
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This House is resumed. Yesterday when the House was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it will now revert with Mr. CHAIRMAN, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a contribution to this important debate. I am going to refer to Head 30 sub-programme dealing with legal services. I noted in the presentation of the Honourable Attorney General the energy and drive committed during the course of the year to undertaking a number of fundamental reforms. Speaking from the perspective of someone who has been involved in business and who is now charged with the responsibility of creating a new business environment. I would like to lend my fullest support to those reforms.

In fact, the rule of law and the process of change is something which must be understood and appreciated by all of those involved. Our legal system, whether from the perspective of making laws, the administration of justice or crime prevention and detection, cannot be out of sync with the general direction of the rest of the society. Sir, in many cases they need the law to lead the way. I want to say that we need, if we are to achieve the objectives which have been identified by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, that the repositioning of Barbados to take advantage of the new competitive global environment, this Head and the programmes for which funding has been provided under this Head assumes fundamental importance. The activities under these Heads form one of the fundamental

underpinnings of our democratic systems of Government. The issue of laws, responsibilities, conferring benefits and proving that framework for business is important. I want to speak specifically on a few items under this Head. First of all there is the matter of Law reform. I want to salute the office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel in that regard but we must go further and faster. It is important for us to develop new laws as well as to modernise the existing laws; whether it is in the area of the Constitution; international law to the various trade agreements and other opportunities and obligations with us; in the areas of criminal law, administration, civil and, more particularly for, commercial law. I know that over the past eight years the office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel has drafted approximately 226 Statutes and 1100 Statutory Instruments. I will still have to make the complaint that in the area of reform of commercial legislation that has still lagged behind the actual rate of change in the commercial world. We need to ensure that proper priority and whatever resources are required are put at the disposal of that office so that we do not miss opportunities, particularly in the area of international business. Sir, it is no secret that we have missed some opportunities because of the slow process of reform of our legislation. I am pleased to know that in the last year or so that pace has picked up. It is important to apply this reality and to determine that we are going to do something about it. Sir, much of the Government's activities, in terms of administering its various departments, is to a large extent on the advice and the facilitation of the Solicitor General's department, provided for under sub programme 245. This is one of the areas where I am pleased to hear the Attorney General speak of the reforms and the proposed use of technology to provide new case management tools which would get us away from this unfortunate situation. There are several matters in which Government has to have legal solutions or for departments to have advice which take too long. Sometimes a simple matter such as the conclusion of contracts, whether the contracts are for employment or the procurement of goods and services, find themselves caught up in the process of delay. I am satisfied that these reforms

as proposed by the Honourable Attorney General in this year's Estimates will go a long way towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of this particular department. Thereby, both the public and private sectors will reap dividends from this measure. I note that the Government, as a recognition of this, has provided additional staff and they should be praised for doing so. We need to do new things. We need, for example in the matter of settlement of commercial disputes, and it is inevitable, Sir, as long as you have parties contracting to do business, from time to time there will be disputes. Unfortunately, the moving of cases through the court system is long and torturous. In many developed countries alternatives have been developed. We in Barbados need to move in the greatest haste to have an alternative dispute resolution system put in place, which would facilitate commercial and other forms of disputes being put on a course of resolution which does not depend exclusively on the courts. It has been found in other countries that disputes have been resolved in a more timely manner and in a more cost-effective manner. I would want to recommend to the Honourable Attorney General that this be adopted. I want in my initial contribution to deal with one or two other aspects of this programme. Much has been said about money laundering and indeed I applaud the efforts of the Honourable Attorney General by way of the solutions which have been advanced in the establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit among others. I certainly welcome the clarification which has been put as to the clear intent of the Government. The intent of the Government is to ensure that we have systems for testing illegal activity, for preventing it where that is possible and for punishment where that is not. It is not the intention of the Government to frustrate decent law-abiding citizens in the exercise of their duty. I, like the Attorney General, agree that it requires more than law. It requires sound judgement. 10.10 a.m.

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Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Sir, I would want to part company with those zealots who, enamored by the power of the law, and further fortified by an anti-business culture and sentiment, immediately see all business persons as crooks, whether they be local or international, but specially the international ones, and who believe that it is their responsibility to frustrate every activity to conduct business.

That kind of approach has no place in the arrangements which Government administers and, therefore, the accreditation which has been provided which indicates that the jump-off point is suspicious activity, not just activity, so that the folly which is being perpetrated on decent citizens purportedly in the name of this legislation really must come to an end. It cannot be reasonable that something as straightforward as a cheque from an attorney paying for a piece of land - people buy land and sell land

every day. You go to your bank if you have sold a piece of land and you have a cheque for that. The banks are requiring that you have to declare the source of these funds and, not only that, you have to indicate down to the lot number and perhaps they might want the square footage and what you have planted on it and for what purpose it was.

Sir, in various parts of the world and, certainly, Government's intention is clear that suspicious activity is what triggers the reporting and subsequent investigation. Were we to try to monitor and investigate each and every financial transaction by over 20 000 companies by the 270 000 individuals that we have living in this country, where were will we end it? Perhaps we are getting caught up in the philosophy which has informed things like the USA Patriot Act. Their fundamental view is that everybody overseas is a crook. That is what has informed that legislation.

The legislation sets up higher standards for financial transactions originating overseas and being done with US banks and other institutions than it does for US citizens operating at home, and that is fundamentally wrong, Sir.

For example, the stated purpose of this new legislation and from which has evolved the long title, was a united and strengthened America by providing appropriate tools required to intercept and obstruct terrorism, hence, the USA Patriot Act of 2001. Sir, the provisions of this legislation is so far-reaching that each and every financial institution operating around the world must be aware of it.

In Barbados, Sir, not only Scotia Bank, but the Barbados National Bank, the Mutual Bank, Caribbean Commercial Bank, not only those, Sir, but the credit unions and others have to be aware of this legislation. What does it do, Sir? Even foreign finance institutions with no physical presence in the United States would be affected.

The United States Secretary of the Treasury is now empowered to impose sanctions and take other far-reaching actions with what are called corresponding banks, for example, Chase Manhattan or any other bank which usually has relations with banks in the Caribbean so that in the United States this new legislation has made the paperwork and the reporting and the investigation so onerous that many United States based banks are considering severing their corresponding banking relations with banks in the Caribbean. In fact, Sir, the propaganda that has gone abroad which purports to claim that the Caribbean is the foremost centre for money laundering in the world has done much harm in that regard. Sir, I will return to this later but I want to close on this.

The legislation also specifically identifies for special treatment foreign political figures and public officials of

any kind, not by their suspicious activity but by way of mere existence. This US legislation, for example, says that financial institutions must conduct enhanced scrutiny on any private banking account of senior foreign political figures, their family members and close associates, to detect and report any transactions.

In terms of the extra-territorial nature of the legislation, it basically identifies that if you happen to be the father or the son of a foreign political figure from any of the 170 or so members of the United Nations family, by definition you are now to be suspected by this US legislation, advanced in the name of money laundering.

The essential caution is that while we continue to be leaders in the fight against money laundering we must ensure that we do not in our zeal create a situation in which it is so impossible to conduct basic everyday legitimate business activity that the ultimate ambition of the members of the OECD is achieved, that is, to drive business that is offshore onshore.

As you know, Sir, they have within their onshore frameworks offshore clones. Vermont in the United States, Delaware in the United States are competitors of Barbados and we have to be aware, Sir, that the ultimate ambition is for the business to be taken back home and we, therefore, need to uphold the principles, continue the good fight against money laundering, but do so from a practical perspective which recognises that we also need to balance and ensure that we are able to continue to have an economy which is viable. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I listened attentively to the response of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East yesterday to most of the matters that I raised if not all, but in her final presentation to the House she took us into another realm. I do not blame the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and, as I said already, we will permit her a honeymoon although she says she does not want it.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I never said I did not want a honeymoon but the one that is being offered to me from the member for St. John is one that I feel I may have to keep a third eye on every time.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, let's try it and see.

I have no sympathy whatsoever, none at all, not an ounce of sympathy for people who are railing against the stance of the Privy Council. I say that for this reason, not because of the substance of the decisions that the Privy Council is taking. The men who sit in the Privy Council, except for a few honorary positions, are accountable to the people of Britain not to Barbados. Therefore, it would be

well nigh nonsensical for us to expect the law in Britain to have moved almost two decades ago if not more from the death penalty to be applying laws from jurisdictions elsewhere that support or give effect to mandatory death penalties. It is just inconceivable.

I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East to the extent that it is putting them, not us, as persons who are accountable to the taxpayers of the United Kingdom, accountable to public opinion in the United Kingdom et cetera.

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Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You are putting them in a totally untenable position to be enforcing laws which their own society does not accept.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Precisely.

The Government had its say on constitutional reform and there are constitutional amendments before us. The Government argued that they want to do this thing in a holistic, rather than a piece-meal manner. I am not sold on the holistic change because I believe there are small changes, and we had one recently, that can be made from time to time.

I am not arguing, in this particular debate, about the efficacy of the death penalty because I have my personal views. They are not the views of my constituents but I practice at the bar in criminal court and I have my views about it but here, as a delegate of the people who elected me, I will express my personal views but I am going to accept that I should do nothing to change the law, such as would offend against their views in relation to the matter.

Sir, as a Parliamentarian, a Member of Parliament and the leader of a political party, I have never taken any steps, nor have I ever been required to exercise a judgment on a matter of the death penalty. I know that if I was a Privy Council judge, I would have great difficulty coming to a decision about the death penalty, in relation to countries that still use the Privy Council, even though they do not want us to use it, that do not pay any of the bills of the Privy Council or none of the salaries of the members. They have no say in the appointment of the persons who sit on the Privy Council. They do not write the editorials in the newspapers: the Times, The Telegraph, The Observer, Tabloids, and at the same time, I would have great difficulty as I was saying, in coming to a decision that would fly in the face of my own domestic law.

Let us think about it. That would be like asking you, Mr. Chairman, to permit Parliamentarians from Trinidad - and I am just using that hypothetically - to come in here to debate, take up the mace, dance on the tables and do as they like, simply because that is what their Standing Orders permit, and you should sit in silence, when your own moral standpoint and values tell you, this is not the kind of conduct that you think is acceptable. It is difficult. I am not saying that we have to move away from the Privy Council, simply for the purposes of ensuring that the death penalty, in particular, needs to be dealt with but I have seen the Privy Council's approach to civil matters. I have seen the Privy Council's approach to all of the jurisdictions which use its services and do not pay for them, which is distinct from the manner in which they reason judgments, in respect of the people who pay their salaries - for want of a better expression - and there is a distinct difference.

The swiftness with which...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I once appeared before the Privy Council and saw the Senior Counsel's arguments being dismissed even before he was able to put them. There were five grounds of appeal and four of them were dispensed of immediately. Then, the counsellor said, "We won't be in here very long today." I said, "What does that mean?" He said, "We've lost." Sir, this was even before he had argued the fifth ground. Then, even on that ground, of which I thought they were unique areas of law that were to be explored relative to the compulsory acquisition of land, and its effect on a purchase notice and things like that, the Privy Council, basically, acted as if it was a first instance matter, dealt exclusively with the facts, and dismissed the appeal.

I do not think that any energy, or major effort was put into it and I do not think that I would have expected any more. Frankly, there are not a large number of civil cases from Barbados that go before the Privy Council, Sir, but the point is, we have laws in Barbados, there has been no move to repeal them and we would expect all of the courts, which have to administer Barbadian laws to administer the law as it is. They are not to legislate. We are the legislators and therefore they should abide by the laws as we make them.

Sir, as I say to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, for eight years the previous office holder has made the same complaint about the Privy Council. He wrote voluminously in the Caribbean Law Bulletin, I think it was, about the impact and the direction and said that this is the obvious conclusion to which the Privy Council will eventually come.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ... Yet, his colleagues have failed to deal effectively with this matter, such that we are still complaining about decisions from the Privy Council, which in the context of their social and political and economic environment and the context of the people to whom they are accountable, are perfectly acceptable but may not be acceptable to Barbadians. We need to detach ourselves from them.

The second concern I have, and I suppose there are those who would take the view that, you know in these debates you always have to hear from one of the so-called bleeding hearts. I do not characterise myself as such, because I believe there should be tough...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: ...I do not want to say zero tolerance to crime.

