

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1999 - 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 23, 2002.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, G.C.M., B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker) His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P., (Deputy Speaker) Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of Civil Service) 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) Hon. G. W. PAYNE Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, J.P., 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. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed. (Ministry of Housing and Lands) Hon. R.D. MARSHALL, (Minister of Public Works and Transport) Hon. R. StC. 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) Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House) 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 Economic Development, Industry and International Business) Hon. Miss C.Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Prayers were led by Rev. Dale Brathwaite.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, July 16, 2002.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes have been circulated and I move that the Minutes be approved.

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

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

MESSAGES

Mr. SPEAKER: A message from His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable the Senate and the Honourable House of Assembly.

“His Excellency the Governor-General presents his compliments to the President and Members of the Senate and to the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly and has the honour, by command of the Queen, to convey Her Majesty’s reply to the message of congratulations sent on the occasion of Her Majesty’s Golden Jubilee.”

From: Buckingham Palace

To: The Speaker of the House

“I was pleased to receive your kind message of loyal greetings sent on behalf of the Members of the Senate, the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly of Barbados on the occasion of my Golden Jubilee.

As Head of the Commonwealth, your thoughtfulness in writing was much appreciated and I send my warm good wishes to you all.

Elizabeth R.”

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss MIA A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Bill be read a first time.

1. Treasury Bills and Tax Certificates (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS
ORDER NO. 7 - RESOLUTION TO NOTE AND APPROVE
PROTOCOL FOUR FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF A SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP 2001-2004.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lead off the debate on this Resolution to note and approve Protocol Four of the Social Partnership. It is perhaps a very interesting coincidence that this debate in the Parliament on Protocol Four of the Social Partnership should occur in this month of July, one week before a day of national significance, that is, the day commemorating the 1937 Riots. This is a date which was the beginning of this modern period of history for Barbados. It is after that day that modern systems of governance were introduced. Democracy was widened and ordinary citizens began to see their way for participation in all aspects of our national economy and a national society.

It is significant as well, Sir, that within a very short period, we will also be celebrating Emancipation Day, August 1, a date which, in an earlier part of our history, we began what has been a long drive from emancipation to full adult suffrage and continued through with independence. But, as we continue on this drive from independence to building nationhood, new forms of governance must continue to evolve.

It is in that context, Sir, of new forms of governance, in which I put this Protocol Four on the Social Partnership. It is part of our effort as a nation to continue to build a just and equitable society which provides meaningful opportunity for participation in an economy which is characterised by free and pure competition. It is also characterised by the strengthening of our human social capital through continued investments in education and health for our people. Sir, it is also part of the efforts of the modern society of Barbados to ensure our further democratisation in all the spheres of activity, not only political but social and economic and, of course, to continue the drive which we started towards the eradication of poverty through greater social inclusion.

Sir, this process did not begin with Protocol Four. In fact, it did not even begin with Protocol One, although these are all-important steps toward the furtherance of these objectives. It is not merely coincidental that among our national heroes, there are several persons who have been involved not only in the August political struggles but struggles for workers' rights, for inclusion and inclusiveness of ordinary folks, particularly in the persons of the trade unionists and that late group: the Right Excellent Clement Payne, the Right Excellent Hugh Springer, the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott.

Therefore, the notion of having some form of collaboration, cooperation and partnership between the State for its political actors, non-State actors in the trade union movement and also within the private sector, is not different. However, what is different, Sir, is that today, we have sought to evolve a form

of instrument which will outline and identify national objectives to be pursued by these partners, as well as to identify modalities for cooperation, moving this cooperation to a mere ad hocism to a level of formality and structure, such as would allow us to add this instrument called, the Social Partnership, to those tried and proven successful instruments of cooperation and democratisation of our society.

It is therefore, Sir, in that context of evolving means of democratic governance and instruments of that governance, that I want to introduce this debate on Protocol Four. Of course, an evaluation and review of where we have been able to reach today would have us, first of all, as a Parliament, to give credit and to express our appreciation to those patriotic Barbadians who, as leaders of their respective constituent elements within our society recognise the need to subjugate individual sectoral interests for the wider national good.

And lest we think that this is easy, we need only to look at other countries in the world, even other countries in the region where tremendous amounts of national energy are spent as wastage on internal frictions. The societies, therefore, use its scarce human resources on internal conflicts of one sort or another. In some countries, the continued conflicts within Governments, trade unions, the private sector and then, Sir, in between those three elements, either together or in pairs, take up very much energy.

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Indeed, in extreme cases, there are countries around the world that have spent their last 30 years in civil war. There are countries that do not know what it means to be able to have such diverse interests come together for singular national purposes.

Therefore, one of the things that we as Barbadians must do is to recognise when we have a good thing and to know how to keep it going. There are citizens of many countries who would give the proverbial “eye tooth” to be able to have this form of cooperation even on an ad hoc basis let alone the formal structure which we have.

Of course, we all know that Protocol One was born out of some very adverse circumstances. Indeed, it is usually these adverse circumstances whether they be of a natural or manmade nature that will cause elements in the society to work together in a way that they traditionally have not. We are lucky, Sir, as I said, that we have the elements of that cooperation even before those difficulties.

I am going back, Sir, to 1991, the period of economic calamity, where in the absence of foreign exchange cover there was the threat of the collapse of the economy and where, in the face of massive job losses and in the face of the Government’s inability to cover its international payments at that time when there was a need to take strong concerted action to overcome these difficulties, out of that came Protocol One. It is good to note, Sir, as they say, that out of every evil cometh some good. So out of

that adverse situation we have evolved an instrument which has not only been applied in times of adversity but has also been applied even when the situation was turned around.

I take issue with those persons, and I have heard these soundings coming from the Opposition from time to time, who suggests that when the economy is doing well that you do not need a social partnership. That was the Opposition's position in the debate on this matter on the last occasion. However, it is my view, Sir, that we need a social partnership whether we are doing well or doing otherwise because there are tremendous benefits to be derived from it.

Amongst the benefits to be derived from having a social partnership is that this form of cooperation builds greater social trust. Indeed, much research work has been done on what are the elements of social capital and why are some societies more successful than others. The element of social trust is one of the elements that features prominently. There is an absence of inherent suspicion of one party by the other to the extent that every action of Government is not viewed with suspicion by the unions and vice versa and that every action of the private sector is not viewed with suspicion by the Government and the unions and so on. I am pleased to note, Sir, that as a result of successive Protocols and the Social Partnership that much of that suspicion has been reduced - it has not been eliminated, Sir, because there would always be suspicion but much of it has been eliminated - so that the leaders of the Government, the private sector and the unions in Barbados can work together in the spirit of trust.

One of the benefits is that during the periods of successive Protocols and the Social Partnership we have been able to recognise and agree as a country that there must be innovations in our industrial relations system, particularly as it relates to methods of pay. Today, Sir, there is no level of discomfort and no level of opposition when mention is made of incentive pay where persons are able to earn more as they work more and where there is a direct linkage between pay increases and increases in productivity.

Perhaps even more fundamental is that out of the period of successive Protocols and Social Partnership there is a greater commitment and indeed practical examples of the sharing of information. We live in a society, Sir, where, unfortunately, people are very reluctant to disclose information. In fact, Sir, sometimes the collection of our various national statistics is hampered by that reluctance. Businesses do not want to disclose information of profitability perhaps for fear that the tax man may get his fair share. Individuals do not want to disclose the level of their success in their personal or professional lives perhaps for fear of jealousy. Governments in the past have been reluctant to disclose information of one kind or another but today there is a greater commitment as well as practical examples of information sharing at all levels. The provision of information has allowed for greater transparency as well as greater accuracy in decision-making but, information, Sir, as you know, is a fundamental underpinning of the free enterprise system which we practise.

Additionally, Sir, over the period of the partnership there is a greater public understanding and an awareness of what the leadership of the Government, the unions and the private sector have been seeking to achieve. We still have a long way to go by way of full awareness but there is greater awareness and therefore greater support for the efforts which have been made.

Of course, Sir, there has been great political will certainly on the part of this Barbados Labour Party Administration who though not having been the political administration involved in the First Protocol

recognised that it was an instrument not only for the times in which it was evolved, that is, where there were clear present national dangers and where the partners rightly and properly came together to identify the major objectives and stuck to the task of working toward them. We took the view that we would not do what is done by some political party not as mature as we are where they would seek to reject anything that was not of their own making but that we would recognise the instrument for its virtue and work towards a transformation of it to make it suitable for the times in which we function. Therefore, you would find that in 1995 when we embark on the Second Protocol there were already some essential differences which marked an improvement to that of the First Protocol as well as the fact that we were no longer in an economic decline but an economic growth and that the objective of the Protocol had to change.

So, Sir, that first effort then of 1993 was a situation in which a narrow instrument of a Prices and Income Protocol was developed. The key feature of that instrument was that it was an economic policy instrument designed to encapsulate the national commitment to the maintenance of the parity of the Barbados dollar to the US dollar.

11:40 a.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Mr. Speaker, what essentially followed was a tripartite commitment to that economic objective. All other policy instruments had to be bent to meet that objective. It also contained as its main element, a freeze on wages. Sir, you would recall that period of the Protocol was one which immediately followed the eight per cent cut in wages and the shedding of more than 3 000 jobs in the public service as a mean of economic adjustment by the DLP.

Sir, at that time, the Protocol was a narrow instrument of economic policy specifically aimed at controlling wages and, on the balanced side, controlling prices such as would provide for some level of equilibrium in the economy.

Sir, the Second Protocol recognised that benefits were achieved from the cooperation among the three bodies in the tripartite union but that we needed to have additional objectives. We needed to go one step further by creating economic conditions which were designed to consolidate and reenforce any gains made from the first partnership but more fundamentally, to set the economy on a path of sustainable growth and development.

Sir, we also recognised there were weaknesses. For example, the First Protocol as a narrow instrument for economic policy did not contain any instruments for ongoing cooperation. It merely spoke to the need for the social partners to meet four times per year under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

Sir, by Protocol Two in 1995, this Administration recognised that if the instrument were to move from

mere economic policy to one in which we would empower the unions and private sector toward greater participation in all aspects of national decision making, we needed to involve mechanisms for ongoing cooperation. Therefore, a subcommittee of social partners was developed so that the Government, the private sector and the unions, rather than meeting only infrequently, would meet on a monthly basis. That subcommittee would act as a first line of consultation on all major social and economic policies for the country. Therefore, we moved from beyond the mere economic aspect into the social and other realms.

It is also important to note that the freeze on wages was removed. It was agreed there would be restraint, while recognising that things in the economy were still delicately poised. We made sure that the fundamental rights and freedoms for which persons fought during 1937 remained. The earlier BLP administration laid the foundation for modern Barbados and enacted very progressive and positive legislation for the protection of the rights for workers in Barbados.

Therefore, we ensured the principles of voluntarism, where persons were free to negotiate on their own behalf or represented by unions, which had underpinned our industrial relations from the earliest days, would continue.

I believe there were some reactionary forces who had even hoped that, as we embarked on these Protocols, the opportunity would have been taken to muzzle, to constrain and to eliminate roles which trade unions have in the national development of the country. There were some reactionary forces who would have hoped that in coming to the common agreement for there to be, in the first case, wages freeze and in the Second Protocol wage restraint, that trade unions were a thing of the past.

Sir, to its credit, the trade union movement has recognised there is a need for change in both its approach and its objectives. I believe it was at the BWU Annual Delegates Conference of 1998 that union had outlined its role in a way that spoke not only to narrow issues of wages settlements but fighting for other rights of workers. It also cast its representative role, not only in the context of representing workers in jobs but also potential workers who were not old enough to be employed at the time and also retired workers. The trade union movement has recognised its role in the national development of the country particularly in the way in which their role would be discharged in the Social Partnership. Their role was not one merely about dollars and cents but one in which we, on this side, chose to use the instruments, not as an instrument to capture and imprison the rights of workers and their representatives but an instrument of empowerment by which they would be given a larger stake and say in national affairs than it was in the dim, dark days when everything was based on clashes and confusion rather than cooperation and collaboration.

Sir, I think we have been able to evolve an instrument within the Social Partnership which allows for the fullest expression of the individual rights of the workers' representatives but, indeed, the employers' representatives and, indeed, the right of the Government to govern at the end of the day whilst, at the same time, building a consensus.

I believe the mechanism of the subcommittee of the social partners has been successful. It has been a mechanism by which much potential dislocation has been averted. It is also one in which wider views on national development has been expressed and brought to the fore.

Sir, it is in the Third Protocol that much of the fundamental change and the shaping of a new arrangement for the governance of this country can be found. In fact, from the very title of the document entitled Protocol for the Implementation of a Social Partnership. It is no longer merely a Prices and Incomes Protocol. It also enshrines the principle of tripartite consultation as being the fundamental objectives of the Protocol. In that way, it would have evolved, at that time, into a true social compact in which we sought to identify a series of major national objectives as well as to take into account the method by which we would implement the policy.

Sir, I want to speak more to the institutional capacity building which has resulted from the development of these Protocols and which has added to the strength and dynamism of our democracy.

11:50 a.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R FARLEY:

Sir, prior to these Protocols, neither the trade unions nor the private sector in Barbados had a formal system for collaboration among themselves or for the Government.

We know that much of the strength and the ability of democracy to function depends on our institutional capacity because we need good institutions in Government and in civil society. It was only in 1993 that the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations (CTUSAB) was formed out of a clear recognition of the need for the workers' representatives to participate as a unified voice and body. If they were to be able to eliminate their differences of opinions on fundamental national issues and present a united front to the public as well as to the Government, they needed to have that institutional mechanism.

Sir, according to the records of the Labour Department there are approximately 25 unions and 12 staff associations registered in Barbados. The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) is the largest union and predominately represents private sector workers, the National Union of Public Workers is the largest public sector union followed by the BUT and the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union. There is also the Police Association, the Fire Service Association, the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners, the National United Workers Union of Barbados and several others which we do not hear much about. Sir, these unions recognise the need to be able to represent themselves in a united way.

Sir, credit must be given to the first Chairman of CTUSAB, Senator LeRoy Trotman, who is one of three leaders of the Barbados Workers Union over its 60 years. Sir, you will recall that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union was Sir Hugh Springer followed by the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott and then Senator Trotman from 1991 with the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott serving the longest from 1947 to 1991. We have to give them credit for the maturity they demonstrated in their approach to national matters.

Sir, it has proven useful for us as a Government to communicate with these national unified bodies and it has also allowed the trade union movement to use its resources even though there are examples of duplication of resources which could perhaps be better utilised. There are two labour colleges, several

of the unions have their own premises, staff and operations and perhaps they will see the wisdom at some time in streamlining the operations.

The private sector is an area where historically there has been the greatest difficulty. There are a number of private sector organisations, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, the Barbados Employers Confederation, the Small Business Association, the Barbados Hotel Tourism Association, the Barbados Agricultural Society and others and there is always the difficult situation to determine what the private sector needs in order to play its part in national development because of the views advanced by these individual bodies. Sir, the private sector presented very conflicting views on policy measures that should be implemented for the advancement of the economy and the society.

The creation, therefore, of the Barbados Private Sector Agency in 1993 represented a major step forward for the working of the Social Partnership because for the first time they represented a clearing house mechanism by which the private sector could resolve several of its conflicting viewpoints so that Government could have a clearer perspective of what the private sector was saying.

One could understand the difficulty poised by the private sector with persons involved in agriculture making a case for certain forms of protection and private sector persons involved in tourism or the retail sector making the alternative case for the more rapid and drastic liberalisation of the economy. One could understand the difference in perspective advanced by the Small Business Association as compared to associations which would have as the core of their membership larger and more affluent businesses.

Therefore, the ability to get coherent proposals coming from the private sector and the trade union movement has been a great plus and has helped us to be able to engage in a series of meaningful consultations over time. In fact, at the Third Protocol on the Social Partnership and our continued effort to make the partnership more meaningful, one of the things that has become institutional and has served us well is that we have now established as part of our annual arrangement for the economic management of Barbados a national consultation on the economy of Barbados.

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY: This year that national consultation will be held on July 25 - 26, 2002, at the Sherbourne Conference Centre, at which the private sector representatives, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations and the Government agencies will be able to sit and look, as they have done over the past several years under this Social Partnership, at the issues facing us, what recent policy initiatives have been taken to address a number of issues, how well have they performed and what needs to be done.

The days of the "black box" being the most secret and hallowed repository of policy initiatives to stimulate the economy and to change the course of society are over. We would have instead, a more open and transparent process made by all sectors of the society. The economic and civil society would

be able to make their inputs and we would be seeking to build a consensus on the way in which our society needs to move and what specific measures need to be taken. Sir, that consensus is what will inform the measures which will, from time to time, inform the economic policy statement presented to the Parliament and the policies which we would be seeking to implement. Fundamentally, having changed documents, having evolved the structure from one which was merely to fight off economic disaster to one which we are using to manage the transformation of the economy to put the economy on a path of growth and development, the principle of consultation in a meaningful way, not in a tokenised way, not merely as an exchange of correspondence or an advisory capacity but one in which consultation equates to consensus building, one which we live, breathe and utilise on a daily basis.

Therefore, the monthly meetings of the Social Partnership have been used for a wide variety of purposes. Essentially, the objectives of the Third Protocol, which I believe we have been able to meet in large measure, included the maintenance of a stable industrial relations environment, the forcing of an inclusive society, consolidating the process of social dialogue as well as streamlining that institutional structure for the functioning of the Social Partnership.

