Look at the game such as chess. Kevin Denny has just become the first international master in the English speaking Caribbean. Were it not for Denny perhaps the call would have been made for us to scrap chess.

Of course, Sir, some sports will end up getting more in terms of Government resources than others. In terms of our subvention, some sports will get more than others. I think that Government will still have its priorities as obtain now and there will continue to be situations where some registered sports get no Government funding at all. Government up to now still determines who gets the funding. We do not give a subvention or give funding to the Turf

Club and to horse racing. We do not give a subvention or funding to the Barbados Cricket Association. The point I am making, Sir, is that we will not in any way discourage minority support in sports. We will ensure that sports such as pool, water polo and go-carting remain as recognized sports but this does not mean that we are going to give them the funding they request. Mr. Speaker, we believe that sports is too interconnected with tourism. We believe that the more variety we have in sports, the better it will be for us.
2.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again, much has been said about the need in Barbados for a strong club structure where sports is concerned. Too many of our clubs are relying on the Barbados Football Association, the Barbados Cricket Association or the Barbados Basketball Association to be the disciplinarians of their clubs. When a member of one's club misbehaves or misconducts himself during a match, the first line of action should be the club itself. I do not think that one should depend on the National Association to discipline the club members for you. The club should let their players know that they will not tolerate indiscipline. I think that should be a golden rule. If the clubs are strong, I feel that the National Association will also be strong. I think that if the National Association is strong, then sports generally, will be strong. Club leaders, members and administrators must stand up to their unruly players and must not allow those players to wag them.

Mr. Speaker, on the same issue of our clubs, it is my view and perhaps a slight diversion from the policy, but there are still too many First Division cricket teams in Barbados. I think the talent of our cricket is being watered down. I think there are about four good players in every team in Barbados and that the other seven are virtually mediocre. In some instances, not only are some of our players mediocre, but some of our First Division players are downright poor.

Our young people in cricket do not have to struggle to gain a play in a First Division team any longer. People who should be watching cricket on Saturdays are now playing and batsmen with scores of 3, 8, 17, 5, 4 and 2 are maintaining their place in our First Division teams in Barbados. When they make 10 or 12, it is being highlighted and printed in the newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, there are also times when, during the second half of our season, too many teams are finding it difficult to field 11 men on a team. People do not have the appetite to play any longer and a lot of them have said that players who are in the right places get plays on national teams very easily. Nowadays, when a cricketer makes 250 or 300 runs during the cricket season while playing 13 matches, can guarantee himself a play during the trials. Sir, in our day, it was not like that. We had to struggle for 500 runs to get to

the trials and at that time one had to take over 50 wickets in order to qualify for the trials. Nowadays, it is being done much too easily. Cricketers get called up for trials much too easily.

Sir, when we used to play eight or nine matches, the barometer used at that stage was set at 350 runs. That barometer is being used today when one is playing 13 matches. I do not think that a lot of our cricketers, especially those who play First Division on Saturdays, are fit to play anymore. A lot of them get run-out because of their unfitness. A lot of them cause run-outs because of their unfitness. A lot of them cannot concentrate for long periods, either, Sir, because of their lack of physical fitness.

Mr. Speaker, I can speak to this from, perhaps, a better view point than most Members. I am one of those persons who follow St. Catherine's Cricket Team. I can say that they perform very well when they are fit. When Mac Fingal trains them they play well, but this season they are at the bottom of the table. They have been complaining that they do not have anyone to keep them fit and so they perform miserably.

Sir, people are not practising in the nets long anymore in the way they used to before. People used to go into the nets at Spartan, Empire, St. Catherine's, or anywhere. Sometimes persons cannot even find a space to stand because of the number of persons that are watching. Sir, that is not happening any longer, plus the fact that a lot of our young people do not hang around to talk to the older cricketers anymore in order to ask an opinion on cricket. They never sit and chat with the experienced players to learn anything about the game from them.

Sir, we have to be very careful with what is happening in our sports in Barbados. In the 1970s and 1980s and even before that, every single country in this region that plays cricket had, as its ambition, to defeat Barbados and they have tried hard at doing it by improving their cricket. Today, Sir, it seems as though we tend to be conspiring with them to ensure that we are beaten every time they meet us. I still think we have much more to do in terms of the fitness of our cricketers. I like when we are the target, when people are saying to themselves, "I want to beat Barbados". Sir, I am not comfortable with things as they are now when we are beaten almost at will.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say something in terms of sponsorships. Within our country, Barbados, which is very small, we are a poor country in terms of how the resources of this world go. We have very few, if any, large commercial firms. Sir, we do not have any McDonald's, Burger King's, Nikes', Addidas', *et cetera*, and athletes have to work and play. We cannot blame them because there is no one there to

support them in the way athletes in the other big countries get support from their sponsors. Mr. Speaker, even with the optimum utilization of our resources, we cannot do things such as paying coaches to travel with our athletes except, once a year, because we need funds to do all those things. We need weeks of training and exposure and we cannot do those things in the same way like those sponsors in the other countries can.

As a result of that, Sir, it does not surprise us when some of our best athletes and sportsmen are often forced to leave our shores to go and represent others. We have a lot of athletes of Barbadian parentage who go to Canada and Great Britain to run. We have to say that, in some respects, we are very grateful for this because somewhere else has the facility and the training. Sir, in many instances, that feeling is bitter-sweet.

We could have had a situation where an athlete like our own Obadele Thompson, had he chosen to, might not have represented his country because we were not able to offer him the resources that would have attracted others, who virtually turn their backs on their country and represented the United States of America or Canada. Therefore, we have to be grateful to him for keeping focussed and keeping Barbados first. Sir, when that happens, the feeling is more bitter-sweet because we applaud the fact that deep inside, they might have wanted to represent their country but because we did not have the wherewithal, they were forced to go and represent another country.
2.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have to appreciate what a lot of the companies in Barbados are trying to do and we have to put it that way because we know that they are really and truly making an effort to support sports. I do not want to try listing the companies that support sports, but you know that there are about three or more companies which come to mind immediately. These companies have done their very best to try to help our sportsmen and sportswomen but I would want to see more companies getting involved with our athletes at the developmental stage.

I want companies to get involved, not when the athlete has made a name, if you could put it that way, but I want them to get involved with the athlete while the athlete is just there on the springboard. I think, Sir, that once that is done, it will go a very long way because it tends to send the wrong message very often, that we wait until the athlete has made a name for them to jump in at the tailend.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that right now some benevolent company should have taken up an athlete such as Willan Louis and we should have been beginning his preparation for Greece. Sir, some people think the Government should do it but the Government would have had to do so much, that if

we are to take the cue from what other companies overseas do, then some company in Barbados should be able to have someone like Willan prepared for Greece.

I guess he will gain very little by remaining in Barbados and all of us know that, but here is a youngster who can go far and put Barbados on the map. Here is a youngster who would need gear, food, nutriment and supplements, and a youngster who would need accommodation and which company will come forward and say, I will do it? Sir, we definitely need some civic-minded, corporate sponsor to come forward and assist this young man.

Mr. Speaker, where the sponsors are concerned, we also have to bear in mind that sports development is secondary to them and that they are first and foremost interested in highlighting their products, and sponsors like to get returns for their money. Therefore, we will have to call on Barbadians to support those sponsors that we see as our indigenous, and civic-minded corporate entities.

Mr. Speaker, one of the areas which I would like to see more corporate assistance is in the area of the provision of wheelchairs for our athletes with disabilities. In the sports policy it says:

“The special needs of the elderly, people with disabilities and other individuals will be taken into account in the implementation of measures to promote a realistic, ‘Sports for All’ programme.”

I would honestly like to see more assistance for our disadvantaged athletes. There are many persons, Mr. Speaker, with disabilities who would like to compete at the national level but they do not have the funds to purchase the wheelchairs. Wheelchairs for sports, Sir, are very expensive and I believe that this type of event, “The Wheelchair Event,” should be included at every athletic meet we have at the Stadium.

Sir, we have had so many athletic meets at the National Stadium and we have athletes in Barbados who would really like to be on that track with their wheelchairs but because they cannot get the correct wheelchair and unless a company or individual would come forward to assist them, we will never be able to see our own wheelchair athletes in action.

We have just one young man who goes to Mexico and all over the world to represent Barbados. He even went to Australia because he has the right wheelchair.

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I have just been informed that there is actually a company which has come forward to sponsor Mr. Willan Louis. I feel most

delighted, Mr. Speaker, to hear that but the point I was making is that when we say, "ports for all," we should really mean sports for all and it should include those persons with disabilities.

I come, Mr. Speaker, to a very important part of the Sports Policy and it deals with the Sports Promotion Fund. It says that a Sports Promotion Fund will be established for the purpose of promulgating the development of sports in general. It will be funded by private donations, international grants and subsidies from charitable and sporting bodies and governmental grants. The aim of the Fund is to improve the international competitiveness of Barbadian athletes, and expand the scope of sports through the provision of grants to sports organisations, athletes and instructors involved in sporting activities.

Mr. Speaker, I see the Sports Development Fund as a vehicle to assist the National Sports Policy. This will help us to realise the objectives of the Sports Policy. A lot of the developmental work in sports should be done through the Sports Development Fund and we are hoping, Sir, that the Sports Promotion Fund will be a new source of funding which will enable us to do a lot of the things which we could not do on the Government's allocation.

I want to emphasise the point, Mr. Speaker, that we are not duplicating Government's allocation to the National Sports Council. The funds of the Sports Promotion Fund will be raised outside of the National Sports Council. The Sports Development Fund will be like a Trust, and in this regard, you will need persons with the requisite skills to manage such a fund. This will require a level of accountability since it is a fund identified for a specific purpose. It is in itself a special services fund.

Mr. Speaker, we are hoping to be able to attract international funding. In sports, Sir, international donors do not like to give money directly to the Government because in their eyes, Governments are notorious – and I am not speaking of the Barbadian Government specifically – but in the eyes of those international funding agencies, Governments are notorious for taking money for one purpose and using it for another purpose.

2.30 p.m.

I am relatively confident that international donors will help with projects such as our Hall of Fame, our Sports Library, our Cricket Academy and so on and I honestly believe that they will help us once we have something like a sports promotion fund set up. With trustees in place these projects will not be seen as just any old government project from which the funds will be siphoned off into other areas. You will remember, Sir, the Banks Plus 2000 initiative which was used specifically to send our athletes off to the Sydney Olympics. I think that is as close as you can get to

what I mean by this special services fund so people will contribute to the fund without thinking that they are contributing to Government directly because they will be contributing to a cause or to a particular project.

When Government tried to encourage these lotteries in Barbados to form a single lottery and to channel some of that money towards sports, we were hoping that the donations from the lotteries, or from the lottery as it would be, would go directly into the sports promotion fund because we want to have this fund set up where people can make contributions to it in order for us to fund a lot of our sporting projects.

I know that from time to time the National Sports Council (NSC) comes under increasing pressure and increasing criticisms. Invariably, however, the criticism of the NSC is usually one of quantum, that is, people are asking for more pavilions and more hard courts. I do not think that anyone can really fault the NSC for its coaching programmes or for its developmental competitions in particular. I think the policy they have at the NSC continues to stress and emphasize the need for nurturing and nourishing our youngsters so emphasis at the NSC will continue to be placed on our youth.

In this regard, as Minister of Sports, I think I have a duty to thank the media – and by the media, I mean the print and electronic media – especially the television media for highlighting junior cricket, junior football and junior athletics in a way that I do not think youth sports have ever before been highlighted in Barbados. I think we have made our youngsters proud by the coverage they get for their football, athletics and cricket. That is the truth. I think we have to thank in particular our television because they do a marvellous job in the way they bring those youngsters to the attention...

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Yes, we speak of the sports policy at page 4 under mechanisms about the primary and secondary schools syllabus and using physical education and sports as part of the curriculum and really and truly putting the emphasis on the youngsters.

The point I was making though, Mr. Speaker, is that no one in Barbados can deny the fact that in recent years considerable amount of attention has been paid to identifying and encouraging the sporting talents at our primary schools so Government has not left the development of our youngsters to chance. The National Sports Council itself has virtually collared and controlled the programmes and the competitions at the various primary schools around the country. The Milo Football, the Herman Griffith cricket and so on have often, as I said, been given more prominence in the media than our senior competitions. Mr. Speaker, names

like Shamarh Brooks, Simon Steel, Steve Blackett, Kristain Hurdle and Jonathan Carter as young as they are have been regularly splashed across our sports pages and our sportscast to the point that people already know and recognise those youngsters. This is due to a consciousness, a realization and an effort by Government that the future sprouts of our sports must be manured and watered if sports is to be sustained and be sustainable in our country.

I think the key to sports is a good junior development programme and I am in favour of junior competitions at the regional and national level in all types of sports because my motto in this regard is, work with the juniors and that will take care of the seniors, because I think that if you work with them at that early age they will go on some day to be our seniors and to do the country proud.

In terms of our seniors, I do not think that anyone in Barbados can truthfully say that Government has not tried its best to help our past sportsmen. We have tried to engage our past sportsmen in the development of this country wherever possible and very often at the very highest level. You, yourself, Mr. Speaker, will know the ones whose skills we have utilised but if I try to call names I know I am going to leave out some of them so perhaps it might be best if I do not mention any at all.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Yes, I know the Speaker used to be something of a sportsman.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was your captain.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I played under the Speaker, he was my captain. He was an extremely good captain. He was very good at field placing and very good as a batsman. The only thing I can say negative about the Speaker in sports is that his bowling action was... He had a good bowling action, let me just put it that way.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, we have tried wherever possible to utilise the skills of our sportsmen. We cannot honestly accommodate all of them. We know that very often some of the companies and so on also use some of the past sportsmen and we have to encourage companies to lend Government a hand in this regard because we do not like the idea of seeing people who represent Barbados or the West Indies fall by the wayside. There are not enough slots I do not think in the whole set up of Government for us to engage each and every one of them, and very often we have to turn to some of our leading companies for assistance in this regard.

2.40 p.m.

Let me say in the whole question of anti-doping and drugs in sports that Barbados has taken the lead role in this region as the first and the foremost country when it comes to being in the vanguard of the fight against drugs in sports. We are among 17 countries chosen throughout the world to serve for two years on the world's anti-doping agencies, WADA. We have four countries chosen from Africa, four from Europe, four from Asia and four from the Americas. In the area of the Americas, we have the United States of America, Canada, Chile and Barbados. I think that that in itself, Sir, sends a message to the region that if there is one country in this region that is very serious about the question of drugs in sports it is Barbados.

Our being on the Board of WADA, the World's Anti-Doping Agency, I think demonstrates a tremendous amount of respect for Barbados and for the part that it has played in the universal fight against the use of illicit drugs. We are the smallest country actually on the Board and if it had to go in terms of size, then we would not have been able to make it. Clearly the mere fact that we are there itself should send a message because in the eyes of the world, Barbados is a principal player in the fight against drugs. I have always said that they see us not as part of the problem but they see us as part of the solution in the fight against drugs in sports.

Our Dr. Adrian Lorde has been doing a tremendous amount of work on that committee and I think that even now he might be overseas in Sweden on a meeting on anti-doping. We have had to put a Barbados policy on doping in sports before our sporting organisations. They, too, have agreed that they are going to adhere to our policy because one of the things which we would never wish to see is this country brought to shame and embarrassment by anyone of our top athletes.

Our policy is now in the hands of the Association. It deals with all of the sanctions, it deals with who can be sanctioned whether it can be just the athlete or his coach as well if the coach is found to be part and parcel of the whole anti-doping status and what happens if you avoid or refuse to be tested. We know that there are going to be some persons in Barbados who when they hear they are to be tested by the agency will tell you to your face that they are not going to be tested, and nobody can test them, and they are not going to co-operate. Well, the rule usually is that if you refuse, then it is a positive test. These are some of the rules they will have to adhere to.

Government gives its support to the Committee because we have to ensure that the Committee has some credibility and is not just some toothless bulldog that we have put there that cannot do anything. Failure to co-operate with the Committee could result in disqualification or loss of accreditation by any delinquent association or delinquent individual. This is one of the big things now in sports, the

whole question of anti-doping and we have to see it as a challenge for people and we have to co-operate and safeguard our country's interest and safeguard our country's good name. We have to send a strong message that we believe that winning on drugs is not winning at all and winning only means something when that victory is won fairly and squarely. We have to let those who take drugs know that we still consider they are cheating and we are not going to encourage any administrator in sports who knows about what is going on to support morally bankrupt sportsmen.

We feel that if one athlete plays by the rules and this one athlete comes sixth or seventh that he is the athlete. If the others who touch the tape before that athlete are all on drugs then, to our mind, the clean athlete is the one who hits the tape without any drugs whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of health, and I remember I promised to speak for an hour after, so I am very well sticking to my guns in that regard, although I can go for another two. One of the objectives of the National Sports Policy is the development of a healthy society. I want to link that with something which I have been worried a little about. I believe the best way to heighten awareness of the crisis of HIV/AIDS is for us to take pockets of our Barbadian society and examine the risk of those infected sections of society and address them accordingly.