I think there should be zero tolerance to the behaviour that leads towards crime, because some of the things that we accept in Barbados as normal aspects of everyday life are what is leading to the high incidence of crime in our country.

Sir, on the question of wire tapping, I still have concerns. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has indicated that there will be a procedure which will be put in place to deal with the manner in which people can be isolated for wire tapping in particular instances. I believe that every facility should be afforded the Royal Barbados Police Force to deal with drug barons and such others, in Barbados.

Drugs is a business and it is treated very often by us, particularly when we are dealing with marijuana, in an almost cavalier way. Despite all the talk, I think we are not coming to grips with social attitudes towards marijuana. We are acting as if everybody out there in the society feels the same way about marijuana, even though in our own hearts, having been exposed to usage of it, like alcohol in University, and tolerated it...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I did not say, used it. I know that there are many of us who would have been to parties at university and who go to football matches in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You cannot find out everyone. As soon as it turns dark, they light up and people generally accept it as they would be going into the pavilion and buying a beer or buying a bottle of brandy.

Yet, we would expect that the Royal Barbados Police Force would be able to clamp down and rid the Barbadian society and apply zero tolerance practices as well, to the use of marijuana in our society, when we ourselves, very often by our own conduct, do not demonstrate that we have a zero tolerance attitude towards marijuana. Sir, nobody wants to come to grips about that and, in fact, there are some people who believe that once you talk about it, the mere fact of talking about attitudes to marijuana, that you are opening up a debate so that the laws can be softened.

It is not really a question about that, but a question of looking at the social and cultural attitudes towards it and trying to determine whether the vast majority of people in this country really believe that marijuana is a drug and that is the first question that we have to ask. Sir, if they do not believe that it is harmful, and that its use is helpful, if you go into the schools and talk to secondary students, who ask you why are alcohol and cigarettes permitted and not the use of marijuana, and how it helps them to study and all kinds of arguments that they advance, which they obviously have heard from other sources, and many of them have internalised. They believe it strongly and there are those attitudes that I think we need to address, which is, the question of people's vulnerability to marijuana and any other form of addiction, including over eating or addiction to sex or to any other kind of pleasure or vice, depending on how you look at it, based on your moral outlook, and deal with those attitudes.

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Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We have always argued for a more holistic approach in dealing with the problem of drug abuse, with family life and communities in Barbados. We do not cross swords with the authority on those issues and there is no major divide except on the emphasis to the extent to which the causes of crime, as the sound bytes of the Tony Blair Government has reduced it to, are being tackled. That is the key issue. The causes of crime do not get tackled by the Attorney General or the police force, who, in essence, come in at the end after the crime has been committed where they then have to deal with the criminal.

Prior to that, there is a whole set of important influences and factors and the State has a duty... We do not have to succumb to the nonsense talked by people who believe that the State has to withdraw itself from all the issues relative to morals and values and that the State must not apply a judgment to family life. The State is entitled to say that this is an approach to family life, to personal conduct and to community life that is desirable and this is what we would like to see but everybody will not attain it.

Nobody is being asked to be strait-jacketed into social behaviour that will make the society so bland and so straitlaced that we will all have a miserable existence and a Victorian outlook. We are not calling for that. We are saying that the State has a responsibility to the total development of the individual, of families and of the communities to say what conduct is desirable and what is acceptable.

Despite our respective individual religious beliefs there is some common ground on that in this Parliament and we must not divide where there is that common ground. It is when we move beyond that common ground, we can then say, look, I do not think that is something that I can support you on but I will go this far with you and collectively we can talk about the approach to personal conduct, the building of communities and discipline in the society that Barbadians think is desirable.

This country is small enough to have an impact if we take those decisions and if we as individuals try to live by them and promote them to the best of our ability.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to use the full time allotted to me. However, I want to engage the House's attention on the basis of the very reasoned and comprehensive statements put forward by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. In all seriousness, I am grateful for the tone he has set this morning because, as I have been saying for sometime now, neither the police nor the Attorney General can fight crime alone. We have to deal with crime at the source and we have to begin to understand what those factors are that cause crime and in understanding that then, we have to be able to put programmes in place that would allow us to be able to prevent the commission of crime.

I heard the Prime Minister speak in the opening of his second reading speech, about non-traditional threats. As Minister of Culture, I have been speaking for several years about the fact that there are certain types of personal behaviour, such as drugs, AIDS, criminal behaviour and reckless behaviour on the road, that are a function of people's attitudes and values that are causing Government to spend more and more money every year. If people were to change their values and consequently their behaviour, it would be amazing to see how much money Government would save on an annual basis.

I really would wish that somebody would do a study to show how Government expenditure has increased phenomenally over the last 20 years as a result of this type of personal behaviour which results in negative consequences for the entire society. It is only now that people are beginning to understand that these negative consequences are having a negative impact on the economy that they are now standing up and taking notice.

I also want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his comments viz-a-viz the issue of drugs. I really believe that there has to be a comprehensive survey as to the values and opinions of persons as it relates to illegal drugs. I am hoping that the Press does not misinterpret what the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said or what I am saying because nobody in here is condoning the use of illegal drugs. What we are saying is that when a society reaches a point where a law is obeyed more in the breach than in the letter of the law we will have a problem that impacts on the rule of law and as long as we have a problem that impacts on the rule of law we will have a problem that impacts on the cohesiveness and the capacity of the society to respect all forms of authority not just the rule of law.

I visit Jamaica three to five times a year and I have seen that the problem in the Jamaican society is that there is not only no respect for the rule of law but there is no respect for any form of authority and they have hell now trying to bring thousands of people back into the mainstream who have so divorced themselves from mainstream activity that it is almost impossible to govern that society.

I believe, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said, that Barbados is small enough that we can enter into constructive dialogue. This is not a political matter nor partisan matter. This is about the rescuing of this society, our way of life and our values.

When we have a situation where the average young person 'on the block' tells you that they do not see anything wrong with something that is clearly against the laws of the land, we have a responsibility to stop and do some investigations and engage in constructive dialogue. Whatever that may lead to in the end... I am not going to prejudge the outcome because there are people who feel that it is wrong but there are also too many people who feel that there is nothing wrong with it. So the society has a duty to conduct a level of investigation and dialogue such that we can have better empirical evidence as to what is the true feeling out there.

There are those who would wish to use this as a political football but I am not going to be part of it because at the end of the day the only ones who would suffer is the Barbadian society. There is nobody who said that Bees smoke or Bees commit crime or Dees smoke or Dees commit crime, the same with AIDS, and I am not going to be part of it. We have to be mature enough to recognise those issues on which there can be no divide.

On the matter of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, I was very clear in my comments, I do not think that the Nation's report this morning, Mr. Chairman, was as accurate as the Advocate's was but my position is that the

Leader of the Opposition will not have an opportunity to say to me that for the last eight years nothing has been done. I feel very strongly and this may be because I was born the year before Independence and, therefore, have no loyalties to any institution that I feel is not integral to the running or functioning of this society and which does not understand how this society thinks.

I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that it is ludicrous for us to expect judges who do not understand this society and who function in a society which has long abandoned the death penalty to think and behave otherwise.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: We cannot be blaming them. It falls on our courts to take action and I trust and hope that the settlement of the financing mechanism for the Caribbean Court of Justice can be settled in short order this year so that we can proceed with that but I can give this House one commitment and that is that I am going to engage in consultation on the delinking of Barbados from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, irrespective of the Caribbean Court. I do not believe that we can continue to have an arm of Government outside of our jurisdiction and then complain that it does not act in sync with what we believe to be our cultural mores.

Sir, I want to deal with what I perceive to be the biggest threat in terms of law and order besides drugs in this society. Drugs, I believe, in terms of sentencing with respect to the rule of law, in terms of the immediate threat, I believe all efforts must be used to stamp out the use of firearms, particularly the use of firearms in public places. Sir, the impact of using a firearm in a public place, even if you shoot no one, is to create a sense of panic and fear in the society that you have hell to recapture because people will then believe that they cannot go about their legitimate business free of fear. Sir, the one message that this society must stand united on and say, is that if you are so mad as to use a firearm in a public place without lawful authority, then you must be prepared to spend some serious time in prison.

Sir, I must tell you that we are trying to determine whether this is dealt with by leaving the discretion with the court or whether the legislature, meaning us, should take a position on mandatory sentence for the use of a firearm in a public place as opposed to other things. Sir, the disproportionate consequences are there; you are not just hurting the person on whom the firearm is aimed, you are destroying the social fabric of the entire society and we must be prepared to say no.

Sir, I am happy that last year we were able to report a 40 per cent reduction in the use of firearms but I am saddened that this morning in the midst of this Debate, we have been greeted with news of two men fighting it out like if they are in the Wild West, and one of them being dead. This nonsense must stop.

We also have to take strong and decisive action. The Royal Barbados Police Force knows my views. I cannot give them operational instructions but they are sure that every time they hear me speak privately or publicly I say to them that there must be an all out effort to be able to determine the sources of how these firearms are getting into Barbados and to be able to take decisive action against those who are responsible for their importation. It is true that in very many instances, they do come in with drug shipments. They also come in on their own too and we must be prepared to not only the Airport and Seaport...I believe that the Airport and Seaport can tighten up security even more than they have it now, in respect of the clearance of goods and cargo to be able to put an all out stamp on the importation of firearms.

Sir, I have also recognized that having a number of bays along our coasts make us vulnerable to illegal landings outside of the official ports of the island. I would wish to enlist the support of all right thinking Barbadians to be able to pass information to the Royal Barbados Police Force on the use of all illegal firearms in this country. If there is one thing I would wish to come out of this Debate, Mr. Chairman, and I am asking both the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for St. Lucy on this publicly is that we appeal to all Barbadians that all information relating to firearms must be passed to the Royal Barbados Police Force so that they can take appropriate action. I can only but hope that anybody going before the court for using a firearm in a public place is treated in the most severe fashion because they have committed a crime, not only to the person at whom they shot but also against this society.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to sit at this point but I will come back on some interesting statistics from the Crime Justice Bulletin No. 3, in relation to crime against visitors.

Sir HENRY FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to see that those Members of this House who have been born under the last 40 years, including the Honourable Member for St. John and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, are able to speak with the deep feeling that they have exhibited here today in relation to completing the Independence of Barbados and returning to Caribbean countries their full sovereignty.

They have spoken of it specifically in relation to the ultimate Court of Appeal which should adjudicate disputes or differences of our citizens one against the other and

between the State and the citizen. In this way, they are following the tradition of the BLP. This is not a new issue. We argued very strenuously in London as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South will recall, that there should be a provision in our Constitution which would make it easy for Barbados to share a Court of Appeal with any part of the Commonwealth. Sir, in section 86 of the existing Constitution there is a provision to that effect. It has not been activated to date but with the break up of the West Indies Federation, those of us who were then under 40 years, as well as people like Sir Grantley Adams, recognised that the Federal Supreme Court was an institution that had performed excellently and whatever was the political outcome of the association of the English speaking Caribbean territories that is one institution that we should have kept.

10.50 a.m.

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Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: The Caribbean judiciary has an outstanding record in the level of judgement which they have pronounced. Whenever our judgements have gone on appeal to the Privy Council, inevitably in 95 per cent of the cases we have been upheld. This is a tremendous record. The difficulty with the Caribbean is that there are still people among us who have no confidence in themselves and in the innate ability of their own people to manage all aspects of their affairs.

Sir, I argued at the time of the independence debate that each territory in the Caribbean was capable of becoming independent. I argued further that there should do it in the context of unity, which we are still fighting for, because it would give us the strength to face the world and be better organised but it is still being argued now by the younger generation and we are forty years late.

Before I put that case, Sir Grantley Adams also put the same case. How long will our people remain in bondage due to lack of appreciation of their own innate ability to manage their affairs?

Sir, I am not surprised that we have this great difficulty now of the Privy Council. I had the good fortune to go to university with some of the people who sit on the Privy Council. Sir, they are brilliant men but I always tested myself against them by a saying which my adopted mother inculcated in me "I am as good as you are". The record is there to prove it in Cambridge and it goes for many of our other citizens. Why do we doubt ourselves? I cannot understand the hesitation of some of the Caribbean countries to move on to having an ultimate Court of Appeal to look after our own affairs.