Sir, the subcommittee of the Social Partnership is one of which the composition reflects the tripartite nature of these arrangements. There are two Ministers on that Committee, Minister of State and Civil Service, Senator Murray and I. Those members who represent the Government's side are Head of the Civil Service, Director of Finance and Economic Affairs, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Service, the Chief Personnel Officer and the Chief Labour Officer. There is an equal number of representatives from the private sector and the unions.

I would report the record of the last Protocol to this House before I discuss the provisions which are in Protocol Four. In terms of the maintenance of a stable industrial relations environment, you would note that there have been very few man-days lost as a result of serious industrial strikes in Barbados. It is a record which we can compare favourably with large industrialised countries and more favourably with our comparable neighbours in developing countries.

Sir, our concern is the fact that we do, from time to time, have a number of wildcat strikes where workers, particularly in private enterprises choose to ignore the provisions of the collective bargaining agreements between their unions and their employers. In every collective bargaining agreement, of which there are several, there are provisions governing disputes.

We have found that there is a disturbing tendency in which persons at enterprises put down their tools first and then raise the complaint after. This happens in Government departments as well as in private entities and that is a matter which I believe needs to be addressed.

Sir, it calls for education and further training of management in terms of how they should manage their departments and businesses in a way that reflects the principles of the Protocol. We have to admit that there are still some managers, in the public and private sectors, who are of the mistaken view that the concepts of consultation and economic democratisation have nothing to do with them. Sir, they are still living in that delusional world which has it that all of the power resides in management and that persons who work for them have to do what they say or leave. They are still in the "like it or lump it mentality". Clearly, while management rights must be preserved, that concept of management is not compatible with the provisions of these Protocols.

Sir, these Protocols provide for consultation on the most grave issues. If there is to be redundancy for economic or technological purposes, if a business or Government department needs to be restructured, and we know that from time to time restructuring will have to be done, a change in the marketplace and the way things are done may necessitate some job changes and provisions are made for consultation to be entered into.

I must express with dissatisfaction the way in which managers of some of the enterprises, private and public, conduct their affairs. We cannot agree that at this time in our history we would still have situations in which managers who are aware of changes occurring in the business, would choose to send their workers home without notice when they were aware well in advance and could have used the provisions of the Protocol, in order to consult with the workers and their representatives and come to a sensible, practical but respectful means of making those necessary adjustments. In the course of Protocol Four, which I will discuss shortly, that needs to be addressed.

The matter of building a more inclusive society, one in which the partners have worked over the period of the past Protocols to ensure that we reduce the social disparities, Government's policies, poverty alleviation and eradication and the provision of improved conditions of service at work have also been successful in achieving these particular objectives

Sir, in summarising the fact that we can agree that the economic and social benefits and improvements which we have seen over the period of the Protocols have been attributable to the Social Partnership, the Government's partners in this unit, that is, the trade union movement and the private sector, must be saluted.

12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Sir, what are we being asked to note and approve today? Protocol Four for the Implementation of the Social Partnership makes some departures from previous protocols and I would want to speak to some of those. First of all, what is the context in which we are embarking on this Fourth Protocol? It is a context in which our economy and society are at a crossroads of their development. We have to find new ways of doing old things and we have to evolve new ways of doing some of the new things which we have to do. Again, Sir, all of this is underpinned by our commitment to a deep philosophy of democratic governance in which we give effect to our commitment to participate in democracy not only on the political scene but by way of the consultation in these Protocols.

This Protocol sets out with a very clear commitment and understanding that in the period covered by this Protocol the society and the economy has to undergo some very fundamental changes. For example, Sir, one of the major commitments given by the social partners in the social compact which is Protocol Four is a commitment to the repositioning of the Barbados economy by the year 2005 to make sure that we are able to consolidate and advance Barbados' economic interest not only in our domestic matters but in our regional, hemispheric and international matters so that we can still achieve the

objective of maintaining the highest standard of living for our people. That is fundamental, Sir.

The social partners have recognised that the impact of globalization on Barbados is one feature that has to be vanquished. Indeed, Sir, one new feature of this partnership is that an entire chapter is devoted to the response of the Social Partnership to the process of globalization. It recognises that there is a need to improve and enhance our competitiveness through greater productivity enhancement. It recognises the level of preparation, the changes that we have to make to our laws and administrative arrangements and our economic arrangements in order to be a meaningful member of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

It also recognises the need to mount co-ordinated national responses to external threats such as those which we have recently had to weather as thrown on us by the OECD and other international bodies. It recognises as well, Sir, the need for us to maintain our commitment and the need to improve and deepen our commitment to the development of young, small entrepreneurs and the small business sector, the empowerment of our people through the credit union movement as well as focus on the health of our workers through attaching to the Protocol, a Protocol on HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses on the workplace.

Protocol Four is a more comprehensive document dealing with a range of issues some of which are old but enduring and others which are new. We can agree that part of what we need to do is to restructure and reposition the economy. That is not Government's responsibility alone, Sir, but that is the responsibility of each and every social partner. The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has already set out by way of the last Economic Policy Statement several of the things which we need to do in order to be part of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. At the end of it, Sir, we need to ensure that there is a role for our economic sectors in these new international arrangements. Let us not fool ourselves, Sir, the agricultural and manufacturing sectors will need to undergo restructuring in order to weather the storms of trade liberalisation and we need to make fundamental changes in our economic and social arrangements in the way we do our education and training if we are to take advantage of the principal sectors for which there is great potential in terms of the services sector: tourism, international business, the arts and cultural services and the like.

There is a commitment on the part of the social partners to do all that is necessary to achieve that. Our fundamental importance is the need to reform both the public and the private sector. I want, Sir, to speak briefly on this matter of public sector and private sector reform. I believe the Government has gone quite a distance but there are still some things that need to be done by way of restructuring the public sector of Barbados.

The public sector of Barbados must constitute one of the levers of development rather than being a hold up and a keep back for development. Our response time in key agencies of Government, be it the Town Planning Department, the Corporate Registry, the VAT Office, Customs Department, Immigration Department and others, needs to be improved. These will ensure of course, Sir, that the improvements be made and the aim we have achieved so far are built even further.

Government has been in the process of improving its financial accounting and record keeping to make sure that it can also shorten the time that it takes for Government to make payments to individuals and businesses from whom it procures goods and services. That, too, has been a humbug and one of the

factors impacting negatively on businesses.

Sir, we have gone a long way towards work on a new Public Service Act to change the conditions under which public servants work, to remove encumbrances, to have better systems of promotion, streamline the job appraisal process and to do the necessary job evaluations and restructuring. It is my estimation, Sir, that public sector reform has gone further along the path than has private sector reform, and the private sector of Barbados such as it is needs to get its act together if we are to participate fully in the new international economy. This Protocol speaks to those commitments, a commitment on the part of the private sector representing the productive sectors of the economy to place a greater emphasis on exports, the sale of goods and services internationally, to work with the National Productivity Council on methods to enhance productivity and boost competitiveness. We have some challenges in that regard.

Very often, when there is discussion of productivity people focus narrowly on the productivity of labour, which is important, but it is not the only feature of productivity and competitiveness.

There are too many businesses out there, Sir, and indeed too many departments of Government in which there are inappropriate systems of management in use, in which there is inappropriate and inefficient utilisation of capital and in which there is even inappropriate and inefficient use of energy. All and all, we have to focus on doing these things much better.

In some industries - take the furniture industry as an example - we have excellent skills in terms of our artisans and craftsmen but we have situations in which through a misallocation of resources every major furniture factory has large expensive equipment that lies idle for a longer period in the day than it is employed.

12:20 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. REGINALD R. FARLEY:

We have that situation in several other aspects of business, and indeed, Sir, in some areas of the Government.

There is a need, Sir, as a country and an economy to ensure that we do not tie up money which could be otherwise invested into expensive equipment that lies idle. We have a situation in which because of poor management, the work of various units and enterprises are not properly coordinated. You also have the situation in which workers on a production line or in some other business, remain idle because the material that they need to work with has not arrived. We could go on and on with examples, but the bottom line is that in order for us to be able to produce goods and services of a higher quality, as well as to be able to sell our goods and services at lower prices, we need to improve our productivity and our efficiency.

Therefore, when we speak about productivity, we are not talking about squeezing more out of the poor workers' backs or hands, without looking at what are the tools that you give them to work with,

whether the manager efficiently and properly schedules the work, obtains the raw material and has the right equipment.

Sir, the other issues which we have to face, is the matter of making sure that with our trade policy, much of our future will depend on getting our trade policies right. Indeed, the Social Partnership and indeed this Fourth Protocol, has been the key to ensuring that the private sector continues to work with the Government in getting that right.

We must not have a situation again, such as has occurred in 1993 and early 1994, when the Barbados commitments in the WTO as deposited in April 1994, were done without any extensive consultation with those persons who would have been affected. We have come a long way from that and there has been only the fullest consultation.

The Honourable Member for the City, as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade can speak more to this. But the establishment of our mission in Geneva, to ensure that we have a voice directly at the WTO, has ensured that we are able to be there every day and doing our work, but being there without speaking to persons in the academic community at the University of the West Indies, without speaking to the private sector practitioners who have been out there plying their wares, is a waste of time and that is the problem that we suffered in the first round.

Sir, as a matter of fact, no one knew in April 1994 that the then Administration was depositing these instruments and what was contained in them. It is in fact, Sir, the implementation of those measures today which has the agriculture and manufacturing sectors facing some of the very stiff challenges that they face today.

We made every effort to delay the implementation of some of these measures to cushion some of the impact. Sir, it is only really a matter of trying to fight a rearguard action. If the approach of consultation, collaboration and consensus building, were employed at that time - which is the central plank of this Protocol - I am sure the results would have been very much different.

I want to say, Sir, that I am quite pleased that this Fourth Protocol speaks very clearly and in strong terms to the commitment of an entrepreneurial culture in Barbados which the social partners have to the development of an entrepreneurial culture in Barbados. Particularly, the development of the small business culture where we recognise its importance for building a point of entry into business for our young people. I am also pleased to note the commitment of this Fourth Protocol to mechanisms for nationwide campaigns for the purchase of local goods and to not only note the success of the "Buy local" campaign which was supported by this Government and implemented through the Barbados Manufacturers Association and the other private sector bodies but to note, Sir, that this campaign, having achieved its objective of stemming the slide in the manufacturing sector, where you will note that whereas manufacturing declined by 8.6 per cent last year, there was no decline during the last half of the year.

In fact, Sir, we have recently communicated to the Barbados Manufacturers Association, our willingness to support the "Buy local" campaign to the tune of some \$600 000. Sir, Phase 2 of that "Buy local" campaign, will be launched very shortly. In fact, the intention is to capitalise on the presence of many of our visiting friends and relatives in for the Crop Over Season, to ensure that they

too, are aware of the wide range of products and services, excellent quality and prices, which are produced and which are 100 per cent Bajan.

Sir, we are satisfied and the results of the campaign have shown that trade liberalisation, while it means that consumers have a wider range of choice, does not compel them to do other than to support their own. Therefore, the Government is pleased to put the financial resources behind the efforts of the private sector in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. We trust that this second programme will be just as successful in turning around the performance of those sectors as have been the first.

We also must note, Sir, the commitment which the social partners made in the national effort which was galvanised in the fight against the OECD. I do not think it is often appreciated that this is perhaps the first instance in history, where a small developing country has been able, almost singlehandedly, to blunt the attack of not one, Sir, but a group of developed countries.

Sir, as you know, the OECD has 29 of the world's largest, most powerful, most wealthy countries and it was the effort of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, who spoke out, not only against the injustice, the inequity and the nonsense which was inherent in those proposals, but was able, not just through sound and theory but through concerted action, international negotiation mobilising a coalition of support, spanning the Caribbean, the Pacific and the African Continent, to cause the OECD to back down from its position.

Sir, of course that does not mean we are out of the woods, as far as that economic sector is concerned. We have the recent moves in the United States Senate and Congress to close what they consider loopholes in their tax laws, to fight against what they refer to as company inversions, that is, companies setting up offshore. They are looking again at their tax treaties to see what adjustments they think they should make. Therefore, some of the threats on the sector continue.

I expect, Sir, that once again the Social Partnership will mount a coordinated, defensive and, if necessary, aggressive action in the fight to protect our vital economic interests and such have been the benefit of the partnership. Imagine, in that fight, if the Government were off in one direction, the private off in another and the trade union movement off in another, we would not have been able to achieve our benefits.

12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 24, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Sir, you will notice that during the period of the Social Partnership we have been able to increase the level of employment in Barbados. We have been able, if you take the unemployment figures as a guide to move from a high point of 24.3 per cent of persons in the labour force in Barbados not working in 1993, to go to as low as 9.2 per cent, the first time in history that we were able to go below double digits as far as unemployment was concerned. In fact, the unemployment figures perhaps do not always tell the tale because if you look at the number of those persons going to work, because those who follow the statistics would know that the unemployment figure is also affected by the fact that you can

have an increased number of persons looking for work and that has been a feature of this term as well.

Sir, there has been the highest number of persons on record going to work every day in Barbados at anytime in our history. I believe, Sir, that the figure is somewhere in the region of 128 000 persons or so who are going to work every day and we have been able to do that during the period of these Protocols. These Protocols, as we have developed them, are not focussed on constraining activity, freezing wages or acting as mechanisms by which people are sent home but they are instruments by which we have been able to give more persons opportunity for participation.

Yes, we face the challenge posed by the decline in the United States of America economy which has had its impact on tourism. We are faced with the challenge, though we are showing some recovery in the international business sector, of there being this cloud within the United States of America, particularly in terms of its action against international financial sectors and as a result of reduced economic activity there have been some job losses but even with those job losses there are still more persons going to work every day than there has been at anytime in our history. That achievement has been part of what this Protocol is about.

There is a commitment on the part of the social partners to ensure that we do all that is necessary to maintain high levels of employment in Barbados and there is also a commitment to continuous training and development within Protocol Four of the Social Partnership. This is particularly important given that there are now new efforts, efforts new to those in my lifetime, which were known to persons at the turn of the century and in the 1950's and 1960's but there are now increasing efforts to recruit Barbadian nationals to work overseas. We have had the farm labour programme for a while but there are efforts now to recruit persons to go on the hotel workers' programme, persons to teach, persons in nursing and information technology, professionals to write software.

In my view, that is a good thing. It shows, Sir, that there is a recognition of the quality and the value of Barbadian workers and it is better for us to be under the scrutiny and under the challenge of having other countries wanting our workers than for our workers to be held in such low regard that nobody would want to employ them overseas. What we have to do as a country and as a Social Partnership is to ensure that there are more than enough training opportunities available for persons to be trained to serve the needs of Barbados and where persons may want to pursue opportunities overseas for the betterment of themselves and their families that they receive training of such a standard and such a level that they would be able to pursue those opportunities overseas.

Therefore, the matter of accreditation of our educational institutions, the validity of the certificate which are provided and making sure that the content of our training is up-to-date and in keeping with international standards is a fundamental issue for us, the private sector training institutions as well as the governmental training institutions, so we need to use that as our hallmark. This Protocol Four is committed to making sure that there is increased access to training both at the level of the company, within governmental departments as well as educational institutions such as would allow us to meet our objectives.

Additionally, Sir, the Protocol seeks to ensure that we do not leave behind those persons who may have challenges of one kind or another. There is a continued commitment to making special efforts to make sure that there is no discrimination in the employment of persons with disabilities. The matter of

persons with disabilities speaks not only to those who might have been born disabled but those who may become disabled by way of accidents or otherwise during the course of their working life and that is a feature which we cannot ignore. In fact, the Social Partners have agreed to promote a code of practice on the employment of persons with disabilities. The private sector has been working with the National Disabilities Unit and will shortly be launching a second work experience programme for persons with disabilities. There was one last year to identify specific opportunities in companies where persons with particular disabilities can work.

In the Protocol, the Government and the private sector has agreed to make suitable practical adjustments such as would accommodate the employment of these persons to add dignity to their lives and to provide them with an opportunity for meaningful participation as well. Therefore, we will identify suitable jobs, if a modification is needed at a receptionist desk or at an office to accommodate these persons with disabilities. Those things will be done to ensure that persons with disabilities would not only have to be cared for by way of welfare or other generous allocations, because no matter how much money and other resources are supplied by way of people's generosity, nothing can replace the self esteem which is built by persons going out there and working and that is important for the social inclusiveness aspect of this Protocol.

Similarly, it is recognised that the challenge of HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses will not escape the workplace and the social partners thought it was important for us to speak directly to how we treat these matters and, therefore, we would use the places of work to educate. In fact, the Government through the National Commission on AIDS has developed an employees' educational programme where government departments are to be used as bases for the education of persons. If you consider, Sir, that the Government employs approximately some 26 000 persons, and you consider that those persons are drawn from all geographical areas of the island and when you consider that almost every household in Barbados has a relative or friend that works in Government and if you use the workers in Government as a base on which to spread the awareness of HIV/AIDS, then that is a good platform on which to run.

12:40 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that private sector companies have also risen to the challenge; that time has been set aside at the workplace to educate about these and other matters.

Sir, it is our belief - and it is written into this Fourth Protocol - that persons who may suffer from this particular health complication are able to continue to live and to work in dignity. We recognise that not only do we need to take steps to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other concomitant illnesses because of the impact which it would have on our workforce -Sir, there are some countries in the world where the epidemic is more serious that entire working-age populations have been eliminated in some communities, leaving only the very old and the very young.

