

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy did touch on the work of the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) and I thought I would spend a minute just to reflect on that. I do not think that it was fair to suggest that there is any attempt, on the part of the National Council on Substance Abuse to compare the behaviour of smoking cigarettes with the behaviour of using harder drugs such as marijuana.

One must understand that illicit drug use is a crime under our law, but there are aspects of drug abuse, which, though not criminal are very detrimental to health. If the NCSA understands its limited role is simply one of operating as a counter agency to the demand for illegal drugs, then, I think it is a misunderstanding of the mandate which is given to them.

Certainly, drugs which do not fall within the ambit of those referred to, as illegally used substances, are still very detrimental to health. They therefore constitute hazards, whereas cigarette smoking is very legal, we are not necessarily as easily convinced that it is healthy or wise and I think there is a need to put that point.

On the other hand, the same cannot be said for alcohol, though its consumption is legal in Barbados certainly, I am sure that the testimony of the police, the court, victims of crime and perpetrators of crime, would suggest that there is often a linkage between the consumption of alcohol and the commission of crime. I want to make that clear, and to put a plug for a small and relatively new agency, such as the National Council on Substance Abuse, and salute it for the tremendous work which it has been doing across Barbadian communities.

I would want to go a step further, however, and compliment the Honourable Member for St. Lucy on a very clear position expressed relative to the use of other forms of drugs in Barbados which are now illegal. It is not the first time I have heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy express, in very clear terms, where he stands on this issue. I think if we want to make a call for dialogue on matters such as this, we have to be prepared to make that call by first making a very clear statement as to where we stand on that issue.

I still struggle in somewhat of a confused state of mind when I hear the Honourable Member for St. John express his views or take his position. Maybe, the confusion at the level of the mind is a reflection of my state, rather than the Honourable Member's for St. John. You cannot say to me in one breath that you are concerned about the issues of law and order and departures from behavioural norms that fall in compliance with law and order and that you understand a holistic approach must be taken. Also, you are so concerned that the society must address certain issues by dialogue and at the same time, signal that perhaps you are unclear in your

position by not being a part of that dialogue, to the extent that the opportunity is afforded you.

The Honourable Member for St. John must admit that he sends mixed signals, when he verbally takes that position and then, on the other hand, he withdraws from the parliamentary framework which was set up within the context of which issues of law and order, including use of drugs, are to be discussed.

There is a Select Committee of Parliament that addresses matters of law and order. The Honourable Member for St. John has withdrawn from that Committee as a participant, on behalf of the Opposition. As a matter of fact, and I speak subject to correction, but I think I am entirely right, the entire Opposition representation on that Committee has withdrawn. I am suggesting that something like that is, at least, sending mixed signals to me and, as I admitted, maybe the confused state of mind relates to me and not to Members on that Side. The dialogue has started, but I think we need to make our positions clear, and I salute the Honourable Member for St. Lucy for making his position clear on that particular matter.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to echo the call of the Honourable Attorney General and I would hope that there will be ears within the tourism sector, which would heed that call. I support the suggestion and proposal that there are some voluntary audit and certification processes or programmes entered into, by those in the hotel sector who feel that they and their guests are threatened by random or deliberate acts of violence.

Security is a big issue all around the world and we cannot escape that. A secure environment to me is a saleable commodity and if I understand the Honourable Attorney General correctly, what she is suggesting here is that by participating in an initiative such as that, a hotel entity therefore puts itself in a position to sell and market a secure environment as a product, as a service and as a commodity which has value in today's market. I support that suggestion and I do so wholeheartedly.

I want to speak for a moment to the issue of drugs. Again, the linkage is clear between the prevalence of guns, illegal firearms and drugs. I think that perhaps we are in danger, as some of our neighbours have experienced and that danger is one of perhaps looking at this matter of the illegal presence on a wide scale of firearms in our community, in two static terms.

We see the threat of the firearm, a spectre of violence, which threatens the individual, the home, the innocent bystander, as has been stated here already. Perhaps that is the situation today. There is a greater concern on my part as to what the situation will be tomorrow, if we can get a handle on this situation. I do not see it in static terms.

There was a time, in the experience of some of our Caribbean islands that the threat of the presence of the illegal firearm, was a threat which was realised in those terms, the individual and the legitimate business. Things have now gone on apace and the spectre of gun violence is now a threat to law enforcement entities. The presence of the gun and the use of the gun is now a real and deliberate threat to national security. We do not have to call the names of any country, but I am sure we are all aware of this. We have not reached that stage and I hope that we are very far away from that stage.

3.35 p.m.

I am suggesting that unless we get a handle on the presence of illegal guns in this country, we need to look down the road and see what can befall us where members of the police force will not be incidental targets of gun violence but deliberate targets of gun violence and where national security and national security entities will become deliberate targets of gun violence, not just incidental targets of gun violence.

If the truth be told in Barbados, the police would suggest that where there are targets of gun violence it is somewhat incidental. They stumbled upon somebody who is committing a crime or they go after somebody who has committed a crime and the person is trying to escape. In some of our neighbouring countries, the police are deliberately targeted and that is a reality.

The point I want to underscore is that there seems to be a fairly informed approach to countering the movement of drugs in and through Barbados but it seems to be far less an informed approach to stemming the flow of guns and that bothers me.

Very often we hear of catches of drugs or the findings of drugs and the thwarting of the movement of drugs but it seems to me that we cannot get sufficiently a handle on the matter of guns and that really bothers me. I do not know what we can do to better inform our actions in that regard. I do not know if our attempts to stem the flow have been sufficiently robust but I think we need to understand that the drug trade thrives in part because of the support of firearms activity so we desperately need to get a handle on that.

I am concerned today, Mr. Chairman, that we seem to put this business of crime within the context of a certain class and I want to refer to that. The problem of crime is not only a legal matter and the response cannot solely be legal. This Parliament introduced a Green Paper on crime by a former Attorney General. It seems to me that some degree of contempt was shown for the submissions made by the former Attorney General based on the context and substance of that Green Paper but yet almost all the comments I have heard today on the issue of crime seems to reflect what was present in that Green Paper.

Crime is not a problem we must address in legal terms. It is a cultural problem which means that it must be addressed out of a cultural context. It is a socio-economic problem, therefore, there are sociological features and factors which must be addressed. It is a developmental problem which means that we must address it in those terms as well. Crime arises out of and will arise more so out of a growing technological culture, as the last Honourable Member just said, and we must seek to address it.

I am suggesting that the problem of crime is pervasive and comes out of various contexts, therefore, it must be addressed to reflect the actions of those various contexts. As such, I look forward to the context of that Green Paper becoming a White Paper and formally accepted by this Honourable Chamber.

Much of the debate seemed to set crime in a working class context. I do not like that and I certainly do not agree with that either. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East expressed the view that there is some imbalance with respect to how he sees crime and where it is located in the Barbadian context. Crime is part of the working class culture of Barbados and it is also very much a part of the middle class and the upper class culture in Barbados. I say that in the context of what the Honourable Minister of Finance addressed in his initial presentation by saying that these Estimates are designed to shore up and to preserve our social capital. The causes of crime, if left unaddressed, will erode our social capital and gains in that direction.

Mr. Chairman, the business of globalisation is a phenomenon with which we are becoming more and more familiar. Barbados over the last several years, led by this Government, has been seeking to ready itself for the onset of globalisation and liberalisation. We have been readying ourselves to address the impact of globalisation as a trade and economic phenomenon and not as a social phenomenon to the same extent. I say that simply to suggest that globalisation will bring in its wake the kinds of waves which would shake some of the very foundations upon which this traditional Barbadian society has been lodged. I am suggesting that there will be a serious challenge to some of our values. I am suggesting that what we are already seeing is a shifting of values in our Barbadian society.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has got one minute.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: We have become a very materialistic culture. Mr. Chairman, from your perspective I am sure you will agree with the view that the value system of the market has now superseded our moral value system so that the market and market considerations are taking over from moral and moral considerations and the imbalance is becoming striking and part of the outflow of crime is at the

middle class and the upper class level because of a shift in the value systems.

We speak of competition as a phenomenon within liberalisation and globalisation. Mr. Chairman, competition is but a struggle for advantage and there is a tremendous struggle for advantage taking place in this country at the middle class and the upper class level. So what do I do in a situation where I think I am being disadvantaged? I will try to redress that disadvantage and sometimes the result is criminal activity of the middle class.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think at this point you should come again if you want to. I think you should end your debate.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I notice at page 136 under object classification 626 there is an application to this Honourable Committee for the sum of \$200 000 to provide for fees payable to the Law Reform Committee, preparation of the Barbados Law Report, payment of the retention fees to lawyers overseas and the implementation of new Rules of Court.
3.45 p.m.

Apparently, as far as the High Court is concerned, there is a constituted system where, to get a matter before the High Court, on some occasions one can come by way of writ, originating summon, originating motion, application or affidavit. The question arises in serious minds, Mr. Chairman, why when a matter is to go before the High Court, we must have these finite, nice distinctions, as to the manner in which the matter is brought before the court. England has been telling in recent time, look to the reform of the Civil Court and a lot of danger system that we still use have been changed in England. In case of a dispute one goes before a law court to have rights ventilated and adjudicated upon but why are we going to have a system which has some technical distinctions as to the document that triggers off the process. Then there is the interlocutory stage which is surprisingly designed to prevent the law courts from being clogged up in this interlocutory stage; where the idea of this interlocutory stage is to try to aim for a settlement but the claim itself, is so elaborate that it slows it down. Sir, I am going to support any mechanism by which we get new Rules of Court to get around processes such as writs, originating summons, applications and affidavits. We need a standard form procedure. Take a look at the magistrates courts as it is; one can get a matter before the court on what is called a claim and the exotic and elaborate system that obtains in the High Courts does not obtain in the Magistrates Courts. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that we may have to consider enlarging the jurisdiction of the Magistracy to perfect most civil law matters to be heard by Magistrates, rather than having to be heard by a High Court Judge.

We also have, Mr. Chairman, certainly in Barbados, the very spurious institution where, at the interlocutory stage when it comes to issues relating to interrogatories, discovery, summons for directions, there are instances where in Barbados, a judge is supposed to entertain these things. In many Commonwealth jurisdictions a specialist, called a Master, is employed; that jurisdiction being to entertain the interlocutory matter while the judges are kept for cases as to the substance of these cases.

Mr. Chairman, the time may very well have come where if we are going to seek to find systems in relation to originating summons, motions and especially writs, we may have to consider appointing specialist masters, whose exclusive responsibility would be to adjudicate on these interlocutory matters, leaving the judges to preside over matters that get on to the floor of the court and that are contested.

I want to welcome too the allocation of this sum under Head 26, page 136, because part of this allocation is to go towards the Barbados Law Report. It is not a pleasurable experience when practitioners in searching for the Barbados Law Report, recognize that there are times when they are not available and then there are times when there are gaps. I remember there was a movement towards producing Law Reports for Barbados in the 1980's. At one point, around 1991, I myself, could not find a Barbados Law Report that was published after 1986. There are important judgments that come out of the Barbados High Court and the Court of Appeal which would make interesting reading and to be able to get these judgments in the absence of the Law Report, one had to have a friend in the Registry to photocopy them or one had to go up to the University of the West Indies because they are always on top of things and always know what are available but they put them together in a folder or on a legal pad and that is where you can access them. That is not satisfactory, it is for those who invest in the Law Reports to ensure that legal learning is available, not only to the profession and to students of law but to preserve for posterity. In any common law type jurisdiction, legal literature matters to a tremendous degree and to the practitioners it is very, very important because that is where one finds the law. Therefore, I would like to ask all Honourable Members to speak out in favour of serious considered policies and upon consistency of the Barbados Law Reports in the same way I would like to see a rethink and a re-look at the Civil Court in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I notice at Head No. 30, page 138, Item 625 the sum of \$2 589 188 is being asked for largely in support of equipment for the proposed Forensic Laboratory. In an era where scientific evidence has to be evaluated because of its unique nature not only for criminal cases but to other cases as well, there is no question that one of the best things that would have happened at this time is the

investing of the establishment of the Forensic Laboratory, which I am sure will be well managed and well equipped.

Now, Sir, I do not want anybody to become impatient but there can be no question that the equipment will be provided but because of budgetary constraints that Laboratory will not get all that it wants in one financial year and we will hope that the coming years 2003 to 2004, 2004 to 2005, will see further innovations.

I welcome the decision to introduce DNA testing; the system of DNA testing is much better than the old system of blood testing which was not all that reliable. I envisage the type of laboratory equipment that this new Forensic Laboratory will have is going to do a lot for the management of forensic matters. In anticipation of the success of this Forensic Laboratory, there are Barbadians who are going to be trained – in fact some of them are already trained – in forensic sciences. Only recently I spoke to a young man who is keen on becoming a forensic psychologist. He would not have been thinking of becoming a forensic psychologist ten years ago when there was no forensic lab. The old Government lab was not equipped as a specialist forensic lab; it was generous in its functions; it was very much not equipped with all the resources but with this new lab we are going to definitely see forensic science unfolding.

Sir, I believe that with the type of management the laboratory is going to have, that Barbados is going to set a standard in forensic matters in the Caribbean which is going to be the envy of other Caribbean countries and which will see other Caribbean countries depending on us and using our resources to their benefit. Mr. Chairman, in a culture where we heard the Honourable Prime Minister say that this economy will become a service economy then this is one of the many services that Barbados will be able to market in CARICOM and perhaps the rest of the world.

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North lament the incident of trivial accidents which take up a lot of police time. He was suggesting where there are trivial accidents on busy roads at peak hours, then they really are a nuisance. I wonder how many Barbadians know that as the law is at present, that if someone called Glyne hits a guy name Richard's car, that both parties by law are bound to indicate their names, addresses and insurance companies to each other. Of course, the misfortunate in a culture that has seen a lot of lawlessness is that there are too many vehicles on the road that are not insured. Also in reply to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, where the police comes as an independent person taking statements as to what has transpired, then one driver's evidence is going to go against the other driver when, historically, we have always put a lot of emphasis on police reports. Traditionally too, a lot of police reports are non-committal and there is the possibility of hearsay because, clearly, policemen are not there when the accidents occur. The report that they prepare

is not necessarily the best evidence but under the Best Evidence Rules, a policeman who is 20 miles away, who arrives at an accident an hour after, having to put together a report from two persons who are equally strong in their lies, can only report what has been reported to him and therefore that is hearsay.

Mr. Chairman, I would also want to conclude by reiterating my earlier position; in a culture that has seen the availability of drugs, in a culture that has seen transnational trading in drugs, in a culture where the pressure of the police is enormous, I would want to compliment every member of the Royal Barbados Police Force for their determination in having to deal with the drug problem at the level of capturing the drug so that it will not be made available for those who would want to contribute to using it. I always feel pleased to hear when the police are successful in capturing pounds of illegal narcotics because much has been heard and suggested that we have to re-look our policy on marijuana, there is no question in my mind that this marijuana cannot dissolve in water but only in fat and that, depending on a person's being it might very well dissolve in the fatty tissues of the person's brain and therefore it is very possible that a lot of those youngsters one sees on the streets, who have never used cocaine, alcohol or tobacco but have used marijuana, would have had the experience of the marijuana attacking the fatty tissue of their brain, rendering not only their cells but their thinking, askew. One sees them on the streets as what the Jamaicans call raving schizophrenics, junkies, vagrants, or nomads. I do not like to see young men and women lying in the streets who are there because their brains were battered by illegal substances. Sir, do not think that I am taking a necessary hard line against marijuana while being supportive of other substances. There is a substance that is legal called alcohol which can also be lethal and if taken in copious enough quantities can bewitch the consumer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Honourable Member to wind up.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: The book of Proverbs says, "wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and he who is deceived by it is never wise."

I thank you.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know the hour is approaching where we are anxiously waiting to get to the Home Affairs Head. Sir, there are two matters on which I want to speak and which I am going to condense into this intervention and once again, having preceded me the Honourable Member for St. James North has given me the platform from which to launch. The Honourable Member wound up his comments on vagrancy.

Mr. Chairman, sometime ago, perhaps in 1988, this Administration established a Task Force on vagrancy in Barbados. It was brought before and approved by Cabinet, I know because it was a paper which had originated in the then Ministry of Health and Environment. That Task Force, since I left the Ministry precipitously in 1999, I am unable to say what happened to it but there was a sound reason for the establishment of that Task Force. It is a Government policy at the time that we should have pursued and not let it die. In the four years that have intervened since the establishment of the Task Force the need for the solutions which we were looking to recommend has grown even more urgent because as we look around both Bridgetown and urban centres in Barbados, we can see larger numbers of people of various age groups; some young, some not so young; many males but several females, crawling on the vagaries of ill fortune and have become vagrant for a number of social reasons. Sir, part of the work we did in preparing that paper for Cabinet, the report showed that some 90 per cent of the people who end up on the street as vagrants do have some form of mental problem; whether it was induced by substance abuse, genetic or other causes, the reality is that it is a problem that is rooted in health.

There was a perception I know, post my leaving the Ministry of Health that the Ministry of Social Transformation should have led on this matter of vagrancy and not the Ministry of Health, therefore, they were not bothering themselves with it. Sir, the position is that it is a Barbadian social problem and we cannot refuse to deal with social problems by classifying and categorizing them for being the problems for X or Y Ministry; it is a problem that the Government urgently needs to address for the sake of all those persons on the streets and for the sake of the rest of the community who are being subjected to begging by parros, to watching men masturbate on the side of the streets, to see people sleeping with their private parts open for one to see, whether one requests a viewing or not, to see people sleeping with dogs around them – it really says something about the society that we have and the state of the capital city of this country. We need to go back to this Task Force and get it to meet urgently and get the solutions which we were at that time seeking.

Sir, we cannot continue to ignore the problem of vagrancy in Barbados. We cannot fail to deal with the seminal causes of the problems, nor can we fail to recognize that the problem is getting progressively worse and that is a reflection on the policy makers of the society that we have, in the same way that people are abandoning their old people at Government hospitals, health care institutions, homes for the elderly, and not looking back at them. We cannot leave Barbadians on the streets, unattended. Whatever their problems are, if this is a caring Government, and we say we are; if we are trying to find a social or a safety net for the most vulnerable in the society, then it is incumbent on us to

reach out to those persons and find tentative solutions that effectively deal with the problem in the long term.

The second problem I wish to speak to is the matter of drugs in Barbados. I wish to commend the Royal Barbados Police Force for the fact that in recent times they appear to have had tremendous success in interrupting the supply of drugs on the streets and in particular, I do not now see him in Chamber but I seem to recall that on several of these occasions, Mr. Darwin Dottin was, in fact, the Acting Commissioner of Police and in so far it was under his leadership, that is not to say I am not commending all of those in the Force who were involved but certainly in my view, he is the person to be commended as being the person who was sitting in the chair at that time.
4.05 p.m.

It may only have been fortune on his part but such is the nature of life that we can sometimes get credit for other people's work by being in the right place at the appropriate time.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North spoke to the matter of the fallout from the success of interrupting the supply because there is now likely to be exacerbation in gang related activities as people fight to defend their territory and, therefore, the risk of innocent citizens getting caught in the crossfire and the work of the police will increase as well.

There are other components of the drug trade on which we need to focus and which we should be greatly concerned. There is the issue of money laundering and the fact that Barbados continues to be targeted as a transshipment centre for drugs. We have already seen one of the known international *modus operandi* of those in the drug trade, that is, the targeting of the judicial system. We have had in Barbados one case where a person sitting on the jury was approached and the integrity of the jury system compromised by indirect intervention in the judicial system by the payment of monies to subvert the course of justice.

I wish to caution that we are in fact going to see more of that kind of activity and approaches are going to be made to judicial and quasi judicial officers. If they have not been already approached, since we are not using any yardsticks to measure these things, we are going to see attempts made to corrupt the civil service, the police, customs officers, the political directorate and those people directly involved in the chain. Sir, people will feel that if the political directorate can be corrupted as has happened in countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and other places in the world, then you will see attempts made to corrupt people at all levels of society in order to guarantee the people in the drug trade safe passage for their merchandise.

Sir, we have to, beyond the policing component of the drugs on the ground, start thinking in terms of how do we

stop the political directorate, how do we stop Customs Officers and Police Officers who must be on the front line of defence in this matter from being corrupted by those for whom mega profits mean so much that the corruption of a judicial officer, politician or a policeman is just a part of how they do business.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: It is simply a part of their bottom line and it is one of the things that they write off as an essential expenditure in guaranteeing the trade.

Sir, in the same way that there is the traditional view that judges should be given a certain level of remuneration for their work in order to make them less open to approaches and compromising their integrity, similarly we would have to look at persons who drug traffickers will definitely make an attempt to corrupt and determine what that remuneration will be and whether they should be put at a level where they are not likely to be compromised.

Finally, Sir, the matter of environmental crime. I know the police have a hard choice and if there is a choice between apprehending a rapist or a murderer or a person who is littering, the person littering will not be given any priority. There are a number of environmentally related offences on the statute books which are never prosecuted but which constitute criminal activity and can cause just as much harm as a direct stab wound or an assault against the person.

Sir, persons will take their vehicles and instead of carrying the waste to the landfill they will stop short in the first gully and dump it there. There are also persons who will drive around in mini buses and throw empty cups and containers out of the vehicle window. The cups stay by the side of road, catch water, the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito will breed in them and the next thing you know somebody living in the area will contract dengue fever. People dump all kinds of toxic waste in our gullies. They dump asbestos in gullies and in the Belle where 60 per cent of our water is in the catchment area underneath and it puts the entire community at risk.

Mr. Chairman, these are crimes on the statute books and the police do not prosecute them. While these crimes do not involve direct assaults, I am asking the police, if they are renewing their efforts to pursue these matters because this kind of behaviour is legislated and it has potential for great harm not only to individuals but the wider society. Sir, this is behaviour that we have been lax about for a long time. In Singapore, for instance, you cannot chew gum or litter. We engage in behaviour that is offensive and socially unacceptable and they now pass as the norm.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will now ask the Honourable Member to wind up.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, I am asking that we pursue these matters and stop behaving as if they are socially acceptable norms. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all Honourable Members who have spoken under this Head and to say that, generally, it has reflected a level of consensus in respect to how we should be approaching matters pertaining to the modernisation of our justice system; the structure of our justice system; the need to delink from the judicial committee of the Privy Council; the issues as they relate to the fighting of crime; the need for the cooperation of members of the public and the need for a holistic approach that deals with the causes of crime.
4.15 p.m.

I believe that there is a level of appreciation for the provision of better data on which we can make concrete decisions which can lead to the improvement of the security of the nation and the transparency and delivery of justice in the nation. It is linked with the competitiveness of the economy as well as the improvement in the quality of life to be enjoyed by persons.

I am grateful for the clear unanimous support from all Members who have spoken in respect of a strong stance against the use of firearms in this country and for the courts to act in the strongest possible way, without us directing them because we cannot direct them, but to note that the laws of the land already provide for sentences up to 25 years imprisonment for the use of firearms and these laws need to be used, as was the intention of Parliament when the legislation was passed.

I believe that we have had a full debate and there are only two matters that I would like to address. In so doing, I want to thank Honourable Members for lending their support and the Royal Barbados Police Force, who I maintain continue to do a reasonably good job and have to be congratulated for working sometimes under the most arduous conditions.

I can say that it is my intention to have completed this year a comprehensive study that looks at the role of policing; the extent to which the demands on the police have changed over the last few decades; the extent to which crimes have also changed in terms of what crimes are being committed and whether our capacity in terms of actual manpower as well as our methods of policing relate to the domestic situation in terms of where the need is in the preservation in the rule of law. I believe that if we can do this, we can come to a better position in being able to help the Royal Barbados Police Force, in being able to help facilitate them, in being more effective in the mandate which they have.

I also want to say that the question of training must be central to the work of the police force and we would wish to

see some expansion in the levels of training being afforded to members of the force. I have started with the Canadian Solicitor General with whom we signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January, 2002 and also with all other Governments with whom we have strong friendly relations to see to what extent we can expand access to training for members of the force so as to improve the quality of resources within the force.

Equally, I would wish to see discussions start this year between the Regional Police Training Centre and those who are planning the framework for the University College of Barbados. It is important that they can be clear articulation between training done by the training centre, not just by the police, but as you will hear shortly for other members of the disciplinary forces, with traditional and mainstream academic institutions, so that people who want to be able to do other courses can have credit given for the training that they have undergone at the Regional Police Training Centre rather than having to matriculate as if they had done no training whatsoever. It is important that we bring about efficiencies in terms of how persons can use what they have already been exposed to as an advance credit to being able to go on to higher training.

I believe that the time has come for that dialogue to take place between the Regional Police Training Centre and what currently exists at the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic but soon to be hopefully the University College of Barbados.

I want to say at this stage that I am concerned about the fact that the police officers continue to operate without some level of insurance in respect of injuries incurred while in the course of duty or death occasioned during the course of duty. Sir, I give the House the assurance that during the course of this year, we will seek to resolve this matter so that by the time we meet next year in the Estimates, this will be a matter for which we can have a solution that is appropriate to the needs of the police and their relatives to the resource of Government. Sir, it is a matter of great concern to me and it is one that I would wish to have resolved during the course of this year.

Sir, on the issue of law reform, I believe that it is important that the Law Reform Commission starts to meet again within the Attorney General's office. There has been some hiatus with it. There are a number of Bills and areas of reform which we need to focus on. The area of mental health is one key area in which I believe there is need for great reform. The area of juvenile delinquency is another one in which we anticipate there will be some reform during the course of this year. In the area of consumer protection, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has already started with the instructions that they gave us for the Consumer Protection Act but I believe that we can go further and look at things

such as Unfair Contractors Bill which will allow the courts to have some legal authority in dealing with those persons who would wish, through the force of their power, to force unfair contractual terms on consumers who do not have the bargaining power to do otherwise.

Equally, given the current state of high financial charges and the relative imbalance in power between the consumer and the private financial institutions in the country, I think that the time has come for us to have before Parliament a Truth and Lending Bill which will require financial institutions to state the accurate cost of financial interest charges that are charged to consumers. Sir, very often when you are told that you are borrowing at the rate of 10 per cent, by the time you work out the compound interest and what is the effective rate of interest, it is much more than the average person believes it to be.

Sir, these are some of the matters that I hope to inform the work of the Law Reform Commission, which we hope to activate again. I believe that all of these are things which will help to bring about a more level playing field in this society to ensure that the general objectives of the Government in terms of building on the quality of life, which we are entitled to, can be achieved. I hope that this Ministry can play a significant role in making these things become a reality.

The resources which have been given to us are capable of allowing us to advance some of this work this year in circumstances where there will be opportunities for better provisioning in the future; we will then be able to play our hand a little more generously than we have been able to do this year.

4.25 p.m.

In spite of all of that, I believe that we have been able to articulate some key programmes, the completion of the new forensic centre; the establishment of the anti-robbery campaign; the establishment of the anti-burglary campaign; the commencement of the modernisation of the justice system through information technology being used as a platform in the establishment of a criminal justice information system; the expansion of library resources for all of the professional departments, the Attorney General's office, the Supreme Court, the law courts, the magistrates' courts and indeed, the DPP's office where we will give them on-line access to material to be able to allow quicker and better research capacity and, indeed, Mr. Chairman, the provisioning within the police force that would see us being able to start a phased programme which over three years would see every police officer equipped with a bullet proof vest and the upgrading of the telecommunications capacity of the Royal Barbados Police Force which has not been upgraded for some time and which is causing serious problems. We hope, through direct subvention and financial arrangements, for a loan to have this matter put to rest during

the course of this financial year and the opportunity to have mobile police stations across a number of districts so as to be more effective and flexible in the fighting of crime.

May I say I want to congratulate the force that since we have placed the mobile unit at St. Lawrence Gap we have had very few instances of crime. It is clear support for the thesis that once there is a strong and vital presence of police, criminals tend to shy away.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his maturity in his speech this morning on our being able to do serious work in the collection of further data as to a number of factors that affect the commission of crime in Barbados, including attitudes towards drugs, attitudes towards elements of lawlessness. I give the House the assurance that this survey will take place during the course of this year so as to allow us to better make decisions as policy makers. I hope and trust that this programme as adumbrated in the Estimates of 2002-2003 can help to occasion the improvement in the general security of the nation and in the delivery of justice to all Barbadians and to all persons needing the services of the law courts to resolve matters. The issue of alternate dispute resolution will also be addressed under the IDB project as well as judicial training and upgrading of the prison farm which I will speak to under the next Head of Home Affairs.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I thank all Members on both Sides who contributed to the debate and I thank them for their maturity in the comments they have made. I can only trust that the officers in my Ministry, along with the support given through these Estimates, can help to bring about a better Barbados in terms of the delivery of justice and the maintenance of law and order.

I beg to move that Head 30 do now stand part.

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

The question that Head 30 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS – \$22 969 997

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this debate under the Ministry of Home Affairs is related in a lot of ways to one which was previously done under the Attorney General's Office. The focus of this side of the debate has more to do with the penal institutions and then of course other departments such as Immigration, the General Post Office, the Fire Service, the Government Information Service, the Central Emergency Relief Organisation.

I will be a little briefer in my introduction of this because I believe that Members do have some comments

which they would wish to make, but simply to highlight some of the key areas of the programme activities for this year.

I have said in this Chamber, Sir, that Her Majesty's Prisons at Glendairy was built in 1855 and was built to accommodate no more than 350 persons. At this juncture, we are accommodating in the vicinity of 893 prisoners for a prison that was built to accommodate 350. Over the years, there have been some *ad hoc* development in terms of the structures of that prison but none that seriously address the issue of being able to deal with the pressure that was being placed upon it by the law courts.

My Ministry, Sir, has an approach that would see a mix of measures being used to deal with the reduction of the numbers as well as the enhancement of the security of what, essentially, is Barbados' only prison at this point in time. We believe that through legislative, administrative as well as a policy of alternative construction, we can help to deal with the very acute problem that is being faced by the Her Majesty's Prisons at Glendairy in respect of over-crowding.

There is absolutely no doubt, in my mind, that the new penal Reform Act of 1998 was aimed to a large extent at providing additional options to sentencing in the law courts such that those persons who were traditionally sent to prison every year can now, in fact, be the beneficiaries of a more comprehensive review as to what is the appropriate sentence they should face in respect of the crime committed. Suspended sentences, community sentences, the question of attendance centre orders are but some of the few options available to the courts now since the introduction of the Penal Reform Act.

It does not stop there. We believe that the time has come for us to review comprehensively how best a system of parole can be introduced into Barbados so as to allow those persons within prison, whose behaviour has been exemplary, who have shown a level of contrition in respect of the offence which they have committed and who we believe are ready for re-integration into the society, to be released on a system of parole such that if they break that system of parole they are re-admitted into the prison system. Therefore, they will have an incentive to behave well for a number of years after they are released.

Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that research in most jurisdictions show that the most dangerous time for any person being released from prison is the first two years after release when he or she is likely to recommit an offence. That is the vulnerable time in which they are likely to recommit an offence if they are going to go down that path at all. Genuinely speaking, beyond two years, persons are less likely to go back on to a criminal path if they have remained out of prison and are into mainstream society behaving themselves for that period of time.

As it stands now, the only thing that is available to a prisoner is to be the beneficiary of three months off for good behaviour on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Once that person leaves prison, there is no mechanism to monitor his or her behaviour in the society and there is no immediate incentive that is available to them to want to be able to behave good other than if that comes from within themselves alone.

We believe that a system of parole can help us meet all the needs at hand but we do feel that Barbados is too small to have a separate parole department and a separate probation department.

4.35 p.m.

Unlike other jurisdictions it makes sense for us to view the system of parole in the context of the structure for the existing Probation Department, while recognising that there will have to be a substantial level of retraining within the Probation Department to meet the new needs of human reform as we see them.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to speak about all this in a vacuum because the truth is that we feel strongly that there ought to be a Department of Correction. In fact, a Paper will be going to Cabinet shortly to solicit Cabinet's approval for the establishment of a Department of Correction which will have the overall responsibility for a penal institution and for reformatory measures and for probation and parole. We believe that you cannot look at punishment without looking at the opportunity to rehabilitate a person.

In truth and in fact, from a quick perusal of the data that is available without having the comprehensive study done that we want, most people who enter Glendairy Prison, enter for periods of time shorter than two years. It means that they are back out into the society within 18 months. This means therefore that we cannot have an attitude, well if they do wrong, lock them up and throw away the key because these people are coming back out into the society within a relatively short period of time and therefore, it is in the interest of the society and of the State, to determine that there has been some reformation of behaviour, so that these persons do not become threats to the security of the community or to the country again.

We have therefore, to treat to the issue of rehabilitation and punishment in a single, cohesive way, rather than believing that the only thing that should happen is to lock up and throw away the key. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that when a man commits a crime and that crime is a **heinous** dangerous crime he ought to be punished. But in punishing him, we also have to recognise that at some point we have to see how we can help rehabilitate that person, particularly if that person is being reintegrated into the society. Even if they are not being reintegrated into the society, in quick order, they are still influencing and

interacting with other human beings on whom they can have a negative influence. One would wish to be able to stop that kind of activity.

We also believe, that apart from the establishment of the Department of Correction with a holistic perspective on issues pertaining to punishment and rehabilitation, we ought to be able to systematically look at those things which persons need when they come out of prison and see how best we can reduce their vulnerability when they are trying to access them. They need housing, invariably they need either a job or access to some sort of direction for some trade or self-employment. They need also more importantly than all of that someone with whom they can talk, whom they can relate to and whom they can trust.

Therefore, we will be working systematically with a number of entities to see how best we can meet these needs for persons coming out of prison, so as to reduce the numbers, hopefully, of persons who become *lasitavist* who go and commit crime again. In respect of the need for shelter, this is an acute problem, and I do not necessarily believe that the Government should undertake the responsibility of providing some kind of hostel type of accommodation but organisa-tions, such as the Prison Fellowship of Barbados as well as other service entities who have an interest in providing services to the community may want to look at the provision, along with some assistance from the Government and some type of dormitory type of accommodation where persons can catch themselves for the first three or four months, until they are fully back on their feet, particularly in circumstances where their families are not either able to take them or they have no where to go.

We also recognised that it is imperative that the skills which are learnt in prison and have the capacity to generate economic opportunities, need also to be assisted in terms of allowing for some kind of distribution capacity or sale of those services.

I do not think there is anybody in Barbados now who does not know that the prison produces some of the best artwork that this country has for sale and at reasonable prices. Indeed the winning of the Ivan Payne award last year, by Jefferson Hope, one of the inmates was a single honour and it is one which I would wish to salute because the truth is, I know that many of these fellows before they went into prison, would never have thought that they would have picked up a paint brush or be painting or drawing or whatever. They now recognise and realise that they have a talent and feel proud about themselves being able to achieve excellence in an area of endeavour that is recognised by the society and that is capable of earning them a living.

In those circumstance, we have to ensure that those people are not marginalised when they come out of prison and then have to resort to some form of a petty thief or some

form of aggravated acquisitive crime which cause them to be back in prison again.

The Superintendent of Prisons has already indicated that it is his intention to have some kind of retail facility where most of the work that is produced at the Prisons can be made available for sale to ordinary members of the public. I believe that this is a step in the right direction. I want to salute also certain members of the private sector who have agreed to work with it so as to ensure that these fellows have an opportunity not to be disenchanted.

The worst thing we can do is expose a person to a skill, make them believe they can make money from that skill and then they are stranded and cannot make a cent. They become disillusioned and they become marginalised in the society and if you have nothing to lose, then you could as well go back to prison because you do not have anything to lose.

In respect of the issue of security, obviously this is of great concern to us and I want to thank the new management of the prison, as well as the existing prison wardens for helping to make and take Glendairy out of the newspapers. For the most part for the last six months, there has been very little negative reference to Glendairy with one major exception, which was most unfortunate and which I am not able to speak about, because the matter is *subjudicate*.

Sir, with that one exception, the spectacle of seeing Glendairy Prisons in the newspaper, once, twice or three times a week over a six to nine months period last year has finally come to an end. I genuinely believe that the leadership which is being delivered at the prison is such that it is strong, firm but it is fair. I want to applaud them and ask them to please continue in that vein.

I also want to advert to the fact that one of the mechanisms which we can use to reduce the numbers at prison, apart from parole, and apart from other forms of behaviour modification where instead of giving three months off only for good behaviour, you can also have a higher tier of four months for those who behave exceptionally well, is the mechanism of prison transfer agreements. I am happy to report that we are in the process of concluding, with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Solicitor General's Chambers, a number of agreements with countries, namely, the United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland and have others in line to start soon.

There are 103 prisoners at Glendairy who are not Barbadians and that is a substantial number, given the overall population of just under 900 persons at the prison. Sir, half of those are Caribbean prisoners and we are yet to work out how best we are going to treat to the issue of Caribbean prisoners in the context of a single market and economy and whether a regional prison transfer agreement is the

appropriate model or whether we should have some other mechanism to treat the CARICOM Caribbean prisoners.

Certainly, those from outside of the region we should have the ability, with the exception of the United States of America with whom we have not entered into any serious discussion, we should have the ability to determine, as post Government, as well as the prisoner having the opportunity to determine, as well as the receiving party, whether this person is a person who should benefit from the prison transfer agreement.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the security problems at Glendairy and as a result of the overcrowding, we announced that this Government will be seeing to the construction of a new maximum security prison. In many ways, it is impossible to enhance the security of Glendairy beyond what is available now. It is our deliberate judgment that the country needs a new maximum security prison. We have determined that a public private sector partnership is the way we should go forward.

4.45 p.m.

Equally, in the same way that the Department of Correctional Services paper is going to Cabinet shortly, a Paper will be going to Cabinet to approve the terms of reference for us to go out to public tender in respect of the provision of services for a new maximum security prison in this country.

Sir, some of the conditions at Glendairy Prisons are simply appalling. This year's Estimates reflect a commitment to improve some of those basic conditions even though we are building a new prison because everybody will not be transferred to the new prison. In those circumstances, we have taken a decision that the sanitary facilities in respect of the female prison must be upgraded during the course of this financial year because women with all of the attendant biological functions require the minimum sanitary facilities in order to feel like human beings. It is inhumane for us to have women slopping in prison in Barbados in the year 2002. They are being punished for a crime and they are not to be made to feel less than human beings. Therefore, I am happy to let this House know that part of the funds in this year's Estimates is being utilised to put bathrooms and sanitary facilities in each of the female cells at Glendairy Prisons. This is in the context of an Estimates where the Prime Minister has indicated that generally health lies ... But it is an indication of this Government's concern for the security of the institution.

While most other government departments have been asked to hold a line, we are providing Her Majesty Prison with an additional \$2 million which is a 15 per cent increase. Last year they were provided with \$11.9 million, this year they are getting \$14 053 000. This level of increase is being supported by this Government in

recognition of the integral role that the prison plays in the maintenance of national security.

Government also recognised that we need to upgrade the workshops and the kitchen which has become almost dysfunctional in respect of its capacity to feed the inmates and we will be spending some money this year to correct that. We also have to continue the work of strengthening the prison walls because that obviously is a low point in respect ...

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Honourable Members would remember that we had a national disaster two or three years ago there and Government indicated on that occasion that there would be a phased approach towards the rebuilding of the prison wall and funds are in these Estimates to continue progress in that phased approach.

We will be introducing a programme there which would allow for the psychological and psychiatric testing of inmates who have some level of mental health difficulty. Very often we look at people and assume that they are just 'wutless' or they are just wicked or they are deviant without recognising that there are sources and causes for their behaviour. Where there has been a high level of drug usage there is a need for a level of counselling and psychological and psychiatric testing as well.

There is also a joint programme with the National Council of Substance Abuse for the testing of arrestees for drugs which would also be introduced in the next financial year.

There is also a determination that we would get the prison farms comprehensively and appropriately structured and off the ground this year and instead of simply farming there at the corner on a piece of land at Lower Estates and at Waterford we would be seeking to put into good husbandry a substantial piece of land at Dodds Plantation which is owned by the Government. We anticipate that there will be some help under the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) project for the purchasing of equipment to enhance the prison farm.

Under the HIV/AIDS Project there is a sum of money to erect a building at Glendairy Prisons to provide for counselling and support services for those persons who have been affected or infected by the HIV/AIDS virus. That is also provided in this year's Estimates.

As I indicated, we have very little data at the prison and I am happy that Colonel Nurse has already started a process of collection and analysis of that data as of January this year. We have also hired the services of two persons who have

experience in criminology and penal reform who would be helping us to collect, collate and analyse data more effectively to better inform policy decisions in respect of the management of penal reform and correctional institutions in Barbados.

It is also anticipated that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) justice programme which I refer to under Head 30 will ensure that the prison becomes part of the criminal justice information system such that we can track data on an individual from the point of arrest to the point of release and be able to comprehensively manage that data in a way to allow all levels and stages of the criminal justice system to do a better job in respect of the management of those persons.

If that were all in respect of penal institutions, it would be a lot but it does not stop there; there has to be comprehensive reform at the Government Industrial School. Mr. Chairman, the Government Industrial School is the closest thing to visiting a Dickensian institution anywhere in Barbados which is a 19th century building and rooted in 19th century values but which we hope to be able to change.

The legislation which is the foundation for the basis of actions and treatment of persons going to that institution has to be repealed and replaced with a more modern and progressive legislation which speaks to the issue of juvenile delinquency and punishment in a more holistic fashion recognising that it is our intention to have these persons back into the mainstream of society.

There are some offences which were created in the 19th century that are offences about controlling people. The law of unlawful possession was one of them. If a policeman saw you walking the road with something that he felt you should not have, he had the authority to pick you up and charge you with unlawful possession and the burden of proof shifted on you to prove why you had this particular goods or substance and what you were doing with it.
4.55 p.m.

It is generally believed by more progressive thinkers that that was one of the ways by which one could control an escalating population and ensure that they did not move onto lands that they were not supposed to move onto in terms of ownership of property.

Sir, one of the other offences which was also created, which is very Victorian in nature, is the question of wandering and on our statute books, we still have the offence of wandering. This is not a simple matter, Mr. Chairman, because in fairness to a number of the Magistrates, sometimes where the child does commit a serious crime, the court takes the decision to convict on wandering so that in future there is no record, even though it has the

capacity to the offence and should not be considered, there is no record of a conviction of an offence that is more serious.

Sir, we have to find a better mechanism to deal with these issues and I am not satisfied that in the year 2002 this is the way which we should be treating these people. There are approximately 17 boys at Boys' Industrial School (Dodds) and 26 girls at Girls' Industrial School, Summervale, but do you know what, Mr. Chairman? When I visited the institutions I made it my business to speak to almost every one of the persons there. I asked the Minister of State and Education and an education officer to go along with me because the days of a persons going to Dodds or Summervale, not receiving any kind of cohesive education appropriate to their needs, not even a comprehensive psychological testing and, indeed, counseling where appropriate, must come to an end.

As of this year, I am happy to say, that this Government has given us the resources that we can do both psychological and psychiatric testing on every child who is admitted, as well as their educational profile being developed. Also with the help of the Chief Education Officer, we will be developing individual educational programmes for each of those children, appropriate to their need and their ability and that the counseling which is so necessary, without placing an additional burden on the health system, it is imperative that we offer these youngsters the most help that we can offer them and not simply hold them for three or four years and send them back out into the society.

Sir, both Honourable Members for St. Michael West and the City have reminded me that all you do is make them accustomed to institutional life and therefore it is no big thing if they then have to go to Glendary Prisons. I believe that if we achieve nothing else in the Ministry of Home Affairs in this next year, it must be one that agrees on a change of philosophy in the treatment of juvenile offenders in this country and once we have agreed on that philosophy, to ensure that appropriate legislation can be drafted such that I can have the honour of repealing the Government Industrial Penal Reform Act. I do not want to see it on the statute books after 2002.

Sir, there are children up there who have not committed any crime but are there simply because they are victims; whether of physical, sexual or mental abuse. They spend between 3 or 4 years, unless the Minister says that they can be released, and no wonder why they wander.

Mr. Chairman, if you have an 11 year old daughter and somebody next door was raping her every day for a period of months, it would be no surprise to you if she were to wander away from home.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Honourable Member to wind up now.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. Or if persons were trying to prostitute her, no wonder she would wander away from home. I say to you that it is not simply a matter of applying a penal solution; that you cannot apply penal solutions to social problems and expect justice to be had. Many of these problems are social problems and they require the cooperation of other departments of Government. I believe the Ministry of Social Transformation is going to have to be integral to any solution we can put in place, but having said all of that, for those young people who believe that they can commit crime, they must be prepared to be punished, but as I indicated, punishment without reform and rehabilitation means nothing because it is placing a plaster on a sore and if there must be meaningful reform and meaningful change, then you must punish, while at the same time, rehabilitating and preparing for the reintegration of that person back into the society.

Sir, I have not dealt with a number of other matters pertaining to other aspects of the Ministry but suffice to say that one of the other key things that we want to look at during the course of this year is national emergency management legislation which will govern the response to emergencies and disasters and it may well require a change of both structure and name for a Central Emergency Relief Organisation.