Sir, I had the distinction of chairing the Commission on the review of our Constitution and after listening to the people our recommendation is clear. We must either get on with the Caribbean Court of Justice or, if that is not feasible within reasonable time, we must have the ultimate Court of Appeal here in the Caribbean. This was the position I held before I entered politics. Sir Hugh Wooding, the distinguished jurist who sat on the Privy Council, also made such a recommendation. We are going around and around but the ultimate decision must rest with us having confidence in ourselves.

I regret very much that it has taken us this length of time and to say that the reason is because judges are unsure as to whether they will be paid is to trivialise the matter. If the Caribbean countries are really serious, one way to solve the matter would be perhaps to use a percentage of the customs duty and designate that in each of our Constitutions as being paid into a judicial fund. There are many ways to approach and deal with the matter.

I wish Honourable Members well and hope they will achieve what my generation and those before us failed to achieve in dealing with the issue of the Privy Council. I also hope they will achieve success in dealing with the issue of who will be the ultimate Head of State of our country.

Mr. Chairman, it is amazing that people who want the death penalty enforced and feel strongly about it, are not prepared to recognise that the English Privy Council is dead set on making sure that if the legislators of the Caribbean do not legislate for the abolition of capital punishment, the Privy Council will legislate by virtue of judicial decisions because judges do legislate, Sir.

Those of us who are schooled in law know that there is a time that judges change the law by the method of their decisions. Yet there are people who want to keep the Privy Council, they want to keep the Queen, they want to keep capital punishment but if capital punishment is being abolished by Her Majesty's Privy Council, they are happy with that, Sir. We are really a people of contradictions in many respects. Unless we have confidence in ourselves, we will find ourselves not achieving the best objectives that we can.

Sir, it happens as well with law and order. I enjoy the call-in programmes and I think it is very necessary to have programmes such as these so that our people can express their views and that freedom of expression prevails.

One of things that has struck me significantly in the last couple of years is that this country, like a lot of the Caribbean countries, is getting to the stage that they do not believe that people have a responsibility to some extent for

their own security and that people have a responsibility to obey the law. Sir, they also have a right to change the law if the law is harsh. They must agitate for that change when it is necessary but they must respect the law.

We have encouraged people in this society to disrespect the law by subterfuge whether by a sick out, sending in wrong claims to the National Insurance Scheme, whether by the ZR men stopping wherever they want, riding a bicycle without a light, all these actions together eventually undermine respect for law and order. By degrees they grow and the problem becomes bigger and bigger. If there is one thing I would encourage to take on board as part of reforming the judicial system, the criminal system and the system of justice is teaching people what the law is and influencing them by educational programmes how to respect the law.

Sir, I represented a constituency for 30 years now and I have seen changes in parts of that constituency. The Honourable Member mentioned Harts Gap and Dayrells Road more than once in her speech and I have seen those areas change over time. Obviously, we have been yielding to the impact of tourism particularly in those areas.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: The Honourable Member is asking if I will continue to represent the people of Christ Church West. The dear people of Christ Church west know me quite well and they know how I feel.

I have seen those areas change and I have seen influences in those areas that I cannot condone and I speak out strongly on them whenever I can. Sir, you will recall that I had to go on the radio some months ago on the position in Bonnetts where the police, quite rightly, in exercise of their proper duty, removed tree houses, not only from Bonnetts but from other areas as well. The position is that tree houses are being used today for spying on the police when the police are trying to prevent drugs being sold in the area. Any responsible member of Parliament or responsible member of the society with that information would have to do the proper thing and back the police. Sir, there are some people who believe that politics is about yielding quickly to every little swing that you may detect in a community.

11.00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: *Asides*

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: Sir, I am not condoning the selling of drugs in Bonnets, Harts Gap, St, Matthias or anywhere else in this country because it is destroying our

young people and it has been destroying our society. I condemn it strongly and if my constituents feel they have to do it, then I condemn them strongly in that regard, Sir.

Sir, if they want to vote for me after I have made my position clear it is a matter for them but all is well with my soul. Eventually that is where you have to account for your actions. We cannot have our society destroyed by every whim and fancy seen on CNN and foreign countries and believe that it is good for the small society. If the United States of America loses 400 000 people to drugs that is a mere whiff in the United States but if we lose 40 000 young people to drugs or to AIDS, it smashes this society forever and sets us back.

Sir, those of us in public life have to speak strongly on it and that is why I give the police 100 per cent support. I am very glad to hear the Honourable Member say that both parties have a holistic approach to this matter and there is no major divide between us. I, therefore, hope that he will reconsider his decision, which he made on October 10, 2000, and rejoin the Parliamentary Committee on Crime. It is important that those of us who have the honour and the privilege to represent people send the right signal to them. It does not mean that we must not listen to them but we sometimes have to lead.

I believe that the Hastings Police Station is one of the most decrepit police stations that we have in this country. I do not know how many people take the opportunity to go there. It is very difficult for policemen to undertake their duty there. Nothing has happened to that station for the last 20 or 30 years and it needs to be removed. We should also from time to time relocate our police stations in the areas that they can be most effective. I am glad to have the assurance from the Honourable Attorney General that the Government is looking at rebuilding a new police station in the area where it matters, in Dayrells Road or St. Mathias and using mobile police stations as well for policing the south coast stretch from Bay Street to Silver Sands.

I believe that we have to move to mobile stations. There is one that is doing an excellent job in Dover. I want to thank the Commissioner of Police for this. They did an excellent job in Bonnets when they had the madness of people driving through Bonnets and shooting people.

Sir, they are people who want to get into politics who would keep quiet on that. I am not going to do that because it was wrong. Anytime I see that happening in my constituency, I am going to ask the police to come up there, put up a station and deal with the persons involved and any information that comes to me, I will pass it on to the police.

I am appealing to my colleagues in public, those who are and those who are aspiring to be in, to take the high

road in this society. Unless we take the high road we will not leave a legacy, we would have destroyed the legacy that we inherited.

I speak very strongly on these issues because there are fundamental to me. I am not saying that there are not people within my family and some of my friends who break the law but I can only say to them not to do it, the same way that I would say it to the country as a whole, Sir.

I hope that the Minister will go a little further and do not allow this project to wait until Gems buy the land on which Hastings Police Station stands. I think that we will have to move ahead because I do not know when GEMS is going to be ready.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I am not too sure whether the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is volunteering funds from the National Insurance Scheme to assist with the Hastings Police Station.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: Sir, the Honourable Member knows that we can only use the funds in accordance with the Act.

It is very important that we move ahead rapidly with the project because this is the source of a good deal of tourism. I look forward to engaging her a little later in this debate on ways and means of dealing with the financial aspects of the problem.

Thank you.

Hon. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am happy for this opportunity to be able to contribute today in a small way. I would like to use this opportunity to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Honourable Attorney General for her recent ascendancy to the throne of legal power in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, I am hoping that someday I will be able to sit in the community of Pinelands and Wildey in a game and say to my comrades that I have sat with an Attorney General who sought to reform the legal process in Barbados.

I want to look at this debate from a sociological perspective. I know that this Honourable Chamber is filled with lawyers and at times the debate has been intermingled with a bit of social references but more so, the debate has taken a legalistic framework. As a social practitioner, I would like to give this debate a social slant.

I believe that crime prevention is everyone's business and not a business reserved only for the Barbados Police Force. Sir, note that I left out the word Royal. I do not believe that name Royal Barbados Police Force should still be with us in the year 2002 at this stage of our

Independence. I believe that the word 'Royal' should be removed and the name should be The Barbados Police Force so that we could create our own identity with this prestigious institution.

I also want to take this opportunity to praise the Police Force, particularly its Public Relations Department for their proactive approach in solving crime in Barbados. I believe that we have to deal with the causes of crime rather than dealing with the after effects.

11.10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: Certainly, Sir, one of the most wonderful innovations in the Barbados Police Force is their police outpost station that is doing a nice job in the neighbourhoods in Barbados like Gall Hill in Christ Church. I also believe that the programmes that they initiate within the community are helping to deal in a serious way with the problems that are emanating from the community.

Sir, I want this Honourable Chamber to understand that poverty has an association with crime and crime also has an association with poverty, but this should not be used as an excuse by individuals to commit crime because many of us in this Honourable Chamber were raised in very poor and humble surroundings and we never used our poverty as an excuse to commit acts of violence or any kind of crime.

Sir, when we have also examined the issue of crime we have to examine the issue of morality within the society, particularly at the schools in Barbados at the primary school level. We cannot change at this point the current satellite invasion, especially from North America and Europe, that is a serious contributor to the criminal element in this country. We have to teach our children a sense of identity. Our children in Barbados right now are suffering from an identity crisis and it is all of us who have created this crisis. As it now stands, Sir, our children have adopted the European and North American style of identity. We have really to inculcate a whole new sense of identity as to who we are and more so where we came from as the late Peter Tosh would say in his song: No matter where you come from, as long as you are a black man, you are an African. That is my view, having the Caribbean person with a sense of identity with his African roots. Sir, I was recently in Trinidad and the violence in schools in Trinidad has escalated to the point that they are complaining that it is basically now unmanageable. I am hoping that this situation does not develop in Barbados.

Sir, when we talk about crime and solutions in Barbados we talk about beefing up security, but I want us, in looking at solutions, to beef up community activities. All

of us here have to get more involved in this whole business of fighting crime. There must be a new sense of heightened activity in communities around this island.

We have to adopt programmes like Operation Put Back where we can identify role models within the community. We have to support Community Development Division's programmes of Walls of Fame. We have to establish in Barbados conflict resolution centres so that our youth can understand and deal with the problems that develop not only in their homes but also in their immediate environment.

Sir, there is an interesting picture that is shown on television, a live programme, called Judge Hatcherty from North America. It is probably one of the best programmes that I have seen because in Barbados when we talk about alternative sentencing it seems that the only system of alternative sentencing that we have in Barbados is that of doing community work. There are so many other alternatives in terms of sentencing that we could tap. Sir, we could utilise so many areas. We have the Barbados Defence Force, we have other model community organisations that we could get people actively involved in doing other things. When you send a person to do community service the most you do is put them to clean a gully or debush without tying the skills that they might have and harness them so that they could develop later on.

Sir, we talk about crime and about shootings and killings in Barbados but something dramatic is happening in Barbados that we are not really noticing. Yesterday the Honourable Attorney-General presented statistics in this Honourable Chamber and noted quite clearly that the various categories of crime have diminished or dropped dramatically in certain areas except, of course, the area of domestic violence. With the introduction of the lights on the hard courts around Barbados and the intense community activity, what we are seeing is a lot of young men, the so-called young men on the block, sitting down enjoying the games, getting involved, but a strange thing is happening. What you are finding now is that the young girls are on the block, because we keep referring to the young boys on the block without identifying the fact that we have young girls on the block too. The fact is that these same young girls are the ones who are creating the problems at the night tournaments around Barbados, not the men. The men are actively involved in sports and the men themselves are organising and participating while the girls on the other hand are fighting over the same fellows.

Sir, I want to introduce to this Honourable Chamber a programme that I call 'From the Block to Work'. It is not an introduction in theory but it is an introduction in practice because when I come to this Chamber I do not theorise. I come with practical programmes and I use examples where these things are happening so that any member in this

Honourable Chamber when they get on their feet can challenge me and I will carry them and show them exhibit A and B and C.

Sir, the Pinelands Creative Workshop has launched a successful 'Block to Work' programme, where they took 35 young men and women who were very prone to criminal activity and put them back to work to earn money for themselves, their dependents and families. Sir, would you believe that out of this 35 only one has gone back to prison? Sir, I would want to see this type of programme replicated throughout Barbados. These people work every day with cutlasses, hoes and forks without one single incident on the workplace among these people.

I want to call upon the private sector in this country to put some of their profits back into the community, because they make sizeable profits as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would tell you because I have heard him speak in this Chamber about the private sector and the profits that they make over a period of time. I am not just talking about sponsorship of a football team or a football competition or a netball team but I am talking about adopting a community.