Therefore, given the small population base of Barbados relative to other countries, given the small

workforce of Barbados relative to other countries, any negative impact through death or illness of the members of the workforce have implications for pensions, not to mention the cost of drugs and other healthcare counselling and support which this Government has to bear. Therefore, we believe the preventative aspect has to be approached by all the social partners. Additionally, Sir, where persons may have contracted this health condition, they are able to continue working as long as they are able so to do. Therefore, all the social partners are committed to a process of non-discriminatory participation against persons with HIV/AIDS.

Sir, the Addendum attached to Protocol Four has been jointly developed by the private sector, unions and the Government and speaks to the relative responsibilities of the two sides. Essentially, they have agreed that other than specific cases of health workers and other related matters, the fact some persons may or may not have HIV/AIDS would not be a selection criterion. A person would not be required, without that having a direct impact on his job, to disclose whether or not he or she is suffering from this condition. Where that is the case, then every reasonable accommodation should be provided in terms of flexible hours; greater frequency of breaks; time off for medical treatment; job restructuring or transfer; working at home where possible and efforts to recognise that all of us are touched, directly or indirectly, by the phenomenon of illness of whatever kind as it affects our capacity to work. Therefore, the social partners are very clear on their commitment to education for its prevention but also mitigating the financial and societal impact on the matter of these illnesses as they relate to work.

Sir, the issue of industrial relations environmental also attracts the attention of this Protocol. Again, there is a commitment to having a peaceful industrial relations environment. Sir, this objective does not mean that, from time to time, there would not be quarrels, perhaps strikes or other industrial action between the Government and the unions or the private sector and the unions. Nothing in this Protocol takes away the fundamental right of workers to press for what they consider to be their just demands but rather the document enshrines that rights. Also, in very clear terms, it speaks to rights of collective bargaining and the right to speak on any or all issues affecting the welfare of both employers and unions.

Sir, what we would want to see achieved out of this Protocol and for them to come on board is that group of companies in the private sector, that small band of managers in some parts of the public sector who have not yet recognised that consulting in any decision-making is a part of the modern feature of management.

Mr. Speaker, for those persons who may be concerned that the Protocol might have gone too far one side as opposed to the other, the Protocol is not a one-sided document but also speaks to management rights. It speaks to the rights of the employers as well as to the other two partners because, at the end of the day, one cannot put either a government to govern or a manager to manage an enterprise, having responsibility for its financial or other outcome, and yet remove from them all rights to make final decisions. Sir, what is being pushed is that in reaching that final decision-making point, the opportunity be taken to consult and to recognise that workers are important stakeholders in enterprises and that their views be taken into account.

Sir, in relation to the domestic economy, the social partners are committed and have recognised there are a number of things which must be done that are part of the original framework and which should be continued. There is a commitment to the maintenance of the parity of the existence of the Barbados

dollar to the United States dollar. There is a commitment to mitigation to wage restraints; mitigation to price increases; restructuring the domestic economy to ensure full participation in CARICOM; to making sure to complete the process which is well on the way of ensuring that commercial activities in Barbados could be conducted on principles of free and fair competition.

Sir, very shortly the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, will introduce the legislation for competition policy as well as consumer protection which will ensure the important legislative provisions are put in place to make sure that, as far as free and fair competition is concerned, there are no artificial barriers to entry into businesses in Barbados. Sir, we know that large established businesses will make efforts to prevent others from getting in; that when others are in and operating, efforts will be made to stymie their growth, but what is important is to provide adequate provisions to avoid unfair competition.

We know there are several different-named companies but they are not strangers to each other and do not engage in arms-length transactions. There might be a situation in which a company is the supplier of a raw material and might be owned by a manufacturing entity where other manufacturing entities competing with that manufacturer have to buy the raw material from that one source. What has to be done is to ensure - and the legislation will take care of that - that even where companies are selling among themselves, it cannot be done at more favourable terms than if it were being done to their competitors.

12:50 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R FARLEY:

Sir, the essence of competition is openness and transparency. If you are selling corn or bottles it should be the same price across the board to clear out some of the historical linkages which have led to distortion of competition, barriers to entry and prevented the growth and development of young entrepreneurs who could have done better. These things have to be stamped out as part of the private sector reform and the restructuring of our domestic economy. We look forward to that legislation in a very short time.

The Government will continue to use its tax policy to ensure that we do not artificially distort prices in the market. As part of our commitment in these Protocols we have reduced the level of taxation on energy products in Barbados because we recognise that when we look at the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and look at those people with whom our users of energy in Barbados had to compete, the taxes we were charging, though lower than some countries, were higher than other countries and by way of "roll-back in taxes" we put \$52.3 million back into the hands of taxpayers, both private and business people, and therefore, reduced the impact of the cost of energy on the cost of production.

Sir, all of that was part of the reform of the indirect taxation system which saw the introduction of Value Added Tax and elimination of a number of special taxes. Sir, these 13 special taxes were uncollectible, difficult to administer and not worth keeping and VAT has reduced the level of taxation in some areas. The minimum consumption tax was 21 per cent and stamp duty was 21 per cent and the

Value Added Tax has broadened the base of the taxation and reduced the level of taxation on several individual items.

Sir, we are pleased that we have been able since the Second Protocol in 1995 to afford to provide increases in salaries of public service employees and in most of the private sector's wage settlements an increase has also been embodied. The Social Partnership, Protocol Four, also recognised the need for pension reform as part of these domestic economic changes and the national consultation on the economy of the social partners on Friday and Saturday will have Pension Reform as one of its major discussion items on the first day along with the reform of the direct taxation system. On the second day, the impact of globalisation on the productive sectors will be discussed.

Sir, the matter of social dialogue made a quantum leap and it was a major qualitative improvement from a document which started out in 1993 as mere economic policy and was improved again in 1995 and in 1997. This document enshrines the nature of the arrangement of the consultation between the partners.

Sir, we have made a commitment to the widening of the Social Partnership in Protocol Four by including at Section 8 (1) provision for the deepening and widening of the Social Partnership and to include where appropriate the involvement of accredited NGOs in the dialogue.

Sir, this is a living document and a living arrangement that will see a greater involvement of a wider range of entities. It is important to make sure that the process does not become unwieldy and that we deal with accredited bodies because, realistically, in respect to the NGO bodies, anyone can go tomorrow, form a group of two or three for some obscure purpose, without having a mandate or group to which it is responsible, without having adequate by-laws or systems of accountability and seek to arrogate unto itself equal clout to other partners who have to account to the public or to their members in well-defined organisational structures.

Additionally, we have recognised that part of the challenge faced has been that not enough has been done to appraise persons at all levels of the Social Partnership - persons on the managerial level, supervisors on the shop floor both in Government, the private sector and the general public - in what we at the level of the leadership of the Social Partnership have committed to. Therefore, there are commitments in the fourth partnership to an increased education and awareness programme.

Government will deal with a wide range of issues because there is not frequent communication of these matters and the public is not in position on an ongoing basis to judge what we have been able to do. There are commitments in this Fourth Protocol to have regular interactions with the Press and the wider public to keep them informed of what we do.

Additionally, two other features are absent from previous Protocols which are included in this arrangement to strengthen its institutional capacity to function. Reviews of the Protocols were previously undertaken only at the end and as we sought to make a decision as to whether we would want to continue into a new partnership arrangement and what would be the features of that new arrangement. We have now included in this arrangement a provision that on a quarterly basis there is to be a review of the work of the Partnership to ensure that we are meeting the agenda that we have set and to take corrective actions, as are necessary, to ensure that we meet.

In short, we do not want the business to degenerate into a talk shop or a meeting jamboree. It is meant to have practical, meaningful significance whilst at the same time not overtaking long, established, well working institutional mechanisms.

1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY: We are not, for example, an alternative dispute settlements body. We have taken over the role of the labour department, for example in reconciliation matters. We have a body for the representation of individual interests, not that we have taken over negotiation on behalf of any particular body. We are not there to do those things but to make sure that the purpose for which we have been established we would function.

Finally, the Fourth Protocol will ensure that we give the widest possible scope for the further growth of the institution by way of working during the life of this partnership to establishing a secretariat to carry out the daily functions of the Social Partnership.

Sir, we have been very fortunate to have excellent secretarial support function provided by the Ministry of Civil Service. We believe that because of the increase in the mandate of the Social Partnership, the wide range of activities, the frequent need and commitment for consultation, we would need to evolve a system for the support of this activity by way of a full-time secretariat.

Sir, I want to commend this Social Partnership to this Parliament. It is an instrument which has come a long way from its humble beginnings as an instrument of economic policy and part of the efforts of the country to correct an economic crisis which was present at the time.

We took the view that it was worth more than crisis value. When we assumed office, we not only kept it but we changed it to reflect its efficacy as a tool for consultation and for economic and social development. We have great satisfaction in the improvement that has been achieved over the period of the Protocol and would, therefore, recognise it as a most important instrument in a commitment we in an administration made in 1994, that is to have a participatory democracy where people are able to participate in decision making, not only every five years at the polls but where we would involve the mechanism for daily involvement through the empowerment of all aspects of our society. Sir, through this Social Partnership, this new instrument for democratic governance, we have not only been able to advance our economic interest but also to advance the social and political involvement in the various sectors in the society.

In closing, I must thank the leadership of CTUSAB, Senator Trotman, and its executive members, the Chairmanship of the Private Sector Agency, Sir John Goddard, who headed this organisation from its inception until two years ago, also, Mr. Allan Fields, the new Chairman of the Private Sector Agencies. It is with that leadership and their respective tripartite arrangement, we have been able to evolve this Fourth Protocol. I commend it to this Parliament and I beg to move that this Resolution be now passed.

Hon. A.P. WOOD: I beg to second that.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

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

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

1.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, this is probably the second or third occasion that I have had the chance in this Chamber to speak on the matter of a Prices and Income Protocol establishing a Social Partnership or whatever it has evolved into, since we first negotiated and settled a Protocol in 1993.

Sir, I listened very carefully to what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said. He is in the habit, which is not always a bad thing, as the St. Lucians would say, "taking affront". If I use the phrase in Barbados, it may be misunderstood as "taking a front". This means that the Honourable Member always seeks to defuse what he perceives to be a likely Opposition's argument by putting the argument and then answering it.

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member, therefore, put it in the mouth of the Opposition that they were so irresponsible, having been the creators of the First Protocol, we have now basically backed away from our support for this approach to national governance.

Sir, nothing could be further from the truth. We have never supported the concept of national dialogue or even the existence of a Protocol. The arguments that have been advanced by the Opposition by way of criticism are, in fact, some of the same arguments that the Government itself, from time to time, although obviously not at the table of the Social Partnership, have used to criticise it.

For example, when we talk about private sector representation, is that representation democratic? Who elects the Head of the private sector in Barbados and how is it elected? We know how the union

leadership is elected. They have formalised a structure which is acceptable to them and it would be acceptable to any democratic nation. We know how the Head of the Government is elected. In Barbados' experience, we also know how to get rid of Heads of Government...

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: ...Sir, at the level of the electoral process and even in this Chamber. If there is one place in which those things have worked outside of the United Kingdom where the traditions of Parliament have been able to achieve, it may have been an unintended outcome but nevertheless something that happened that was unique. Who elects the Head of the private sector? I am not arguing on an ad hominem basis because I have no particular feelings against any individual who has headed the private sector. I think that the men who headed the private sector were men of great significance in terms of private sector development.

Sir, they have to feel hobbled coming to the table of the Social Partnership without, and I am surprised that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East does not seem to understand, being able to say that they effectively represent the widest cross-section of private sector interest in Barbados, which would include the owners of minibuses, vendors, fisherfolk and a range of other people who, in their own right, are small business owners and who should not be bereft of effective representation.

Sir, the Government would tell us that the credit union movement is being represented and they would throw in a few areas of tokenism, but we have to make the demand and set the standards that are acceptable, which brings me to the second point of departure between myself, and I believe the Democratic Labour Party as a whole, and members on the Other Side on the nature of the Social Partnership.

2:20 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON:

The Government employs people, so it is an employer. In a sense, it has a relationship as one of the largest employers of labour in the country but it also has an over-arching responsibility as Government to set the tone of the labour market in our country and also to set the overall economic direction. Therefore, Government does not come to the table just as an employer or as an entity which by itself consumes so much of our GDP or contributes to our GDP. The myth, therefore, in the doctrine trotted out, which is very ingratiating in my view that Government is some kind of equal or third partner in the Social Partnership, is incorrect. Government is not equal. Maybe at the negotiating table the private sector and the unions may have in a sense an equal status but Government has some responsibility and obligations that go far beyond either one of them or even both of them put together.

Government has to set the tone for economic development in the country which means it has to be active in promoting the objectives of the private sector and at the same time it has an obligation to protect workers to ensure that there is no exploitation, to pass modern legislation to provide a social safety net. Those obligations do not apply to the private sector in Barbados and they have never taken

them on.

Likewise, there are things about Government's role in relation to the private sector that are going to be anathema to the labour movement in our country so that Government has as its obligation to mediate and direct in relation to the Social Partnership in a very important way. What I think is lacking is an appreciation of the extent to which the social and economic conditions in Barbados have evolved since 1993 such that the character of the Social Partnership should also have changed.

When the Honourable Member for Christ Church East simply points out that the idea and the reason for having the Social Partnership is different but then accepts without more that the relationship of the social partners is basically the same, then I think the Government is making a major mistake in the way in which it approaches the Social Partnership. Government cannot convince anybody in Barbados that the Social Partnership as written on the paper which the trade union, the private sector and the Government itself signed, has benefited from the widest possible discussion before it has been signed. Therefore, any nonsensical criticism of the Democratic Labour Party for signing onto WTO obligations without consensus, the same argument that is used by the critics, is applicable to the Social Partnership.

This Parliament never saw the Social Partnership before it was signed. Yet somebody signed on our behalf and there is not a single parliamentarian who had, other than perhaps members of Cabinet, in their possession a copy of the Social Partnership document. The vast majority of the private sector did not know what was being signed. The members of the trade union movement themselves laughed at the document and dismissed it as being merely symbolic and yet the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who has been in on the Social Partnership from the beginning because he was one of the negotiators for the private sector in a previous incarnation has accepted the efficacy of the document and promoted it as some major transformatory exercise that has been taking place in the economic life of this country since it has been signed. You can sign a social partnership document today and have a wild cat strike the next day. You can announce social contract procedures for resolving disputes, everything going before the Social Partnership, and the Government can increase prices in relation to certain items without putting them before the Social Partnership. Private sector companies in the tourism industry and elsewhere can send home workers despite what the Social Partnership says without reference to the monthly meetings of the Social Partnership much to the embarrassment of the Minister of Tourism who tells you that less than 100 people were sent home in the tourism industry only to discover that the trade union movement which represents these people and counts them has discovered that it is thousands of people who have been sent home.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East would tell us that there is a social partnership that meets every month and as a result of that he is satisfied that there are new arrangements for governance in Barbados which, pioneered by him, perhaps, have given new meaning to the process of economic development. If I were in his position, I would believe that I am going along with a complete farce, if having signed the document, at almost every level the Social Partnership ends up being breached. Those are not my words alone because after the last document was passed I remember distinctly hearing the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter pointing out that it was inconceivable that you could sign a social partnership and then have to endure a scenario where there were strikes taking place throughout the public and private sectors in this country - that was not yesterday. That was two or three years ago, Sir - and that prices of certain items were going up.

As I said, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East knows about these things and if the Social Partnership is to be given meaning and significance, then it would have to go a lot further than it has gone so far except for the loftiness and being able to carry it to Geneva and being able to boast that we had these high levels of development as a result of its passing.

We act as if we are the most blessed country on earth having signed the Social Partnership. The Irish signed one and got double digit GDP growth. A lot of people forget that. The Irish said it was through that, just as you boast that the Social Partnership today is what contributed to the levels of growth in Barbados. I would love to engage the Honourable Member for the City in that argument because when the argument is finished we probably would have to dismiss both social partnerships.

It was the Social Partnership in Ireland that led to a regime of competitiveness and major structural changes in the Irish economy. If the Honourable Member wants the evidence of that, read the 1999 Human Development Report by the UNDP in which they systematically set out why they were able to make those major changes which they say were a result of a social partnership. Likewise, in Barbados, you cannot limit the achievement of the Social Partnership only to a wage increase and if there is one person on that side who should not do that it is the Honourable Member for Christ Church East because it was as a result of the same social partnership that we started to look at the dismantling of aspects of licensing in Barbados in which he was very much a part. The Foreign Exchange Committee in which the Honourable Member was very much a part which was a forerunner to the Social Partnership was looking at ways to enhance competitiveness in Barbados, that Committee started discussions on the restructuring of the sugar industry. That Committee analysed and endorsed the proposals to set up a special unit to deal with the offshore sector in Barbados and to rationalise the licensing requirement in relation to IBCs and Foreign Sales Corporations and bring them under one entity and give them a budget to promote Barbados.

2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON:

It is also that Committee which started the work to look at the position of Barbadians as a domicile offering competitive and other costs in relation to informatics. The Honourable Member himself, who was part of that, infected by partisan politics in this debate, dismisses the great contribution that he made in a previous life because it suits the Honourable Member to give the impression that the only reason why he signed a social partnership was to depress wages in Barbados and deprive workers in this country of a fair wage increase.