Sir, I am one of those, and I must warn you, who believe in rather than building a paid bureaucracy now to do that, that Barbadians must be prepared to volunteer in the event of emergencies, along with the emergency services that are available so as to minimise any dislocation in terms of loss of life, property or injury. Therefore, one of the key things for me this year would be to ensure the resuscitation and the proper functioning of the 28 district emergency committees which have not been functioning for sometime. I am calling on all Barbadians to have an interest in volunteering to ensure that they come forward and to let CERO know that they are prepared to assist in their communities in the event of emergency. There is no way we should be going into a hurricane without persons knowing who are the people that must be moved into a shelter prior to the hurricane, who are the people who must be checked on immediately after the hurricane to see whether they need help rather than people being uncertain and waiting for something to happen. In every community, the people who receive the response and the volunteering should know because Barbados is a small place. They must know who are the 10, 12 or 20 people who must be placed into the shelter before the hurricane arrives and who are the 30 or so persons who must be checked on after the hurricane has gone. People should know where these persons live, the

vulnerability of their houses, whether they have families or not. Let us use the local knowledge to prepare for the management of these emergencies, those that we can prepare for because it is not every emergency that we can be prepared for, like the unfortunate incident last week of Adrian Tull who died when a trench caved in on him but there are some emergencies that we can prepare for and in seeking to mitigate loss in an emergency is the extent to which we are prepared. There are issues that we are trying to have resolved such as whether we can have recognizance aircraft stationed here during the hurricane season because part of the difficulty that we have is that Barbados is so far East that very often when the recognizance aircraft goes out for the benefit of the National Hurricane Centre in Miami, it is already upon Barbados and therefore before it gets to Barbados, we have to rely on data which is not as accurate as it could otherwise be and therefore it does not allow us to be as accurate in our forecasting as possible. Therefore, Sir, to avoid a situation of crying wolf we want to be able to ensure that we can do all that is possible to be able to accurately predict as far as the Lord and nature allow us to do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this time, I will ask the Leader of the House to give us a break of 10 minutes.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for 15 minutes and resume at 5.25 p.m.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 5.25 p.m. was put and agreed to and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
5.07 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Honourable House is now resumed. When the suspension was taken, this House was in Committee of Supply. To that it will now revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is now in Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, while listening to the Honourable Minister speaking to the matter relating to the Government Industrial School, it is disturbing to me to recognise that we have a system in Barbados where young people go to Summervale and Dodds to be corrected but after listening to the information it is clear that the end product is worst than the in-product. If the statement from the Minister is correct, it is a serious problem that we have to deal with. One wonders whether it would not be better to put those children on probation than to allow them to remain in a system that does not correct them.

One would have thought that after sending those youngsters to Summervale and Dodds that, at the end of the day, you would have had a better student considering the type of discipline one would have expected those students to receive.

Sir, we are not getting the results we expect considering that we are spending \$3 million a year. I am wondering if the Probation Officers would not do a better job because I can only go on what I am hearing in this Parliament.

I would like to know how many of the students attending Dodds and Summervale end up in prison. We need to have a detailed study on the behavioral patterns of these students. It is not fair for Government to take responsibility for a particular group of children and then there is a negative effect instead of a positive one.

Sir, I am also concerned about the prison. I believe that prison should not be a place where men and women are sent simply to protect the lives of citizens. The same way we expect better policemen and defence force officers, the necessary training must be put in place so that the prison officer can detect certain trends, report on them and correct them.

We must be sure that officers working at the prisons are capable of doing the job. It cannot be a place where you send your political friends or give a job to the boys because, at the end of the day, you will not be sure that the personnel are capable of keeping the inmates within those walls.

When citizens of Barbados are injured by inmates who escape and there are civil suits against the Government a lot of these things will change.

Sir, prison cannot be a place where people are put behind four walls and given something in which they urinate at night. We must have a more human face as it relates to that. At the same time we cannot allow them to feel they are in a hotel. We must make them more productive. They must be able to produce something to decrease the expenses of the prison.

I know people are going to say that we have the prison farm and they do other things up there but some of the prisoners do not lift a stroke and they are strong enough to do something to help reduce the cost of keeping them there.

I am glad to hear everybody praising the prison farm because when it was first conceived it was thought to be the worst thing in the world.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The former Honourable Member for St. James South, Mr. Keith Simmons, started the prison farm at the Belle Plantation. He was criticised severely by the Opposition at the time for setting up the farm. Today we are hearing glowing praises about that particular farm. This means that some of us cannot see things that are progressive. I am hoping that the farm can be expanded which was the intention and, instead of spending money in the Estimates, the proceeds from the farm would be such that we can reduce our budget under this particular Head.

We are now faced with a situation where globalization has set in and we might not be able to find an available market for the surplus of the various produce from the farm. We must see these prisoners as farmers in the same way we see normal farmers in Barbados and any farmer will tell you that they are finding it difficult to sell what they grow in Barbados. If normal farmers are having this problem, the same thing might happen with the prison even though it should not happen because Government departments like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the School Meals Department should be able to buy the produce from the prisons farm.

Sir, I do not believe in the concept of globalization and free trade. I have said in this Parliament before that globalization and free trade is about keeping dominance in the world for the G-8 countries. People laugh at this but I believe that globalization and free trade is about dominance and keeping us enslaved. We think that because it is being pushed on us that we must grab at it.

Sir, I ask this question. If we could produce vegetables on the farms in Barbados at a cheaper price do you think that anyone in the United States of America or England would buy our vegetables? Yet, we use that same excuse to buy their produce. We have to understand that in order for our prison farms to operate correctly, there must be a market for it. Marketing is more dynamic than putting vegetables in a location and hoping that someone will come and buy them. 5.35 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, the overseas farmer has the capacity to market his goods in such a way so that when the consumer comes to buy one item he can buy other commodities. We must be more progressive. We should be able to take the produce from the prison farm and sell them to every consumer across Barbados.

It cannot be fair for the officials of the prison to have that privilege and the ordinary farmers in Barbados do not have that privilege. We must change our marketing approach.

Sir, I am told that we have a marketing expert in here and I thought that he would be able to speak on these matters but it is clear that this is above the marketing expert's head.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we allocate funds to the broadcasting agencies and we believe that these agencies should be used to broadcast Government's propaganda. I am saying that we have to move away from that concept and recognise that these broadcasting agencies must also be used to promote marketing, not only for government departments but for Barbados as a whole. We must use these agencies to engage the private sector to get involved in promoting their products within the Caribbean.

I strongly believe that Governments in the Caribbean must understand that the days of divesting are over. They must understand that trade in this age not only relates to the private sector but also the government agencies because Government has the funds to plough into the private sector to help propel the industries but do not have the necessary capital. I am saying that if the Prisons and the broadcasting agencies can be blended, they should be able to work in the interest of the country.

Sir, there is a large increase for the Fire Service Department for \$206 567. 00. Sir, anyone who understands the location of the Arch Hall Fire Department, would know that it would not be necessary to install air conditioners under normal circumstances but because of the problem which exists at Arch Hall, the Fire Service Department is being forced to spend \$201 000 to aircondition a building that is located in an area that is normally environmentally friendly.

Sir, a police station was supposed to be constructed at Arch Hall, St. Thomas, that is why we have such an elaborate building there for the fire department. The building was supposed to accommodate a police station and a fire department. We have to make a decision as to whether we want to have a fire station and a police station at that location and let the landfill continue to be a menace, or wait

until an upper level housing development starts to make a decision whether the landfill should be closed or not.

Sir, it does not make any sense spending this amount of money when there are corrective measures which can be taken. We need to look at the opportunity cost of this money. Sir, I notice that whenever I speak of opportunity cost he looks in my direction I think that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North has a good understanding of what I mean when I refer to opportunity cost.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, Caribbean Emergency Relief Organisation (CERO) must be taken as a department of government. A lot of us believe that CERO is only about hurricanes and floods. Whenever there is a gathering of a large number of people, the expertise of CERO is required. I understand that it is sometimes very difficult to understand the importance of CERO. When CERO makes a request and some people do not understand the reason why such a request is being made by CERO, the request is only granted at the last minute because the other government departments do not understand the importance of CERO. It is important that the various departments and CERO come together before any major events are being held to ensure that in the event of any serious accidents that CERO will be ready to respond with minimum delay.

How long can we expect to host the Holetown Festival and Crop Over activities with the absence of ambulances on standby in case of an emergency? We would be expecting CERO to have ambulances on standby when the government department does not have any ambulances on standby. We must make the necessary ambulances available because we do not know when a major accident will happen.

Sir, I want to talk a little about the BHTA. They are a lot of people in this country who believe that in order to be accepted as a tourist you have to look a certain way and carry a lot of money. If the Americans had adopted that policy, a lot of Barbadians would not be able to leave Barbados to visit the United States of America for a vacation.

Sir, the same way that a lot of Barbadians are visiting Trinidad for vacations, we must understand that we need to have the infrastructure in place that would be attractive as a tourist destination. We have to be able to accommodate those persons that see Barbados as a tourist destination and put the necessary mechanism in place to ensure that when the time granted to visitors expires, we will know where these people are if they overstay the time so that they can be deported.

It is not in our best interest to harass people at the airport. As long as these people have the spending capacity, it means that it will increase the revenue of the country.
5.45 p.m.

It is up to us to police what they are doing and make sure there are no breaches and if you say you are in for 14 days after 14 days you make sure that those people leave the country.

We also must be able, Sir, to compile enough information to know whether some of these people are criminal minded. Those are the ones we need to tackle up front and make sure that they do not get the opportunity to get in, but honest people who want to visit Barbados we must allow. We cannot only believe that Barbados is a place where people go outside. We must see ourselves as a place where people would want to come and visit and treat as a tourist destination. There was a time when we used to attract a large number of Trinidadians, especially when the economy of Trinidad was not that good. The economy has reversed now and the opposite is occurring.

We also need to put measures in place to make sure that through our immigration policies we can correct these problems. I am also calling on the Minister to recognise that there have been many years now that the constituency has been promised a fire station and we cannot continue to live on promises.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Promises are good, Sir, but we actually want to feel the impact of these things and not only quote figures. I hope, Sir, that these comments will be taken as seriously as they are given and the necessary measures will be put in place to make sure that this country is allowed to function at its optimum. Thank you.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would want to suggest clearly to the Honourable Member who last spoke that he should really desist from developing a tendency to speak with forked tongue on issues of substance before this Chamber. You cannot speak in loud terms as to the desirability of better treatment for the police officers in this country and at the same time begrudge the fire officers a couple of air conditioners.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is giving the impression that I am trying to deprive the fire officers but the truth is that the Honourable Member understands quite well why the air conditioners are going to Arch Hall and that it has nothing to do with fresh air but it has to do with a smell emanating from the landfill.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Sir, you cannot speak in loud terms about the desirability of treating the police officers in a better fashion which perhaps they deserve within the context of available resources and at the same time begrudge the fire officers a couple of air conditioners. At the same time while you point to the increase in one line

item, you should be genuine enough in your submission as to point out the fact that the fire service, in fact, has a small vote this year about \$3 million more than it had in the last financial year.

If we come into the debate, Mr. Chairman, we must come not only with information but with a preparedness to present a fair and balanced contribution. The Honourable Member should be joining those of us who hold the view that we need to define an embellished role for the fire service in Barbados. Rather than see that entity as limited to a role of responding to fires, we need to conceptualise the modern fire service in a developing Barbados as an entity which is a wider emergency response and emergency prevention mechanism.

I certainly hold the view as some do that combined with the ambulance services these agencies should become one entity wherever they are located within the governmental and ministerial structure, one entity of emergency response technicians who can serve the needs of a modern developing Barbados whether they are part of CERO or whether they are known as an emergency response mechanism and lodged separately under the Ministry of Home Affairs or wherever.

The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs in the last few moments of her submission made reference to our intention to bring before this House the kind of legislation which would enable us to put in place a proper national emergency management agency which in itself would embellish the role of the currently titled Central Emergency Relief Organisation.

I believe that legislation would speak to the fact that we ought to conceive of disaster mitigation and disaster management in a comprehensive fashion as part of our overall development plan for Barbados. Just as we put mechanisms, institutions, systems and structures in place to counter other threats which can reverse or retard our progress in terms of national development we need to have a more robust, a more comprehensive, a more all-embracing national emergency management agency that would see to the health of the nation in the face of a threat of any type of emergency or natural disaster.

We have a fairly narrow view that CERO, as currently structured, is a mechanism which serves us well during the hurricane season and that their focus must be to sensitise us to be prepared in the event of a storm. Comprehensive disaster management speaks to a view which is wider than that. It speaks to a view which embraces a whole range of disciplines, a wider focus.

Certainly, flooding is very much a part of the reality for us in parts of Christ Church, in parts of St. Peter, St. James and it is very much becoming part of the past at Headley

Land for which I am thankful to the Government and to the Ministry of Public Works. Irrespective of what the current erroneous view is as held by some, flooding is becoming a part of the past at Headley Land.

Things like accidents, certainly, environmental mishaps, all of these things have become part of the reality of the times and we need an agency which is going to be comprehensive in its focus which is going to cut across Ministries. Certainly, if you think in terms of comprehensive disaster management and focus on housing it is critical. We still have a large volume of chattel houses in this country. We have not a housing stock which has been built within the context of established building codes with a component of resistance to storms. In the event of a major disaster or hurricane, clearly we will have a problem with the matter of housing. We need to address those matters in terms of policy from up front, before the event rather than after.

I do not know at this stage that there is any reference which is made by the Central Emergency Relief Organisation to the Ministry of Housing in terms of plans and in terms of preparedness.

Comprehensive disaster management would focus, therefore, on things like insurance which is a financial issue and it goes beyond the matter of housing. Comprehensive disaster management will focus on issues such as agriculture. I do not know that there is any collaboration between CERO as currently structured and the Ministry of Agriculture in the event of a disaster. Certainly the experience in the Windward Islands with a package of high winds or storms on their banana crops is illustrative of what I am trying to say. Our agriculture perhaps is differently profiled, but it seems to me that if our land is beset by a storm of any magnitude there is going to be something doing damage to the agricultural sector.

I am trying to suggest that comprehensive disaster management is much wider in its focus and I support what the Minister of Home Affairs has mentioned here in brief this evening and that is the plan to bring before this House for consideration legislation which will look at the role of our emergency mechanism with a view to redefining that role within a wider context and I certainly see all the emergency services as being very much a part of that.
5.55 p.m.

I also want to correct a view which, in error perhaps, has been put out by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. No where in her submission, did I hear the Minister of Home Affairs, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East suggesting that we carry children to Dodds or Summervale, only to have them come out worse than when they went in.

As a matter of fact, much of what the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East said revolved around the fact that when children go to these institutions, they are not necessarily bad, so there is no question of bad children going there to come out worse. The children sent there were not necessarily bad but victims of unstable situations at home, who have been traditionally put into an environment which needs to be brought into the modern times so that their needs might be better served. I think that is what I heard which I want to correct.

Aside.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: I want to speak briefly about Glendairy Prisons. I think what in part, prejudices the policies and initiatives, briefly introduced by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, is the fact that traditionally much that has taken place at Glendairy, has been incidental and not deliberate. It seems that the only deliberate policy in the past, with reference to Glendairy, was a deliberate policy to keep an inmate, when once sent there, and even that reached the point where it was questionable, as a deliberate policy to keep people in there.

If you look at the development of the physical plant at Glendairy, there was an *ad hoc* approach. As numbers increased at Glendairy, there was an incidental and *ad hoc* approach, of adding to the physical facility, compromising, Mr. Chairman, the security at Glendairy. There are parts of Glendairy where it is impossible, even with electronic surveillance, because of the way the buildings are constructed. Sir, because of the *ad hoc* approach to that, some buildings have been constructed quite near to the perimeter walls, again compromising security, and making the task difficult for those charged with the responsibility of supervising inmates.

The business of staff recruitment up until recently, has been subject to that incidental approach. I do not want to suggest for political purposes, as the Honourable Member suggested, certain persons were recruited to operate in the prison service as wardens, without being sufficiently scrutinised, as would be desirable, as to their suitability from a security perspective for such a role.

Sir, an insufficient level of importance was attached to matters of training and academics, so that the recruitment process also became subject to that incidental approach. There was the absence of a deliberate policy to recruit persons who could give service in this capacity, develop quite a sense of fulfillment in the service and serve the institution and the wider community in a way which would be desirable.

Sir, regarding the business of training, persons were recruited with an insufficient level of training at the

beginning and 'let loose' more or less as wardens in the institution. It is only in recent times that a sufficient level of importance is being attached to that and currently, there is a group of recently recruited prison officers, who are engaged in a training exercise at Paragon. I think that session is for a period of eight weeks.

Sir, that is part of the new deliberateness being brought to policy at Glendairy, with respect to recruitment and training. The important business of rehabilitation has taken on prominence in recent years, but traditionally, this was left largely to charitable gesture. If some church folk felt sufficiently motivated, they gave themselves to that. Other well meaning people in society, perhaps, offered their services in various areas, but there was no structured approach to the business of rehabilitation.

Clearly, if you send people to an adult penal institution, with no context within which a serious structured rehab effort would take place, you are likely to find that you are reproducing a criminal mind that comes back to prey upon society.

This Government now currently employs some people in the important business of rehabilitation, and it is in the process of ensuring that there is a structured, remodeled and redefined rehabilitation programme at Glendairy, so that the aspects of it, which in the past have been weak and inadequate, could be improved.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East spoke with reference to the excellence of the art class. Obviously, also there is excellence demonstrated in some of the work shops, but rehabilitation must go beyond that, and it must be a structured system and programme. It cannot be something which is left to charity or generosity of effort, on the part of well-meaning people in the society.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: The development of a proper business programme and a farm labour programme for the prison, again, have not been as robust as they should be because they have been weak and lacking vision. There is enormous potential for the development of a business programme and for a farm programme to exist at Glendairy.

The prison has acquired a reputation for doing excellent work, especially in the areas of furniture production, manufacturing and other endeavours. This must be expanded so that the prison itself, can benefit financially from its own efforts, particularly so that the prison inmates can better benefit from the proceeds of their labour, while incarcerated.

The Government can reduce its cost of managing Glendairy substantially, if the farm and business programme can be properly developed and put on a stronger footing, and I think we are hearing of moves in that direction. This policy of deliberateness must be pursued in the current context of the change which is taking place at Glendairy.

Thank you.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wish to add to some of the comments which I heard earlier, and to spend most of my time in connection with the Government Industrial Schools and the funds that are being allocated this year, to help with the upgrading of the facilities, as well as the professional training and other areas that will be upgraded in that institution.

Mr. Chairman, we know that our children today are faced with more serious challenges than we did, when we were growing up. It is not to say that we did not throw a stone and knock out a window, or throw at a bird in a tree or even at an apple, and struck someone. We did things like that as children but we were fortunate in that the community in which we grew up, was so closely knit that there were parents who told the others, pay me for my window or I will pay the doctor's fee.

Nowadays, however, few people are giving children a chance to do things that children will do and, therefore, many of them end up in institutions. Too many of us as adults, refuse to listen to children. We do not pay attention to the symptoms that they display. We consider it as being rude, deceitful or wicked. We say, but you are never going to be any better anyhow, or you are just like your father or your mother. We continue to heap loads of insults and criticisms on them.
6.05 p.m.

We put them down for every little thing they do and do not make the extra effort to seek professional help for them. It is sad to say but too many parents challenge their children by telling them if they do not come home by 4 o'clock they would be sent to Summervale or Dodds and if they do not do simple things, they threatened them all the time. I think a lot of this helps them to get into the mode of being deviant.

I think it is important for us to devise other ways of dealing with our young people and the challenges which they face especially when it comes to peer pressure. The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports has been looking at some of the challenges to see how best they can be tackled. As a result, there is a committee involving many other social services agencies including non-governmental agencies like PAREDOS where there is networking among these agencies to ensure that we do not look after the needs of the individual

child only but that we tackle the situation from within the home.

It is not enough just to tackle the needs of the child who does not have the bus fare, the lunch money or the text books fees. I think it is important that the Ministry of Social Transformation through its poverty alleviation programme should assist the parent or parents who are unemployed so that when the child is at home on Saturdays and Sundays there is a meal on the table.

The networking of this committee should go even further so that police officers who come into contact with these young people and their parents can direct them to the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, the Probation Department, and PAREDOS that has all that information should share it with the schools and the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports because at the end of the day there has to be cohesiveness among all these agencies where the information would be used in a central way to ensure that the entire family is given help rather than just the one child who may be helped by these individual agencies in different ways. That committee is meeting on a monthly basis so that these linkages can be made so that we can all come together in the interest of young people.

If you are talking about management of human resources it should not only be at the level of the office where we work, but within the school, the communities and institutions such as the Government Industrial Schools.

Young people are our future, Mr. Chairman, and we must ensure that their needs are adequately met especially if they are institutionalised. When they are at home somebody might give them a piece of bread and they might get clothing from a neighbour or some other caring individual or agency but if they are institutionalised, the institution has to cater to their psychological, emotional and physical needs.

I think that is significant to the exercise which the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs has brought to the fore in this particular institution. Some of our children run away from home not because the level of poverty is to the extent that the child wants a meal or fancy clothes because when you examine the children who are at these institutions they are not children who are really needy but they have so many emotional problems that stem not only from the home but in the community as well where they are jeered and insulted by people who tell them that they think they are proud and that they think they are more than anybody else.

Unfortunately, when they are in the classrooms some teachers hurl those kinds of criticisms at them and make them feel that they are less than human beings and that the good behaviour they want to display is not the right thing to

do and so some of them have to wander away. Some of our children wander away from home because of sexual abuse and we do not seem to be able to get some of the big hard back men who destroy our young girls in front of a court of law but that is another issue.

What signs do these children display and why do they display them? They display those signs because of death sometimes. Some people assume that if a parent dies that after two weeks a child has to stop crying and doing all the things that they do when they are grieving and should, therefore, be standing on their feet again and be able to go into the classroom and study. Sometimes, it is the loss of a parent who may have gone overseas to improve the home situation and there was such a bond between the child and the parent that the child misses that parent and there is no other person there to fill that void.

Sometimes the person who might have been looking after the child might lose a limb and the child is grieving. It could arise out of sickness. It could be peer pressure. It could be to do with drugs, anger and divorce. I talked about sexual abuse but they might also experience verbal and physical abuse because they are still some parents and others in the communities who beat children and push their hands in the fire and tie them to the bed. This is happening in Barbados in the year 2002. It is unfortunate that some of our children have to wander because of those reasons but that is a reality. The impact of these things affect the children's overall behaviour and their performance in school and sometimes in the institutions.

The staff in these institutions are not adequately trained and they do not possess the necessary pastoral care skills. They are not compassionate and understanding and are not able to give the listening ear or the compassionate hug and they do not involve them in creative activities that will help them to adjust for the period they are there so as to be able to become useful citizens. The role of the industrial school is to ensure that when children go there they will be in a better situation.

I must confess, Mr. Chairman, that I have known many children who went to these institutions but there was this young girl in particular who wrote me letters every quarter stating that she wanted to come home. She has been released and is now leading a productive life, thank God for that. Mr. Chairman, I am sure that there are many others who learnt a lesson and made such bonds in those institutions who are now better able to carry on with their lives.

They get the meal but the meal is not enough sometimes. They need the necessary counselling. They need that initial psychological and psychiatric assessment when they first enter the institution as well as ongoing psychological assessment so that they can better deal with the conditions which they experienced.

I visited the institution more than once since I went to look for that young lady but my movement was limited. I went there last October and some of the conditions there do not satisfy me even though they have been upgrades over the last three to four years. When I saw the cells that some of those young girls are confined to because they have been rude to their leaders, and I will not support children being rude to authority, but they are confined to cells with little or no lighting on the outside and are expected to read the Bible. They get a meal of bread and some water and a mattress that is sometimes bigger than the door and you have to push it in.

That must be stopped, Mr. Chairman, because these children deserve better. If they had to go there for treatment, the treatment should be adequate and they must be able to live under better humane conditions.
6.15 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we have to look at the physical development of those young people. Mr. Chairman, do not let anyone fool us, children who are at those industrial schools run across the whole educational system. It is not now, as we would have perceived it, that there are slow learners who are there, or that there are a few children who are deviant but it runs from the older to the newer grammar schools. Children from all of our schools go to the Government Industrial Schools for whatever has to be the treatment necessary for them to be corrected and for them to follow that straight and narrow path as we call it.

Mr. Chairman, I want to support the measures in Head 28 for the upgrading of structures at those facilities because young people could do well with an area for playing netball, with more equipment for the physical development, for a place where they can play basketball. I saw a car park and I am sure that could be converted with the drawings to facilitate the needs of those young persons. We know there are excellent boxers coming through from that institution. We see them playing dominoes and chess and the sharp brains that they have it is important that we work with them. They do need, Mr. Chairman, a restructured curriculum because as I said earlier, it is not only when you go there that some person might want to learn cosmetology or carpentry but their bright young minds need the ongoing academic training and that can only happen if the staff is adequately trained. Just as the staff at the Alma Parris Secondary School has been selected to ensure that those children who are late developers... we can get the staff who are multi-talented, interested in their welfare and who will go the extra mile and not leave school at 3.00 p.m. but spend additional time in the extra curricular activities. That is the kind of staff that is needed at this time for those young people who are our future and who are at the Government Industrial Schools.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has just about one minute to wind up.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: They need more than handwork, so that at the end of the period, they have a more positive focus so that they can continue to deal with the academics in the classroom or bring away whatever skills to the world of work, that they can continue on the path to becoming productive citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you. I wanted to touch on the issue of counseling and on a number of other areas but I am sure I will get the opportunity later. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to those Members who have been so frank in this debate at last about the conditions at the Industrial Schools in Barbados.

Sir, I remember a few years ago – I do not even know if it is that long – commenting on the fact that a Magistrate had remanded 5 or 6 girls to the Government Industrial School. I felt very strongly then and still do now that it was a bad decision that the condition of the Industrial School, at that time, was not suitable for the placement of those girls. Sir, I do not remember if the Member for St. Michael West was one of those persons but I distinctly remember the opprobrium that was heaped on the position for what people viewed as irresponsibility for simply raising concerns about the conditions at those institutions. In fact, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has even added to my shock because I had visited the institutions, I know what the conditions are like but what the Honourable Member has described today is even worse than what I had seen some 4 years ago.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point of order?

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: The Honourable Member for St. John has offered the suggestion that perhaps I was party to some criticism. Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member does not remember, he offered the suggestion that perhaps I was party to a loud voice of criticism of him because he was expressing that the conditions at the Government Industrial Schools were less than desirable. I would like simply to set the matter straight by suggesting to the Honourable Member that I was not part of such criticism and that since I was a Member of this Government in this Honourable House that position has not been taken here. In fact, over the last few years substantial refurbishment was done at the Boys' Industrial School because it was thought that the conditions there were not desirable and currently substantial refurbishment and renovation have been done at

the Girls' Industrial School. Therefore this Government has never taken the position that the conditions were desirable and certainly I was not part of any criticism expressed to that effect.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, I suppose it continues because if you get a defense like that which focuses on refurbishment, which in fact...

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, my last submission was not a defense; it was an explanation, a response to the Honourable Member's suggestion that perhaps I was party to a voice of criticism which I was not.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, if one gets a defense like that, like the one I just heard from the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, both of the conditions prior to the refurbishment and consequent on the refurbishment, then the Member is missing the essence of the points which are being made by both his current Minister, with whom perhaps he should now get into the new mind set rather than the old mind set. His current Minister needs to sit with him, or he needs to sit with the current Minister, and explain the direction that is going to be taken because what I heard from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is that there is a clear need, not just for the question of refurbishment but a qualitative improvement. Worse than that, we have a situation where you are mixing victims and offenders in the same institution and therefore refurbishment does not answer that question, nor does it deal with the problem. Persons who were sent to Summervale were sent there as victims and not as offenders. Somebody said that they behaved badly in court that morning and that is why they were sent to Summervale...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It was not in contempt, they were just not cooperating as if one expects angels, to be the type of persons who will come before the court, either for truancy or for other forms of deviant behaviour that will not be solved or treated effectively in either of the Industrial Schools. At that time, I sought to say, that the Government must find within its means, to identify homes or other more friendly institutions to seek to work with these young women as individuals, separating them from each other rather than having a situation where they are sent to Summervale and a situation in which the very individual who has sent them there was a member of a committee that administered the institution and therefore would have been in a defensive mode and would believe, as would I if I were a member of the Board of that institution, that the institution was a suitable place.

Subsequently I went to a church service and a minister in one of the evangelical denominations launched a

broadside on the people who were bleeding hearts against these vicious and wicked young women.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Not the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, I am finished with that; the Honourable Minister has to defend his Ministry and I appreciate what he is doing; that is not a big issue that bleeding hearts were sympathising.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot have functioning in a modern society – and we are talking constantly about rehabilitation and providing counseling, services and psychological training, *et cetera* – and then take a young lady who has clearly been a victim of sexual abuse in a household and expect that she must come to court like an angel and then send her into what is essentially a reform institution, while the offender or offenders are walking around Barbados and are still walking around today. Then, at the end of the day, people plead that this is all that we have. No creative solutions were being sought because there are some people who believe that it is where those young people belong. Regrettably a close friend of mine took that position. He saw their behaviour in court one morning and assumed that was sufficient to condemn them to Summervale. I do not take that approach. I do not consider myself any bleeding heart but I believe that, at the same time, we have to find other solutions and even though the option of the Magistrates are extremely limited, in those circumstances, I still believe that there were other creative options for those young ladies.

6.25 p.m.

Therefore, I welcome the frankness with which some Honourable Members on that Side have outlined the challenges in those two institutions. I also welcome the concept of developing a department of correction that deals with offenders in a systematic way.

I am confident that the challenges at our penal institutions will be met by the new management that has been put in place. This is a step in the right direction but it has to be supported by a new ethos within the entire Ministry and all the departments that administer these systems to ensure that the focus of the Ministry transcends from the top right through the entire system and that where radical changes need to be made they will be made to benefit all Barbadians.

I believe that particularly in relation to the industrial schools that major reform is necessary. Even though we are not under that Head, I also believe that more attention needs to be paid to the children homes in Barbados and to the resources that are made available to work with the children in those homes and to the support mechanisms outside of the homes so as to improve the quality of life of the children who live in these homes.

The second point relates to the question of broadcasting. I did not hear what the Minister said relative to that Head or if she dealt with it at all so I apologise if I am commenting on a matter that has already been dealt with. I have asked a Parliamentary Question on local programming in Barbados and I hope I will get some information on it. We heard what the Honourable Member for St. Peter said about the privatization of CBC but despite its privatization, I still firmly believe that Government has to set a policy direction relative to the question of local programming in this country and the need for us to be able to project images of Barbados to support those features of Barbados, in the future, that will maintain our cultural identity as a people and country particularly in the face of globalization and tearing down of barriers.

It is vital for us to fight as best we can against the impact of television, particularly its impact on young people in terms of violence and deviant behaviour. We need to make resources available to support and develop local programming. When there is a soon to be privatized State corporation that has that mandate, perhaps the Minister can tell me what her thinking is relative to the advancement of an agenda for local programming.

It is important too that we have an idea as to whether the Government of Barbados is likely to make any further intervention to save the Caribbean Media Corporation or whether the efforts of Government have been spurned because I know there is a view among some journalists that an entity like that should be outside of the control or manipulation of Government. It should be as much as possible a private sector entity supported by some investment from Government but, at the end of the day, it should not be an ongoing investment which would entitle Government to have a say in the content or in other aspects of the corporation's policy.

It is important for us to recognise the importance of the existence of the Caribbean Media Corporation. In fact, since its closure, you can sense the extent to which information about what is happening in the rest of the Caribbean is now absent both from television news and radio.

It is unfortunate that the kind of information, news broadcast and features that were being made available to the Caribbean which can effectively support the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and can help to share views across the region is now lost. A lot of that is now lost because of the absence of an effective institution to promote such an agenda and help Caribbean people see each other on the news at night and through the various features.

This is going to be an important decision of Ministers of Information and because of the location of CANA and the CBU here in Barbados we would have benefitted

significantly as a provider of services but also as the location where the major source about what is happening in the region is to be had. This would have many spinoffs in terms of media professionals and entities that would want to hold conferences here and would be able to spread information about the activities throughout the region because of the location of a regional press and broadcasting media in Barbados.

From that point of view we stand to benefit and Barbados must see itself as having a major role in resuscitating such an entity or alternatively encouraging the location of such an entity here in Barbados so that we can support the move towards the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. More importantly, that Barbados will still remain the centre of information in relation to issues affecting Caribbean people.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

6.35 p.m

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, it is very important to note that over the last five years, this Government has spent a tremendous amount of funds trying to correct the reform centres. I must express special thanks to the former Attorney General for the effort extended on the penal reform system and the present Attorney General has continued this programme at the Probation Department and the Government Industrial Schools.

We have to take into consideration that there are a number of children from broken homes entering the Government Industrial Schools. Therefore, counseling programmes need to be put in place to ascertain what the problems are that are causing these young children to go astray and how best we can reform them.

Sir, I knew of a teacher many years ago who could have detected these children from an early age. Several programmes were introduced into the school system to correct some of the deviant behaviour. It is impossible today for the school system to correct many problems that exist with some of these children. Sir, many of our young children enter the various institutions and it is difficult to tell after being institutionalised for three years whether the measures that were used were effective.

I believe that it is fair to say that the Government has tried and a lot of resources have been spent in upgrading the facilities and we continue to allocate funds for upgrading the facilities of the Probation Department and the Government Industrial Schools.

I want to focus on the prison and the fire department. Mr. Chairman, the present prison comprises 893 inmates and the prison has only 325 rooms. One can say without a

doubt that the prison is too small. The Government is spending approximately \$14 million this year. This figure is up from \$11 million. We are continuing to look at new programmes to upgrade the facilities. The question is, do we need to have all those persons in prison for the various offences which are committed? I believe that persons who go to prison for child support, their cases should be reviewed. I do not know how many people are in prison for child support or the payment of debt but I believe that we should continue to look at the community service programme, which was introduced by this Government, and see how best we can have this kind of arrangement put in place for those offenders.

There are a lot foreign persons incarcerated at Glendairy Prisons. When these persons are released from prison, they should be returned to their homeland. It is important that we look at this issue seriously because too many people, especially from the Caribbean, come to Barbados for twenty-one days and stay for twenty-one years. They are people who come to Barbados for an intended short period of time and never go to the Immigration Department to have their stay extended. I hope that the Attorney General and the Ministry of Home Affairs would look into this matter during this financial year.

I am aware that there are a number of businesses and houses in close proximity of the prison. I know that the prison was built to house 300 prisoners. It was built at a time when the environment was more conducive to that type of arrangement. Today you have houses that are built too close to the prison wall. It is the Government's intention to carry out a study to see how best we can relocate a number of these houses. In fact, the Ministry of Housing and Lands is currently conducting a social research programme to ascertain whether it is feasible to relocate houses within the vicinity of the prison.

Sir, we are presently looking at Hindsbury Road, where about 30 homes will be relocated from the junction of the Globe Cinema to the Bank Hall Cross Road. Then we are looking at the area from Bank Hall Cross Road up to the prison where the study will include a further 25 houses.

Mr. Chairman, this programme is currently engaging our attention. We are hoping that we can complete the study within the next three months. We will then inform Cabinet of the findings of this study. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been involved in this study over the last financial year.

I am of the view that there would be the need for continued training of prison officers. Over the last four years, there has been a number of breakouts at the prison. I often wonder how the officers deal with the vicious criminals at Glendairy. Sir, one has to compliment the officers who deal with these prisoners from time to time.

It is a very tough job and one should undergo tremendous training to deal with vicious criminals. I think that we have to look at a training programme for the officers.

We also have to look at a programme for persons who are released from prison after serving a number of years. Sometimes it is very difficult for them to re-enter the society. I know that it is very difficult for persons who have spent time in prison to find jobs when they return to the society. I know that a number of persons who have come out of prison find it very difficult to get jobs either in the wider society or in Government. I wonder if the Attorney General can tell us how best these persons can fit back into society. Many persons have come to me and asked the question because it is so difficult for them to find jobs and fit back into society. 6.45 p.m.

Another point I would like to make. I know a lot of money has been spent on the Fire Service and I am of the view that the Fire Service has been doing a wonderful job and I think it has provided valuable service in the past, especially the last month or so, and the Government is spending this year more than \$1 million to upgrade the facilities of the Fire Service at the various departments. I understand that it is going to upgrade the headquarters, the airport department and also the one at Four Roads. There is a need for faster and lighter equipment in the fire service. I know that despite their doing a good job if they have lighter and faster equipment they may very well save more lives.

I also am of the view that the records that are kept by the Fire Service, especially for house fires, need to be passed on to more departments. From time to time, people ask us what is happening in terms of house fires and fires at businesses and cane fires and I think that the department should pass on this report to other departments for their information.

My other question has to do with the Immigration Department. I believe that the Immigration Department has provided valuable service to our country but we need to look carefully at those persons who are allowed into our country. I think that it is fair to say that most Caribbean nationals have not necessarily free entry, but it is quite easy for Caribbean nationals to come to Barbados. I understand that the type of documentation that is given at the airport may only be an ID card but the time has come for us to look, not necessarily at the passport or the ID card, but at certain records of the people who come here. Sometimes it takes long for us to know exactly who they are, especially persons who come here and purport to be carpenters, contractors and all types of professionals, and when you examine the entire profile of those persons it is difficult for us to have a good and honest record of these people.

I think the Immigration Department should really get international training. For example, I know that in Canada

the Immigration Department plays a very important role in determining the labour relations of a country and I think that that department should be more informed as to who are the people who come here.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I will be short and I will speak for five minutes. Under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs, I do not think that we can simply speak on penal reform and industrial schools because when I look in these Estimates at the objectives of the Ministry of Home Affairs the first thing that strikes my eye is the provision for the control of immigration and emigration, illegal aliens, issuing passports, visas, work permits, resident citizenship. So I think, Sir, that something needs to be said on the whole question of immigration.

I have the honour, Sir, to Chair the Immigration Review Committee. Indeed, I was Chairing that Committee for the past 8 years and I, therefore, have firsthand knowledge as to what goes on in many instances. I can safely tell you, Sir, that very often at those meetings we can see approximately 15 persons in an evening and it strikes me as being passing strange that of the 15 persons we see that particular evening 14 of them are from the same country. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I see this problem from two vantage points. I see it from the vantage point of being in the Ministry of Education and I also see it from the vantage point of being the Chairman of the Immigration Review Committee.

I was very heartened to hear the last speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North make the point that we have to do something about those who come into Barbados for 21 days and then remain in this country for 21 years. I agree with him, Sir. We have to be able to monitor those persons who come to Barbados on holiday and hide away and then remain illegally in this country. We must monitor them perhaps in a way that we have not monitored them before because the problem is now becoming very alarming. Mr. Chairman, we have to be able to monitor those persons who come into Barbados on work permits and then run off from their employer and remain five years illegally in Barbados and then apply to the Immigration Department for status.

6.55 p.m.

I also have to make the point, Sir, that a lot of them are here illegally. When they come to the Immigration Review Committee, you will then realise that they are here illegally for all those years, but the point is that when they go to places like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, even though they are here illegally, we do not deny them access to such social services.

It would make very interesting reading, Mr. Chairman, if we could get the statistics of the number of children who

were born at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to persons who are here illegally. The doctors here, like doctors throughout the world, have taken the Hippocratic Oath which simply says that they will do whatever is possible to save and protect human life, irrespective of the person. Therefore, Sir, they are under a duty and obligation, having taken that oath, to treat these people, and they do not look to see, whether or not they are here legally.

Sir, people in Barbados are having smaller families. We have been told that our population is reducing. Indeed, the NIS is very often on radio and national television making this plea. The population is dropping and people are living longer. The Fund is under pressure and so on, but the key point that I have risen to make, is that last year after our 11 plus allocations at all of our secondary schools were taken, the Ministry of Education was sent scampering to find 170 places at our schools, for children of persons who were non-nationals or for non national children, because all of the places had been filled.

This year, it is also projected that we have to look for the same 180 places for children, living in Barbados, who are non-nationals. Sir, it seems that every year, we have to look for between 170 to 200 places for children who are non-nationals. Sir, the 11 plus that I am speaking about where I am looking for 180 to 200 places for is only one year but when these children move to Second Form, these 180 to 200 children would have gone into second Form, but another 180 are arriving for the First Form. Then, you keep doing so, and if you multiply the 200 x 5, in five years, you will realise that you are speaking about 1 000 children, who are non-nationals, in our schools. The point that I am making only applies to the secondary schools, because it is the 11 plus data. I have not told you about the little ones who come into Barbados and go to the primary schools, you also have to add them.

Mr. Chairman, more importantly, this group of non-nationals is generally poor performing or non-performing. They have very poor literacy skills, and what it forces us to do in our educational system very often, is to have remedial programmes at our secondary school. A lot of these remedial programmes, if you listen to the accents of the children in those programmes, you will find that a lot of them are not Barbadian children.

Sir, that is the group which will come into your school and they would not have any games' uniform. Mr. Chairman, they do not have their text books and they do not have the money to buy the text books, so they want free text books. They do not want to pay petty fees because they say that they do not have the money to pay and they want to access all of our social services for free.

Mr. Chairman, we had a situation where a person, not a Barbadian took her child to school and brought down

heaven and earth that she did not have the money to meet certain financial obligations. Some people made petitions on her behalf, and she ended up not having to pay petty fees, text books and so on.

Then, her sister, brought hers and her argument was, well look, you did not let my sister pay, she got hers free and I should also get mine free. Sir, that is the argument they use. Mr. Chairman, let me show you what is happening. There is a hand book, entitled the *Government Secondary Schools of Barbados*, A Guide which everybody gets when they are sending their children to sit the 11 plus.

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: This book gives ten reasons for the persons who can enter our secondary schools. One of the categories is, a child of a citizen of Barbados who is an ordinary resident in Barbados. Sir, that is the one they come under, so they say, this is a child of a citizen of Barbados who is an ordinary resident in Barbados. The point is that you have to be a citizen. I am speaking on immigration and it is here that the problem begins, because the person wants to make herself a citizen, gets married to a Barbadian, and applies for, and gets citizenship, and then the problem starts.

Sir, the wife brings in Natasha, Keri Ann and Rico and very often, the poor father did not know of the existence of the Natasha, Keri-Ann and Rico, but they come into Barbados. Now they are here and go to school as citizens of Barbados.

The final point is that sometimes there is not even a marriage, and in order to show that a non-Barbadian child gets access to our school system, do you know that we have a lot of young men in Barbados who actually adopt these children. They are not the father, but they adopt the children, so that they can say that this is my adopted child of a citizen of Barbados who can now have access to the school system.

Mr. Chairman, it is a problem that we are facing and I would think that we cannot take it lightly any more and it is something that we must address.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I noticed the comments of all Honourable Members who spoke on this Head. Suffice it to say, that there are some things which there is agreement on, and I would like to think that the new approach, which we would like to see, in respect of the delivery of services for juvenile offenders, is one on which there is a common approach.

I think all of us are cognizant that the nature of the Government, is that you cannot be all things to all

departments at the same time. We have determined that this is a priority for us, and that we would wish to pursue it. Equally, the Prison, as I said, in a year where most Government departments are not receiving an increase, the Prison is receiving a 15 per cent increase. One of the things that I did not mention earlier was the comprehensive change in our human resources policy, which will also see a systematic attempt to ensure appropriate training for all persons, who become prison wardens, as well as to ensure that training commences before they spend a day on the job, as well as ensuring that there is security clearance before anyone is hired, because it is an institution which can seriously affect the national security of the country and, therefore, we would wish to see that happen.

7.05 p.m.

We are going to be speaking to the Barbados Community College about appropriate programmes for training at the middle management level because we believe that we need to give opportunities to our prison officers to receive additional training and training in administrative procedures as well as to instruct the prison to provide for better career management options once you go into the prison service.

On the matter of the Barbados Fire Service, I noted the comments of the Honourable Member for St. George North, and I simply want to say that there are a number of things that we would have to review in the Fire Service this year. The key issue is to provide the opportunity for a greater level of cooperation between the Barbados Fire Service and the Emergency Ambulance Services. We believe that the time has come to have a more systematic delivery of emergency services.

One may even want to argue that the Fire Service carries an inappropriate name today since firemen are now dealing with all forms of emergency management from hazardous and toxic material, fires, car accidents and all kinds of things. We have to recognise that they are not limited in their scope to just outing fires because they perform a whole host of critical functions that are necessary in the context of emergency services. We hope that we can review the legislative framework for them as well as to review the focus and opportunities for training.

One of the key things we have to do within the Barbados Fire Service is succession planning. We have the unfortunate situation of both the Chief Fire Officer and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer going on retirement this year and we hope that with proper succession planning we will not see a recurrence of that in the future.

In respect of the comments made by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition as it relates to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), I do not believe that he needs to ask what my position is as it relates to local

programming because he well knows how strongly I feel about this. The important thing to note though is that the urgent business at hand is for CBC to be able to upgrade its plant and equipment which predates his time of service on the Board which is almost 16 years ago. A lot of that equipment goes back to the late 70s and early 80s. In an age where new equipment is coming out in the information services every year, one will understand the kind of time lag that CBC is suffering in respect of its equipment base.