There are some firms that do not put one single red cent into organised communities, Sir, and I am calling on them to stop practising this cycle of selfishness. The Government of Barbados has put \$9 million into a provident fund. Do you really think it is fair for the Government of this country to deal with the whole condition of poverty on its own? Why cannot the business sector match the Government of Barbados dollar for dollar? Sir, if they put \$9 million collectively we will have \$18 million to go to the provident fund and when I talk about the eradication of poverty it would be a dream that all of us could witness in our own life time because we base it on the UNDP assessment of \$5 000 per annum per family.

Sir, this cycle of selfishness must stop while at the same time we have to implore the youth on the block, all the youths in the ghettos and in the communities across Barbados to put down their guns. Let us live in a totally peaceful community, have a peaceful co-existence in communities across Barbados!

In order for our youth to put down their guns they must also have hope that they have a stake in this country.

11.20 a.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Hon. H. F. LASHLEY: We have to be our brothers' keepers. I see a lot of wonderful people here from the institutions across Barbados and we have to adopt a child. If each of us adopts one of our struggling brothers in our

communities, Sir, rather than just giving them hand outs and pittance, you will see a transformation effect in this society.

Sir, I believe that we have come a long way in this country, and I really believe that all us working together, could transform this entire country. I believe that many of the youths are very creative, innovative and are always willing to help. The problem is how many of us go back into the community to assist our youths. How many of us really sit down and talk to them and try to understand what they are going through. How many of us plan programmes for them out of genuine and sincere minds, rather than purely only for political expediency. How many of us really make the sacrifice and allow the youths to come and knock at the door, looking for advice from us. Sometimes, we might have to fork out some money out of our pockets, but how many of us really take them and nurture them and lead them along the right path or inculcate good spiritual and moral values into them. How many of us teach our youths about their African spirituality and explain to them where they might have come from, and that their broad noses and thick lips are something to be proud of, Sir, rather than having to look Caucasian.

Sir, I am still dealing with crime and violence because I am still dealing with the causes. We have to really reexamine our educational system. We have a lot of compensatory education across the communities. We have to redefine in Barbados the role of the Community Development Department. We have to empower the communities across Barbados and give the necessary tools and weapons to the community practitioners to restabilise the communities. We have to form partnerships, not only with the community, but with the Royal Barbados Police Force. We have to form partnerships with the private sector. We have to get the NGOs, the CBOs and all of civil society involved in this fight.

We also have to involve the churches from the moral aspects. We have to reintroduce religious knowledge in all sectors across the schools in Barbados, and we have to adopt a 'get back to the basics principle' that has been imbedded into us. Sir, when I say from a sociological perspective, I try to look at all the social norms that have created problems. Some of us in this country like to deal with the fetes where we could send in the police and they come in like the cowboy, dodging and the men in the communities running, and people laughing in the windows, like they are seeing a good midnight movie.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have 60 seconds to conclude. You can come back for another 15 minutes.

Hon. H. F. LASHLEY: Sir, I believe that every Honourable Member in this Chamber has a significant role

to play to redefine the social landscape in this country. We cannot pay lip service any longer. We cannot any longer stand up and boast, like we are film stars, Sir, but we really have to do practical and tangible things so that our youth in the communities in Barbados have the sense of self and realisation that they are also part of this wonderful country of ours. It does not make sense to kill that brother and carry out that robbery.

Thank you.

Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this particular Head and while looking through my Estimates, I recognise that on page 125, the National Council on Substance Abuse will be given \$1.4 million this year. Even though I applaud the work they are doing, there are certain approaches that I do not like.

For example, Sir, at this time, I want to proffer this point and I hope that it would not be taken out of context because we, as politicians, sometimes do not look at the logic but we look at other things. In a society like Barbados where the majority of older folks came up smoking and drinking, all of a sudden in this society, because the old people accustomed smoking and drinking, we are now telling young people that they should see cigarettes and alcohol like drugs.

I want to tell this society that it is a very dangerous connection to make, because the truth is, I have grown up as a shop boy, and for many years, I have seen many a cane cutter leaving the fields and come to rum shops and drink a whole night, go back in the fields the next day, and you could not tell that they drank one single drop of liquor the previous night. Those people who are on the hard drugs, even before they leave certain areas, you can tell that they are on hard drugs.

Sir, I am saying if we are going to offer solutions, offer them without necessarily making comparisons. I know of no man who smokes a normal cigarette that would take up a cutlass and attack anybody or a gun and shoot anybody. If the National Council on Substance Abuse wants to make comparisons, you are setting a dangerous trend, because you cannot compare apples with cheese.

Sir, yesterday I called on this Parliament to recognise that the constituency of St. Lucy does not have a serious crime problem, but it has a problem as it relates to drugs, not that the people in St. Lucy are directly involved. It is true that some are involved and I would not deny it, because the truth is that sometimes I wonder who is in control now. I am saying that if we do not recognise the particular problem that is now being created in St. Lucy, that constituency that we referred to as the constituency with a lower level of crime than the normal constituencies, will soon be in a very dangerous position. As the

parliamentary representative for that constituency, I will have to blame the Government and the authorities if they do not listen to sensible advice.

Mr. Chairman, since 1994, I took it upon myself to negotiate with the Arawak Cement Plant about the possibility of locating one of the coast guard boats down at the Cement Plant because I was always worried about the time factor to get a boat from Bridgetown to the north point. It was taking too long, and we wanted quick reaction. Sir, to date nothing has been done about that and it worries me because I know, and I have heard on many occasions, of drug drops that were intended for one location and ended up in my constituency. Sir, as parliamentary representative, I cannot be happy with a situation like that, which is also creating fear in certain districts of any constituency and I am saying that action has to be taken on this particular matter.

I am also saying that there are people who have to recognise that there is a blend between certain types of music, drugs and fire arms. Those who believe that smoking a normal cigarette and smoking marijuana or any other drug is the same, they are fooling themselves. A man smoking a normal cigarette does not carry an illegal gun and that point has to be made. When we, in this Parliament, want to change things, we must be prepared to look at the statistics. The best statistics that we can look at, Sir, is what happened to Barbados, prior to the 1980s, and what is happening to Barbados after the 1980s.

Prior to the 1980s all we had to worry about would have been the cigarette and alcohol. Sir, no one can dispute that the escalation of crime has increased because of drugs and guns and to my mind, the two walk hand-in-hand or together. I would tell you this, Sir, if you look at the statistics coming out of the Police Force, you would prove me right on this particular matter. I am saying, Sir, that every Barbadian must understand that the problem, as it relates to Trinidad and Guyana, cannot happen to Barbados but there is a different approach being used, in Barbados, to destabilise Barbados and we have to understand that it has to be drugs and guns. The youngest person, whether at primary school or secondary school, can look at you today and tell you, man you are not backing nothing, we are heavier than you and, Sir, do you think that is easy.

11.30 a.m.

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Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: That is not easy, Sir. Politicians must be prepared to stand up and understand what is going on within their constituencies. I am saying that the day we give up the right to control our constituencies for a few votes, we should leave Parliament

and go on about our business. We have to understand that we cannot afford to condone that particular habit.

Mr. Chairman, I have always taken a pretty tough stand on this particular issue because I am not going to trade votes for anything like that. The day I do that, I will walk away from Parliament because I am not going to help any young man or young lady to destroy their lives just because I want to be a politician because when that occurs we will be destroying Barbados to give it to somebody else. I am telling you, Sir, that there are people out there who are waiting for Barbadians like you and me to destroy ourselves through drugs, alcohol and AIDS so that they can take over. All those who do not want to believe that, they do not have to.

Sir, I am not putting a strong case for alcohol and cigarettes because from early in life I understood the opportunity cost of alcohol and cigarettes because there are some people who would prefer to drink alcohol or smoke a cigarette before they buy food. I know that well and I made a decision early in my life not to touch them. I am not saying that there is anything wrong with alcohol, Sir, because I have never seen a rum drinker doing anything wrong other than passing water in the wrong place.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: That is the truth, but if you check the other culture you will see a type of behaviour that frightens you.

I am also saying, Sir, that we have to be our brothers keepers because there are people who are prepared to make young people do anything to enrich themselves and would make them believe that the use of drugs is right when they know that it is wrong and we must correct that perception.

That is why I am saying that we must start seeing our policemen as professionals and we must not continue to limit them to working eight hours per day although sometimes they go over that when they are working on certain cases. Sir, we must give them the capacity to use their time outside of the normal working hours to help solve the crime in this country. Even though I have said that, I do not believe that they have a right to go and work for any and everybody without consulting with their superiors first because sometimes their superiors will have intelligence that they may need to know so that they would not go and work for the wrong people.

After training people, Sir, and putting them in a job and they develop certain skills it is wrong to limit and frustrate them by telling them that when they leave work they must go home and sit down or play sports and waste their talent. This country is too small for that. We have a situation where the police are in need of higher pay, the

Government cannot pay them the higher pay but yet they are limiting them from using their resources. I am saying that this cannot be fair to a policeman, a nurse or to any civil servant.

The problem in this country is that we only see certain people as professionals and want to limit the ability for people to earn when they are from a particular level and how they are perceived but when you are a different person, the whole world is yours. This is foolishness and if it does not stop we are going to have an unbalanced and uncaring society. Everybody must be allowed to operate at their maximum capacity without any limitations because the 'too few' feel that they must be the ones to get everything and the masses should suffer.

I am saying if we are to turn around the problems within this society there must be equal opportunity for all, whether you are selling chicken and chips, coconuts, steak, lobster or shrimp or you are in the legal fraternity. I am saying that Barbadians must start seeing Barbados as a place where they can share in the cake and that the limitations that have been placed on the masses of the people in Barbados especially the civil servants through statutes or otherwise should be changed.

There is talk about ridding ourselves of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council but before we can rid ourselves of that institution we will have to get rid of all those anti-workers' law on our statute books. We cannot rid ourselves of one thing and on the other hand want to keep others. If we want change, we must have change but it should not be cosmetic. We must not have change for a few only while the masses must be subjected to laws that have been on our statute books for over 300 years which do not work in their interest and suppresses them, making sure that they do not have a decent standard of living.

I have always said in this Parliament not to expect me to quote from anything outside of the Caribbean region any time I have to quote anything because I believe that we must find home grown solutions for everything. There are great people within the Caribbean who have made statements in relation to whatever we want to say that we can quote from.

We do not want the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council but every time we get up to make a substantial statement, we always quote from somewhere else. That is double standard. When we want to eat, we want to eat everything foreign and we do not want to help the farmers and the fisherman. What are we doing, Mr. Chairman? Are we really honest with ourselves about what we want to do? The day we recognise that we are setting double standards and get back on board, we will get much further.

I am also saying that I support the police on what they are doing as it relates to the public service vehicles (PSVs) but I must say that the same way that I have a particular time to get to an appointment in Bridgetown that the public service vehicle drivers have an appointment with the people in their vehicles and it is not fair - I want people to listen to this very carefully because I know everybody will start thinking negatively now - that the road system as it stands should be at such a bottleneck that the driver of a motor car has a privilege over the person who is paying bus fare. That is a very vital point because the person in the car can divert when there is heavy traffic but the PSVs have to stay in line although they are taking the same workers to the same workplaces.

I am saying that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport should make sure that something is done to stop the bottleneck on our roads because it is not the fault of the PSVs. We need to look at this from the social side as well because many people in this country are suffering because they cannot get to work on time even though they leave home early.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Do not tell me that they do not leave home early. There are people living in Pie Corner, St. Lucy who are at the bus stop from as early as 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock on mornings who do not get a bus until they see the school bus and then they have to squeeze in it. This is a problem which must be solved by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

If we have the situation where every single road leading into Bridgetown is in turmoil, what would you expect? Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the drivers of PSVs are wrong to do what they are doing but we have to look and see what is causing the problem and find a solution for it.

11.40 a.m.

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Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, they have to understand that they cannot necessarily react because they want to react in a particular way but they must put their complaint to the necessary authority in order for it to be corrected.