We are forced to admit that if HIV/AIDS is going to impact on our society, then our sportsmen and sportswomen cannot consider themselves immune or free from danger. I do not think that anyone has ever spoken to this topic in terms of our sportsmen because I feel that our sportsmen must be told what temptations they are likely to encounter. They must be told how to deal with popularity because this is one of the biggest challenges to our sportsmen. The real down-to-earth truth is that if you are a top sportsman in the public limelight then you will be greatly admired by the other sex.

That is as blunt a statement as I can possibly make. Temptations will be there. This group is therefore one of the most vulnerable sections of our society. Any person who is aiming to be a top sports person must be told of the danger in this regard of being a sporting celebrity. People may want to shy away from the topic and not speak about it. A physically muscular and vibrant sporting body says a lot. Sports is about virility and there is a perception that the more virile you are and appear to be the more attractive you are to the others. A body at this time of life tends to be at its physical best. When a sportsman is at his peak, his body is definitely at his physical best.

Remember you are looking at a disease which has a potential to destroy the human body. It attacks the very body

which you use as a sportsman. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, it will impact more on the sportsman than on the clerk or the typist.
2.50 p.m.

If you become HIV positive as a sports person, people will know. We know what happened to Magic Johnson. A clerk or typist may be able to camouflage his illness because that person is sitting for a long period, but the sportsman's illness will be detected because his performance will drop off.

Mr. Speaker, today the Caribbean has one of the highest incidences of HIV/AIDS in the world in the 18 to 25 age group. Right away you realise that the majority of our sports persons are in that age group. This tells us that our sports people are at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about whether education has ever targeted our sporting society. Let us not fool ourselves, HIV/AIDS is a real threat to that group. Advertisers have, from time to time, used sportsmen to promote their products and there always seems to be an underlying message that if you are a successful sportsman that pretty women in bikinis are yours. In this day and age, we must take a different approach. We have to emphasise to them that with stardom comes a certain amount of responsibility. This has to do with our behaviour and our conduct, Mr. Speaker. As role models, sportsmen have a responsibility to their lives in a way to be admired by their fans and they have to remember that people idolise them.

Mr. Speaker, I have to make that point because I am concerned about the fact that no one has ever spoken to our sports persons as a group as to the threat of the incident of HIV/AIDS. One of the objectives of the national sports policy is that it must try to ensure that we have healthy sports persons.

Our sports administrators have a duty to put together a summit on sports and HIV/AIDS. I think that Government will have to lend its support to such a summit. We have to use persons in health and sports in a fact-finding summit and given the ease with which sportsmen can end up with the disease, we want to find out the attitude of our sportsmen to the whole idea of HIV/AIDS. We want to find out what kinds of fears, if any, our sportsmen have. We have to be committed as a Government to the dissemination of information in our fight against HIV/AIDS because after all, it is the death of our sportsmen that we are trying to prevent.

Therefore, I have as a duty to touch on that issue because, as I said, the 18 to 25 age group is where you will find the majority of sportmen and women. I personally know of instances where our sportmen have closed their eyes because of this disease. We have to speak to it in a way that

it was never spoken before where our sports people are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wind up by saying it is an honour for me to have brought the national sports policy in the form of a Green Paper to this House. It is a triumph not only for the Ministry of Sports but a triumph for our national associations. It shows that Government is serious about sports and we are not prepared to allow sports to remain on the back burner.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this national sports policy and from the outset to declare an interest in a matter such as this when one considers that I have a club in St. Lucy known as Youth Milans which used to be St. Elmo Youth Milans and another one call North Stars. I recognised since 1994 that a proper sports programme needed to be in St. Lucy so I started the St. Lucy's sports competition.

Sir, I have said all that to let you know that I do not believe that sports can be seen anymore as people coming on a field and playing. We have to recognise the commercial component of sports and if we are seriously going to tackle the minds of our youngsters, it is through sports that we can encourage those youngsters to get active.

I have said before in this House that the Government of the day needs to come up with a programme, not with fellows on a football field kicking a football but a programme that encourages youngsters to see sports like football and cricket as a future job. If we do not put a proper policy in place, they are not going to get serious about these sports and we will continue to fail.

Sir, I honestly believe that money should be set aside for a proper commercial project whether in cricket or football because when one looks at the gatherings one should be inclined not only to include cricket but also football. When I go to football in the country area, everybody wants to be part of football. It tells me that we have to utilise that information to improve the minds and lives of the people whom I call, "the block guys". Sir, if there is one interest, it is in sports. The problem in this country is that we tend to look at life from the top down and as long as we look at it that way, we will continue to find ourselves in trouble. We need to look at the sports programme from the bottom up and we can then solve many of the social ills in this community.

Sir, after putting this sports policy in place, I expect the Minister in the Estimates to put the appropriate funds in place to make sure that a proper sports programme is

implemented to help relieve some of the suffering of the youngsters on the block and put them into meaningful programmes to uplift their lives.
3.00 p.m.

In 1994 when I was canvassing in the constituency of St. Lucy, I recognized that the United States was getting ready to be involved in World Cup Football. I said that I honestly believed that a programme should have been put in place and that the scouts from the United States should have been able to come and tap into our youngsters in Barbados. Since 1994, I have not seen anything to convince me that we are serious about this.

So serious was I, Sir, that a youngster in my constituency called Norman Forde was given a contract and I was prepared to back that ticket for him to go to England. It was regrettable that our Ambassador to London did not understand the importance of that appointment to that young footballer. He did not use his office to help to encourage that youngster who, in my opinion, was an ambassador for Barbados without payment. He did not help him to have the type of living conditions and to become climatized to the English market to remain on his contract.

Sir, I am saying that when youngsters get football and cricket contracts, it is the business of the Government of Barbados to dictate to the Ambassadors no matter where they are to make sure that these people are well looked after and that they do not get home sick. It is regrettable that several years after that same youngster is still the leading footballer in Barbados.

On Sunday night, Sir, you could hear the leading sportsmen on football telling us that that youngster should not be wearing football boots in Barbados but that he should be somewhere else promoting the interest of Barbados. We as politicians should recognize that when we have this type of talent we have to utilize the talent and use Government finances not only to promote the youngster but to promote Barbados.

Let me say this, Sir. This is something that I am very passionate about. Whenever you have a sportsman that excels, it is Barbados that is excelling, especially when they are excelling on the international market. That is why I have always said that we do not understand the importance of our sports people. One would have thought, Sir, having greats like the three W's and the great Excellent Sir Gary Sobers that we would not be at this stage. We should have now been able to use our capacity to understand the workings of people like them. But the problem is that most of these people are the normal country people. Once they are the normal country people no matter what they achieve or what they do, we cannot appreciate it.

Sir, I am saying that if we do not make a change then good talent will be wasted. In a country like Barbados, we cannot afford to waste good talent. I am saying that it is not too late for the Norman Fordes to be fully utilized. I am telling the Sports Minister that it is his duty to maximize the usage of that talent and let it excel. It is time that we recognize this, Sir. If we are going to seriously deal with the social drop-outs in Barbados, it is a proper sports programme that will solve this.

Employment can be seen in many ways. One of the best ways to deal with this type of problem is through the sports programme. This debate should not just be seen as sports, Sir. This debate is much higher than about sports. This debate is about the upliftment of the young people of Barbados and the correction of some of the problems in Barbados. This is not a simple debate as we come here today to discuss, it must not be seen in that light.

Employers have to understand that sports people are important. I am not only going to blame employers. I am going to blame the Shops Act, because it was utter foolishness to say that the off day has got to be in the week and one at the weekend. I believe that the Shops Act needs to be amended to say that employees can get two off days of their choice. When you come and carry it down to a day in the week and one at the weekend, this is foolishness. Stop blaming employers for what we did wrong. I want to admit something, Sir. When that Act was passed in this House, I was overseas on the country's business attending a conference. There is no way that Act could have passed in this House without my pointing out that particular problem. If there is one thing I regret it is that I was not around here when that foolishness was passed. I am telling you that.

Sir, I am calling on the Minister of Labour to bring the necessary amendment to Parliament and stop depriving sportsmen from showing their full potential. I am saying that it is all right to come and bash employers but you have got to realize that it is the Act and not the employer, because the employer has to work within the Act. I know that the Honourable Minister of Labour will make the necessary correction because we have to realize that this is a dynamic world.

We also have to understand that we as a Government have to look for contracts for cricketers, footballers and everybody involved in sports. We have to look for them outside of Barbados. We have to be prepared to tell Barbados how much money these people are working for, so that you can create an incentive for other people to go after that. If you give someone a contract and the others do not know what they are getting, Sir, there is no incentive. We have to create a hungriness...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, hungriness. Do not worry about hunger. I said a hungriness and I am sticking with that. That is a good Barbadian term. If you say that you have got to create hunger, it will be interpreted in a different light and I do not want it to be misinterpreted. You have to understand exactly what I am saying and the populace understand quite well when I talk about hungriness.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, he would not understand that. He is not a good country boy. He would not understand that. I am saying that we have to create a way for people to want to be part thereof and that is what is lacking. We are not creating a way for people to want to be part thereof. When a guy can purchase football boots and can just go and kick football boots at \$250 and feel good about it, those boots must be seen as an investment to a future and not that the person is just playing a sport. He has to see it as a business. That is why I am proud of my footballers in the north. That is why they have given me the commitment that they will win everything this year for me and I know that they are going to do it.

3.10 p.m.

On Sunday night, I will wait for them in Moon Town because that is celebration time. It started with the Ambassadors of St. Lucy and they took it and understand too well the command. This year is the year for St. Lucy and we will excel.

I am also saying that we put forward a very good concept to the Minister of Sports and I am sorry that it was not accepted. I am saying that the Barbados Sports Council has failed in this way. When the North Stars Cricket team built that pavilion using their own initiatives – I have already said in this Parliament that that initiative should be used as the role model for every single pavilion that was built after that time. That is, if you find young persons prepared to construct a pavilion with the assistance from Government, then Government should be prepared to provide that assistance instead of trying to do everything themselves. What it means is that once the community is willing to do something, the Government should provide the necessary fuel for them to continue.

Sir, what was worse about that was that it did not stop at North Stars. Persons in the Pie Corner area took Rockfield, which was not in any condition to be used by the people and constituents of St. Lucy and used their own talents in the rebuilding of Rockfield. Can you tell me now, Sir, that if Grape Hall wants a pavilion they cannot get one? The people of Grape Hall are also prepared to flex some muscles on weekends in building their pavilion. Therefore,

the Government should understand that when it comes to St. Lucy, the people are prepared to put their hands and help themselves.

Sir, what I am saying is that as soon as the Government hears St. Lucy, they should rush to its assistance because if the building costs \$400 000, they only want half of that. In other words, whenever there is a project in St. Lucy, the Government can get two for the price of one. Sir, I am saying that when one finds persons who are so independent, it is important they must be kept that way. That is why I am saying we need to have the St. Lucy concept right through Barbados because any Minister who understands the St. Lucy concept will know that he can get more of everything because we believe in helping ourselves.

I support the idea of naming pavilions, especially after persons who have contributed to sports, because persons must be able to appreciate the role models among them. I think the faster it is done, the better it will be. Let the works of that person be the reason why the pavilion is being named after him. Sir, because someone is being liked and their name sounds pretty, people are prepared to honour that person, but let it be done by their contribution to the sport or to the community in Barbados and I will support that, but do not just go and put any and every name on a pavilion just for the sake of putting up a name.

Sir, I am also saying that one of the reasons why the Minister would have had that problem where workers have problems with people using these facilities is that most of these facilities are built by Government without any local input, therefore, people using the facilities will not appreciate it. One will not get that problem at North Stars nor at Rockfield, because the workers who have worked in helping to construct and reconstruct those properties will be there to protect their investment, but elsewhere, because it is Government's property, persons feel they can do whatever they like. Sir, it is good to have community input into these projects because whenever there is community input there is a social caring coming from those persons in the area because it is their work that have gone into the building of such projects.

Sir, there is one thing after agriculture and fishing that we have that can tap a lot of resources for the country and that is sports, but we must be fully prepared to exploit and put money into it. We must also tell the Barbados Cricket Association that they must come up with a feasible programme to keep the interest of cricket at home once more and for this reason. I do not like the idea that every new sport we hear about we should be getting involved in it, Sir, because elsewhere, everything seems to be attractive but in Barbados. It seems not to be so as if we are playing the sports only for the sake of playing it. That is why I have suggested to one of my clubs in St. Lucy, that instead of their

cricket competition being played during the day, it might be better that this competition be played on either a Friday or Saturday night. I think it might be better played on a Saturday night because one cannot interfere with Moon Town which has now become a tourism landmark. I am glad that the Honourable Minister of Tourism understands that something like that means a lot to tourism and that the taximan is now important too.

Sir, I am hoping that the Minister of Sports will recognize that the only reason why we have not won the softball competition this year is because we did not have lights on our cricket grounds to see to practise at nights, but I can assure you, Sir, that when the Minister understands that St. Lucy needs lights and I am a bit surprised that being the representative of the only female constituency, the Minister of Sports did not appreciate St. Lucy and has starved her from having lights, I hope that he would recognize the importance of lights to a place like St. Lucy, being the only respected parish of Barbados.

Sir, another good quality about St. Lucy is that it is being surrounded on three sides by water and I cannot understand why the Minister cannot appreciate that we have the best swimming pool in St. Lucy and need to have it back in order for us to have international swimmers, because at least they are surrounded by water and know how to swim. Sir, if they can swim in the sea and do well, then they can do better in the pool. My advice Sir, is to give my constituents back what they had before.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: On point of order, Sir. I think that the Honourable Member is misleading the House. One cannot be surrounded on three sides.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You see, that is no point of order because we are surrounded by three sides of water and one side of land. Sir, I am very glad that my good friend has tried to correct me but he will now know not to butt in when I am speaking.

Sir, I am hoping that after this debate that this is not a talk shop and that this debate is as serious as I have taken it. I am hoping that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North would pay as much attention to what I am saying as did the Honourable Member for Tourism. Sir, the Honourable Member for Tourism is now bragging about the ideas that he has taken from me that are now reaping success. I can assure the Honourable Member for St. Philip North that if he does likewise with this programme, in one year's time, he too will be able to come here and brag. I thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Mr. D. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Sports for this sports programme.

From the outset, I would like to say that it was long overdue. I believe that sportsmen in Barbados can now consider themselves to be more informed. Sir, they tended to suffer from an inferiority complex for a very long time as compared to their counterparts who are considered as academics.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, this Sports Policy which we have before this Honourable House could only mean something to Barbadians when it is being related to money. Recently we were struggling for financial assistance to help sports, and in the last few months I have learnt that there will be the amalgamation of the lotteries to help sportsmen in this country. Unfortunately for us, we have seen only two of the entities being amalgamated and the third one, the Barbados Sports Council, finds itself in the position where we had to settled for 28 per cent of the money that would be made, and the other 72 per cent goes to the two lotteries.
3.20 p.m.

The Barbados Cricket Association decided that on this occasion, they will go it alone and only in today's paper I saw an article which stated that the Association will get \$3.5 million a year for an undisclosed period of time.

In Barbados I know that the money generated by the lotteries is between \$70 million and \$80 million per year. I can say that only about \$10 million to \$15 million is made in profits. Looking at this whole scenario, I respect the Barbados Cricket Association for the step they have taken but I believe they should have taken heed. The old people used to say, "a sheep head every day a week is better than a cow head" and on this occasion, I believe that the Barbados Cricket Association is going for the \$3.5 million, although the people who are running the lottery did not say how long they will give the \$3.5 million per year.

Previously, when the Barbados Cricket Association was part of the whole amalgamation team, I know for a fact that they would have received some 20 per cent of the proceeds and, Sir, 20 per cent is one-fifth of the amount. I believe that one-fifth of \$10 million to \$15 million is slightly over \$2 million. As I said, previously, it would be better for them to collect \$2.5 million or \$2 million per year, rather than going for the \$3.5 million.

Now, democracy is prevailing in this country and the Prime Minister said that he would like to see the amalgamation of all lotteries.

Asides.

Mr. D. CARTER: Sportsmen should be proud of themselves in this country and I can say, emphatically, that a young sportsman who reaches the height in his profession, can earn as much money in ten years as a civil servant who works 40 years, reaching the highest point in his position in this country. The sportsman can earn twice as much money as the person who works 40 years. I want sportsmen to be proud of themselves and we look to people like Sir Gary Sobers and Obadele Thompson. It is a known fact that Obadele Thompson earns the type of money where, just an appearance as a meet, he earns US \$10 000. If he wins the race, he earns up to US \$50 000.

I am a bit surprised to see that the young people of this country are not putting more energies into their acts in order to reach the heights but certainly, as time goes on and as money is made available for sports, I believe we will be able to help all the young people in this country.

Before, we go further, I know that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy made certain remarks about the building of a pavilion in Rockfield. I must say, congratulations to the people of St. Lucy. I must also say, congratulations for building the pavilion at Northern Stars but the Honourable Member did not say that the Ministry of Sports gave him some money to help in that venture. I believe that if other entities do the same thing in relation of building sports complexes in their area, it would be a good thing for all of us.