There is no gainsaying that there has to be a dedicated approach to the restructuring of CBC so as to allow it to be effectively capable of operating efficiently and profitably in a new environment but at the same time we have to ensure that it is done with a human face so as to minimize any dislocation. The reality, however, is that we have to put the corporation in a structure and a format that would allow it to be able to survive in this new Information Age.

By the same token, it makes no sense having a government television station unless it is committed to producing images of Barbadians on an ongoing basis not just in public affairs where they interview a few people in a room but investing in programming which will see Barbadian games being reflected whether in sports or otherwise as well as in entertainment such as drama, music, and religious programming. Unless we give people an opportunity to see themselves as what they can be and where they can go, they will then invite other images believing that that is the only option and the only things that they can aspire to.

I believe we have the creative talent in this country to be able to produce good programmes. I recognise that the production of programming for any television station is very cost intensive because our market is so small that we are unlikely to make back money based on our market alone. This means that the producers of the programmes would have to enter distribution arrangements with other Commonwealth countries and countries across the globe because language now is prohibited to where you can sell your programme.

In South Africa after 11 o'clock every night for two to three hours, you get pure Jamaican programming usually music videos. One night in Paris I saw a documentary on Peter Tosh from midnight until two o'clock. The point I am making is that one would never believe some of the markets that would be interested in local and regional programming but we have failed to provide appropriate financing mechanisms.

I hope that in working with the Ministry of Culture as well as the funds that the Prime Minister has set up for the benefit of sports and culture, that local entrepreneurs can have access to capital and that CBC can provide the platform for them to be able to show their material. The reality also is that very cheap digital video cameras can be

acquired which can now facilitate a lot of the taping of these programmes without having to incur thousands and thousands of dollars.

I hope that the Barbados Community College in the training of its students both in the Fine Arts and Performing Arts programme as well as in the journalistic programme will expose their students to these cameras because the more they are exposed to the technology the more likely they are going to do interesting and innovative things, so CBC must be capable of receiving this programming.

The matter of the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) is one that saddens me greatly. I still feel, Mr. Chairman, that the optional solution for the Caribbean Media Corporation, as I told them on October 02, 2001 when I met with them, is for them to change their rules and try to attract equity investment from the Caribbean private sector and to the extent that the public sector has to put in anything our investment would be minimal in comparison to the private sector but they refused to change their legal structure. They are a non-profit company and they felt that it is preferable for them to go to the heads of governments and ask for funding. Sir, I cannot do anything other than watch.

I do believe that there is a market in the entire globe for regional programming even if it is limited only to news and sports. Therefore, I regret that instead of us seeing an expansion of the opportunities in the area of regional broadcasting we have seen a contraction by the temporary closure of CMC.

Mr. Chairman, this matter distresses me. It really, really does, because in 1990 or 1991 I happened to be present at a Ministers of Information meeting in Jamaica and the very same things that they were talking about in 1990 and 1991 we are still talking about in the year 2002 as objectives for the regional media and for the movement of information. 7.15 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that it is nonsense. We are talking about an industry that is one of the most lucrative industries in the world. We are talking about the fact that the technology has been used in form to the point where it is affordable. We stand and talk about private sectors which will be restructured to move into new areas of economic activities that are not affected by a lot of the regional, hemispheric or global trade negotiations or restrictions and that is the perfect opportunity for investors from the private sector to see to it that they can get a return on the movement of information from the Caribbean, within the Caribbean and the rest of the world. I hope that ultimately a different approach is taken and that this becomes a mainstream private sector activity and not just simply an adjunct to Government. Yes, there is a public need for it but there is potential for the private sector to make money in this area. It is done in every

other region in the world and there is no reason why it cannot be done in the Caribbean. I hope that it is not because those persons have capital in the print industry and therefore have a reason to see broadcast lag behind print continuously. Sir, I trust that those persons who see it as a non-traditional investment will investigate the opportunity and see how they can make money particularly since the cost of the technology has been substantially reduced in the last decade.

Sir, on the matter of the Immigration Department, I have noted the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Philip North in particular and the Honourable Member for St. George North. We recognise that there are some problems that we are going to have to deal with but it has to be seen in the context of the commitment that the Government has given in terms of the CARICOM and the extent to which different aspects of the Protocol has become operational.

We have also to recognise there are going to be some issues pertaining to access to social services. This matter is not a simple one but requires study and thought. By the same token, I do believe that in instances where persons seek to deliberately overstay their welcome in the context where there is no provision for them to remain, there should be decisive action on the part of the Immigration Department. One of the problems is that unless you improve your capacity for the management of information and increase your opportunity for more effective management of your personnel, a lot of people are likely to go through the cracks since there is nothing to bring up to the knowledge of an immigration officer on a consistent basis when 21 days or however much time given is up, therefore, we will be continuing the expansion of the computerisation of the Immigration Department this year.

We recognise that in the context of the size of the public service of Barbados we are likely to get increased numbers of immigration officers, so what we need to be able to do is to ensure that what work they are doing can be done so much more efficiently that there are additional man hours out of the same number of persons employed. To that extent we will be conducting a feasibility study into the management of some kind of smart card which can facilitate movement of Barbadians in and out of the Port as well as tracking information on them so that we can reduce the number of man hours that the current immigration department has to spend on processing people.

Sir, there are going to be some issues as they relate to security issues in relation to the Single Market and Economy and the access to social services but I must tell you that I am one of those persons who do not support restrictive immigration policy. I believe that no person in the world that has prospered economically, has done so with restricted immigration policies. It is the capacity to have people move

in and out, bringing skills and transferring those skills that very often enriches the society in terms of its economic and intellectual output. Having said that we would not wish to see a rundown of Barbados' services because of an inability to have no policy at all. I can assure the House that we will be studying this matter very carefully in the next year. There are likely to be a number of major amendments to the Immigration Act and these will be brought during the course of the next financial year.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to end by thanking all Honourable Members who have spoken and to give the House the assurance that we will try to husband the resources provided in the Estimates, if voted for, in a manner that will allow us to best accomplish the programme of activities that has been outlined this evening in the context of an economy that is not necessarily abundant with resources this year but simply being able to meet some of the very basic needs of ensuring a more appropriate delivery of services within the Ministry of Home Affairs and modernizing and allowing for efficiency where possible in the context of both Government Industrial Schools, appropriately taking a different philosophical position to try to see how we can deal with the issues of the treatment to juvenile offenders. I beg to move, Sir, that Head No. 28 stand part.

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

The question that Head No. 28 stand part was put and agreed to.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg that you do now report progress to Mr. SPEAKER and ask for leave to sit again.

The question was put and agreed to.
7.25 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY seconded by Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, Mr. Chairman reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until tomorrow at 2 . 0 0 p . m .

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until March 14, 2002 at 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the Sitting accordingly.
7.26 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it will now revert.

COMMITTEE

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

HEAD 27 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT \$91 310 634

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, it certainly gives me much pleasure and a deep honour to be able to stand here today to present and defend the Estimates of the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport for the fiscal year 2002-03.

I intend during the course of this presentation, however long it takes for the active participation of Honourable Members of this Honourable Chamber, to give a comprehensive outline of the plans and programmes of the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport for the upcoming financial year. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, we intend to show not only how important tourism is to the development of our nation for the sustainable development of Barbados and how important it is for all Barbadians but to show also how tourism and international transport fit into Government's overall programme for the development of Barbados, how it fits with the economic and social profile which this Government has laid out to benefit all Barbadians and how this particular Head complements the rest of the Estimates in terms of moving Barbados from being a developing to a developed country.

Sir, I want to begin with outlining the mission of the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport and I will start with the Ministry of Tourism. Sustainable development of the tourism industry, policy formulation, the concept of being able to provide timely quality research to be able to provide for industry world class standards to deal with issues related to product development and development of the overall tourism industry and it is all done for the benefit of all Barbadians.

The Ministry of Tourism does so through and in collaboration with three principal agencies, the Barbados Tourism Authority, the Barbados Conference Services Limited and the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. The Barbados Tourism Authority which is the agency which is always in the public domain and always in the mind, it seems of all Barbadians, is responsible for the marketing of this destination. In addition to that, Sir, Barbados

Conference Services Limited which is housed at Sherbourne Conference Centre actually has responsibility for the management of that conference centre and for the promotion of conferences and meetings in Barbados in addition to their overall marketing in conjunction with the Barbados Tourism Authority.

The Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. has as its mandate the concept of property management of properties that have been vested in that particular agency, properties that we believe add to the overall development of the tourism industry and to the overall development of the product and, to a lesser extent, issues related to investment in the tourism industry in Barbados.

Sir, those are the three principal agencies that work to create for Barbados the type of reputation and the product as the basis for tourism development in this country. Let me say, Sir, that national tourism development goes way beyond marketing. People believe that because the marketing side and the performance of the marketing activity is what is mostly presented to Barbados that tourism in itself is mostly or only about the issues relating to marketing of this destination and marketing of the individual product for the rest of the world and for visitors to come to Barbados. Tourism is much more than just the marketing side.

We intend to show over the process and the time that it takes for this debate that tourism is way beyond that glamour side that is constantly presented to all Barbadians. Tourism, Sir, is a people-centred industry and when I say people-centred I speak both of locals and their contribution and participation in the industry and, of course, at the end the visitors who actually come to Barbados and substantially contribute to the standard of living that we enjoy that comes mostly through this sector.

Sir, the success of this industry we are very cognisant is not only concentrated in the people from the exterior but we understand very clearly in this Ministry that the success of the tourism industry is also based upon the contribution that Barbadians make and the participation of Barbadians in the development of tourism. I think it is to the credit of a number of persons who go to work every day, a crew of very dedicated people behind the scenes who might not get involved at the glamour end, the marketing end, that really do go to work every day and make this industry function and make this industry what we believe and which all evidence shows is really the envy of many of the tourism destinations across the Caribbean.

Sir, the glamour side of the industry is always presented because of the marketing side, but these people go to work every day to make tourism happen, providing and working on the policies and programmes that set the stage and base for tourism to thrive and survive. That level sets up

an industry that the tourism marketing can then provide the level of performance that we believe should be provided for Barbados. Let me quickly add, Sir, if it were not for the sound policy direction, if it were not for the constructed, concentrated and sensible programmes put together every day by Tourism and International Transport, we could not benefit optimally from the marketing end.

Sir, I want to begin as part of this presentation by complimenting the core of dedicated public officers who do not get the opportunity every day to be at the glamorous side, the marketing side, to compliment and thank them for the tremendous job that they do in setting the stage so that all of the marketers can have an opportunity every day to provide for Barbados and provide the marketing programmes. The marketing side, as I said, could not work without these policies and without the support of these programmes. These programmes keep tourism alive and we all know and boast about how well we do in tourism in Barbados *vis-a-vis* our neighbours in the rest of the Caribbean.

We understand the vital importance that tourism plays in terms of national development, and I believe that if there is one thing that we must achieve in this country over the next decade it is to optimise the benefit that can be derived from the tourism industry. It is important and behoves all of us to pay much more attention at all levels to all of the issues that surround, complement and make up the tourism industry. 2.10 p.m.

Sir, I am not saying this in a superficial way but we should seek to get more people involved in this industry, at a more in depth level. In other words, we should seek to get the people of Barbados more involved than they have ever been, at any time in their existence.

I do not know, Sir, at this juncture, in our development, of any other industry: the economic sector, economic endeavour, particularly when you look at the global economy and what it is serving, that we can participate in, as a nation and a small open economy with limited resources that we could at this stage, in terms of the tourism industry.

I believe, Sir, if there is one deficiency it is that too many Barbadians are not aware of the contribution of the tourism sector. I am talking about in depth understanding and knowledge which I think is necessary and how they play better and more substantial roles in moving the tourism industry forward and therefore, benefitting themselves.

Sir, our industry is being challenged from all sectors and I know that some people would say that issues relating to things like the globalisation of trade, may not affect tourism as much as it may have affected some of the other industries. I believe that we were quick to say that the

tourism industry has always been a global industry and has always been WTO compliant, when you match it to the other industries with which we do business: manufacturing, agriculture, the OECD threat and what happened to our international business sector.

Sir, even though we did not suffer from those levels of threats, they are still some threats that have been targeted at the tourism industry and we need to deal with these things and put them on the front burner, if tourism is to be sustainable in the long term and if Barbadians are to truly benefit.

One of the issues is the global situation. Last year we spoke about the global recession that affected almost every country in the world and the downturn that it had on them. I think, Sir, that people who understand the situation of downturns in economies and how they affect individual sectors of the economy, will tell you that as soon as there is some recession within a wider economy, what happens is that a disposable income, particularly where it is targeted at the issues of recreation, vacations and the like, are maybe the first part of that particular economy to suffer.

Therefore, Sir, what happened last year, is a prime example of what can happen to a small open economy like ours, which is dependant upon the rest of the world for our livelihood. As soon as there was an economic downturn, particularly in the United States, it triggered a serious downturn effect upon most of the other economies of the world, and, Sir, what you saw first, was a withdrawal of that disposable income that went towards the tourism sector, and all of us all over the world, suffered.

Sir, since the first quarter of 2001, we recognised that the world was into some form of recession and we sought, within our own industry and within the wider economy to put corrective measures in place to deal with our own situation. Throughout the year, between the first quarter of the year, up until September, we were up against some serious challenges.

In addition to that, one of the phenomenons that have emerged in the developed nations, and their response to tourism, is that the growth of domestic tourism has taken its toll on many tourism destinations from all over the world. Sir, there are developed countries, which did not previously depend on tourism for their existence, who are now understanding the importance of the tourism sector to their own economies.

In other words, markets that were once our source markets, have turned into markets that are in direct competition with us and that is the first thing. The second thing is that within those same economies, people are now being encouraged to stay at home, take your vacation at

home and travel at home and there is enough activity within developed countries, particularly those larger countries which encourage people to stay at home. Sir, all of that had some level of a negative effect upon the Caribbean and particularly, smaller destinations like ours.

Sir, if you look at figures that have been presented for most of these destinations in the Caribbean, the fact is that last year was not a good year for tourism in the Caribbean. I am proud to say that Barbados did not suffer as much as some of the other destinations and during the course of the debate, I think we will speak to issues, initiatives and programmes that allowed Barbados to continue to occupy that level and keep us above water. The performance, I hurriedly add, was not the level of performance that we would have predicted at the start of the year. It was not the type of performance that we would have been very comfortable with but I must say that when I look across the Caribbean and some other parts of the globe, I can tell you that Barbados did relatively well, considering the circumstances.

Sir, then came the infamous events of September 11, 2001 and an industry that was already suffering, an industry dependent on air travel as its base of support – particularly for small industries like ours – then had to deal with fallouts from the September 11, 2001 incidents.

Sir, I believe that anyone who understands how tourism works, and how airlifts affect small island destinations like ours, would understand that all our backs were literally against the wall. However, Sir, within the framework and environment of people not travelling and airlines not making any money and of people very apprehensive about flying – and still are to a certain extent – Barbados was able to actually increase airlift capacity coming into Barbados during the last quarter of the year.

Sir, that speaks to our ability to handle situations and the crux of the matter is that managing an economy or a sector in good times is not easy. It is being able, Sir, to manage a sector or the wider economy during recessionary times or during times that do not look so good, and come out relatively successful, is really the issue that we are dealing with. I think that we were able to show that our performance was not at all bad, but at least in some measures, satisfactory, given all that we put in place and the issues related to our being able to increase our airlift, and to hold on to certain aspects of our markets, even though we were facing a serious downturn.

Sir, that downturn could have been a lot worse but Barbados was able to hold its head above water and it speaks to the issues related to our marketing policies. It also speaks to our issues related to our marketing competence, the programmes on the ground and at the base, the policy

preparation and the programmes and policies of the ministries of Tourism and International Transport, that was able also to support an environment that kept our marketing numbers and figures high.

In addition, the future success of this industry will also depend upon a more serious academic approach to the industry's development. I think, Sir, over the years, we have been scratching the surface and using a lot of gut feeling to really try to understand the tourism industry. If this industry is to survive and develop optimally, we must create a more serious academic approach and an understanding of the industry. We should stop believing that the only thing that matters in the tourism industry is being able to run away from Barbados and go out, speak to a tour operator or travel agent and get someone to get on a plane and come to Barbados, or that in this industry what is important is whether or not you serve a man from the left or from the right or whether or not the food and beverage operation is good.

Sir, we should roll up our sleeves and get down into the academic basis on which this industry performs. That means, seriously looking at the social side of this industry and understanding the critical social side of this industry. The social sciences study would inform persons of our policies in tourism development and stop them from believing that the only issues that belong to it are the hospitality issues or the issues related to marketing, but really, that the academic, psychological, social and socio-cultural sides of Barbadians' existence are fundamental to the development of this tourism industry.

2.20 p.m.

Sir, if there is only one issue we must deal with, it is the lack of research capacity within the tourism industry. I am not so sure that that is not the case as well with a number of the other sectors. Sir, because of the glamour side of tourism, the pretty suits and ties, running around the world and all of those things, the meat and potatoes issues, as the Prime Minister said, are not given a lot of attention and I am the first to admit that.

I believe if we are to move forward, we need to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry in this regard. No longer can we operate in an industry that does not work. Therefore, the capacity of the Ministry as it relates to the real bread and butter issues, are the ones that we need to deal with. We need to start talking about how tourism is affecting our people at the different social levels, how they are participating in this industry and the real economic take from this industry. These are some very serious issues that we need to get down to and address.

I also believe we must encourage tourism to be carried on within a formal academic environment. It is a shame, Sir,

that we have a University of the West Indies for the longest while but tourism is now beginning to bite as an issue within our tertiary academic system. This industry contributes approximately \$1.4 billion to our livelihood every year more so than any of the other productive sectors.

We have a situation where 75 per cent of our foreign exchange earnings comes from this industry yet still within our wider educational system particularly at the tertiary level the issue of tourism is severely lacking. I believe that more support needs to be given for the formal academic environment to be enhanced so as to encourage tourism to become a much more front burning issue than it has ever been at both the formal and informal level.

Over the course of the next year we intend to make the issue of research capacity within the ministry and how our formal academic environment deals with some of the issues relating to tourism a priority. In addition to that, more public awareness and involvement must come in to play within the tourism industry. The ministry's programme as we outline it during this debate is centred to, caters towards and points towards creating a much more public awareness and involvement base in the tourism industry than we have ever had in Barbados.

I am proud to say that this Government not only understands the importance of tourism and its contribution to our livelihood but is also seeking to understand better the way this tourism industry works and the true impact it will have upon our development and our livelihood.

Sir, the concept of more local capital investment in this industry is something that must be paramount to the success of this industry. I heard individual Members speaking about investment and what needs to happen with a lot of the investment capital that is around particularly so with all these levels of savings and everything that we would have accumulated in Barbados in the last couple of years. So I cannot understand how it is that within Barbados and within the wider economy where you have your most important productive sector that a lot of that investment capital and local investment capital is not being channelled towards that particular industry. The environment must be creative for us to be able to get more people interested and to get higher levels of local investment capital in the industry because for the next decade or so this is where we will get our bread and butter and we need to get more people involved.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has got three minutes to conclude.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Another area that is substantially lacking is the issue of linkages and leveraging to the other productive sectors. Our programme as outlined in this particular Estimates points specifically to the areas we are

going to spend the taxpayers' money in terms of moving this industry forward.

We also speak to the issue of strengthening the skills base of the industry's practitioners at all levels that will fit into the new Barbadian economy we are seeking to build. We also spoke about our hemispheric and regional arrangements if this economy and this country is going to be an economy and a country dependent upon the export of services. We also spoke a lot about the issue of exporting our medical, accounting and legal expertise. Barbados, as a matured tourism destination, has a multiplicity of good tourism skills and we need to export a lot of that skill.

Sir, the other issue we need to deal with and understand very clearly is how the physical environment will impact upon the development of the tourism industry and our ability to develop and progress within tourism. These are some of the fundamental issues that occupy the minds of the tourism policymakers as we seek to move this industry to a new level.

Sir, there are a number of other issues we have to deal with but if we focus on those issues I have outlined and couple them in dealing with the social impact of the industry, not only the economic side of it, I am positive that within the next decade or so we will see a tourism industry that takes off and that can substantially increase the contribution to the gross domestic product of this country.

I believe that we have only scratched the surface in terms of what tourism could actually contribute to our development.

With those words, Sir, I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.
2.30 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on Head 27. I want to start by dismissing some of the myth, which has been created in the public of Barbados by the Minister of Tourism.

Sir, as you know, the Minister of Tourism has always been very critical whenever I criticise all-inclusive tourism. One gets the impression from the Minister of Tourism that in order for the Barbados tourism to survive, all-inclusive tourism must be the marketing tool, especially in the North American market. Sir, it is easy for one to stand up, to use fancy words and to dress pretty but the facts are that when one looks at the Central Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics January 2002, at page 89, table H(9) one would recognize some rather interesting statistics. Sir, I want to go through them very slowly.

In 1986, this is before we had anything called all-inclusive tourism, from the United States' market, we were

able to get 166,250 tourists; by 1987 it had increased to over 175,000; by 1988 it dropped to 170,000; by 1989 it dropped to 154,000.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Right, BLP days. By 1990 it dropped to 143,000; by 1991 it was 119,000; by 1992 it dropped to 110,000; by 1993 it rose to 112,000; by 1994 it dropped to 109,000.

All-inclusive tourism kicked in around 1994. In 1995 it rose to 111,000; in 1996 it was 111,000; in 1997 it fell to 108,000. Sir, that is when all-inclusive is really kicking in now. By 1998 it dropped to 106,000; by 1999 it dropped to 104,000. Interesting enough in 2000 it rose to 112,000. Now people recognise the concept is not working and they need to involve the community but by the year 2000 it dropped to 106,000.

Sir, one would have figured that if all-inclusive tourism on the American market was so good for Barbados then the figures 175,000 would have been surpassed by this new marketing tool. The truth is, Sir, anyone who understood the tourism market would have recognised that in the early 1980s there was a closer connection between the tourism players on the American market and the citizens of Barbados but instead our marketing experts allowed the marketing experts from America – and this is where globalisation first started, within our tourist industry. We are now talking about globalisation in trade as if globalisation is a new word. The truth is, the first industry that had the effects of globalisation was the tourism industry. I will tell you why in a real way and it is impacting more so on our tourism industry. The marketing people in the United States have recognised that they needed to have a larger share of our revenue from tourism and pushed the concept of all-inclusive tourism on Barbadian and other Caribbean people. We accepted foolishly that marketing concept, not realizing that we were reducing our revenues.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Yes, we were reducing our revenues and giving America a larger share of the pie. They blindly gave us the impression that if we did not go along with it we would have a reduction in the number of tourists that were coming to Barbados. I am told by the tourism planners and I hope I am not wrong on this but this concept is more American than English.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I apologise to you, Sir. I will follow the advice of the Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and will not allow someone who does

not know about tourism to interrupt me. Thank you very much, Ma'am

Mr. Chairman, what is observant from these figures is that the English market, as I am told, is not so compelled by the all-inclusive concept of the American market. They tell me the Americans love the all-inclusive market but when one looks at the statistics on page 89, one will recognise that instead of there being a reduction over the 1986 to 1994 periods, what you would have seen during that period is an increase of tourists coming to Barbados in the English market. Sir, this myth that all-inclusive tourism is good for Barbados has to be stopped. As it now stands, it is a disincentive for the tourism market in Barbados and creates more crime than anything else. Sir, when tourists come on all-inclusive package they are treated like prisoners; they are all in one package deal and this is like moving prisoners from Glendairy Prison to a police station.

Sir, we are not allowing the tourist to come and get the opportunity to become involved in our most vital resource in Barbados. We have been deliberately removing the tourist product away from the masses of Barbados of which they always say they love. If one picks up a *Visitor's Magazine* or a *Sunseeker Magazine* and check the opinions of the visitors, they will tell you that what they most love about Barbados are the people, yet the hoteliers in this country believe that the further they keep the tourist away from Barbadians, the better it is for them and that foolishness has to stop; it is not operating in the interest of Barbadians.

Sometimes we wonder why the climate in Barbados between the citizens and the tourists is the way that it is. Sir, for the simple reason; you cannot tell people they do not have the right to associate with the most productive industry and expect them to be friendly towards that industry. The Minister has to understand that community tourism must be blended in if he wants to keep his all-inclusive tourism going and hoteliers in this country must also understand that, while keeping tourists on their premises, they are only increasing their costs...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, Moon Town does not need that advertisement, that is the problem with you all. You cannot remove yourself from such heights.

Mr. Chairman, the hoteliers who are involved in all-inclusive tourism have a foolish myth that if they keep the tourist on their premises, they are protecting them. In fact, when they are reducing their profits and what they need to do is to encourage the tourist to come on the all-inclusive package and then allow them to roam Barbados. That will reduce their cost because the more people that remain on the

property, the more the expenses will increase. Sir, because of selfishness, they feel they have a right to transport them in a bus, to keep them away from Barbadians and that they are elites.

2.40 p.m.

Sir, if we are serious about tourism, we have to make sure that every entity in Barbados kicks in or we would not be operating at 100 per cent capacity.

Sir, I know that the Minister has already informed the Barbados Tourism Authority that they must work towards community tourism and also inform them that the concept of tourists moving away from the hotel and going into the community must be adopted.

Sir, we also have another serious problem that I also expect the Minister to inform the Barbados Tourism Authority about. We are allowing tourists to come to this country on an aircraft, get in a coach and go straight to the harbour. This must stop because if people want to use our facilities, they must understand that they must leave something behind in Barbados.

I have suggested it to the Minister and I am sure that he has already suggested to the Barbados Tourism Authority that at least these visitors must go on an island tour and allow them to interact with Barbadians because the only way we can convert them into tourists who want to remain in Barbados is if they get the opportunity to understand that we have facilities in Barbados comparable to any place in the world. Sir, they must also be allowed to interact with our greatest asset, the people of Barbados. If they are simply moved from aircraft to ship, we are misusing the resources of Barbados.

Sir, I hope that these three things which the Minister photocopied and took to the Barbados Tourism Authority will be corrected and we will not have this particular problem in the country anymore. We have to understand that we must maximise the use of everything we have in Barbados. Barbados is too small for one group to believe that any particular sector belongs to them. The tourism sector cannot belong to only a few because tourism belongs to every single Barbadian. It must not be a 95 to 5 ratio. The ratio must be 100 to zero.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will laminate it so that this policy will be found on the wall and in the board room of the Barbados Tourism Authority. It will be well photocopied and given as if it were new. Sir, the Minister did not say it was quoted neither did he say thanks.

Sir, I have said before that we have neglected the Canadian market and I am now told that the Canadians are going to Cuba and I believe it.

Mr. Chairman, we have to understand that even though we want to support the Cubans, they must understand that they are our competitors. I am hearing people in Barbados behaving as if they are working in Cuba. They must understand that they are working so that Barbadians can be kept employed. They are using time to promote Cuba and Cuba is doing much better than us in the markets that we want to enter. It is folly to believe that we cannot get the tourist to come to our country but they are promoting the interest of other countries.

Sir, the marketing strategy for the tourism industry must be one for Barbadians and not the concept of the Minister who believes that persons can come to Barbados on an aircraft, get on a ship, go on a cruise, then come back here and be counted in our records as tourists even though they have not spent one cent in Barbados.

Sir, that concept must change because you cannot count a man as a tourist if he has not spent one cent here. The Minister must be told that the statistics as they relate to tourists who come on an aircraft, go to the ship and come back must not be recorded as tourists visiting Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: They cannot be counted in our statistics. We must only record those persons spending money in Barbados or else we would only be pumping up the numbers and pulling down the value. We cannot afford to do that because it will create problems for the Minister of Finance since they would not have spent a single cent in Barbados. Sir, we are not here about numbers, we are here about generating revenue to keep the economy fuelled.

Sir, the Barbados Tourism Authority must understand that the Caribbean is a tourism market. I am not seeing any aggressive marketing coming out of the Barbados Tourism Authority as it relates to.....

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I really hate to stop the Honourable Member in full flight. Unfortunately, his flight path will take him in the wrong direction. The Honourable Member is totally incorrect when he suggests that the statistics for tourist arrivals include persons intransit from the aircraft to the harbour to catch a cruise liner. Sir, these persons are not counted in the tourism figures. If the Honourable Member reads the statistics published and he reads the notes, he will know that visitors are persons who have spent more than 24 hours in a place and that this is international standard. In fact, for the

purposes of immigration those persons are treated in an entirely different manner as they are given an intransit pass.

Therefore, it is totally incorrect to suggest that the records as prepared by the Statistical Department involve some level of discounting.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am grateful to the Honourable Minister for trying to correct something I did not say. The Honourable Member is saying that I claimed when they arrive on the aircraft and go to the port, they are counted as tourists. Sir, I never said that. I honestly think the Honourable Member should apologise for misleading the House because nobody in this Parliament can say that I said that.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, I am not a teacher. I know what I said and I know that it is correct. The Minister also knows it is correct and the tourism officials know it quite well.

I am also aware that the Director of Finance is also concerned about the statistics and the Director of Statistics is concerned about the tabulation. I am saying that we must understand that Trinidadians see us as tourists and we have to start seeing the Caribbean market as a tourist market. We must do everything in our power not to frustrate those Caribbean people who do not want to travel to the United States of America but would prefer to come to Barbados. We must also strengthen the hands of the Immigration Officers. 2.50 p.m.

Sir, the same way that we are seeing Caribbean people is the same way that the Americans see us. If we are rebelling about how the Americans treat us, it is only fair for Caribbean people to rebel at the way that we treat them. We go to the United States to spend a holiday because we feel that we can get something better there. They are some Caribbean people who come here because they feel that they can get something better here too. Are we saying that what we have is inferior and that is why we do not want the Caribbean to use Barbados as a shopping area or to have a holiday? Sir, if we continue with this policy it would impact on our tourists figures.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: On a point of order. I would not want the Honourable Member to mislead the House by imputing that there is some lack of generosity of spirit of the good people of Barbados to our neighbours who either visit us or impute that the Ministry of Home Affairs has a policy that we are unfair in our treatment and ungenerous in our spirit towards our Caribbean visitors. I think that he should withdraw that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know I would never say a thing like that. All that I am saying is that we might be ignorant as to what a tourist is. I am saying that we have to differentiate what is a tourist and who would want to come to Barbados and reside.

Sir, we must put a policy in place to make sure that when the visitors come here and overstay their time, we should know where they can be located.

Sir, do not stop them at the airport unless you have a good reason to prove they are coming here to do something illegal. I do not understand why the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would get hot behind his ears.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I do not mind him defending his Ministry but he should know when to do so. I hope we will understand that in a climate where there is war, we should be able to have an aggressive marketing policy within the Caribbean to pick up the slack with those people who do not wish to risk their lives traveling outside of the Caribbean.

I am surprised that there is a decline of visitors from the Canadian and European markets. People in those markets do not treat wars the same way that the Americans do. They do not allow war to stop them from traveling but Americans allow war to keep them from traveling.

There is also a very interesting point about the American market. We see globalisation in terms of how it is dictated to us but the Americans make sure that the policies that they have in place would ensure that they retain a greater percentage of the shares of the tourism market and the trade market. What has happened with the World Trade Center did not significantly affect them. Sir, They promoted local tourism instead.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, that was a slip.

Mr. Chairman, at the same time they are asking Caribbean countries to allow them to dump all of their products in our markets they are asking their people to remain at home. This is a very interesting point.

I am saying that we have to get back to basics of community tourism. What is amazing about the Minister is that it is very hard to follow his policy, one minute one gets the impression that he has photocopied what he says but as soon as the Barbados Hotel Tourism Association (BHTA) speaks, you will get the impression that a few sheets of the document which he photocopied were left in the photocopier and they have come out after the BHTA spoke.

I could not believe my ears when I heard the Minister of Tourism agreeing with President of the BHTA that we must put strict policies on those people involved in community tourism. I thought that the Minister of Tourism would understand that is the same organisation that said they did not want \$20 tours. Sir, because of the September 11 events, they now want everything and the industry of selfishness kicked in and the Minister has joined them.

I am saying that the Barbadian market should be glad to have something called community tourism which allows that market to cater to every sector of the tourism industry. Instead of only catering to the tourists at the top, we should allow the community to flourish at the bottom and build the foundation for the tourism industry. Instead of doing that, we are doing everything to stifle community tourism because people realised that their room occupancy is down and they now want to force the local people to become the tourists that they are not.

Sir, we are frustrating the people that are providing the community tourism. I do not expect to hear anything from the Honourable Members for Christ Church West, East or South, because their constituencies are doing very well with the community tourism.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member should not allow the BHTA to dictate their policies to him when he in turn implements them. If he does this, he would have failed the people of this country.

I have been promoting community tourism but the Minister has been frustrating my efforts. Community tourism should not be seen through political colours.

Sir, the Honourable Member could not come up with the concept so I gave the concept to him. He said before that he is the Minister and he implements but I can talk. Sir, the Minister is jealous that I am not only talking, I am also implementing policies and that is the difference between the two of us.

Mr. Chairman, I said that I would only deal with page 89 of this document and when I come again I would peruse the Heads in detail and find out from the Minister if we have received value for the additional revenue that he received from the Minister of Finance.

The Minister has been making statements and those statements have been worrying me. The impression is given that Government does nothing and that the private sector is doing everything.

Sir, when one listens to the Minister, one gets the impression that the marketing aspect of the industry belongs

to the private sector. The impression is given that all the money for marketing comes from the private sector and that is not true.

The Barbados Tourism Authority must understand that in the promotion of the tourism product, that promotion should only be done for a few. I understand that he said that he would like to see more people of the private sector being on the Board of the BTA.

Sir, I would like to see more independent people on the Board of Tourism.

We are developing a selfish concept of Barbados and I do not want to be part of that. The Minister must assure me that the players within tourism are not using the Board of Tourism for their benefit because it creates jealousy among their comrades.

Every time that the Minister gets up he behaves as though the Board of the BTA belongs to the private sector. I would wish the Minister to clarify this for me because the impression out there in the community is that the private sector promotes Barbados and not the Government. If that is true, then I would like to know why we are discussing this particular Head.

There is no need for us to have such a large vote for the BTA if this money is not being used to promote the tourism industry. It seems to me the Minister is implying that the Board of Tourism is just down by the Harbour and they do nothing to help the private sector but the private sector does everything to help the Board of Tourism. I would like the Minister to tell me that the opinion out there is incorrect.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I intended during the course of the debate to reply to many of the issues outlined by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy produces ideas or initiatives which compliment our programmes or which we believe are beneficial to the tourism industry in Barbados, we have no problem in seeking to integrate them into the programme of the Ministry of Tourism. I heard nothing coming from the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that made any sense in the positive development of tourism in Barbados.

Sir, the Honourable Member spoke of a number of issues of which I will speak when the time comes. I want to make a short intervention because I know that other Honourable Members are interested in speaking on this Head and to put some issues to this Honourable House in relation to a number of the programmes and activities of the Ministry of Tourism.

There was one issue in my introduction that I neglected to deal with and that relates to the economic impact on tourism. I spoke about the academic approach that is needed for tourism in Barbados and the Caribbean. In Barbados we need to adopt a more serious approach in the way we deal with some of the economic and social issues relating to tourists. For example, the issue relating to the economy and retention revenue from this industry, the industry is a very cannibalistic industry. It is estimated that we spend approximately forty cents in every dollar in order to get a tourist to come to Barbados and we are retaining a small take from the overall industry. These are the issues that we need to do more research on and pay more attention to. Are we deriving maximum economic impact and benefit from the tourism?

Sir, there are a lot of issues that relate to that, not only within the economic domain but also the social issues relating to a very intrusive industry. People come to Barbados every day and they bring all types of things with them – levels of behaviour, health, physical space and development, the concept of how we use water resources and discipline forces are utilised. There are a number of issues which impact upon a tourism destination that we need to pay more attention to and not just treat them as superficial issues.

Sir, between the period of December to April, we almost doubled the population in Barbados and this can have a severe impact on our infrastructure, health, physical space and discipline forces. I think that we increase the research capacity within central Government as we seek to integrate and sponsor more of the concepts which would make tourism an academic subject. I think that these are some of the fundamental issues that we need to deal with.

In terms of the level of funding, there is the fund of \$57 702 000 specifically for the Ministry of Tourism, excluding the Barbados Tourism Authority and a number of agencies under the Ministry of Tourism. This money is designated to execute the policy and to provide support to the industry.

Sir, a research project is being undertaken to deal with visitor expenditure and motivation. There is going to be an upgrading of the information systems which will be fundamental to the Ministry's programme; a monthly visitor statistical publication which is also part of the Ministry's programme; a research project to deal with sites, attractions and all of the ancillary services that impact upon the accommodation side of the development of the industry.

There are specific studies being done of the economic impact on the places of accommodation and small tourism performance. I know that will hearten the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. Another issue relates to the acceptable levels of employment within the sector; the type of employment that will be created within the sector; what

concepts it has for sustainability and the issue of tourism awareness levels. These are the specific areas that the research division will be looking at this year.

In addition, there is the area of product development. These projects will deal with cultural heritage, cruise tourism and community-based tourism. I do not know where the Honourable Member for St. Lucy gets his off-sided ideas from about how we deal with community tourism. Some people think that there is only one side to the marketing of tourism. There is a lot of work that goes into specific projects, programmes and policies that relate to the development of tourism.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is ignorant to many of the subjects relating to tourism and its development and he intends to share that ignorance with everyone in this Chamber and the wider public.

There are issues to the development and promotion of world-class tourism standards. If you are operating first-class tourism destinations, you need to have good concepts of the standards you are marketing. In relation to the immediate competition, there is a joint public/private sector education and awareness programme. There is also a specific facilitation programme for projects that have been started by the private sector where the Ministry provides the expertise in areas of specific aspects of tourism development.

There are human resource development initiatives, attachments and internships with the Ministry of Tourism. There will be a project to sponsor tourism-related workshops and a support for regional activity. This will be included in the programmes coordinated by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation and the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) programmes.

Sir, the marketing promotion will be done through the Barbados Tourism Authority. This not only relates to promotional tours but the marketing research of the Barbados Tourism Authority. There is a lot of marketing research that goes on within the Barbados Tourism Authority. There are issues related to marketing promotion, exploitation of niche markets within tourism. A lot of people believe that somebody just walks off the street and walks into a travel agency and buys a ticket and gets onto a plane; but there are a number of activities within the Barbados Tourism which I will speak to in depth, when given the opportunity later on, that deals with specifically exploiting niche markets within the tourism sector, within our major source market.
3.10 p.m.

Sir, there are issues of being able as well to continue to open up new markets for Barbados and one of the issues that we have dealt with is the diversification of markets. We cannot continue to depend almost exclusively on the United States and Canada to one extent and England and the wider

Europe to be able to be a source of tourism markets for tourists because there must be some level of continued diversification in terms of your market base and your source market to be able to move tourism along.

In that regard, let me add for the benefit of the entire Chamber but mostly for my unenlightened friend from St. Lucy, the Honourable Member, that there are issues related as well to the development of the Caribbean market. This is a very high priority for the Barbados Tourism Authority and for Barbados, as it has always been, even before I was the Minister so I do not know where he gets his information. Then there is the issue of tourism investment through the BTI.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You mean the Honourable Member.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: My apology, Sir, the Honourable Member.

Sir, there are some issues related to tourism investment through the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. managing State-owned tourism properties but also it is Government's executing agency for the revitalisation of many of the major urban areas and the urban projects that we are speaking about, things that add product development to the concept of how we develop Barbados but also gives us a better base for our marketing. In that regard, Sir, the issues of the development of Speightstown, the further development of Bridgetown and the St. Lawrence Gap area and Oistins area is obviously important as well.

Then there is the conference and incentive development mostly through the Barbados Conference Services Limited in conjunction with the BTA. Sir, I think there are some general principles that must be observed and I will speak to them in general terms. I would also like to speak to them in specific terms later on when I speak about performance.

There are some general principles to be observed and one is that Barbados is too small to have two tourism products. This Government has been at the centre of being able to narrow that gap between the South Coast and the West Coast. Therefore, if the image of Barbados to be presented to the exterior is one of a very serious developing country that is maybe the number one developing country in the world, and that our standards have been raised in many regards, we cannot continue to have a very affluent West Coast and a very budget-type South Coast. We need to narrow the gap between the two.

The other general principle, Sir, is that Barbadian people must be at the core always of all the development that we are putting in place. The concept of the physical environment as the real winner in terms of tourism development at the end we must continue to protect and

enhance that physical environment if we are to continue to develop tourism. Tourism development is much more than just marketing and goes way beyond that. The economic benefit that we derive from the tourism industry must be spread broader and wider in this country and involve many other people within the sector.

Sir, as we spread tourism through this country we must spread the concept of Barbadiana as part and parcel of the development of tourism. Fundamental to it, will be being able to project many of the cultural images, and the Barbadian aspect of the development of life must be a fundamental part of any tourism industry for the future.

These are the types of principles that drive this Ministry of Tourism. I know that my introductory statements have been an education for the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I know that he has never had such a comprehensive introduction and actually learnt something about the industry as he has this afternoon.

Therefore, Sir, with those words, I thank you.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make the first of what I hope to be my conclusions to this Head on Tourism. I would want to start my presentation by putting tourism as an economic sector in Barbados into proper perspective. We need to understand why the Government is forging ahead with its plans to have tourism continue as the major engine of growth.

Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the development process of the Barbadian economy, starting from the days when we were a plantation economy and making contact with Professor Lewis' Industrialisation by Invitation model, moving from the fifties to the sixties and we saw the structural transformation that took place in the Barbadian economy, we appreciate where we have come from and the strategic importance agriculture served in the fifties and the sixties, the movement to manufacture and then to a service-based economy. We would see where we have come from, where we are now, how we need to reposition the economy to allow us to continue on a positive growth path and when we look at the more recent contemporary economic processes in Barbados we would see that tourism as an industry has played a very important role.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South reminded us that tourism as an industry provides \$1.5 billion to the gross domestic output and about 75 per cent of our foreign exchange earnings but also, very importantly, it employs directly about 13 800. The most crucial fact when we are looking at the economic potential of the tourism sector in Barbados is to understand that there is tremendous potential via forward and backward linkages as a result of having tourism play a central economic role in this country.

I could mention the possibility of linkages between tourism and agriculture and the potential is very strong: tourism and culture, tourism and sports, tourism and education, tourism and the environment, how we approach physical development, tourism and health.

What this forces us to do is to step back and look at the way in which we measure the performance and the contribution of tourism to the development process. The same thing obtains as to how we look at the contribution that agriculture makes. We have grown accustomed to simplify statistics being used to measure the contribution of agriculture but when we ask ourselves to look at agriculture in the context of its multi-functional role you will see that it is not just a case of agriculture measured in terms of contribution to domestic output, employment and foreign exchange generation but we have to look at the role that agriculture plays in preserving the environment, in providing primary products which go into the manufacturing process and things of that type.

I just decided to start this way, Mr. Chairman, to set the stage for others to understand that tourism in truth and in fact plays a much more important role than how we have grown accustomed to measure the performance of tourism and thereby its contribution to the development process. Once we understand that the structural transformation process that is taking place is such that we have come to a point where tourism is the main driver of economic growth and we accept that there is no turning back.
3.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we accept that there is no turning back. Then, what we need to do, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South said, is to look at those factors which would allow us to plan more strategically for the further development of this tourism product.

Mr. Chairman, it is to that point that I would like to turn now. A lot has been said about the cost of the product in Barbados and we accept that there are certain elements of cost in the tourism industry which we cannot at this stage of our development reduce in any material way. If that is the case, we accept that it is a fairly high cost product. We also have to accept therein, that we need to provide the highest quality product that is possible and let us focus on the things that would allow us to do the best in respect of developing tourism.

Mr. Chairman, when we drive around Barbados, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South said, we cannot afford to be promoting the two sides of tourism in a small country like Barbados. We accept also, Mr. Chairman, that there are large, medium-sized and small players in the industry, but to the extent that all of them are here to stay, we have to find ways and means of allowing all of them to play

the most important role to the industry and there must be a conscious effort to invest heavily in the tourism plant.

We cannot have a situation where tourist and even Barbadians alike are driving around this country and contiguous to nicely refurbished hotels we see plants that are in dire need of refurbishing. There must be a commitment on the part of all the tourism owners and planners to ensure that there is sufficient investment in the refurbishment of these tourism plants.

Mr. Chairman, we need to revisit our curriculum in the various educational institutions and there must be a greater focus on tourism education from a very early stage. There is absolutely nothing wrong in having tourism education being a major focus at the level of the primary schools. There is nothing wrong with exposing children from a very young age, about the importance of foreign languages in a country that is placing a lot of emphasis on tourism. There is also nothing wrong in the context of social studies projects at the primary school whereby having those children focussing more on tourism related projects. Again, there is nothing wrong in the context of them undertaking such projects and getting children at that age interacting with those who operate in the tourism sector.

Also, Mr. Chairman, investment in human capital is very important. If we are to be assured of a more professional approach by those who function in the tourism sector we have to provide the right teaching and programmes for those persons and it starts from the time the tourists get to the airport. We need to make sure that immigration officers are sufficiently well-prepared to handle those who are coming into Barbados that have a characterisation of tourists. We need to make sure that the taxi drivers and those who come in contact with the tourist, via their housekeeping duties, are sufficiently prepared to deal with the tourist in a most friendly manner.