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

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, everybody in Barbados will tell you that the biggest headache affecting anybody now is traveling on our roads, especially as it leads into Bridgetown. Not only is it a problem in terms of driving

but it is now becoming a health problem. I am not surprised that there are many people coming down with diabetes, heart problems and stress in this country because of the stress created on those roads.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I am attracted to page 147, Head No. 13, Item: 244 - Object Classification 316 and also to page 146 Head No. 244, sub programme 256. However, Mr. Chairman, I feel impelled to make some observation of the comments from the Members for St. John and Christ Church West who addressed some of the remarks at the question of the continuation of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as the highest court of this, our sovereign land.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West said that the Privy Council has been known to engage in law-making legislation. I am going to reinforce that point. It is a point that the Honourable Member for St. John was making, even though he was not so explicit.

In England, the people who sit in the Privy Council also sit in the House of Lords. In the last 5 years, they had challenges that confronted English law. Sir, there was a traditional old time law in England that a person between age 10 and 14 could only be guilty of a crime if a person of that age formed a mischievous discretion. If that person was able to appreciate what he or she was doing was wrong, that person was then said to have the appropriate mens rea but when a number of youngsters between ages 10 and 14 repeatedly got involved in heinous and sexual crimes the Law Lords said that it was not up to them to change the law but it was up to Parliament to do so. The Law Lords did not engage themselves in any judicial law making. Parliament then responded by passing the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, thus making children between 10 and 14 just as criminally liable as adults. Sir, the point is that those Law Lords refused to legislate the old law that applied to children between 10 and 14.

Sir, there was another incident where the Honourable Member for Christ Church West will remember Lord Cooke, in 1603, laying down the classic common law definition of murder. Mr. Chairman, this issue of a person wounding another and the victim having to die within a year and a day for the crime to be murder also was under review in England. Sir, both Parliament and the Law Lords had to look at the question of, does one still accept that in the year 1998 a person who is inflicted with a mortal wound must die within a year and a day for the culprit to be charged for murder? The Law Lords avoided abolishing the common law and left it to Parliament to do judicial law making and left it to Parliament who then passed the Law Reform Abolition of a Year and One Day Act. Parliament responded in a situation where judges refused to make law where they should because if law is pure common law, then judges at the highest level, can resolve common law.

Sir, in *Candler v Crane Christmas*, 1952, there was a dissenting judgment indicating that a person can be criminally liable for negligence if the person caused loss in a situation where the person was in a special relationship with the plaintiff to whom the loss was caused.

In *Headley Byrne v Hetler & Partners*, 1964, the Law Lords further developed the common law; they changed it and agreed with the dissenting judge in *Candler v Crane Christmas* and *Headley Byrne* is liken to be the law relating to economic loss caused by misstatement.

They did not change the very law that they could change in England but they are engaging in judicial law making for the Caribbean which should have been the responsibility of a Parliament of the Caribbean to say whether or not the death penalty should be abolished. Therefore our sovereignty has suffered another serious broadside. This week, I am told in the context of a decision affecting the OECN, the law Lords have again spoken in such firm tone that there is no question now that the death penalty the OECN has abolished and since those sit in judgment, if there was an appeal in Barbados today, it is abolished in Barbados too, without the Parliamentary process occurring and in a situation where we must say that this is a strong affront to our sovereignty.

The Honourable Member for St. John did not say this but in the context of the Caribbean, even where a country is a developing country, the litigant is usually a poor person; one who gets not the worst form of justice but a little of it; always measured by the cost of appeal. A lot of poor people in the Caribbean do not appeal cases simply because of the cost involved. It is unthinkable, Mr. Chairman, that the typical poor person in Barbados who wants to pursue an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council will be unable to do so.

There is a case, the case the Honourable Member for St. John knows and certainly the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, long standing at the Bar, with a natural ability to enjoy Parliamentary longevity will remember these cases.

In the *Thomas v Attorney General*, 1973, where Lord Diplock delivered himself a classic judgment, where the question as to the status of public officers came up; where they used the old fashion rule in England that public servants were dismissed at pleasure. A man called Endell Thomas prosecuted the case right up to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which eventually laid down that civil servants are not dismissed at pleasure and that we Ministers are not the ones that have employed them, that the Service Commission has a true legal role. Mr. Chairman, 20 years after that case, Thomas had not paid the cost. It took a man that went to the Privy Council 20 years plus, to meet the cost and I am therefore saying in

no uncertain terms Mr. Chairman, that any court which is supposed to allow rights to be vindicated, that is so far distanced and removed as to cause litigants to incur oppression at astronomical costs, must be a court beyond the range of the people. Are we going to have within our jurisprudence, Mr. Chairman, our highest court being entirely inaccessible to our people simply because they cannot raise thousands of pounds sterling to go to the Privy Council.

Sir, based on how the Privy Council behaves - and the Honourable Member for St. John was right - in *Gladwin Ophelia King v Attorney General*, 1993 which went before the Privy Council, they came out and told the parties, our minds are made up. They did not call on the respondent to reply. They said, 'look, the Attorney General of Barbados has automatically won this case.' They heard the facts of *Gladwin Ophelia King* but they said there is no need for the lawyers representing the Attorney General to reply. So even in civil cases in addition to the prohibitive cost we do not know precisely what mood this court, which is not indigenous to us and which, as has been said, is a practitioner of alien values, will ever do.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has made an observation today relating to the management of crime. She said that she was impressed with the means designed to tackle the problem at source. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East said basically the same thing. There are at least three communities in Barbados which are quite restless 35 to 40 years ago, which changed their ways when the occupants of the community started identifying more with the communities mores and their values.

In the United States of America, during the 1960s' and 1970s' Harlem was a slum par excellence; all of the stresses of the inner city culture had struck Harlem and it seems to me, without being an expert in these matters, that they devised a number of community projects, going to the source where people then got involved in community life and were able to see that their community had standards, values and norms and relate to them.

Yesterday I mentioned the word anomie - lawlessness - where people relate to norms and where the norms are sufficiently strong, then there is the chance that people will respect the norms and abide by them. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has said quite clearly that he laments the fact that alien influences are not just hypnotizing our people but bewitching some of them. If we could use culture and let our people know the power of culture, especially our indigenous culture - there is a mystique about Barbados' folklore. Some of our youngsters when we try to talk to them, sometimes tell us not to talk to them about the old time days. Sir, there is an element linking what I have just said to what I will say

now; the Royal Barbados Police Force has assigned two Police Constable to the district in which I live. The Constables were astute enough to contact me before their assignment began. These two Police Officers got involved in the community; for instance, one of the officers recognized that an old lady had been hit by penury and without asking anybody that Officer took upon herself to access assistance for that old lady. The Officers got involved in the community in a friendly way. They went to the local tavern. In fact, I took them to the local tavern, not for personal purposes, but where they had chicken and fish to eat and they were very proud to be involved in policing. Mr. Chairman, you would notice that there is a 25 per cent increase in the amount of funding available to the Regional Police Training School. If you look at the figures at page 147, 25 per cent more financing will be provided to that great institution which trains policemen. In an era where the criminal has become very sophisticated, in an era where the criminal is very wise and very crafty, police forces must be sure that they train, retrain and further train their people to be able always to be twelve steps ahead of the criminal. I therefore welcome Government's conscious decision to increase the level of funding for the Regional Police Training School because it will go towards further strengthening the police force. Training is essential in an era where the challenges facing policemen are greater than before. I have spent some time reflecting on the position of the policemen and even though I said once in here that any move towards revising the status of policemen must be taken in the context of a general overall regrading of the Public Service generally, having reflected on the role and training of the policemen, I came up with some views which I believe have to do with the real world experience. There are elements in this community that are so disrespectful of authority that the moment they see a person as a policeman who symbolises authority, they may take their disrespect beyond a thought or a temptation. There are police officers in Barbados with families where some of their families may very well have been constantly under repeated threats from those elements out there who, in their resentment against authority - and some of them feel that when they get punished in prison and come out, they have to come back out for revenge. The job of the policeman is very, very stressful. The policeman of 40 or 45 years ago, where there was no threat called the drug trade, no guns to the amount of what we have here, would have had a difficult challenge not compared to anything policemen nowadays have to contend with. The police officer today is confronted by threats, has to be always aware of the fact that when he is going on the beat, he may be threatened or met with violence, even when he has done nothing at all to encourage it and clearly we have to do out utmost to strengthen the resources of policemen. In my village there really is not that much extreme measure of deviance, there are just one or two persons in the village who may not even be classically criminal. Some of these guys need some degree of psychological help and I trust that during this

Debate we can identify and locate the role of counselling as part of the process towards rehabilitation. Mr. Chairman: Honourable Member, you can have another 15 minutes to speak about the police officers. Take leave now and return later.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, there is an increase of 25 per cent for the Regional Police Training School but then at page 146, you will notice that last year the allocation was \$53 901 820 while this year it is \$56 406 325; more resources given in the certain expectation that they be deployed properly and ultimately will redound to the benefit of the Force and then of course to the society. I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. 12.00 noon

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Hon. H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, there are several elements of the themes covered by my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. James North on which I wish to focus.

I will start at the point where he ended about the issue of remuneration for the Royal Barbados Police Force and to look at their terms and conditions. I endorse the call for us to look at the peculiar position of the police officer who is working in a society that has changed dramatically, where there is a culture of crime today and look at this outside of a general regrading of terms and conditions for public servants. Sir, there are kinds of petty criminal activity that people no longer regard as crime and it is ignored like going to work, stealing pens and pencils to give to children and nobody regards that as stealing.

The Honourable Member for St. James North was saying that there is a group of people who believe themselves to be socially and economically marginalised and not having access to the wider benefit of the community.

Therefore, they wish to attack all of the symbols of social authority as exemplified by the police. The reality is that those persons previously identified as figures of authority and worthy of respect in the community are no longer respected. The teacher, the priest, the politician, the doctor, the lawyer and police officer, the kind of respect automatically attached to these persons does not now attach. We are seeing a whole breakdown of social behaviour which we need to examine very seriously.

While it is true that there is a high index of social development, wherever the economy seems to do well expect in Islamic countries there is also a corresponding increase in crime and social deviance.

What are the root causes and how do we address them? It has become very fashionable in the United States

of America to give all the sympathy to the criminal. To say that their mothers did not breast feed them enough, there was no man living in the house so they had no father figure, they were beaten with belts and so on. They attribute these factors as cause for any deviant behaviour that we see exemplified in their lives later on.

In Barbados we know what it is like growing up in communities where not only the parent chastised you but other people in the village will reprimand you when you did wrong. It is not part of our culture to find this social excuse for people who engage in deviant behaviour. At the same time, we need to make some determination of what it is that is causing young men and women on the streets in Barbados today to be so angry. Why is it you are willing to take a rock and burst open somebody's head if they 'mash' you or look at you too hard. Why is it that this notion of being 'disc' has become something of great social import. If somebody 'disc' you or do not treat you with sufficient degree of respect and attention or hold their own space at a distance from you, you feel the appropriate response is to do them serious harm and even take their life.

My sister told me on Sunday about an incident she witnessed on Saturday in front of the Central Police Station. She was giving a ride to a eight year old child and as she was traveling along Milk Market three fellows ran across the sidewalk, chopped up another fellow in front the police station without fear of being interrupted by the police and without caring whether the police came or not.

This incident happened in front of my sister's motorcar and nobody intervened or told them they were wrong. People flee for their own safety and my sister said that the child became hysterical but there was absolutely nothing she could do. She could not move forward because the fellows were in front of her vehicle neither could she reverse because there were other vehicles behind her.

Mr. Chairman, that was not the prevailing behaviour pattern in Barbados 30 years ago. The statistics show that crime reached its peak in Barbados in the year 1991 so while we talk today about the advent of crime and violence and think it is a new phenomenon, the reality is that crime was at its peak in Barbados in the period 1991 to 1993. This is not to say that we are not to find solutions for the problems that exists today.

Perhaps one of the more serious problems which we have to confront is the issue of the ownership of guns in the society. It has now become common place even with teenagers to feel that it is necessary to walk with a gun because they have something to defend. Sir, I do not know what that would be because at sixteen years of age, I cannot imagine what a person could have to defend.

Sir, they walk with guns and anybody who is walking with a gun has to be prepared if they are confronted by any threat not to recede from the confrontation but to respond in a violent way.

Sir, I read a book 'Politics of Hope' by Jonathan Sax and he was making the point that there is a direct connection between an absence of the facility of the use of language and the level of violence in a society. He said where people cannot negotiate conflict resolution, where nobody is willing to say sorry, the advent of violence intervenes. Where one does not and cannot use words, where one does not and cannot use language to communicate feelings of anger and hurt to resolve problems people resort to fists, rocks, cutlasses and guns.