Sir, I cannot go along with that and that is why I am saying that perhaps it is important at this stage that the Government engage in an analysis of the contribution of the Social Partnership to the current state of the Barbados economy, the current state of labour relations in our country, the state of the manufacturing sector and the sugar industry. All of the issues that it is alleged are placed before the Social Partnership for consideration. Also, to point out to the public of Barbados, why it is that despite the leadership of the Social Partnership, the tourism leaders in this country could say that the biggest impediment to growth in the tourism industry is the Government of Barbados.

I am not on either side of that issue because I believe it has a generic meaning so it does not mean the Barbados Labour Party Government. I would never be so arrogant or stupid to believe that if the Democratic Labour Party were in office tomorrow, that a different remark would be made. The point is that attention needs to be made to that perception, and no country that has a social partnership, should have a situation where the private sector leaders are of that opinion. Likewise in the agricultural sector because these scenarios predate the Social Partnership.

The whole purpose of establishing the Social Partnership was to seek to have a cooperative approach to the development of the Barbados economy. If having established it, the private sector is still saying what it was saying in 1982 to 1986, it tells us that the Social Partnership has not had the impact that we are saying that it has had. Sir, that is why, as I said, I think a frank assessment needs to be made on the contribution of the Social Partnership to the development of Barbados.

The manufacturers are not saying anything new about collaboration with the Government. After nine years of social partnership, they are still issuing the same criticisms of the Government that they were issuing 12 or 25 years ago. Likewise, the agricultural sector. I heard the Head of the sugar industry tearing into the Government of Barbados at a special session convened in relation to the future of the sugar industry in this country, for its failure to give priority to issues relating to the sugar industry.

Therefore, one has to ask the question why, in a country where a social partnership exists, would those prominent persons in the private sector feel confident in expressing those concerns and, certainly, there is a valid reason for it which is, despite the fact that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is impressed with the achievements of the Social Partnership, there are many people who are not so impressed.

I would have to add the Head of the Labour Movement to that list because he himself, while on the one hand extolling the virtues of the Social Partnership whenever he gets the opportunity - and he should do that because he was there from the beginning - pointed out publicly, and I think it was carried in the newspaper, that he had grave concerns about several areas of the Social Partnership which were not being honoured by the employers and also by the Government in Barbados. Many of those which, to my mind, were not large issues that could not be effectively dealt with. There were often very small issues, some of which had been on the table for discussion between the Government, the unions and the private sector for a long time.

Sir, if it is to have some significance for the life of the ordinary housewife in Barbados, of the fisherman, of the unemployed Barbadian who is looking for hope, the youngster on the block, the small business man and those categories of persons whom we have agreed, down through the years, are marginalised and on whom our policies should focus, why is it that they themselves do not respond to this idea of the Social Partnership or the protocol with any enthusiasm. Why is it that the workers in Barbados feel that the Social Partnership had been used as a sword and the Government is saying that it is going well, enduring higher levels of taxation that are desirable or red tape and bureaucracy which it says is one of the things of which the Social Partnership is supposed to engineer the end, or the many concerns that they have which attend their daily lives or their daily existence. You have to ask that and if you are not asking that question, I think, as usual, that the Government is looking to the wrong people to validate its actions. Sir, the Government is interested in what two editorials say, what somebody in

Geneva says and what Trinidad says about the Social Partnership in Barbados.

Perhaps the question should be, if we did not have it, what difference would it make to the average Barbadian. What difference should it make to workers in this country, if there was no social partnership? What difference would it make to small businessmen, what difference would it make to a mini bus owner or a vendor in Bridgetown or somebody who owns or operates a gas station, what difference would it make if no document was signed by May Day, to their lives?

Sir, when the Honourable Member for Christ Church East could ask that question, and understand that there is a connection between the ideals of the Social Partnership and the reality of life of those people, then I believe that would have to be satisfied, Mr. Speaker, not that ideals are not important. I am not arguing. I have never argued that a country should not set up certain principles that it believes are desirable in terms of economic and social development and then seek to attain them. I do not believe that every time you set an objective or an ideal that it is possible for you to meet it immediately. We are always striving, Sir, and we should always be striving to reach those ideals. Sir, that is part of what the Social Partnership is about but there are also measurable achievements under the Social Partnership. There are things that, when you meet every month, you should be able to tick off along the way as tangible things that have been achieved in the Social Partnership.

Sir, the mitigation of the impact of unemployment, because of the current recessionary economic conditions, how has the Social Partnership been able to help those people who have been dislocated in the tourism sector?

2:40 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:

How has the Social Partnership been able to ensure that there is a connection between small businesses starting in Barbados and larger businesses that have been in existence for most of our lives, if not longer? There are measurable things that you can tick off. It is those tangible things that become relevant in any debate like this, if not, all we would do every year is to go through a ceremonial exercise of signing a Social Partnership document, bringing it in here, endorsing it, saying how the Organisation of American States (OAS) loves us and think we are so great and Standard and Poor's think we have the highest credit rating in the world and all the international accolades which Honourable Members on that side are so keen to trot out week after week and which we have already settled in our minds. Nobody is disputing them. What I am saying to you is that, for people who are elected by ordinary Barbadians, at some point you have to come home to reality. How do those ordinary Barbadians benefit directly from the existence of the Social Partnership in this country?

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also important to appreciate that the Social Partnership document should not be so far removed from reality that all that it does is set up these lofty ideals because there is always a tendency towards that. One of the reasons why the Social Partnership document is so full of words that are incapable of implementation is because people are looking at their place in history and are looking at having a document like many of the United Nations (UN) resolutions and the resolutions that foreign

ministers ascribed their names to on behalf of people but which in reality makes no difference whatsoever in terms of human existence. Likewise, if a document that seeks to set out a Social Partnership in Barbados loses touch with reality and is full of platitudes and all kinds of obscure targets and goals, there is no wonder why it is difficult to get the public to buy in and to be able to say that the Social Partnership document and what is done on May Day has made a significant difference to their lives.

I think that the Social Partnership document has lost focus. It seeks to do too many things. It seeks, to my mind, to sound good but to be almost incapable of implementation in the context of Barbados as we know it today. Therefore, I have to ask the Minister to tell me how the decisions of the monthly meetings of the Social Partnership have been translated in any one or two instances into action by any one of the social partners to the advantage of the ordinary Barbadian.

I want him to just point out to me one or two of the things he discussed at last month's meeting or if that is too difficult, the month before and if he has to stretch it, even the month before that. I just want him to point out to me what was decided that was capable of implementation so that we would not have the situation where people feel that it is a talk shop because the Honourable Member said he did not want it to be known as a talk shop, and neither would I.

There is an easy way to solve that, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You do not solve it by saying what you do not want, you solve it by saying what you did, what was decided at the last meeting that was implemented, what was decided at the meeting before and what was decided by the social partners in the past six months at any of those meetings that has been implemented in Barbados to the advantage of the ordinary Barbadian. I am only asking for the information.

There is also a perception, and it is a justifiable one, that the respective sacrifices made under the Social Partnership are uneven and we have seen it once again. The Barbados economy is showing signs of slowing down, in fact, the slow-down has been quite significant. The first thing that happens is that the workers with whom you are partners when things were going well - mind you they did not get any new shares, very few companies can say that they gave significant shareholding to any workers since the Social Partnership was introduced in Barbados despite the tax concessions. I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in his previous dispensation introduced concessions for employees' stock option plans and that kind of thing and we then enshrined it in the Social Partnership. It is in there, so tell me how many workers in Barbados were transformed from workers to owners since the 1993 document was first signed or in the last six months. Tell me how many companies in Barbados have genuinely viewed the workers, of course, that is a point which the Minister made and I have to concede that point to him, as partners in the process in terms of sharing information?

The same things that the labour movement complained about under voluntarism for the past 30 years about the failure of private sector companies to share accurate information with them on the operations, the profits and so forth is still relevant today despite the Social Partnership. How many workers have found their way into the boardrooms in Barbados? How many companies have spun off operations when things were good and put those operations in the hands of workers? I am not talking about the statutory corporations because in that regard Government has done it. It has done it with United Commercial Autoworks Limited (UCAL). It has been done with some other companies but when the private sector does it, let there be no mistake, it is done for family members not workers.

A fellow can work in a company for 30 years and have a skill and somebody's son will just leave university and those large private sector companies can spin off new small operations to give them opportunity and send home a man who is still able-bodied with an armchair, a watch and a television set but the person who is getting the benefits of those spin-off operations his only relationship to the business is the fact that he is family to somebody at the top level of the enterprise. What has the Social Partnership done about that?

These are not new issues. If you go through the minutes of the Social Partnership, you would see documented there right through commitments that the private sector gave back in 1993 regarding the process of economic democracy, economic enfranchisement and the transformation of the relationship of workers to enterprises in this country. It is not happening. I am not here to make a political speech because I am not here to defend anything. Those things are not in Government's hands. They were not in our hands. They are not in the hands of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and if he would ever be so misguided as to believe that they are in his hands, as sometimes I really think he is, then he would be taking on a responsibility and a role that has never resided in any politician in this country.

There are ways in which we must publicly call to account those who are signatories to the Social Partnership to determine whether they have met their commitment under that Social Partnership. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East was able to go through a whole set of things about the Social Partnership but he has not told us anything along the way, other than the sacrifice of workers and sometimes the failure of communication between managers and workers, what commitments the private sector has met in Barbados since the Social Partnership was in place.

2:50 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am not a private sector basher. I believe the expanded private sector - not the limited private sector that is represented in the Social Partnership - has a critical role to play in the development of Barbados but it has to give and to keep commitments and they cannot only be against vendors.

Mr. Speaker, in this country we are very quick to latch onto areas of lawlessness by people at the lower rounds of the economic ladders: the vendors, by saying they are involved in illegal economic activity and, therefore, we must increase the laws and penalties to deal with them; the water sports operators - everything is done to regulate and circumscribe their fate in this country; the fishermen - many of them are now viewed as participants in the drug trade so people are looking at ways to circumscribe their economic activities and the minibus operators too.

This is not only seen in Barbados but the world over is replete with examples of people who are operating at the top levels of some of the largest corporations, people who are stealing, lying, cheating and wiping out other people's savings, et cetera. I am not saying that is characteristic of Barbados. I am saying that in a country that does not have a social partnership, one may not be able to find out what is

happening but there can be no excuse in a country where there is a social partnership and where the Head of the largest private sector organisation, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, affixes his name. Where that happens, then the private sector has an obligation and a duty to be accountable, to make information available and to keep commitments made under that social partnership.

I want to hear from the Honourable Member for Christ Church East on that particular matter so that people do not feel the sacrifices and commitments that are made under the Social Partnerships are one-sided and are used as a sword against the workers in this country that, at the end of the day, they make the vast majority of sacrifices and other participants in the Social Partnership do not have to make any sacrifices.

Sir, that brings me to the question as to whether or not the partnership itself has run out of steam. I have never viewed the First Protocol as a fad and, therefore, I did not think it was something that would not have lasted. I am glad that it has lasted this long but there are some inherent weaknesses that need to be addressed in relation to the operation of the Social Partnership in Barbados. It is those weaknesses that are giving rise to the perception that the Social Partnership will not be able to sustain itself and will become irrelevant to the lives of the ordinary Barbadian; that it has run out of steam in terms of a major tool of economic and political reform in Barbados; that there is a disconnect between the lofty pronouncements made by Government, the private sector and labour when the document is signed and what is actually obtainable; and the contribution of the Social Partnership to the development of Barbados.

Sir, speaking on behalf of his Government, the Honourable Minister for Christ Church East seems to give the impression that when Government came to office in 1994, they had committed some act of great generosity by proceeding with the Social Partnership, as if they did it to demonstrate their political maturity. Sir, they had never designed any political, economic or other arrangements to replace it. The Government had to accept that the utility of having in place a social partnership at that time was a great boon to the things the Government wanted to do between 1994 and today. Certainly, it would be very much against all the principles the Honourable Minister for Christ Church East has extolled when he was representing the private sector for him to be part of a Government that would then dismantle his own handiwork. The Honourable Member would not be comfortable sitting among members on that side since 1993 I believe and hope the Honourable Member took a principled position as part of a negotiating team to put in place a social partnership.

Asides

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Yes, it was a good social partnership and worth replicating but your commitment now has to go beyond mine because I have no control over what it has now become. It is now that the Honourable Member has an obligation to take it to a new level and to make it relevant to the lives of ordinary Barbadians, not just on paper but in reality so that we could start to deal with those problems of exploitation of workers, exploitation within the private sector by large businesses over small business and over the difference between precept and reality.

Sir, I want to reiterate that at no time in my political career have I said I am against the concept of a social partnership or against a process that brings to the table as many persons as possible in consultation and in discussion in the resolution of issues that are relative to national development and

the direction which we could take. My concern now is and has always been that, as Barbados has changed, the Social Partnership itself has not evolved in the way it should have. It has not broadened the interests that it serves. It has not been as effective in dealing with the many challenges that take place now and even in pointing a way forward to the many challenges to which we are going to face in the future.

It is against that background that I have constantly raised concerns about the direction of the Social Partnership and protocols in Barbados. It is now Government's responsibility to ensure this document now becomes a tool of enlightenment, a path-breaking tool to empower Barbadians; that it is viewed with a process of democracy that is transparent and can truly make a contribution to the development of this country when we most need it.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to lend my support to the Resolution before the Honourable House.

Sir, I listened with care to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who has introduced the Resolution and to the Honourable Member for St. John who today clearly seems to be in a depressed and despondent mood.

When the Honourable Member for St. John began after lunch, I thought his contribution was in the manner of a rationalisation for what had happened in the early 1990's, known as the eight per cent salary cut. Then as he waxed warmer and became even more despondent in his contribution, I recognised the contribution was a speech which he might have well prepared for another place, south-east of this Chamber and not being able to deliver it there, he sought to deliver it here. I heard all of the language which has led me to that conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, the Social Partnership is a very important component of what I like to describe, both here at home and everywhere I go, as an important component of a great participatory, parliamentary democracy which we have in Barbados. It is unknown anywhere else. I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has described it as being unique. He is correct, for this is unique.

Sir, in the developing world it is unique. When I describe it to other people they tell me so quite frankly. A British minister, at a meeting in Barbados of the ACP a few years ago, had said to me that it could not exist in the United Kingdom. A Trinidadian minister, at the time, said to me that it could not even be conceptualised in Trinidad and Tobago.

3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER:

Sir, I am very pleased to speak to this Fourth Protocol of the Social Partnership because it is a very precious thing. We know that it was born out of very hard times and out of a mature understanding of

all of those who are members of the Social Partnership including the Opposition. The Honourable Member for St. John quite rightly said that all shoulders had to go to the wheel at a time when both internal and external shocks were buffeting Barbados.

It started with prices and incomes but it has matured over time and when the Barbados Labour Party came to Government in 1994, it sought to institutionalise it but not to the extent where the individual partners of the Social Partnership lose their identity or integrity and we have, over the years, brought the Social Partnership to where it is today.

Sir, we are now living in times of serious economic turbulence and people are making reference to the slowing down of the economy in the United States of America. We are in the midst of worldwide recession and the work of the Social Partnership is very important. Sir, as we say in Barbados, it has its work cut out.

Sir, this not a time for doom and gloom nor despondency. This is a time for new ideas and looking for modalities to bring us through this turbulence but if we lived through 1991, 1992 and 1993, we will live through these times.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. John almost “pooh-pooh” the way in which international institutions speak positively and admiringly of the Social Partnership in Barbados but he should not do that because it is part of Barbados’ image at home and abroad.

Sir, I just returned from the World Trade Organisation’s headquarters in Geneva where Barbados was having its first ever trade policy review. All members of the WTO must review Barbados’ trade policy from the inception of the WTO in 1995 until present and looking towards the future. Sir, it was a success. I am not saying this because it was my own assessment. This was the assessment of the WTO’s Trade Policy Review Body and in my first introductory address, I went out of my way to make reference to the Barbados Social Partnership. I quote from my speech made at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on July 9, 2002 and wish to make it a document of the House:

“I would wish to distinguish the phenomenon of the Social Partnership of Barbados on which the Protocols are found.

It is a unique consultative process among the Government, private sector and trade unions, chaired by the Prime Minister himself.

All major Government policy and draft legislation is put before the Social Partnership for its consideration.

In our experience so far it has had the salutary effect of minimizing unnecessary and time-wasting confrontation.

You will wish to note that the ILO proposes to use it as a model for other countries.”

Sir, 17 countries spoke during the course of our review and I was impressed by the number of them who picked up on this point of the Social Partnership. It is unknown in most developing countries and

only known in a few developed countries but we have made it work here in Barbados.

Sir, this is no small achievement and it should not be criticised because it has not reached perfection since we are only human and the system of Government that we practise in Barbados is not perfect but that does not mean that we must throw it out. Sir, we still struggle in here every day because we are aware that we do not have perfection.

The Honourable Member for St. John belongs to a political party the same way we on this side belong to one and when there are general elections we put out a Manifesto which is the ideal we wish to achieve. The Protocols are also ideal and if we are not able to achieve the ideal, it does not mean that it is not worth the struggle and that we must give up on it.

Mr. Speaker, the Social Partnership has done good for Barbados. I always make the point that it takes the unnecessary, time-wasting and costly confrontation out of governance. We have seen it work in this Chamber where complex social legislation to do with the economy and business in the last 20 or 30 years and more recently in this last decade has gone before the Social Partnership and, Sir, it works very well.