Mr. Chairman, one of the other considerations that we need to focus on is investment in the physical environment. I am not going to be too cowardly to say that it is not pleasing for us to have to accept that the countryside of Barbados is the way it is. We need to provide a countryside that has a more pleasing look, not only for the tourists but for Barbadians as well. I am happy and I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South will speak to a countryside beautification programme which was included as part of the Emergency Response Programme but we need to continue that programme on a consistent basis.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South touched on a point which is very dear to my heart and which I think that not enough attention is paid to as we try to develop our tourism industry, and it has to do with building research capacity. If we are to fine-tune the industry in such

a way that we do all that is required to take the industry forward, we need to know, in a very analytical way, what are the major factors that cause the industry to move forward. Proper analytical work must be done on various facets of the industry. I mentioned a few earlier and I will repeat some of them.

We need to know, in a more definitive way, what are the precise educational requirements for an industry like tourism in a Barbadian context. We need to know more about the sociological aspects that are important to this industry. We need to be able to identify, as I said earlier, the economic aspects of the industry, the cultural requirements of the industry, the environmental factors that are pertinent to the development of this industry. Mr. Chairman, studies focussing on the analysis of the factors which have been making a contribution to the development of tourism, should be better known.

One of the other areas, Mr. Chairman, as I touch on this business of research capacity, is to have more focussed research done in a comparative context. We need to understand, in a more timely manner, what our competitors are planning which could have a negative impact on our industry, so that we will be in a position to respond in a timely manner. Sir, comparative analysis must be an ongoing process and I am certain that the Minister of Tourism is very mindful of this fact, because if the industry becomes more and more competitive, it means that we have less and less time to respond. So any early warning signals that are sent will have to be picked up by the industry planners and we have to be continually aware of what it is we need to do by alteration of our plans for the industry, so as to allow us not to slip.

Mr. Chairman, the private sector/public sector relationship for the industry has to be reexamined. A lot has been said about the benefits to be derived from a marketing programme that has private sector and public sector input. I am submitting here this afternoon that it goes beyond that. The private sector and it is no secret, Mr. Chairman, are in the habit of looking to the Government to provide, beyond the enabling environment, to allow them to make decisions with more certainty.

I am saying that there must be a reorientation of the minds of the private sector operators in the tourism industry, to understand that it really is the business of the Government to provide the enabling environment which would allow them to make the strategic decisions. The Government will help them along the way with marketing but they will have to show a higher level of commitment to the development of the industry, by investing more in the research, in the refurbishment of the plans and in understanding what their competitors are doing, so that at the end of the day, the country will stand to benefit more from the partnership arrangements between the private sector and the public sector.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that we also have to consider, and mention was made of it earlier, is research on the different economic units that make up the tourism product. We have small, medium and large economic units and if we accept the fact that to develop the tourism industry in a holistic way, means that the economic units of different sizes will have to be developed, then it does not make sense for us to have a concentration of efforts to one segment of the tourism sector, to the exclusion of the other sectors.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am very happy when I look at the tourism section of the brief for the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport and see that there is a clear understanding and a clear appreciation for moving the sector forward in such a way that all potential players and all existing players have some contribution to make. The community tourism aspect and the marketing aspect all focus on the requirements of the various components of the industry.

The Government has established various funds which would allow the smaller hotel to access valuable institutional finance to facilitate refurbishing, to get technical assistance in place and to deal with the marketing. This augurs well for moving the sector forward in a holistic way.

Mr. Chairman, I will stop at this time but I certainly will return because I see this as a most important debate.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I listened attentively to the Minister of Tourism in his presentation and I sincerely hope that relative to what we are here to do today in relation to the expenditure of funds by the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport that the Minister will soon get to that because that is what Estimates are all about. His time may be running out in this debate, and as Ministers of Tourism go, his time may be running out in the ministry as well. So I would like very much for him to get to the substance of the expenditure.

The Estimates is not about lofty statements and broad repetition of commentary about what is happening in the tourism sector. I have heard all of that before not only from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South but I would have heard it from every one of his predecessors including those in the Democratic Labour Party so none of that, in the context of this Parliamentary debate, is new. What might be new is that the Minister started his tenure by making it abundantly clear or as clear as he could put it that he does not have confidence in the ability of the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) to undertake the task that needs to be

undertaken to transform that aspect of the tourism sector that is under their purview. I was not deaf, Sir, I heard it and I understood it. The Minister then subsequently pointed out what his preference was.

I am saying to him that pivotal to the policy of the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport is a role for the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) but so much has happened in that Authority that would stymie even the efforts of the best Barbadian brains. We have had some of them in there but not all would be characterised in that way. We have had some very good officers and we have some good officers now but even they have been stymied and have been affected by the problems of morale that creeps through the entire system of the BTA not just in Barbados but elsewhere.

I do not frequent government offices overseas but when I go to functions in New York, London or elsewhere I do hear of the very low level of morale of those persons who either work with or associate with the Barbados Tourism Authority. There is no point pretending that it does not exist and acting as if you...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not telling the Honourable Member for St. Michael South that it started with him either. He was to put an end to it but he has not been able to do that and it does not mean that he cannot come to this Estimates with a very clear position on the role the BTA will play. He is clearly not going to get his policy through of changing up the structure of the BTA so significantly that it does not resemble what was there for the past ten years. So what are the alternatives? What is his fall back position from the very early announcement that he made about the fact that he did not have confidence in the ability of the BTA as currently structured to undertake its role bearing in mind that we have had a restructuring in 1995, we had a restructuring in 1993 and no doubt there must have been previous restructuring.

There was a time when a director of tourism was said to have done more damage than a hurricane by the Prime Minister and no doubt there was a restructuring then so this is nothing new. What is it then about the role of the BTA that the minister can tell us in this particular debate since a significant portion of the money which is going to be spent on tourism is going to be given to the Authority.

The second point is that we often take for granted that the benefits of tourism are trickling down in Barbados. I was glad to hear the Minister saying that he wants the necessary analysis to be carried out to determine if it is so or not. If the Ministry is able to undertake that analysis, and if it remains the Minister's focus and we do not chop and

change again, it will be a very critical component of analysing the perception and contribution of the tourism sector to Barbados and also raising the levels of morale and productivity throughout the entire industry. If the Minister is not willing to address the issue of productivity, if the policy chop and changes, if taxes remain at the level they are at – and the Prime Minister has indicated why he has some constraints in that regard – if the bureaucracy remains exactly the same as it is now, if some of the outside factors like crime and so on are impacting in the way that they are impacting and if the Minister cannot get to the issues of developing the Barbadian experience then we would be wasting more time debating tourism in this Chamber. This is the concern that I have, Sir, about the debates that we have been having down through the years on tourism.

I am not placing this exclusively on the Minister. He has had enough time to move out of that mode and he should not laminate today's speech. The Honourable Minister could laminate the previous speech that he delivered two days ago because in that speech, despite its shortcomings, there was an attempt to identify the philosophical orientation of the Minister which as he said is focussed on saving jobs, saving investments, saving our island and ensuring that the benefits from tourism trickle down.

He came in here today having lost his way because he is now being befuddled by a brief which is a very dangerous dilemma for a minister to find himself in because we are policymakers not civil servants. Civil Servants have their jobs. We respect them and we admire the advice they give and the efforts they make but at the end of the day policies rest with the Government and it is the Opposition's role to pick the policies to pieces. But if we cannot get our teeth into the substance of the direction that the minister is taking then we are essentially wasting time because what we are doing here is voting money to carry out those specific aims and objectives which the Minister has identified as being relevant to his tourism plan.

I disagree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South when he said that too many Barbadians have no in-depth understanding of tourism. I have visited all of the English speaking Caribbean countries and I have been to many resorts in Orlando and hotels throughout the world and I still believe that at the end of the day that the average Caribbean citizen believes that Barbadians know about tourism. I am not going to go any further than that. It is the people on the street who know and understand tourism. Perhaps that is where the analysis is going when we speak of community tourism but it starts from the analysis that people do not have an in-depth understanding – keep that in-depth understanding, it is inane. It is part of our experience, not just post-independence but before that. Let us draw on that and build on it as part of what is unique for Barbados. Let us not believe that people do not understand.

3.40 p.m.

I went to visit a family at one of those time-share resorts last year, a very luxurious place. As soon as I reached the lobby I met a Barbadian priest. It was not the Honourable Member for St. Michael West...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It is a fact; one goes into hotels from Times Square all over London. Sometime ago I visited someone in a hotel in Belgrade, Times Square – Barbadians again, living and working. One talks about domestic tourism but Barbadians do a lot of travelling themselves. We are not talking to a public that is not exposed. They watch CNN and other news. They stay in hotels. They know what quality service is. They may go to conferences and may have a variety of experiences in tourism. Therefore let us assume that even the average Barbadian has some relationship. The first function I went to was at the Brooklyn Marriott. It was a 50th Anniversary dinner for a couple that lived all their life in Society, St. John. They were treated out, at 70 something years old, to a brand new hotel, maybe their first experience other than the normal Sunday lunch which was common in Barbados in the 1970s and 1980s. Therefore, I do not think that we should proceed on the basis that Barbadians do not understand.

I hear people talking about time-share exchanges in the normal homes in Barbados, so there is some level of understanding but let us not waste resources on things I do not think are necessary and desirable. There may be some people in the tourist sector who pretend they do not understand. That is very often the case with people in the private sector and the reason they like to pretend they do not understand is because they then can argue that they should get the lion share of everything because they have a better way – they do not tell you what it is – of doing what they say Government is not doing.

Then there is the perception, despite what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South may say and despite his private sector background originally, that Government is the problem. Their perception is not contrary with what successive Governments have tried to tell us; that Government is holding their hands and helping them in this great partnership. At any cocktail party one goes to they can list every problem they have with Government's policies, from taxes right down to land use policies. This is a ritual that we are all familiar with and it does not make sense. I am not trying to be cynical but to me it would not make sense constructing a policy on the basis that you believe that other than the fact that you are giving tax relief and benefits directly to hoteliers in Barbados, they are going to tell you that you are their greatest allies. They perceive Government as the biggest problem and they are going to have difficulties with the Employment Rights Act. When you get the money on the road for the refurbishment and all those other issues

you will find that people are going to say that, despite all of that, Government is not doing what it needs to do, to advance the private sector. Sir, that is why I am saying the Honourable Member for St. Michael South needs to get out of that particular mindset. There have been some improvements. The restaurants in Barbados, to my mind, have seen an improvement of service. There may be a few problems but by and large particularly on the West Coast ... I do not get on the South Coast that often but I have seen dramatic and very significant improvements.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I may go for lunch not for dinner. Lunch is a more fast turnover...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ...where I meet you. I have seen some improvement there and there has been an improvement among hotel workers. The menus and chefs have been improved but as soon as one arrives at the restaurants there is a sense of commitment of ensuring one's satisfaction. I do not think it was only that way because it was me for I have watched other persons in restaurants being served and there was a similar level of service. That does not exist, to my mind, anywhere else in the Caribbean, except perhaps in a owner-operated establishment and if the owner deals with you directly. Other than that, I cannot say that we have that level of service anywhere else in the Caribbean.

Mr. Chairman, in the past few months we have heard everything the Minister has said about the challenges in tourism. Remarkably, this has been said by every other Minister of Tourism in the Caribbean. If one goes to St. Lucia – last December the Prime Minister was saying that the impact of September 11 was not as deep as he had expected fortunately and therefore he believes that even though it has had some impact, there is a platform for take-off in the tourism sector. They talk about increased airlift the same way, whether it is like the expansion of Caribbean Star Airlines. All of these things are being regurgitated throughout the region. Sir, that now puts on the Minister of Tourism, a very specific responsibility today in this debate to tell us what is different about his management of the tourism sector that will ensure that any boast that Barbados is head and shoulders above or has advanced above any other countries in the Caribbean is correct. Do not just flatter the House with talk about the personnel in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporation and all the other long lists of scenarios that we know are not specifically relevant to the question that is being asked. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South needs to take the opportunity to be very frank with this House and tell us how he is going to grapple with the tourism sector and push it into this Century and ensure that the high levels of success that we have enjoyed in the past continues. I thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I rise to join this debate on Head No. 27, specifically as it relates to Programme 332 – Development of Tourism potential.

Sir, at the outset I firmly believe that tourism needs to hold potential to contribute to the further development of Barbados. I endorse the statements made by other Honourable Members so far, indicating the extent to which tourism has already contributed to the development of Barbados. It is my assessment that for us to fully exploit this potential to tourism development we need to concentrate on marketing and promotion, on investment in hotels, as well as the other facilities associated with tourism. Of course, we need to establish and maintain standards such as appropriate for our tourism as well as for the place which we hold in the market so that what we promise visitors and what they experience will tend to be synonymous.

Under this Head, I am pleased to note that the Government has continued to provide Expenditure in support of the work of the Barbados Tourism Authority, contributions as well to the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, Barbados Conference Services, the Barbados National Trust, the Urban Rehabilitation Programme for St. Lawrence, Speightstown and Bridgetown and, of course, the Bush Hill Project.

Sir, with respect to the marketing and promotion, I am pleased to note that this Government has been able, in the coming financial year, to recognise the importance of the need for Barbados to more effectively promote itself to achieve a top-of-the-mind status in the tourism market and by so doing, to attract more visitors to our shores.
3.50 p.m.

Sir, we have been able to allocate an additional \$7.5 million to this Head. In fact, we have moved the allocation to the Barbados Tourism Authority from \$45 million to \$52 million. There is always a concern as to what this money is used for and what is noteworthy is that the budget of the Barbados Tourism Authority reflects a reduction of 4 per cent in administrative expenses but at the same time a 15 per cent increase in their marketing and promotional budget. Even though there is an increase overall in the allocation to the Barbados Tourism Authority, they have recognised that the money has to go to the core functions of the organisation.

Sir, it is my assessment, while having looked at markets overseas and monitoring the newspapers and television that the Barbados Tourism Authority in executing its functions needs to ensure that we take a 'rifle-shot' approach rather than a 'scatter-shot' approach to marketing. It is important that we raise our profile in the selected markets.

I want to suggest that the markets to choose are those with which we have opportunity for airlift. In fact, the experience with US Airways in the last few months, perhaps, is an object lesson. The Government committed \$7 million to joint marketing with US Airways. They had an interest in getting people into their aircraft and we had an interest in getting people to our island and the results out of Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia are substantial. In my visits to Washington, I have seen more Barbados advertisements on television and other places than I have seen before. Clearly, it shows that we have heightened our profile and we have seen the dividends.

Sir, as an observer, Barbados as a country has a low profile because we do not have enough exposure on network television and other major channels like The Bahamas or Jamaica. We have to ensure, within our means, that we are able to address that particular deficiency.

Sir, it is important for the private chains in Barbados to pitch in and help. It is not the exclusive responsibility of the Government of Barbados to promote tourism in Barbados because all of us stand to benefit from tourism. Those who directly own facilities which take the first cut off tourism also have to shoulder a larger share of the responsibility. When they promote themselves Barbados wins and when Barbados promotes itself they win. I want to call on them to climb another rung on the ladder.

Sir, I want to respond to something raised by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in terms of the need for Barbados to work more aggressively at exploiting an opportunity for more Caribbean tourism traffic. It is to the credit of the Barbados Tourism Authority that they continue to work hard in exploiting this market.

Sir, I know, even if the Honourable Member does not know, that their Sales Manager for the Caribbean region goes from Jamaica in the north to Guyana and Suriname in the south looking for business for Barbados.

I agree with him on the point that we need to ensure that, as a people, our definition of tourists is not so warped by historical factor that a St. Lucian staying in a hotel in Barbados is not immediately recognised as a tourist in the way that someone from Michigan is.

Sir, that is a reality and it is part of our cultural makeup. In our days growing up, as you would know, a tourist was a white man from a far place away and sometimes those unspoken aspects of our culture are unwittingly passed on to other generations.

Sir, we have honestly come a long way but we still get some comments from some of our black visitors that they do not get the special treatment which they should get when they come to the best run and administered country in the

world and we need to look at that. Sir, in respect to our Caribbean visitors we need to hold out an extra hand.

Sir, I want to move quickly to the other aspect of my intervention. Development of our tourism potential depends not only on marketing but when we bring visitors to our shores, where do they stay, what do they do and what do we do to make sure they are satisfied, are willing to go back and tell other people they had fun.

Sir, part of what is required for our development in tourism is to concentrate on continuous product development and I must salute the Minister of Tourism for giving leadership and the Minister of Finance for providing resources for the public sector component of this investment in our future.

We know that work has started on the Hilton Hotel to provide additional rooms. Mr. Chairman we know that the investment by way of adding additional rooms to Hilton property has already started and we can go through a long list of our expansions and renovations.
4.00 p.m.

I want to join with those persons in this Parliament who have lauded and pledged their support for the wider involvement of the community in tourism. I want to say that the fiscal incentives which have been offered by the Government to attract golf courses and mega tourism investments, that the Government has not been neglectful of community tourism and community development efforts.

In these Estimates allocations have been made as diverse as developing tourism at Pool Woods, St. John; projects in Bathsheba for developing heritage tourism; projects which recognise that the tourists want to experience the culture of the places they visit and not culture as the arts but culture as where we live and who we are and what we do. They also want the opportunity to participate in activities that are uniquely Bajan. Sir, not necessarily things that are packaged and put on by a hotel.

Sir, they want the opportunity to go to Oistins or Moon Town. Oistins or Moon Town have not been put on for tourists. These are things that we do and we welcome them to join us. Cricket or the Gold Cup are not put on for tourists but they are able to join with us in these activities. We need to make sure that we are able to develop greater attractions.

I salute the Barbados National Trust for their intention to develop all the Great Houses in Barbados. We also know that the plans of the Ministry this year are to develop the other components of that heritage. Barbados has come a long way but we still have a lot of baggage to get rid of.

Sir, they are persons in Barbados who on the one hand would salute the projects of the Barbados National Trust

on developing the great plantation houses and give them all of the history going back deep into the days of slavery, but when you speak about a slave project or talk about any aspect of our history going back to our period of enslavement they go and hide.

I am pleased to see that in these Estimates funds are allocated to develop the tourism component, partly funded by UNESCO, but also looking at the slave roots. There is an ongoing project at the University of the West Indies and other international organisations looking at the facts of slavery. The route from Africa to the Caribbean; looking at some of the locations which would be significant to that wretched business but it is part of our history.

I would think that it would be as important for our cultural heritage for us as a people and what we have to offer as a tourism product, not only be able to show the great houses of Barbados but also to show the slave huts.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, to show all aspects of our culture, Sir.

I want to say in closing that another aspect of our culture is our Amerindian culture and that the Silver Sands Heritage Park, Silver Sands/Long Beach area was one of the major areas where the Amerindians settled. They sailed in their canoes from South America. In those days little streams used to run almost into Atlantic Shores. I look forward to working with the National Conservation Commission to ensure that the Silver Sands Heritage Park is developed; not as the popular beach that it is; not as the only windsurfing location of any greatness in Barbados but to fully develop this aspect of our culture as one of the important attractions of tourism and as a means of helping us to develop our fullest potential in tourism.

I will return to this Head a little later. I thank you.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Mr. Chairman, the funds which have been set aside under Head 27 for the loan capital to small undercapitalised hotels for marketing and joint purchasing... Sir, what makes it more attractive is the five-year grace period which is attached to this loan scheme.

However, I enter this debate not just in terms of strict tourism but as a hospitality industry. People the world over are looking for leisure and pleasure and setting aside more time for these activities and trying to work less hours. Gone are the days when we should only see the tourism product in terms of the three S's, Sand, Sea and Surf. These are days when all entities whether there are restaurants or bars must all come together as entities involved in the hospitality industries. Sir, even sports clubs and organisations now have

to be seen as part of the industry. I think that was touched by some earlier speakers. They all have a part in this sector.

Sir, two weekends ago we saw the Gold Cup, although there were some adverse comments to it as how well the beginning of the race was captured by the television crew. Apart from that the race itself would have been seen by millions of people in this part of the hemisphere and this is good publicity and relatively cheap marketing for the island.

In another two weekends we will be beginning to host the test cricket series. This would be marketing the country to millions across Asia and throughout Europe.

Sir, these two events would market Barbados to millions of persons who at some time or the other, if they have not yet visited here, would be desirous of visiting the area. World Cup football will be played in another three months and the Olympics over a year ago. We know the potential to which these activities can incite people to visit the countries in which these games are hosted and this is brought about through the television media.

In 1976 when I visited Montreal as a student, a long time after the Olympics were finished, millions of people would visit annually to view where the Olympics were held and continue to buy mementoes to perpetuate the memory as having visited the place where the Olympics were held. The same thing happens at Wimbledon and millions of pounds are spent on souvenirs. This is the sort of spin-off the sports tourism has and it is a desirable entity of the product.

Barbados has the infrastructure and the facilities to have year-round sports persons and activities being conducted on our shores. Some 15 years ago when the Banks Hockey Festival first came into being you could have counted the number of overseas clubs that participated, no more than ten. This number rose to 26 teams last year and that had nothing to do with an extra 40 teams that would have visited the island during last year outside of this Hockey Festival.

The reason for this astronomical increase of overseas teams coming here is in no small measure related to the presence of an astroturf. The Government of Barbados and the Sports Council must be lauded for the contribution which they made to that astroturf. Barbados is now a centre for as far as Venezuela and Argentina who come here to practise in order to get themselves ready for certain international events. Sir, the foreign Exchange component as a result of this festival is more than meaningful.

Sir, I would like to put a plug to the Ministry of Sports. This facility needs to be shot to another orbit which would facilitate the proper shelter and other facilities associated with a centre such as obtained at the Hockey Centre.

Sir, families spend in excess of a week in Barbados enjoying all that Barbados has to offer. They do not all play hockey alone. They play other sports. It is a cheap form of marketing and the families come back and encourage their friends to come.

At the high peak of the season it is almost impossible to get a rental car. The restaurants are full, whether you are on the south coast or west coast. The rum shops are full. The duty free shops do their trade and it is impossible to estimate the thousands of foreign exchange dollars that spin-off as the result of this activity.

Sir, a high quality of netball is played in Barbados. I think that Barbados is now rated at number ten in the world. During the summer a number of schools and clubs from overseas visit our shores. About two weeks ago there was a team which was hosted by the girls of Harrison College. It was a Canadian High School that had taken a break and chose Barbados to visit. I must mention that some thirty netball tours would have come through Barbados last year.

Sir, there is king cricket. Sir, you know of this activity and the former professional and amateur cricketers coming to Barbados. Then there is the Sir Garfield Sobers Tournament. Barbados comes alive in the month of July. Preceding Crop Over there is a hive of activity here in Barbados. At this time Barbados is a buzz of activity.

Sir, in the early 1980s, the number of clubs coming to Barbados was greater than of recent times. I am told that with abolishing of the apartheid system, these teams seem to be targeting South Africa. Our lost is South Africa's gain.

I am also told, that the packages, that are being offered in South Africa, are very interesting and meaningful, in terms of activities. When you make these tours you have all kinds of activities included in the package and I believe that this is done through sponsorship. I would encourage clubs in Barbados to go after this type of business more aggressively and try to get sponsorship which would underwrite these types of activities.

Sir, about three weeks ago a team was in Barbados and they visited the Weymouth Complex, which is in my opinion one of the nicer sports complexes in Barbados. The field is well manicured and at the end of the day when the players finish their game they go to a shop on the opposite side of the road and patronise that business. They enjoy themselves with the fine Barbados spirits. This shop is a very popular watering hole for these types for tour groups.

Sir, this marketing is by word of mouth. I think Barbados is in a very good position to improve itself in sports tourism. We can boast of three Knights: Sir Clyde, Sir Garfield and Sir Everton, not necessarily in that order, not to

mention Haynes and Greenidge. I fail to see why Barbados cannot host an international series at least once a year, whether it is cricket or some other sport.

After the cricket season in Barbados is finished the Kensington Oval goes dead. The Kensington Oval wicket is so well manicured and prepared, that I often say that there should be, immediately after the cricket is finished, some top European football clubs coming to Barbados to play when they have taken their annual break. This would be a way of holding some of the visitors who came to watch the cricket game.

With our rich cricketing history and good facilities, it is time that the relative Ministries, the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Tourism, come together and try to maximise the earnings of a sport which is part of our culture. There is not a lot that you will have to do.

Sir, we can use the facilities in the winter season. We have to look at the hockey and football in Europe coming to Barbados before they start their spring training and getting themselves into shape.

Sir, I will come back again not on sports tourism but on alternative energy.

Mr. Chairman, I much obliged.
4.20 p.m.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, let me begin by saying that there has always been some form of sports tourism going on. I believe that what has happened in recent years is that we are becoming more conscious of the benefits and the mileage which we can get for the country out of sports tourism. I want to preface my remarks by making the statement that there are other neighbouring islands competing for the presence of the same sportsmen and sportswomen that we are trying to attract and I also want to make the point that they are offering the same product: good facilities, good climate and so on.

Therefore, we have to be virtually a notch ahead if we want to ensure that we capture this particular market. Sports has always been one of the pegs on which tourism has over the years hung its hat and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has spoken to the financial spin-offs from things such as the Hockey Festival and I would not worry to go into that.

Just a weekend ago the Sandy Lane Gold Cup was beamed to Canada, to Europe, to the USA and this is now an event that is attracting people annually almost in the same way that they would go to Ascot. Therefore, there can be no dispute that sports lends itself to tourism and helps to make it the big money earner that it really and truly is. We only

have to look at the Gold Cup, at cricket when it is being played at Kensington.

The point I want to make is that people in tourism who are actually conceptualising policies for tourism must entertain and they must interact with the functionaries in sports and that is a very important point. I do not think that enough is being done at present in that regard. We cannot keep sports tourism in narrow focus any longer, it has to be much broader than it is at present.

I think too many of our sports tourism projects are done in a fairly *ad hoc* fashion and we do not get as much from them as we should. Therefore, I am calling for greater dialogue and up-front dialogue because sometimes it comes in but it comes in at the tail end and that is the mistake we make. We want greater up-front dialogue between the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Sports when we are planning our sports tourism events, especially events of a national nature. I think that the two Ministries have to stop fighting for turf, that I organised this one and not you. That cannot happen any longer. It is a national thing. We are in the business together.

We did the classic example, myself and the Minister of Tourism, when the Gold Cup came. Both of us were there. Additionally, there was a young chap who wants to organise a motor sports event in Barbados who said that he wanted to meet with me and I said, "No. If you are meeting with one we will be here together, meet with both of us." And we had the meeting together. I think that the example that we set at that level should permeate both Ministries and there should always be a meshing when we are having these events between tourism and sports. It is no tug-of-war. I think, Sir, it is a joint effort and we have to make that plain.

Sir, I do not think that it detracts from Tourism if they ask Sports to be involved up front and I do not think that it detracts from Sports if they ask Tourism to be involved up front. Each one sometimes seems to want to take the credit for having organised events and I think that that is bad for us. Sometimes, for instance, the Ministry of Tourism might very well organise the Gary Sobers programme for the festival and you get to the stage where when the teams arrive and want to go on particular grounds to play then the Ministry of Tourism comes in and they say they want this ground and that ground and sometimes we say so and so is using it already and that is not what we want.

You have to realise that both of them do their best in this regard where the Gary Sobers Competition is concerned. The Sports Council helps with the trophies, the transportation and helps with the grounds. All we are saying is let us be up front. Let us not wait until late. Let me admit, Sir, that where we are concerned very often we organise and then we try to pull them in late as well. It is not that I am pointing my finger at one and not at the other.

We have to realise that whenever Barbados is used as a sports forum or a sports venue for whatever reason it is indeed to the outside world an adornment of our society and it gives us a much larger profile than we think. When we organise these things and people hear that they are being organised in Barbados it gives us a profile of which we should be proud and if we do it right it profiles us as a small developing country with a perfect setting and a developing country that has a variety of sports and games, one that is organised by people who have the ability to put together an event as good as any of those put together in the developed world.

We do not know the amount of praise that we get from persons who come to Barbados and experience the level of our organisation because sometimes they come and have a very warped impression as to what to expect and when they see how well we have all the logistics in place in terms of their transportation, accommodation and so on, then they marvel at it, especially when we do it well.

Sir, I think that we have a duty to amplify and expand on what we traditionally have in place as sports tourism events, especially in things like cricket, football and hockey but we also have to get into new areas as well. You can feel pressure from the outside world as very often you get a request about yachting and golf and having regattas and parachuting events in Barbados. I would hope that the national associations for these particular sports, especially the new ones that we want to bring on board, would take up the challenge and would have some of these events put on right here in our country. We must have competitions that originate in Barbados. That is crucial.

We have to realise that our neighbours very often are offering the same product, the same climate and they want to attract the same sportsmen and sportswomen. So my call is for national associations to accept the challenge and sponsor events, martial arts, motor racing and so on.
4.30 p.m.

There can be no doubt that there are numerous sports tourism opportunities available. For instance, golfers always want to experience the feeling of a new green and the challenge to them, very often, is to play at a different golf course and not the ones they know, virtually by heart. They want to experience new ones. The boaters want to get into the best waters and I think we have that combination of excellent facilities in Barbados.

I think we underestimate our sporting facilities. I think, Sir, a lot had been said about the astroturf by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, but I think we underestimate the gymnasium and its potential. I have never heard a bad comment about the gymnasium from any visitor when we are putting on sporting events at the gymnasium.

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I remember when the Chief of Volleyball came to Barbados, he wanted to make the Gymnasium one of the volleyball centres of the world and when he saw it, he said, no problem, this is a wonderful facility, this is now the ninth volleyball centre of the world.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: When teams like the Toronto Rapture visit Barbados and go to the Gymnasium, they marvel at the facility. We have a swimming pool at Wildey and also have lawn tennis facilities at Wildey which attract many people every year who come to the World Junior Tournament. There are youngsters who came here from the age of six to play youth tennis and their parents insist that they come back every year because it is not like they came and found themselves playing in the jungle, they found themselves playing on as good a facility as they would find elsewhere.

Sir, there is now the possibility that in the year 2004, Barbados would be hosting the World Junior Boxing championship. This is a very prestigious tournament and there is a very real prospect that this tournament will be staged here again at the Gymnasium because of the quality of that facility which has helped to give Barbados this honour.

Sir, in July 2002, which is just a few months away, there is going to be a power boat challenge. I guess that in another couple of weeks, you will see the International Press Conference, which will be held for this particular event. These are some of the events that we have to get into and not necessarily the cricket and football.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to conclude.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Thank you, Sir.

We are also hosting the Rifle Championship, which is to be held at Paragon in May 2002. Sir, as I close, I do believe that we should be having another athletic event in Barbados every year, along with 'Run Barbados'. I mean an athletic event which can bring a lot of athletes into Barbados, for example, the Hampton Games which are held and Trinidad and the Gibson Relays that are held in Jamaica. I think that Barbados can put on a big enough athletic event and I call on the Amateur Athletic Association to rise to the challenge. Let us sit down together and thrash out these things so that we can continue to make tourism work and let others know that sports tourism is really and truly alive and well in Barbados.

I will come back, Sir.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I share the lament of the Honourable Member of Tourism and that of the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, with respect to the lack of prominence which is given in our educational system to the matter of tourism. Certainly, it is quite clear that traditionally, we have not seen it necessary to do so within the structure of the University of the West Indies. I think it is only now that we have seen some movement in that direction. We have seen people having to go to the Bahamas and farther afield to further their own personal gift and development in this regard.

Yet, tourism is on the front burner for, certainly, the Barbadian economy. The Jamaican economy and the Trinidadian economy have also gone in that direction, so I share that lament and call for a stronger move in that direction.

I question though, the validity in suggesting that we need to do so from the primary level in our educational system. Unless we have a fairly narrow view of education as it relates to tourism, I do not see how we can accept today that even at the primary level, we are not teaching things which are of significant relevance to the development of our tourism industry and to the development of our young people, with an environment where the tourism sector so dominates.

I would like to think that at the primary level in our schools, we are teaching our children to be industrious and that is important, the spirit of industry, to know how to learn to work in order to earn, and to do a fair day's work for a good day's pay. I would like to think that we are teaching our young children to be honest and the value of service to others. I would like to think that we are teaching them to be self-confident and to see themselves as, at least, equally important as anybody else. I would like to think that we are teaching them about love of country. If all of these are not important values for people who grow up in a society which depends for its livelihood so much on the presence of visitors, then I do not know what is. I think we need to ensure that we build upon these things and improve our efforts to inculcate these types of values in our citizens, so that when they are exposed to the impact of the dominance of the tourism sector, they can make the adequate input and the appropriate responses in any situation.

I believe, however, that we need to see a deliberate effort in education, at the informal level of the community. We have a slogan that 'tourism is our business, let's play our part' but I do not think that our people largely have that internalised. I think, to a lot of our people at the informal level of the community, who are away from the formal tourism sector, that has not been internalised.

I would like to think that people in the area of Richmond, who are not involved by means of employment in

the tourism sector, or whose parents are not involved in the tourism industry directly would come to understand that though they do not have direct involvement in terms of daily employment in the industry, it is still important to their livelihood and well-being and that they can play a part. I think there is a lot of room for education at the informal level of the community. I also would like to think that people in Eagle Hall, Richmond and Westbury Road can feel that there is a greater part in the business of tourism, than simply being the areas through which taxis and coaches would pass on the way from the Harbour or the west coast. I heard the Minister of Tourism suggesting that a study needs to be done to ascertain the level of economic impact on the total Barbadian society of the investment which we, year after year make from tourism.

4.40 p.m.

The experiment which no longer exists as an experiment at Oistins teaches us that we can bring tourism very close to home. I do not know why similar experiments cannot be speedily pursued in other parts of this country especially in the urban areas. Baxters Road is undergoing its woes right now which is part of the pain of progress. There are those who sold fish for a livelihood there for many years who have clienteles from all over this country and farther afield. I believe we need to improve situations in places like this such that what is happening at Oistins – I go there sometimes on weekends – should be happening at Baxters Road and in other places.

Asides.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: I know it is coming. I am asking that we be speedier in doing it and that it be multiplied elsewhere other than at Baxters Road.

There is a gentleman named Ling Pong, Mr. Chairman, who lives in Garden Land and who makes his livelihood from selling food. Over the years he has been able to attract visitors from very far afield to his open-air food shop. I am suggesting that it is things like these that need to be encouraged and persons who are involved in that type of activity should be made to understand through a process of education that they play a very important role in the development of this industry.

Mr. Chairman, it is not only the economic benefit that it brings but also the benefit of social relations between the locals and visitors at the level of the community. I say that because we have always said that our people represent one of our best marketable commodities. One can talk about sun, sand and sea and about service within the formal areas of the sector but the people from overseas have testified that they come here very often because of the people which is a very marketable commodity. I believe that the more we can expose our people at the community level to the tourists we will do ourselves service as well as the tourists.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. John made a remark a little earlier in his submission relating to crime against visitors and the uninformed ear may very well infer from his remarks that we have a very serious problem with crime as it relates to visitors. If we take a look at studies and findings based on actual research – this was made a document of the House just a couple of days ago. While we would want to ensure that there is never a situation where crime in Barbados is such that visitors are staying away, we are not anywhere near that figure. The figures are here and they speak for themselves.

In the 1980s we had a recorded level of 758 crimes against visitors which moved to 849 in 1991 in a period of economic downturn in Barbados. Crimes against visitors in Barbados dropped from 849 in 1991 to 300 in 2000. That is a decrease of over 500 cases in the year 2000. That was at a point when the voices of the Opposition were loudest in this country about the issue of crime and violence. We move from a position of 155 recorded crimes per 100 000 visitors in 1981 to a position in the year 2000 of 30 recorded crimes per every 100 000 visitors. Clearly the trend is evident. So we do not want those who have not been exposed to the information to go away with the view that we are wrestling with a serious problem of crime against visitors in this country. In fact, we are talking about a falling record level of crime in a context where the number of visitors is increasing.

Reference was made to tourism in terms of bottom line, GDP and exchange only but we must bear in mind the relationship between the other social factors in the community and the pursuit of our profit and the development of this country by this sector. So from time to time we must examine what is happening with reference to crime as it relates to visitor arrivals. We do not want to be uninformed, we do not want to be emotional and we certainly do not want to be misled by anything which is innocently said.

In the down-turn of the early 1990s there was a coincident with a rise in crime. What I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, is that when tourist arrivals are dropping you will see a rise in crime. I say that to underscore in the mind of the Honourable Minister of Tourism that it behoves him not only to think in terms of foreign exchange and bottom lines but to think in terms of the overall impact of the tourism sector on our overall social environment. When tourism does not perform, we are seeing from the figures that crime starts to rise. A rise in arrivals in the past few years coincides with a drop in crime. I do not think that we should innocently put out there the view that we have a problem with crime as it relates to tourism but at the same time we need to establish that there is a relationship which must be borne in mind. Tourism is not only about earning dollars in foreign exchange; it goes against the grain of thought.

The Minister of Finance in his earlier presentation made reference to the importance of preserving and protecting our social capital. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Honourable Minister of Tourism, speak with reference to the intention of pursuing certain very serious and important studies with reference to the environmental impact of tourism such as the impact on the demographics of tourism, the impact on the water resources on tourism and the impact on the economic health of this society in total.

I am concerned as well that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South needs to look with some seriousness on the social impact on tourism. Tourism is one of the most traditional expressions of globalisation. So before we give serious thought to the issue of globalisation, we should give serious thought to the matter of tourism. Tourism impacts upon our systems of values and one would have to admit that we are in a situation today where there is seemingly a serious shift in values in Barbados.

4.50 p.m.

Sir, I am concerned that we understand this is an important area for study as well; not just only economically or demographically, it is a question of our value system. What is tourism doing to that? Gambling is a problem to our society to the extent that it is becoming identified as being our culture. In part it is an outflow from our efforts to ensure we have a better product available in our tourist sector but what is gambling doing to our value system? What is it doing within the context of our work culture and our work ethics? We talked a lot about developing a proper work ethics and perhaps we are wrestling with the wrong thing. Maybe our priorities are misplaced. I am talking about our work ethos because if we develop a culture of gambling, if we develop a culture of the instant 'get rich quick', if we put behind us that culture of effort and discipline and give ourselves to the kind of value system which becomes dependent upon globalisation today, we stand in danger of destroying further the work ethos which we have been known for in times past. Even in here, some of our lips gave voice to that view that we have lost that work ethos, where everybody else everywhere works harder than Barbadians now. I am suggesting that this business of tourism impacts upon our value system and if we are going to be studying what is happening to our demographics, economics or our resources, let us study what is happening to our value system as well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think at this point you should now wind up.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is a very small line in these Estimates, it does not take up much space but speaks to the focus on HIV/AIDS, its prevalence and as it relates to the tourism sector.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think you better wind up.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to enter this Debate again. It is regrettable that while we are looking at this Bulletin, we do not see one as it relates to crime against locals. Sir, what is clear is that whereas we have been able to protect the tourists, we have not been able to do likewise to our local people.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: We spoke of crime in relation to tourism. I do not understand the reference in relation to crime against locals. We have spent two days debating that...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is worst now, Mr. Chairman. I do not know that when we are speaking about crime as it relates to tourists, we cannot compare it with the locals. My apologies, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I can understand why the Honourable Member would be a bit worried. The truth is; whereas we have been protecting the tourists in Barbados from gambling, we have not been doing likewise to the locals. In other words, we have said in this Parliament – not that I support casino gambling but I need to make this comparison – that we do not want casino gambling in Barbados because we want to protect the locals. Now, suddenly the trend has changed. I want to know if we are in the interest of only protecting the tourists or are we also to protect the interest of the locals? I want the Minister of Tourism to tell us how he sees this particular view as it relates to gambling as it affects tourism.

Mr. Chairman, we have developed many sites in Barbados but we have never exploited them. For example, the Harrison's Cave, a most wonderful place, the most visited place in Barbados but visitors can get on a coach or in a taxi and be driven straight into the Cave – total madness, Sir. Any tourist who wants to get into Harrison's Cave should be made to walk, or some other way, from the beginning of the Post Office to the Cave...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: For the simple reason; the locals in that community should be given the opportunity to develop their craft industry so that there would be attractive things, then the tourists would not even realise the distance between Harrison's Cave and the Post Office is the particular distance which they have to traverse.

Sir, we must create the excitement and it should not be made in such a way that they are simply driven to the Cave. Sir, there is nowhere in the world when one visits the local point that it is so easily accessible; they make sure that

you pass through many other things before reaching the local point but in Barbados we feel that we must always limit ourselves. Sir, any aggressive marketing plan for the tourism industry must look at that approach and enhance it and give people more things to do before they reach the local point.

Sir, at any area of attraction in Barbados one can see that this point is valuable and can apply to that particular local point. Do not care where one goes, whether it is the Animal Flower Cave, one can drive straight up to the entrance. We are wasting resources and we do not understand what we have but yet when we go to other countries we are quite prepared to walk many...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That will be corrected shortly. I do not have the power yet. Let me deal with this point on Moon Town and get it out of the way.

Sir, I am being told that when one goes to Moon Town he can drive straight up to the local point. Even that is now being corrected because the car park for Moon Town is a distance away so that you have to park and see the other businesses before entering the main point of Moon Town, therefore, in the planning of Moon Town, we have recognised that we have to bring along other people. On top of that, the well in Moon Town is not an ordinary well; it is now a bus shed for the residents of the area. It has railings so that one can sit with a table, a chair and an umbrella and protect himself from the sun. Sir, I am very glad that the Honourable Member mentioned Moon Town because this is what you call progressive thinking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not advertising Moon Town?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: We are not advertising Moon Town, we are talking about tourism, Sir, and it must be recognised Moon Town is very much a part of the tourism plant of Barbados. Sir, now that the Honourable Member has mentioned it, the long-term plan for Moon Town is that it must be focussed along the St. Maarten concept. In other words, the whole street will be part of the Town; every person living in Moon Town must have a commercial side to it. Sir, Barbadians have to understand that their homes must be a business also and that concept first has to be exploited in Moon Town, that is why even the Funeral Home has a residence in Moon Town.

Sir, we are making a big mistake as it relates it sports and tourism. When we did the Sports Policy about a month or two ago, I said that the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Foreign Affairs must understand that when our footballers leave Barbados, they can no longer be the property of the football club or the football association. 5.00 p.m.

Sir, we now have three footballers overseas in trouble and the National Sports Council or the Barbados Tourism Authority has not stepped in to do anything. They do not understand that those three young men are our ambassadors.....

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The National Sports Council knew nothing of the arrangements involving these young men. It is, therefore, unfair to level any accusation at the National Sports Council because it has no responsibility and knew absolutely nothing about the matter.

The club which is playing comes from St. Lucy so I think the Honourable Member has more responsibility for those young men than any of us in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think you should withdraw the accusation.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I should.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I am ruling in here and I am asking you to withdraw the accusation.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the accusation. However, I will say that Norman Forde is the best footballer in Barbados and if the National Sports Council did not know before, they now know and should do something about it. They must start seeing footballers and cricketers as ambassadors for Barbados. I am giving the people responsible for the National Sports Council, including the Minister until tomorrow to have an adequate response to what I have said.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: If they do not respond by tomorrow, I will let the football fraternity know that the Government and the Minister do not acknowledge the talent of Norman Forde or the other two gentlemen.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I acknowledge the talents of Norman Forde. I think he is the best footballer in Barbados.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if we are going to talk about the connection of sports to tourism we must be serious about it. We just cannot come in here and pay lip service. We must understand that when there is an opportunity to promote Barbados, we must exploit it.

When I look at the tourism statistics for 2001, I do not see any reflection that we gained any mileage from the Olympics in 2000.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Yes, other than a medal. The tourism statistics do not reflect that we got any positive publicity from that particular event and instead of an increase in numbers, we got a decrease.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Everybody knows that when there is positive marketing it is reflected in the number of tourists coming to the island. Sir, whenever we play and do well overseas in cricket and then play a home tournament against England, we see the numbers reflected in our tourism arrivals.

Sir, we were given the impression that we are doing so well within CARICOM. Mr. Chairman, in 2001 we had a 4.11 per cent decline on the U.K. market. We had a 5% decline on the U.S. market. The Canadian market, which we neglected, had 12.4 per cent decline. The CARICOM market was where we had the greatest decrease of 8.4 per cent. Sir, seeing that more CARICOM people should be inclined to travel within the Caribbean, one would have expected an increase rather than a decrease. Yet I am told in this House that we have an aggressive marketing plan for the CARICOM region because I claimed previously that we have not been aggressive in the way we approach the CARICOM market.

Sir, if we had corrected certain measures, instead of 8.4 per cent decline in the CARICOM market we would have seen 8.4 per cent increase. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East said that we need to start looking at tourists not by their complexion but by their capacity to spend money and I agree with the Honourable Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to conclude.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we need to see some increases in this particular industry. If we have made an error in our judgment, we need to correct it and exploit the services within the CARICOM region to see the necessary increase.