The Honourable Member for St. George South is not in his seat but we know that Bulkeley at one time was a gun making centre in Barbados. Sir, guns were not a problem then but the guns we are encountering today where people are walking with sophisticated automatic weapons which are capable of discharging several shots in the space of a few seconds and if you are hit by them you cannot recover, then we have to be very concerned. Too many people have been shot and killed accidentally in Barbados because they happened to be at a bus stop and were struck by a stray bullet.

12.10 p.m.

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Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Sir, they happened to be at a bus stop where there was a shooting and they got into the path of a bullet or they were walking the street and someone was discharging a firearm just to show he had a firearm and they happened to get in the way of the discharged bullet.

I am calling on the court because the laws exist in Barbados for harsher penalties for gun possession. Where a person is caught with a gun, they are not intended to use it for food or work, they are intended to use it to cause harm and to kill. Therefore, we should have the harshest penalties imposed for unlicensed firearms in this country.

We cannot talk about crime and violence and speak about the role of the politician and what the work of the police and the Attorney General is to be, without saying that the magistrates and judges have a responsibility in this country to use the laws that are on the statute books and to let people know that when they use guns, walk with guns in their possession or go to a dance or a social event and feel that they must carry along their 'key', then they must be prepared to hold the jail time in prison and then let your mother come up to prison and cry for you because she

would not tell you not to come into her house and bring any gun and hide it in here.

They are a number of mothers in this country who are encouraging their young sons and a lot of girlfriends are encouraging their boyfriends to walk with guns, to keep guns and to use guns. It is a big thing these days in the community where you can have a bigger and a more sophisticated gun than the other person. We need to reach the stage where there is zero tolerance and that we are not accepting it socially. We have to go into the community at every level and say to them that it is not going to happen. The person who ends up dead may very well be any one of us.

Sir, you should not feel in that Barbados you cannot go to a football match because people may start shooting at each other, which is now common place. You should not feel that you cannot go to a funeral because people may pull out guns and discharge them into the air, this is what is also happening in Barbados. Let us have the strongest possible penalties for those who use guns.

There is, in my view, a duty on all of us that where you know someone who has an unlicensed firearm to report it to the police.

Sir, this leads to a broader question and it is whether the police themselves behave in such a way as to inspire the confidence of the wider community, so that you would feel that response time to your telephone call, if you are under threat, is going to be quick. I had an experience on Christmas Eve 1999, where I personally telephoned the police at my parent's place in Baxters Road, with a police station a few yards down the road, where a woman came into the business place and beat my father. I phoned the police four times and it took them three hours to get there.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON: The point that I was making is that the wider community must feel that when they report a matter to the police it is going to be held in confidence. They must feel that the police are serious about protecting them. They must feel that the police themselves are not hooligans. They are some police who are hooligans, let us not make any mistakes about that. They are some whose reputations are good and that information is on the streets and in the communities and it is critical to the whole reputation of the force and the success of the efforts in the community policing, to weed out those persons who are known to be marginal criminals.

If we are going to ask the police to confront the worst criminals in a community where the climate to them is intrinsically hostile, then we must equip them for their jobs. We have to give them all of the resources, training,

financing, cars and other equipment and proper remuneration with proper benefits.

Finally, it is my view that the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force, and I called them by the name that they still have until such time they lose the Royal, which I hope will be sooner rather than later. This is a call that I made in this Chamber last year, and the year before that and I will reiterate it today. If we are asking the police to work in an environment that we know constitutes danger; where in the community we have seen some of them shot and killed in the line of duty; where we have seen prison officers killed in the line of duty at the Her Majesty's Prison; then we must put in place an appropriate insurance policy that covers the lives and limbs of officers who are on the streets every day; who will be in the front line of defense and who themselves must feel that they are protected and their families are protected by some insurance policy when they go out onto the frontline.

Sir, they will not be inclined to fight as vigorously as they can if they have no incentive to do so. Let us pay them properly and make sure that all police officers are properly insured so that if they are injured and cannot work or if they are killed in the line of duty that a proper compensation will go to them or their families.

I have been asking this Parliament for such a scheme to be put in place for the last three years and I will continue making this call every year until it comes to fruition because I think it is critical.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank all Honourable Members who spoke, especially the last Member whom I think spoke very frankly and very much to the point. I must agree with her that I am one of those who feel that the issue of the credibility of the police force is absolutely the key to the fighting of any crime. To that extent, I have made that comment to the Commissioner of Police on every occasion. I think that he understands and has a duty to weed out those few people who want to bring a bad name to the police force and to that extent I look forward to his decisive action in those areas.

I want to make a document, which has not been made public, a document of the House. I think that it will help inform this debate. I have been speaking of the empirical evidence on a number of areas and as you know we try to deliver that information now that we have that capacity. This is the Crime and Justice Bulletin No. 3. I have made a copy available to the Opposition as well as making it a document of the House. It makes very interesting reading in respect of crime against visitors from 1980-2000.

Sir, it generally shows that in almost every instance crime against visitors has fallen substantially in Barbados over the last 20 years. There was a peak in crime in 1991-1992, which was associated with recessionary time and that is why we must work so hard to make sure that there is no consistent systemic recession. You will expect an increase at a time when you have that kind of recession.

Let me say that what is significant is that recorded crime against visitors has dropped. The crime rate per 1000 visitors in 1980 has gone down from 143 to 30 per 1000 in the year 2000. In the year 2001 it has dropped even further. In respect of robbery we have gone from a robbery rate in 1980 of 16 to a robbery rate of 6 in the year 2000. In respect of burglaries for 1000 persons, it has gone from 85 in 1980 to 31 in the year 2000.

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Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: As I indicated, robbery is one crime where there is a higher incidence among visitors than among local persons and, therefore, it is significant that we continue to see a major reduction in the robbery rate among visitors as well as among locals. I want to make one correction. The Nation Newspaper would have carried today a series of statistics for 2001 and attributed them to the Bridgetown Division. I am not sure whether I made that connection or whether they misquoted me, but if I did make that statement I want to relate that those figures relate to the entire Barbados and not the Bridgetown Division in respect of the figures quoted in the front page of today's paper.

Mr. Chairman, it is therefore clear that we have generally seen a significant reduction in the crimes against visitors in most instances by more than 50 per cent in the last 20 years and I think it is a tribute to the Barbadian population as well as to the Royal Barbados Police Force and those within the tourism sector that this country has worked assiduously over the last 20 years to try to reduce the incidence of crime against visitors, recognising that the tourism industry generates more than \$1.5 billion in revenue each year and that it directly impinges on the quality of life that each and every Barbadian has because of the level of revenue that it brings in.

Now that does not mean that we are not concerned about each crime that still takes place so that to the extent that the burglary rate is still at 31 per 100 000 - .003, or to the extent that the death rate is 13 per 100 000 or to the extent that the robbery rate 6 per 100 000 or to the extent that there is any crime against any Barbadian or against any visitor, we must be concerned but we must also recognise that we have been doing a good job, that it has been a joint effort and I look forward to the Royal Barbados Police

Force concluding - I announced it and I know that they have started to work on it, but I want between themselves, the Barbados Hotel Association and the Ministry of Tourism to work on voluntary certification on the basis of a voluntary security audit.

To the extent that crime does exist, as I explained yesterday, a lot of it is still as a result of the complacency or the lack of appropriate security solutions being undertaken by individuals. The Prime Minister has put fiscal incentives in place and, Mr. Chairman, we need to encourage people to use them and to recognise that the first responsibility for persons' safety is on themselves. After that, we then enlist all other persons who can help enhance the quality of security.

I believe strongly, Sir, that this information should be reflected upon seriously. What I am concerned about is that the clear-up rate on those crimes that do exist against visitors is still too low. That is why I am welcoming the establishment of an operational forensic sciences centre later this year because we have to increase the level of training that police are afforded in forensic investigation to be able to improve the detection rate. It is absolutely critical, as discussed, for further cooperation with the Canadians and I hope to be able to discuss it with one or two other jurisdictions so that we can expand the level of training and expand the range of tests that can be done to be able to ensure that justice can be brought swiftly against those who perpetrate crimes in respect of it.

What is good about Barbados is that we have virtually no offences of any serious nature relating to personal violence against visitors. Long may that last! It requires assiduous effort on the part of the entire population. If we can bring that same effort to bear on crime in the community, I have every confidence, Mr. Chairman, that over a 20-year period we can see a change back in the ways and values of Barbadians and the incidence of crime and what the Honourable Member for St. James South referred to as the nonsensical behaviour over a concept of being "dissed". Anybody who behaves in that way really belies an insecure person. Anybody who feels that they must take weapons or attack somebody because they have been "dissed", really is a very insecure person.

We have to be able to show and teach people how to resolve conflict without reference to violence and without reference to wanting to lick up somebody. I look forward to our being able to do that in a comprehensive way.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that this can enhance the debate. As I said, I may have to bring down the other copies this afternoon, but I would like to make this available to the Opposition and members on this side because I think it makes for interesting reading and I hope

that we can continue with this general bipartisan approach to the fighting of crime and the preservation of law and order. Thank you.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to address this Chamber on a very critical issue. Anyone who has an interest in life, abhors and certainly has contempt for criminal activity. I live in a neighbourhood, Sir, where many of our people experience criminal activity, are victims and, in some cases, we have perpetrators in the environment and because of good will many of us interact in the community and try to do all that we can in order to bring about a change in that environment so that we all can live a very peaceful and long life. So I, too, have great contempt for crime.

While we try to rationalise this phenomenon, there are elements of crime that are so irrational and still very explosive that they are as unpredictable as a hurricane or an earthquake. We cannot solve it and the reality is that it will always be with us. We cannot eradicate it but we can restrain it and one of our responsibilities is to put the correct institutions in place and mechanisms in place to restrain it.

Very pertinent questions emerge out of these points which I have highlighted and I want to make this point because I do not want you to believe that crime overnight is something alien to society. With my superficial knowledge of the Bible, from the inception with Cain and Abel, one of the most felonious crimes was recorded, the crime of murder. It is still with us, but that does not mean that we support crime.

We have a responsibility, Sir, to do all that we can although we also know that these communities in which we live and the country in which we live has a history of crime, for crime itself is responsible for our being here. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East made some interesting proposals. I am not convinced at this point, Sir, that more rigid penalties deter criminals because crime is sometimes so irrational that it is difficult to believe that as a result of increasing or making the penalty more rigid that it will deter the criminal.

12.30 p.m.

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Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Sir, I said that sometimes crime is so irrational that it is difficult to believe that, as a result of increasing or making the tenantry more rigid, it would deter the criminal. I believe that penalties are really a reaction after the crime has been completed. When we see crime emerging, it signals to us, as policy makers, that something is wrong in the society that has caused this fundamental change overnight.

The Messiah did not change people overnight and say you are all now criminals, so there is something that man is doing that is wrong, that has caused men to become criminals overnight, especially if we recognise that this phenomenon is increasing in the society. Therefore, we have to ask the question, why is it happening and what has caused it to happen? My argument on this is that, because of the changing value in the society, stimulated by the material state in the society, and the desire to achieve it, in some cases with limited educational background which does not provide the vehicle to achieve the income to purchase it, sometimes with limited opportunities in the labour market, and sometimes because the very people who are the perpetrators of crime are isolated and alienated from mainstream society, because of social snobbery. That is my view. As I said there are also cases where we cannot even understand why because it is irrational.

Aside.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: I am not saying it is a working class phenomenon, because it has happened at all social sectors of the community. Sir, in terms of the numerical presence of the persons incarcerated in Her Majesty's Institution, the vast majority of these people...

Aside,

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: ...These are the realities and the material facts that must be examined, because if it is not a problem that is predominantly among the working class, another question has to be asked in the society. That is, why it is that the working class, in the majority, has such a high percentage of persons incarcerated in prison, and very few of the persons in the other social classes in the society.

Sir, many people in this society could point at those who portray themselves as role models, as well and identify mysterious means that they have used, in order to gain their achievements in the society. The role models in the society also continue to isolate themselves from the very people from which they sprang. They have little time to socialise in the communities with these young men and to impart, not their negative values of cleverness and duplicity, but to impart the positive characteristics which they have that made them what they are today.