We should not belittle what we have going for us because in Barbados we have put systems and mechanisms in place that have worked for us, and the Social Partnership is part of it. This does not mean these systems will work in other countries but we should be looking to uplift and enhance it and look for ways and means of widening the ambit of the Social Partnership because we are in a difficult place in our development at this time.

Sir, our colleagues in the Caribbean are in the arms of the International Monetary Fund and these countries regret that the Social Partnership cannot happen in their jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I view the Social Partnership as another instance in which Barbados is leading by best practice. People take from us and it becomes a model for the remainder of the world. It should not be “pooh-pooh” that the ILO is going to use the Barbados Social Partnership as a model for other countries because there must be something worthwhile in it.

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that the Honourable Member for St. John will arise out of his lethargy and despondency and recognise that as the Leader of the Opposition he also has a role to play. He said this afternoon that this Government in its widest sense always includes the Opposition and the Social Partnership in its widest sense includes the Opposition and the Honourable Member for St. John must get up and play his part.

3:10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: He cannot be exclusively diverted by happenings in another sphere. He has a role and function in this as well. It is almost trite to get up and ask what happened at the last meeting or when last we did this or that. That is like asking me when was the last meeting of some committee or council in any department of Government or Ministry of Government.

Sir, it does not mean anything by itself.

Sir, the Protocol comes before the House today and we would hope that Honourable Members look at it in its wider dimension and see it as part of this participatory democracy, which we are. We must not take it for granted.

There are Parliaments in the Caribbean that meet twice a year. There are countries in this Caribbean where the labour movement has no voice. There are countries in this hemisphere where the labour movement is unknown. We must not underestimate the role that the Social Partnership plays in a stable Barbados, particularly at a time when there is economic turbulence in the international arena and it is touching every one of us.

The United Nations Human Development Report for 2002 is available and it is going to be launched in Barbados. Sir, for the first time the regional launch is going to be taking place in Barbados. For Barbados to be selected for that launch should not be surprising. We are Number 31 in the world, leading Latin America and the Caribbean. The next Caribbean country after Barbados, is the Bahamas which is in position Number 41. You would find Trinidad and Tobago at Number 50. This is not anything to shrug as though it is no big thing, it is a big thing. It speaks to the quality of our democracy, governance and our society.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is going to participate in the launch tomorrow morning at 10.00 a.m. The index of the latest United Nations Human Development Report shows that there have been some increases in life expectancy in Barbados. Sir, that is making an eloquent statement in 2002, about health, education, housing and other social services which Barbadians now take for granted. Life expectancy in Barbados in 2001, was 76.6, that means that the average woman would live to 78 years and the average man would live to 76 years. In the year 2002, it has moved from 76.6 to 76.8. Sir, literacy has moved from 2001 to 2002 from 97 per cent to 98 per cent. If we are to devise ways and means to help us through these difficult times, if we are to devise ways and means to bring the social partners closer to perfection, these indicators would tell us that we have the basic tools in hand to do it. I am amazed that he can be almost dismissive of the importance of this thing.

Sir, we are talking about a small developing country with a GDP moving from \$14 353 to \$15 495.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East will speak to it tomorrow morning at the launch, about the eight millennium goals set by the United Nations (UN) which are to be achieved by the year 2015. Barbados is well on the way to achieving these goals. The goals are achievable but we are not going to do it without the Social Partnership.

How old is the Social Partnership? The Social Partnership came into being a short time ago. The Barbados Labour Party is a political party that has been around for fifty years. Mr. Speaker, in Barbados we have Parties without Leaders, Parties with double Leaders, Leaders without Parties, Leaders who cannot go into the headquarters, Leaders who are in the headquarters but cannot come out,

Leaders who are in the House of Assembly and Leaders who are not in the House of Assembly.

Asides

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that does not disqualify us as participatory in a democratic society. It has not stopped the two Members on the Other Side from coming in here every day and trying to do what they can to make a contribution. Some of us give our whole lives to that and at the end of it you cannot see how far you have reached from the time you started.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an occasion for us to be despondent. This is an occasion for us to humble ourselves. We only have to look around us in the little pond where we are and look around us in the bigger sea, where we have to be swimming. This is happening at a time when this little developing country of 83 000 household, is trying to negotiate its way in the world. We are negotiating on three fronts, struggling in a Free Trade of the Americas process, with Europeans and the WTO. Even here in the Caribbean, Barbados is responsible for the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

3:20 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER:

We cannot do it without a social partnership and it is entirely possible that one of the reasons why some of our partners and colleagues in the Caribbean are having certain difficulties in implementing the Single Market and the Single Economy has to do with the fact that they do not have a social partnership the likes of which we are in danger of taking for granted in Barbados. We must not take it for granted. It is too important.

As I said, Sir, it is only another instance in which Barbados is leading by best practice. There are other things that we can point to. The Barbados Drug Service is much in the public domain now as a subject of discussion - nothing that cannot be brought to good resolution. Again, the Social Partnership has its role to play and I chose the Drug Service for that reason as an illustration, where the tripartite consultation which is the essence of the Social Partnership will bring it to good resolution. Of that, I am certain, Sir.

That was another case in which Barbados led the world by best practice. The Barbados Drug Service has been taken as a model by the World Health Organisation and by the Pan American Health Organisation - I should say that PAHO led the WHO in that - not only for developing countries but for developed countries as well. There is a saying out there in the wider world that Barbados - I heard it in Geneva too - in almost every forum is punching well above its weight. We do not do it by ourselves. The Government cannot do it alone. The labour movement cannot do it alone. The private sector cannot do it alone. This is part of the function of the Social Partnership.

I made mention of the Single Market and Single Economy principally because we are now running hard against time with that. If we do not find ourselves in a situation where we are overtaken by the FTAA even before we properly put the Single Market and the Single Economy on the ground it will bode well for us. In that connection, Sir, perhaps the private sector is the weakest of the partners and the Governments of the region and the labour movements of the region have to close ranks around the private sector and try to bring it along as fast and as effectively as it can. The single market is not going to happen without the private sector. We make the point all the time in foreign trade that it is not governments which run firms, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the private sector. It interfaces with the labour movement, of course, and Government then is an employer in another sense but what I am saying in essence is that in every endeavour which lies before Barbados just now - and these are very dangerous and difficult times. I think for the first time in my life I saw on CNN stock markets are being turbulent. They are worst than turbulent. Things that we read about that happened in the 1920s and the 1930's we did not understand, but it is now a living experience for some of us.

If we think that without the Social Partnership we would not have the greatest possible difficulty and that, indeed, the abyss which the Honourable Member for St. John described a little earlier might not overtake us, then we really have no concept of what life in this world is about. We are no more in a place where it is life in Barbados or life in the Caribbean. It is life in this whole world that touches us on a daily basis and we know about it. The new technology has seen to that and we have to be engaged in it. We have to be enthused by it and the first level of engagement at the national level is very much that of the Social Partnership. Those countries which do not have it have the greatest difficulty making the engagement at the regional and then at the international level.

So it has to be our task and this is something that was conceptualised and that happened in our time. It is something for which we are entirely responsible. When I say "we" here I mean Barbados and Barbadians. It is our task to lift it up and to fine-tune it, retool it where necessary but we must not despair of it and we must not feel that somehow it is useless in the process; because it is not. In whatever I do, and I believe I can speak for all Honourable Members on this side, particularly those on the Front Bench, in whatever responsibility, whatever portfolio falls to us, we do feel the strength of the Social Partnership.

In the same way, Sir, that this Parliament meets on a regular basis, I feel the strength of it. I do not know how we could govern if this Parliament only met three or four times a year. We do not have any more resources than anybody else. In fact, that is part of the wonder of it. One of those who spoke favourably about Barbados at the Trade Policy Review started with these words - "Humility, Madam Chairman". We have to be humble in the face of a little country like this because most of them have not seen Barbados but when they hear you talk about 14x21 to some of them you are not even talking about a province or even a sub-district. Even here in the Caribbean we would fit into the mouth of the Essequibo River in Guyana.

I heard more hopefulness. I heard a greater understanding of where Barbados is in the scheme of this world than I am hearing from the Opposition Benches today. I would want to persuade Honourable Members that the more positive outlook outlined by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who introduced this Resolution is the high road to take. We need to give ourselves some credit in Barbados that a Protocol Four could be before the House today. We could still be operating under the original. It need not have gone anywhere. It could have been left stagnant, but it has not and it is now

very much a part and parcel of things Barbadian, the way in which we govern ourselves, the way in which we propose to take Barbados forward, backward never. It is part of that cohesion that people speak of when they are saying words of praise about Barbados. Long may it live!

I would commend to Honourable Members this Resolution and I thank the Honourable Member for Christ Church East that it could be before the House at this time. I am much obliged, Sir.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, while being enthusiastic to take part in this debate, I should nonetheless speak in measured tones as I rise to make my humble contribution. There is no doubt that when historians, social scientists and politicians locate the very First Protocol in the economic history of Barbados there will be a strong temptation to think that the economic circumstances of the particular epoch and the particular time when the First Protocol was signed would have dictated the coming of the Protocol.

3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND:

Mr. Speaker, you will no doubt recall that the first protocol came in the year 1993. I do not propose on this occasion to give a detailed account of the state of the economy and society in 1993. There is no question about the fact that when the First Protocol was negotiated and signed successfully, that nomenclature attaching to it, bore enormous significance. For even though what we are debating today is called Protocol Four, the First Protocol was called a Prices and Income Policy. This is highly reflective of the particular economic circumstances in which it was cast. Memory tells me that it was a small document, more or less conceding that some kind of crisis had descended upon Barbados and that the Government employers and labour decided to embark on a form of dialogue to address the issues at hand, and to establish a form of constructive engagement which would see an end to a feckless confrontation and the start of more dialogue among three segments of civil society.

Mr. Speaker, I said that historians, politicians and social scientists will fall for the temptation of locating the Prices and Income Protocol within that context. However, sovereign Barbados in the year 1983, ratified Convention Number 144 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Ten years before the First Protocol, this independent Barbados ratified Convention Number 144 of the International Labour Organisation. What is Convention 144? Convention 144 is a convention which is designed to encourage the process of tripartism. Member states that support the International Labour Organisation which have ratified Convention 144, had expected to have found a formula by which tripartism can find adequate and proper expression.

Sir, notwithstanding the fact that a type of economic crisis saw the coming of the First Protocol, ten years before Barbados has signed on and ratified Convention Number 144, which means that the First Protocol, if we were to take the spirit of Convention 144 and our international obligations seriously, should really have come closer to 1983 than to 1993. Sir, that is the first point I want to make.

Mr. Speaker, the ILO is an organisation that was founded in the year 1919, before any of the functional organisations of the modern United Nations system, would have concentrated on labour issues. The ILO in its first 20 years, would have concentrated on the other issues. They would have wanted to see proper labour standards, they would have been promoting the cause of labour but in the last 25 or 30 years - between 1977 and now - rather than the ILO concentrate exclusively on furthering the rights of workers, it has now found and discovered that there must be a part for employers and the Government.

The Honourable Member for the City made a brilliant speech. She both mentioned the point that tripartism working well, can head off confrontation. She did not say it, but she could have said it. When last did Barbados have a general strike? I am neither a prophet of doom and on this occasion, nor am I going to pretend to be a prophet of the greatest possible optimism but it could very well be, Mr. Speaker, that much as the period 1937 to 1960 could have been a period when labour was often locked in battle against the employer and there was confrontation, today there is a new, totally different approach.

Mr. Speaker, rather than have confrontation, there is always an attempt to have a consensus. The whole purpose of the ILO encouraging those countries that adopt its conventions seriously to go the route of tripartism is for us, in an era where economic developments tend to seek turbulence and there is a lot of uncertainty, to invite countries to sit soberly and look at what is best for the nation in the interest of national development.

Mr. Speaker, there would have been countries in the Caribbean which suffered through having industrial, political and social instability because there are particular economic sectors that cannot thrive in conditions of social, political and economic instability. The whole question, Mr. Speaker, therefore must be the extent to which the Government, the employer and labour can sit and try to ensure that there is a correct environment and milieu, within which a state can progress.

Mr. Speaker, if you examine the last two Protocols, namely, Protocol Three and Protocol Four and even Protocol Two, but more so Protocols Three and Four, there are some interesting features which are worthy of comment. The First Protocol seems to say we have to talk in Barbados to stop the type of malaise that descended on Barbados in the early 1990's from happening, but the last two protocols are picking up issues of national concern. Both Protocol Three and Protocol Four have highlighted the threat to our human resources of the problem of HIV/AIDS.

Protocol Three and Protocol Four have also suggested to those who would facilitate labour, to better provide for workers to be recipients of social justice and social fairness. Protocol Three and Protocol Four, Mr. Speaker, challenge employers to consider the international economic environment in which the Government, employer and worker are all challenged to survive.

Both Protocol Three and Protocol Four speak to the issue of Barbados' competitiveness in circumstances where globalization is quite real. The two Protocols take into account the fact that workers will be anxious for increases in wages and salaries, and better conditions of service at the expense of the employers. It would also take into account the fact that the employers would normally want the cheapest possible cost of production, and that the Government wants to make sure that the country benefits from the type of economic growth and advancement that any Government would want

to occur in this country.

Sir, when Protocol Three and Protocol Four focussed on the question of this country being competitive, what the Protocols are actually doing is telling all involved that we have to be mindful that it may be necessary for all sides to exercise a measure of restraint and at the same time, a measure of creativity. Sir, that is my interpretation of the provisions in Protocol Three and Protocol Four on the issue about making the country competitive.

3:40 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND:

Mr. Speaker, there can be no question that an examination of the last two Protocols would show quite clearly that Government, employers and workers' organisations would want to ensure that the gains made by Barbadians as a whole are not impeded and that the type of advancement, material and otherwise, which we would want for our people would proceed in circumstances where all three parties to the Protocol are expected as they honour their obligations to do so not from a selfish perspective by putting narrow sectional self-interest first but in the national good.

You must bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that outside of the Protocols this Government has kept a series of national consultations and would be keeping one this weekend. The whole concept of having national consultations, and I am not sure if the Opposition has ever either warmed to them or accepted the invitations, does not run separate and distinct from the whole point of social engagement and dialogue. As a matter of fact, the whole concept of tripartism always embraces the question of permitting as much dialogue as possible. I am, therefore, saying that when this Government establishes national consultations from time to time to consult with other stakeholders who are charged with the business of developing this country on matters of national concerns that such a stance is clearly consistent with the constructive engagement to which I referred earlier.

Mr. Speaker, if you peruse Protocols Three and Four, you would see that they challenge all parties to look for opportunities that can be captured to advance this country's interest, to look for what strength we have, to look to minimise our weaknesses and to look to see what threats there are that threaten to inhibit growth and development and try to work them away so as to be able to ensure that Barbados can fulfil its true potential.

There is a matter, Mr. Speaker, which I will raise and I will do so making the point that it is because of the Protocols that the position I take will be taken. Mr. Speaker, recently the Court of Appeal of Barbados decided a case called Clarke versus American Life Insurance Company. The Court of Appeal indicated in that case that Section 20 of the Severance Payments Act needs to be rewritten. Mr. Speaker, according to Section 20 of the Severance Payments Act Chapter 355 A, where a person is to be severed, the amount of notice in terms of Section 20:

(a) shall not be less than two weeks' notice if his period of continuous employment is two years or more but less than five years; and

(b) shall not be less than four weeks' notice if his period of continuous employment is five years or more.

Section 20 of this Act which I believe was passed in this Parliament in 1971 only sees two periods of notice. A shorter period of not less than two weeks is to be given where persons work between two years and five years and a larger period of four weeks' notice is to be given if the person is in continuous employment for five years or more. It, therefore, means that a person working seven years is to get four weeks' notice in terms of severance and a person working for 27 years is to get four weeks. The Court of Appeal held clearly that just two periods of notice in this modern era would be totally insufficient and suggested that the time had come when Parliament should really rewrite Section 20 and create new periods of notice and more periods of notice.

There are countries in this world where a person working ten years or less would get less notice than a person working more than 12 years for example.

I, having looked at the judgment in Clarke versus American Life Insurance and having seen the brilliance of the judgment and the manner in which the judgment was reasoned through supported by a battery of legal authority, have in mind how I would like to see that reform but I am constrained by Protocol Four. I am not going to propose any amendment to my colleagues except I sit down with the social partners and discuss it with them because it clearly has implications for labour, it has implications for workers and it has implications for employers. So consistent with the spirit of the Protocols rather than suggest my own subjective position and get the support of those who would support me on it and have that modified along the lines of one person or a small group, I am going to engage the unions and employers on it. It has implications too for the Severance Payments Fund in circumstances where a lot of employers do not pay severance and then the National Insurance through the Severance Payments Fund pays the severance especially after a tribunal hearing. Ultimately, if the period of notice is going to be enlarged and increased it would have implications for the severance payment fund and might even have implications for severance payments contributions.

I am saying that where we have had four Protocols going back to 1993 that it would not only be uncharacteristic but it would be acting in bad faith for a functionary of government in circumstances where dialogue and constructive engagement are to be practised, to suggest amendment to the legislation by leaving out those who have an interest in the matter. This is just one example of the attitude a Government should take when faced with matters that affect significant stakeholders.