The Government of the day started a programme to improving the infrastructure in this country. The National Sports Council, since 1994 in a very detailed plan, was able to build sporting pavilions in many of the constituencies. These pavilions are also used as resource centers by the Ministry of Social Transformation where the ordinary people of this country could have an opportunity for computer training to become computer literate.

In relation to the pavilions that were built, the Government has gone a step further and decided that most of the playing fields should be well lit, starting from about a year ago.

I would like to report to this Honourable House that only last week I was able to have a series of games played in Wotton, Christ Church, where over five nights in the week we were able to play football to the highest level, playing under lights. I believe that entities like this would do well to improve the sporting facilities and the capabilities of the respective people in this country.

We have a great problem in this country in relation to coaches. I know the National Sports Council diverted much

attention to the schools, especially the junior schools or the elementary schools. The coaches work every day but I decided that we have to change the working method of the coaches in this country whereby a coach must not work from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., but must learn to putting his eight hours between any hour, especially in the districts where people are badly in need of coaching. I feel that as from now, we must have the hours in such a way that coaches can work from 4.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. or they can work from 12.00 noon to 8.00 p.m. and they would be still putting in eight hours a day.

It is the opinion of most people that if a person plays any sport well, he automatically becomes a good coach. The Barbados Sports Council has now decided that people who were good sportsmen, in order to attain the level of coaching, they must have some training in order for them to impart knowledge to the younger folk.

In Barbados, we are proud of many things in relation to sporting activity and although we have not reached the international level in many sports, I can say that in cricket and certainly in athletics, we can hold our heads very high. I know that cricket is going through a very bad period now but certainly, every Barbadian would have been very proud last September when we were in Sydney, Australia, where every house in Barbados between 5.00 a.m. and 6.00 a.m. woke up to hear the results of that 100 metres race being run by the fastest men in the world.

We were fortunate enough to have Obadele Thompson in that race. Fortunately for us and unfortunately for Obadele Thompson, he placed third in that race. It is a credit to Barbados that Mr. Obadele Thompson promoted Barbados in that way. We spend a lot of money promoting tourism to this country, but I would say that for the millions of people who were watching television for the first time would have known where Barbados is situated.

I remember during the 1996 Games in Atlanta when Leah Martindale was the first black girl to reach the finals in the 50 metres race and some people who were sitting in the pavilion asked, "Where is Barbados?" I took out my map and unfortunately, Barbados was only a dot, but I showed them the direction and the place where Barbados is situated.

Asides.

Mr. D. CARTER: On that occasion, I could not even point out St. Lucy.

I am trying to say that the athletes of this country, the Obadele Thompsons and the Leah Martindales have done a lot for this country without us really spending a lot of money on them.
3.30 p.m.

There is a known fact that in order to develop an athlete in this era a lot of money has got to be spent on him or her. I cannot say offhand how much money would be needed to develop an athlete but I can say up front that it takes at least \$1 000 to outfit a young cricketer and that sort of money really is heartbreaking.

Now, that I am talking cricket, I must say that we have a problem here which we must rectify immediately. We must have a reduction on duties on all sporting gear. We have suffered a long time in this country and a lot of people are unable to support their children. I know that it is easy to differentiate between pads, bats and gloves but we have got a problem with shirts and socks and those types of clothing. I believe the time is right when we here should do something positive in order to help our young cricketers and young sportsmen in general.

Mr. Speaker, going back to the amalgamation of the lotteries, I wonder if in three years time if things do not work out for the Barbados Cricket Association who has decided to go at it alone, how the Ministry and the other entities would treat them.

Asides.

Mr. D. CARTER: It is not negative. I believe the time is right where they can have second thoughts but I am of the impression that legally they find themselves in a bind and they have got to go forward with such a proposal.

Mr. Speaker, young children in Barbados starting from the primary schools right through the secondary schools do not realise their potential in sports today. It should go on record that the young people should feel that they have a contribution to make in this country in sports as well as in the academics.

I know that we as sportsmen tend to play our sports first and then study after. That is basic commonsense because when you are a young person you tend to perform well but as you get older and you realise you have got the money you realise that you must have some sort of education in order to spend that money.

I am a bit amazed that some people, as the Minister has said, think that getting a scholarship is their number one priority to get out of Barbados. I believe with pride and industry in this country that all young athletes should get their scholarships, do well educationally but stick to their programme and I am certain that they will be better people in this country and certainly in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I believe also that the time has come in Barbados for the people in the country districts to have getaways to show their true worth. I know that the National

Sports Council (NSC) is doing its best to make sure that there are various entities in the country districts to assist the people during the day and night by using the pavilions and certainly by using the facilities such as the basketball courts and the netball courts to their best advantage.

We talked about crime in this country and so we believe that having those entities has restricted the increase of crimes. Therefore, I sincerely hope that all the young boys and young girls of this country will use those facilities in order to become better citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Speaker, I believe that you have indicated to me that I can continue from here. I am very sorry that the Honourable Member is offended. This is not a race in the circumstances. I am going to make my contribution and he will be able to make his contribution in a couple of minutes from now. I will try to make my contribution very short and I am not going to be too wide on sports to deal with those people who have reached international and regional heights. So as my speech is going to be short, I am going to confine it to pockets across communities in Barbados and show how sports relates to those communities and help to cultivate a wholesome atmosphere within the community. So within the context of those parameters, I believe that the Honourable Member would soon be able to make his contribution to the debate.

Sir, at a wider level, I believe that sports mirrors are the dynamics of the society in which the sports exist. I believe that if C. L. R. James was alive tonight he would have described the present influx of sports, especially in cricket, as a reflection of the new global order and the dependency of small states on the capital which assist in the development process. He probably would have taken into consideration the challenge to the sovereignties of the small states as a consequence of globalisation and, therefore, would have said it would be unlikely that in those conditions that where our major institutions of government are experiencing certain radical changes, you will see it mirrored itself in smaller subordinate institutions such as the area of cricket.

In the years of the 1960s where there was a clear philosophical position and a national drive at the time, James addressed the drive for nationalism as it reflected itself in the radical changes in the leadership of the West Indies cricket team and the coming into existence of the first black West Indian cricket captain, Sir Frank Worrell, who captained the first series for the West Indies as a black leader which came at a time when there was a clear focus on nationalism. The question today is, have we abandoned that nationalism or are we very clear on a focus that motivates us so much that we fight assiduously to protect the regional and national pride of the region or do we focus now not collectively to achieve these goals but function now as individual stars within the

arena of sports and cricket, but as we drop our arms collectively to achieve these goals, the focus moves on to individualism.

I believe we can change these conditions if we in the Caribbean have a clear national policy emerging out of a sense of consciousness of why we try to achieve and become successful in sports, equally as much as when we try to achieve as a people in the area of academics for example.
3.40 p.m.

It forms the genesis in the community. It is in the community that the talent is harnessed and emerges among the groups we call the sub-cultural groups, referred to by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy as the boys on the block. In these groups, you see natural, creative talent and the talent is restrained because of the lack of funding, the lack of appropriate facilities and the type of administration that will embrace and accommodate the so-called sub-cultural element who usually emerge to become outstanding local and Caribbean icons.

I believe that this policy was borne out of a clear understanding of these experiences, observations, proper consultation and a very comprehensive compilation of the information which the persons responsible for the national policy put together. This morning, the Honourable Minister of Sports was very extensive in this regard and took us on an excursion on the provisions inside the document itself. I think what is very important is that we not only have a policy document but we live to see that the policy is elevated to a plan of action and the personnel responsible for executing the policy clearly understand the intent of those who promote the policy document – this is not always the case – and in their efforts to do so, they are prepared to facilitate the creative talent that is usually alienated by certain people in administration in the relevant departments.

At the core of the development of sports, the hub, the axis, many positive characteristics emerge out of those conditions. The society itself becomes more strongly integrated because persons of all different social classes gather around the football and cricket fields on evenings, interact and socialise, and a genuine community is cultivated, not a community based on geographical lines but a community based on social interaction where people exchange dialogue, socialise with each other, abandon even class values to come together as one common organism, not orgasm.

You witness it especially in the area of night sports. At night, we have been able, and it is a new phase in sports and I see it many nights at community grounds in my school pasture called St. Giles where the residents of the Ivy, Licorish Village, Carrington Village, the Pine, all of them, assemble on this particular pasture in the Ivy at night. It is a

new area we have now entered into as a consequence of having lights on the pastures across Barbados. I am going to make a call on the central ground in St. Michael East as well but it helps the young people who are normally scattered across the community to come together in one area.

In the early stages of this socialisation, one might see manifestations of unwholesome conduct, but I believe we will soon be able as we grow old to see that same unwholesome behaviour become moralised as we attempt to cultivate the appropriate atmosphere for instilling kind qualities in the developing young men in our society.

Sir, I have asked and I do not want to slant on the details or the historical background that has led to the development of the policy itself. I do not want to deal exclusively with the rationale of the policy. I want to put a special request for an improvement in the facility of the local grounds. If we create the right atmosphere at the local level, we would produce the appropriate national representatives in the area of sports. We have to have an educational programme, not only for physical education but to let sportsmen understand what sports itself means to Barbadian people.

You see it when the West Indies cricket team play against persons of other countries, the way they come together collectively. You might see a difference in ethnic support when the West Indies play India or Pakistan, especially in countries like Trinidad and Guyana, but in the Caribbean when cricket is being played in the region, or out of the region, West Indian people rally together with a collective and integrated strength, with a oneness that reflects the ethos of the communities in the Caribbean.

We cannot just see sports as sport. We have to see sports as one of the institutions in the Caribbean that has helped to develop a modern civilisation that will put our people on par with other people in the world. I am calling, Sir, for a school of excellence to be put in place. I want to support the Minister and go beyond as the Minister expressed his views about the policy. We are asking the civil and all relevant authorities that would make this a reality to give the Minister all the support needed, including financial support, to make sure this school of excellence is put in place. You can only have excellence when you have actually influenced the mind, not just the physical being but also influenced the mind of the people, to give them a clear philosophical basis of their purpose as an icon in civil society itself.

I believe the local grounds in the Ivy would be an appropriate place not only for the school of excellence but for a mini stadium. I believe we need a mini stadium there. Blenheim is situated in the St. Michael East constituency and

is sandwiched between My Lord's Hill and the Ivy, Howells Cross Road and the main road. It is a point of gravity where people come from all different strategic points to assemble on this pasture. The pasture is in a state of nakedness. 3.50 p.m.

We need to upgrade the quality of the facilities by giving us lights. There is no pasture in any local community more appropriate for lights than Blenheim pasture. It seems to be a major problem for the administrators because they cannot conceptualise how they can install lights on a pasture of that size. Sir, if they do not know, I am prepared to use my limited wisdom as a consultant, free of charge, to show them how lights can be installed on the Blenheim pasture. They will be reaching down to ordinary men and women in the streets.

Sir, I go to the community and see the talent that is being suppressed as a consequence of not having the appropriate facilities. In some cases, that creative talent is often stagnated because the officer does not know how to accommodate persons whose behaviours do not conform to the standards they considered to be socially accepted standards. We have a lot of sportsmen in Barbados whose approach might be unorthodox to what is perceived by administrators as appropriate and ought to be accommodated. The officers must be adaptable and be prepared to listen and make the required adjustment to facilitate these individuals.

Sir, I do not want to speak without taking into consideration spectators who are an integral part of sporting activities because spectators make the sport what it is and we need to have the appropriate facilities in place for spectators. When the designs are put in place, whether conceptualised designs or actual designs for a physical plan in the community, there is a need to have proper seating facilities. We can modernise and upgrade the quality of the surroundings on the playing field by putting seats around them so that senior citizens or persons who may be physically impaired can still come to the sporting activities and sit, observe and enjoy what is taking place. At present these facilities are not in place and it is inconvenient for those persons to enjoy a long game in any sport.

We are talking about reintegrating senior citizens and integrating those who are physically impaired in some way into the sporting activities. The Honourable Minister spoke about bringing the disabled into the arena of sports in a more active way and we need to have the appropriate facilities for those persons.

Mr. Speaker, it is not uncommon to see persons on a football or cricket field having to urinate outside the borders of the field because there are no appropriate facilities in place. When the facilities are available, the administrators

believe that the community ought not to have access to these facilities because they see these elements around the community centre as unworthy elements of a sub-cultural background. Mr. Speaker, we have to change that perception. We have to be more open-minded and be prepared to give an opportunity to those persons.

Sir, apart from the socially accepted and respectable sports like cricket and football, there are other types of sports that reflect social class division in our society as well. The State has to take responsibility so that ordinary men would not be debarred from participating in those activities simply because they do not have the means to be part of the activities. There are a lot of divisions like these that we need to examine carefully. There are talented men who can play golf but they do not have access to the golf course or the required gear because they are restricted by social differences and the constraints of finance.

Lawn tennis is another one of these social activities, whether on the basis of misrepresentation or false perception, that people believe belong to a specific social type but the State can change this segregation by putting policy in place to ensure that ordinary persons can participate in these activities with all the assistance that is required from the State. People should not in a society become indifferent or unconscious of these symbols of class differentiation.

If we are hoping to create a society that respect equality to integrate the society and reduce the social conflict in that society all of those areas of social discrimination ought to be eradicated from the landscape of Barbados. I believe this is an excellent opportunity to take the programme a little further. We must see in the plan of action an effort to make these major changes in the structures and the personnel that is responsible for carrying out the programme.

Sir, I also want to make a plea for my people in the Ivy and Martinique Road. They have asked me to make this request and make it loud. I have made it before to the personnel at the Sports Council. Sir, in my community in Licorish Village, the Ivy, Howells Cross Road, St. Barnabas, Chapel Gap and Rouens Village, young men who are unemployed are now required to purchase a coin from the sports department for \$10 in order to have access to light.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that you experience the same problem. The very people that ought to have access to playing fields at night now face a monetary encumbrance in the form of \$10 for one hour and when there are competitions that go on for two or three months, it accumulates into a large sum and all the mercy pleas across the community and to sports departments fall on deaf ears.

I believe we can have a policy document. The words in it can be filled with melody that is pleasing to the ears and

soothing to the soul, but the reality is that the document has to be translated into a plan of action to make it meaningful to the ordinary people in the street.

4.00 p.m.

That plan is not for those who can afford to go overseas to university to be trained. The major focus of the plan has to be on the local community. I will support the Honourable Member for St. Lucy on this. We have to address the instability of youth in our communities not because they were born wicked, but because of the appropriate conditions that are not in place to nurture and cultivate the types of acceptable species from those who perceive themselves to be of the decent kind.

I ask you, Sir, along with the other Members of Parliament to take this debate on sports very seriously. As I indicated to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, I intended to make a very brief contribution to the debate. I would hope that the few areas I have been able to touch on and with the kind of explanations I have given have shed a little light on how I believe the policy should be applied. In principle, I support this document but I hope that those who are responsible for the execution of this policy will respect the policy in the spirit in which it was developed and will recognize that this document forms the ethos of the genuine community spirit and ultimately the national spirit of the Barbadian life.

Thank you very much, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity to make a few comments. I want first to give my support to the Green Paper on the National Sports Policy and I also want to make other brief comments that will be related at times and at other times will not. We know that in the past many of our people placed a lot of emphasis on the academics. I remember my teachers and my parents telling me that all play and no work makes Jill a dull girl. Therefore, cultural activities, drama and so on were always put on the back burner.

Indeed, at that time cricket held its own since every community in Barbados had a club or a team of young people playing on the pasture and wherever getting actively involved in such activity. It redound to the benefit of all Barbadians really since we know of the excellence that many of our cricketers have risen to at that time and indeed at the present moment.

Mr. Speaker, today the outlook is different. There is a tremendous change in the way we look at activities. While a

lot of emphasis is still being placed on the academics, many of our Barbadians are looking at visual arts, sporting and cultural activities, technical and vocational studies and they are holding their own. I believe that any society should have strong emphasis on multi-disciplined individuals since we need individuals who are very sound in academics but indeed have other skills to make contributions not only to themselves and their families in growth and development but indeed to the rest of this society.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is unfortunate that as we continue to grow and develop too many of our people who have come through the system and have benefitted have now turned a blind eye to a number of situations in this society and they are not giving back as they should. Some of the comments made earlier by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East are very relevant to what is happening today. Too many of us feel that we have crossed the bridge and therefore we kick it down, or we totally forget that there was a bridge there that we have crossed. Therefore, that operation give-back is not working. Many of our young people need to be able to rub shoulders with the role models who have been able to excel in this society. Unfortunately, that stigma is there where there are "us" and there are "those and them" and it is really taking a toll in a number of other areas in Barbados.

We all know the benefits of sports. We need to build more healthy minds and bodies. We know of the qualities that can be derived from being involved in sports. Some of them are self-control, tolerance, responsibility, sacrifice, team spirit and a number of other areas that can help our people to become better disciplined and to be able to fit in a more comfortable situation in the society.