Sir, if you can get some of these people going back into the neighbourhoods and spending some time, but we have been making that cry in here for quite a long time, because they move into secluded districts and they have no time, Sir, like you and me, and some of the Honourable Members of this Chamber and some of the other prominent people in the community, to go back into the community and interact with the young men.

There are young men with very fertile brains and sometimes virgin brains, that need something implanted them. If you allow them to go in a big empty house, to make decisions, the chances are they are likely to make decisions that are not too civil in this environment. Therefore, persons who consider themselves to be in possession of knowledge, can share that knowledge with younger people so they would not have to experiment. If you learn something and you impart it, you can stop another man from experimenting to find out what will be the likely results. Unfortunately, we have too many people who understand the distinction between knowledge and experience itself and there are senior persons in the society who do not spend that time.

Sir, I take time off to walk through my community and interact with many men and women who are seen as social outcasts. I spend lots of hours on the block talking to the young men and there are lots of questions that need to be answered and with my limitation, I do all that I can to provide those answers, or point them in the right direction.

In some cases they need employment. Unemployment is a problem, not the only one, but it contributes to crime and these are realities. I am sure that if you can give me a couple of jobs in my constituency, I could reduce the level of crime in St. Michael North East. Sir, those are the realities and sometimes it takes just a little advice, sitting down and pointing them to the correct institutions in the society, that will give them a start. Sir, they have certain fears, that they cannot even go to the institution, and ask a simple question of any man, since he is an intellectual.

The young men retreat and cuddle, out of fear, because they believe that they are not wanted, and no man likes to live a life in a society, where he is not wanted. If you want to see a man axiomatically become barbaric, let him feel that he is not wanted. Sir, that is what the Honourable Member for St. James North was trying to explain when he spoke about adamanence and hopelessness in the system. If you make a man believe that he is not important, and he is not an integral part of the whole process of civilisation, he becomes an enemy, and too many of us in this society are making young people believe that they are not a part of society. Sir, that is why I say that the signal of crime is also a signal for us to change the way we behave towards each other.

Sir, you have to respect the social science, just as you respect the natural science. The signs clearly indicate that there is a high level of illiteracy among the persons who go to prison. There is a very low level of skills and because of the lack of these positives, they cannot find opportunities in the marketplace when they come out of prison. Therefore, we have to put systems and policies in

place, to have persons executing the institutions that are tolerant and can deal with these individuals.

Sir, I have witnessed, on too many occasions, where I have to go with young men whose mode of dress is not respected by the elites in the system, and persons that are respondent refuse, to acknowledge their presence because they do not look like them.

Aside.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: These discussions in Parliament, must be very serious. We are not into rituals. We are serious about what we are talking, and we are trying to make valuable input. There are men and women in this society who cannot change their clothes to anything better. They wear what they have and in most cases, when they are going certain places where they believe that people possess certain characteristics, or qualities, they wear their best. The unfortunate thing in the society is that we believe that because we can do better, the people who come to the office can do better also, and that is not always the case.

Sometimes these men do not have shoes. There is no comb to comb their hair but they go to the offices with respect for the person with whom they may come into contact. Those persons who ought to know better and should be more appreciative of the state of the individual behave in a very animalistic way towards that human being and we have those problems in this society. Sir, most of these men who are perceived as perpetrators are victims.

12.40 p.m.

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Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: They are perpetrators and they are victims too because they are victims of social snobbery.

We need to have an after school institution, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East indicated, where these young men and women can feel comfortable, with all their limitations, of not being able to conform to what is considered as accepted standards because they are trying to raise a man by his boot strap and make him somebody of value by instilling positive qualities and norms, so that he can respect the norms of society that are responsible for the stability of the environment that we want to create.

Sir, the Ministry of Social Transformation, the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) must have special organs with serious committed individuals who understand the objectives of the State organ and have a common understanding of the methodology that is required to bring about change. They must understand what they are trying to change and what they want to achieve.

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

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: If we can do that in those institutions and in the resource centres we can meet and discuss the original plans and programmes to bring about the changes that can change conditions in this society and make it a better place for all of us. I believe we can restrain crime to a tolerable level.

Thank you very much.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

On the motion of Hon. R. St.C. TOPPIN, seconded by Hon. A. P. WOOD, Mr. Chairman reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. R. St.C. TOPPIN: Mr. SPEAKER, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

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

The question that the sitting do now suspend until 2.00 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

12.45 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: The House is now in Committee of Supply.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to give my support to the Estimates of the Attorney General's Office and commend the Honourable Attorney General for the outstanding work she is doing.

Mr. Chairman, I came along hearing that poverty is no excuse for crime or disrespect, and still maintain that is the case. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members in this House may not want to believe me but I have been saying for many years that if I had started my career in the police force it would have been one of the best things that would have ever happen to me. I know that I am over the hills now and, therefore, cannot become a police officer but I am committed to giving my wholehearted support to that

department because I think it is incumbent upon all of us, as citizens of this country, to support the police in the various efforts to ensure that we stamp out some of the crime and violence and disorder that is escalating in this country. We know this is happening in the rest of the world but I am basically concerned with what is happening in this dear little country of ours.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a comment regarding something that was said by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. While I agree that there are tremendous challenges facing our young people daily I still believe that the value systems that all Honourable Members and all other right thinking Barbadians inherited from our foreparents still hold.

I heard another Honourable Member make mention this morning to a judge on MCTV. Mr. Chairman, the way those people are dressed and the way they respond to the judge is what I have always known. I do not have the experience of going into a court of law to argue any case or anything but my understanding of the courts is that people should be properly dressed to go before the judge. I know that many of our people are meeting tremendous difficulties but nothing can take the place of common courtesy, simple cleanliness and people setting goals and working towards their ambitions.

All of us in here grew up in poverty and know what it is like not to get the necessary pair of shoes, the meals that we need, the clothes that we want to wear or even the kind of house or car that we want to have but we have been taught not only from school but from the home that we need to learn to cut and contrive but it seems as though cut and contrive no longer exist in the dictionary. Too many people want it and want it now and want it by all means and they go after it even if it causes serious repercussions down the line for them.

I think that education has a real specific role to play in every sphere of the discussions here today and for the rest of the week because it is the duty of parents as well as our neighbours and friends to properly train our young children because the Bible says to train up a child the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. I think it is important for parents to take full responsibility for the training of their children. Many of them are abdicating their responsibilities in training their children to learn to accept what they have and how to learn to improve. It calls for sacrifice and industry, and it calls for loving and caring for your fellow man if we are to get it right. So I have a difficulty when I hear of individuals not understanding young people.

It is ironic to know that many of them who go into a court will be wearing the latest Timberland, Nike, Fubu, Addidas and other forms of brand name shoes because all

of a sudden most Barbadians are of the opinion that they do not have to prioritize anymore, that it is the materialistic outlook you have on life that will take you where you want to go.

I have no difficulty with people who are working for the resources to buy Timberland shoes but you will never see yours truly in a pair, Mr. Chairman, simply because I do not have that as a priority. I have other priorities even if it is taking \$200 and giving it to a poor old woman or an old man or a young mother to help them to buy a meal or to pay a light bill. My role is not to wear Timberland shoes because my feet are extremely comfortable in the little cheap shoes I can buy from anywhere as long as they look good on my feet and I feel good in them.

2.05 p.m.

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Hon. Miss C.Y. FORDE: We have reached the stage in politics in Barbados where it is no longer tell me what I want to hear but tell me what I need to know. Tell me what I need to know and let me see how I can capitalise on it. Do not only tell me what I want to hear because people are going to be frustrated by hearing the same story and the same promises over and over again and they now want to be pointed in the direction where they can use the resources and the ability they have to be able to improve their lives.

I want to let the police force know that I admire them for their commitment. I support many of the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. James South that the few who have engaged in negative actions should be weeded out. The police have to ensure that credibility is put back into the Force.

My grand mother had challenges like anybody else but she always said she did not want her name put in the book at the station because she would not be able to get a testimonial, passport or be able to command the respect of people in the neighbourhood. Therefore, she simply grumbled and moved on with her life.

Sir, the education system has to teach young people how to deal with conflict. It has to teach them how to resolve their issues and what the consequences of their actions are likely to be. We have to provide opportunities for them but also let them know that if they do not use the opportunities well, there will be consequences that will impact on their own development. We also have to teach them how to show compassion for one another and be role models if they are to emulate us and carry on the value system that has helped us thus far.

Mr. Chairman, in the late 1980s, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and the Honourable Member for St.

John will remember a young lady at a meeting made it very clear that if guns were taken away from young men and women there would be nothing else for them to do and she said this as if their trade was being taken away. Mr. Chairman, that statement has come back to haunt us. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party did not make any effort to disassociate itself from the comments made by that young woman. If we are talking about stamping out crime in this society, it cannot be seen as political and all of us have to do it together.

We have to work together, uphold the standards that have brought us this far in our history, build on the pillars that our fore parents started and let Barbados continue to be the gem of the Caribbean as we know it to be.

Mr. Chairman, I think that guns are too easily acquired by our people. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East made mention of the havoc created when individuals use guns in the public forum. It creates tremendous fear, instability and it sends the wrong signals to the youth that unless they are armed with something that can create havoc in the society, then they are helpless.

Mr. Speaker, we in this Chamber do not have to walk around with guns because we are law abiding citizens. We meet challenges every day but we do not react violently. Sir, this morning a ZR driver made a right turn on me coming from Brighton going towards Workbench Furniture and I could only shout at him and call the Hotline. I could not take out a gun and shoot at him. Sir, I would not walk around with a gun, cutlass or scissors to do harm to anyone because there are other ways of dealing with such issues. Therefore, the fear and instability that is being created among our people is wrong.

Sir, I want to support the measures taken in these Estimates to assist the police in getting the resources against crime. The police have families and they deserve security in their jobs to be able to fight the menace that is enveloping the entire country. We as law abiding citizens must get up and play our part if the police is to get the necessary support. I want to caution them to always act professionally and hold the information given to them in the strictest confidence because to expose the persons who give them the information will create further confusion in the community where those persons live.

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

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in closing I want to say that in the same way that the Defense Force has reserves, I want to suggest that the police be given reserves as well. The Cadets and Girls Guides can perhaps assist in this area and this will help to strengthen the work that police do in the community.

I also want to offer my services, limited though they may be, to any organisation developed so that I can assist the police, as my family will and as the good people of St. Thomas will, because St. Thomas is the parish with the lowest crime rate in the country and I trust that will continue for decades to come.

Mr. Chairman, I lend my support to these Estimates and to this Head.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, first I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael North West to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, who holds the distinguished position of Attorney-General of Barbados, for being elevated to the position of Queens Counsel. This is an example for young Barbadians because she is the youngest person to be given the title of Queens Counsel.

Mr. Chairman, we are aware of the fact that times are changing rapidly. We all know that Barbados is a signatory to many agreements made by international bodies and it is obvious that we have to comply with regulations laid down by these international bodies.

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Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: It also introduces the fact that the same way we can level the playing field at that angle, there is a possibility that Barbados may be susceptible to some of the international gangsters who would prey on a country like ours.

I am extremely pleased to see that within the office of the Attorney General they have started to prepare themselves for things that could happen to this country. Barbados is not, in my opinion, a country that can easily escape anything that happens in the world today. We must prepare ourselves for any eventuality. We have seen what happened with the Twin Towers where innocent persons lost their lives. Chances are it could happen to us and we must be prepared. I am extremely pleased that within the Ministry of the Attorney General provision has already been made for such protection to be given to the people of Barbados.

Sir, one thing we must understand is that firearms in the hands of people who use those guns are threats; weaklings who walk around with guns and believe that guns give them strength are ignorant people. Some people who use guns for this kind of so-called strength and confidence usually suffer from mental and academic problems.

Sir, a gun in the hands of the wrong person is a dangerous weapon. We also have other instruments, the computer and the internet, and in the hands of people with criminal minds these can be very destructive. Barbados must be prepared to be able to expect international gangsters and criminals who probably will be aware that the internet is a vehicle by which they can direct devious deeds to a country like ours.