The first Protocol which the Democratic Labour Party agreed on, the Prices and Income Protocol, would not have been gone through repeatedly by the Democratic Labour Party, the reason being that they left office a year or so after having agreed to the Protocol. Notwithstanding that event, I believe that the existence of subsequent Protocols suggest quite clearly that those involved in agreeing then would feel badly if they are left out and not consulted on matters in which they have an interest. I said a short while ago, Mr. Speaker, that this Government has throughout its life always embarked on a series of national consultations to raise issues of concern to given stakeholders and give them a chance to respond and a chance to take part.

Mr. Speaker, one of the features about Protocol Four is that it looked at a number of issues to do with

what a national employment policy and what human resource development should be all about. Mr. Speaker, the whole intent here is to challenge us to see if we can improve standards and to see if we can set a whole range of norms that would guide us in the future.

What the Honourable Member for St. John was asking was how can we be sure that the existence of the agreement by itself is going to guarantee what we really want to achieve. I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is going to be able competently to answer that on his own.

The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown made the point that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) having studied our Social Partnership and our Protocols and having realised how tri-partisan work in Barbados sees Barbados as a model for countries has made it public that the way the Social Partnership has worked in Barbados should be followed by other countries.

3:50 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND:

Mr. Speaker, there is no questioning the fact that there are Caribbean countries which are still to develop protocols like what we have. There are still many countries worldwide which have signed Convention 144 that still hesitate as to how to get Convention 144 with its emphasis on tripartism into effect.

Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind I have responsibility for the portfolio of Labour, I have read and reread Convention 144. I do support the efforts of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who is Chairman of a Committee that looks into matters of protocols, establishing a committee broad-based to look at how best we could get the intent behind Convention 144 materialised in a way that would widen and broaden the Social Partnership.

I concur with the view which has been expressed by the Honourable Member for the City that the times we are in require of us to consider that confrontations are a part of the past and that instead we should look at cooperation and try our best to achieve a consensus where we can.

Mr. Speaker, I feel impelled to support the Resolution at hand and, therefore, have no difficulty in endorsing the sentiments of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East on behalf of the Government. I believe this Parliament would be well advised to accept and to endorse Protocol Four which is before it.

I thank you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Social Partnership was well meant when it was entered into.

Mr. Speaker, whilst being an employee in the sugar industry, I have always lamented the fact that every year the union had to write to the employers, requesting a meeting with them over wages

negotiations. Sir, there was once a gentleman who used to work in the civil service, who was responsible for leading the negotiations on behalf of the sugar industry. I asked him why it was that every year they would allow the union to write them, why they had never used the privilege of first writing the unions.

I was there long enough to have witnessed a gentleman named Mr. Errie Deane who used to be at Plantations Limited. Mr. Deane had taken over the portfolio of running the sugar industry and had quickly adopted that strategy. Sir, if persons would study the period of the sugar industry when he was managing director and chairman of the Barbados Sugar Industry, one would recognise the contentious manner in which negotiations were held before then had stopped. Sir, I want the players to understand and to check what I am saying to confirm whether or not I am lying to this Parliament.

Sir, I could have never understood why it was that every year with January being the negotiating period for the sugar industry, that they would want to start the sugar crop in January or early February. Sir, if one checks the period when Mr. Deane was chairman and managing director of the Barbados Sugar Industry, one would see that during that period there were no strikes; that Mr. Deane was able to bring the players to the table and to solve any problems.

Sir, we must understand the Protocols which started in 1994 would have served their purpose in those initial years. We cannot any longer continue to come to Parliament and ask Parliament to approve Protocols when those Protocols have outlived their usefulness. During this period 2001 to 2004, it cannot be expected for them to come to Parliament and to lay a Protocol and to expect it to be accepted by the workers' representatives. When the Protocol is carefully analysed, it is clear that it has worked for the Government, the employers but not for the employees. Sir, we need to find a system that is going to work for the employers, the employees and the Government.

Sir, the only system in this present time is a shift in the way in which we operate our taxation system. We have to understand that in this country we have to create a hunger to work among the people. Sir, presently there is a system where, as soon as workers get a certain amount, those workers feel that they cannot work any longer for what they are working because they are self-defeating. It is the same thing with investors. We have to look for a system which allows everyone to benefit and, therefore, the present system under the Social Partnership has not worked in the interest of the employees of Barbados.

Sir, we have to create that hunger. The same thing is now happening among our sportsmen and among the workers. It is creating frustration among them and turning them off, with the belief that all they have to do is turn up for work at the prescribed working period and that is all that has to be done.

Sir, when one looks at the effects of globalization and what must be done to resolve those problems, the only thing one can do is to move away from the old system that we have been practising. These systems have served us well and we are now flogging a dead horse. We cannot have the economy of Barbados being run in a situation where we are working two systems simultaneously and do not know which system we want. We must send a clear message to the investors outside of Barbados, those in Barbados and also the employees that we must create that opportunity to make sure that at the end of the day the employees believe they have an opportunity to maximise what benefits there are for them. As it now stands, the employees are frustrated because they feel that whenever they work beyond the

call of duty, they are not properly compensated, that the disposable income does not reflect the amount of work they do.

Sir, we need to get employees wanting to continue working and investors wanting to continue investing. We do not want persons accumulating funds and sending them out of Barbados because they believe the only place where they could get a good return on their investment is by sending the funds out of Barbados.

Sir, what we need are those investors believing that once they invest in Barbados they could get a good return on their investment, that because of our system in Barbados, jealousy could be created so that outside investors would feel they need to come and invest in Barbados. As it now stands, anyone wanting to invest in Barbados has to come and beg in order to do so. Sir, that system has to be changed because the one thing globalization and trade liberalisation have taught us is that we must be more competitive and have to look for better ways of running the Government.

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

We cannot continue to run the Government as we have done five years ago. A new way must be found to run the Government. The same way licensing was freed up to bring goods into the country, the climate must also be freed up for investment in Barbados or we will continue to have control but no investment and the workers will not be inclined to work beyond the call of duty.

There must be the climate in Barbados to encourage Barbadians to work like the Japanese and the Chinese. Sir, when our fore parents worked on farms for food, shelter and clothing, they worked hard but now that people are working for money, when they get a certain amount of it, they stop working.

Sir, we must be realistic and listen to the masses. The masses are sending a clear message but we are not listening because we are too far removed from them. We believe as politicians we can get on our thrones and send down messages to the masses. Those days are over because the masses know what they want to see in this country.

Sir, one of the reasons why this economy did so well but has now gone into a slump is because the masses worked hard, suffered under the taxation system, we have not acknowledged their contribution and this is why it will not work even though we have the Social Partnership.

It is okay to bring the trade union leaders, the private sector and the Prime Minister together at a table but the usefulness of that is over. If we do not grease the engines of the players down the line, the engines will stop working and the workers will not be able because there is no sustenance.

Sir, this country needs some radical changes and those changes must relate to what is going on in the

world. For example, we hear about what is going on in the United States of America but for years people have been acknowledging that the biggest problem as it relates to companies, especially public companies, has to do with the power of the directors, which has to do with our Companies Act. I have been pointing out to Parliament that the directors have too much power, that the Companies Act as it is written frustrates the shareholders and now is frustrating everybody as well, but nobody listened. It had to become an international issue for people to understand that the Companies Act needs to be looked at.

Sir, nobody listens to humble people. It must come from some expert from the moon because people believe that the masses have no commonsense. Mr. Speaker, some of the best advice comes from the masses but we believe in this country that everything must be imported from outside.

Sir, I continue to make the point that the man in Greenland who gave the advice about the Greenland Landfill is my hero. The man in Bromefield who said that machines in the cane fields decrease the yield is also my hero because he understands that even though machines can cut more canes, every time they go through the cane fields, they pull up the roots of the canes and stop the canes from ratooning the way they used to.

Sir, this is such a simple explanation that people do not accept it, yet every year we spend millions of dollars to buy large expensive equipment to cut the canes faster but do not realise that to replant and re-fertilise the canes take more money than if they were cut by hand.

Sir, even though Barbadians do not want to cut canes, people from outside of Barbados will come here and cut the canes. We do not recognise that when the machinery is purchased, money goes out of the country. We then have to buy parts from outside of the country and fuel also comes from outside of the country but when we bring human capital and labour here the money is spent here in Barbados and that fuels the economy.

Sir, we have been spending too much money outside of the country because we want a foreign solution for everything and we need to find a local solution to our problems. If the trade unions do not understand the document which they just signed, there will be a Social Partnership but no union members because there will be no workers.

Sir, I stand by that statement because everybody is downsizing and merging and whenever there is a merger workers are displaced. If the trade unions continue on the road they are on, they will self-destruct. For eight years of my political life I have warned the trade union movement to change their approach or they will become their own biggest enemy and that soon from now there will be plantations but nobody to manage them. It is okay to say that you are reducing cost by bringing machinery but are we really reducing cost?

Sir, there was a time when a plantation would plant canes and get ten crops out of that field but now every two years the fields must be re-ploughed and re-planted. I want somebody to look at the operating cost of these things and tell me if we are saving or wasting money.

We have to look at the Social Partnership as it relates to all of these things.

4:10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, we have to look at the Social Partnership as it relates to all of these things. We cannot look at the Social Partnership and believe that because there is a relationship with those persons at the top, we do not have to look at the masses at the bottom; when you look at the Social Partnership you have a policy of inclusion and you do not have to look at the bottom where the masses can be found. Sir, in a situation like this, the leader of the union is called in and he would look after the masses for you. The private sector leader is called in and he would look at everyone in the private sector. It is like being sick and going to a doctor. After you have taken the medication which the doctor prescribes, and you are feeling well, you continue to take the medicine. After you are well, you need the opportunity to get up and work.

Sir, the economy has the opportunity to get well but we are treating it as though it is a sick patient. I am saying that the economy must allow its agents, mainly the workers, to have a free hand and be able to create that hunger, because we must understand that hunger creates a want to be satisfied and the workers in Barbados do not have that opportunity.

Sir, one of the biggest problems facing the civil servants is the lack of opportunity to work outside of the civil service. I am saying that any enlightened Government must understand that civil servants are Barbadians and they need the opportunity to be able to save.

Years ago, the older people kept stock to subsidise their income. Even though they worked in the fields, they recognised that what they earned from working in the fields was to look after the family. However, their savings came from keeping stock. If you deprive the civil servants from earning extra money by working somewhere else after their regular eight-hour job, you are depriving them from having a savings account.

Sir, we also need a climate where Barbadians can have opportunity to invest in any company in Barbados and that company should be able to offer their shares on the market and earn the trust of potential investors.

We need an urgent relationship where Barbadians would want to invest in the economy. If we do not do, we are going to be left behind. Sir, if we want to reshape our economy we do not have to devalue it. All we have to do is to shift our tax system and this would allow workers to work extra. This system is better than devaluing a dollar.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, it does not take a genius to understand that. The problem is, as long as you are not from overseas, nobody is going to listen to you. I am saying that we have to understand that devaluation is not for Barbados. Anybody who has devaluation on their mind for Barbados, had better change it as I will not be supporting any talk about devaluation. I will be supporting a shift from the direct taxation to an indirect taxation to give the workers more disposable income and to expand the economy.

Sir, it is time for us to return to planting in our backyards and growing food for our consumption. Our agriculture depends on the taxation system that we have in place. In the early 1990's when the country was going through a crisis and many civil servants looked for additional jobs, those persons who had waste land growing grass converted the land from growing grass to growing food crops. The problem that exists in Barbados is not something that cannot be solved. The events of September 11th should not be used as an excuse to solve the problems which exist in Barbados.

I have been telling this Parliament that we do not need brand name hotels in Barbados. We need community tourism especially now that we have the internet system in place. We need Barbadians to understand that their homes could also be used as a business. There are large homes in Barbados with ten bedrooms and only two people live in these homes. In cases like these, some of these rooms should be rented to tourists to help defray the cost of maintaining those homes.

I am saying that we must understand that before we talk about building more hotels, we have to utilise the properties that are lying idle in Barbados. Sir, the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Authority cannot tell us that this is not wholesome, because if a man is living in a house with another person he would look after the person with whom he is living. In addition, you get better protection in a home than a hotel.

Sir, the called Social Partnership 2001 - 2004, could easily be called "Selfish Partnership 2001-2004". We need something more wholesome than this. We need something that will expand the economy where everyone would benefit. There is a situation in Barbados where too few believe that they should have and they do not care about the masses. As long as they get what they want, they believe that the masses should be left out.

Sir, we drive cars daily and the exhaust from these cars poisons the air that we breathe, but we do not see that as something wrong. However, if a man keeps a goat, sheep or chicken, we see it as a crime. This is ignorance to the highest power. We need something that is productive and we need to find a way to reduce our food bill and to maximise the foreign exchange coming into our country and reduce the foreign exchange going out of our country. We feel that it is a crime for Barbados to reduce its food bill. We have to decide what we want and have to realise that the world is not waiting on us.

There are too many people in this country who believe that they can dictate time and they can decide when the world is ready for them and when they are ready for the world. I am saying that it cannot happen. We are in a very competitive world and we must understand that the same way we in Barbados are looking to achieve something, other countries are doing the same things.

4:20 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

There was a time when we thought that the Trinidadians had to wait on our carrots and now the Trinidadians have carrots and everything. What do we have? We have not trained the minds of Barbadians in the direction their minds should be going. We have to understand that we have to have a

dialogue with our people but the problem with us is that we do not know how to relate it to them and we feel that once we come with pie-in-the-sky solutions that we will capture their imagination at election time and that is all we want.

Elections cannot be about that anymore. Elections have to be about how we are going to better the lives of everybody in Barbados, especially the masses. We cannot bring a manifesto that is not workable. We must be realistic and any new manifesto must have ideas that have been put on the table and given the opportunity to prove whether they could work or not, because Barbadians are more enlightened and are prepared to question more. Politicians in this age must be prepared to go back to the street corners and get back what was given them when they were growing up.

All the modern politicians feel that they are too big and important and that they must look down on the masses of people who have empowered them. They have to understand that those masses have knowledge too and ideas that they want to give back to the society. Nobody will keep me out of the fish markets, the street corners and the highways and byways of St. Lucy because those 8000 people who vote and the others are the knowledge base for the Member of Parliament for St. Lucy.

We have to understand that the car has to be the economy and the two fuels which we would normally think about as gasoline and diesel would have to be direct taxation and indirect taxation and we cannot put the two fuels in the car at the same time and we cannot run two taxation systems at the same time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise at the conclusion of the debate on this Resolution to approve the Protocol Four of the Social Partnership. First of all, I want to thank those Honourable Members who participated in the debate and shared their views on this important subject. I thought I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy criticising the trade union component of the Social Partnership for agreeing to continue in the partnership. I would wonder whether he is therefore questioning the wisdom of the leadership that represents 50 000 workers and their membership who have seen the wisdom of being at the table in constructive engagement rather than being out in the cold where they may rant and rave, shout or chant but they are not in a position of decision making; but that is his choice. Sir, I want to say that the Social Partnership is a mechanism which continues to evolve. You will note that there has been a steady progression and a deepening of the involvement of the partners in the governance of Barbados. What started out as I indicated earlier as being primarily an economic instrument has been broadened as a tool of consultation on all major social and economic policies. You will note as well, Sir, that the participation of the members continues to broaden and I believe that this will continue to evolve until all of civil society is able to take its place fully at the table. The document, for example, speaks extensively of the involvement of accredited NGOs in the integration of social partners than any other previous document. I look forward Sir, to continuous evolution in the role.

I think all can agree, Sir, that the Social Partnership arrangement has contributed in no small measure not only to the reversal and economic decline of the early 1990's but also to putting the economy in the position where it was able to enjoy eight consecutive years of economic growth. The background of such an excellent testimonial on the efficacy of the Protocol and the Social Partnership as a mechanism

for national management would render it as being a most suitable candidate to perform the role which is required of it as we face our current economic challenges.

Clearly, Sir, in the current environment in which there continues to be instability in our principal source markets for our exports, whether they be exports of goods or services as in tourism and international business where the United States of America continues to reel under the pressure of the collapse of the stock market and the general decline in the economy, where the confidence of investors in the stock market, in fact of investors in the economy generally of the United States of America, continues to be destroyed by scandal after scandal. It is bad enough when the directors of a company are believed to have done things which are in their interest but not in the interest of the shareholders or the general public but we were always led to believe that the auditors and other professionals would be the guardians who would keep the directors and managers in check.

When the scandal widened to include those firm some of which have branches in Barbados, not only do people in the United States have to be concerned but we in Barbados have to be concerned. Sir, that loss of confidence in that aspect of the United States - we know that approximately 50 per cent of the USA population has some investment in the stock market. That, obviously, could precipitate a reduction in demand for products and services, including those plied by Barbados. Therefore, that constitutes a challenge before us in the challenging environment before us as we seek to restore the economy to growth, as we seek to ensure that we are competitive within the liberalised CARICOM Single Market and Single Economy after the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas so that we are able to be competitive in that environment in which the largest most wealthy country in the hemisphere would be competing with the smallest most vulnerable countries in the hemisphere, that is, the Caribbean region versus the United States of America.

We need to continue to define a role for ourselves in relation to our special relationship with Europe as it relates to what impact that will have on our sugar industry and on other aspects of trade as well as our relations with the wider international world and in relation to the policies of the WTO. So there are challenges. Of course, Sir, we still face the development challenges in relation to the transformation of our educational system by way of completion of EduTech and teacher training, the refurbishment of our schools, the expansion of tertiary level education such that the percentage of our population going into tertiary level training is radically expanded not by increments but by torrents, by huge leaps, if we are to compete effectively in the area of services as is our destiny and our opportunity.