Sir, I thank you.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. FARLEY, seconded by Hon. N. A. LYNCH, Mr. Chairman reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.20 p.m.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: I beg to second that.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 5.20 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
5.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that, it should now revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South and the Honourable Minister with responsibility for Tourism and International Transport indicated in his opening remarks that the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment would play a critical role in the country's tourism development as a whole and to the overall development of the tourism product.

Charged as we are with the responsibility for physical planning for ensuring that environmental considerations with regard to when physical development takes place and ensuring that Barbados' environment is protected and enhanced, where possible and preserved for the use not only of tourists but certainly for the use of future generations of Barbadians, the role that we will play therefore is guaranteeing that tourists continue to come to Barbados because of the quality of the physical environment we have to offer, because diversifying the tourism product is critical.

I would wish to start, therefore, in speaking to the role of the environment and the nexus between this Ministry and that of the Ministry of Tourism by making my first intervention focussed specifically on how this Ministry will help protect and enhance our green environment. Certainly, Barbados' beaches are regarded as the best in the Caribbean and, in fact, the best in the world. The protection of our marine waters, our water quality, the protection of Barbados' coastline, the tentative development of the coastline whether for tourism products, hotels and the other tourism-based structures or for residential purposes or other commercial purposes is therefore critical.

There are a number of projects which we are going to be pursuing over the course of the next financial year and in the long term therefore to guarantee that Barbados' marine and coastal environment continues to be regarded as among the best anywhere in the world.

I want to speak first on what, perhaps, is the more extensive coastal project that we will be undertaking this year and that is the Coastal Infrastructural Development Project which the Government of Barbados will be pursuing with a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank. The loan is worth US\$24 million and you will recall, Sir, that a number of studies of Barbados' coastline have been done over the years. We started first with the South Coast and the last time I held this portfolio we did a very extensive survey of the coastal lands that constituted the North and North East of Barbados. This would be of particular interest for the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

We determined, Sir, that we needed to understand better what was happening on Barbados' coastline, what kind of beach accretion and other physical changes were taking place, what was taking place in relation to overall physical development of the coastline by way of construction activity, what was happening in relation to the marine environment of the coastline and, in fact, how were the various coastlines of Barbados being used for revenue generation, for recreational purposes and for residential purposes.

In that regard, Sir, having collected a large volume of information from the coastal studies we are now in the process of determining finally how best to enhance the beach accesses, how to improve coastal sites, what should be the underpinning of long-term coastal and beach developments, what do we need to do in relation to the protection of our marine structures and marine waters generally, what is the best situation or the best solution for protecting the life of the reefs and the quality of the reefs not only to ensure a good dive product but to guarantee the critical coastline protection that the reef structure serves to give.

The Coastal Infrastructural Development Project will therefore have two broad-based components, a water improvement programme and a beach improvement programme. Under these broad programmes we will execute works from Rockley to the Drill Hall for water improvement; at the Crane Beach, St. Philip, for restoration and enhancement; at Woman's Bay, Silver Sands for headland protection; at Tent Bay, for boat access and a slipway; at Bay Street, for demolition and replacement of the old hospital jetty, although certain proposals are now being made to us from private sector interests in relation to that. At Welches, beach improvement; at Holetown, beach improvement and a lagoon aeration system will be developed. That is critical because, as you are aware, we had difficulties with the lagoon from time to time with fish scales and persons complaining of odour emanating from the lagoon, and, therefore, what is the proper management system to be put in place for it.

At Walkers, Long Pond, St. Andrew, there will be dune restoration for coastal protection works. We are going to be

working at Judge Gap, as I indicated. That project will cost us \$24 million. Yes, Judge Gap in St. Lucy, a place well known to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

The work on our marine environment will not stop with these projects. We are in the process, during the course of this financial year, of putting a reef monitoring programme in place that is going to cost \$78 000. We are going to be doing extensive beach re-vegetation which will cost \$21 000. The Coastal Zone Management Plan will look at structured development plans for the coastline outside of the context – this is more from a policy framework and a planning framework and it will fall out of the context of the infrastructural project – and will cost \$135 000 in this financial year.

We are going to be executing with the Professional Association of Guides and Operators the continuation of the mooring buoys project which, of course, is one of the major ways that we protect our reefs. The Chamber would be well aware that there have been incidents in the past where ships have anchored causing significant damage to coral reef structures. Our intention is to minimise that as far as we can, and therefore, we are going to be extending the mooring buoys project.

This was a project which started in 1998 with 30 mooring buoys initially. We lost some along the way. Some turned up in places like St. Vincent and St. Lucia but we were able to retrieve them because the Coastal Zone Management Unit is always here to affix an address and other details onto the buoys and, luckily, so far when they have turned up in other islands we have been able to retrieve them. We hope that by putting down this year another large number of mooring buoys – \$700 000 will be spent on this project during the course of this financial year – that this will stop a lot of the indiscriminate mooring not just by tourist vessels but by fishing vessels as well and this will stop a lot of the indiscriminate mooring that takes place on the South and West Coasts in particular.

Carlisle Bay which is perhaps the most dived site in Barbados is a popular diving site because it is the home, if I could use that expression, of five reefs which were sunk over time. One of which is an artificially created reef but, because of the significant incrustations which have taken place on the vessels that sunk in Carlisle Bay, it has become one of the most dive sites in the Caribbean and the most dived site in Barbados, having as much as 100 000 dives a year. I speak specifically to that area that approximates to being opposite the Government Headquarters on Bay Street.

5.30 p.m.

This year, we will be moving towards working again with the dive operation and other users of the marine environment there, including the ships that use it for mooring and recreational purposes to develop a user plan for the area. We are concerned that there is now perhaps some of the most indiscriminate taking of some of the very precious and historical bottles and other artifacts that are in the water of that area.

In addition to that, we have no control and there is no structured utilisation of this area of the waters. Clearly, because of the small size of the area, it may not be in our interest just to keep throwing large numbers of people into that site continuously. We want to have a structured management and utilisation of the area and towards this end, we are developing the Carlisle Bay Marine Park and the Marine Management Authority which has now been discussed for some time but significant inroads have been made in bringing these authorities into place. We hope that the overall management of the marine environment will be significantly enhanced by these measures, with which we will be cooperating closely with the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport.

The other role that we will play in relation to protecting the coastlines generally this year, is in the oversight over which the Coastal Zone Management Unit brings to the construction which takes place on the island's coastlines. It is now mandatory that every application which comes before the Town Planning Department for a coastal structure to be erected, whether that is a coastal structure that will go part way into the water, such as a jetty, or a coastal structure which is on the land, the Coastal Zone Management Unit must have oversight and give an opinion on whether this structure should, or should not be allowed. If it is to be allowed, if it will cause harm to the environment, what kind of harm or other consequence will result and what mitigating measures can be taken in respect of those structures which are being put up.

Last year, in the period April 2001 to February 2002, some 71 applications for the erection of coastal structures were considered by the Coastal Zone Management Unit and we anticipate that with the applications currently before the Town Planning Department for alterations to coastal structures for the erection of these structures and for activity in the marine environment, the Coastal Zone Management Unit will continue to play a significant role in the overall management of the marine environment and the protection of our coastlines.

One of the things that I feel we need to do, apart from the clear projects which we are going to be putting in place, and the kind of money that we are going to be spending on these projects, is to educate Barbadians themselves, as part of the marine protection activities, we have to see the South

Coast Sewerage Project and the upcoming West Coast Sewerage Project as part of the Government's major thrust at protecting the marine environment.

It is critical that we should take cognizance of the present uses of the marine environment and wherever possible, sensitize Barbadians in what is the best use of the marine environment, so that we do not cause harm to turtle nesting sites, do things that will kill off sea egg population, so that we do not cause harm to the reefs. A lot of harm is done by people out of ignorance.

Therefore, most of our effort this year, will concentrate on public education, public sensitisation and working with those communities located near or on the coastline whether they are there carrying out commercial or revenue generating activities, whether they live on the coastline and therefore discharge things into the marine environment, or whether people are just using the beach for recreational purposes. We really need to educate Barbadians about how the environment should be used, so that it is protected for the use of all of us and of future generations. Certainly, we expect that this marine protection which we are embarking on will significantly enhance our tourism product and ensure that Barbados' marine environment and coastal structures are well protected.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: I also want to thank the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for giving way to me, Sir, because what I say, hopefully, will complement what he said earlier.

Sir, a few hours ago, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke and touched the borders of some valuable assets to the tourist industry. I felt that he was on the right track, but the limitations of time did not allow him to develop those points. The opportunity now avails itself to me, Sir, to further expand on that area of our culture which plays a secondary role in tourism, especially when it comes to the preservation of historic buildings.

We had some persons in our society over the years from Afro Barbadian background who made a major contribution. As I said, they played a pivotal role into the general development of Barbados but little has been said, or very little symbols are preserved for posterity, so that younger people in the future would be able to observe and reflect on the marvellous contribution which those persons made to Barbados.

The Barbados National Trust has done a fairly good job, Sir, in preserving one aspect of Eurocentric strands in some cases, but there are a number of other houses which they have identified as valuable for preservation. We have

not been able to keep up the standard of those symbols with the same degree of pride that I would expect Barbadian people to preserve at this time in our history.

I want to touch not only on culture or the yellow bird and bamboo aspect of tourism, I want to just bring this specific area into consideration and hope that those persons who made meaningful contributions from our own ethnic background would be highlighted in our tourist plant. For example, Sir, only a few days ago, in one of our leading newspapers, it was featured that Sir Frank Worrell, the first black West Indian cricket captain to captain a series, once lived in Bank Hall, I think, to the eastern side of Empire cricket field.

Frank Worrell is an outstanding, not only Barbadian but West Indian icon. He has international recognition. The home there is made of wood and stone and is sitting on approximately 5 000 square feet of land. Also abutting and bounding that land is an additional 6 000 square feet of land the property of the Worrell's family. I know that one of the Government agencies is trying to promote this House as a living symbol. So I would like the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport to work in collaboration with that department to see if we can acquire this property. I know that the money is not in the Capital Estimates on this occasion but I hope it would be some time in the near future. I believe it will be important to our heritage if a number of ministries can work in collaboration with each other to acquire the property.
5.40 p.m.

Frank Worrell and cricket mean a lot to Caribbean people. So I believe this house would be a good attraction not only for Caribbean tourists but for the tourists who would come from all over the world.

When the struggle ensued for the leadership of the West Indies cricket team, outstanding Caribbean thinkers like C. L. R. James, Sir Learie Constantine and Sir Eric Williams were all in the fight for the achievement of Frank Worrell to become the captain of the West Indies cricket team. Prior to that we had George Headley. Frank Worrell said these words, 'The victory for Worrell was a victory for the PNN'. So you can see the importance of Worrell to the Caribbean in general. I thought that it would be an imperative on this occasion to try to impress upon the Minister of Tourism and probably the Minister of Physical Development and the Minister of Culture the importance to work assiduously to redress this imbalance in our cultural strand by having these features highlighted in the form of a symbol of Sir Frank Worrell's home.

Sir Frank Worrell was an icon in the middle of the 20th Century but in the 19th Century we had an outstanding

African king by the name of King Jah Jah but in folklore, mockery has been made of his contribution. He played a very meaningful role to the people of Opobo, Africa. King Jah Jah is a symbol of great struggle and a fighter for the preservation of the African lands and of social justice. He fought to preserve the Palm Oil industry in Africa which he represented as King. Sir, I use the word 'king' because in the western world 'king' is more respected than chief. He was perceived as a King and Caribbean people knew from the day he was brought from the coast of Africa across the ocean as a captive under British control and was abandoned in the region, just like how they abandoned Toussaint and overthrew many others in the Haitian revolution.

King Jah Jah was well respected both in Barbados and in St. Vincent where he was abandoned and the influence he had on Caribbean people was so meaningful that they decided to treat him with dignity although being a captive at the time. They purchased a massive home which once housed the CBU building on Two Mile Hill opposite the residence of the Prime Minister for him and gave him a certain amount of flexibility in the environment. That is probably how he came into contact with Becka because he used to journey to Bridgetown and visit some of the institutions of the State of the day and it was said...

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: King Jah Jah had great influence on the Caribbean people because wherever he turned throughout the length and breath of this country there was a concourse of black people travelling behind him and hailing him as the king and his presence in the region sensitised the African people to the concerns of the struggle against colonialism.

We recently had a publication by a West Indian writer on the history of King Jah Jah and I would like to see the positive contribution which he has made highlighted in our history more so than simply the King Jah Jah aspect of it.

Sir, there are a lot of distortions and deliberate suppressions of the worth of our contribution to this civilisation in Barbados and the West Indies. We have played down the role of some very prominent individuals and whenever I see two lines written about a black man in a history book I always take it upon myself to do some research to find out more about him. That is the reason why I am the director of an institution called the Israel Lovell Foundation because he too made a meaningful contribution to Barbados. We do not only have to promote...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think at this point you seem to be doing history rather than doing tourism.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Sir, you probably do not understand. I want to be allowed to expound and expatiate in

a manner and with such clarity that you would be able to understand the importance of political and cultural history and their value.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, you have got one minute to do that.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Sir, we have an institution named after Samuel Jackman Prescod but in Black Rock that building which house the Nightengale Home is the home of Samuel Jackman Prescod. I will just list those three buildings for now because I understand the limitations but we need to identify buildings like the homes of Sir Frank Worrell, King Jah Jah and Samuel Jackman Prescod and put them on the national agenda in order to enhance our tourism plant. I hope that the Minister of Tourism and International Transport and the Minister of Physical Development and the Environment would take the suggestions I have made into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the time allotted to me. 5.50 p.m.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make an intervention on this Head of Tourism and to look at two aspects; the critical importance of cruise tourism and the entertainment industry. How tourism has helped to grow that and how we need to go the other route and use the entertainment industry to help secure our tourism.

Sir, statistics would indicate that half of our long-stay visitors arrive by aircraft while the other half arrive by cruise ships. Unfortunately, right across the Caribbean, there is still this divide between land-based tourism operators and cruise-based tourism operators. Much of the land-based operators, the hoteliers, would want us to believe that cruise tourism does not benefit the region, therefore, there tends to be some kind of jealousy between the level of taxes paid by land-based operators and that paid by cruise ships.

Sir, the cruise visitors to Barbados, some 527,597 during last year, represent an important aspect of our tourism arrangement. They provided an opportunity for just over half million persons for some of them would have been a first place for Barbados. They have the opportunity of converting those one-day visitors to long-stay visitors. Also Sir, it provided an opportunity for participation by several other economic entities other than hotels in the fruits of tourism. Typically, Sir, someone coming onto an island for a day would take the opportunity to go on a tour, purchase a gift or other souvenir, engage in some entertainment or some other activity. The bottom line is that the cruise industry has been one of the greatest regions for growth in the duty-free sector of Barbados as well as indigenous craft. Sir, those important aspects of our commercial arrangement are often taken for granted when we consider the contribution to tourism.

Sir, it goes further. The fact that the Harrison's Cave is the most widely visited tourism attraction in Barbados can be largely traced to the fact that tours of the Cave are booked even when the visitors are on the high seas. In fact, Sir, a few years ago when we were having some problems with the trams, before they were upgraded and/or replaced, one of two liners complained bitterly and threatened to pull out if we did not have these arrangements in place, given the fact that they had sold these attractions as part of the experience in coming to Barbados. Therefore, if they were not able to deliver, it put the cruise liners in jeopardy in terms of their promise and performance. So that not only attractions like those have benefitted but the new adventure tours – the off roads, off tracks, going through gullies and other forms of nature – ecotourism – are all primary beneficiaries.

Sir, the essential point is that our ability to have tourism expenditure of some \$1.4 billion last year would have had a significant contribution from the cruise component as well. The Government certainly intends to be as committed to its cruise tourism as it is to its land-based tourism and we would certainly want to urge both at the local as well as the regional level for there to be a private sector mending of the fence between the organisations representing those two important aspects of our tourism.

Sir, I want to spend a few moments on another aspect of the non-traditional economic sectors which have benefitted tourism but which we have to refocus and use this sector to benefit tourism. There can be no doubt that the fact that we have a vibrant entertainment industry in Barbados has been contributed to tourism. Tourism population on the island basically expands the number of persons that are available to go to restaurants, night clubs, bars, *et cetera*.

Sir, over time, the hotel industry and later on, the night club industry, have provided a regular, consistent and very decent source of income for our musical bands. Over the years, we have had the Merry-men, Spice, 4-D people, and others, who can be seen performing and adding a source of attraction to the tourism industry.

Sir, we can look to the Jamaican experience. Jamaica is as much known for its reggae music as it is known for anything else. It is as much known for its well recognised Jamaican artists who are winning international awards, *et cetera*, as it is for its beaches, hotels and others. Sir, we in Barbados need, from the perspective of long-term tourism development, to commit resources behind the effort of our musicians. They have the potential by way of achieving recognition. They have the potential by way of becoming household names in diverse parts of the world to so draw attention to Barbados, its existence, its image as a culture of excellence, its people, that we can, in fact, have that same level of recognition. Sir, I think for example of the fact that persons like Arturo Tappin and Nicholas Brancker are

popular in Japan. I take the example of how popular Square One is in Surinam and in the Netherlands. Of course, there is the other unfortunate aspect of that, where some of these artistes are so popular they do not always reap the full economic benefits of their work because piracy is very rampant in some of those areas as well.

Sir, from my Ministry's perspective we, through the strengthening of our Intellectual Property Protection Act and our Intellectual Cooperation in Intellectual Property, hope to provide these artistes with the level of protection internationally, to help them overcome the issue of pirating. Sir, the fact of the matter is that this same industry that has fuelled the development of entertainment in Barbados can now benefit with the appropriate injection and the appropriate investment from the popularity of these artistes. This is why, Sir, from the perspective of broadening and strengthening our tourism, I have to applaud the works of the National Cultural Foundation (NCF). The Foundation has, over the years, come up with several important festivals. In fact, NCF and the Barbados Tourism Authority have, over the years, promoted what they call the Magnificent-7 but encompassing festivals like Congoline to Crop Over, the Jazz Festival to Gospel Fest, *et cetera*.

Sir, what these do is to provide yet another opportunity to showcase our international talents and to provide other opportunities for visitors to Barbados to experience our cultural richness and diversity. Sir, they have gone further and plan to repeat it again this year. Part of the Congoline Festival has been moved from being a mere street jam and a wuck-up affair to being a music festival. Last year they had a Trade Fair, which provided a very serious opportunity for the musical artistes of Barbados to showcase their talents. 6.00 p.m.

Also, Sir, they brought in a number of prominent persons in the international music business to do a number of training seminars by way of exposure for these artistes. The participation and the coordination of the National Cultural Foundation in international music events have been a tremendous boost by way of the recognition provided to these artistes.

Sir, the essential point I am making is that this goes to the core of what our tourism is about. Our tourism, as we practise it, is not what I call enclave tourism. It is not like some countries of the world where you go into virgin territory with a beach and create an artificial town with hotels and tourist-like facilities. The people of that country may live miles away in squalor and deprivation and are hidden away from tourists' view. They do not benefit in any significant way and their trials and tribulations are not talked about to offend the sensitivity of the tourists.

On the other hand in Barbados, our tourism has evolved as part of the wider community. In some areas of

Barbados it is more concentrated than others but a hotel, night club or other feature is never far away from the residents of this country. Therefore, we have to showcase who we are, how we live, our talents and our ability. Therefore, the development of the music industry in particular and the wider entertainment is not only part of our cultural expression but it has sound potential for economic earning for this sector.

Sir, I want to flag this project for further development and investment and for the Ministry of Tourism to be even more involved in these areas than they are right now.

Sir, by way of export of cultural services as a spinoff from the musical industry has been the sound technicians, lighting technicians and stage management crew. There are companies that go through the Caribbean providing sound services for our Caribbean neighbours and this is something which we have to use in the reverse as they too have to be promoters of our tourism product.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, I want to salute the Ministry of Tourism in its cultural tourism development strategy and to support the work of the National Cultural Foundation in its contribution not only in developing our culture for ourselves but to expand the depth and improve the quality of our tourism. Cultural tourism is definitely the way to go.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make my second intervention to what I consider a very important debate given the strategic importance of this sector. I would like to begin this intervention by clarifying something for the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. He missed a basic point when he spoke earlier as he was seeking to suggest, notwithstanding the economic downturn in the international arena and non-performance in the regional economy that somehow Barbados' tourism product should have benefitted more from the CARICOM region.

Mr. Chairman, you do not have to be a scholar to understand that tourism is one of these industries that benefits from what is happening in the external environment. If persons living in external economies are benefitting in some way, be it from improvements in their economy or, from capital gains as a result of various types of investment, tourism as an economic activity stands to benefit in some degree.

Last year we had an economic slowdown across the globe so it is not wise for the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to come here and give the impression that tourism planners did not get it right last year. The fact of the

matter is that the economies of our neighbours experienced a downturn as well in the tourism industry and in respect of tourists arrivals.

Mr. Chairman, the more substantive point I want to make is to speak more to the potential linkage between agriculture and tourism and look at it in the context of trade liberalisation. One of the things that we have grown accustomed to in Barbados when a protectionist regime was the order of the day, was that agricultural producers were afforded some measure of protection thereby being able to channel reasonable amounts of the agricultural commodities produced in Barbados into the tourism sector with little or no fuss.

However, Mr. Chairman, in the post April 1, 2000 period, when we moved to a different type of arrangement, the restrictive licence regime was dismantled and when Barbados sought to honour one of its commitments to WTO, it introduced a new element all together. Mr. Chairman, that is a fact of life. The Prime Minister said a few days ago that the temporary return to the restrictive regime as a way of cushioning the effect of September 11, on domestic industry as soon as practical. Sir, that will be removed and we will continue on our path of trade liberalisation. This action will put pressure on the local agricultural producers to get their act together and they do not have a lot of time to do so because the competition is here.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, how can we respond and what have we been doing at the Ministry of Agriculture in order to reduce the negative impact of such a situation? One of the things that we have embarked on before the temporary return of the restrictive licences regime, is to centralise and seek to operationalise in a more structural and coherent way, a linkage project so as to strengthen the linkage between tourism and agriculture.

What is required above all is the strengthening of the information collection and dissemination systems. We have to address this matter on both sides, the finance and supply side, because we want to get a proper supply response to what is requested by the users of the agricultural commodities in the tourism sector.

Sir, more importantly, we need to devise a mechanism through which information can flow speedily from the users to the suppliers of the agriculture commodities. The farmers need to put themselves in a better position to understand what are the tastes and preferences of the tourism sector. We need information on the desired quantities of the commodities and at what intervals and information on the other characteristics of the commodities. For example, information pertaining to the size of the commodities;

weights of the commodities and grades of the commodities and the requisite packaging of these commodities.

Once we have that information in a definitive way, we need to structure operations on the supply side in order to get adequate supply responses. We are saying that the productive activities must be more focussed so as to yield products which would satisfy, in a meaningful way, the tastes and preferences which we would have ascertained from the demand side exercise.

Mr. Chairman, we are talking about the business of agriculture planning. This calls for a lot of rethinking in many areas of agriculture in order to be able, in the face of trade liberalisation, to get more agriculture commodities into the tourism sector if the farmers put themselves in a position to provide the tourism sector with the quantities and quality produce in a timely manner. It requires a collaborative approach between those who operate in tourism and agriculture.

I want to bring to the attention of this Honourable House a model for this type of cooperation which works effectively in Jamaica. The Sandals chain of hotels in Jamaica has adopted many farmers in rural Jamaica. They have embraced the farmers with the information on the type of produce that they require for their guests. The Sandals provide the inputs and other type of technical assistance by way of finance to facilitate the employment of technical assistance so as to put the farming operation in a position to produce the type of commodities that the hotel chain requires.

That is a model that works extremely well in Jamaica. It is the desire of the Sandals chain of hotels and the desire of farmers to the extent that as the tourism projects develop in Jamaica a certain segment of the farming community also develops.

One of the things that would have to happen in Barbados for such a project to be successful is, that owners and hotel operators might also have to become owners of farms or have a greater appreciation for the activity of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, in the absence of forming contractual arrangements, as is the case of Jamaica, in order to get this linkage going and for hotel owners to have a greater appreciation for what the farmers go through in Barbados, maybe, the time is right for hotel owners and investors in hotels to become investors in farming operations and then the industry will be at a point where one will get a better appreciation of what the other has to go through.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has operationalised an important project, the land for the landless project.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: We are trying to bring as much idle land back into production. The point that I am trying to make is, we can use this opportunity to seek to increase the level of production. We can also use this opportunity to challenge those farmers into communities which would allow them to produce the agricultural commodities that are needed by the tourism sector. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy will say that it is a lot more than just producing the agricultural commodities but we have to be able to market them properly.

Sir, it is through the economic linkage project and the purchasing managers of the hotels playing their part in helping to build this country, that the requisite marketing arrangements can be done by that collaborative effort. We would want the farmers to be more focussed and to have the target market in mind as they embark on greater levels of cultivation and agricultural production.

Sir, the final point relates to an initiative that I mentioned a few days ago, it is the establishment of an agro-centre in the region. This is an issue that has been discussed at length with the new Director General of Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on agriculture (IICA). He understands the importance of such a centre to the point that he is exploring the possibility of IICA playing a major role to facilitate the establishment of such a centre in this region. He has argued, along the same lines as myself, that there is absolutely no reason why we in the region should not be seeking to develop tourism to a very sophisticated level because we have to feed the tourists. Also, why is it that tourism, as it develops, cannot pull along agriculture if we make sure that all the necessary arrangements are put in place?

Sir, this would call for meticulous planning by IICA. If the initiative is accepted by the Board of IICA, they would be providing the technical assistance to help us with the establishment of such a centre. The tourism industry is here to stay; it is one that we need to develop further as our main engine of growth and there is no reason why it cannot lead to the further development of the agriculture sector.
6.20 p.m.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I think at this point I need to make another intervention specifically as it relates to the programmes under the Ministry and the funds that have been allocated to each specific Head and under each specific line during the next fiscal year. I know that the Honourable Member for St. John would have wanted me to jump into the issues of the Estimates debate and speak directly to lines related to the funds without setting out some level of framework based on an understanding of the

programmes of the Ministry and the philosophical basis under which we intend to carry forward programmes this year.

Sir, as we get to the specific line items, I think that also needs to be set in some context and I have already given an overall introduction as to how we intend to fashion the programmes to move the industry forward this year. In terms of a performance review for last year, 2001, I want to begin by saying that the tourism arrival statistics that we always use as the base for judging tourism performance is not by any measure the best level of measurement in terms of tourism performance by any definition. It is what we have grown up with as the base by which we judge but, at the end of the day, it is not the best measure of tourism performance. Sadly enough, it is the one that we go with and I want to say that this Ministry will be seeking in the future to present not only arrival statistics to the population but we will be seeking to create a basis for presenting other measures of tourism performance that Barbadians can become accustomed to as their measurement for how we are doing in this industry.

I think, Sir, that issues related to bed nights, bed occupancies, hotel occupancy, are measures we never speak of. We speak only in terms of arrivals and then what we do not do is break down those arrival figures even to let people know how it really impacts on the economy and how it impacts upon our development. Sir, just to say even with that measurement, Barbados last year recorded approximately 507 000 long-stay visitors, 6.8 per cent off of the year 2000. The year 2000 was an exceptional year. As a matter of fact, it was the best year we have ever had for tourism in Barbados. Even within that context it is important to note that in a recession we recorded the third highest performance of long-stay visitors to Barbados in terms of absolute arrivals in the history of Barbados. In terms of cruise passengers, we were just 1 per cent off of 2000 for 527 597.

Sir, tourist arrivals totalled just over a million passengers and that is the second highest total recorded of long stay and cruise in our history. Sir, for the month of January and February we have already seen declines in the numbers and I have had other opportunity to state that in January our figures fell in long-stay arrivals in the region of 12 per cent.

Sir, let me say this. We only have about 20 days of February statistics and it looks as if the same pattern is continuing around 11 per cent in terms of decline. We have plausible explanations for why we are caught in this type of performance and that is why I want to get back to the issue of tourism absolute arrivals because, from the statistics that we have analysed, it seems that where most of the fall-out has come for the first two months of the year, for January and for the numbers we have up to now in February, it looks as if the decline has been in the areas of VFR traffic, visiting

family and friends, charity and traffic, people that do not necessarily stay in hotels or registered accommodation in Barbados.

Sir, that is not to say that people who come to Barbados on VFRs do not spend money or do not stay in registered accommodation but the fact is that the dollar spent is less for one thing and most of them do not stay in registered accommodation. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy stating that we want to put some strict regime controlling non-registered accommodation. Nothing could be further from the truth. That is absolutely untrue. What we have stated specifically is that there is a certain level of non-registered accommodation that is springing up all over Barbados and yes, we want to spread the pie more evenly and we want many more people to play in the industry, but one of the issues is that there must be some level of regulation as well within that non-registered sector because if there are health issues related to non-registered accommodation, if there are safety issues in relation to non-registered accommodation, what will happen is that Barbados will be given the bad name or it will go out that Barbados, the country, and not one specific apartment and one specific villa; and that is the issue. Nobody is looking to regulate or restrict people from making money in Barbados. That is nonsense. The issue is that one must have some level of regulation that would protect the entire industry.

Sir, in relation to this performance for January, 2002 which was 12 per cent off in the US market, let me say that there was a lot of talk for many years about putting our eggs in one basket. Last year, because of the increased airlift capacity out of the United States occasioned, of course, by the introduction of USAIR service, what has happened is that we have seen substantial improvements in the US market and one of the things that had been beating us up for a long time in terms of being able to expand in the US market has been airlift and airlift capacity into Barbados.

With the USAIR service that was introduced in November, we have been able to improve substantially that situation. The US market was only slightly off in January even given all of the challenges that we are facing we were only 2.8 per cent off while the UK market dipped a little more.

In terms of cruise arrivals, January 2002 has shown us only 0.6 per cent off in terms of what we did in 2001. At the end of the day, some of the other issues that we relate to have continued to be high. The airline load factor coming into Barbados during this period of recession and during this slow period, particularly in the new airlines that we have been able to encourage to come to Barbados, continues to be high and I think that sends a message of what we are doing within the entire tourism sector to move the numbers ahead.

In response, Sir, to the issues of the programmes for this year the Honourable Member for St. John spoke about issues related to dollars and cents. I want to speak to some issues. We are spending this year in the community involvement in tourism programme, the whole product development programme, \$333 000. That is broken down specifically into community involvement in tourism – \$89 409; tourism product development and facilitation – \$11 000; tourism awareness and education – \$171 000; standards and minimum guidelines for the tourism sector – \$43 000; cultural heritage tourism – \$10 000 and the Tourism Enterprise Project – just over \$7 000.
6.30 p.m.

Sir, in addition to that, on the Management, Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS, the Government is spending, within the tourism sector, another \$100 000 that deals specifically with awareness and research in this area. Then, on the specific research programmes, we are spending \$141 000.

Sir, at this time, I want to speak to some issues relating to the Community Development and Involvement Programme, which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy sees as his pet issues, in terms of the specific projects during the fiscal year 2002-2003. Sir, of the \$98 000 that I spoke about, there is the St. John Pool Woods Project which is intended to further enhance the potential for tourism in the parish of St. John. It was developed initially by a number of community-minded persons, who realised the significance of that site in the Pool Woods as tourism related and a recreational area for picnics and the like. The Ministry of Tourism and the Government have actually been working with the people of that particular community, in order to enhance the community as a tourism site.

Sir, there is also the St. John, Bathsheba project which the Ministry of Tourism is supporting and funding. This project seeks to merge the creative ability of the community members, with the utilisation of the natural resources in the area to develop a centre which provides ancillary services for the people visiting that area.

Then, Sir, there is the Heart of Barbados Celebrations Programme, in St. Thomas, which is an integrated nature tourism-based programme in that area. This is a Government facilitated community event and product which is now in its third year of operation. It includes areas around Harrison Cave, Jack-In-The-Box Gully, the Flower Forest, Springvale Plantation and Welchman Hall Gully. All of these are being offered to both nationals and visitors to come and enjoy what that particular parish, along with all these four or five attractions, have to offer.

In addition, there is the National Community Tourism Project Profile competition. The goal of this competition is

to identify attractive and potentially viable tourism project concepts from various communities across the entire island of Barbados. I am speaking here, Sir, about a Government and a Ministry of Tourism which is intent on using all of these initiatives that have been created within rural and urban communities to create better opportunities for the people of Barbados where the tourism sector can benefit overall.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy comes in here every week and speaks very unenlightened about issues relating to the development of tourism. We have outlined a number of projects that we are funding in rural areas, to develop tourism which is intended to take the visitors into the communities, so we are not hiding the visitors or stopping anyone. These outreach programmes are in St. John, St. Joseph and St. Thomas so we are involving the people in those communities in the development of tourism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Sir, I want to begin by complimenting the Honourable Minister of Tourism not only for the programmes outlined in the Estimates, which are currently before this Honourable Chamber, but for the very good work that he has been doing in the face of considerable adversity.

Clearly, the fact that Barbados has been able to hold its own, particularly since September 11, 2001, endorses my position that the Minister should be complimented. I think he should be specifically congratulated for the fact that under his leadership, Barbados has been able to secure some additional airlift out of the United States. Sir, let me just say beyond any doubt, while we are on the matter of airlift, that any matter relating to the decline in arrivals from the United States, began under the Democratic Labour Party. It was from the time of that decline that the market never fully recovered so the Democratic Labour Party must not enter into a debate about a decline in the United States market.

Sir, it is therefore to the credit of the current Minister that we have been able to ensure additional airlift from the United States. Sir, no statistics in relation to the filling of seats can derogate from that success. Having previously been responsible for international transport, I am always the first to say that it is the responsibility of the Minister to ensure that we secure additional airlift. There is another agency set up for the purpose of ensuring that those seats are filled but the Minister has done his job and he is to be complimented.

Mr. Chairman, I want to spend a little time today on cruise tourism. In 1996, I had the responsibility for the day-to-day affairs of cruise tourism when, for the first time ever, cruise passenger arrivals to the island surpassed the half million mark. Therefore, I believe that I have some credentials to say a bit about the area of cruise tourism.

Mr. Chairman, I also believe that it is incumbent on Barbados and the countries in the region, as part of their overall development and the tourism development strategy, to ensure that they stay focussed on the area of cruise tourism. Sir, it is clear that cruise tourism has its ups and downs and I am on record in this Chamber – during my first term – as having said that there is no need to panic in moments of decline in relation to cruise tourism. There may be a few months of decline or several months of decline or even a year or more of decline and you can still come back with the greatest possible success, in relation to cruise tourism, for the simple fact that the cruise tourism sector or a sub-sector is a very volatile sector and you have to cope with a number of variables, over which you have very little control.

For example, there are many new and emerging destinations in relation to cruise tourism. There is a fact also, that there are some cruise lines that plan their itineraries solely to be at sea, so they are not coming into contact with any destination. There is also the fact, that cruise lines are now buying islands. For example, Royal Caribbean owns an island off the Bahamas called Coco Cay. When they embark on a cruise, one of the destinations that they always visit is Coco Cay. In fact, they just simply create life from the ship onto Coco Cay, with the same staff and everything but just on an island, but, an island owned by the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

These are challenges that will face any destination but they must not be daunted by the fact that these things will confront them. They need to stay focussed and prioritise plans, in relation to cruise tourism which is one of the best ways for any destination to try to ensure that its overall tourism development can take place and the best way for any destination to showcase itself.

Statistics have shown, Mr. Chairman, that people who take cruises, more often than not, return for a longer stay to some of the destinations they visited on that one-day basis of the cruise. Therefore, an island can stand to benefit tremendously by ensuring that it can showcase itself, by having a cruise passenger visit for one day or even ten or fifteen hours in a day, if it can get its act together to coincide with that visit, it can ensure that this one-day visitor can return for a two or three weeks' stay.

It is incumbent upon destinations, Barbados and the other islands in the region, to ensure that they stay focussed and maximise returns, in relation to cruise tourism. In this regard, the first point I would want to refer to is the issue of Head Tax. Again, it does not lie in the mouth of the Democratic Labour Party to say anything in relation to Head Tax because it was the Democratic Labour Party in 1994 that literally gave away \$2 of the \$6 being paid by cruise passengers on arrival in Barbados.

6.40 p.m.

In other words, for every passenger who arrives on a cruise ship, the Barbados Port Authority should be getting \$6 but it gets that on paper only because it has to give \$2 out of that \$6 to the Barbados Cruise Terminal.

Asides.

Hon. R. St. TOPPIN: It is only now being revealed to me that some agreement has been reached from this year whereby \$1 out of the \$2 that the Barbados Cruise Terminal is getting is to be passed back but I am saying that we should be getting all of it because that is the first way in which Barbados has been losing revenue from cruise tourism. That was a very mysterious agreement between the Barbados Port Authority and the Barbados Cruise Terminal Incorporated pre-September of 1994 with the Democratic Labour Party to ensure that they got \$2 out of every \$6 for doing absolutely nothing in relation to cruise tourism. That is the first way in which Barbados was compromising its returns in relation to cruise tourism.

Mr. Chairman, the other way in which we need to maximize returns is to recognise that in the area of cruise tourism Barbados cannot venture anyway near maximizing returns by seeking to treat with the cruise tourism industry on its own and there is no individual territory in the region that can maximize its return by continuing to treat with the cruise lines as individual destinations. That is a fact.

Mr. Chairman, I have led a Barbados delegation to various cruise conferences and seminars when I had responsibility for the area. My first trip was to Curacao and I remember being on a bus going from the airport to the hotel and saying to a number of my delegation that when they get to the hotel to call all the Caribbean ministers who will be attending that conference and let them know that I would like to meet with them. Apparently, I said that too loudly because one person on the bus who was from Trinidad and Tobago heard me say that and said 'that is a Bajan I hear saying that we need to get together to plan this'. I did not know what he meant but then he went on to tell me that in 1994 there was an agreement that all of the territories would charged \$10 each as head tax for visiting cruise passengers and it was Barbados who reneged on the agreement. This is pre-September 1994 I am talking about. The previous administration shamed this country by selling out after having reached an agreement that all the countries would have charged a common head tax. Barbados under the Democratic Labour Party reneged on that promise and broke up the whole plan to have a unified approach in relation to dealing with cruise liners.

So, Mr. Chairman, we are now paying the price as individual territories because it is a fact that individual countries can never ever fool themselves that they can maximize returns dealing with the cruise lines alone. I

remember in 1997/98 I was on a cruise conference, Barbados was working in cohesion with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) at the time, and I was recalled by the Prime Minister to meet with the OECS countries to try to solve a problem because a cruise line had been threatening to pull out of Grenada because of something in connection with a levy. A position was taken that if they had pulled out of Grenada all of the other OECS countries would have said that they could not come to their country either. That occasion was the closest this region came to having a unified approach and it was the first time that I saw any sign of unity emerging in this matter because the simple truth is that there is simply too much dog eat dog among the territories in the region when it comes to cruise tourism.

Asides.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: I well remember in 1996 at the same Sea Trade Conference in Miami where I had the honour to represent the Caribbean on a panel where members on the panel had to make an opening statement and after that the floor was opened to questions. I remember throwing out the fact in my presentation that Barbados was planning to embark on a massive port expansion project, obviously a port expansion project would cost money, and that it was quite possible that Barbados would have to revisit the head tax regime. But although I pointed out that any revisiting of the head tax regime would have been done in consultation with all of the cruise lines and all of the stakeholders, after I finished my presentation, a Jamaican rushed to the microphone to take me on and when he finished it was a Dominican who told me that Barbados needs to stop talking foolishness about increasing head tax and improve its product. Obviously, the cruise lines love to see that because they would love to see the region fighting among themselves. So I had to hold my own so as not to disgrace the region and let them see exactly what they wanted to see. So I am saying that there is no greater dog eat dog sector with a greater dog eat dog approach than this cruise line industry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has got one minute.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: All of the executive members of the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association with whom the region treat consist, which is more than passing strange, of cruise lines representatives and not one single person from any of the English speaking Caribbean is on the Committee. This is an issue the region has to look at seriously if they want to maximize their returns. Do not get me wrong, Mr. Chairman, I am fully supportive of cruise tourism. We speak of this matter as a partnership, we view it as a partnership, we treat it as partners but the reality is that all the membership of the executive committee of the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association consist of members of the Cruise line and not one single member is on it who is from the English speaking Caribbean.

These are issues which I wanted to raise so that the region could understand that while we need to develop the matter we cannot do it alone and it will never happen until the region gets together in a regional caucus and decide what it is exactly that we want out of cruise tourism to ensure that collectively we can put a case and ensure that we get maximum returns for the massive investment that we are making, have made, or are about to make, in relation to developing our infrastructural facilities to enhance the facilities for cruise passengers.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6.50 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I realise that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South has diverted his topic and has preferred now to go line for line but I will not change my tactics.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South said that tourism plants like Sandals, *et cetera*, should get involved in tourism and also in agriculture. He then went on to make the point that his Ministry has now adopted the Land for the Landless Project which happens to be the biggest conflict I have ever heard in one mouthful.

I would like to know, Sir, if the Honourable Member who is from rural Barbados, does not understand what occurs within the sugar industry. A lot of people in Barbados believe that the all-inclusiveness in tourism started within tourism. The truth is; the all-inclusiveness in tourism started within the sugar industry and after the owners of capital recognised that the sugar industry was not the industry to profit anymore, they moved the concept straight into the tourism industry. That is why we have this policy within the tourism industry of all-inclusiveness. Sir, this has nothing to do with crime, it is all about selfishness and holding onto everything. I would have felt that the Honourable Member, being a man from rural Barbados, would have understood why young people of today do not keep livestock anymore. For the simple reason; they did not have the land mass to get the grass and the owners of capital who had the grass and cane tops, have deprived them of cutting the grass to feed their stocks but yet expect them to work the fields and to keep their stocks for them when in truth and in fact, they were deprived of doing it for themselves. What we are getting now, the Honourable Member is now pushing a concept that the agricultural produce, which should be a link to tourism, should be in the hands of those who control the tourism product. Sir, I disagree and for the simple reason; they cannot continue to have the all-inclusiveness in this particular industry and it must be spread among the masses of everyone in Barbados. Sir, that is why we cannot, at the same time, be talking about land for the landless, be pushing trade liberalisation and asking hoteliers to also own the agricultural fields – utter misconception.

Sir, we have to understand that, as practitioners of the art, we cannot allow those honourable men, who they claim they are, to continue to dominate at the top without realising that the foundation of our tourism industry must be built from the community tourism level. Sir, the Minister of Agriculture should be aware that there are many farmers on the land-lease projects of St. Lucy who are producing good quality vegetables and cannot sell them into the hotel or the supermarket sectors because people are now importing products that are being produced in Barbados and they just do not care about the local farmers. Therefore, how can there be farmers who are producing good products, cannot sell them, and you are still pushing the land for the landless concept without providing a market.

Sir, we in Barbados have to understand that in order for our economy to grow there must be real linkages within tourism, agriculture and the manufacturing sectors.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I have always been relevant. What is happening, Sir, is that the people within the tourism sector cannot expect Government go give them everything while, at the same time, they want to be selfish and import everything. They have to understand that the Government has to pull from two main areas and if it has to take from both the agricultural and manufacturing industries, they must help those two sectors and there must be a close linkage between the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Sir, but no. We feel we should be able to tell Government how much money we are bringing in as if the agricultural industry does not bring in money. We also have to remember that before we had tourism, we had the agricultural industry and there was a time when the manufacturing industry was an industry that was bringing in the revenue for Government. Sir, suddenly those persons within the tourism industry feel as though they are lords unto themselves and nobody should be able to tap into that industry. When they were dependent upon both the agricultural and manufacturing industries, they knew the importance of those industries.

Sir, we have to realise that in order to help, they must pull from somewhere else but this selfish attitude that we are allowing to dominate in this country must stop. If it does not stop all we are doing is creating and encouraging crime within the country. Sir, they must understand that places like North Stars Cricket Club in St. Lucy, attracts over 1 200 tourists every year and that too, is playing a role in tourism. Therefore, the Barbados Tourism Authority must understand that North Stars Cricket Club is contributing to the tourism project but not at the same level.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I must include them also, I am not going to leave them out. It is your job to do that, not mine...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am a Northerner and have to stick to base but I also include all the other clubs that are involved in this particular project. Sir, the Barbados Tourism Authority must understand that it is not only the BTA or the Pickwick Sports Club that are contributing to the sports tourism; it is North Stars Cricket Club and the quality ground that they have down there that attract so many tourists. Sir, I am also telling the Minister of Tourism, the project at the Naval Base must come on stream and soon. That project, when it comes on stream, projects like North Stars Cricket Club, St. Joseph's Hospital and many other projects in the North, will come on stream. Sir, they cannot only be talking about cruise tourism where we just have cruise ships coming into Barbados and going back out at nights. We must have a project to the magnitude that the same way we speak about the Florida Turnaround we must be able to talk about the Naval Base in the same light, where people will make Barbados the connecting point. We have the capacity and location to do it, yet still we come in here and speak about others as if the only people who can do things are people who are outside of the Caribbean region. We must understand that if we have something, we have to maximize the use of it. Sometimes I wonder if because it comes from St. Lucy or is located in St. Lucy that we cannot understand the true potential of that particular project.