Sir, I want to support this Green Paper because I see that there is a great slippage in the discipline among our people. I want to say that it is not only our young people. We have some older folk who are extremely indisciplined and it is as a result of their actions that many of the young people seek to emulate the wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the present situation where the Youth Development Programme, a section of the Youth Affairs Department, has been over the past four or five years working in communities with young people. They have done surveys, they have sought advice from the young people and they have indicated the things they wanted to do. Mr. Speaker, you would be surprised to know that perhaps 85 per cent to 95 per cent of them all said that they wanted to get involved in sporting activities. I love that approach because it says that it is not a top to bottom situation now but the Youth Commissioners are coming to the people to find out what their needs are and then facilitating their needs. Today, we can speak of more than 5 000 young people who have been excelling in sporting areas. I think that more of

that needs to happen not only from the Youth Affairs Department but indeed from the Community Development Department where more young people get opportunities to excel in sports.

I can also make mention, Mr. Speaker, that if this kind of activity is pursued in the area of sports that it can help more of our young people to walk on a more positive route and to see themselves as individuals who are excelling. Indeed, I can speak of the chess programme that is under the training of Poonka, Ifie Wilkinson and others. In the area of tuk band, stilt walking and the Landship, thousands of young people within the school setting have become actively involved. We are now reaping the success that has been derived from such activities. This says that once there is a well coordinated effort within the various schools that sports will develop at an even higher level.
4.10 p.m.

I heard the Honourable Member speak of the activities in St. Lucy but I would like him to be aware that in St. Thomas, we too look towards self-help. We try to help ourselves with the resources that Government gives us. Barbadians are accustomed to being self-reliant, taking what is given to us and building on it because we know that a Government cannot continually give, we have to help ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to make reference to a grave concern that I have. I speak it here because it is integral to the whole exercise of a strong society of individuals who are healthy and can give back. It will cut back on the health services and a number of other expenses in other agencies if we follow that route.

Sir, I cannot help but to speak of the Remembrance Day Parade where I can tell that many of our people are not eating adequately. Mr. Speaker, I have to speak to a total of eight soldiers that I saw fall within a period of half-an-hour and not one veteran fell, so one can tell that speaks of the diet those senior persons endured. I was very bold to say that perhaps they are only eating fishcakes and someone said no, corn curls. Therefore, if one is not eating properly then he cannot actively get involved in sports or other activities and produce well, nor can he be of any assistance to others in a way that Barbadians have always been. We are a caring, sharing people and we must continue doing it but we must be careful that we become exposed or participate in a healthy lifestyle practice.

Mr. Speaker, in the past we have lived healthy lifestyles and did not have to go into Queen's Park and have our blood pressure taken, nor buy lots of vitamins, *et cetera*. We did it because we were a society of persons who walked a lot. There was limited transportation, hence one had to walk

to school, to church and sometimes to one's work. As times have changed – and I have absolutely no difficulty with us climbing the social ladder – we now have motor cars but these cannot take the place of that exercise that we had on a daily basis, whether it be walking or riding our bicycles. I think we need to do more of that in order to be able to cope. Likewise, children walked around picking fruits, carrots, mangoes, plums and eat them, thus developing a healthy lifestyle in that way. Sir, nowadays, everybody is going for junk food. Nobody wants to cook anymore, just taking out the family to eat wherever and sometimes what they are eating is not wholesome.

Therefore, if we want to build a proper society that has strong individuals who are willing to give service to a country, it is important we fully examine our lifestyles. Sir, I would want to recommend some component of this Green Paper on Sports highlighting the diets and form of exercise that persons must undertake in order for them to become the kind of sports persons and to be as participative as they can be.

I must, at this point, laud the efforts of voluntary organizations that, for many years, have been servicing clubs and different associations across the length and breadth of Barbados. Sir, we all know that because of limited resources, Government would have to supplement the various activities they have been offering. Again, it is sad to say that as we go forward and climb that social ladder, fewer persons are volunteering their services and therefore, many of the clubs that we would have known that are in existence in the past are now dormant. Therefore we need to find activities that will help in reviving these clubs, through the same Youth Affairs Department as well as the Community Development Department, churches and other organizations within this country if we are to fill that void and get our people more actively involved in helping to build a healthy society.

Mr. Speaker, the other areas I would like to briefly touch are to ensure that our people become aware through education. I have a tremendous difficulty when it come to the role that our national radio stations play. I believe and I know that others are too, that more can be done to keep the population aware of the education that is necessary. The electronic media must be working in tandem with each other to ensure that information is properly disseminated across the length and breadth of the country and therefore, I see the need for a lot of advertising about sporting activities, about building healthy bodies, about giving our services to society in order to ensure that individuals get an opportunity to be able to learn, to follow on and to the well giving of service.

In the late 1970s under another Barbados Labour Party regime, there was a period where daylight saving time was introduced. My understanding of daylight saving time was

for us to start working earlier in the morning so that later in the evening opportunities would be made available for Barbadians and others to get involved in sporting activities. Yes, it had to be scrapped because those persons working, particularly in the agriculture belt, were crying about going into the fields so early in the morning where the dew and water impacted on them. I can understand that but I think we need to find other ways of ensuring that sportsmen and women get the opportunity to become further involved in such activities.

At present, we know of the situation regarding the pavilions and I have been speaking to that for a while. I will speak to the ones in the constituency where I live. The pavilions are opened at 8.30 a.m. and by 4.30 p.m. whoever is supervising is gone. The place is closed up. As far as sports-minded persons or enthusiasts come to have meetings and perform, there is nothing happening in these community centres. Since 1985, when we had a community centre at Rock Hall, which has now become a court, we recommended that the Community Development Officer be stationed in that only community centre to ensure that when individuals leave work in the evenings, school children leaving school at 3.00 p.m. that by 4.30 p.m. there is someone there.

The Ministry of Culture, at that time, ensured that there were officers who were on secondment from teaching, *et cetera*, were available to help train young people in cultural activities. I think that is the route we should go again to make sure that those facilities are used to the maximum and that Barbadians benefit from the training, guidance, leisure and professional opportunities that can be had from the use of those community centres as well as the pavilions.

Sir, my other concern in this particular exercise, even though it might seem different, I wish to make mention of when I started. Sir, the National Stadium can be more properly utilized. While I am not going to talk about the activities that go on inside the Stadium, I would like to make mention of the sad feeling that I get whenever I pass the Stadium on a daily basis.

I know there is a lot of money in advertising and it would be a useful exercise if the National Sports Council and management can again start looking at advertising on the billboards. It is a very unsightly place to pass where there are different things falling off. I think if that happens, persons will remember that that is a Stadium and there are business persons who would want to purchase sponsorship to advertise their products. The big Plus bottle on the sight screen by the Combermere School, one cannot help but look and see it says "Drink Plus". If that kind of activity is again put back at the Stadium, it can look colourful and can encourage others to want to become actively involved in what is happening.

Most of the communities are serviced by Government: pavilions, playing fields, car parks, hard courts, *et cetera*. I want to talk about the proper deployment of staff and they working with the communities to ensure that the communities are used to the maximum. The Ministry of Education has had extensive meetings with personnel from the sports department to ensure that aspects of physical education in sports are included in the schools' curriculum. Mr. Speaker, you would be aware of some primary schools that are serviced by physical education teachers. I want to thank the National Sports Council for the various programmes such as netball, football and cricket that they have at the schools.

Do you know Mr. Speaker, that any society that is serious about capitalizing on the human resources starts with nursery children?

4.20 p.m.

I have seen children at nursery level in Israel, saluting the flag and standing at attention anytime they heard their National Anthem and that is indoctrination. I am not saying that they should be indoctrinated at the nursery level but every opportunity should be made available to train those small children at nursery level in gymnastics, swimming and in other forms of sports.

Sir, as soon as you tap into those impressionable minds, you can get the appreciation and interest to develop those young children. This would help our country to work towards pulling more people into the sports arena and getting them actively involved in that particular discipline. I would want the National Sports Council to place some emphasis on working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education in placing physical education teachers at all schools.

Mr. Speaker, you would appreciate the fact that physical education teachers and coaches are extremely dynamic in reaching children. Therefore, we would not want people to be chosen "willy-nilly" to carry out those tasks. Indeed, we need professionals who would get the children involved in activities that will not, in anyway, cause them injury. We have a lot of people who go about saying they are sports people and they are coaches and some of them are really causing us to destroy our bones and hurt our backs. We want people who will be properly trained to work with those nursery children to ensure that they develop the right skills.

Mr. Speaker, it is not only the skills but as the children grow older and go to secondary level, we do need physical education teachers and coaches who are caring and who have been trained in counselling and pastoral care. Sometimes those teachers or coaches are better able to determine or elicit information from students who are facing challenges,

who have queries and who have difficulties. The children see the physical education teacher or the coach as the person next to their parents, so they will open to them to get the necessary advice, so we need people who are really professionals to work with those students.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to wrap up but I also want to say that if we are seriously looking at involving all Barbadians in sports, I think it is important that every opportunity be taken to have counsellors and psychologists as role models. Some of the former cricketers, basketballers and the whole gamut of individuals in the sporting arena, should be actively involved working with the young people in the communities.

We have a young woman, a school child at that time, who was an aspiring athlete but because she did not have any mentor or anybody to speak to her about her goals or help her to source the gear, we have now lost her. She said she prefers to be involved in netball than to be in athletics and everybody knows the young lady of whom I speak. Sir, she needed the guidance and support from the teachers, from other role models in the society and from persons in her household, and so, we have lost a very outstanding athlete as a result of not having that caring aspect which we expected the teachers, the parents and coaches to offer. Sir, we would not want to lose any more of her kind because of our negligence in helping to bring those young people on stream.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to place emphasis on catering to senior persons in our society and those who are physically and mentally challenged. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North spoke extensively about the opportunity for wheelchairs and for people who can get involved in those sporting activities. I want to look at it from the perspective now as a more senior citizen, where we know that we are an aging population but I do not support the idea from anyone, when they see a person who retires at 60 years, as somebody who is shut away and not to be actively involved in anything. Therefore, the idea of involving more senior people in activities such as ballroom dancing is a very rewarding activity.

There are other senior persons who are even more agile than some of us who are younger, but there has to be some kind of programme planned for them. In that plan of action mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, it will help to integrate them again into the society to let them show their usefulness. It is our senior persons in sports, that we would need to move into the schools and into the communities to work with the youths to help them develop good discipline, good skills in speech, in decorum and in a number of other areas.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to speak of my support and interest in the call for duty-free concessions as is outlined in

the document. I know that will also help to defray cost. At this moment, Sir, there is a young lady, who is now more closely attached to my household than some of my nephews and nieces. She is one of the outstanding athletes from the Parkinson School, but because of parental guidance and the monitoring situation, she really cannot make it, so our household and many others that are close to us, work very hard together to ensure that she gets the necessary training, diet, gear and whatever is important for her to be able to excel. I am sure that in another two years, she will be able to represent Barbados at the highest level. In these situations, if we can get duty-free concessions on the equipment and the gear, I am sure that more individuals would be able to benefit from those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to laud the efforts of the National Sports Council, other sporting agencies, community groups and non governmental organisations that have been giving unswerving support for many years to sports in Barbados and helping our people to grow from strength to strength.

I also want to thank the Honourable Minister and his staff for the preparation of the document that will be a good base for whatever other activities or programmes have to come to the fore. I am happy about the document and the way the information is expressed. It will really help to change the whole sporting landscape of Barbados as the years go by.

It is with those comments that I would like to lend my support to this Green Paper on the National Sports Policy.

I thank you.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker, I too would also like to lend my support to the National Sports Policy's Green Paper on behalf of the constituency of which I represent, St. Michael North West.

First, let me compliment the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, the Minister of Sports, the Chairman and all those at the National Sports Council and all those who are involved in sports around Barbados for the job well done, as far as administering sports across Barbados.

I think we all must agree that within recent years, we have seen what one will consider to be the growth of sports and sportsmen in Barbados, as compared with many years ago. I think the National Sports Council and the Ministry, should be complimented for a job well done.

Sir, we are aware of the various success stories of sports over the last couple of years, as far as Barbados is concerned. One must be aware that in the area of athletics, we have done well and one must also be aware of that in the

area of horse racing. In Canada, we have one of the Number Two in Canada as far as horse racing is concerned, both in riding and earning in the likes of Patrick Husbands. One must consider his earnings and when you put his earnings together in Canadian dollars and compare them to Barbadian dollars, he is a true success in the area of sports and Barbados should be proud of Patrick Husbands.

4.30 p.m.

Ronald Suki King travelled the byways and highways of Barbados with us at the community level but some people seem to overlook this king of kings, but he is truly a world champion as far as draughts is concerned and one must give him credit for that. Barbados has been successful and has been winning many of the volleyball and netball tournaments in the last couple of years and through Leah Martindale, has been excelling in swimming as well. I think that Barbados, as a small country where sports is being administered by a body, should be complimented for the direction in which sports is going.

Sir, I am proud to be part of this Government and to make this statement at this time and to say that the National Sports Council (NSC) Act was put in place on February 1, 1978 under the then Barbados Labour Party Government. Taking that into account, one must understand that the Barbados Labour Party Government from as far back as then has always seen it fit to develop sports to its highest as far as this country is concerned.

Sir, there has been a lot of talk going around Barbados in recent times that the Democratic Labour Party has been responsible for the building of the Gymnasium. I want to say to all of those people who walk around Barbados and say that the Democratic Labour Party Government was responsible for the building of the Gymnasium that that is not so because – and I want the House to understand clearly what I am saying, – there was no diplomatic ties between China and Barbados in 1976/77. During that period, the Democratic Labour Party then recognised the Government of Taiwan. So I hope the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would do his research so he will see clearly...

Asides.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: The logic I am trying to express in this Chamber is that the Democratic Labour Party has no programme and never had a programme for sports. I want the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to understand that fully. He stood in this Chamber a little while ago and spoke to the things he did in St. Lucy and I compliment him for them. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy must compliment himself for being a community-based person and for seeing the need for the development of sports in St. Lucy. I am very critical, however, of the Democratic Labour Party's policy on sports.

It was under the then Minister of Sports, Mr. Lionel Seymour Craig, who is not in this Chamber and who functions now at another level as a moderator who did the negotiations with the Chinese for the building of the gymnasium which was opened by the former Minister of Sports in the like of Mr. Bradshaw. I want him to get that straight, so I am establishing before this House so that the record be placed straight that the Democratic Labour Party never had a true policy for sports.

This afternoon I am extremely happy and comfortable when I look at this Green Paper on Sports which is presented to this Chamber because it is wide and varied. Consideration has been given in this Green Paper for duty-free tax concessions on the purchase of sports equipment which the sports people have been asking for for a long time. In this Green Paper on Sports, there are also plans for an academy of excellence and a hall of fame. This Green Paper on Sports will go a long way to help with the development and acceptance of sports not only at the professional level but also at the amateur level within the various communities across Barbados.

We have to be concerned and very careful of foreign penetration of sports in this country because sports that was indigenous to this country seems to be taking second place now to foreign sports. Our systems, as far as television in this country is concerned, allow people to sit and watch foreign sports for almost three to four hours in their homes. Here in Barbados we have a sports department within the electronic media where the camera people are sent out to cover a day of sports only to return to the studio to give us Barbadians watching three and 11 seconds of sports.

If we are supposed to develop sports in Barbados, we cannot have a situation where our sports people are subject to 11 and 12 seconds per night on television, so I am asking the Minister of Sports to watch clearly what is happening as far as foreign penetration of sports is concerned because young people are playing basketball as against cricket and are playing hockey and doing roller skates at those games instead of at the average football game. The reason for this is that they are allowed to sit and watch games in their homes that are truly not Barbadian which takes away from the average Barbadian game.

Mr. Speaker, as I move on to establish what I considered to be the right direction as far as sports in Barbados is concerned, and I am guided by this Green Paper, I believe when you look at the primary school cricket - and those of us who have the privilege of watching television it is an excited thing to watch those young 11 and 15 years old playing cricket, but then you are only given seven seconds of it. I believe that in order for other Obadele's to come about, we must be able to expose the success of Obadele to the young minds and in order to have the other Frank Worrell's,

the other Sir Everton Weekes and to have all the other great cricketers we must be able to expose them to the young ones.

I do not feel it is fair for our 11 year and 12 year olds who go and play an excellent game of cricket not to be seen on national television as playing the games of their choice, so I am appealing that time be given on our national television for the development of sports in Barbados at that level so that we can be comfortable knowing that our sports is being played by our young sportsmen.

4.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, looking at the Green Paper and moving on within areas and the objectives of the Green Paper, I am proud when I look at the sports promotion fund and what the benefits of the sports promotion fund can mean to Barbados. I am also proud to give credit to an organisation that has done a lot for sports in Barbados but no one has mentioned it as yet, that is, the Olympio Lottery. I think it should be given credit for its contribution to sports in Barbados and allowing sports people the right to excel not only at a local and regional level but at an international level. I think Olympio Lottery deserves to be complimented for the part they play in sports in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, as I move on, looking at sports in general across Barbados not moving into parochial situations as far as my constituency is concerned, all across Barbados young people are indulging in sports but there are a lot of people who are talented who have excelled in sports and who are shut away in institutions in this country. Some of the best sports people you can find in Barbados, and I am certain the Honourable Member for St. Michael West might be able to attest to this, talented people who are involved in sports are shut away in the walls of Her Majesty's Prisons, Glendairy. This is something we must consider and ask ourselves what is wrong with some of our sports people in Barbados.