4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. REGINALD R. FARLEY:

We, like other great service economies need to have a greater majority, and a vast number of our people trained in several disciplines. Therefore, things like the creation of a University of Barbados, an expansion of the role of the University of the West Indies and other tertiary level institutions are still priorities.

Sir, notwithstanding the international challenges, we still have to continue the drive towards

eradication. We cannot rest comfortably and be happy as a country that has great numbers in terms of our economic performance or GDP, per capita income and the profitability of businesses to succeed to a high level, until we reduce and eliminate poverty in this country. We have to measure our success, not merely by the success of the few at the top, but by how that translates into the lot of the person who is least fortunate.

We therefore have to make sure that those who are placed on the lowest spoke of Fortune's wheel are equally receiving as they deserve. Sir, with those challenges before us to manage the change in our society, the change in our culture and values, the challenge of crime and other negative impacts, I can think of no better candidate to serve us in these circumstances than a social partnership which has been tried and proven and which continues to engender the public's trust between the important actors within our society, the private sector in its widest definition, the workers through their representatives and the Government of the day. Therefore, I am satisfied that this will be done.

Sir, I also want to say that it is important for us, and it has been our mandate, to continue to ensure that with each successive Protocol we achieve even higher rates of success at being able to translate the very clear and firm commitment of the leadership of all three sides of the tripartite arrangements and to translate that down again to the lowest level. We have to agree, and it is clear, Sir, that there still continues to be pockets in the public sector and even more widely in the private sector, where there are people who believe that this empowerment and level of democratic management do not apply to them.

The fact that they are owners of enterprises, the fact that they are local or foreign, the fact, Sir, that they are managers, this gives them the power of the Almighty, and that they are not disposed to listen to anyone, without a direct stake. There are some private sector entities which believe that they do not have to listen to the Government, and unless something is written in law, they do not have to obey, and not even then sometimes.

There are public sector entities - sometimes on our statutory boards who have an exaggerated interpretation of their independence - who sometimes would hold the view that matters which the Crown, as the central Government, has decided to embark on, does not relate to them.

Sir, I just want to take the opportunity to remind us that the separation of the central Government and statutory boards is largely a legal matter by way of the structure of the entities. Statutory boards are companies incorporated by statute but the Government also owns a number of companies registered under the Companies Act. At the end of the day, Sir, they are all Governmental entities. The Government is very clear that it will expect all Government entities to follow the structure, form or format, to follow the precepts and principles, as laid out in this Social Partnership to be model managers. They must create the correct industrial relations climate within their organisations which leads to a situation to which both management and staff believe that they have a stake in the country, while recognising management right and responsibility to lead. So that they will also recognise the inherent value in applying economic democratisation in the management and ownership structure, which would therefore empower and allow workers to participate more fully as well as to share in a meaningful way in the benefits of that participation. This is what we hope to achieve.

Sir, similarly, for the private sector, they cannot exercise enthusiasm for a social partnership in times of hardship as in the first one, when that meant that they were able to work with the workers'

representatives in order to have certain fairly harsh conditions imposed. They would then want to claim that it does not directly concern them, because they have not individually signed on the bottom line. In fact, Sir, I would want to think that in another important aspect of the Social Partnership arrangements, that is, the arrangements in relation to incentive pay and productivity pay, there would be as strong a commitment to move in that direction in times of prosperity, as there would be in times of adversity.

You cannot use the proposals for linking pay and performance, when you think or you know that it will result in reduced pay. You will want to use the principle, when circumstances will allow it, to result in higher pay. Therefore, I am urging the private sector in its widest manifestations to unite and give its full backing, along with the leadership of the organisations which have been mentioned to these proposals.

A valid point was raised during the course of the debate that it is important for us to make sure that each of the entities coming to the table of their social partners is in fact, democratically governed, transparent and widely representative of the interests which they purport to serve.

I certainly want to say that I am pleased, for example, that the Small Business Association has taken a more active part in the deliberations of the Barbados Private Sector Agency but I would want to challenge all of the private sector organisations to increase the number of businesses in their membership. If you consider the fact that we have approximately 20 companies registered in Barbados - about 16,000 domestic and 6,000 international - and the numbers you see as the official membership of private sector organisations in Barbados leaves much to be desired. Therefore, the Social Partnership could only be stronger, if there is, indeed, a greater representative character of the organisations which come forward, than is the case now.

Sir, let us not forget that we have come a long way. There was a time when there was not a single united voice in which the private sector could speak. Therefore, Sir, the creation of the Barbados Private Sector agency, as was the case with the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) represented major steps in a direction which would have allowed us to get here today.

Sir, it is clear that during the life of this Protocol, we, with our respective constituents have a responsibility to inform and to educate.

4:40 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Therefore, I want to draw attention again to the provision in the Protocol for more frequent interaction with the public through the Press to keep them appraised of the specific actions which are taken to appraise them at the end of each monthly meeting of the issues that have been discussed, what decisions have been taken and what follow-up action is contemplated to bring the day-by-day experience of the Social Partnership to life.

The success which we have experienced over the last several years with the Social Partnership can be attributed to the fact that we have had responsible, mature and knowledgeable leadership in Government, the private sector and the unions of Barbados. Unlike the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I do not think that the union leadership is misguided and out of sync with their members and are pursuing their own agenda. I think that they have been very mature and very responsible in the stances they have taken. Never once have they been less than vigorous in the representation of the individual needs, concerns and rights of their membership. Never once have they been so blinkered in their vision and so narrow in their focus as to sacrifice the national interest and as to sacrifice the long-term future of Barbados on the altar of expedience. That, Sir, is something to be complimented.

So the key elements which have resulted in the success of this partnership so far and which would take us well into the future have been the fact that there has been political will and support on all sides, the Government and the Opposition, for the Social Partnership. We may disagree on the extent to what measures may be taken here and there, but there has also been a united, disciplined, matured and knowledgeable trade union sector and there has also been a well organised and all-embracing private sector.

Let me close by reminding this Parliament that these attributes, the ability of the Social Partnership to deal with economic change and economic management, will be put to the test in the challenges which we face not of our making but the external international environment which is not immediately friendly. The Social Partnership would go into full session on Friday and Saturday of this week to deal with the matters immediately at hand, to use the framework which we have and to seek consensus by way of sharing information. There will be very frank presentations on the international environment, our trade policies, our sectoral initiatives, on tourism, international business, agriculture and others and what needs to be done to get us where we want to go, how we would implement the Caribbean Single Market and Economy as well as on the specific issues of direct tax reform and pension reform which are so fundamental to our future.

Therefore, I am pleased to commend this Resolution and this Protocol Four to this Parliament. I am pleased that we have been able to draw on the rich social capital which is an element of Barbados which perhaps many another countries are not in a position to replicate based on our historical, cultural and political relationships which is built on the level of trust, understanding, co-operation and social cohesion which I hope will long continue and would allow us to be able to co-operate to share the benefits of prosperity as well as to co-operate to face the challenges of adversity. It is in that spirit that I commend this Resolution to the Honourable House of Assembly and beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: I beg to second that.

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

**ORDER NO 9 - TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVE
ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY**

FOR THE SERVICE OF BARBADOS

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply.

ORDER NO. 9(a)- RESOLUTION TO GRANT\$691 756

FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2002-2203 HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

\$691 756.00

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, the amount of \$691 756 is required to supplement Head 38, Ministry of Housing and Lands, Programme 040 Direction and Policy Formulation Services, Subprogramme 532 Tenancies Relocation and Development.

Mr. Chairman, this amount of \$691 756 is required to offset the balance of money which is due for the project that is being undertaken by the Government for the relocation of families from Church Village, the City to Lower Burney, St. Michael.

Mr. Chairman, since April 1991 the Government acquired 10 253 square metres or 2.53 acres of land at Church Village, the City to be developed. This is to help those persons who were living in chattel homes and to relocate 22 landowners. Since then, Mr. Chairman, a number of things have happened to take effect to that proposal and the undertaking that Government had given to the people of the City.

In March 1997, the Cabinet agreed to the acquisition of 12.6 hectares or 29.5 acres of land at Lower Burney, St. Michael, the property of Kingsland Estate Limited for the housing development. Mr. Chairman, that project took a number of months to be completed and the acquisition process was finally completed somewhere around March 1998 and then the development took place.

4:50 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. G. S. CLARKE:

Mr. Chairman, based on the terrain of the property at Lower Burney, in many cases we found it to be low-lying. Sir, the engineering company, Clarkes Engineering was given the task of developing the site which was finally developed around November 2001. The roads, electricity and utilities were put in by Rayside Construction Company. Sir, as we noted, the contract figure has moved from \$3 million to approximately \$5 million over the last four years. This is because of, not only the delays in this project

but the terrain and a number of unforeseen variables.

Sir, if one goes to Lower Burney, one would notice that, in some instances, the site is not flat. It is low-lying. From history, it is believed to have been a pond in that area. Sir, it was chosen by Government on the advice of the engineers and, therefore, we have developed a site with the best potential. So far it will contain more than 223 lots, costing approximately \$5 million to develop. We will proceed with the relocation of the 33 units which are owned by the 33 families in Church Village. There is an additional 12 homes that are being rented by 12 families and, therefore, the entire Church Village project would be approximately 45 families.

Sir, we would also be locating 12 families from Seaview, the City and Riverside. There are also 20 lots for persons who are currently squatting at Murphy's Pasture. There would also be the provision of 30 lots for persons who have been disenfranchised by the amendment to the 1990 Act. A further five families would be relocated from the Dash Valley/Constant Road Improvement Project. Mr. Chairman, a total of 120 lots would be used for this type of programme.

Sir, we would also provide a further 103 lots for persons who are now seeking lots. The process will begin immediately because we have just learnt that the Town Planner has finally approved this development. There were a number of conditions attached to this development and Government had to adhere to the various conditions that were stipulated by the Town Planning Department.

Mr. Chairman, today's Resolution speaks to money for the relocation of Church Village. We are asking for approximately \$691 000 which is to supplement the full total of the cost of the Church Village Project which will cost approximately \$5.2 million to relocate the families. Sir, 33 of the houses will cost approximately \$3.1 million. The provision of septic tanks for the 13 units will cost approximately \$78 000. Sir, because of the zoning process, part of the land at Lower Burney is now being categorised as Zone 2. Then there is the construction of three quads, containing four units each, for persons who are unable to look after themselves totally. The State still has to maintain those twelve families in terms of providing rent-free accommodation to them. These units would be passed onto the Ministry of Social Transformation to be looked after.

Sir, once the families at Church Village are relocated, the site would then be cleared. To that, a sum of \$200 000 has been provided. Sir, the project has been going quite reasonably so far. To date, the 33 homes are at various stages. I believe approximately 25 homes could be completed by the end of this month and the remaining eight would be completed by the end of August. It is envisaged that by 15th August, 2002, the residents of Church Village should be able to move from that site. We may have to look at the 12 families because of that development and, therefore, these 12 families would have to remain for a further two to three months before being relocated.

Mr. Chairman, it is indeed a worthwhile project which Government is undertaking. I must say too that the Central Bank of Barbados has contributed \$2 million in the first instance and has pledged a further \$2 million which should soon be coming to the Ministry. Sir, this Supplementary here would be used to offset the balance that is needed to complete that project.

Sir, the site at Lower Burney, although for low income earners, we find to be especially pleasing. It is environmentally sound even though a number of suck wells had to be dug and trees had to be planted.

There would also be open spaces at Church Village and at Lower Burney. The Town Planner has asked us to do a number of other things than just plant trees for the residents there.

We believe when completed, it would not only be helpful to the residents at Church Village but also to the people of Barbados. Sir, already some of the residents have gone to Lower Burney and have selected their spots. The majority of the residents are very happy that finally they were to be relocated after being told this since 1981.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry, the representatives, along with the Deputy Prime Minister, have met with them on several occasions.

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. G. A. CLARKE:

We have had several town hall meetings, they have accepted the fact that they are moving and are looking forward to the move before the rainy season. I have asked the contractors and various people involved to push on with the work and let the process continue smoothly. Sir, other relocations in the City area have gone well, we had no problems and we do not envisage any problems at this site. We will do whatever is necessary to ensure that the people at Church Village are properly located to Lower Burney.

Mr. Chairman, with those remarks, I beg that this Head stand part.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, when I spoke in a previous debate about the relocation of the people at Church Village I said that I felt that since the officials at the Central Bank of Barbados want the people from Church Village to move, they should put their hands in their pockets to compensate the move of those people from that area because those people lived there before the Central Bank of Barbados was built, it would only be fair that these people be relocated and be in a better position than before.

I am hearing that the Central Bank of Barbados has provided or promised to provide \$4 million to relocate these residents to Lower Burney. I am calling on the Ministry of Housing and Lands to make sure that this \$4 million is spent on the people of Church Village and that the money not be used by National Housing Corporation nor the Ministry of Housing and Lands to do anything else other than relocate the residents of Church Village.

I am hearing the Minister tell this House that there are 12 residents who will have to be put in rented homes even though they will not be paying rent but that the properties will not belong to these people. I want to tell the Minister I do not agree with that because the Central Bank of Barbados has provided \$4 million to relocate these people, according to the Ministry of Housing to Lower Burney, and that is exactly how the money should be spent. Nobody should be asked to dig into their pockets to pay any additional money for relocation to Lower Burney.

Sir, this \$4 million is more than adequate and the Central Bank of Barbados should be congratulated for having a heart considering they did not want to look down on poor people from their high towers and they made sure they compensated the residents of Church Village for removing themselves to Lower Burney so that they could have a beautiful car park and lawn. The people of Church Village have given up a wonderful piece of property in the heart of the city, which is one of the best commercial areas of Barbados.

Sir, the Honourable Member for the City would agree that residents of Church Village have given up a lot in terms of location and they should be properly compensated for agreeing to move from that location. Sir, I am distressed that the Honourable Member for the City does not concur with my sentiments.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I know that the Honourable Member for the City is happy about the argument I put before this Parliament for the people of the City to make sure that they are compensated and those residents now know they have someone in Parliament to put their case for them.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Housing must use the \$4 million wisely because there is a saying in Barbados that when you move a chattel house twice, it is like a hurricane. I hope these chattel houses will not be moved to Lower Burney but they will be replaced for the simple reason that \$4 million has been given by the Central Bank of Barbados, \$2 million up front and \$2 million to come later. Sir, I hope that money will be spent on the people of Church Village.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I wish to give my support to the Resolution before the House. I regret that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would have risen on a matter like this to give such disinformation to this Honourable House. It would have been better that somebody who knows the history of this matter should have spoken but I will now speak to it.

Sir, the reality is that when the Central Bank of Barbados building now known as the Tom Adams Financial Centre was being constructed, I was the Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown then, as I am now. I made the case then to the Board of the Central Bank that it would not be right to have their spanking new building looking down on what was no better than a ghetto in the centre of our capital. Sir, it was not a good thing and I have spoken to it all the years that I have been in this Parliament because I have seen it in other countries and it leads to social unrest.

In those early days, with a view to urban renewal in the City of Bridgetown, it was met with no good response. My proposal then was that the Central Bank of Barbados should acquire the entire area and those people relocated to a more suitable place as it is a low lying area subject to much flooding. Since then, I have been working all the years and there have been other locations like this one as well. Sir, there is a place called Riverside that might not be known to Honourable Members in here but I know of the place.

5:10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: When I came to the City of Bridgetown nine houses were located there, the number of houses then reduced to five. There is a line of houses from the Nelson Gate of Queen's Park which leads into, what is now, the Riverside Bus Stand. During a heavy rainfall this area is subject to flooding.

Subsequently, as part of the Bridgetown redevelopment and still within the context of urban renewal, the Lower Green Bus Stand is going to be relocated to the north of the Post Office. Also north of the Post Office, behind the refurbished Pelican Village, there is a small community in a place known as Seaview Village and there are a few houses which have to be relocated to accommodate the extension of the Bus Stand and the redevelopment of that area, which will include an area for the Rastafarian community work village. The Rastafarian community was also involved in the process regarding how that area should be designed.

Sir, the reality is, the Central Bank, at the beginning, was not at all sympathetic to the case being put for the people who lived at Church Village. Church Village deteriorated, even in the face of urban decay. The people who lived at Church Village were never broken-spirited about it. They built a little play park for their children and even with those efforts it was hard to persuade the Central Bank to be generous to a neighbour.

I am very happy and have to congratulate the Minister of Housing and the officials of his Ministry that this move, like others before it, I am thinking of the first move in which I was involved, it was a very painful experience but it was for the betterment of the people who must come first. The move involved the residents of Chapman Lane and Emmerton to Clapham.

The Ministry of Housing has within it, very sensitive and well-trained people who know about counselling and advising people and literally helping with the process of relocation. Generally speaking, it is not an easy process, especially if you have been living in a place for a very long time, no matter how run-down it is and even though people are looking forward to nicer and newer premises there are all kinds of odds and ends to tie up. I have been invited to participate in the process, just as I was in respect of the Chapman Lane to Clapham move to help to make the process less traumatic and I am satisfied that the people of Church Village are going to a far more salubrious environment in which to live. I am satisfied that they are going to live in improved housing. Sir, most of the houses were not in a condition to be removed. In the majority of cases people are going to newly constructed houses. Sir, in the few cases where people have insisted that they would prefer to have their own houses removed, they have been fully assisted in that process. I am satisfied that the entire project has been well handled and managed and the move which is imminent will be the culmination of a long-held desire by the majority of those who live in Church Village.