Sir, that project with the British Port Authority has been in the talkline for too long, I want action on it now. We gave up the Naval Base which was impacting in a positive way on the lives of the people of St. Lucy. It is time that we get back a project of that magnitude or greater, to give us the development that I speak so highly of for many years because coming out of that project, some day we might be able to get the airport that people always laugh at.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: In the field that you walk through daily. You know that land is flat and it has the capacity for holding it.

Sir, if we are truly in tourism we can no longer have one hospital; we can no longer have one airport; we can no longer have one seaport. We have to realise that if we are dependent on tourism we can no longer put our eggs into one basket. I am telling you, Sir, if we do not do something about our health sector, it is going to affect our tourism sector and we just cannot afford that. If we continue to believe that when something is happening at Grantley Adams International Airport we simply can close down the Airport and not allow airlifts in or out, we are going to create problems again.

At the same time, Sir, we cannot have a problem at our seaport and be sending our cruise ships and other ships elsewhere; we must have alternatives if we truly want to be

a developed country. Sir, when I hear the Minister of Tourism speak, I expect the Minister of Tourism to come and deal with issues like this.

7.00 p.m.

I also want to deal with something which the Minister of Tourism said, Sir. He said that the decline in the UK market was higher than the 2.8 per cent in the US market. This is rather strange because one would have expected, based on the information given previously that the market we had to worry most about was the American market and not the UK market. All of a sudden we are hearing that the US market is now doing better in terms of percentage than the UK market.

One wonders how this could be at a time when there was the September 11th affair going on. Am I to believe that we have now diverted all of our attention to the US market and we are neglecting the UK market. I hope that is not true.

Sir, people in Barbados would not believe there was a time when the Canadian market was stronger than the US market. I want the Minister to understand that when he made the point that the Democratic Labour Party was the cause of the decline in the US market that it is not true. The Minister must understand that the levels reached under the Democratic Labour Party have not been reached yet by the Barbados Labour Party. I have not heard him speak about 175 000 tourists coming to Barbados in his time.

The Minister says the Democratic Labour Party was not able to get airlift. He now has the hardware as he is saying but yet he does not have the numbers. One would have thought that with the opening up of all these areas, that the number of people coming to Barbados would have increased.

It is clear to me that the Minister likes to shoot off about hardware without necessarily looking at the amount of money being spent and the number of people coming to Barbados. Sir, you can fly as many planes as you want but if the planes do not bring the capacity it will not impact on the economy of Barbados. Sir, we need people to come into Barbados on those planes.

If one listens to the report from American Airlines one would recognise that they have not operated at 80 per cent any time during last year but yet still the Minister is saying that everything is well even though the airlines say different.

I want to know how everything is well but yet the airlines are reporting declines. The Minister must tell me how this is so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two more minutes.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I go back to what I called The Bahamas Accord. Sir, you were not fortunate to be there but the Speaker, the Clerk of the House and an Honourable Member from the Other Place was there.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Of course I was there. CNN was also there and they picked me up on camera. Mr. Speaker, I told the Caribbean delegates in The Bahamas that in order to deal with the OECD that we needed to tie it to our tourism product and we should take a tough stance as it relates to the OECD. Mr. Chairman, it was said then that Barbados and the Caribbean must recognise that the same way the Americans account for the number of people investing in Barbados that we needed to find out how much money we were getting from all-inclusive tourism and use it as a weapon against them. Until that information could be given, we should have taken a tough stance on them.

Of course, everybody said they were too small, as usual, as if because you are a small country you cannot take a stance.

Sir, I am happy to see that somebody has taken a stance and it has borne results.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I think you should come to a finish now.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, that is an excellent point to finish on.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, may I refer this Honourable Committee to pages 116 and 122 of these Estimates. At page 116 under subprogram 332 we will notice that an allocation of \$53 800 000 is being asked under Grants to Public Institutions. At page 122 at subprogram 341 there is an application to this Honourable Committee for Professional Services in the amount of \$4 750 000.

Mr. Chairman, on page 116 the programme statement indicates that the purpose of this programme is to strengthen and intensify tourism marketing and promotional activity to establish and maintain standards for local tourism facilities and encourage investment in tourism related plant and projects both locally and regionally.

Mr. Chairman, you would have heard the Honourable Minister of Tourism indicate that Barbados is mature. I want to begin by commenting on that point. We see here under the particular subprogram to which I refer that the allocation being requested is \$9 450 000 more than was allocated in the past financial year.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South said that Barbados is mature. If I am correct in interpreting mature to mean that Barbados is a mature tourist market, then clearly the time has come for us to consider precisely what strategies we would have to evolve in marketing Barbados, especially when the Minister also said that tourism is the people's business. Sir, when one comes to the mature stage, one has to consider that one must come up to a peak and close to the summit. In the context of a highly touristic culture worldwide, we in Barbados have to ensure that our marketing strategy, in every sense of the term, has to forge on the proper anthem.
7.10 p.m.

The Honourable Minister said that tourism is the people's business. I take the curious approach of looking to see what we here in Barbados can do to market our tourism. If it is the people's business, it is not just the business of the tourists, it is the business of all of us. A question tonight is, in what way are all of us Barbadians involved in marketing our tourism?

Historically the pull-factors, pulling towards Barbados, have been our sea, sun and sands and particular attractions. How can we as Barbadians living here, especially those who work in the tourism industry, set about to ensure that we play our part in continuing to attract tourists here?

Mr. Chairman, I apprehend that in the context of the management of the industry in the private sector and the interaction of that management with the workers, there is still a considerable amount to be done. I wonder how many workers feel that they own a share or a stake in the tourist business beyond selling their labour and receiving a wage? I repeat that question, Mr. Chairman. I wonder how many persons who work in the tourist industry see themselves as important stakeholders beyond selling their labour and earning a wage? How many people in the tourist business, working the restaurants, hotels, entertainers, taxi drivers and persons who sell craft, recognise that they are in a service business and do their utmost to keep the tourists coming back?

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy knows of a taxi driver called Bruce. When Bruce, humble and working class as he is, gets an opportunity to interact with tourists, there is a guarantee that 80 per cent of them want to come back to Barbados and drive in Bruce's taxi.

How many waiters in the hotels interact with the tourists, while not selling or compromising their dignity, while not being subservient or so conscious and attitudinally tuned in to do their utmost to keep those tourists coming back to Barbados? How many of us are saying that Barbados is a desirable tourist destination and we slumber in our complacency and do not get proactive even at the micro-level to try to woo the tourists back?

I am not suggesting that we should be subservient, fawning and obsequious, Mr. Chairman, but if our quest for the future is to sell a service and to market it in our own way internally, attracting and pulling the tourists back, then there is much to be done.

How many workers in the area of human resource development and management in the tourist industry are so embraced by the management to feel part of a process where their role, beyond selling their labour in a narrow way, is to market their establishment, market their locality and market this island of ours?

Has the time not come when there is a need for a greater interaction between the workers in the industry and those who are the directors and managers designed to take the approach beyond the question of a distant impersonal relationship between management and workers?

In today's Press there is an interesting story of a significant amount of alleged sick leave among hotel workers. Is it a question of a malaise where there is now neutral suspicion between those who manage and direct and those who work, where people who do not feel to be part of the process strike back by resorting to tactics designed to send a message and a signal? Sir, if that type of thing, where people appear to be malingering and are off duty when they should not be, cause stress in the establishment, then ultimately tourism could suffer.

Sir, I am not sending any alarm. In a situation where we live in a highly competitive global environment, if each of us, from worker up to management, is determined to ensure that we all play our part, then a type of harmony should be put in train where those who employ labour and those who sell labour should set the stage to ensure that any disharmony is averted and that the disharmony is so averted that it does not impact negatively on wooing people to their establishment and to this country.

In certain circumstances where the Honourable Minister of Tourism is asking this Committee to grant in excess of \$9.5 million to market Barbados, we have to bear in mind that if we are at the mature stage of our development as an industry, we also have to involve our youth and school children in a way where we let them maintain their dignity, let them recognise that they and Barbadians have first chance on Barbados. In an era where tourism is the major service and they will be selling services in the future we have to focus the youth and the students to understand how critical it is to be onboard in the process. That is important, in my view.

I am not going to look at external marketing. The Honourable Minister is competent to defend himself here. Even though I am not looking at it, I would want to applaud

the Honourable Minister for his personal interest in seeing more airlines and more passengers come to Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy will say that there is no point having more airlines which are coming to Barbados empty. Nobody in his or her right senses would want to woo airlines here in circumstances where the load factors do not work in our interest. If the Honourable Minister of Tourism is keen to have more airlines come to Barbados, obviously he is going to indicate, by way of his strategy, the locations from which the airline would be coming. He would be looking to diversify the amount of places from which they come and in the process he will be doing his upmost to optimise the numbers that come and the return that we get.

Sir, I now turn to the question of subprogramme 341, where the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is applying to this Honourable Committee for the sum of \$4.75 million under item 626, Professional Services, in the context of the proposed airport expansion project. The by-line to it is that the programme statement says that the purpose of the subprogramme is to provide for consultancy services necessary to develop the airport strategic development plan and to transfer the airport into a fully autonomous body.

Mr. Chairman, nobody will deny that fundamental to touristic infrastructures would be proper port facilities at the seaport and the airport. There have been instances this year and last year where if you took a close look at the number of aircraft on the ground at Grantley Adams International Airport and the number of passengers and the traffic on the ground at the same time during peak hours, you would be left to conclude, Mr. Chairman, that the time has come for us to accept that our airport and the airport facilities are puny.

Mr. Chairman, the point is, we have come to a situation where there is a clear need to expand everything at the airport, not just to increase the facilities to better facilitate those who arrive but in this era, enhancing security at the airport will have to be of paramount concern. I have every confidence that when my colleague, the distinguished and learned Honourable Member for St. Michael South returns, he will further expatiate in his own inimitable manner.

I thank you.
7.20 p.m.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: In my last intervention, Mr. Chairman, I was trying to deal with the nexus between the role that the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment will play in the development of our tourism products and I want to continue on that particular theme. I spoke then in relation to what we are going to be doing with the marine environment with regard to specific projects and programmes that we will be implementing over the next financial year.

I would wish now to turn my attention to the built and natural environment and to focus on some of the projects which we think will have to complement the Ministry of Tourism's efforts over the course of the coming year. Apart from advertising Barbados' sun, sea and sand which has long been what we have been selling there has been an attempt by Barbados and by the Ministry of Tourism to explore various niche markets and we are going to be making some effort to upgrade some of the existing facilities which are owned by Government and which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment as well as putting in place a number of new initiatives which we think will enhance the tourism product significantly.

One of those projects is the Gully Ecosystems Management Project under which we hope to manage sensitively Barbados' gullies. At the moment, they are being under-utilised and are rarely used for recreational purposes and they have become a place for all kinds of nocturnal activity, from romantic to nefarious, and we hope to bring them into productive use and to manage this use in such a way that the gully systems are not compromised or over-utilised but that the public understands that they can enhance our places for recreation, that they will become places which tourists who have an interest in eco-tourism would want to visit.

In addition to that, one of our primary efforts in the developing of gullies and our eco-system management thrust will be to stop the degree of illegal dumping which now takes place in many of the gullies, thereby putting our underwater resources and underwater trawling areas at risk. A lot of the time we have no idea of what the materials which are dumped in gullies are. Some of them are in sensitive areas including Zone I areas which form important catchment areas for our water resources.

During the course of this year, \$857 000 will be spent on the development of the gullies project. I am looking at catching them all at the same time because there are in excess of 300 gullies in Barbados and we hope to bring as many as possible into productive use and to sensitise the communities that live around these gullies into using them in a more productive way rather than just using them en route to some place or to dump.

Already, I am particularly pleased to note, the Haynesville community has embarked on a clean-up of the gully which runs between Haynesville on one side, Oxonards Crescent and Durants Village on the other. They have been doing quite a lot of work in using that gully sensitively in making sure that young fellows and girls in the community come out and play their role in getting it cleaned up of all the litter and old metals and other refuse that had been dumped in the gully. I hope that we will be able to expand that project to other communities in Barbados. We have developed a

gully poster out of a poster competition and there is a jingle which I think is very rhythmical that is already playing on the radio stations which we are going to use to promote the gullies.

Apart from the Gully Ecosystem Project there are a number of existing facilities which we are going to be upgrading during the course of this financial year and they include Queen's Park, Barclays Park, Three Houses where we have proven to be a very popular park and at which we are also going to be putting down a jogging track for use by people who live in that particular area. We will also significantly upgrade the Farley Hill National Park where we are going to put in a restaurant facility. That is a very popular picnic site and is a popular liming spot which is used for a number of cultural presentations. There is much work that we are going to execute there over the course of the next year and we figure that it will be enhanced significantly if there were a restaurant somewhere on the compound which would make proper meals readily available. The restaurant will be put out to tender for private sector interests to operate because, as you are well aware, Sir, while the NCC has a number of restaurants on its various properties, it does not itself operate any of them. They are all put out to private sector interests, thereby making business and investment opportunities and jobs available to the wider market.

At Farley Hill, we will also be embarking on a programme to make that particular park more accessible to those who are physically challenged and we will be making similar initiatives at the Three Houses Park, the King George V Memorial Park and the Bath facility, all of which are very popular and very highly used by the public and tourists alike.

We believe that it is important that persons who are physically challenged should be allowed equally to have access to these facilities to be able to enjoy them just like the rest of the public and to come out when there are major cultural activities like the Jazz Festival and be able to mix with the crowd and be part of what is going on simply because we will now make them accessible by putting in the appropriate ramps and turning bays for wheelchairs that will make these particular sites more accessible to persons with physical challenges.

The Harrison's Cave Project is another project on which we will be embarking during the course of this financial year. I think it is widely known that Harrison's Cave is the most visited site by tourists in Barbados. We have determined that it should enjoy a physical expansion which will include the purchase of new trams for the Cave, the upgrading and expansion of existing facilities and the inclusion of communities which live over and around the Cave in the benefits that are to be had from the improvement of that particular product.

In addition to that, we are contemplating having walk-through tours, not walk-in from the post office as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was suggesting, because we do not want anybody who might not be physically fit to die of exhaustion but, certainly, we are contemplating having walk-through of the Cave tours rather than use of the trams, because there are those persons who would enjoy the experience of walking rather than being taken in the trams, and that is something we are exploring. It is not something that we are going to do on a daily basis, but it may be introduced during the course of this financial year as part of the new kind of tour which we will be seeing at Harrison's Cave.

We are going to upgrade the existing facilities at the Cave, including the various shops and make them more accessible to the public. We are going to improve the restaurant facilities and we have already embarked on the use of photovoltaic energy at Harrison's Cave and, certainly, we are going to continue with this experimentation because as the Ministry of Environment we want to be in the forefront of using new and environmentally friendly technologies and we believe that there are several opportunities for the use of photovoltaic energy rather than the use of fossil fuel energy, not only at Harrison's Cave but throughout Barbados. Clearly, our experimentation with a number of energy uses, using the alternative energy sources, is going to be continued over the course of this coming financial year.
7.30 p.m.

The upgrade of Harrison's Cave is going to cost the Government \$7.4 million over the course of the next financial year.

The Beautify Barbados 2000 project which was a project conceptualised in 1997/1998 when I previously held this portfolio and which contemplates the beautification of the island's major highway, the original concept was that we would start at the airport and move north along the ABC Highway and then we would go on to the Highway 1, the coastal highways, again starting at the Airport and going north. When we finished those two main arterial veins, then we would go along the main highways that took you from the ABC Highway, into the East of Barbados. That project has not gone as well as we had anticipated initially, but during the course of the coming year, we are going to tap the private sector. The whole notion behind the Beautify Barbados 2000 project is not just that we beautify the Highway, but that we significantly green Barbados and improve the ecstatic look and the whole natural environment and the green scape of Barbados, making it a much more pleasant place for people to live and work and for tourists to enjoy.

The notion is that once we start the beautification process, we will get business communities, residential communities, NGOs, sporting and cultural groups within

close proximity of the areas which are beautified, to be responsible, along with us, for the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the areas. We are hoping that with the use of a lot of indigenous plants, as we execute the project, that it will create an industry in greater uses of indigenous plants in Barbados and people would start to beautify the communities in which they live, all as a result of seeing what is taking place on the highway, what can be done with all of the indigenous plants that we regard as grasses or that we do not think of highly, or that we under use in the effort to import very expensive plants.

There is very much a local horticultural industry and it is in our interest, therefore, to promote the use of our horticulturalist and the efforts being made currently, by incorporating them into the Beautify Barbados 2000 project. That will take \$2.4 million of our budget over the course of this year and we are going to increase the number of persons who were previously working on this project, so as to have it executed more quickly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute left.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir.

In the minute remaining to me, Sir, I would move very quickly to make two points. One will be to return briefly to Farley Hill and to indicate that at Farley Hill, we are going to be developing, not what will be novel in Barbados but is popular throughout North America. We have done a lot of the preparatory work already and that is, a development of a camp site at Farley Hill.

Camping is popular. It is an important part of Wildey and will become an important part of our tourism product. There are those groups of tourists, particularly in the younger age groups, who move, for instance, throughout Europe as back packers, who move from camp site to camp site and so on. We believe that we can make a new thrust in the marketing of Farley Hill as a camp site and that it will not only add to the overall utilisation of Farley Hill, but it will add to the niche product available in tourism in Barbados and that camp site will be developed over the course of this year.

Finally, Sir, I would want to make the Chamber aware, although I have spoken about it here before, of the national botanical garden which will be developed at Waterford, on lands east of the National Stadium and contiguous with the National Conservation Commission Headquarters.

We believe a national botanical garden will enhance the tourism product. I have spoken in the Chamber already, but this will not just be plants and shrubbery but will involve camping, a safety village for children, it is going to have the

flowers of the Caribbean, and I will speak to the concept more fully when we come to the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment. I hope in my next intervention, Sir, to speak to what the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment will be doing in relation to sports tourism.

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER, and asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 8.20 p.m.

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

The question that the Sitting be now suspended until 8.20 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
7.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply, to that it will now revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY – *Cont'd*

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

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister has indicated some of his plans for the airport, and the Honourable Member for St. James North spoke in his usual crystal clear manner about the pressing need for expansion at our lone international airport and I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy when he speaks will speak to his frequent recommendation for a second airport in St. Lucy. However, my issue relates to the manner in which the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport impacts on the residents who live around the airport.

The Grantley Adams International Airport happens to be in the constituency of Christ Church East which I represent. Therefore, I have a responsibility both from my ministerial perspective to work with my colleague in the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport to ensure that the expansion of the airport brings rich dividends to the country as a whole and a responsibility to represent the interest of the people in whose names I stand here tonight. It is in that context that I need to raise on their behalf their

concerns and frustrations and make a recommendation they have asked me to make.

Sir, the people who live around the Grantley Adams International Airport are accustomed to the airport being expanded. One lady who is now in this batch to be moved said to me, 'Mr. Farley, I remember when I use to live there'. Where she was pointing to is in the middle of the existing runway because when she was a little girl growing up she helped her father move rocks from the field at Seawell to facilitate the first landing strip. This would be her third move but the residents are thinking in a very philosophical and practical way. However, like everybody else, they want certainty because they want to be able to get on with their lives.

When I went to the constituency in 1998 this process and project was already overdue. There had been talk about moving since the early 1990s. However, in the areas of greatest restriction, the noise affected zone and the areas affected by the radar and with the potential to affect the radar operations, technical work was going on as to precisely what was the zone of interference and inconvenience and what was the exclusion zone that had to be created in the final approach of the aircraft. These are technical issues to be decided but the bottom line is that these issues are not just technical and national issues but are issues that affect people as they live every day.

In 1998/1999 the residents were ready to move. A plan was evolved and dates were set. The dates were not set by the residents but by officials from the Ministry of Housing and Lands who on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport were given the responsibility to do the land acquisition and offer the necessary alternatives.

Sir, I am satisfied that the offer that has been made to the residents is not only a fair one but a very generous one but what a great pity that such a well-conceived project and such generosity of spirit that informed the decision as to how to calculate and pay compensation or make restitution could not also have been accompanied by efficient timely action by the Ministry of Housing and Lands. What a great pity that that could not also have been accompanied by the regular open dialogue and communication which any person could reasonably expect as one of the parties involved in a relocation effort. That is all they are asking for, Sir.

I have certainly played my part. I have gone on several visits to the area doing house to house work explaining what is happening but at the end of the day I am not one of the legal parties to the agreement so whatever I say in terms of when the move will occur and what will happen still does not substitute for proper correspondence from the Ministry of Housing and Lands that says to John Browne what will happen with his house and what the compensation would be.

The project is an excellent one and Cabinet decided that the relocation had to meet certain standards. We were very clear in our minds that we wanted to maintain communities and keep families intact and would as far as possible accommodate residents in adjacent areas. We were able to identify spots in Fairy Valley a little further away from the fence and we offered them an option of going to Lead Vale as well so persons were able to choose.

We were at a point in the Government where we were introducing the building code and made a decision that we would take the opportunity to ensure that these houses are constructed to conform to the building code. We were also very concerned about disaster mitigation, so the Government would lead by example in ensuring that the houses we construct would be able to withstand hurricane force winds as specified in the building code.

We also took a decision since many of the houses we would be acquiring were wooden houses that we would do two things. Firstly, we would not try to move those wooden houses from where they are to go elsewhere because you would never get them put together properly and therefore, took the decision to construct all wall houses for this project. I am sure that many Honourable Members would have had the experience of assisting in moving somebody's house and know that it never goes back together well. So persons who have wooden houses now would have a wall house at the end of the project. We took the decision that persons would not be disadvantaged and that they would obtain a replacement house of equivalent size to the one which they had previously. As I said, this is a very good project but the execution of it is what caused the project to fall into some disrepute and has caused a delay in the airport expansion efforts.

There is no hostility towards the project or to the move by the good people of Christ Church East particularly those 68 families from Fairy Valley and Thyme Bottom who are involved in this effort because those families for the most part have relatives or friends working at the airport. Some are red caps and traffic controllers.

Mr. Chairman, this project should be an object lesson for public servants to understand that when they are dealing with communities and individual citizens out there they are not dealing with inanimate objects but with individuals who are worthy of getting the normal consideration that one would expect of two parties doing business; regular and frequent communication.

Sir, I am satisfied that my colleagues and I will be able to increase the pace and advancement of this project. Sir, this is imperative because there is a loan from the European Investment Bank to finance part of the airport expansion which is dependent on this. There is also the requirement to

realign the road. Many people may not know that the road which currently takes you from the Shell Gas Station on Pilgrim Road down to the bottom of Wilcox Hill puts both aircraft and motorcars in peril by having them pass in very, very close proximity to one another as the road wraps around the airport fence just a few feet under the final approach for the aircraft, so that road is to be closed.

8.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Barbados is in breach of International Civil Aviation Organisation's Standards for Safety by having that situation. Similarly, many persons may not know but there are houses in Thyme Bottom on the north side of what is called Cow Pasture which, when the British Airways 747 fly through and persons are standing in their veranda, they are looking up under the wing. Sir, nowhere in the civil aviation world is that permitted. There is a grave misunderstanding which is occurring; many Barbadians claim that when they are flying into other countries they can see houses below them.

Sir, to give the equivalent. The equivalent of the houses they are seeing would be like the ones in Gibbons. They do not have to move but if they look carefully, when they are in that final approach which starts from the road running through Parish Land, past my constituency office going down through Thyme Bottom and into Gibbons Terrace, no where in the developed world that allows for Concorde and other sophisticated aircrafts can one find any structures in that area. Sir, it is for the benefit of Barbados, generally; for the longevity of our tourism industry; for our continued ability to attract the best aircraft in the world. We should not take it for granted that Concorde comes here but, at the end of the day, with the new requirements for safety and security, the new requirements to ensure that we meet all standards of certification, we cannot take this chance.

Sir, the Ministry of International Transport is keen to have the project concluded. The residents of Thyme Bottom and Fairy Valley are anxious to have this project concluded. It is my most fervent hope and pray that the officials of the Ministry of Housing would be equally anxious to have this project concluded. Sir, I want them to understand that not only are they standing in the way of national progress but also in the way of a normalised lifestyle. Sir, here is where the practical situation ends. If someone knows that they are going to be relocated because of the Airport Expansion Project and his door starts to fall off or his roof starts to leak, would that person still invest in spending between \$300 and \$1000 to do repairs when the possibility exists that they will be moved the next week or next month? What makes it worse, Sir, is that when a person does not know when the move will be, he is in double jeopardy if, at the very least, with basic communication he will be moved in March, December, then he can make that determination as to the choice between expenditure and comfort. Sir, it is those basic things that a normal human being have to make every day.

Sir, therefore on their behalf, I want to indicate that they are very supportive of the expansion of the airport, recognizing the critical importance that the airport holds for Barbados and, indeed, for their community. They are very pleased with the concept in terms of the improvement in their standard of life, the improvement of their property values, *et cetera*, but certainty, predictability and respect are all that are being asked.

Sir, there is another set of persons in another grave zone, because beyond the area of the land which is to be acquired there are persons whose lands are not required at this time but who are not able to obtain permission from the Town Planner to do, not only expansion, but even normal development.

It is my submission, Sir, that where in the public's interest, an area is considered as one in which there should be no development, the owner of that property should not be left in limbo. The Crown should acquire that property which, therefore, frees that individual to go elsewhere and do his development. Sir, the individual understands the public interest but why should an individual pay by way of his inability to develop his property in order to preserve the public's interest.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has got one minute left.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is a principle not known to our system of governance therefore, Sir, I am pleased that we are getting a step closer. I recently have been advised by the Chief Town Planner that some determinations have been made concerning the noise-affected zone, the ark which is required for restrictions required which will not affect the radar installation which is located on Hopefield Hill on top of Charnocks there is a need to reduce, for example, the amount of metal. One should not use metallic roofs within a certain area. Sir, we will be holding a meeting very shortly with Sir Harold St. John, yourself Mr. Chairman, and the residents to inform of these new well-defined areas so that together we can do the necessary physical planning, letting people know what areas are required for public purposes and acquire them so that people are free to get on with their lives elsewhere. Sir, for heaven's sake, all they are asking, through me, is that they be not kept in any state of purgatory for any great length of time. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a short intervention at this time. Sir, I am forced to join this Debate because no less than three Speakers so far have lamented the fact that enough is not being done in our schools where tourism is concerned and that there is very little education in tourism in Barbadian primary and secondary schools.

Mr. Chairman, before getting into my point, it is within my knowledge that at the Barbados Hospitality Institute, which is an adjunct of the Barbados Community College, that institution has been called upon to train more than 200 hotel workers for the hotel programme in the United States of America, a programme which is being pushed by the Ministry of Labour. Sir, there are many of those persons who have gone abroad and have returned to Barbados and who have actually expressed their gratitude for the life skills they were taught in those particular programmes and that those life skills they were taught have served them well indeed.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is unfortunate that such accusations of not a lot being done would have been hurled at our school children when, in fact, so much is being done at the Hospitality Institute in particular.

Now, I would believe where the primary schools are concerned, and I think the same point was made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, that there is no need for us to choke the primary school children with a tourism programme as such. There is no better education for primary school students than to teach courtesy, politeness, cleanliness and helpfulness.
8.40 p.m.

We do not need to teach these things in a tourism setting. If we teach them these things generally speaking, they will come in handy in terms of life. It should become a way of life for them. We are teaching them to be polite to everybody including the tourists. We are teaching them to keep their surroundings clean and that means to keep Barbados clean. To be helpful to everyone and that means to be helpful to the tourists because these things will come in handy in every aspect of their lives.

We are now introducing Spanish to the primary schools because tourism has opened our eyes to the fact that Spanish is an extremely important subject as we are close to Latin America and there will be occasions when tourists will want to have directions or want to purchase an item as well as the fact that Spanish will come in useful in life generally speaking.

Mr. Chairman, when I was a boy, a Frenchman came to Barbados on a transatlantic voyage and was rescued on the point of death by a fisherman and I understood what he was saying in French. He said he wanted to have some hot tea so I ran home to my mother and gave him the tea. I think I actually saved his life by giving him that tea so I know how useful a foreign language can be.

Mr. Chairman, primary school children are taught about places of interest. They are taught about places of interest, the history of those places and where they can find

these places. They know where to find Harrison's Cave, Sam Lords Castle and Codrington College so I am not particularly worried if the children in primary school can be an asset to us in terms of tourism because I know they have the necessary information. They know the number of parishes in Barbados, what the capital is, who is the Prime Minister and what is our main crop.

Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that they can answer any question that a tourist will put to them. I do not think we need a particular subject called 'tourism' on our primary school curriculum. We do not need to burden them with arrival statistics, comparative analysis and all kinds of statistical data in primary school at this stage. We can teach a lot of these simple related concepts rather than teaching it as a separate subject itself.

Mr. Chairman, we have a lot of new things on the curriculum already like Information Technology, Spanish, the whole question of their attitude to HIV/AIDS and we are now asking them to put tourism on the curriculum. Mr. Chairman, my fear is that soon there will be no room for the old things like English, Religious Education and so on, on the curriculum.

Mr. Chairman, a few months ago we opened an annex to the Hospitality Institute at the All Saints Primary School in St. Peter and that location is in heavy demand by a number of young people from St. Peter and St. Lucy who want to be trained in the various skills needed in the tourism industry so I am not too worried about the level of education in tourism related areas. The same Hospitality Institute works very closely with the secondary schools. Very often the schools have a programme which the Hospitality Institute will introduce to teach skills so as to allow children to fit into certain niches within the tourism industry. There is tourism awareness in our schools and I do not have the fears that are expressed by other people.

In closing, I want to say that the Honourable Member for St. James North asked how many of our workers are so adaptational tuned in to keep the tourists coming back. It was a beautifully worded question. He gave the example of a taxi driver called Bruce and I am sure that this taxi driver did not attend classes in tourism for one moment but he was able to keep tourist coming back.
8.50 p.m.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to support this Head. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North has explained that there are a number of programmes being undertaken within the school system. I believe that many students are taught the importance of tourism to the economy.

It is my view that more work should be done to see how best we can develop tourism facilities inland. I think that enough is being done to develop eco-tourism. Recently, I discovered that there is a nice area located at Lakes, St. Andrew that has not been developed. I believe that this type of facility could be established if the Ministry of Tourism and the private sector can work together to accomplish this.

The private sector has been allowing Government to set the pace and the private enterprise has not been doing their part by investing enough in tourism. There is a need for more investment by the private sector and those persons who benefit from the tourist dollar. The Government has spent a lot of money over the years to develop and market tourism. I also believe that more money will have to be spent in the future.

We have seen the vulnerability of the tourist sector especially after the event of September 11. Some time ago we noticed the seasonality of tourism. I understand that more tourists are now coming to Barbados outside of the traditional tourist season and that is good for the industry. Tourism is what pays our bills and we have to be mindful of this fact and more has to be done, not only to market tourism, but to keep tourists coming and spending more money in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware that there are plans for the extension of the Grantley Adams International Airport. The Ministry of Housing and Lands has always been involved in the relocation process. I want to make this Honourable House aware that from the time I came to the Ministry in 1994, we heard of the relocation of a number of households located within the environs of the airport to facilitate the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport.

I want to make the point that the Ministry of Housing and Lands has been involved in a number of relocations. Whenever we are involved in the relocation of households, it is important to note that a social survey has to be carried out. We have been involved in the relocation of households from Emmerton to Clapham. It is important to note that the Barbados Labour Party upgraded the facilities at that time. Those households who found new accommodation are very happy because of improved conditions.

We are relocating approximately 70 households from near the Grantley Adams International Airport. There are 33 wooden houses, 34 substantial units and some stone houses. Prior to our taking over the Government, the then Government of the day wanted to relocate the wooden houses at the time. The Barbados Labour Party Government took the initiative, after regaining power, to improve the condition of those householders. The Government is now building all wall houses at Thyme Bottom and Fairy Valley

for those householders who will be relocated. Sir, this means that all those persons who previously owned wooden houses will now get wall houses.

The Land Acquisition Act, as we know it, does not apply to this particular area. The Government stated in this Parliament when we acquired the land near the airport that there was no market value at the airport. How many of us would want to live near the airport? The Government has taken the decision and used what we called a replacement value and replaced the homes of the thirty-four substantial masonry units.

We brought in an engineer and other consultants to value the houses. The consultants told us that the total value of these substantial masonry units would be approximately \$4.1 million. We told the householders what the valuation of their homes was and some have agreed to take the money and some said they wanted the Government to build their houses. We are currently building 33 houses and there are another 34 houses to be built. We will look at how best we can accommodate everybody.

I told the officers we need to consult with the representatives of the constituency.
9.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that I believe that the civil servants sometimes are not *au fait* with what goes on in the community and need to consult more with the politicians. They need to consult with Members of Parliament. I do not know why the civil servants seem scared of consulting with the representatives. I have always impressed on them that it is very important to consult with representatives of the area. I find that when they consult with the representative he or she is able to take back relevant information to the people about any problems that may exist.

I want to make the point that all of the persons who are getting houses at Fairy Valley, housing will be improved and the conditions will be better and all the thirty-three structured homes will be well appointed. It has also been drawn to my attention that this full programme will cost the Government of Barbados in the vicinity of \$10.2 million. The cost of the 33 houses is estimated to be \$2 922 000, the compensation or reinstatement of the 24 another \$4.124 million, land acquisition that came in here last year cost \$2.5 million and construction of the three additional houses is in the vicinity of another \$300 000. The full project when it is completed will cost the Government about \$10.2 million.

So far, we have completed five houses. Twelve houses should be completed by the end of this month. A further eight houses have been tendered for, so that by the end of May to June approximately 25 houses should be completed. Now it is important to note that as the Member for the City

will tell you people change their minds. You do a survey and a person has an 800 square-foot house and by the time you get back the person has a 1000 square-foot house. Sometimes one person is the owner but the next time it is the grandmother who is the owner and sometimes you cannot find the owner.

There are a lot of problems and the Ministry of Housing has been doing this for a long time. I have heard other Government agencies want to get involved and have been involved in the project but I understand the problems and the anxieties of Members. I am not one to condemn the behaviour or the tardiness of some of the officers, I believe that they need to understand that we have limited time. I think they need to understand this because the average civil servant feels that time is not of the essence, but it is important for them to understand because, as I said before, when we came to office in 1994 these houses were supposed to be removed. The last Administration was to move them. We have taken the initiative and have started and we will complete the movement of the 70 by the end of the year; but the compensation is important.

If we can get cooperation between both the Ministries, the Member of Parliament and International Transport because a lot has to do with International Transport. We are building these houses for International Transport. I am not blaming anybody. All I am saying is that both the Ministries of International Transport and Housing are working as a team and they are getting improved conditions and improved surroundings. In fact, I must say that even those persons who were thinking about compensation up front are now saying, having seen what is going on at Fairy Valley, that they want Government to build the houses for them because it is easier and better for Government to build the houses. Some of them say that they do not want to have to go to the market and hire a contractor and have to get materials and pay labour so they want the Government to build the houses for them.

I want to assure the House that by the end of the year all the 70 households will be taken care of and we would hope that they will be happy. I want to speed up the process and give the Members the assurance that we will try our best to speed up the process to ensure that the 70 house owners will be moved by the end of the year. I also understand that there is a further set of houses to be moved that we are not aware of over to the south so we have to look at that as well.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to welcome the last two speeches, especially the one from the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and the one from the Honourable Member for St. George North. The truth is, Sir, after listening to both, I cannot find out which one to believe because it is clear to me that the one from Christ Church East is representing the interest of his constituents and I support him on that because that is a

mass-based constituency and you know, Sir, I would be willing to represent the interest of the mass-based constituency. What bothers me is that the Minister of Housing can come to this Parliament on three occasions and in a fifteen-minute speech seek to blame the Democratic Labour Party for not removing the people from that particular area. He made the point on three different occasions that it was the Democratic Labour Party which started the project and eight years after the Minister cannot even remove one house. Yet he knew of the plight of the people in the area, and now it has taken eight years for the Minister to do something about it.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, when we became the Government, the Democratic Labour Party had caused so much confusion that we had to start afresh. As I said before, the Prime Minister has made the point that we want to build substantial houses there, not wooden houses. We do not believe in putting people back in pit toilets as the Dems were seeking to do. We want to improve their conditions but you all were speaking about putting back the persons with pit toilets.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, imagine it took the Minister eight years to find out that in order to remove someone from a pit toilet to a water-borne toilet it would take eight years to do it, whereas the private sector has been able to make many more houses without even knowing of the particular problems. That is not all, Sir, I have said on many occasions in this Parliament that the Land Acquisition Act needed to be changed and the Minister has always made the point that there was no need, yet he came to this Parliament today and admitted that he operated outside of the Land Acquisition Act as it related to this particular development.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member first of all cannot make an assumption that an Honourable Member, particularly a Minister, has acted outside of the four corners of the law. Also, in the particular instance what the Honourable Member said was not that he acted outside of the law but that there are two sections of the Land Valuation Act such as relates to compensation and the one which is most frequently evoked is one that can pay compensation based on the market value. Further on in the same Act, it says where no market exists the compensation shall be paid based on reinstatement value so that they are both within the law and the Minister simply said that in most instances one was used but in this instance the other was used, both within the law so that the Honourable Member would need to withdraw that unintended inaccuracy and press on.
9.10 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I have accepted the criticism and the point made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and I agree with him that the Minister

had the right to make that point. However, if he is now making that particular point for the Minister, I accept it. The Minister must understand that the Honourable Member for St. George North should write to the Attorney General's office, like I have done on many occasions, requesting that the Land Acquisition Act be changed because it is outdated.

Sir, I want to ask one question of this House. How come the whole world can criticise what is going on in Zimbabwe where the land is taken from the rich to give to the poor?

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I have been asking this Parliament not to take land from the poor to give to the poor, but Parliament cannot understand that particular point. It amazes me that nobody seems to understand that there is a relationship between Zimbabwe and Barbados. I am saying, Sir, that we need to change the Land Acquisition Act as it relates to Barbados in total and not only to a particular area in Christ Church.

I remember that debate well, Sir, when I congratulated the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for his brilliance and asked him, in which capacity he used it, if it was the capacity of parliamentary representative for the area or the other title that he has, to get the Minister of Housing to accept the suggestion that I have been giving the Parliament for a long time.

I honestly feel that all land acquisitions should be done based on this new principle but I also feel that we should make the necessary move in here, Sir, to correct the problem as it relates to the Land Acquisition Act. It is not fair for us to take land from poor people and give them money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Speaker, you have now gone on to another subject altogether.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No. We are dealing with international transport.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the past three minutes, you were speaking on another subject. Please get back to tourism.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the International Transport Ministry is requesting the Ministry of Housing...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Many other speakers spoke about the Land Acquisition Act as it relates to the airport and that is exactly what I am speaking on. I am saying, Sir, that the policy used at the airport, under the international

transport section of this particular debate, should be the same policy used throughout Barbados. I will not challenge anybody on this but I think, Sir, that I am within my right to make that particular point. If you say that I am in breach, I am willing to abide by your ruling.

I will say, Sir, do not let strangers influence your decision because you are in the Chair. They are strangers as it relates to this point and only the two of us have a say in this matter now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying, Sir, that we have spent a lot of money expanding the airport and we need to do a cost-effective analysis on the amount of money spent on expanding the airport. The point is that if there is a problem and the airport has to be closed, we will not have an alternative airport.

I am saying that the amount of money spent expanding the present airport, could have given us an alternative airport. Then at a later time, we could have done the expansion that was needed at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It is not important where the alternative airport is, the point is that because this is a tourism structured economy, we have to make sure that we do not put all our eggs in one basket. We have been spending a lot of money and if we check to see the amount of money spent on the airport within the last five years, we will notice that we have spent as much money that could have given us a new airport and we have to think about that.

The truth is, even though all that money was spent expanding the airport, if the rain is falling, passengers will still get wet coming off the plane.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is the truth and this problem does not exist in Trinidad and we, in Barbados claim to have one of the best airports and if the rain is falling, we will still get wet coming off the plane.

I want to know and I need the Minister to tell me, in what area we have spent this money and why is it that we could not be at the same stage, as many other international airports, where we can come off the plane and go into the terminal, without getting a drop of rain on our backs. If we are going to be spending more than \$100 million, surely we should have accommodation for that type of expansion at this point in time.

Sir, we also have to ask ourselves why is it that we are in a rush to spend so much money on the Deep Water Harbour. As it stands right now...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Deep Water Harbour or the Port, whatever you want to call it, when in truth and in fact, there is another alternative where we could have an area solely for the cruise liners coming into Barbados without any interference. Yet, we want to spend millions of dollars when there is an investor or a group of investors who are prepared to pump over \$200 million into a project to do the same thing that we want to take taxpayers' money to do in Bridgetown.

I want to know the reason why, Sir, because if we are going to seriously tackle the cruise tourism industry, there are those types of developments that people want. We cannot continue to see Barbados as just some place where people come and bring cruise ships, dump the tourists and they go for an hour trip, *et cetera*. We should have a place to accommodate the turnaround ships overnight, where they have their own facilities. We could also have hotels constructed near the Port, like in places such as Miami and Puerto Rico.

We feel that these types of facilities are too good for the north of Barbados and we should expand the normal Port at Bridgetown. I am saying that we must recognise...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have to understand that if we are going to seriously tackle the cruise tourism aspect of tourism, we must come with creative projects. If we have investors, especially like the British Port Authority, who are interested in getting involved in projects like the one I spoke of in St. Lucy, nothing should be done to hamper that project. In fact, it should be on the fast track, the same way that Sandy Lane was on the fast track. Sir, the feasibility study for this project has been completed, the tests have been carried out and we should be ready to get started because we need to have a project like that in Barbados.

Sir, I cannot see why we are going to deprive the Barbados Youth Service from that area, which is also part of that international transport project because it would fall under that particular Head when it is completed. It cannot be easily replaced. According to my document, there is a provision to build a new youth service and also to expand and develop the St. Joseph Hospital. I am saying that a project like that should not be put on the back burner but it should be brought up front. I would hate to believe that because this project is for St. Lucy, that is the reason why we are having the problem.

I thank you, Sir.
9.20 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I would take what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said as a compliment because as he said I am all over the place. I have responsibility for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport where I have to take care of all the road works, transportation, water and drainage in Barbados. So, Sir, he is right, I am all over the place, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr. Chairman, I join this debate on Head 27 – Ministry of Tourism and International Transport to give support to the Minister of Tourism and International Transport who, come April, would be in that position for two years and to compliment him on the fine job he is doing. He is a very able Minister with hands-on approach and I am quite sure that he will be in that position for a very long time.

Mr. Chairman, this tourism project will bring tremendous benefits to Barbados. It is the main foreign exchange earner of the country and provides employment for many Barbadians. Mr. Chairman, over the years it has been employing many people from the constituency of St. Michael West Central from such areas as Eagle Hall, Black Rock and Spooners Hill. These people are employed as waiters, cooks, bellboys and busmen. I have been to the Minister's Annual Tourism Award Ceremony and have seen a number of these people being winners in the various categories at this award function.

Most of the hotels are situated on the West and South coasts of Barbados. Hotels like Royal Westmoreland, Sugar Hill and Rockley Resort are the newcomers.

Mr. Chairman, over the years and before the advent of the one-man band this industry employed a number of big bands. In those days these bands comprised about eight to ten members. We had bands like the Blue Rhythm Combo, the Troubadours, Telcos, the Merryman, the Merry Boys, Wendy Alleyne and the Dynamics, Gees Orchestra, the Escorts, the Soul Kings, David Gittens Band; the Chairman of the National Cultural Foundation, Al Gilkes, was a drummer in that band. I am going down memory lane, Sir. We had the Cyclones, the Buccaneers, Ivory, Tropical Islanders, 3 plus 2; there were six members in that band, the Austin Brothers, The Crescendoes, Generation Bridge, Barbara and the Rhythmnares, the Solid Senders, the Barrons and the Reflections.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: The Checkmates, the Pioneers, Flat Bush Band and the Fantastics.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Then you had the limbo artistes like Guy Tull, Basil, Betty West and Madame Theresa who is now working with the Minister of Social Transformation. We had individual performers like Mickey Dee, Richard Stoute, Norman Stoute, Michael Wilkinson – I see the Honourable Member for the City nodding her head – Vere Miller, Verne Best, Clarence Thompson and Lord Radio.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: In those days, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West was an Emcee on the hotel circuit as well as Vic Brewster.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: The Honourable Member for the City is telling me not to forget the Mighty Charmer who is famous for the 'Big Shot Laugh'.

We had night spots like the Broken Bell, the Calypso Tavern, Blue Waters, Paradise Beach, Miramar Hotel, Colony Club, Coral Reef. These are places which produced entertainment and entertainers in those days and visitors come to Barbados still asking about these places.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas talking about Cat Whiskers in Black Rock which was run by Ralph Johnson. Mr. Chairman, you have to be about my age to know about these things. These are people who made a contribution to tourism through entertainment.

Sir, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, as the Honourable Member for St. James North said, plays its role in the delivery of this product through the infrastructure it delivers in this country. The ABC Highway can move people from the airport or the seaport quite easily to all the hotels anywhere in Barbados.
9.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, if we now look at the St. Lawrence Gap which was recently renovated, there is a new cobblestone road, new lighting and very soon we will have a police outpost in that area. The Ministry of Public Works, in association with BTII, has provided this kind of infrastructure to the people of the St. Lawrence area.