One must also understand clearly, and nobody has mentioned on this Floor in Parliament as yet, that there is a very serious marriage between sports in Barbados and the drug culture. We have to be very careful and we have to monitor the situation very carefully that this drug influence that has embraced Barbados does not take over sports in this island. It is a very serious situation. As I look into the Green Paper I do not see any recommendation in the Green Paper - I read it from back to front - as far as the drug awareness programme within the sports policy of Barbados is concerned. There needs to be a drug awareness policy in the sports programme as far as Barbados is concerned.

A lot of the young men in Barbados feel that the only way they can excel in any game is to go behind some place and either smoke a spliff or do something to make them feel good. It is not needed. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas mention being fit, being ready to play, being in a position to eat proper food and use the right diets.

This is the programme the Sports Department needs to look at to carry out a campaign of proper nutrition and diet as far as sportsmen are concerned and remove the stigma that stands in communities across Barbados that drugs are extremely important to excel in any field. It is not true. They need proper nutrition. It is all right to coach a person and to talk about having a coach but you need to train that person into proper diet.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of this Green Paper. I have read it from front to back and after reading it and taking notes I am extremely comfortable that sports is going in the right direction and at some later date Barbados will see the rewards from this Green Paper.

One of the things we must be careful of is the way some areas of sports are administered in Barbados. You cannot put a square peg in a round hole and expect it to fit. There are some people who administer sports in Barbados who do not have a single idea of what is involved in administering sports or being involved in undertaking the management of certain community centres and certain places across the community because there is always a clash between the person who is administering that place and the sportsmen who happen to have to use those facilities. I think we need to look at that closely as well.

We need to put the right people in position so that there will be a continuation of the development of sports within the community. I am comfortable in the constituency of St. Michael North West that the questions asked have been answered. There are still some that need to be answered and I would like to compliment the Urban Development Commission and also the Sports Department for just making it possible to provide a new system of lighting on Deacon's hard court.

It was a former Minister of Sports under the Barbados Labour Party Government who saw it fit to put in position that hard court at Deacons. All the years that the Democratic Labour Party's Government of the day was administering sports in Barbados, they never found time to go back to that hard court and bring it up to the level that was required. It is this Government under the present Minister of Sports and the Minister of Social Transformation who has made it possible.

I have a problem, Sir. The problem I am concerned with is that you cannot give me proper facilities and then not allow me to use those proper facilities the way I would like to use them. That is, if you are going to introduce a system of tokens that is new to this country that does not comply with the other token systems across Barbados - my information tells me that there is only one other like the token system at Deacon's hard court and it is at Murphy's Pasture in the City and they do not work.

When you consider, Sir, that it takes \$30 out of the pocket of an unemployed man who has no source of income to be involved in games then you are asking for a problem. I have a recommendation for the Minister of Sports and also Community Development to remove the system of tokens and introduce what can be considered to be a time limit on the courts, allow the lights to come on from seven until 10. I hope the Honourable Member would understand that we have a situation in this country that it is the duty of the last man off to turn off the lights. Sometimes the last man off does not turn off the lights and the lights burn the whole night so there has to be some sort of regulation and one must accept that.

I have driven past playing fields at one o'clock in the morning and the lights are still on because one was expecting that the last person off would have turned off the lights. It is obvious if you have a system in place where there is a timer involved, where the lights give you at least four hours of light, most likely from seven to eleven, then anyone who wants to use the lights afterwards would probably use the coin system because then the lights would go off. If you consider that for three hours one must spend \$30, you are creating a situation in the community where those lights are likely not to be used but to be vandalised and their treatment creates a problem within the community.

Mr. Speaker, as we look clearly within the same area of my constituency of St. Michael North West, shortly it is likely that we may lose another playing field in that area, and that is the Texaco grounds. It would mean that when we lose the Texaco grounds that the development of sports in that area might not develop. We have seen in the last year that we have lost a central softball cricket ground because the desalination plant has been placed on it. When you look within the St. Michael North West constituency you realise that this document tells me that all the schools that have grounds within a community will have a right to allow the various sporting organisations within the community to use those grounds. If I am to follow this document, then I do not have to worry.

At present, you have a situation where there are grounds within a constituency that are controlled by the governing bodies of the schools. Because they are controlled by the governing bodies of the schools, the sportsmen within those areas do not have access to them.

I believe there may be amalgamation as I read, between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sports which will free up the various grounds in the communities to allow sports people to develop their sports at all times so that I will not have to worry about the problem as far as Ellerslie is concerned, that Ellerslie is for the students of Ellerslie. Then I would not have to worry about the enclosure of the Mental

where people who develop sports at the Mental can no longer play there because it is now enclosed.
4.50 p.m.

Some of the best cricketers in Barbados came from the Fernihurst grounds in the likes of Carlyle Best and Charlie Griffith. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Ministry of Sports not to allow that ground to deteriorate because it is of benefit to the children who go to Eagle Hall Infants School who now have to travel to Belfield to do physical training.

Mr. Speaker, in accepting this document I am asking that these things will come to fruition and the grounds at Fernihurst will be maintained by the National Sports Council.

I am also proud to hear that there will be mini stadiums across Barbados. We have one of the best grounds running alongside the Spring Garden Highway and it can become a mini stadium where several disciplines of sports can be administered. Mr. Speaker, if we are developing sports at a community level, I am requesting that the pasture along the Spring Garden Highway be considered as a mini stadium as it is owned by the Crown and there should not be a problem in making the decision to have it as a mini stadium.

Mr. Speaker, in the St. Michael North West area, I have been given lights on the hard tennis court but the Deacons' football team has been one of the better teams in Barbados for a long time. Unfortunately, they are now dismantled because they are disenchanted and have not been encouraged. I notice that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North will soon be able to control the youngsters on Mountgomery pasture because provision is being made for lights on that pasture. I am asking the Minister of Sports that some consideration be given in the New Year for placement of flood lights on Deacons Farm pasture so that youngsters in that area who have excelled in football and sports will be able to use those facilities similar to the youngsters in Pinelands.

Mr. Speaker, the Sports Department has been functioning, and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas spoke about advertising. I looked at the report of the National Sports Council and there is a reserve fund and 70 per cent of that fund comes from advertising and the other 30 per cent comes from events held at the Stadium. There is a tremendous amount collected from the advertising on the billboard around the National Stadium.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the fence around the sporting facilities in Deacons can be used for advertising revenue. The National Sports Council must look at selling billboard space at all the sporting facilities around Barbados and from this advertising the community can benefit. We can split the advertising revenue on a 60/40 basis. The

community can take 40 per cent and the Sports Council can take 60 per cent and it will be a tremendous amount of revenue for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this document is the guiding light for sports in Barbados over the next 10 years. It is a pity that this debate was not placed on national television because in every constituency in Barbados sports play a major role. Every youngster in the community plays sports, has a relative who is involved in sports or somebody connected to sports and a debate like this would have given each constituency that we represent an idea of how we think about the community as far as sports is concerned. Sir, it is a very important debate to the future of Barbados and the development of sports in Barbados.

Sir, I must compliment the Ministry of Sports and agree fully that as far as the Green Paper on Sports is concerned that it is wide and varied. Mr. Speaker, when you look at recommendations within the national policy, the people who are involved in coaching games in Barbados will receive assistance in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who have made a substantial contribution to sports in Barbados and have been forgotten. Their names do not even ring a bell to young ones coming up.

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

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: I would like to see the National Sports Council get the names of these sportsmen who have made a contribution to sports. I have a person's name I would like to place before this Chamber and I would like to see the Deacon's Sports Complex named after that person. This is a man who excelled in sports by the name of Trevor Straughn and he ended up driving a tractor at the National Sports Council instead of developing the games he played.

I am asking that within each community the centres be named after these sportsmen.

Sir, I thank you.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to give my support to the Green Paper currently before the Chamber particularly because I view myself as representing a sporting constituency.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: No, I do not regard myself as a sports person but the constituency of St. James South has given to Barbados a number of excellent sports

people at the national, regional and international level in every sporting discipline.
5.00 p.m.

Sir, if I could start with cricket, I really could not possibly call the names of all of the athletes and sports persons who have emerged from the constituency of St. James South. We could start with the late Malcolm Marshall who was a resident in St. James South up to and at the time of his death. We could talk about Desmond Haynes who is out of the belly of St. James South and is not only an icon in cricket in Barbados but certainly an icon internationally. Gordon Greenidge resided until recently in the constituency of St. James South and I could go on. We have had first class golfers coming from St. James South.

In cricket, Franklyn Stevenson will not be running for the Dems because if he makes that decision his connection with St. James South will be over. The National Volleyball Team is made up of several residents from the constituency of St. James South. There is also football, netball and tennis. Both tennis trainers and tennis players are in my constituency. There is cycling and I really cannot forget the contribution of Stanley Smith whom we do not hear about these days. We know about the more recent contribution of Barry Forde. So it is every discipline, Sir, where St. James South has made its contribution to the sporting life of Barbados.

Sports is perhaps one of the great enjoyments that people have in life whether it is for exercise, leisure, recreation and entertainment, or whether it is for the sheer adrenaline rush at the point of victory or at the point of defeat. The fact that it brings wide participation across social lines is of great importance because it is one of the most cohesive factors and one of the most unifying forces in any community and in any society. Certainly, we see that in the region when we are doing well in cricket and how we are termed Caribbean. We see it as a focal point of how we can excel as a people in the region.

Sports has the capacity to be not just for the individual, Sir, but for the country a tremendous revenue earner. It has served as the instrument of social mobility for many people in this country including, Sir, the likes of the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, Wes Hall and also the very Desmond Haynes whose name I called just now. We really should not underestimate the capacity of sports to generate revenue for Barbados. I do not believe that we have as yet targeted sports as a revenue generator for the country.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: No, Wes Hall lives on the boundary of my constituency as does Obadele Thompson who goes to church in my constituency. I believe

that our approach to sports has got to become more scientific. We have adopted an attitude that when a person starts to show potential in sports that we satisfy ourselves with contributing a few dollars to that individual, but we have to develop a more scientific approach to sports.

We have at the level of the primary schools when young people start to show talent in a particular discipline to isolate and identify those young people for training. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West spoke of a diet, of feeding them properly. I think, Sir, what we should do is put them in the way that China does but, perhaps, that is an extreme case. We have to put them into specialist programmes where they will have not only access to nutritionists and dietitians that will help them to have the proper diet but where they have access to fitness trainers and a slew of professional persons who can help them develop their minds, bodies and talents in the way they need to if they are to excel at the level of international competition.

We have seen, Sir, in cricket and we have seen in other disciplines where the West Indies have not done as well as they could simply because they are not psychologically ready to face the enemy in the face and defeat them. That has got to be part of the preparation for our sportsmen. We have to discipline them in various techniques and expose them through video tapes and other multi-media material to the range of techniques employed by the person against whom they are likely to compete. We must expose them to the techniques of those who have succeeded in particular disciplines. We do not approach sports in a scientific way. Raw talent is not enough at the international level and we see it when they play. We see it when Australia plays. I am talking about cricket. They come on the field and they work together as a cohesive unit. The West Indies do not operate like that.

Sir, if we are to have athletes succeed at the international level, we now have to be prepared to invest in a level of training that allows our athletes to maximize their raw talent with the very best available training opportunity and promotional package available to them. This is an investment that has to be made by the Government in our people to give them the opportunity for upward social mobility that will bring to Barbados the recognition at the international level for excellence in sporting discipline. It is an investment that we cannot leave to the private sector or to the goodwill of benefactors and the well meaning. The Government has to take a conscious decision that we identify those persons of sports who have potential and very early put them into the kind of comprehensive programme that will allow them to succeed and excel.

Sir, it is my view that part of that programme must include individual membership for sports persons. Too many of our sports people are left entirely on their own to form

their own way to be mentored by the boy on the block, or by the people in the village, or to be mentored by nobody at all. Too often we have had people who have excelled in various areas and failed to be recognized by their country and failed to be utilized.

There are too few sports people who are being paid to guide and to mentor other young potential athletes. I am using athletes here in the broadest sense of the word to include all sports persons. We have been doing this occasionally with cricket. In my view, it is a facility that is far too under-utilized. There are too few sports persons and too few cricketers being allowed to mentor and guide those persons who are now coming into the game. This membership programme cannot be left to chance or to evolve on its own. Again, the Government must give leadership to a well coordinated, well orchestrated mentorship programme in every sporting discipline so that young people coming on can be mentored in their particular discipline and given guidance by an individual who has already faced the challenges of competing either at the regional or the international level.

In this regard, Sir, I think it is important too, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West said, that we should nurture our indigenous sports. Road tennis should not be left to flounder. Road tennis is an excellent outlet for the energies of people, particularly those people who live in disadvantaged communities who do not have access to recreational facilities and playing fields. We have to stop putting up housing developments that have hundreds or thousands of people living in them whether they are middle income developments like West Terrace Gardens or some others.

5.10 p.m.

There are low income facilities like Haynesville which have thousands of people. In Haynesville, one may find as many as 20 persons living in one unit and, Sir, that is from my own personal experience and it is not to be ignored.

I am not saying that it exists in every unit but whichever housing area in Barbados one goes into, one can find several generations of families living in one housing unit and these units are very small. Invariably, there is nowhere for the residents there to lime or have recreation and, therefore, these residents end up on the block.

Sir, road tennis used to be a valuable sporting outlet for many persons in this country. I believe that our indigenous sport which is born out of our cultural realities and social experiences need to be fostered and nourished because they are playing a valuable role in the development of young person in the community in both the national culture and the development of sports overall, also, the way we think, our

approaches, our means of providing an outlet for the energies and skills of those persons living in our communities.

In this regard, Sir, we must not ignore the capacity of sports to reform unity and I am saying this with the utmost seriousness. The community of Haynesville was a socially depressed, highly stigmatised unit until I, as Member of Parliament and other community leaders, took a conscious decision to use sports as a means of developing that community.

In 1993, after losing the General Election in 1991, I became the patriot of the Haynesville Sports Club. I am happy to say we have seen a community which was said to have behaved badly at football matches, has now become a completely different community altogether, where the Haynesville Football Team is now excelling at football and at sports generally, in a way that they had not before. Persons in the Haynesville Football Team now have a different concept of themselves and what they can achieve because of the role that sports, particularly football, has played within that community. Haynesville residents now go out to rally behind the national team. The crime and social deviation levels have also dropped significantly.

Sir, the community has a different perception of itself and the Haynesville United Community Council is working assiduously to giving the footballers a stipend and is looking to help guide them, *et cetera*. That relationship has a little difficulty at the moment but we will get that back on track soon.

However, Sir, the point I am making is that because of sport's ability to reform any community, the Government must therefore make an investment in sports and in community facilities. We must identify sporting communities and there are some in Barbados. Gall Hill and St. Lucy are two of those sporting communities and there are others all across Barbados where we can identify.

Sir, some communities are famous for their cricketers; others for their footballers, others for their good table tennis players and some for their good road tennis players. Sir, we must identify the communities and the particular discipline for which they are recognised and invest in those teams and communities.

Sir, it is only through that kind of investment that community leaders, national players and international or regional players will emerge. I believe it is important and I commend the initiative of the Sports Promotion Fund which is critical and necessary to ensuring that national teams are properly funded when they are sent away to compete and that they are able to perform at the highest level and not have to go cap-in-hand to the private sector, their Member of Parliament, or whoever, to see if they can get funds for travelling to play overseas.

Sir, far too often when national teams have to represent their countries overseas they seem to be begging for funding, support or equipment. That does not auger well for our attitude to sports or our perception of our athletes. It speaks to a lack of respect for our athletes and a lack of understanding of what sports can achieve for the country.

Sir, we must be prepared, not only to invest in our athletes but to invest in the levels that when they leave Barbados, they look like how we expect a Bajan to look, they are ambassadors for the country. On the field they behave with the best traditions of Barbadian culture and values and they play and perform in a way that we can be proud of their intention to excel.

They will not always win, but what is important is that we show to them that we do value their contribution as sports persons and that whatever sport they play, they can bring honour to the community from whence they come and to the country of Barbados to which they will always identify.

Sir, since I am speaking about sporting communities and facilities, I cannot help but make a parochial point that, given the fact that St. James South is such a rich sporting community, I am very distraught to see that after myriad of letters to the National Sports Council, I am still unable to get lights on the Melbourne Cricket Ground to facilitate night cricket, or the entire facility of the Desmond Haynes Playing Field lit. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that we have not gotten, despite my urging and entreaties to the National Sports Council, to allow these facilities to be properly lit at nights.