Sir, I do not think that anybody in modern Barbados would choose to go and live in Church Village today. Some of the people who are being relocated to Lower Burney are people who squatted and created a very unhealthy situation at Murphy Pasture in the City of Bridgetown. Raw sewage was going into the canal and there was no water table so that a well could not be dug.

Mr. Chairman, the land at Murphy Pasture was always open land because it had a high water table. Sir, even in the dry season inches of water could be found in that area. These squatters threw water in

the backyards of residents in the surrounding area. Mr. Chairman, I can tell you about that part of the City of Bridgetown where people had upstairs dog kennels and chicken coops because the water would be three or four feet high in their backyards.

Asides

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Sir, as soon as those houses are removed, that problem will cease. It is proposed that the land which cannot take any construction on it should be properly prepared as a suitable play park for the small children in and around the area.

I am satisfied that everyone who had concerns, will see that these concerns are suitably addressed and properly advised. There are some people that you will never be able to satisfy but nobody can say that they are going other than to an improved environment, and that is the important thing. What is also important is the alternative use to which the Central Bank will put the land. I thank this Governor of the Central Bank for acceding to my very long, and not always patient request that this should come to pass.

It pleases me greatly that I am here today to be able to give support to this Resolution. These monies will go toward the process of the development of the site. The Honourable Minister pointed out that there is no way the residents are going to be relocated to a bare site. It is important that trees be planted and a healthy and happy environment is created.

I am often saddened, Mr. Chairman, as I drive around Barbados, particularly, where new housing estates have been built. I am not only speaking about low-income housing but middle and upper income housing where these areas are pure concrete. We will then be wondering why there is flooding in areas where we have never seen flooding before. That is why you will see trees in every housing development in the City of Bridgetown. Some of the most beautiful mahoganies remaining in Bridgetown can be found at Kensington Lodge. Sir, even at the London Bourne Towers, a site that is much constrained space wise, you will see trees growing there as well.

I am very grateful to the Ministry of Housing for the work that has been done and I am very happy that the Church Village residents will very soon be relocated.

5:20 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER:

I am also pleased to see more recently the Minister of Housing - I cannot praise him enough in this connection - has acceded to another request and again in the same context. It is not a good thing that a huge wonderful building should go up and cowering in the shadow of those buildings would be under-privileged and under-developed communities. I speak now of the Green Field, Mr. Chairman, the ICB has put up a beautiful building. The Ministry of Housing has built a headquarters for itself that will compare to anything in the developed world and cowering in the shadow of it, across a water course is the Green Field, one of the few remaining depressed communities in the City of Bridgetown. I am

pleased that the Minister, as he has long promised, has come out publicly to say that his Ministry is now addressing the question of the redevelopment of the Green Field.

Before I sit down, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must also speak to perhaps the one remaining area in Bridgetown, in the centre of our capital is a place known as Cats Castle. People who live there do not like for the most part for it to be called Cats Castle but that is what it is called. It is between Reed Street and between Mason Hall Street. There are some alleys in there that Honourable Members would never have heard of. I know them because I walk. There is the most wonderful community in there. I am especially kindly disposed to that community. My late father's family lived among that community so in a way that is part and partly where my antecedents slept and so you would understand why I have a special feeling about it. That is perhaps the one remaining area desperately in need of urban renewal.

As you would imagine, as a Minister of Physical Development and Environment for the City of Bridgetown it was the first area that I addressed and there is a plan and I still have it in my possession for the redevelopment of that area going back to the 1970's and all kinds of things intervened to delay it, including the sewerage of Bridgetown. That will now work to the advantage of that centre because it has been recommended to the Government and this is known to the Ministry of Housing. It is also known to the Ministry of Social Transformation which has some responsibility in the matter. The proposal is that the site of what used to be the ice factory just north of the St. Mary's Church, the Bridgetown Ice Factory, that entire site, the corner of Lakes Folly back to the original Chapman Lane a lot of it is open land now. The Government, I believe, is in the process under the auspices of the Urban Development Commission to be looking to acquire this land for medium- rise housing which will do everything to relieve housing of a kind that we do not wish to see in our city anymore or anywhere else in Barbados.

When I first came to the City of Bridgetown in 1976 in that area there were houses with dirt floors. People were living in barracks, meaning a number of people living around a central yard area in which they cooked and did all of their domestic business and they had to have recourse to public baths and so on. That has disappeared in Barbados but there are still vestiges in this particular area. I have done the best that I could to rehabilitate aspects of it over the years but it is at a place now where the only thing that has to be done and that can properly be done and sensibly redone there is to refurbish.

I know that the matter is in hand. I think that as the sewerage of Bridgetown worked against it, now it is going to work for it because you do not have to worry about septic tanks but just hook it into the sewerage system. The other support services are there as well for it. It seems to me, and I think after 25 years, Sir, I am entitled to be impatient, that it has taken an inordinately long time for the engineering and other preliminary works that have to be dealt with in order for the architects and quantity surveyors and other such people to get onto doing their work. These preliminary works, it seems to me, are just taking a long time. I know that the Urban Development Commission has many other calls upon it but I would be remiss, Sir, if I did not use this opportunity to urge more speed and more of a sense of urgency in respect of that project.

Once that project is completed, I would think that the capital of Bridgetown that I represent in this House - I really do mean that this is a great honour for me. This is my life's work and one which would have, I think, brought as far as possible to closure the removal of those awful living conditions of the 20th Century which have no place in Barbados in the 21st century. We are in the early years and

we can bring this to good resolution. We can bring this to closure with honour and with style. I hope that the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Social Transformation is harkening to these entreaties that I make. That has been the story of my representation of the people of the City of Bridgetown in respect of their housing conditions over the years. I am tireless in this endeavour, Sir.

I give my support to the Resolution and I wish the Honourable Member for St. George North well as he and his officers bring this project to good conclusion as he and his officers embark upon the work that is sorely needed and must be done to rehabilitate the area known as the Green Field.

In the precinct of the Green Field, is a little heritage area. The church now known as Calvary Moravian Church had within its precinct a very famous school which is now no more, the Roebuck Boys School to which many of the generation before us and the generations before them would have been grateful for the education opportunity that it offered them. Let us remember that it was the Quakers, the Moravians and the Methodists, of which I am one, Sir, who at great peril to themselves - Ann Gill is not a national heroine by chance - brought education to the slaves, what some people call the poor, black people of Barbados. Immediately behind the Calvary Moravian Church is now a very ramshackle and disused cemetery. The headstones are all over the place but it is part of our heritage and it is worthy of restoration. Perhaps the National Trust and other interested bodies should look at that. Whatever work is going to be done in the Green Field I am hoping will respect the fact that this is very sacred and historic ground in our City.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am much obliged of the opportunity to have made this intervention.

5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Hon. R. D. MARSHALL:

Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution brought by the Minister of Housing as he continues to make sure that the people of Barbados live in good conditions. Mr. Chairman, when I heard that this Resolution was coming to Parliament, at that time the Honourable Member for the City was overseas on Government business, and I was hoping that she would have been back here in order to make her contribution. She is the representative of the City and whenever she speaks of the City she speaks with passion.

I was present, Sir, when the London Bourne Towers were officially opened and much of what the Honourable Member for the City spoke of today, she spoke at that time. I said that the area of Church Village, I know it as a young boy, when I was in the choir at the Cathedral. There are memories that I cannot say here but as I said, I know the area.

Sir, at this time, I want to congratulate the Minister and the Central Bank for what they have done. I cannot call it a joint venture but I can say that as a good corporate citizen, the Central Bank has embarked on the area and they have made their contribution. Now, the Minister of Housing is continuing the same way he started as a Minister, with the housing stock of Barbados.

As the Honourable Member for the City mentioned, that area at the corner of Country Road, which now houses the Insurance Corporation of Barbados building, including the area immediately behind that building. I remember going to that location with the Prime Minister who spoke and said that the owner of the ICB will be embarking in a similar way to make sure that the Country Road area, what we call the Laundry Gap area, and behind the old probation office, will be coming in for some attention, by the ICB.

Sir, the National Housing Corporation has just put up new surroundings. There is going to be the new home for the Minister of Housing very soon and by October this year, he will be taking up residence in that building. As I said, that whole area will be enhanced. At the old Rudder School property, located at the end of that building, there are some new units. They were recently built by the National Housing Corporation to house the people that are being dislocated as a result of the lovely Bridgetown bypass road, the inner road and the outer road. The people in that area, those coming from the Culloden Road area, the Black Rock, Eagle Hall area, Passage Road and Country Road, are now being housed in that new building.

Sir, there is a lot of development going on in that area. The whole road is being rebuilt and at the end of the Country Road, by the Roebuck Street junction, that area will be enhanced. The old Lowe's Laundry will be a thing of the past, as it is being acquired by the Government for the road expansion and those shops on the right of the road, going as far as the entrance to the Transport Board. Sir, I am really hoping that very soon, we can see the whole area with a new face lift, starting from below the Globe by the old Atwell Building, Shorey Building and continuing on to Perry Gap and the Roebuck Street area. There are many dilapidated buildings in that area and I hope that very soon - I notice that one or two of them have "For Sale" signs on them - the whole area will be redeveloped.

I also want to say that I heard the Honourable Member for the City speak of the areas of Green Field and Cats Castle. Sir, with the areas that are being developed, I believe that we cannot leave them out and I am quite sure that very soon these areas will also be enhanced.

As I said, I want to congratulate the Minister of Housing for the work that he is doing in this area and that very soon these people from the area of Church Village will be well replaced.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Chairman, I want to add my voice to the discussion on the whole redevelopment programme that we introduced in the Lower Burney area and also the transfer of the people from the City of Bridgetown, namely, Church Village. Also I would like to touch on the concerns by the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, as they relate to the Cats Castle area, in the absence of the Minister of Social Transformation.

Sir, it is also important that a Government clearly understands what motivates it in making certain fundamental structural changes in a society, especially in the area of housing. If there is a common philosophy that influences the housing programme across the entire landscape of the nation, then you will see the consistency in the pattern of the housing programme. I am not the type who would give a rationalisation to the development of a housing project, simply on the grounds of what I consider being inanimate interest where we are just moving out the houses in order to create the aesthetics around

certain buildings for the comfort of persons who operate from within those institutions.

I prefer to premise my feelings and concerns on the grounds that housing is an important social issue, especially knowing the history of Barbados and knowing that the black people of Barbados in the early days had no houses of their own. Most of them lived in rented units or in small shacks for shelter that some people give them the noble title of a house. In some cases, those 4x6 shacks contained a family of six and that form of underdevelopment continued for a considerable time, right down to the middle of the 20th Century.

Sir, all of us should be proud about what is happening now as the Government continues in these difficult times to intensify its programme in an attempt to address the housing needs of Barbados people. I am extremely proud that my poor brothers and sisters from the City of Bridgetown, especially those who live in some of the worst conditions in this entire country, would now have an opportunity to live in far better houses than they have ever lived in before, and that is very important. Most of them will be able to enjoy better social environs and more spacious housing than they have enjoyed before.

Whatever was responsible for the motivation or whatever motivated the State to take such action, Sir, I am one who wants to express how happy I am that it has come to this point where the people of Cats Castle, who can look from their residence and see some massive buildings around them and see people enjoying the best of life in some parts of the City and Barbados, now have that opportunity and this is a blessing in disguise.

5:40 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. T. A. PRESCOD:

I hope that policy would be part of a national policy to address the needs of poor people who are living in very bad housing conditions. I say that because I want to stress the argument from the City not just to Lower Burney and have an excluded middle because I have a special interest in an area in a place called Martinique Road in St. Michael East which is sandwiched between Government Hill and My Lord's Hill and hidden by the houses on the periphery where there is a pocket of some of the worst houses and some of the worst conditions you can find human beings living in. For the last three years I have been trying to get a project going by removing 16 households out of that pocket into better conditions.

I do not want to place any blame on any specific Minister or any department but I am expressing these views because I want them to understand that I and the people of my constituency are conscious of the delay and when they see things happening in other areas of St. Michael and outside of St. Michael they ask the question of me why nothing is happening within that pocket of Martinique Road. I have only been able to move five families out of there within the last two years.

All I am asking for is for land either in St. Michael East to which most of them would prefer because they have social bonds and family relationships within the St. Michael East area of Martinique Road, My Lord's Hill and the Ivy. I would feel better if land can be found within the parameters of the St.

Michael East area to accommodate these people. There is land in the Haggatt Hall area which I am now responsible for and I would hope that the Minister would move expeditiously not only to go and observe the land but to work to see that the title is transferred right down to the people who are in need of the land for the improvement of the general lives of the people who live in my constituency.

Sir, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) did a social survey over a year and a half ago and pointed out the conditions inside the area called the Barracks. I will not list the social ills and the other things that would affect the lives of not only the people in that pocket but in the surrounding communities close to the Barracks. So I hope that I would be able to move the people out of that state of underdevelopment sometime in the near future. As I said, there was a social investigation by PAHO and the information is there. There was also another social investigation by the Urban Development Commission. As I said, I want the debate to be relatively elastic so it can touch on those issues.

The Urban Development Commission is trying to work in order to advance the process in the Cats Castle area to which the Honourable Member for the City spoke about in her presentation so that we can reach the stage where we are able to look at the costing of the actual construction of the redevelopment of that particular area. As she said, one of the considerations that was highlighted was the methodology that would be used as to where we will put the residents in the interim period while the houses are being demolished in Cats Castle. We look at the land over by the Evelyn Roach Building and Bajan Cleaners and the Government would have to acquire both locations, Cats Castle and over the other side to the western side, in order to get the project going. There was also some consideration about the type of soil in the area and there might be a prerequisite that the soil must be tested in order to determine the amount of storeys we will be able to build on that particular estate. So the Urban Development Commission (UDC) is engaging a number of consultants into the exercise.

The long delay coming out of the Urban Development Commission (UDC) did not only come from that but it came from having incompetent officers who are unable to carry out their duties, totally ignorant to their responsibility but fortunately in jobs receiving a large salary and dragging their feet on the job for over three years. Then when it was discovered that they did not have the type of persons to carry out the responsibility that was delegated to them they had to seek alternative means. I know people do not like me to say these things but I have to tell the public the truth because the truth is important. I would hope that as a result of the consultants becoming involved, we will be able to move swiftly to achieve the end that we set about to achieve.

Sir, once again, I want to compliment the Government in this exercise. It is very important that we clearly understand that this Government is committed to transforming the lives of poor people. I know the term "poor black people" is detested by some but that is what they are and who do not like it I am sorry because the people whom we are rescuing are poor, black people. They are not the opulent in the society, they are the poor black people in the society that we are attempting to rescue. There are many black people who are afraid of that and they cannot say it. We have to be able to identify the people we are addressing because I do not want the taxpayers to believe or for it to be said here or anywhere else that we are taking over \$600 000 and wasting it on people. We have heard it so many times as a charge against the Urban Development Commission (UDC) and the National Housing Corporation (NHC) as we address the housing needs of the poor, black people in the society.

Sir, I am envious of all the others who have land available to them. I feel the pain of the people in My

Lord's Hill who cannot rejoice at a project like this one and I hope that the Minister and what other departments are responsible for creating the conditions to make life happier for them would find means to accommodate them very soon. I hope the people who are responsible for those departments will demonstrate a social conscience and respond to the needs of the people in the zone 1 area, namely Licorish Village, My Lord's Hill and the surrounding areas.

I have to make this point which is very relevant because we are talking about national development in the area of housing. I am awaiting the report very patiently that they have promised me, as representative, at the end of July into August to see what it would reveal and then I would be able to speak more passionately on these issues. If they do not respond to me in meeting the housing needs of my people, I will know then that it is a deliberate attempt not to see me survive, so I am looking forward to that report coming out very soon.

5:50 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Continuation of Mr. T. A. PRESCOD:

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, this is a small sum but we have a lot of work to do in areas such as Carrington's Village, areas in St. Michael West and other constituencies within the perimeters of St. Michael where we need to focus in order to transform the lives of the people in these areas. Sir, I fully support this Supplementary before this Honourable House.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to respond to a few points that came out of the Resolution.

Mr. Chairman, the construction of homes for these relocatees would all be wall structures. There would be two- and three-bedroom homes ranging from 3 500 square feet to 4 000 square feet in floor space. Each relocatee would be provided with significant improved housing.

I also want to say too that the new residents would be able to purchase the land at \$2.50 per square foot. There would be no downpayment or any interest and they will pay for it, and as long as they could afford. We are hoping this type of arrangement could be replicated in other areas across Barbados.

Sir, other developments would be taking place in such areas as Haggatts Hall. We are now looking at land at the Lower Burney area to locate those persons on Zone One. Clearly, Sir, it is the intention of Government to ensure that Barbadians, wherever they reside, have improved housing and access to land.

Mr. Chairman, with those remarks, I beg that Head 38 stand part.

The question that Head 38 stands part was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by

Hon. A. P. WOOD, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of one money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by Hon. A. P. WOOD, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government's Business for today. I beg to move that this Honourable House be now adjourned until Tuesday 30th July, 2002 at 11.00 am.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Honourable House be now adjourned until Tuesday 30th July, 2002, was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the Sitting accordingly.

6.00 pm