Sir, this area reminds me of the French Quarters, New Orleans, where in one area there are hotels and nice restaurants. New Orleans is a very nice area for tourist but it also has a very high crime rate.

Sir, as the Ministry of Public Works and Transport continues to build on the infrastructure where the tourist product is concerned, we have been asked by the police to put new lighting in certain areas where there is high crime in order to help fight the levels of crime. Mr. Chairman, in relation to the South Coast Project, we have a project ongoing where, when finished, will enhance the sewerage system for the hotel because they themselves will be hooked up to the sewerage system. When the West Coast Sewerage Project comes on stream, the hotels on the West Coast will also benefit in that they too will be hooked up to this sewerage system.

Mr. Chairman, I want to mention the fact that the taxi drivers who benefit from the tourist products, will be able to take care of their families. The tour companies too, employ persons in this area. The Barbados Transport Board also plays a role in transporting persons from both Airport and Seaport. The florists who deliver their products to the hotels and restaurants, *et cetera*, they too will benefit from this tourism product. Sir, this is how the whole product benefits persons directly in Barbados. It brings great numbers of persons to Barbados, be they stay-over tourists or one-day tourist coming on the ships, *et cetera*.

Sir, I want to support the Minister of Tourism and International Transport on the tourism product and I will continue to support him. I thank you.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I too would like to say my bit on the debate before this Chamber but being fair, after sitting here and hearing the representative for St. Michael West Central, I am wondering if, after all of these years, he was hiding his age; he went back long before my time nevertheless.

Mr. Chairman, what is important is that we must compliment the Ministry of Tourism for the work it has been doing over the past years and more so when we look at the work that has been done in the area of tourism, even at this time when the entire world is faced with a situation since September 11. Sir, one must compliment the Minister of Tourism for the drive and effort that has been put into what I will consider to be keeping Barbados afloat in these trying times. It is extremely important to all of us that we recognise the fact that as far as tourism is concerned, we have now reached the stage in the history of Barbados where we must ask ourselves if sugar is still king or if we would have to live and accept the tourist industry as the area where we will have to depend on.

Sir, I said that to say this; there must be an awareness as far as the industry of tourism is concerned for every person in Barbados, not only at this time but in coming times. The reason for this is the fact that if it has to be something that Barbados will have to depend on. It is quite

obvious that the smallest child will have to know of the importance and benefits of tourism to the entire island. I think too many people accept tourism as just another happening or something that they may probably make a dollar from or depend on, either in the ancillary service of the industry or by right, an offspring of some of the finance that will come from the industry. Sir, I think it is more serious than that. When one looks at the life of the taxi driver, his involvement in the industry goes a long way. He has to pay for his car, he has his family to feed and it is obvious that he or she has to carry himself or herself in a groomed manner. This can only show how dependent taxi drivers are on the industry.

Sir, the other aspect of it is to look at the ancillary persons who work and benefit from tourism. When we look at the people who work on the various beaches, those selling beach crafts, braiding, coral, aloes, *et cetera*, are all dependents on the tourist industry. Sir, somewhere along the line, we must accept the fact that regardless of what, every person has to play a role in tourism.

Sir, in my opinion, there is an aspect of it that seems to look top-heavy in the sense that people seem to believe that the industry only deals with the executive aspect of the industry; that the management level of the industry is what counts and as a result of that belief, then the people who are in the middle and those at the bottom seem not to be able to at least receive the true benefits within the industry. Therefore, as far as tourism is concerned, the time has now come where every person in Barbados, up to community level, must understand the importance of tourism. When we talk about entertainment, craft persons, talented persons, one must understand they also have a role to play within the industry. When we talk about the artistes, the calypsonians, people involved in drama, that is also an aspect that we must look at as far as the industry is concerned. Barbados must be able to package its product, not only to package it to send overseas on a bonanza tour, not only to do promotions as far as we might consider, whether it be England, North America, or Canada, Barbados must be able to package its material and be able to expose that material at all levels of the community, so that by exposing what we have to offer, then everybody will become aware of the importance of the tourist industry. What we must also think of is the importance of community tourism which has a lot of creativity coming out of it; the men involved in craft, the young ladies involved in the various aspects of culture. When this is looked at, I think community tourism has a major role to play in any further development of the tourist industry as far as Barbados is concerned.

The water sports aspect of the industry, I believe, is one of the industries that goes unnoticed. I remember being involved in water sports and as one comes up on the beach you find there were several persons who own boats and catamarans and who are benefitting from the industry.

Today it is a different picture because of those persons who now dictate the tourism industry. Those persons working the beaches and are dependent upon the industry, seem to have the belief that their services are not required.

9.40 p.m.

Years ago a chap may have had an engine that was not working well but today he has to buy a more powerful engine because the industry is so competitive. Sir, we have to look at the spinoffs of the industry. As far as the industry is concerned, one wonders where are the night clubs that would put on true Bajan shows. I discovered quite recently that most of the hotels have a true Bajan show within their environment so you do not get the opportunity to see it like when you could go to the Caribbean Pepperpot, Asta Hotel or any of those places that used to put on what was called a 'Barbados night' which exposed tourists to fire eating, belly dancing and the like. These activities now happen inside of the hotels. As far as I am concerned, hotels are presenting a North American aspect of the industry more so than the culture of Barbados.

Sir, I am concerned about what is happening within the industry as far as entertainment is concerned. Those people like Dance Afrique and the Pinelands Workshop who are creative enough to work in the hotels are not working because the entertainment budget cannot accommodate. We need to expose our local talent within the hotels. We have to tell the hotels that they need to include the calypso king of Barbados or the band that won Congaline at some time within their entertainment package. We have to try and explain the importance of the tourism industry to the average Barbadian since King Sugar seems to be no more and now we have to realise the importance of the tourist dollar.

Sir, Oistins is not only recognised regionally but it is recognised internationally. The day will come when Baxters Road that pioneered fry fish will be recognised in the same way. I remember when some of the top stars in the world stood on the step of Enids Shop in Baxters Road. Sir, Tom Jones and Paul McCartney stood on the steps of Enid's shop and the day will come when Baxters Road will be returned to its original status because Baxters Road is better known internationally than Oistins. Some tourists who knew Barbados many years ago are still likely to ask the taxi driver about Harry's Nightery not realising that it does not exist anymore so we have to identify with the true Bajan aspect of the industry.

Also, people do not understand that there is a lot of activity on a monthly basis at Sherbourne. Usually, there are foreign conferences held there and these bring in foreign exchange and this augurs well for Barbados.

The Barbados Tourism Investment is doing a lot of work in Bridgetown and Bridgetown is becoming one of the

most beautiful cities in the Caribbean. Those of us who travel to Aruba and Curacao and then come back to this island are extremely proud of Barbados. I would like to compliment the Barbados Tourism Investment for restoring the Old Bond House along the Wharf. When one looks at that building, looks at the boardwalk and then looks across the other side, it is a truly beautiful sight. This investment will make Barbados not only the gem of the Caribbean but the paradise of the world.

Sir, we have to let the average Barbadian know how important it is to be involved in the tourism industry. I believe that television has a role to play in this. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East saying that television must identify with the Bajan face. The material on the Visitors channel should be shown on Channel 8 so that the average Barbadian can see some of the things that happen in Barbados. Sir, since we are selling to the visitor, the average Barbadian should also know about what is happening here. When a visitor ask a local for directions, first of all he gets a smile and then he is told where to go. This is why Barbados is known for being a country where you get a smile and for being a friendly place.

I am asking the Minister responsible for the CBC to give Barbadians a chance to see more of Barbados on television so that they will be able to feel proud of their country and speak to tourists about their country in a knowledgeable way and with pride.

Sir, the taxi drivers of Barbados are true ambassadors of this island. Have you ever heard a taxi driver talking to a tourist? If you eavesdrop on a taxi driver while he is talking to a tourist you will feel extremely proud because there is a lot of confidence about this Island when he speaks of a tour around the country. He speaks proudly of what they will see, how they will benefit and what Barbados is all about. I am extremely proud that we have an industry that is moving ahead.

In closing I want to say that we have a long way to go, the benefits are there and every single Barbadian must know the importance of the industry to better Barbados in the years to come.

Sir, I thank you.
9.50 p.m.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Sir, I am going to start with the last first and that is the heavy drain on our water supply. It happens that the tourist season coincides with the sugar crop season in Barbados. Both industries require the use of a great amount of water and the sad thing about it is, they both occur during the traditional dry season so we have a problem.

The problem is, Barbados is a reef scarce country. The rate at which water is being removed from our underground

supply is greater than the rate at which aquifers are being recharged. We want to know what is the policy of the Ministry and the various agencies associated with the Ministry? Sir, the cruise and hotel visitor arrivals tantamount to an increase of our local population. Are we in a position to deal with the increased disposal of plastic? Could we conserve enough water to handle such a five-year plateau?

If you have to take a 7 o'clock flight one morning out of Antigua, you have to wake up about 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the morning in order to get water to secure a bath and that still is not a guarantee that you will get a shower before you leave at 7 o'clock.

Sir, there is an operation on the South Coast where hotels have, as part of their operations, a treatment plant for their grey-water. This is water coming from the laundry, sinks, face basins and that type of waste water. I understand that there is an adaptation which is possible, where at a later date there could be a tertiary treatment and that water can be used for lawns and plants. I think that is the way we should go.

I also understand that on the West Coast there is a plan to use the grey-water operation from the primary to the tertiary and this water will be used for the watering of lawns and plants. Sir, any excess volume should then be used for recharging the aquifers.

Mr. Chairman, all industries in Barbados consume a large amount of energy and energy is one of the highest cost factors when doing business. The only industry that does not consume a large amount of energy is the sugar industry, once it passes the initial energy requirement process. I would suggest that funds be sought so that the hotels could utilise solar energy to carry some of their base requirements and these could be fed into the power supply, even if it is only to cool the rooms at night. This could be shared with the traditional source of energy supply.

There is another cost which the industry has to carry and that is the marine system. With respect to the cruise ships and other marine activities, the disposal of the non-biodegradable substance is a problem. The introductions of foreign materials continue to pose a problem to our marine life, particularly our coral resources. It takes many years for coral to regenerate and we all know the purpose of coral.

Mr. Chairman, there is a concern with respect of the way hotels dispose of their plastics and wrappings. I was in Germany for a short period of time and I was overwhelmed with how this problem was tackled at the source. The Germans say that whatever wrappings and plastics are imported must be returned to the country from which they were imported. In my period of time, Sir, I did not see anything plastic. Whether it was Coke or Fanta, they were

back to the old glass bottles. That makes a lot of sense. In a small country like Barbados to be overwhelmed with containers, be they plastic or card, it is my feeling that such containers, card boxes, pallets, which come in should be sent to be incinerated at the Port incinerator for a small fee. It would make sense.

10.00 p.m.

The other thing, Sir, because of the nature of the hotel business, there is the problem of disposing of fats and grease which originate from things like deep frying and cooking with oil. Sir, there is nothing more offensive than excess storage of oils and fats used in cooking and stored for a long period of time. Sir, there is a practice which should be followed and it is in place for these fats and oils to be taken to a specific location in the North of the Island to be mixed with the blood, the offal goes elsewhere and this should be taken to St. Peter where it is buried and where it will go through a process of degradation. Sometimes we get the persons who pump them off disposing of them on their way to the North and this practice should be discontinued and it should be followed up. They should be very vigilant as to how they are disposed of in the gullies and other open areas.

As I said, Sir, not only is this waste offensive, but if it is allowed to be disposed of in the wrong way it could lead to health hazards, getting back into the food cycle and causing greater problems. These are the problems which concern me with respect to the carrying capacity of the industry in Barbados, namely how we dispose of the waste, how the marine eco-system is concerned, the problem of energy and last, but by no means least, the problem of our health standards and how we as locals would be affected by bad practices as opposed to good practices.

Mr. Chairman, I told you I would be brief, and I am much obliged to you.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be remiss of me if I allow the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to reflect negatively upon our immigration services and those who give themselves to this type of service to this country in the remarks he made earlier in one of his contributions with reference to immigration performance as it affects the tourism sector in terms of visitors on arrival.

I think we do ourselves a disservice when we compare ourselves to other jurisdictions which are far more sophisticated and far better resourced if we do not realise that in terms of performance at our ports of entry we do just as well or better than some of them. Take a port of entry like Miami Airport with volumes of people, it takes one awhile to exit from the Immigration area. You come into Barbados at high periods, perhaps on a Monday afternoon, large aircrafts on the ground all coming at the same time and we have officers who because of their training and skills

developed over time are able to process these volumes of passengers in the kind of time frame which I think would be acceptable given the circumstances.

I think that we must bear in mind that Immigration Officers must not concern themselves only with hospitality, being friendly being welcoming, being warm, being hospitable. Immigration Officers in the current world climate must concern themselves also with matters of security. They must be concerned with the issue of legitimacy of documents.

More and more we are finding people turning up at our ports of entry with fraudulent documents. So it is not simply a question of being friendly and exuding a smiling warmth but being very careful in what you do that you do not compromise the security of the country and that you do not allow people to take advantage of the fact that you are a tourist market and that your arms are wide open to welcome visitors who want to have a Barbadian experience and whom we are pleased to welcome if their business is legitimate.

I do not think it is just that we should reflect negatively on them in that regard, and further to that, to be a bit callous in terms of reflecting negatively on the well-known warmth of the Barbadian spirit in terms of being generous in our welcome to visitors. I just wanted to state that because I believe that we should not make remarks like that and make them lightly.

In the earlier submission I made, I made reference to the need for a further development of tourism at the community level and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Honourable Minister of Tourism, spoke with reference to the community tourism projects planned for Poole Woods in St. John and for Bathsheba in St. Joseph and for St. Thomas, all with a very strong rural focus and it seems to me that we are still fixing on eco-tourism and recreational tourism but I believe that there is scope for other aspects of developing our tourism service and product with a greater focus on urban centres.

Although I am happy to see that there is some push in the direction of community tourism I must continue to make the plug for the urban areas as being worthy for consideration of the type of tourism project that would bring greater benefits to those who live in urban centres. Earlier, Mr. Chairman, before you dictated that I take my seat, I was about to make reference to the expenditure with respect to the HIV/AIDS prevention programme because there is provision. It is a very small line in this expenditure but it is a very important line. If we are dealing with a sector such as this people come from far and wide and they bear not only their monies to be expended in our jurisdiction but they bear perhaps other things that they bring with them of which we would want to be aware and be careful if possible. So I

commend the Ministry for taking thought of the need for this type of inclusion in this plan and expenditure. I think it is about \$141 000 going towards this programme. A very important part of it I see is to be dispensed to fund a study to determine the correlation if any between the transmission of HIV/AIDS and visitors to Barbados. That is exceedingly important. That needs to be studied.

A study to determine the impact of HIV/AIDS on the image of Barbados and as a tourism destination is also of tremendous importance. A study to determine the indirect cost of the loss of productivity in the tourism sector taking into account the cost factor of training and retraining, the investment to the sector and the quality and quantity of the service provided. I think that these are important areas of study. Studies are also intended to determine the psychological and physical demands on persons in the workplace with reference to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS as perhaps spread by those who visit our shores. This is an important issue.

10.10 p.m.

Sir, the importance of this issue cannot be over emphasized. We are talking about threats to our human capital and our national development which are introduced into our jurisdictions through visitors to our shores, whom we hope will come bearing benefits to our society. We do not want to know that we are in anyway jeopardised by their presence because we have failed to take stock of the magnitude of the problem which we are faced with, in those circumstances.

Let me end by making reference to something that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North said on the very first day, of these debates. He said that it is really a matter of whose judgment you can trust. When it comes to matters of economics in this country, there is much about Barbadian political life and culture that revolves around that basic issue, whose judgement can you trust?

What I have heard coming from the Ministry of Tourism in recent times, is that the business of capacity building is important. The business of institutional reform is important to that sector. I think that these are issues which are being given some prominence of attention right now. I think that it is very necessary, if the institutional units within the tourism sector are to function to optimum effectiveness, then perhaps, because of the changing context, we need to look seriously at the business of institutional reform in the sector and I think that this is what I have been hearing.

The business of building capacity within the sector has been seriously criticised by the voices on the opposing Side. Monies have been spent investing in the wrong areas in the unproductive sectors of the economy. The truth of the matter is, a lot of the expenditure which this Government has

incurred over the past few years has gone towards ensuring that there is a greater measure of capacity within the tourism sector.

When it comes down to the issue of whose judgment we can trust, I would like to think that we can trust the judgment which on this Side, both with reference to tourism and the management of this economy, the judgement which has shown itself able and accurate in most circumstances and especially in recent times.

It cannot be without reference to the success of the tourism industry that we have been able, in difficult times, to ensure high levels of consumption patterns while at the same time, high levels of savings and a build up of the reserves. In a small economy such as ours, that is not easy to achieve: high levels of consumption patterns, at the same time high levels of savings, at the same time a build up of reserves. This is in no small measure due to the performance of this sector.

I am simply seeking to suggest that we cannot play around, for political purposes or otherwise, with the tourist sector in Barbados. We recognise that it is a front burner sector and I think we have to do our very best to safeguard it, both with respect to the institutions within the sector and the capacity and the resources which are given to the sector and how they are expended in an effort to bring the best gains to this country.

Thank you, Sir, for that brief contribution.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to take two minutes to follow up on a point made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. First of all, I think that the Ministry of Tourism has to be in the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS. I think if there is one ministry that has to be involved in this fight against HIV/AIDS, it has to be the Ministry of Tourism.

HIV/AIDS is something that knows no nationality or bounds and as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has said, the tourists bring to Barbados, not only their money, but we know that some of them also bring sexually transmitted diseases. The \$141 000 which I am hearing the Honourable Member for St. Lucy saying is too little, is merely for a study and that study has to do with the correlation of sexually transmitted diseases and the tourist and tourism. It is not so much that this is what is in there for the full programme, that is just for the study.

Sir, I would hope that Barbados never gets the reputation for being a country well known for sex tourism: eco tourism, yes; heritage tourism, yes; sports tourism, yes; sex tourism, no. Mr. Chairman, this I know is big in places like Amsterdam, Holland, Bangkok and Thailand with boys

and girls, I am told. You can call me old-fashioned but I do not want to see the day when that type of tourism catches roots in Barbados. In those countries, it is very institutionalised. It is actually regulated and they have it as part of their tourism landscape. People leave one country and they go there just for that activity. A package deal to those countries very often includes having a partner. I do not think we have reached the stage where we can entertain that kind of activity in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, that activity leads to another and in those countries where there are all types of immoral things happening, it leads to full-fledged prostitution. It leads to child prostitution, it encourages male prostitution but yet you can find persons flocking to Bangkok, Amsterdam and all such places. I just wanted to make that point and follow up on what the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said that perhaps it needs sex tourism. It can bring in big money to the country but it also has the potential of transforming your country into something akin to a Sodom and Gomorrah.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, the particular matter I want to speak to, is the need for institutional reform in the sector. We have heard a lot today about our plans for the physical expansion at the airport and the seaport. We have heard a lot also about the constraining factors to this expansion. Minister Farley spoke at length about the need to relocate some of his workers and how that is constraining the expanded programme at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want us to lose sight of a very important element in the comprehensive plan as we prepare for the way forward.
10.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things that can act as a real constraining factor to the development of the airport and the seaport is the slow pace in altering the governance structure at these two facilities. There have been discussions on the corporatisation of the airport and the seaport.

Mr. Chairman, we all recognise the need for a new governance structure at these two facilities. We recognise that a lot of planning has gone into these discussions so far but the process has not been moving forward at a fast enough pace so as to keep in line with what is happening at the physical end.

Mr. Chairman, I have a real concern which is brought to this Honourable Chamber against the background of what has happened in Trinidad and Tobago and what is happening elsewhere and the implications in a negative way for

business in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, part of the expansion planned for the Grantley Adams International Airport includes making the cargo handlers a little more comfortable. Mr. Chairman, if we do not forge ahead and get it right in that particular area, then Trinidad and Tobago might take the advantage and become the cargo hub for the Caribbean. These are things that we have to be extremely careful about.

We need to protect the gains we have been able to achieve so far in the area of international transport and tourism and build on those gains but the only way we are going to do that is if we look at what our competitors are doing and remain one step ahead of them which would require us to commit ourselves and be resolved to put things in place to get it done as quickly as possible. We should not fool ourselves into thinking that if we spend large sums of money on modernising the facilities but do not change the culture and the attitude of those who work there and if we do not modernise the governance structures that we would maximise the benefits to be derived from the physical expansion. All I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we need to pay close attention to these areas. The discussions have been initiated and we need to take them to a point of reasonable or definite conclusion because it is only when we reach that point that all the funds we are spending to enhance the facility will be put to the best possible use.

I do not know why the Minister of Tourism and International Transport has not taken the House through a discussion on this particular aspect but I think we need to be focussed in this area in the same way that we are focussing on the physical side of the plant.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Michael South you have got five minutes.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I move to wrap up this debate and to thank all Honourable Members for their participation in what has been a very enlightening and satisfying debate on the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport Head which we all understand is of fundamental importance to the development of Barbados.

I noted the points that have been made particularly the latter comments that were made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and some of the issues relating to the institutions that are being put in place to support the efforts we are bringing to bear upon the tourism industry in Barbados. The issue relating to the management and the accelerated work in those particular organisations or institutions under this Ministry is going to be critical in the future to the success of our tourism industry. These are the long-term issues that must be sought after and I give the House the assurance that this is the direction the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport is taking.

Sir, all Honourable Members who made contributions not only show their understanding of what was being presented by the Ministry but show an overall understanding of how the tourism industry functions and the importance of tourism and international transport to our well-being and to our future.

Sir, there are some issues that were talked about particularly those that were mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in his own style that again pointed to not much of an understanding of some of the issues relating to the development of the industry. I will take one aspect of his speech, the area of all-inclusive tourism, and deal with it very quickly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have got three minutes.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Okay, I will wrap up in the three minutes, Sir.

Sir, all-inclusive tourism is a fundamental part of our tourism development and even though we may not want that particular area to dominate or be the only area, it contributes substantially to the development of the industry.

Sir, the fastest growing business in tourism is package business. A lot of our product has been built on package business even before the concept of the all-inclusive and it is important to recognise that it contributes in ways that we do not even imagine such as the whole issue of safety, value, pricing and the whole concept of the physical and financial safety of our visitors. People are buying package business for that particular reason and because they are buying everything up front they get volume discounting. Therefore, both the purchasers of vacations and the operators flock after and buy at volume discounts because of the pricing system and the need for operators to run high occupancies. So there are a number of issues that come out of all-inclusive tourism which are important to our development.
10.30 p.m.

Sir, why would we want to exclude a fundamental part of the industry when we know people are buying it and it is contributing to our development?

Sir, by way of closing, let me say there are some sound principles to be observed and we will continue to observe them as we seek to expand the industry. There must be more education and awareness for our populace about tourism and how tourism functions; there must be a better researched and academic base; a better economic capacity for the industry that we need to improve; that Barbadians must be at the core of everything we do within this industry; that the physical environment must be taken care of and must be protected

if tourism is to continue to thrive and survive; that tourism is much more than just marketing; that the economic benefit must be spread a lot wider than it is presently now spread.

Sir, to culminate it all, that Barbadiana and Barbadian culture must be spread throughout the industry if this industry is to be sustained. Sir, those are the guiding principles that will continue to move this industry along through the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport.

Sir, with those words, I ask that Head No. 27 stand part.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R.C. EASTMOND Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 15th March, 2002.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 15th March, 2002, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
10.35 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. With the permission of the House, we will revert to Papers and Notices.

PAPERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Report on the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2001.
2. Report on the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2001.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Barbados National Standards Institution for the year April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001.

NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of parcels of land at Alleyne's Land, Bush Hall, St. Michael for the execution of a pilot project in respect of the Urban Renewal Programme.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Suspension was taken yesterday, the House was in Committee of Supply, to that we will now revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is now in Committee.

HEAD 31 – MINISTRY OF PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, you will recall that during the course of my speech on the Second Reading of the Bill before the Chamber, I tried to lay out, at that time, the nexus between the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment and national development and the role that it will play in Barbados' further development.

Sustainable economic development presents tremendous challenges, particularly to small island developing states. In Barbados, we made the determination many years ago that our human capital, first of all, is one of the major elements in which we must invest, if we are to have sustained economic development. We have also determined that part of the investment in that human capital involves the maintenance and universal access to health care and a health care system, which will remain the envy of all in the Caribbean. Despite the challenges that may have been happening in health care and the criticisms that Barbadians have been making, only prove that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is still the premier health care institution in the Caribbean. Also, Sir, that the standard of the health services in Barbados generally, is second to none, I would say not only in the Caribbean but in the wider region of the Americas, except the United States and Canada.

In addition to investing in our human capital by way of maintenance of health care and by way of continuous training programmes, we have also determined that if Barbados is to achieve stable and sustained economic development over the long-term, there must be other

components. We must invest in education and the EduTech Programme is part of that long-term investment where we are seeking to make to ensure that Barbados citizens are at the cutting edge of technology. We must continue to ensure that we maintain the high standards of needed and relative skills, to ensure that our people will be able to provide the kind of skills and services that the emerging international economy needs and for which we will be prepared in a globalized market.

There is yet a final component to development and it is that on which this Ministry is predicated. It is the whole issue of how we are going to define our physical space, how we deal with our built and natural environment, how we preserve that which is ours historically, and how do we preserve and maintain that which is ours culturally. Sir, that is part of the role which falls to this newly defined Ministry of Physical Development and Environment.

It was in October of last year that I, again, took the oath of office and took up this new portfolio, which allows me to give leadership to the Coastal Zone Management Unit which, as you know, Mr. Chairman, is responsible for the protection of Barbados' coastline and marine environment. I will take responsibility shortly for the energy sector. Under this Ministry, falls the Environmental Engineering Division and I am going through this, Sir, in this serial way, because people always seem to remember the Ministry of Environment, but they are not clear of what its constituent members and elements are and, the role which we play in the interdisciplinary activities that must take place at the level of Government, Ministries and national growth and development.

Sir, falling under this umbrella also, is the Environmental Engineering Division, which has the responsibility, as its name suggests, for environmental engineering, for the monitoring of air quality, water quality, matters relating to pollution, chemicals and for all those issues for which technical skills and protection of the environment is required.

The Caves of Barbados which is the Government company responsible for Harrison's Cave and the Environmental Special Project Unit, which is charged with the responsibility of carrying out a number of projects:

1. The redevelopment of the Harrison's Cave Project.
2. The exploration and development of other caves in Barbados.
3. The responsibility for the development of a marine park and a marine management authority.
4. The national botanical gardens.

5. The Beautify Barbados 2000 project.
6. The National Conservation Commission which, as everyone knows, is responsible for the maintenance of parks, beaches and other natural areas. In fact, it has expanded its role from what its traditional activities have been to the development and maintenance of recreational and other spaces at national sites, such as beaches and within communities.
7. The Environmental Unit, which is charged with policy development and with our relationship with international bodies and entities. It is through that department, that we formulate our major national policy initiatives and environment and with which we interface with the international community and get into our multi-lateral arrangements, treaties and so on.
8. Then, there is the Physical Department: the Public Investment Unit and the Town Planning Department.

So that together, Sir, when all of the Departments of the Ministry are taken as a collective entity, or as a whole, it falls to us to ensure that Barbados' physical development now on the mid-term and in the long-term is orderly, and not *ad hoc*, that it is sustainable, that we develop policies and programmes which guarantee the use and enjoyment of our lands, not only for present generations but for future generations and which ensure that environmental considerations are taken into physical planning decision, so that we do not over exploit the very resources on which we depend for revenue generation in tourism, and on which we depend for a way of life as an island people.
10.10 a.m.

It is left to us to determine what Barbados will look like in the long run and what kind of physical state we want to shape. What will our national settlement policy be? Where do we locate areas of industrial activity? How do we determine what is necessary to remain in agricultural production? How much of our land should remain pristine and virgin? How much construction and of what type should we allow? What kind of building should we allow on the island's coastline? What is it paid to build so that our coastline development and security are not jeopardized?

Sir, the issue of physical planning speaks not only to the shaping and moulding of a country and allowing a style of architecture to develop that is distinctly our own but it speaks to the broader issue of what it is, what statements do we want to make about ourselves as a people when future generations look back on the work we are doing today, and what we want Barbados to look like.

The role physical planning has played in the development of projects in the national development is easy to demonstrate. Sir, can you imagine Barbados without the Deep Water Harbour? Look at the role that project which was planned back in the '50s and developed in the early '60s has played and continues to play in the national economy. We are now moving to a further stage of development to the Deep Water Harbour by extending the Cruise Terminal and the construction of a new pier. This is one structure that has helped to shape Barbados' physical landscape and its economy 40 and 50 years subsequent to the date of the conceptualisation of the project.

The ABC Highway which was criticised at the conception period and called a "Tom Adams" white elephant has today open up the interior of Barbados to a level of development, communications, construction and commercial activity which is causing Barbados to take off and to do well when the economies of our Caribbean brothers and sisters are flagging badly.

This is part of what this Ministry is seeking to do by determining, approving and guaranteeing the proper implementation of projects. We are attempting now to make decisions about Barbados' short, mid and long-term development and to ensure that the kind of mobility that Barbados has enjoyed as a small island developing state and as a country which has no vast natural resources continues to take place in a structured and orderly fashion so that all of us can look back and be proud of the work which is going on.

Therefore, this Ministry will seek to ensure the orderly physical development of the country. It will take environmental considerations into mind when planning our physical development. It will guarantee access to land for all Barbadians. We will seek to ensure the rational utilisation of Barbados' land space. We will try to guarantee consistency and application of the rules relating to physical planning and town planning by balancing complementary and competing land uses.

We will seek to ensure that project management in Barbados is administered and implemented in a structured way which would guarantee the smooth implementation of projects so that resources are not wasted, whether they are financial resources or human resources, and that projects are completed in a timely manner with as much mitigation of whatever adverse impact they are in the implementation of the project.

Our main thrust will be to ensure that Barbados' economy continues to develop in a way that will benefit all our citizens and that economic growth and development are sustained based on sensitive use of this country's land space. We would seek to carry out these multiple roles; the role that is developmental, the role that is protected and the role that

is investment oriented through the various departments that comprise this Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment.

Sir, I want to look at the role the Town Planning Department is playing in the country's development. This Department is perhaps the busiest Government Department. It enjoys tremendous public attention. Every construction application should – and members of the Opposition should learn this – first be run through and apply for in the Town Planning Department so that we can have oversight on all construction projects as the Law requires whether they be massive west coast properties, kiosks, shacks or vending stalls. We want all our citizens, even those who are doing extensions to their homes, to be aware that there is a role for the Town Planning Department and we expect members of this House to follow those rules carefully.

Sir, during the course of the day I will make several interventions but I want to turn now to the Town Planning Department to look at a number of issues relative to that Department. This Department was established in the 1960s at which time there were no strict rules for planning applications for construction in Barbados.
10.20 a.m.

Sir, over time, as it has become apparent that our physical land space had to be protected, and the need for the orderly development of our physical planning and space has become more important in national planning. Generally, the role of the Town Planning Department has assumed greater and greater responsibility. The Town Planning Department has tried to ensure that there are well-structured development proposals and approvals of such applications.

Sir, I want to share with this Chamber some ideas, what we at the Town Planning Department do and the kinds of volumes which pass through the Department. Over the course of this year, the Department is going to be responsible for the preparation of the physical development plan; for control development of Barbados' land space; for monitoring development activities and related development construction and projects, and for the enforcement of planning decisions.

We expect that during the course of this Financial Year, the Town Planning Department will spend some \$4.6 million of the entire budget of the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment and that for this year is \$45 460 157. Of course, Sir, you will be aware that this figure does not include the US\$24 million which constitutes the IADB loan for the coastal infrastructural project.

Mr. Chairman, construction in Barbados is booming and even though the economy is experiencing a slow down – and nobody is seeking to deny that – there continues to

be large numbers of planning applications coming before the Town Planning Department.

Sir, in 1994, Town Planning Applications numbered about 2 000. Over the last few years, a number of applications were made:

YEAR	NO. OF APPLICATIONS
1997	2,624
1998	2,910
1999	2,870
2000	2,886
2001	3,054

Sir, that gives us some idea of the phenomenal growth in development and construction applications that came before the Town Planning Department for consideration. Last year, 3,051 were processed; 2,790 were given permission; 256 were refused and six applications were withdrawn. Mr. Chairman, that gives you some idea of the sheer volume of what the Town Planning Department has to deal with.

Sir, in order to function more effectively over the course of the year, we are cognizant that this Department is at the heart of national development. If every single structure which is put up in Barbados has to be processed, then one would appreciate that this Department is at the hub of economic activity. All the job creations through construction and building; any development proposals first have to be approved by this Department. All of the major projects, some of which are becoming increasingly complex, all have their birth and genesis in the planning process at the level of the Town Planning Department. Therefore we recognise it is critical to ensure proper service delivery to the public which we serve.

Sir, I am pleased to report that over the last year, that is preceding my taking up the mantle there, the Town Planning Department has tried and has successfully ensured that 65 per cent of building applications which came before it are approved within 90 days. Sometimes there are delays, there is no denying that, and there are some applications which no matter how one tries, do get bottlenecked in the system.

Sir, because of the various implications for development that construction projects or the larger constructions projects can have, there is now a requirement that Town Planning applications must not only be processed by that Department but they must have oversight by the Ministry of Public Works to determine whether there is adequate road system for the nature of the development that will take place. Can the road sustain the weight of the

vehicle, if it is a commercial enterprise that will be accessing or leaving the site? What is the traffic flow like in the area generally? Suppose you are building a supermarket, a mall, or a PriceSmart, as we have already seen, and that one single structure at Green Hill has significantly affected traffic flow in that area. There are some nights when you cannot get near the roundabout no matter from what direction you are coming. Therefore, the Town Planning Department has to consult with the Ministry of Public Transport.

We also have to consult with the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) to determine the area that the construction will take place. Is it in Zone One where there is limited type of activity? If outside of Zone One is there adequate water access and water supply? Is it a coastal development? Sir, last year the Coastal Zone Management Unit reviewed 71 applications for coastal sites in Barbados. Sir, depending on if the land is within an agricultural belt or there is an application for a change of use from agriculture to commercial, to residential or other things, then the application will also have to go to the Ministry of Agriculture. Therefore, the review of a Town Planning application is not a mono-disciplinary activity requiring only the oversight of persons trained in planning; it involves the interaction of a multiplicity of skills of people with myriad of talents and interests in the overall national development before Town Planning is put in a position to give its approval.

During the course of this year, therefore, the Town Planning Department will be increasing the number of professional staff who review applications. Already advertisements are being placed in the Press to try to recruit people with the necessary professional skills. A number of staff have been away on training and during the course of this financial year several of them will return and take up their posts to assist in expediting the planning process.

The Town Planning Department will move into its new headquarters at Block C, the Garrison. Sir, this is critical because part of the very practical challenge which it faces is that the housing for the Town Planning Department is not good. There is not adequate storage space for files. Files are therefore misplaced, more difficult to track and to keep records of. They are much more difficult to monitor, to document, to minute, *et cetera*, so that with the new space, there will be adequate facilities, not only to serve the public but for proper storage of all our files.

The Town Planning Department, during the course of this financial year, will benefit from an upgrading of its Information Technology network to enable it to store all files on computer. This will allow for the easy tracking of files by all members of the Department. It will allow us to be able to key in and track information easily and ultimately.

When the system is functioning at its best, it will allow members of the public who have an interest in a file or an application, to access the Town Planning Department – clearly they will not have access to all of the files – and see an update or status report of the processing of their particular application.

Sir, if we are to have fast physical development, if we are to perform with alacrity to development applications and be able to get people's investments from the stage of conceptualisation to implementation as quickly as possible, then all of these processes are going to be central to the speeding up of the whole planning process.

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

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: In those two minutes I wish to speak to one of the methodologies that the Town Planning Department has sought since 1993 to put in place for the processing of applications, and that is the environmental impact assessment.
10.30 a.m.

In 1993 the environment impact assessment came into Barbados' planning process as part of the tools that we use in reviewing applications. It is a critical tool if we are to determine its use for the planning process and if we are to be able to determine which application to approve, which application would have a potential harm to the environment, if harm can be mitigated and what those mitigated measures should be.

We will continue in the Town & Country Planning Department during the course of this year to use an environment impact assessment as a means of reviewing planning applications to ensure that no harm is caused to our environment and by extension to our economy.

Sir, when I come to speak again, I will go on to speak on the role of the Town & Country Planning Department and the entire role that the Ministry is playing in our overall economic development.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on Head 31 and to say from the outset that in order for the Minister of Physical Development and Environment to carry out the proposed policies of her Ministry she first has to support me when I say that for Barbados to go forward they will have to first announce a land use policy.

Mr. Chairman, in order for us to properly allocate the land resources of Barbados we must have a land use policy and we must not continue to make pronouncements when no one knows the places that will be developed.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I really do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member as I do not think it will make a difference. There is a Barbados Physical Development Plan which guided the Democratic Labour Party Administration before us, and which is now guiding this Administration as well. I will speak to that later although I do not know if the Honourable Member will gain anything even if he listens.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am glad that the Honourable Member realises that nothing from that Side can change what I am going to say.

Sir, whether we have a 1994 developmental plan or not, anyone who understands what is going on in Barbados will recognise that many things have changed and what we have been using in 1994 cannot be relevant to what is happening in 2002. For example, there is no doubt that a large portion of land not catered for in the 1994 developmental plan is now the subject of much discussion today, and many projects not planned for are now being executed.

Sir, in 1994 there was no discussion of Andrews being the only factory to grind sugar cane in Barbados. If we are going to make these major decisions, one of the first things we have to do is to have a proper land use policy. Anybody who feels he can continue to make policy for this country based on the 1994 developmental plan would be fooling himself. When we get a proper land use policy, we can then discuss these projects.

Sir, the number of golf courses slated now for Barbados would not have been accounted for in the 1994 Physical Developmental Plan and you are going to find more and more applications for people requesting approval to build golf courses and other major tourism projects that were not planned. Also, Sir, community tourism as it now stands would not have been allocated for in the Physical Development Plan of 1994.

Sir, we continue to keep the Town & Country Planning Department at the Garrison in a building that could be better used for tourism purposes instead of putting the department in a suitable building elsewhere when everybody knows that because of the way the building was constructed, two years from now, even after repairing the building, the Town & Country Planning Department will have environmental problems, as has been happening in the previous building.

Sir, what is required in this situation is not sweet talk, but foresight. It is not enough to change the name from the Town Planning to Town & Country Planning Department because the physical development of Barbados is now essential and that Department must be moved to a location in order to relate to development as it now stands in Barbados.

Sir, the Garrison was suitable when it was Town Planning, but we have moved away from that stage. The focal point of development is now in the north of Barbados. Anyone who understands what is going on in the north of Barbados will recognise that this office must be accessible to the north of Barbados as well as to the St. Michael and Christ Church areas.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am not only talking about how one will get to the Garrison, but there is a major environmental problem with those buildings as it relates to workers, so we cannot look only at accessibility. We also have to look at the conditions and environment in which these people work.
10.40 a.m.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I could not see that they have the difficulty with the building which currently housed the Town and Country Planning Department. The new building has been gutted and totally refurbished and properly refitted. I do not anticipate that the problems that existed from the falling ceiling and the moisture will continue in the new building. In fact, the staff has had an opportunity to choose how they want that building laid out. They have gone into the building and have seen it and are very happy with the facilities.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you are making a speech now. Honourable Member, please continue.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if the staff had an option to choose between two things they would choose the better of the two things. If they had an option to be somewhere else, they would have gone somewhere else.

I want the Ministry of Physical Development to understand how to use our resources and allocate space in a small country like Barbados. Heritage tourism is important and if the building is creating environmental problems, we need to put some of our best workers in a suitable location so that they can perform better. The days of taking a Government department and putting it in a building and asking them to remain there must stop.

Town and Country Planning Department is too important a department for us to just play around with the Department. I must admit it was not the Minister who started it but the truth is, the time has come for a change. The Minister must admit that the major development that is occurring in the country is occurring in the north of the country and the future development of the country will continue to be the north of the country because that is where land is available. The Town and Country Planning

Department should be centrally located so that everyone can have easy access to this Department.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I want to see the Town and Country Planning Department in a location that every Barbadian can have easy access to it. It is not for me to decide this.

I must congratulate the Town and Country Planning Department for being able to complete over 65 per cent of the outstanding work in a 90-day period. The conditions they work under and the outdated equipment they have to use, I am sure that if they can complete 65 per cent of the outstanding work, the only thing that is preventing them from doing a 100 per cent of work is that Government has not allocated the necessary funds to ensure that Department gets the modern equipment that is needed. We must recognise that an important department like the Town and Country Planning Department should be given the necessary resources in order to function effectively.

Sir, it all right to say we do not need a land use policy, but if we do not have a land use policy laid before this Parliament very soon, we would have an agriculture industry by name only because no land will be available.

I have said before that globalization is a new rule for foreigners to export to Barbados while diminishing the potential of our local farmers. It is clear to me that we have foolishly accepted policies dedicated by outsiders for their own interest. We believe that everything that is done outside of Barbados we must accept. I am saying that our development must be for Barbadians first. If we believe that we do not need a land use policy we will always have problems.

Sir, there is a connection between proper land use policy and the taxes we pay. I have said to this Parliament that we have to be proactive and not reactive. I do not believe that the land taxes of a poor man should be determined by the value of the building next to his land. There are some people who come from overseas and build huge buildings next to a poor man because it is their intention to own the poor man's land. I have already given this Parliament the solution to the problem and it has not yet been implemented. I believe in order to solve that problem, we must stop taxing site value and only tax the improved value minus the site value.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, if you have a piece of land next to a man who is building a house for \$40 million, because he is building a house for \$40 million that should

not influence the taxes you should pay on your piece of land. The only thing that should influence the taxes on your piece of land is what you build on your land.

I am calling on the Government to recognise that we have to stop making land too expensive to Barbadians because that is what has happened in this country since 1994. We have allowed globalization, through the investment of foreigners, to influence the high cost of taxes to Barbadians. I am saying that the way to correct that is by removing the tax on the site value so that if you have a piece of land located next to the richest man in the world, your land taxes would not be influenced by what he builds on his land. I hope that Barbadians read into that and take the necessary action.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I have repeated that about 20 times already in this House. Is this the first time you are hearing it? I will repeat it for your sake seeing that you were my teacher and now I am your teacher.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, in order to stop foreigners from coming to Barbados and dictating the price of land in this country, we must remove land taxes from the site value. If anything, let the cost be on the improved value minus the site value. If you study that you will understand the point I am making. The only reason why Barbadians sell their land is because of the increased cost of land tax. The fellows with money know what to do to force a poor person to sell his land. They do what they do by building huge properties near the poor people so that the poor people's land taxes will increase. When the poor people cannot pay the land tax, they will be forced to sell their land to the rich people.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that we must put policies in place. Between 1994-2002, there have been very enlightened policies coming from this Side that the Government has ignored. If we had not ignored those policies, Barbados would be in a better position.

Sir, when I realised the rate at which the cost of land was going up in Barbados, I came to this House and asked Government to compulsorily acquire large portions of land in Barbados, and they did not do it. They did not do it the way I suggested. They put it in a land bank.

I also asked the Government to recognise that the people of Barbados would want house spots and they should use the same concept that they use in the village instead of

acquiring new land. I ask them to acquire lands around districts so that you can expand the districts instead of acquiring virgin land to implement the concept. I said that they should expand the existing roads in the new land and do not charge the residents of that area that would be owning those house spots. If they had previously lived on the land the Government would have put in the amenities and the residents would not have been charged for such amenities.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, save him from himself before I lambast him. I do not like Mugabe. A man that has a housing policy worse than Mugabe interfering with me every time I speak.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would prefer you to use parliamentary language.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, you mean lambasting. I withdraw that, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying that if those things were accepted and enlightened people had pushed those policies, this country would have been better off today.

The problem in Barbados is that we see physical development only for the rich and famous. We do not recognise that physical development must also include the masses. If we start with physical development as it relates to poor people, then we will be better off.

I am saying that the top down policy being dictated by this Government must be changed and that we revert to the policy that was founded up to 1994 as the bottom up policy. The bottom up policy has worked well for Barbados.

I thank you.
10.50 a.m.

We have moved away from it and because we have moved away from it, Sir, our physical infrastructure has improved but it has improved for "too few". I am not about a "too few" government. I am about improving the lot of the masses, and people have to understand that when the lot of the masses is improved, the middle class and the upper class will improve also.

We tend to believe that once we give it to the rich, it will filter down. Foolishness! It will blow away, because the truth is no matter how much money you give to the top, it does not mean that their spending capacity will increase. When you give it to the poor the spending capacity of the poor will increase and it will filter up to the doctors and lawyers and get back where it came from originally. At least, it would have passed through the hands of the masses.