Sir, even in asking for the lights, I do endorse the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West in relation to the cost and difficulties in relation to getting access, even when there is lighting provided.

Sir, having lights on the fields at night can keep the young men and women off the streets. It allows them to continue playing their sports and activities after the sun has set. One of the greatest sources for night sports is that field at Waterford, next to the Barbados Lumber Company. When one passes there at night, one can see much activity going on. People come from all over Barbados to participate or to watch cricket or other games that are going on. It is a wonderful location and if that can be replicated in other constituencies, then there would be wonderful opportunities and facilities for persons to play sports after the sun has set, which is an important activity to have because it gives them more playing time and keeps them off the streets, out of nefarious activities and helps to keep the community spirit going.

Sir, invariably, when there is a sporting activity on a field anywhere in a constituency, people will come out to watch and so it helps to bring communities together and,

insofar as these facilities help to play that role, it is important that we invest in them.

I also believe we need to look at the systematic upgrading of existing sporting facilities in Barbados. Very often we prepare a ground for cricket or any other sports and do not upgrade it over time, neither do we seek to see how it could be improved. We do not put in basic facilities such as bleachers or changing facilities.

In the constituency of St. James South, at Hoyte's Village, I have perhaps the only playing field where persons have to change behind the back of a house and then walk across the street into St. James South in order to play cricket on the field which exists on St. James South. If the men were to change on that field, all of their privacy would be exposed. There is absolutely nowhere for them to change.

Sir, when we prepare or erect these sporting facilities, it is not enough to put down a playing field and to say that we have given them a playing field. Sir, that is not satisfactory. We have to at least put down bleachers or the basic supporting infrastructure like bathroom and changing room facilities.

Sir, there are some unreasonable persons but most people are reasonable. Most of them do not want state-of-the-art bathrooms with automatic flushing toilets, lights that turn themselves off, *et cetera*. People are not asking for these things, just the basic.
5.20 p.m.

I do not think that is really too much to ask the Government so I would wish, Sir, that when we put down playing fields, we consider locating them on the supporting infrastructural development.

I am pleased to give support, Sir, to what is identified in the Green Paper.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, the Green Paper is seeking to recognise that all persons should have the right to sports, recreation and exercise. In that regard, it is identifying the physically and mentally challenged, the elderly and some other groups which are now excluded from sporting and recreational activities because of lack of adequate facilities.

For instance, many of the grounds, the Gymnasium, the stadium, *et cetera* are not wheelchair accessible so if the wheelchair bound do not see these sports on television, there is nowhere they can go to a local ground and watch sports. We have to take into consideration the fact that

everybody is not physically fit, everybody is not mentally fit but that they should not, because of their disabilities, be denied the opportunity of participation, whether at the level of the sports person or the spectator.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: In this regard, Sir, I have already mentioned that minors who show early promise in athletics and sports should be singled out for special attention.

I would wish to make the point too, Sir, that far too frequently – and I want to make a speciality in this regard, for female sports persons – emphasis is placed on the football, basketball and cricket. While I would not wish to see these sports de-emphasized invariably, we will put up a basketball court, but no corresponding court will be put up for girls, so that invariably when facilities are built within communities, they are built exclusively for the use of boys, and the girls rarely have facilities built for them and, invariably, they do not have access to the facilities.

The boys come early, the boys bully them off and the boys take over the field. I understand, Sir, that this is how men behave but it is important that we recognise this as policymakers and therefore, make adequate provision for our females who are desirous of participating in sports, to have the facilities where they too, can play and have recreation, and have their friends come out and watch them.

Sir, in fact, I remember my sister when she was a teenager, I am told she was a very attractive girl. There are those who would say that she is now a very attractive woman but Pat used to model and she also used to play netball. I remember, Sir, that a school, opposite where we lived allowed access for facilities for netball players of the community, St. Mary's. That is when I lived on Baxters Road. The St. Mary's School was then the junior school, but it is now the St. Mary's School because there is no longer St. Mary's Infants School.

The playing of netball on this court used to be a major event, Sir, because the girls wore the shortest of shorts. People talk about "poon poon" shorts now as if the young girls invented them. Sir, I have not been a young girl for a long time and I remember when we too used to wear micro shorts as opposed to macro shorts – mini, mini shorts and, Sir, in those days, I had legs to carry them. Sir, it used to be a major event because all the girls would dress up in their tightest and shortest, and the girls would come out to play netball and of course, because the girls were there, you could bet that the fellows were coming. Invariably, Sir, after it started to get dark, the mothers would come and say, it is time to come inside.

The point I am making, Sir, is that sports really is a wonderful opportunity to bring communities together and it is important to give girls access to the same high quality facility that we invariably seek to give to our boys.

Sir, you had indicated to me that I had five minutes left.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was three minutes ago.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: In that case, Sir, I would wish to commend the Green Paper for its promotion of duty-free concessions for sports persons because this is important.

I have already spoken about access to facilities and the late opening but there are a few more points I wanted to make which I do not have the time to, but I would wish, before I sit, in the two minutes remaining to make just one point.

Sir, several Honourable Members have spoken about drug-free athletes and the importance of promoting the healthiest bodies to participate in sports. I think it is important for us to recognise that tobacco and alcohol are also drugs and that the abuse of them also affect the state of health of our athletes.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: In this regard, Sir, the point I really wanted to make is that I do not believe that alcohol labels or tobacco products should be allowed to sponsor sports groups or sports events. I believe this is not a view that is widely shared but I am speaking from a personal perspective. I believe these items should be so heavily taxed that a percentage of the tax on these items should go into the Sports Promotion Fund to ensure that revenues from tobacco and alcohol are not used only for harmful effects, but are used for the benefit of sports persons and athletes so that some good can come out of these particular activities.

Sir, I would wish to see that kind of imposition of tax regimes on tobacco and alcohol and the monies used from the sale of these products to be contributed to sporting activities, but I do not believe that alcohol labels or tobacco brands should be allowed to sponsor sports or sporting events.

Sir, as a result of lack of time, I cannot go on to make the other points I would wish but I am really happy, Sir, to see this Green Paper before the House and indeed to give support to it.

I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution be differed for further consideration.

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

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

ORDER NO. 13 – RESOLUTION TO RESCIND THE
RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$5 973 000
WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY AS SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES 2001-2002, NO. 2 AND
PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL
GAZETTE OF 25th OCTOBER,
2001 AS RESOLUTION
NO. 20/2001

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this first Resolution is one which is just seeking the House's permission to rescind a Resolution which was passed in this Honourable Chamber on 25th October, 2001 as Resolution No. 20/2001.
5.30 p.m.

The amount which the House voted at that time was the correct amount but there was a mistake in that the sub items were inadvertently transposed and, therefore, even though the amount was the correct amount, the record of the House would show the inappropriate amounts as to the sub items.

In those circumstances, Sir, we are just seeking to rectify that matter so that the proper legal authority can be had for the Ministry of Finance to issue the appropriate warrants to the appropriate subprogramme.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this particular one and I am hoping that this subprogramme 513 which deals, as it states here, with residential roads, which are really tenantry roads is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development instead of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport bearing in mind that there is a declared policy that tenantry roads should be dealt with by this particular Ministry.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Just to respond quickly in wrapping up. There is a subprogramme in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport that caters to residential roads that are not tenantry roads and, therefore, this is in the appropriate subprogramme. The Ministry of Agriculture through the Rural Development Commission has a separate programme for rural tenantry roads, and the Urban Development Commission (UDC) has a separate programme

for urban tenantry roads but there is a category of roads in Barbados that are residential and that are not tenancies and this seeks to provide for that.

I beg to move, Sir, that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 14 – RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER
THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR
THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

14. (a) RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$5 973 000 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2001-2002, NO. 6, WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this matter seeks to correct a situation which would have been inadvertently transposed on a Resolution that was passed by this Honourable Chamber on the 25th October of this year. The amount voted was the correct vote but the subprogramme items were transposed inadvertently and in the circumstances, I simply wish to move that Head 37 stand part.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, when this subprogramme 513 came to this House it was mentioned that the tenantry road called Duke's Tenantry, was one of those roads to be constructed under this programme, but as far as I know, Duke's Tenantry is not regarded as a residential road but is regarded as a tenantry road and I am seeking clarity on this particular matter.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I note the comments and I will give the Honourable Member the undertaking that we will supply that information in due course.

Therefore, I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that.

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

14. (b) RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$13 245 691 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2001-2002, NO. 7, WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION.

HEAD 23 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this request under Head 23 is for a number of subprogrammes seeking to address a number of issues. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) was originally provisioned with an annual budget of approximately \$102 million but in the circumstances the demand on the institution has been increasing over the years and the figures coming to me suggested, for example, that between 1999 and 2000 there was a 23 per cent increase in outpatient figures for persons benefitting from the services of the QEH.

Equally, the initial figures for this year suggest a similar trend. The occupancy level on average of that institution run on or about 72.2 per cent and they have had difficulties in being able under the current provisions to meet the full demand for their services. Under the issue of staffing compensation, there has been a number of allowances which have been increased this year which requires a supplementary to the sums of \$408 148 mainly an increase in the on-call allowances payable to the various categories of the house staff with effect from the 1st April last year, and an increase in the overtime and inconvenience allowance rates for junior doctors in the Accident and Emergency Department and indeed a mechanism for a flexible responsibility allowance which was introduced recently and paid to nursing staff to compensate them for hours worked beyond their normal shift requirement. This is part of a strategy by the Government to be able to deal with the very difficult conditions under which nurses work and indeed other essential services, mainly prison officers, who have also benefited from the flexible responsibility allowance from this year that we had to contend with.

This is the Government's way of recognising that and providing some form of compensation. This is in the context of an institution which is already facing an acute shortage of nurses on an ongoing basis.

5.40 p.m.

This is but one of the mechanisms being used to make the conditions of service more attractive such that we can

reduce the haemorrhaging that would take place in respect of nurses wanting to go to other jurisdictions.

I should mention at this time, Sir, that we have had a limited recruitment programme of nurses from overseas and, indeed, this has only been marginally successful with the majority of those nurses coming from Guyana. Equally, we have in the Ministry of Health to look at the rehiring of retired persons on a sessional basis to meet the needs as they arise. I can also report to the Committee that the Barbados Community College has agreed to increase its intake of nursing students from 30 persons to 60 persons effective September, 2000.

Members may wish to be aware, Sir, that the Hospital in its total staff complement of 2 033 persons has in fact 795 nurses employed of which 66 per cent, namely 525, are registered nurses. In addition to the funds required for other personnel emoluments, we are asking this Committee for the sum of \$4 300 924 to supplement the supplies and materials vote.

Sir, as long as I have been in this Chamber I believe that this vote has required a supplementary every year largely because even though we try to plan and there is usually some increase on the year before, the nature of the demand on our single major health care institution is such that they have always to come back to us for a supplementary in the last half of the financial year. Last year they would have come for one as well.

My instructions, Sir, would suggest to me that there is further pressure on the Hospital as a result of the fact that there are at least 40 persons who have become virtually resident in the Hospital who perhaps should be more appropriately taken care of in the Geriatric Hospital or in their private homes. Invariably, the Hospital is unable to have a family member accept responsibility for them, which is a very unfortunate thing in this day and age.

Equally, Sir, there is not the room available in the Geriatric Hospital to be able to take them so that at the moment we provide for them in the Hospital where the costs so provided are higher than in an alternative accommodation. Also Sir, as I would have indicated, in 2000 the Out-Patients Clinic's attendance increased by some 23 per cent which is a substantial amount of persons. To give you the actual figure, in 1999, they would have seen about 85 000 visits in the Out-Patients Clinic. In the year 2000, they saw in excess of 104 000 and that is currently on trend this year for a further increase. In those circumstances, you would appreciate that they would need additional materials and supplies to meet the demand of that increase.

Further Sir, the Value Added Tax Act was amended such that the Hospital from 1st April, 2001 was required as a result of that amendment to pay VAT on its direct imports. In those circumstances, more than \$1 million would have been expended in a way not provided for in the original vote that would have been settled in January of 2001 when the Ministry of Finance would have met with the Ministry of Health prior to the printing of the Estimates.

We believe, Sir, that the sums being required are reasonable, having gone through a thorough investigation on the part of the officers at the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health and in those circumstances the \$4.3 million being asked for the purpose of supplies and materials appears to be appropriate to carry it to the end of the year.

I am told there has been an opportunity for much new diagnostic and testing facilities provided at the Hospital and that this has resulted in a greater number of tests being done which has meant that more consumable items are being used in order to accommodate this increase in testing. The demand generally for laboratory testing has increased and this is one of the reasons why the supplies and materials vote has been under-provisioned at this point.

There is a sum of \$150 984 for rental of property and this is required to rent garbage skips from the Sanitation Service Authority so as to provide for better general hygiene and sanitation in the refuse collection area of the Hospital. Also, Sir, to ensure that the rental of quarters that are needed for doctors, the money which was originally voted for this was inadequate and the sum of \$97 950 is needed in that \$538 076 to provide for rental of quarters for doctors. There is also a very small amount for the provision of the rental of two photocopies.

Sir, a utilities vote also has to be supplemented and I am asking that these sums which have been requested under Head 23 for Hospital Services be provided for, given the fact of the increased demand on the institution but, more importantly, in spite of all of the allocations to the Hospital it continues to ensure that a generally high level of service is provided by the Hospital to over 100 000 out-patients during the year, indeed, Sir, a substantial amount of persons on a more long-term patient service. I believe that these sums are appropriate and I therefore ask that Head 23 stand part.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this Head 23 which deals with the Ministry of Health and especially Hospital services. I want to say that there are some things going on at the Hospital that concern me. For example, there are nurses who would like to improve their lot and they are not given permission to do it even

though they have been accepted by the Community College. I believe that problem should be looked at and corrected soon because I believe it is in the interest of the patients at the Hospital for these nurses who have applied to the Community College and have been given permission by the College to attend classes that the available leave or some agreement be reached on this particular matter.

There are some other problems, Sir. There are some patients who have to use Vitamin B who used to get these vitamins on a monthly basis and all of a sudden they are told by the Hospital not to come back and that they should source them at the polyclinics. When they go to the polyclinics, they are told that they will get them every three months and not the regular monthly supply. These patients have been told by their doctors, *et cetera*, that the vitamins are very good for them and they need them on a monthly basis. I think that something is wrong when a doctor could recommend a particular dosage for a patient and the doctor knows the needs of his patient only to be told by somebody else that the recommended prescription is now being changed by somebody else.

We have another problem within the health service system where the public health inspectors who have been trained for a long time and who have been doing a good job, and their reports are proper, are now being told that they cannot get promotion and that there are some people now coming into the system and superseding public health inspectors who have been doing a wonderful job for a long period of time.

5.50 p.m.

They have complained to the Ministry of Health and nothing was done about it. They have complained to the unions and mentioned was also made in the Press. They have also complained to me and I think it is proper as a parliamentary representative for St. Lucy and for all those who complained to me, to recognise that if these public health inspectors are doing a good job that they should not be superseded by people who are now entering the public service. Sir, it will create frustration and the Government of the day would not want this type of atmosphere continuing.

I think the Cabinet of Barbados needs to investigate this, if the charges are correct and stop the frustration in our medical services because a lot of these people deal with food and we would not want a situation where we have public health inspectors who believe they are doing the job required of them only to be superseded by persons now entering the public service.

Sir, I felt I needed to bring these matters to you seeing that we have an offshore Minister so that some member here would understand the importance of having a Minister of Health in this Chamber. I want to make the point to the

House since we have an offshore Minister who sits somewhere else and cannot understand the charge I am making because he is a stranger to this place.

Sir, I am saying that a Ministry as important as the Ministry of Health that the Minister should be here to answer these particular charges.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, anyone who wants to sit in here has to win a seat to be in here. I do not agree with that foolishness. We do not want any substitutes in here.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that we need to get the Minister to answer these particular charges since it affects the health of the country and, as has been said by the Prime Minister of the country, the health of the country is the wealth of the country and I support that, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have noted the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and will ensure that they reach the appropriate entity.

With those words I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

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

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT – \$7,847 559.00

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, within the last 18 months there has been considerable activity as it relates to road construction and road rehabilitation in Barbados. Sir, this is as a result of the Government of Barbados embarking on a programme aimed at improving and enhancing the infrastructure of the roads in Barbados. The Government's infrastructural development is aimed at encouraging and attracting business ventures to create growth in the economy.

Sir, the importation of different types of vehicles in Barbados has led to an increasing number of traffic on the road which in turn necessitated new carriageways, expansion and improvement of the existing roadworks. Up to December last year, there were some 77 000 vehicles in Barbados of which 50 000 were cars using 1 600 kilometres of roads in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, Barbadians own more cars than in the past and in most cases, people using cars to go to work, carry their children to school and this puts a lot of pressure on the road system in Barbados.

A need for better road infrastructure in Barbados arises from the fact that this country is heavily dependant on the tourism product. This brings hundreds of people to

Barbados on a yearly basis and we need to develop the infrastructure for such an industry. Mr. Chairman, the infrastructure has to be developed as we continue to market our country as a wonderful destination for the services business. Again, the infrastructure must be A-class as more and more international organisations set up offices in Barbados. In so doing, we realise that some inconvenience will be caused to those using our roads and those living in close proximity to where these roadworks are taking place.

Mr. Chairman, on every occasion I speak on road construction in Barbados, I let the people of Barbados know that this Government realises the inconvenience they are having and we always apologise to the people of Barbados for this inconvenience, especially those living in close proximity to the roadworks for the amount of dust they experience in their houses and motor cars. We know that some people have respiratory problems but, as I said, we apologise for this.

Mr. Chairman, this is the first time this country has embarked on such a massive road programme and we are doing three major things.

Firstly, let me say that we are building highways. We are not resurfacing the highways in Barbados. We are building a massive programme – the Bridgetown Bypass Road. It is a two-phased approach and we are doing an outer and inner road. The outer road started 18 months ago at the Frank Worrell Roundabout and proceeded in a southerly direction to Black Rock, to Eagle Hall, over to the Welches Road/Tweedside Road Roundabout, to Pine Road, to Culloden Road, and into Dalkeith.

We are not simply paving the road so it will take some time and there will be a lot of dislocation. We are moving all of the services from the middle of the road. These services have been in the road for 100 years and we are moving them from the middle of the road and putting them at the side of the road. The reason for putting them at the side of the road is that in future when the road needs to be repaired, there will be no need to cut the Highway.
6.00 p.m.

These services are run on the left and on the right side so that the people who live on the left can have their services from left and those on the right from the right of the road. Also, the National Petroleum Corporation is providing their services at the side of the road and BARTEL, as well as in some cases Light and Power, but Light and Power has most of their services overhead by using the poles.

As I have said, Sir, we have completed that section between the University Hill and Eagle Hall. We experienced some difficulty because the contractor did not reckon for. That was in the area at the bottom of Bridge Gap, Black

Rock by the Catholic Church and they had to do some serious work there. That now has been completed.

When you approach the junction at Fairfield and Deacon's Road, especially from the Fairfield side, in the past you had horrors getting from that junction. Many accidents happened there because people coming from the area of Fairfield Road could not see how to get out and the road had some kind of drop in it. You had to ease out into the road and you could possibly collide with some oncoming vehicle. Now that whole junction has been widened and we acquired some property there to widen the corner. For the first time we have traffic lights operating at that junction.

At the Eagle Hall junction now, we also have new traffic lights operating. One particular light has an overhead arm because in the past we found that lots of traffic lights were being knocked down by vehicles. It was very costly because the Ministry in most cases had to repair these lights at a cost to the Ministry because usually you would not know who was driving or what was the number of the vehicle so that you could approach the insurance company to be compensated. If it were a situation where the vehicle had to remain there and where the police had to come, then we would know who the vehicle belonged to and in most cases we would be compensated by the insurance company.

At the Eagle Hall junction we acquired a property there and that has turned out to be a beautiful junction. In order to improve the junction, we had to remove the old market and a new market has now been constructed. Although the junction is almost ready because a new base court is being put on now, it is still functioning. I was at a function Sunday night and an old man approached me and said to me, "Mr. Marshall, that road is so nice. It is so smooth and it is working so sweet". I was very glad to hear that Barbadians who had been complaining about the road can now see the benefit of the road to Barbadians.

I would also say, Sir, that along this Black Rock Road and continuing throughout the length of this new road they are having 1.5-metre sidewalks. I would also say, Mr. Chairman, that the sidewalks are not just being built for the usage of the ordinary pedestrians but they are now built to international standards so that people can use wheelchairs on the sidewalks.

As I said, Sir, a major sub-component of the project is the construction of a new market at Eagle Hall and this market will soon be completed. Part of this supplemental that we are asking for today is for the completion of this same market. We had some inconvenience in this area. We had a situation where a lot of the drivers of the public service vehicles were not cooperating with the road builders. On one occasion a person was knocked down and his foot was broken. The police had to be called to the scene to go and

bring back the driver because he went along without stopping.

Also, when the men were trying to pave Eagle Hall, the guys would come through with their vehicles and knock down the barriers and go on their merry way. We were having some serious problems with these public service vehicles. Sir, I got the number of one of the vehicles and I spoke to the owner and he promised that he would speak to those people involved in this bad behaviour.

The Welches and Tweedside Junction at the traffic lights has been paved. No new lights have been installed as yet. We have now put in place stop signs so that when people approach the junction they will drive with caution. I am saying that the users of the roads in Barbados will have some ease due to the amount of congestion on these roads. The Eagle Hall junction, as I said, brings people from St. James and St. Thomas. The Jackson and Welches areas bring people from St. George, Christ Church and St. Joseph into town in the morning. It is a very busy area especially when we have so many schools in the Government Hill area such as the Charles F. Broome School and others. This will bring some much needed relief to the people using this road from those areas.

Sir, I believe that the Pine Road might be out for the Christmas season because that road is having all of the accommodation works such as sidewalks and drains put in place since the guard walls have been set back. From there we go to Culloden Road where that will be widened also right out to the area by Dalkeith where CANA is. That area will be improved with new traffic lights and this runs right out to Highway 7.

Mr. Chairman, we know the Pine Road takes on about 15 000 to 18 000 vehicles on a daily basis. When that road is out, I am asking the public to use the George Street road. We would hope that the police would make sure that people do not use the George Street road for parking. You have some people who park their cars in that area and walk away. We would hope that people can park their cars in the avenues and not on the George Street road. Those people who attend the building on George Street should go in the yard and park in there.

Now the John Beckles Drive was also out of use for about six or seven months. That road has now been paved and people who travel on Constitution and River Roads can now use it because it has been paved quite well in order for the water to run off. In the past, a lot of water would settle in the road and now we have alleviated that problem.

Mr. Chairman, this will bring you up-to-date on what is happening on the roadworks as far as the Bridgetown By-Pass Road is concerned.

The second phase will start at the junction of Westbury Road and President Kennedy Drive right across to the Westbury Road junction. Incidentally, when it goes across to Passage Road, that road then would be used as a two-way street. In the past, it was a two-way street and then it moved to a one-way street. Traffic lights will be installed at the junction of Passage Road corner and Westbury Road corner at Baxter Road where they meet and also at the junction of Country Road and Passage Road. Then Country Road goes right out to Roebuck Street and there will be installed new traffic lights.

6.10 p.m.

As we advance on this programme, persons on the Black Rock Road, Westbury Road, Passage Road and Culloden Road will be displaced.

The Ministry of Public Works has contracted the Ministry of Housing to build units at the corner of Country Road. Those blocks have now been completed and the Barbados Light & Power Company, as well as the Barbados Water Authority, have done their work. A road will soon be constructed and those persons will soon be located.

I say that because, quite often I have enquiries from persons calling the Ministry asking about the rental of these houses, but I must let them know that this Government has an interest in its people. We will continue to make sure that we find houses for the people of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, we have come here today to ask for this money to supplement the Estimates for the Ministry. Part of this money is to go to the Headley's Land Project where we are putting culverts in place by the Globe Roundabout. The Barbados Telephone Company Limited (BARTEL), the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited (BL&P) and the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) had to do work there which was not in the Estimates. As a result of the work we are doing, they are also asking for funds to supplement that. We are also asking for funds to finish the Eagle Hall Public Market. The other things we are looking at are funds for the personal emolument for overtime payment for persons working on the Headley's Land project.

We are also asking for money for the Barbados Transport Board who had to pay money owed to United Commercial Autoworks Limited (UCAL). They had to use some of the funds voted in the Estimates to pay interest on a loan.

Therefore with that, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with three areas, but in particular I want to start by

saying that I am not a Member of Parliament who believes in nit-picking. I think we are here to discuss policy issues.

Sir, I think what has now become a matter of policy in Barbados is the way in which the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has so deftly and incompetently managed the phasing, sequencing and also the public relations of road-works in this country. The Ministry has an obligation to road users.

Sir, I will give you an example of some of the foolishness that is ongoing on roads in this country. It is the Ministry's responsibility to be in charge of traffic flows in Barbados. It has allowed the construction companies to put persons in hard hats and to stand up directing traffic with their fingers. Yesterday, I saw an accident about to happen with about three cars where three persons were directing traffic. One at the road leading to one junction, one at the middle of the road directing traffic with her finger and, Sir, eventually there was almost a pile-up of traffic. There was no official of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

The Minister has already said in here that despite the pleas of Parliamentarians he will talk to the construction companies about that. I am saying that it has nothing to do with the construction companies. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport, along with the Royal Barbados Police Force, have an obligation to manage the flow and condition of traffic in Barbados.

Sir, I believe that if the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has contracted people to undertake work, then the Ministry has a moral obligation, on behalf of the people, to ensure that where the contractors are or are not inconveniencing road users in any way that, during that interim period contingency arrangements are put in place.

There are traffic diversions along the South Coast that no one obeys. There are traffic diversions through places like the Garden Land, which are not signed posted and therefore cars turn into dead ends and then have to back up, causing inconvenience to the residents in those areas. As I said, in a country in which we are supposed to be 98 per cent literate or supposedly so, there must be some way in which the Ministry of Public Works and the contractors can properly sign-post a traffic diversion, particularly in areas where traffic does not normally flow. That is what is causing stress, confusion and downright danger to drivers in Barbados.

Sir, I do not think that people would mind being inconvenienced, contrary to what the Government seems to feel, or that they are being unreasonable, unfair, overly critical or nit-picking, when all that is being requested is that the diversions and traffic signs are consistent and posted early. Sometimes one comes upon a diversion sign, but where is the actual diversion taking place? A good example

of that is by Bubba's Restaurant, but nobody pays any attention to that. They drive past there and at the last point at which it is possible to pass, they turn into a residential area which is not sign-posted and which has a number of dead ends.

It is a matter for the Ministry and I still feel very strongly about that. The Ministry also has an obligation to ensure that its public relations programme would indicate to persons where roadworks that are taking place are known. There are parts of the world where those kinds of roadworks are taking place, persons are stationed there, particularly in residential areas. There are some areas where roadworks and diversions are so well concealed that persons are given passes so that those persons who need to travel to those areas are permitted to do so. Now, it is a free for all on the roads in Barbados and even in some cases the Ministry of Public Works equipment is not working like traffic lights that should be working but are not, which adds to the confusion and, very often, those areas are not manned by policemen or traffic wardens.

Sir, it cannot cost the Ministry that much more to employ more traffic wardens and station them on those key sites to ensure that they can explain to persons and to direct traffic where there is a build up.

Therefore, when the roadworks resume – and I understand that it has been suspended – I believe the Minister has to reflect on how the Ministry can assist persons using the roads in Barbados in avoiding these dangers. It is a simple matter and is not a question of which Government is in power. All of us want to see the roads improved. Many of these projects are old projects conceived by previous Governments. We understand they need to be done but they also need to be properly sequenced and managed.

The second point I want to make relates to the Transport Board. I am not going to deal with the contentious issues. I have a Parliamentary Question on that, but I want to tell the Minister that the service in the parish of St. John has deteriorated despite the new buses to pre-new buses level or even worse. Some mornings people in areas like Gall Hill, going into parts of St. George, are unable to get some of the critical buses they need to get to town. It is appalling.

As I said, it is a situation that is mind-boggling. How does one explain to the average taxpayer in this country that after supporting loans in Parliament of \$40 million, subventions and then, on top of that, additional Supplementaries and air-conditioned buses for the Transport Board, along with all of the other changes in the administrative reforms in the Transport Board, the transport system has deteriorated back to the levels it was at when the Government said it had to make those interventions.

6.20 p.m.

You can hear that 70 buses are parked up in the yard. UCAL is owed money, the Transport Board has no money and they cannot service their normal obligations. Again, I appeal to the Minister – I feel now in a parochial sense because that is where the concern has been addressed to me – to do something about the situation at the Transport Board. We have all supported attempts to improve the service, and despite all we heard about statutory corporations functioning efficiently and so on, the Transport Board seems to have gotten itself back into a complete mess.

The last point I want to make relates to water services. The areas of Massiah Street, Rose Gate, Guinea and surrounding districts, have been experiencing severe problems with water, particularly on weekends they tell me, both in terms of the quality of the water which often has been discoloured and murky, and also the fact that they have not been getting a regular water supply.

I make an appeal on behalf of my constituents, many of whom I saw on the weekend, who complained about the lack of continuous service by the Barbados Water Authority, and again without any explanation as to why that was occurring, at least to those persons to whom I spoke.

As a caveat, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Public Works had already diverted traffic onto George Street and it was complete chaos. George Street as it stands now, has a number of businesses which do not have parking facilities.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order, I would like to know from the Honourable Member for St. John if he is speaking about George Street the place, or George Street the street.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I would say both but I am interested now in the traffic. On the place itself, for example, when you have the Richard Stoute's show and other events, when we are making a contribution to cultural development, from time to time there is chaos. We accept that but I am dealing now with the traffic.

I will say that you are going to have to stop cars from parking on George Street completely. They park in the avenues but I want to warn you that George Street, the street, has been the scene of many car burglaries. Therefore, people are very reluctant to part their cars in the avenues or in areas where they cannot see them.

Again, the idea of telling people not to park on George Street creates a public relations issue to be resolved because there are some people who are not going to be willing to park their cars where they cannot see them because of the large

numbers of incidences where people have broken into cars on that street.

Therefore, again I urge the Government and I think there must be some way in which the Government can manage the public relations issues of having these projects executed without leaving them to the contractors. They obviously have not budgeted for it and even if they have, it is a low-cost budget because they are not willing to spend money to deal with the matters. In any event, if you allow every construction company to undertake its own public relations, you will be filling the public with a lot of conflicting and a deluge of information which will confuse them. It is better for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to centrally manage, and indicate to road users what the challenges are on the road and also having people going out there to assist in ensuring that traffic in Barbados is much better managed – in the increase of the number of vehicles as well as what is happening around Bridgetown. It is not just Bridgetown, but along all of our major business arteries, except the West Coast proper in Barbados, where there is work being done which, as I say, has led to even more congestion and dislocation.

There are people who are already suffering business losses and on top of that, you put them in traffic jams, you put them in a situation morning, noon and night and it is becoming intolerable and unbearable for a large number of Barbadians. As I say, they are justified for feeling the way they feel for the manner in which these projects are being managed.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Chairman, I am a member of the constituency of St. Michael East and the legitimate representative of the people of St. Michael East. I have a special interest in this Head 35 subprogramme 547. Sir, I do not have an interest in the other sections of it because I am sure that the people of Rogers Road, the Ivy and the surrounding areas have experienced the difficulties and the agony of the road work which went on there for their own good. While talking about the agony which they experienced, I also want to thank the Minister and the Ministry for the manner in which they have continued with the work there and we look forward to the benefits that will be derived as a consequence of the improved drainage system in Rogers Road.

We are also grateful, Sir, because there are other major works at the bottom of Government Hill which fall on the periphery of the St. Michael East constituency. We are happy, as we shared the agony as well, for the works of the improved housing programme. We are also happy to share the joy of the restoration of the smooth flow of traffic through the community and the safety of the residents, the school children who pass through there going to Springer School, Charles F. Broome, Cooperative School, Hill Top

and the St. Giles Primary School, the residents of the entire community more so than even the traffic which passes through.

Sir, my major concern, and that is why I made reference to subprogramme 547 is the \$494 000 which will be spent on the Belle Feasibility Study which is more a flash of hope for a long outstanding, overdue project and a project that does not reflect the urgency of the people's needs in the Zone 1 area of the Belle.

The Zone 1 area stretches from the left corner of Bridge Road on the left side of My Lord's Hill, Belle Gully, to the Norman Niles Roundabout. Those people do not enjoy the benefits that many of the other persons in the urban communities enjoy. It seems that the bureaucrats do not understand the urgency of the social problems within those communities.

Although we have all these people who are specialists in various disciplines, they are involved in an exercise of filibustering and dragging their feet and not delivering service to the people. This is not a case of the Minister not functioning. This is a case where since three decades ago in 1973, people had to live in a state of confusion and frustration in the community, not knowing whether they will be moved from the location in which they live, or if so-called intelligent, scientific minds would come up with a solution to the problems which would allow them to stay in the community.
6.30 p.m.

Many people uttered in songs of ignorance of the whole sociology of the community and placed the blame on previous representatives not having any knowledge – let me enlighten them – that many of the people who now live in Licorish Village are people who came from Martindales Road because the State moved them from Martindales Road to Licorish Village and the others are descendants of workers on the Lower Estates Plantation and the Belle Plantation who lived in small chattel houses for decades even before the first study because this thing is repeated with studies.

I have never seen so much studies in my entire life in the Civil Service and outside the Civil Service. We have the Tullstorm Report, the Stanley Report and the Barbados Water Authority produced their own report. We had social investigations coming from all types of social scientists. We have all types of international agencies such as PAHO bringing out information about the community and telling us what the social problems are. Even the district nurse and the health inspector produced reports and in all of these reports we still cannot understand how important it is. Since last year a special body which is made up of a number of departments within the State itself was commissioned to

carry out another study. This is not a social study now, this is a study on the geology of the land.