I am surprised that an Honourable Member from rural Barbados would not understand that, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying, Sir, that we have to understand that physical development, as I said before, is not development only for the rich but it must be seen as development that can improve the lot of the masses. I find it extremely difficult that someone from St. Lucy, an agriculturalist, could have land that is in agriculture and he has a section of land that everybody knows is not suitable for growing anything, but he finds it difficult to get that piece of land approved so that he can have a wholly owned family structure with the necessary buildings on that piece of land.

Sir, it is not the officials in the Town and Country Planning that we must blame but it is a lack of a proper land use policy in Barbados. The truth is that we cannot continue to ask people living on the sea-rock to continue to keep land as agricultural while people in the Bulkeley area are allowed to build condominiums. The only reason that can happen is because we do not have a proper land use policy.

The first thing everybody will do when they submit a plan and it is not approved is to blame the people within the Town and Country Planning Department, which is unfair. The blame must go where it has to go and, that is, with the people who make the policy. The Minister of Agriculture, if nobody else, should have been the first person in this House calling for a proper land use policy because in order for the Ministry of Agriculture to function properly it must first know the lands available to it. It is time that the Minister of Agriculture stops making people believe that sea-rock land is good agricultural land and that land in Bulkeley is not good for agriculture. Until he calls for a proper land use policy I am only tempted to believe that is what he believes.

I am also saying that we have to understand that physical development in Barbados must also come with proper roads. We have a lot of developments in Bridgetown but everything is a bottleneck, every road leading into Bridgetown creates a bottleneck, and it creates stress and confusion for the Barbadian public, and we do not even realise that by creating stress and confusion we are interfering with the productivity of our own citizens.

Sir, Barbadians must have a free flow to their jobs because if we want the maximum output from our workers we must create that atmosphere, but we are not creating it. Maybe it has to do with the way the country has been constructed from the beginning, but I would say to the Minister of Public Works it is his call now and obviously he is going to get the criticism because he has to find a way to solve that particular problem. You cannot continue to blame the travelling public of Barbados for everything if your Ministry, and not necessarily the present Minister, but you are the man in the chair, so you have to take the lashes.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have to realise that because of the bottleneck that is being created in Barbados, we are not only creating stress for Barbadians but we have to understand that there is a direct and indirect relationship between Barbadians and plant life. A lot of us forget that we breathe in what the plants breathe out and what we breathe out they take in. That is the point I want to end on, because I am not surprised sometimes to see that our agriculture and other plant life in Barbados is not as healthy as it used to be and it all has to do with stress.

I thank you.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make my first intervention under this Head to speak specifically to program 144 – Town and Country Planning and, time permitting, to look at one or two other Heads. Sir, the \$3.6 million being allocated to this most essential function within our system of government is more than value for money.

As the Honourable Minister has indicated, the work of the Town and Country Planning Department is essential for ensuring the orderly and progressive development of land in both the urban and rural areas and, of course, the preservation of, an improvement even, of various amenities. It is perhaps even more critical, given the fact that for an island the size of ours, we just cannot afford to get it wrong. We cannot even afford to experiment, to go by trial and error, in the hopes that one day we may get it right.

We are not only small, Sir, but we have a very fragile environment. The interdependency of the various aspects of our ecosystem are very fundamental. The impact of agriculture is direct and immediate on tourism, particularly as it affects the coastal resources, the quality of our sand, beaches and so on.

We, therefore, Sir, have each and every day to ensure that the work of the various departments in Government and more specifically the Ministry of Physical Development and even more specifically the work of the Town Planning Department get the job done. We have to balance a number of competing interests each and every day.

Our economic development will continue to depend on the fullest possible commercial exploitation of our agricultural resources such as they are and equally so, or more so on our development of our tourism potential, our potential in international business, information technology as well as manufacturing.

Who knows, Sir, what new productive sector not yet contemplated this island will have to accommodate 50 years down the road? Let us not forget, Sir, that even at the point of our independence when institutions which we take for granted today – the Town Planning Department and various other institutions in this country, both in the public sector and in the private sector – were created to serve an economy and a society very different from that which we have today, we had a very fledgling tourism industry, but not as pervasive as it is, both in terms of physical and economic impact. We had an economy which was essentially an agricultural economy.

The Deep Water Harbour was built primarily to accommodate over 200 000 tonnes of sugar which we exported out of Barbados every year. The fact that cruise tourism came after that was only because the resources having been created for one purpose we were able to leverage them for another purpose. We did not have to contemplate having new cruise facilities while, at the same time dealing with cargo facilities. We can go on with examples.

The reality is that this Department is at the cutting edge of development. Sir, one can expect, therefore, that in this cauldron of competing interests conflict of purpose and of objective will continue to rise in temperature. You can only expect the cauldron to grow hotter and hotter because in this small area of diverse multiple uses when you seek to please one sector, you will displease another.

If you determine that a piece of land should remain in agriculture, you will displease the commercial retail interests that want to build a mall, someone else that wants to build a golf course, someone that believes it should be for a park for aesthetic and recreational purposes, and we could go on.

The fact of the matter is that it is not often understood and appreciated that this department has to deal with the whole range of national interests. We have housing. We have to look to house our people not only today based on our population size, but we have to look towards the future. We have to cater for housing not only for the young, but for the elderly. We have an aging population and therefore the types of structures and locations will have to take into account these issues.

We have, Sir, to continue to do our planning to accommodate various community services, our schools, our

hospitals, our fire stations, our police stations and our national parks. We have as well, Sir, to preserve forever the capacity for Barbados to be involved in agriculture. At the end of the day, land which is taken out of agriculture remains out of agriculture. You cannot easily convert it from being an office complex to being an agricultural field once again but, at the same time, you cannot stand still if you want to go forward. Also, Sir, we have to take account of the fact that the changing state of technology in agriculture, as in other fields, will make it possible for us to do more with less.

In the case of Barbados' agriculture, there are certain areas of land in Barbados which, because of the nature of our rainfall and in the absence of irrigation available from water wells makes agriculture marginal if not improbable. I would not say impossible, because if there is a period in which the weather changes and there is a ten-year period of rain, then agriculture will thrive, but there are areas in Barbados where there is irrigation water available and clearly we need to build our agricultural capacity around those areas.

Other areas in which the sun will burn every day and make it possible to grow a yam, a potato, a carrot we would perhaps be wasting time and national potential for the development of other areas. That is the kind of balance which this department has to face everyday and we as a country, Sir, also have to provide facilities for retail shopping, both for our locals as well as for our visitors.
11.05 a.m.

Sir, the fact that the facades of Bridgetown have been able to be improved during the last decade and the contribution of the duty free sector cannot be underestimated. The duty free sector, as a component of retail, allows us to have a larger customer base than the constraints of population size currently dictate.

It therefore allows us, as Barbadians, to be able to enjoy a higher level of ambiance and ecstatic attraction in our city, or other areas of shopping, but also, Sir, we have to make a determination first and foremost that certainly for me, Bridgetown as a commercial entity must never be made non-viable. It must never be allowed to die, Sir, and we have other areas of commerce which are like that and therefore, from a planning perspective, it is important that when we consider new alternative shopping areas, for example, that we take account of the imbedded investment.

Sir, by imbedded investment, I am not talking of investment by big businesses only, but if Bridgetown were to be emptied tomorrow, what will happen to the thriving trade which is done a Saturday morning, outside of the Cheapside market, or outside of this Parliament by way of the through traffic, people selling vegetables, dry goods,

fermented and spirited beverages and things of that sort. So Bridgetown must not die, but we must provide opportunities for expanding, entry by new entrance and retail business in other locations.

We have also the competing business of industry. One of the greatest challenges we have always faced and, indeed, I must applaud the officers who have managed this mechanism over the years, but there is a need to make sure that we can have industrial development, but recognising that the principal source of our drinking water, or the only source really, is from extraction from underground aquifers, Sir, then we have to be concerned about waste disposal.

There are certain types of heavy and dirty industrial activity which other countries can afford to do and dump their chemicals, hither, thither and yon, which we, notwithstanding how many jobs it can bring, or how much money it may bring, cannot afford to undertake. Sir, the simple reason that after a few years of plenty, when our water is totally polluted and unusable, then the rest of us will begin to die and the business will go as well.

Of course, Sir, there is the big ongoing conflict with respect to tourism. There are some persons who would want us to go forward by way of economic development, but who would also want, for their own personal comforts, to be able to have an open beach with some trees outside every bus stop, their door and everywhere. As far as I am concerned, we can and we have been able to be successful in developing our tourism product by way of recognising that visitors to our shores want to have their hotel on or near the beach. Also, that Barbadian citizens like to go to the beach, even persons like I, who do not go to the beach very often, like to know that we have the right and opportunity whenever the strange urge may hit us.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: This Government, Sir, will and has the charge for the responsibility to balance these competing interests in development. We, for example, will never tolerate the exclusion of Barbadians from access to all of our beaches. There will be no private beaches in Barbados, or from any other aspects of their natural heritage through the denial of their access to the beach, in terms of beach access or actually able to traverse the beaches. Neither, Sir, will we stifle the development of Barbados, by letting valuable economic resources lie idle, so that persons who are already comfortable in life, are able to sit and gaze at them in their emptiness and beautiful, desolate splendour.

Our concern, also, has to be for those persons who will be able to have an opportunity to participate in our economy through employment generated in tourism. An acre of land,

developed for a hotel, tourism purposes, generates significantly greater employment than that same acre, and revenues to the Government and development for the country, than that same acre of land going idle, or going as a house, or going as an office building. Therefore, Sir, that is an important consideration.

Sir, as I said, it is a matter of having a judicious blend of the policy, so that the 90 beach accesses around the island, this Government has not only ensured that they are maintained, but you will see in the programme being presented to further the discussion by the Minister of Physical Development, that there is an active and aggressive strategy for the further development of those beach facilities.

We are not just giving an access by opening a slit in the facade of buildings which hide the beach, we are not just opening a path for you to squeeze through, not even broad shoulders, but sideways, but we are insisting on minimum standards for beach access. We have developed major parks with car parking facilities, bathroom facilities, lifeguard facilities at various spots around the island but also, Barbadians must recognise that they too, need to appreciate that sense of balance. We can neither have all parks, nor all hotels, and I am satisfied, Sir, that the Administration here is setting about on that course.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like you to finish at this point.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, on the 34 kilometres of coastline from Enterprise to Heywoods, and the 34 accesses such as they exist, are being enhanced and developed for the benefit of Barbadians.

I will return, Sir, to deal with other aspects of this Head, but I want to salute the Minister and her team for the guidance and leadership they have given to us in this important aspect of our national development.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for that excellent intervention which really did give a very clear view of completing and complimentary land uses, and the whole resolution of those interests, in relation to national development.

I wish to speak to some of the issues raised by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy before we allow the air to remain clouded. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy suggested that there was not an existing land use policy. The Physical Development Plan, which I indicated was a 1994 plan, was my error. In fact, it is a 1998 plan which articulates land use policies very clearly. I am just going to run quickly through the Table of Contents for the benefit of

the House but, more particularly, for the benefit of the public who may not be aware of the details of the National Physical Development Plan..

The National Physical Development Plan is a substantial document of several hundred pages.
11.15 a.m.

This is the National Physical Development Plan of Barbados 1998. We are in the process of doing a new physical plan which is currently in draft and expect to have it before this Honourable Chamber for discussion sometime in the summer of this year.

We have gone out to all of the public hearings that have been necessary and we are currently reviewing the plan for the inclusion of wind energy sites at Lamberts, St. Lucy, Upper Salmond, St. Lucy and Bissex Hill, St. Joseph. There are some amendments to parcels of land at Speightstown to be designated as recreational space, a national heritage conservation area and a parcel of land at Kendal Hill for commercial purposes. Once those amendments are concluded, and we do a further review we will be back before the Chamber for discussion and debate.

The National Physical Development Plan articulates in its beginning strategic purposes. It talks about the growth and management of agricultural preservation. It speaks to housing, social and community services, cultural heritage, the environment, economic development, land use policies, centres and mixed use corridors, shopping centres, tourism, predominately residential areas, institutional areas, employment areas, special industries, resource extractions, natural resource reserves, golf courses, rural villages, rural settlements, agriculture, the Barbados system of parks and open spaces, national infrastructure, the community plans for Bridgetown, Speightstown, Oistins, Holetown and Six Roads and the National Park Plant. Therefore, it is not true as the Honourable Member has been suggesting in a most misleading way, that there is no national use policy.

This development plan, or any other development plan, will not speak to any particular single project and so it would not say that Liz Thompson has built a house in Prior Park. Clearly, this is a global strategic plan. It is a policy framework and guideline. It is a policy plan that speaks to the broad policy areas and to areas of all kinds of physical development in Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy kept alluding and suggesting by implication that there is no adequate access to lands for Barbadians. Barbados has approximately 160 000 acres of land. The Town Planning Department views this land space as roughly 90 000 lots, with 40 000 acres being reserved for agricultural production; sugar and

non-sugar, 656 lots are West Coast lots, and 421 are coastal lots in the south of Barbados.

In 1988 to 1994, Barbados experienced its most busiest period for the transfer of lands to non-nationals. I am going to repeat that. There is a perception that this Administration has embarked on an exchange of land and is allowing land in Barbados to get out of the hands of nationals and go to foreigners. The evidence shows that the most extensive transfer of lands to non-nationals in Barbados took place between the years 1988 and 1994 under a Democratic Labour Party Government. So this notion that the present Government is letting land get out of the control of Barbadians, particularly black Barbadians, and going to foreigners, is entirely false.

That was the findings given in a report in 1998 by the Committee established by the House of Assembly which was sat on by Mr. B. M. Taitt, who, thankfully is no longer in this Chamber, and Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, who is currently in this Chamber. So the information I am disclosing today, although he is speaking to the contrary, is known to him.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman. I want this to be entered into the record because that is the reason why I do not sit on anymore committees. When that Report was written, I was ill. I was called by a member of this Table to deal with that Report and I said to that member to let it be known that I disagree with the Report but that was never put in the Report. That is why I will never sit on any more committees formed by this House.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I cannot allow that. What he meant is that he made a phone call to someone...

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: There was no formal...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am challenging...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Come on, be orderly. What are you saying?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. I am challenging the Honourable Member to produce the Report where I signed on the line.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, you would have to rule on this. This document to which I speak is called "House of Assembly, Report of Select Committee on Ownership of Land Interests in Barbados by Non-nationals including CARICOM Nationals". If the Honourable Member says that he disagrees with it and nobody recorded that, then he is challenging all of the processes and the integrity of this Chamber; okay.

The membership of the Committee, which was established in April of 1998 by this Chamber because of issues relative to land was His Honour I. A Roett, M.P. Chairman, Sir Henry Forde, M.P., Mr. Branford Mayhew Taitt, M.P., – fortunately sent home to rest – Sir Harold St. John, M.P., Dr. Richard Christopher Haynes, M.P., who still has a strong national voice in this country, the Honourable R. C. Eastmond, M.P., and Mr. Denis St. Elmo Kellman, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who is still a member of this House. No signatures were required and there is no Minority Report from the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. This comes forward as a document of the House and he cannot challenge it in this way, not now, not four years later, he cannot do it.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Quiet please!

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Member for pointing out that the Report had not been signed by any member of the Committee which means that it cannot be a report, and it cannot be quoted from in this House because in order for it to be a report, the members of the Committee would have had to sign it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not so.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: This Report is dated December 18, 1998 with the recommendations, and signed by the Honourable Ishmael A. Roett, M.P. as Chairman on behalf of the entire membership and noting no dissenting judgement, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I was making the point...

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I have been in this House for 15 years and sat on many joint select and other committees of Parliament. It is a standing requirement in this House that all members of the Committee

should sign the reports of standing committees. I certainly have signed all where I delivered a minority report with others and those persons have had to sign theirs as well.

That has nothing to do with laying the report and it would be grossly unfair if the records of this House did not reflect the fact that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy refused to sign the Report. Not only that, I believe the Honourable Member for St. Lucy went as far thereafter to take a decision not to sit on any further Joint Select Committees.

The point, therefore, is that as a matter of procedure, their record should reflect whether the Honourable Member for St. Lucy signed the Report or not. That is the challenge that was made. Nobody is saying that there is no such Report, but it would be grossly unfair if any member would be required to subscribe to the views of a report which he did not sign.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy has challenged the Honourable Member for St. James South and this House to produce a report which he signed. That is what has been raised. It has nothing to do with the merits of the Report. All the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is asking is that the signed Report be produced. That is what is being requested.
11.25 a.m.

Sir, if a report is made in any committee, if in fact there is an argument even in a rum shop, and there is a strong dissent, that person indicates his dissent. When it is a formal process to which your name is to be attached, such as a committee of this House, signed by the Chairman, if you disagree with it, you file a minority report. This is a 1998 Report, it is now 2002. He cannot challenge it now. What is this, because he does not like what is in it, because it does not suit his argument, he is now challenging the integrity of the process?

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: It is a reflection on the Speaker because essentially what he is saying is that the Speaker is a liar and that the Speaker did not give him due process to voice his defense.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, this Report was made a document of the House. He had the opportunity to refute what was in it. He did not.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is not true; on many occasions I did.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am ruling that it is all right to proceed in that manner.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The largest transfer of land to non-nationals in this country took place between the years 1988 and 1994 and, in fact, amounted to 1 246. Sir, let us understand what is happening here. Of the 90 000 lots, 20 000 lots belong to Bajans living overseas; 1 000 lots have overseas addresses, so these could belong to non-nationals. The view has been that Government can do something about the transfer of land to non-nationals, and we have. This Administration has said that foreign companies cannot buy lands in Barbados. This Administration has not permitted, as has happened in other countries, the whole concept of economic citizenship. "I got a dollar I can buy a passport and citizenship in a country" that is not allowed in Barbados.

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

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Therefore, we have taken several steps to ensure that land remains in the hand of Barbadians but it is critical for us to understand that...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. I have just been told that this Administration has passed a law prohibiting foreign companies from buying lands in Barbados. I would like to find out when that law was passed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed, the Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir. I was making the point, I did not say that legislation having passed, I said we have indicated this was not permitted and budgetary measures have been announced in respect of this.

Sir, one of the things we must recognise in people is that every time land passes to people – there are two limbs to it. First of all, a lot of land has been transferred from one non-national to another at some spectacular prices but when a Barbadian is offered money for land, he or she can always say "No" to the prospective purchaser.

Sir, you have indicated that there are only two minutes pertaining to me but I have a lot of information on land, land ownership and housing, therefore, I want to come back and make another intervention which will put some of the information before the House.

Sir, a lot is being talked about the ownership of land and the impression is being fed by the Opposition that Barbadians are not having adequate access to land in Barbados. Sir, this is not true. When I come back I want to

speak, not only to what the facts are, but I do perceive that is a problem the Government is going to have to address and I will speak frankly to the problem as I perceive it.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think this debate could perhaps be characterised as the most contentious during this Estimates, largely because it has been peppered by some dramatic inaccuracies which I do not think should remain on the records largely because not only are they sensational, but they will, to my mind, damage the Government itself.

Any allegation that this Government has passed legislation to stop foreign companies from buying land is absolute nonsense and coming from a Minister of the Crown...

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member is misleading the House when he said that I said legislation had been passed. If the record was reviewed, it would show that was not the language I used. I said that the Government had taken measures, but did not say that legislation had been passed to that effect. They are now setting up a false premise and knocking it down.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, the peppering of inaccuracies continue because there is no other basis on which a Government, in a free democracy, can stop a foreign company from purchasing land other than by law. A minister has no power to stop anybody from buying any land and none of you has any powers that do not flow from law. Therefore, that is an absurd inaccuracy. It is complete nonsense and, as I said, coming from a Minister of the Crown, it belies an ignorance of the power of Ministers. In fact, quite the opposite is the case. It is only in the past few months this Government has started to recognise the concerns that were consistently raised, both by the Opposition and by other sensible people in Barbados, about the trends in relation to the foreign ownership of land. From the DLP's 1999 Manifesto, the matter was raised. It was raised from 1999 because it was very clear, not only from what we said in our Manifesto but the very gentleman who was put as the Commissioner to hear objections to the Physical Development Plan in another capacity as Ombudsman of Barbados, wrote a report in which, despite all of the syrupy expressions by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East about beach accesses, very strongly condemned successive Governments of Barbados for

denying the people of this country the opportunity to have access to beaches. He took photographs of a number of areas in the West and South Coast in Barbados where foreigners and Barbadians had put boulders and have done all manner of things to stop Barbadians from accessing beaches. Not much has happened since then despite all the talk.

The 35 beach accesses were not done in the last year. Many of them were there from the time I was a child on the West Coast and some of them are beach accesses that only one individual at a time can pass, so that if when one starts to walk down the beach access and sees somebody else coming in the other direction, that person has to turn around and go back.

11.35 a.m.

There are some like that in Prospect in St. James and throughout the West Coast of Barbados. The Honourable Member for St. James South once raised it as a concern that she personally had, but it was not a concern of her Government. She, in fact, said that the Government was being negligent in a number of areas like the problem of black own businesses in Barbados and the foreign ownership of land.

The same Minister now gets up in a new incarnation to give the impression that all of a sudden the Government which she was lambasting from the Back Bench when she was not in the Cabinet, has suddenly developed a new policy that has cured all the problems of foreign ownership of land. Sir, I cannot take that kind of hypocrisy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have to withdraw that remark.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I withdraw the remark. It is unparliamentary and I apologise, Sir. I cannot accept that approach to public administration. Sir, the first words written in the Report of the Select Committee are:

“The Committee was not able to establish with any high degree of accuracy the total number of lots or percentage of land owned by non nationals.”

Sir, that was not at the end but they were the first words written in the Report. I cannot reflect negatively on the Report as a parliamentarian but if the public says that this document is not worth the paper it is written on, they would be correct because this Report was quickly finished to accommodate a Budget in which the question of foreign ownership of land was addressed...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member as a parliamentarian should know better than to impute improper motives to either the person who chaired the meeting, or the members of the

Committee. To suggest that it was quickly finished to accommodate some particular interest is to impute improper motives to the members of the Committee.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, it was conveniently completed.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It is equally as bad to say that it was conveniently completed and as Leader of the Opposition he should know better than that. The Honourable Member for St. John himself just said that as a parliamentarian he cannot reflect negatively on the Report far less reflect on the motives of the persons who served on the Committee.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, it was remarkably completed to coincide with the announcement of new policies to cover the question of foreign ownership of land.

Sir, despite all the talk about the period in which land was bought by foreigners, that is not the fundamental issue because it is an area on which we can come to common agreement as Barbadians.

I am not schizophrenic or paranoid and I do not think the vast majority of Barbadians who have raised concerns about this, including those of the social partnership, one of whom recently said that a committee of the social partnership has now finally been established to address concerns in relation to the foreign ownership of land in Barbados. It is against that background that I believe what the Honourable Member for St. James South said is inaccurate and it does not bear recognition simply to prove an absurd point.

I am not reflecting on members of the Committee or the Chairman. I recall vividly at that time that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy refused to sign the Report and despite the fact that he refused to sign it, the Report was nonetheless forwarded for consideration. This is part of the history of this Parliament. Therefore, when Honourable Members try to give the impression that somebody is trying to reflect on the Report that they agreed with, it is wrong. If the Honourable Member did not see the Report and he did not concur in the recommendations, he has no obligation to write a minority report. Nowhere in the Laws or procedure do you have to write a minority report.

If I, as a member, do not attend any meetings of a committee, when the report is brought to me at the end, I have the right to determine whether I am going to sign it or not. I do not have to write a minority report.

Sir, there are a number of reasons why you do not have to write a minority report. First of all, the transcript of the proceedings is available so the public can go back and see

what position was taken on a particular issue. If you do not think at the end of day that it is an issue on which you need to take a minority position, you can let the matter rest and let the report proceed. Basically, that is what transpired in these circumstances.

Sir, this question of foreign ownership of land is going to continue to be plagued by the kind of scenario we had in here today because the Government will not accept that when persons other than the Opposition, including public officers in Barbados, were raising concerns about this issue, we are accused of being paranoid and schizophrenic about foreign ownership of land.

The Government itself on one hand said that the Democratic Labour Party allowed foreigners in Barbados to own land on the West Coast and, on the other hand, some members of the Government said it is not true to say that foreigners own a lot of land on the West Coast. Sir, there are two conflicting views.

We know what the Government's constraints are under WTO. We cannot pass new Aliens Landholding Legislation but what Government did was to pass a law to restrict the transfer of land by international business companies. Sir, international business companies are not the only kind of foreign owned companies we have in Barbados.

We have locally incorporated companies, charities, non-profit companies and public companies that are all foreign owned. All the Government did was avoid a situation where people were using international business companies to avoid the payment of property transfer tax and they put certain restrictions in place that required the companies to make certain declarations prior to allowing the transfer of any land.

Far from being able to introduce Aliens Landholding Legislation, those countries which have that legislation will have to remove it.
11.45 a.m.

There is no basis in a globalization environment where values have been broken down for a country to put in place restrictions on individual foreign companies for purchasing land. What you can do is in relation to your land use policy and your physical environment, is to identify an area of land in your country for heritage purchases, and it cannot be sold to foreigners. That is a perfectly legitimate policy, and as long as it does not seek to make the whole country a heritage site or something absurd like that, you can do it.

Our Manifesto in 1999, said that certain areas of land in Barbados should be earmarked for lease only to foreigners. You can designate that land as land that is special to Barbados, whether on the basis of its ecological

configuration, heritage or whatever reason, and you might be able to get around the provisions of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, Protocol 23, the Rights of Establishment Provisions and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Most Favoured Nations principles. It is a very basic matter.

If the Government has a policy for dealing with the foreign ownership of land, tell us what it is. There has not been a single policy introduced in Barbados other than a rum shop on the West Coast, John Moore's shop, which would indicate to Barbadians that anything is being done to address their concerns about foreign ownership of land in this country.

Even if past Governments were guilty, it is something that this generation has to deal with, and some of us have children here who are already in a position to own land. If you have land in Gall Hill, St. John, next to a National Housing Corporation Development, which was selling the spots at \$5.00 per square foot, next door to that development a private developer is selling the land at \$14 per square foot, that tells you that there is a problem in relation to land value in Barbados.

Sir, when you look at the types of people who are making deposits on that land, those persons that are being given the oceanfront views and so on, it will give you an extent to which the land value market in Barbados has changed.

We are not saying that the Government has all the powers to deal with it because we understand the constraints, but to turn the debate around to give the impression that this is a Democratic Labour Party problem, I believe that we are here about solutions and a way forward for Barbados.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have been in here for eleven years, in both Chambers, and I believe that the way in which politicians treat the issues colour the public's perception as to what level of trust they can put in politicians.

The reality is that the Honourable Member of the Opposition leads a Party that presided over comprehensive sale of land to foreigners in this country. The Honourable Member leads a Party which when in Government, contrary to the recommendations from the officers in the Town and Country Planning Department, allowed the development to take place at Mullins, St. Peter, when the Chief Town Planner of the day indicated that no such development should take place. The Party which he leads, sat down and countered that recommendation for foreigners to develop land on the same Mullins beach in St. Peter.

Mr. Chairman, when I talk about the level of trust and social capital that politicians bring to themselves and to the public, you will understand what I mean and I am very sad. To date in this debate, at least we have not gone down that road, but this morning there has been a departure. I want to speak to this issue.

Sir, even on the issue of filing minor reports, I have asked for the formal records of this Chamber to be produced. It is a bad thing to have a short memory. In 1992, under a Democratic Labour Party Administration, there was a Joint Select Committee on Sexual Offences and there were a number of us who disagreed with what the Report was stating. Do you know what we did, Mr. Chairman? We signed a Minority Report and we did not have to send that Minority Report. We just filed it.

The most amazing thing is, I will not cast any imputations on motives this morning but I would let the facts hang out for those who will draw their own conclusions who were the members who agreed to that Minority Report. They were M. A. King, Q.C; M. P. H. Lewis; A. Straughn; M. A. Mottley; and D. J. H. Thompson – the same D. J. H. Thompson who got up in here today and said that you do not have to file a minority report.

If you have a difficulty with a recommendation of a document that is going to be laid, not only in this Chamber, it is standard practice that you have your views reflected in a Minority Report. Mr. Chairman, enough of that.

Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on the issue of land. I am of the firm belief that if the Democratic Labour Party was serious about applying solutions to the issue of land, given the finite size of Barbados, then they would be engaging in this matter constructively and not divisively. I am of the view that the Democratic Labour Party has only taken up this issue to be a decisive issue in a country of finite size, knowing full well that their pattern of behaviour in presiding over the distribution of land to non-nationals exceeded that of this Government's.

I am one of those Barbadians and it has nothing to do with Party, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned about land in this country and I am concerned for two reasons. I am concerned that in a society where the majority of the population has no large access to capital; where the majority of the population, a century ago, were ex-slaves; where they had no access to capital in any meaningful way, especially from the present commercial banks, that land remains the most tangible asset by which they could have a stake in this country and that land remains the basis on which you start to gather and accumulate wealth for the future generations.

The hallmark of this country in the 20th century in the social and political revolution that we have in the last 70

years, has been the extent to which we have held faithful to two premises, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, access to an education to uplift yourself and your families and access to ownership to land in this country.

I believe, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister stated in the Second Reading speech, that the objective of keeping Barbados and making it a vibrant property-owning democracy is the basis on which this Government operates in terms of improving the quality of life of Barbadians.

Sir, the only way you can remove people from poverty forever, is by giving them access to capital so that they can endure. I have always learned from my grandfather that land does not spoil. When I speak to the Democratic Labour Party failing to engage on this issue constructively, I speak to them failing to put forward comprehensive solutions.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition was right about one thing, that under the common framework of rules across the world, there is going to be a difficulty in having legislation that discriminates against countries while favouring other countries in terms of the benefits conferred.

The Prime Minister has spoken about this and this Government has tried to do a number of things. I do believe that the ultimate solution lies in the hands of the individual who is the owner of the land.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot go to London and buy freehold land easily. The majority of land sold in London is leasehold because if you want to build wealth from generation to generation, you create a stake in the land such that there is a reversion of the ownership interest. That reversion of the ownership interest can allow people to exploit economically that land on more than one occasion. 11.55 a.m.

Let me be clear on this, because I feel strongly about this. When you sell land freehold, it is gone from you forever. You get a lump sum, and that is it. We have a concept in Barbados that leasehold is a two-year lease, a five-year lease, even a 10 or 15-year lease, but we have to get into the habit of looking at long leases. We have to get into the habit of understanding that instead of selling somebody freehold that we sell a 50, 70 or 90-year lease. What that means is that one or two generations from you, or if you enter into it young, it might even be you, you have the use of the land revert to you to be able to exploit for a fee again.

I am saying that the Anglican Church, or no church in Barbados, or the Credit Union Movement which must be about building capital to alter the imbalance of economic power in this country, have a right selling land freehold in this country if we are going to change the status of economic relations in this country. I believe that in respect of individuals, the answer in respect of foreign ownership of land is not to legislate, because we cannot, but it is for Barbadians who want to treat to foreigners to do that in the context of leasehold arrangements as opposed to selling the outright interest in the land by way of freehold. What it does is to ensure that you have a basis for capital to grow and accumulate from generation to generation.

Mr. Chairman, I honestly believe that these are the kinds of solutions we must be talking about at a national level to educate publicly those who might not be aware of all of their options. I honestly believe that it is not something the Government can legislate because of the international trade obligations to which we have adhered, but it is something we can use moral suasion to encourage Barbadians, particularly indigenous Barbadian institutions, black or white, to engage in to ensure that there is an accumulation of wealth from generation to generation.

I also want to address the issue, Mr. Chairman, of the price of land in this country. This Government took a deliberate stance, and only this morning I gave notice of a Resolution pertaining to Alleyne's Land in here as part of the Urban Pilot Project, that Government would allow the tenant to pay the first \$2.50 a square foot and Government would subsidize the difference between \$2.50 and the fair market value of the land.

Mr. Chairman, we have been watching what is going on in Zimbabwe, and I want to salute the media for the kind of coverage they have carried on radio, television and in the newspapers on what has been happening in Zimbabwe. We do not realise that in the 1980 Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, and in the recent amendment for the subsidy for urban tenancies, that we have effected a redistribution of land in this country that no other country that is an ex-colony has succeeded in as well as we have; and not an ounce of blood has dropped.

Between the ten cents a square foot, we have enfranchised thousands of black Barbadians who now own or are on their way to owning, if they do not already own, substantial wall structures in this country. Mr. Chairman, I have marked myself and my career in public life by one index. I have never said it publicly, but I will do it today. I have one index by which I mark myself in my representation of the people of St. Michael North East and that is that by the time I leave public life as many people as possible in my constituency should be owning their own houses and lands.

I do not want National Housing Corporation to build any rental units because I believe that people's relationship to the land and to the country changes when it is a relationship of ownership. I believe people have a different perception of themselves and of their families. I believe that what was premised by those people who fought before us in the 20th century for equity in this country was that if you give a man or a woman the dignity of ownership of land then they can provide for themselves, and if you educate them, then they need not rely on anyone for information.

Sir, I believe this Government has been faithful to the premise of providing funds for the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation so that loans can be had at 6 per cent when the rest of Bridgetown is lending at 9 per cent, 60 per cent higher.

Mr. Chairman, we have done a lot of things as a Government but the most enduring policy for the people of St. Michael was the extent to which we changed their characteristics and relationship to land in this country. I am not one of those who believes that Bajans do not want to buy beach land because I feel that Barbadians should be able to buy whatever land they want in this country and by the same token sell if they want, but you should understand that Government cannot anchor into legislative action which would result in sanctions being taken against the Government.

Therefore, I genuinely believe from my heart that we need to engage in dialogue and to start talking about how Barbadians can accumulate wealth from generation to generation and the method that I know best legal in law. You know, the same British people will only sell leasehold in London but come to Barbados and buy freehold. Now tell me who is bright and who is foolish?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I think at this point you should finish.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as you wish, because I have said what I had to say. I beg the Opposition that this is not a matter that should divide us and as Leader of the Opposition I keep telling him that he and I are of post-Independence Barbados in terms of our education and in terms of our values. I think this is a matter that should unite us all because we are defending the national interest of this country.

The point I am making is that I believe that this is the kind of constructive national dialogue that can advance the interest of thousands of Barbadians and I look forward to participating on a national level on this issue, especially for the churches, the credit unions and all Barbadians, black or white, who believe in accumulating wealth for the next generation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I am amazed at the efforts of the Honourable Member for St. John to try to discredit what I was saying. He spoke to the Report and I want to return to the Report. The Honourable Member read a line but only read part of it and that is the danger of giving the public part of the information and I want to return to the full sentence, Sir, not just part of it.

"The Committee was not able to establish with any high degree of accuracy the total number of lots or percentage area of land owned by non-nationals."

He stopped there and if that was what it said therefore the information was of no consequence and highly inaccurate, but it went on to say.

"... nevertheless much credible evidence was received on the issue."

Who were the people who gave evidence? It was the people in this country who had access to the information: the Commissioner of Land Taxes, the Registrar of Titles, the Deputy Solicitor General, the Chief Accountant, the Chief Land Surveyor, the Chief Town Planner, the Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue, the Manager of the Exchange Control and the Chief Property Manager for the Ministry of Housing. These are the people who had all of the access to all of the records in relation to land ownership so that when the Committee said that it was not able to give the exact number it was saying that it cannot fit them to the last house that is owned by non-nationals. A lot of credible evidence was given before the Committee.

Let me read the rest of what they said, Sir, so that it does not put anything in doubt and people will not get up and read part of the sentence.

"The Commissioner of Land Tax gave evidence that for the purposes of land tax the roll listed 90 000 parcels of land (of which 656 touch the West Coast and 421 lots touch the South Coast) but this figure would not necessarily correspond to the number of interests (as more than one interest can exist simultaneously) or the number of owners (as one person can own more than one lot). There was now no land tax differential between foreign and local ownership."

It went on:

"The Registrar of Titles informed the Committee that non-national transfers of land from 1988 to 1997 amounted to 1 246."

I am skipping now, Sir:

"The Committee notes that the number of 62 in the five-month period of December 1997 to April, 1998 did not seem to be any large increase, as the lowest total in the ten-year period 1988-1997 was 70 (in 1988) and the final total was 154 (in 1990)."

Sir, this is credible detail which shows the extent to which this issue is reality or fiction. I am not seeking to say something that is untrue when I say that the largest number happened pre-1994. The records are clear. The issue is what are we going to do about it as a Government. When I speak of Government here I am not speaking only in the context of a Barbados Labour Party Administration because at some point a long time from now the Democratic Labour Party will return to Government and will also have to face this challenge and it is going to affect us all.

Some Honourable Members might have wives and properties overseas but there are those of us who are going to live here and do not plan to leave. We are 100% Bajans. The question therefore...

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: No. I am not speaking about him. You know very well I am speaking about you and your house in St. Lucia just finished building.

Now, that is not the level at which I want to pitch this debate. I was purporting then to go on to the other point which the Leader of the Opposition made. He said that I had indicated that legislation had been passed, but I never said any such thing. He put that up as a false premise to try to knock it down to try to make me appear dishonest when in fact I had not said it. What is important is that he then came back and said that he knew that the international climate prevented us from passing such legislation.

So the question before the Government is, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has spoken about the macro policy framework in a very clear way, given the international climate which prevents us from passing legislation, what mechanism can the Government over the course of the last few years put in place to guarantee access of land to Barbadians?

I want to go through some of the measures. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East spoke to two of them already, 6 per cent which is a low interest rate to first time property owners, \$2.50 per square foot subsidization for land in tenancies. The 100 per cent mortgage has given the opportunity to all Barbadians for whom it would be difficult to accumulate large capital and substantial sums but who are good salt of the earth Barbadians and who, given the opportunity, would faithfully

pay their mortgages month after month. They are persons who, given the amount they are working for, may not be able to accumulate the 10 per cent deposit on a property; but if you give them a 100 per cent mortgage so that they know that they can buy a property, they are so grateful for the opportunity that month after month they are happy to go straight and pay their mortgage or have it taken out of their salary.

12.10 p.m.

Sir, the advent of the 100 per cent mortgage, under this Administration has been a critical measure by which the Government has allowed large numbers of Barbadians to have access to land and property. I want to speak in detail to some of the construction that has gone on over the last few years in relation to housing development in the Government sector, and some of the measures the Government has put in place.

Sir, earlier we spoke of the land bank of 1 000 acres, so a large track of land is reserved for Barbadians who want to own, either a lot to build their own house, or have a house built for them through a Government agency, or Government access in conjunction with private enterprise. It is not true, what the Honourable Member for St. John said, that we were not thinking of the issue of land ownership in Barbados. It was cognizant of the issue of land ownership, and rising land prices, that the Government embarked on a deliberate policy of trying to make housing accessible, and ensuring that large tracts of land remain available for purchase, by the average Barbadian citizen who cannot compete with some of the prices being asked by the private sector.

We had 24 lots built at Maynards, 44 at the London Bourne Towers, 28 at Deane's Town, 20 at Flat Rock, 6 at Bonnetts, 12 at Bush Hall and 24 at Country Road. There have been two quads at Flat Rock and Brighton and 56 high rise apartments at the corner of Country Road and White Park Road.

In Stage 1 of the Settlement 2000 project, which was secured by a \$50 million bond guaranteed by the Government, there are 285 houses and 993 lots. In Phase 2, there are 115 houses and 770 lots. There have already been developed: 200 lots at Mount Brevitor, Bakers, Cottage, Groves, Orange Hill, Husbands and West Terrace Heights in the constituency of St. James South, at Briar Hall and at Simmons Road in Christ Church. Fifty-nine houses at Gall Hall, Christ Church and Gall Hall, St. John with 110 lots sold and 135 lots between Arch Hall, Blackmans and Lower Burney.

Sir, these are all land measures to guarantee that the average Barbadian, a civil servant buying a house for the first time, a person who is a janitor, maid and whatever level

of society in Barbados, who wants a first time house, the Government has put measures in place to ensure that you have access to it.

When we came to Government in 1994, the General Workers' Fund, which is used for alterations to wooden houses, the purchase of land and a house, or repairs to a house, the amount of loan, at that time, was \$416 345.89, in 1993-1994.

In the financial year 2000-2001, under this Administration, the Fund was topped up where the amount loaned out to people for this kind of activity, was \$742 431.19. From the year 1993-2000, a seven-year period, it went from \$400 000, less than \$0.5 million to \$7 million in loans. Sir, that money represents a substantial improvement to the quality of life for the average Barbadian. For example, a person who did not have a water toilet before now has one. A person who lived in wood before is now living in a wall house. A person whose kitchen floor may have been dropping through, is now walking on tiles. These are not just figures that have no relevance, Sir, so when he says that we have not been concerned to provide adequate housing for the masses and the wider public, it is not factual. It is time the Press stops running with this notion that land is being just swallowed up by foreigners, and Barbadians are being excluded from land.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to conclude.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you.

The Barbados National Bank under this Administration opened a window particularly for the use of people who are living in tenancies, for the construction and repair of properties. Sir, I will end by giving this figure and then come back again. It is interesting to observe that the Barbados Mortgage Finance is a Government institution and utilises monies put in by the Government and that institution represents 30 per cent of the mortgage market.

In 1994, the Barbados Mortgage Finance gave loans of \$4 620 000. We ensured, Sir, that persons who sought to borrow from the Barbados Mortgage Finance, could get loans for houses valued up to \$230 000. What is significant, Sir, is not just the ceiling, so it means you can build a house from \$10 000, if you could get a proper house built from that \$230 000. It is not only the ceiling that is important, it is the amount loaned out after the period 1994 and I am going to give the figure for the financial year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No. I do not think you should give the figure now. Your time is up and I believe you can come back a second time.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Yes, Sir, just let me put this on record, \$31 475, a substantial increase over the 1994 period.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to start from where the Honourable Member for St. James South left off. She was making the point when she sat that the Barbados Mortgage Finance, over the last six or more years, has performed creditably to all Barbadians. In fact, in the year 2001-2002 the mortgage company gave over 282 persons loans to a maximum of \$31.4 million. This is an increase from in the year 1994 when they loaned only \$4.6 million.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. James South spoke about the General Workers' Loan Fund. We have loaned out a tremendous amount of funds in this country to Barbadians not only buying houses, but also to repair their homes and the records are here for all Honourable Members to see. I do not intend to speak too much on this Head at this time, because we will come back later to look at housing, but I want to make the wider point that a lot has been said about the sale of land to foreigners, but the Government has not sold a single piece of land to any foreigner.
12.20 p.m.

Over the last six years Government has protected Barbadians from non-nationals who wanted to unfair them. The Honourable Member for St. John mentioned the John Moore Bar. When the owner of that Bar was being unfaired and had to move from that location, this Government intervened and purchased that location and is now leasing that spot to him.

Mr. Chairman, we also intervened on numerous occasions to provide access to beaches in the St. James and Christ Church areas for all Barbadians. I want to make a further point that from the time the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was a member on the Board of the National Housing Corporation (NHC), it only sold land to first-time homeowners. That is the record.

Most Barbadians invest in land because they do not own shares in banks and do not buy mutual funds. The focus of this Government is to ensure that Barbadians own their own land and home, but whenever the Honourable Member for St. Lucy gets up, he tries to compare Barbados to the Zimbabwe situation, which is nonsense, because Barbadians own the land.

If one looks at the home ownership, which is approximately 85 000 in Barbados, one will see that more than 90 per cent of them are Barbadians. Barbadians can get loans in Barbados to buy house and land. In my second reading speech I have shown that there is excess liquidity in

the banking system of more than \$404 million over last year, so persons can find loans to repair their homes, to build homes and to buy lots.

I want to compliment the Chief Town Planner and his Department for producing a very fine document which shows that in one financial year they have approved more than 2 672 applications. The officers work under very cramped conditions and the Department does not have enough staff to enforce the Regulations to ensure that people abide by the permission they get, so one has to compliment the staff of that Department for working under strained conditions to produce this level of approval. I have always believed that if there is only one department in Government, that can make or break a Government it is the Town Planning Department.

I have said repeatedly that the Town Planning Department must be properly staffed and properly equipped with up-to-date machinery and equipment, because as I have pointed out in the Second Reading speech, they have approved 2 592 lots. These figures also show that people prefer to live in the St. Michael area where 501 approvals were given last year, and this is followed by Christ Church with 270, and then St. Philip, St. George, St. James, St. Peter and St. Lucy.

I was told by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South that the average number of houses constructed in any one year is about 1 000, so if we want to stimulate employment in this country, especially in the construction industry, and create an atmosphere of buoyancy, then the Town Planning Department is that agency to help because over the last year they approved 1 756 lots. If one assumes that more than half of these people will build their homes in this financial year, or in a two-year period, one would see that over \$50 million is spent on housing per year in this country.

We are told that the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company lends about 30 per cent of the mortgages amounting to \$31 million, mostly to the lower end of the market, so one can assume that over \$100 million is spent on housing in any one year, so the Town Planning Department has to be well equipped so that it can police to make sure that persons do not infringe the law.

In recent times a number of persons have been squatting which shows that people would want to have land. People are squatting not only on Government land, but on private land, and the majority of these squatters are non-nationals.

I think that the Town Planning Act needs to be changed to give the Chief Town Planner wider powers to enforce notices. When the Town Planner gives these