While I am happy, as I said, to have this flash of hope in the form of this \$494 000, I want to see a physical plan because the people would feel more comfortable tonight if they hear that there is a physical plan because we have to go through so much different stages now before we actually know what form of action would be taken in the community level. But after a physical plan, we have to be looking for finance for the project and then we have to send it out to tenders to see who would be the persons best fit to carry out the programme in the community.

This sounds to me as though I will be wrestling with this issue in the year 2050 and I would not be around then. I would like to know that during the time the people vested the authority in me that they will be able to witness the transformation of that entire community but not as a result of the million different recommendations. I do not see why this is so difficult to understand because with modern technology, a sewerage system can be put in place rather than going through all of these studies because the geology and the formation of the land have not changed. The only thing that has changed within the community is the human behaviour. This study they are going to do now is another study for the testing of the soil to determine whether the soil got pores or not in it. This is manifest ignorance at the highest level.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: So while I can understand because there is a little sign of hope...

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: ...hydrogeological studies. Wasting time and we have had these studies before. So I am asking the Minister and all those persons who are in a position of influence and who respect the powers vested in them not to waste time with these studies within the government departments and then outside the government departments with the private sector because this money now will go into the hands of persons in the private sector. We have had studies with members within the Civil Service who wanted assistance because the work load sometimes is too much and they cannot handle this kind of work but we need action.

When I come back here in a few months from now, I need to know that those persons are enjoying the benefits that are being offered to people across urban and rural Barbados. I need to be able to go to the Urban Development Commission (UDC) and ask for assistance for those poverty-stricken persons knowing that they would not be disallowed

this assistance because the Town and Country Planning Department or the Barbados Water Authority do not believe that we should make any form of development within the community after 30 years because they are uncertain what steps would be taken. You only have to walk through that community and talk to the people.

Quite recently the Community Development Department brought in a social scientist to carry out a social investigation as late as last month in the community and that officer came under the hostility of the community because of all of these studies. This seems to be some guinea pig operation because everybody is always testing out things inside the community.

Quite recently, an official from the Town and Country Planning Department accompanied by the Special Squad of the Police Force went into the community because it is viewed that the people down there are very antagonistic and aggressive and that it would not be right for him to move freely through the community without expecting someone to do him some form of injury, so he had to be accompanied by the Special Squad.

I raised the issue with him because I am not only the representative of the area but I lived and experienced the pain, the difficulties, the frustrations and even the unfriendliness that occurred between representatives and the people who even speak on their behalf because no action is taken. I cannot go back to these people without allowing them to recognise that I have already put their case for them more than once in this House of Assembly. Many persons might see this as being repetitive but it is necessary for some form of action to be taken. This is not an indictment on the Government itself but on the slow process that is coming from within the whole bureaucratic drag that is occurring and is constantly coming back and making the same recommendations and nobody is saying to them, look, put a full stop to this, we need some form of action.

I am asking persons with ministerial power to exercise it in the way the people expect them to exercise it for the good of the people. It is not just my community. The dangers that exist in the community are a threat to the national health. If you report the reports there is a genuine cause for concern. The reports on the health in the community are so alarming and so frightening that anyone in here who has access to the information will feel the same way as I, although they do not represent this particular community.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: So while I am supporting this financial flash of hope I am asking for some form of action to be taken by the appropriate Ministry.

Thank you very much.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this Resolution under programme 510 to say, Sir, that in the month of October, I warned this House that the Minister would be back to this Parliament to request more funds under this particular Head.

I told the Minister one month ago that the amount which he was requesting for this programme was too small and that he needed to bring a proper supplementary to this Parliament under this programme. I am happy to see today that the Minister has corrected the amount needed and is now back under programme 510 requesting a higher amount for this particular work that he came to this Parliament a month ago to get some funds for.
6.40 p.m.

I would also want to say that the Minister made one serious admission today and I agree with him that the road works in Barbados affect the economy in Barbados, because of the lack of planning at the Ministry of Public Works. I want to agree with the Minister that his Ministry has affected the manufacturing, tourism and all the productive industries in this country. He has to recognise that this is now our vital tourist season and we are at a critical time and cannot have any Ministry or Minister affecting the revenues or foreign exchange of this country at this particular time. After September 11th, this is crisis time, and we need to maximise our foreign exchange.

I am saying to the Minister to tell all the contractors that our tourist season, which is important to this country, is about to start. We do not want any interference from the Ministry of Public Works because it affects the lives of Barbadians especially the poor ones. That message needs to be told in a very serious way because this tourist season is going to be the most important tourist season ever for the country of Barbados because of what happened September 11th and what might have been occurring before then.

Sir, the Ministry of Public Works needs to make sure that everything that is needed to be done is done by December 15th and every single road that affects the tourist industry must be made available to the tourist industry. This is a vital tourist season for our country called Barbados. He must understand this point.

I also want to say that it does not make sense budgeting money for draining if your department is not weeding the roads, because if you are not weeding the roads the water cannot flow into the drain. It flows into the roads and it mashes up the roads. If you check the Duncan O'Neale Highway, that road needs some serious debushing. Whenever the rain is falling, especially in the area of the

St. Lucy Church to the Cement Plant you will find that all the water is not running into the drain but into the middle of the road, and you know what will happen to that very soon.

We need a serious weeding programme in the constituency of St. Lucy, especially on the Duncan O'Neale Highway so that the water can flow into the drain and go into the gullies instead of mashing up the highway. If not, we will be back before this Parliament for large sums of money to build a new highway when it would have cost us only a little sum to weed the roadsides and also give the poor people some work, especially at this time, around Christmas.

I am begging the Minister of Public Works to employ some more poor people and give them some work. Also, at Maycocks Development the cars cannot pass through because of the same problem. A serious debushing programme needs to be put in place. I have said in this House already, Sir, that the transportation system in the north of this country, in my constituency, is the worst anywhere in the world for the simple reason, in order for someone to get home from work they have to go on an excursion. The only place in Barbados where I know you have to take two hours to get home is in the north of Barbados and I am saying it is not fair. On top of that, on mornings when people want to get to work the vital seven o'clock service you cannot get. The Ministry of Public Works is creating frustration for the employees of the north of Barbados, especially in St. Lucy. The Ministry of Public Works should be held liable for all employed people who get to work late and are fired. We need to put a head on this thing to compensate employees.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Ministry of Public Works is causing people who used to be employed to be now unemployed. Those who still have jobs are now being laid off because of coming to work late.

I also want to remind the Minister, Sir, that I have said already in this Parliament that I do not have any problems with the ZRs in the north of Barbados. The Minister knows that two ZRs have been removed from my constituency and we need them. It is affecting the lives of the employees from the north of Barbados. Let me get back the two ZR permits. I want them.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am now told, Sir, that two people from St. James want to run in St. Lucy when I have one constituent who previously had a ZR permit and cannot get it now because of some problem and one from St. Peter who was providing service for St. Lucy and you are telling me now that I must take somebody from further south?

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The constituents of St. Lucy are happy with the two people who were previously providing that service and they do not get involved in the regular ZR culture. They are good and fit people to drive the ZR vehicles they own and they are owners of their vehicles and drive them themselves and they protect their investment and you do not have to worry about confusion for police in the north of Barbados. The culture that the Minister knows of, further inland, does not occur in St. Lucy so we want back those two ZR permits for those two young men. I am telling the Minister that I want them soon because they do not give trouble on the roads. You cannot deprive people like them from having a living.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I know you cannot hear asides but I want to declare that I have no interest in these permits. When I do work for my constituents, I do it as a parliamentary representative for the constituency and I expect no favour. I did not even ask them for a vote in return because I represent everybody in my constituency and it is up to them.

Sir, the other person is a young man from Fustic in St. Lucy. One is from Maynards, St. Peter and the other from Fustic, St. Lucy. As parliamentary representative for the gentleman in Fustic, St. Lucy, I have a right to put his case here and seeing that the young man from St. Peter provides a service for the people of St. Lucy, I also have a right to put a case for him.
6.50 p.m.

I have spoken to the Ministry of Public Works about new bus stops in the constituency and I have not seen any as yet. I have already spoken to the Minister and I now recognize that there are certain parts of the constituency that previously did not need a bus service which now needs one. These areas are Greenidges, Rockfield, Coconut Hall and the Cove. Those people have rights and it is not fair for them to walk long distances. The highway leading from St. Lucy's Church to Alleynedale, most of those people have to use Pie Corner or Josey Hill buses and at night when they are walking from St. Lucy's Church, they should at least have proper lighting on that Highway.

Asides.

Mr. D. St E. KELLMAN: No, highways are not done by Rural. The Minister should understand his role. The Ministry of Public Works put lights on highways but the Rural Development Commission will put lights in tenantries *et cetera*. Sir, I am quite clear on this particular matter. This

is a highway matter and it has to be dealt with by the Ministry of Public Works.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, even though I have spoken to the Minister, he is telling me to write to him. Sir, I think the Minister should write his own notes.

Sir, those people who live in Alleynedale and Oxford still do not have a bus service even though I have written the Transport Board telling them how they can provide a bus service to the people of this area because there are more houses in the area than where the bus presently travels. I have told them how to solve the transportation problem for the people of Alleynedale and Oxford and they promised me that when the new buses were received, the problem would be solved.

I would like to know which set of new buses they are speaking of. Are these the reconditioned ones or the new ones because the new ones were received and the reconditioned ones were received but the people in Alleynedale and Oxford still do not have a bus service.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is speaking about reconditioned buses. There are no reconditioned buses at the Transport Board and as far as I know we never purchased any reconditioned buses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes to wind up.

Mr. D. St E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, even if the Minister has to buy reconditioned buses and bring them to Alleynedale and Oxford, I want some of them because they are better than the new buses and at least when they arrive here they do not have old tyres, old gearboxes or old transmission so let me get some reconditioned buses to put in Alleynedale and Oxford.

Sir, I would like the Minister to investigate what I have said because I am tired writing the various departments about these things and I want action from the Minister. I am not telling the Minister to do the job himself. I am asking the Minister to inform the appropriate people within the Ministry to do what they have to do.

Sir, I heard Honourable Members speaking about Local Government but I strongly believe that what is needed in this Parliament is that every year, when we do Estimates, we break down the expenses according to constituency where it matters. If we were to do that, I would not be in here quarrelling all the time. I am saying, those who have ears to hear should hear and act because the first Minister that does

that would have recognized the importance of the pedestrian. You will continue to fail if you will continue to ignore me.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I regret that I have to be drawn into this debate but the deplorable treatment that my constituents have been receiving at the hands of the Ministry of Public Works over a period of time has forced me to intervene on their behalf.

Sir, my constituents are besieging me with requests for action in a few specific areas. These areas relate to the repaving of the Upper and Lower Carter's Gap, the cleaning of the road throughout Christ Church South with the exception of the small area between the Library and Cane Vale because that is cleaned every morning. My constituents fail to understand how it is that previously for the last 30 to 40 years all of the drains during the rainy season were cleared in May and June but it is not done anymore. The areas on Enterprise Main Road, Enterprise Drive and the part of Silver Sands which borders on my constituency around St. Christopher Church are not well looked after and the Honourable Member would support me in this fact. We have a situation where bush is overhanging the road and nobody knows what is the gutter or the road and there are no sidewalks.

Sir, I am given to understand that the Depot at the Lighthouse is responsible for the whole of this area and I have repeatedly tried to get action from the Depot but to no avail. I want to repeat that others may be fortunate in being able to get action from their depot but I have not been that fortunate. I am told there are only four weeders for the entire Depot, but that is wrong. There used to be many more.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Well, if they have retired, they should be replaced or they should do what was done previously. They should put sections out on contracts to be able to get some kind of benchmark to what is reasonable productivity. Sir, whatever is done, it cannot be left as it is now because it is exposing people who walk along these roads to great danger from traffic. Sir, that bush is a problem that has to be solved. I have spoken to the Minister and I am sure he would like to get it done.

The Honourable Member spoke about problems which he has in Licorish Village but there is a gap in our constitutional setup between those who are responsible and those who have the power to ensure that the functionaries do their work because there is a gap between the two. I have been speaking out and I will continue to speak to it as long as I am in here.

Sir, I want to share the frustration the Honourable Member has with respect to that area at the Belle Pumping

Station. I was a member of Cabinet and I distinctly remember a study and proposal being made by Mr. Archer who was a well-known environmental engineer in Barbados back in the 80s and nothing has been done to this day.

Sir, we will learn from that statement made by a famous head of a big organisation in English. He said you should fire the people who recommend that you should have consultants. This Government and future Governments in Barbados will have to study the implication of those words because we have consultants after consultants until we recognise that one of the functions of consultants is to recommend other consultants so that they will get more work.

7.00 p.m.

In other words, they perpetuate the need for their skills. We do not need a consultant to tell us what to do in respect of the elementary services of the bush and road weeding. As far as Oistins is concerned, I am a little confused in this Resolution because, as I see it, we are voting Highway Construction and Maintenance, Sub-programme 511 both under a Resolution for \$5 million and also under a Resolution for \$13 million. I really do not understand. That is the truth because I have a Resolution before me for \$13 245 000 and it has \$4 440 000 under sub-programme 511. I also have one for \$5 973 000 and it also has a sub-programme 511 for \$4 400 000. These are two Resolutions, one for \$13 million and the same sub-programme 511 is in both. There is another one which states that this will rescind the previous Resolution.

Head 37 is \$23 million. Sir, I am dealing with that one at the present moment. It does have drainage. There has been some work done and nobody can deny that. This Government has done work in relation to wells. The only problem with the wells is that the work is not started early enough. They should be started before the rainy season so that during the rainy season the wells would be working. You should see the ones that are not functioning and mark them. You should do those first before the rainy season. Nevertheless, we should be grateful for the little bit of work that is done in that area.

We still have other areas of problems and I hope we will get them solved in the new year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, some months ago I spoke about the road leading from Colleton to Checker Hall and it was ignored. It so happens that there is some serious drainage work that has to be done and the road is not accessible from Colleton to St. Lucy's Church. I have been complaining about this road since 1999. The former

Honourable Member Roy Brathwaite lives in the area where this road leads to Checker Hall. The road is all covered with grass and you cannot differentiate between the road and the grass.

I am calling on the Ministry of Public Works to provide some immediate attention to this road. I hope that there would not be a serious accident on that road before the Ministry would understand the problem because those drains are very dangerous. I would hate that it would take an accident for the Ministry to understand the seriousness of the situation.

I am also saying that there are wells in the Crab Hill area that have not been cleaned for many years. Whenever it rains, all the top soil is moved away. I am calling on the Ministry of Public Works to pay some attention to this problem because nothing has been done about it for years. I do not think it is fair to have agricultural land and for the Ministry to place a well in the area and not compensate. If something is not done soon, I will have to seek to get appropriate compensation for the owner.

Sir, I have come to this Honourable House to defend the masses in this country and I will not tolerate the continued problem in this particular way.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all those Honourable Members of this House who have taken part in this debate. In closing, I want to make some comments on areas that were of concern to some people.

The Honourable Member for St. John's comments have been noted. I will ask the Chairman of the Transport Board to look into the service of the St. John area – I have to say the non-service but you do have a bus service to and from school.
7.10 p.m.

The Member for St. Michael East has raised some concerns about the Belle area. This proposed study encompasses all the boundaries from the Clyde Walcott Roundabout along Waterford Bottom to the junction of the Bridge Road and Hindsbury Road.

The objective of this study is to evaluate the environmental conditions in the Belle area while paying special attention to:

- (f) the protection of the ground water resources and,
- (g) conduct a feasibility study of the alternatives for improving the environmental conditions of the Belle and to prepare a master plan for the best irrigation methods using the alternative approach.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say to the Member that we are very concerned about the problem at the Belle. This area is an area from where 90 per cent of the water comes. As I said, we are very concerned about those conditions and will be doing everything we can, as soon as possible, to ensure that we address that problem.

The Member for St. Lucy has complained about the roads to be done in his area and also the drainage problems within his constituency. May I say to the Member for St. Lucy that there is a Ministry of Public Works and Transport Depot at Chance Hall and I will ask that you speak to Mr. Cumberbatch and outline your problems. If you do not get any results there, you may speak to me personally and I will then deal with the matter.

The Member for Christ Church South has complained about the Enterprise/Silver Sands area regarding the bush in those areas. We do have a problem at that Depot where there is a shortage of weeders in that area. We are hoping very soon to have that problem rectified in a few weeks so that we can get some more work done in those constituencies of Christ Church.

Mr. Chairman, I thank all Members for their intervention and, therefore, I do ask that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I move that Head 37 stands part.

On the motion of Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to his Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of two money Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, these money Resolutions were read a first and second time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government's Business for today.

In the circumstances, I beg to move that this Sitting of the House be adjourned until Tuesday, 11th December, 2001, at 11.00 a.m.

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

The question that the Honourable House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th December, 2001, at 11.00 a.m. was put to the House and agreed to and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
7.15 p.m.

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