Recently in our country, there was an incident where some people misused the internet in a reckless manner and who believed that was the right thing to do on the internet. Even in the home people are using the internet to commit crimes like technology crimes. Technology crimes could be compared with the smoking of marijuana. People who smoke marijuana use something called a wrapper and it is sold in shops and pharmacies in Barbados. Nobody has done anything to prohibit wrappers from being imported into this country. The wrappers, perhaps, which lead to the smoking of marijuana are allowed into the country cart blanche, that is one of the things that we have to look at.

Sir, in order to deter people from smoking marijuana you have to stop the big commercial businesses, who protect their children from smoking marijuana, from importing these wrappers because these businesses are aware of the consequences of selling these wrappers that cause the destruction.

Mr. Chairman, we talked about copyright but we must understand that we allow a piece of equipment attached to the computer called a burner to come into Barbados. Anyone can go into a computer store and purchase a burner. The manufacturers of the burners knew that the burner was a little insignificant feature in the computer. They then decided that they would produce blank CD's and put them on the market. Now that the blank CD's are available, anyone can purchase a CD and use the burner to copy other people's work and sell it to people around the world. That can also be considered an international crime.

We must realise that because of modern day technology, Barbados is susceptible to international gangsters. We talk about the crime in this country but the United States of America sent back to Barbados criminals who grew up in the United States and know their system and who never knew a cart road or a gap in Barbados. The United States sent hardened criminals to this country who have committed some of the most serious crimes in the United States, without notifying the authorities in this country. Now we have criminals who have come to Barbados and are roaming the streets committing some of the most serious crimes that anyone can imagine.

We must compliment the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force. A lot of people in this country

underestimate the intelligence of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the work that they are capable of doing. Since they are capable of doing the type of work that they have been doing over the years, I am positive that those persons with criminal minds would think twice before they commit a criminal act because of the work being one by the police in Barbados. There is a possibility that crime could be nipped in the bud.

I heard the Honourable Member of St. James South talk about the behaviour of people in Barbados. We must understand that in the comfort of our homes we allow one of the most wicked and devious pieces of appliance to come in and that is the television. Young people are able to select channels and watch all kinds of criminal acts being portrayed in movies and then imitate those criminal acts.

Sir, I know of a robbery that took place at Purity Bakery many years ago by a youngster from the Pine who had imitated a robbery on a video. The police were quick to apprehend the criminals and they were convicted.

Asides.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Sir, we talk about licenced guns and persons being on remand for offences committed and are still in possession of their guns while on remand.

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Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: I do not see how a person who has faced the court, who is the owner of a licensed gun, should have the right to have that gun. If you face the court for a charge, I believe that that gun should be taken away from you, that you have no right to have access to that gun, whether it is a gun charge, whether it is a vehicle charge or whatever charge.

I say that, to say this, Mr. Chairman. I was the most amazed person two days ago when a young man came to me, and when young men tell you these things you have to be alert because when they see it they wonder if this country has two sides, one for the rich and one for the poor. They start to wonder how a certain individual in this country who has been charged for a serious crime was seen at the Garrison Savannah sitting in the stands with a revolver strapped to his leg. That young person knew that that man was before the courts of this country.

You cannot have what I would consider to be two sides. That could not be a perfect example for a young man to see knowing that that individual is before the courts of this country for a serious charge but has the right still to travel with a weapon of that nature in a crowd, in a place of entertainment, which is the Garrison Savannah. I am saying

that Barbadian youngsters are watching these things. This is one of the things that we must understand why the young people are reacting like this.

We must ask why the young people are reacting. Are we setting a perfect example for young people? We sit in our homes and allow our children to go and rent blue movies and we do nothing about it. We sit in our homes and allow our children to bring in all types of friends and we do not challenge the friends that our children bring in. We have the strong belief that our children are perfect but when things happen, the first thing we start to say is, 'not my child', but it has been happening all along.

I say that all of us must be our brother's keeper. All of us must be aware of our children. All of us must be conscious of the type of friends our children keep. A lot of school children in this country are allowed to roam the streets of Barbados at all hours. School finishes at quarter to three and you can go to certain parts of this country and see school children on the roads at all hours. Is there not a law? Are the schools not protective of the very children that they are educating? Are the parents not protective of the very children that they brought into this world?

When we talk about children doing these things, then we have started to create a society of two cities, a city that is good for one and a city that is not so good for the other. We must have a level playing field if we are supposed to project Barbados into a better life.

I am very concerned when it comes to the area of sports and I am drawing this to the attention of the Office of the Attorney General as well. I heard my learned friend speak about sponsorship, and it hurts my heart to see young men in this country and young ladies in this country playing games and when you see who they are sponsored by it is by some of the biggest alcoholic beverages in this place that you could ever think about. And you talk about substance abuse. You talk about young people using drugs. You talk about young people using alcohol, but then you are not aware that the very teams that they play for are sponsored by people who project alcohol and all types of devious things in order to get their products across.

I am saying that if you are setting a standard, if you intend to protect young people, these are things that should not be allowed. I disagree with young netball and volley ball teams having sponsorship by some company that portrays and promotes alcohol beverages. We build centres all across Barbados and try to tell our people keep away from this and keep away from that, but, Mr. Chairman, this is not the Barbados that we knew in the sixties. This is a Barbados that is prone to international gangsters and international criminals.

I am extremely pleased to see that we have started to prepare ourselves by way of protecting Barbados from those people but we must start to protect Barbadians from themselves and make Barbadians understand. If we can do it, then we can become an example for others across the world to admire. I thank you for the time, Sir.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to enter this debate again and to say that I am very happy to hear the Honourable Members on the Other Side admitting that it is time that we seriously look at redeveloping the police force and admitting, as I have been trying to do for the last seven years, that there is a need to improve the benefits to the police force.

There is no doubt within my mind, Sir, that the job of a policeman is not the same as it was 20 years ago.

Aside.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am very glad that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North has admitted that he has always supported me on this point. I want to say, Sir, that people must understand that once when a policeman left home he was sure that he was in control of his beat. The truth is that today it is very difficult for that policeman to continue to believe that he or she is still in control of that beat. We must recognise the seriousness of the job and we must apply the necessary benefit, and that is why I am happy the Members on the Other Side are finally recognising that we need to look at the police force outside of the total picture and recognise the job that they are doing. In order to do that, Sir, we cannot only do it in terms of compensation on the monetary side but we have to recognise that the number of personnel requested by the Commissioner of Police must be given to the police force.

That is why I continue to ask the question. If we are outside of the Cold War why cannot we recognise that we have personnel elsewhere who are trained to deal with some of these crimes that we are now fighting? The truth is that the drug war cannot be tackled only by the police force. It must be tackled under the guidance of the police force using personnel from elsewhere. We are not dealing with Sunday School children and we must understand that, Sir. The drug trade now is either I get you or you get me. With that type of an attitude we must make sure that the Commissioner of Police be given the right personnel. I am not saying that the policemen are not the right personnel, but I am saying there are other people who are trained at a higher level to deal with the type of criminal which we have to deal with in Barbados.

Not only that, Mr. Chairman, sometimes we believe that we are only dealing with Barbadians but the truth is that because of the drug trade we are not sure what a policeman is asked to defend when he or she has to go on a

drug raid any night along the coastline of Barbados. Seeing that we do not know what will be confronting our personnel, we have to make sure that the necessary personnel and fire power is there to protect the lives of the policemen.

Sir, that is why I would totally support the expansion of the police force because we also need not only policemen to deal with that type of crime but we need policemen to do community work. I believe that the resident beat policeman is one of the most important policemen today. The police force must have the necessary personnel to make sure that they station policemen in those districts that they know of, so that they interact among the people and correct the crime problem instead of having at some stage to pull personnel designated to be resident beat policemen to do other work because of limited resources. Sir, if they say they need another 800 men we should find them, even if it means sacrificing another section to make sure we get them. We have to recognise that if we do not do something about that aspect of crime Barbados will not belong to us.

We also have to understand that there are certain sports that carry certain cultures. The necessary resources must be given to the police to interact at these sports.

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Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, you and every parliamentarian in here, who spend time among sports, know what will happen among certain sports. We know that it is not in the interest of our citizens to allow it to happen, but the truth is, we cannot continue to stretch the limited resources of the police force and what we expect of them, without necessarily giving the resources to correct the particular problem.

I honestly believe, Sir, that if the resources are given, a lot of the problems we are confronted with, will be solved. In Barbados, we like to starve people and then finger point at them. The days of starving people and finger pointing must stop and I can tell you why. The problem is the drug trade. As far as I know, we do not grow drugs in Barbados at that level, so it means that it has to be a drain on our foreign reserves, when the money is used to buy drugs outside of Barbados.

Sir, I think it is better to protect our foreign reserves by increasing the number of policemen on the beat, as they fight the drugs, than to allow people from outside and some inside to deplete our resources by coming into the country, allow our citizens to buy drugs and the money is taken back out of the country. Sir, so that when we think we are doing well, one morning we will wake up and realise that

all the money that we have worked so hard for, is depleted, and everybody would want to know what is happening.

We have to realise that Barbados is under attack by those countries who grow and create drugs. Sir, to them, it is a trade and if Barbados is seen as lucrative, we will always have a problem, especially seeing that we are an island. They know that we are limited in resources to protect our coast line, so there will always be an attack on us. We brag and talk about our foreign reserves and how well we are doing. We also have to understand that when we say that, we are inviting the enemy. If we are going to invite the enemy, we must be prepared to fight the enemy. I am saying that we have to get proactive and do something about it, with the understanding that the drug trade can deplete the resources of Barbados.

Sir, we also have to watch the link between gambling and drugs. I know there are many systems in place and today, I heard a lot of people talking about the Money Laundering Act but I want to say that there are a lot of innocent people who take their money to the bank, on a daily basis. It is a habitual thing and people are harassing them for banking normal money. The truth is that I am not hearing about those people, whom certain bankers know might be doing otherwise, being harassed.

The truth is, I am not blaming the bankers. I am blaming the system. The document that was prepared and given to the bankers, telling them that when somebody turns up with \$10 000, to make them complete a form, is foolishness. I want to say, Sir, that the people banking the money should not even know that they are being watched and that is the problem. They should not even know that information is being passed on about them. When you turn up and push a document at them how many people do you expect to sign that if they are really dealing with funny money. It is just like asking fishing boats, when they are leaving home, to register before they leave. This is foolishness.

Sir, you need to find out the frequency of the visits by fishing boats, and keep that information, so that you can monitor properly. As long as people know what you are doing, they are going to correct the problem so that system which is in place, is antique, so you need to refine it. The problem with Barbadians is that we tend to adopt too many systems that we get from outside. I am saying whoever sends the systems here, we should throw them out and adopt a system to solve our problems and create solutions for ourselves.

Sir, if you really study it, you will realise that it is foolishness. If you walk in a bank with \$10 000 before someone takes the money from you, they will tell you to complete a document, how many people do you think would complete the document? The truth is, if they allow

you to bank the \$10 000 and pass on the information of the frequency of the deposit...

Aside.

Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that there is something about solution, and if you want me to proffer the solution, I will. I have said that Barbados is the only country I know, and Barbados is the only country I want to know. My children have to live in this country, and I am going to make sure that I do everything in my power to make sure that my two youngsters could live in here, and everyone else's youngsters can live in here and whatever I could do to stamp out the drug trade in this country, I will.

People have said to me, on many occasions, that I need to watch what I am saying but the truth is that I will stand up because of a principle. We have to understand the effect that it can have on the particular country and we also have to realise the rippling effects and the cultural penetration that are taking place in this country. Sir, I agree that television has a lot to do with this but we do not worry any more about what we are showing on our television.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to turn on a television station, especially the ones that bring in foreign pictures, without hearing serious cursing. Every two words, you will hear a curse word.

Aside.

Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: We call that pictures. The truth is that some parents do not even know their children are watching them, because of the various channels, and we call it development. Development for whom?

Aside.

Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: ...not realising that the best way to practise globalisation.

I have said already in here, Sir, that the 1989 Edition of the United Nations Development Report stated that globalisation is the legalisation of crime. People think that is a joke, and even now the television stations, can now sell the product to the youngsters, even before they face it on a one to one basis. We have to recognise these things and be more proactive.

I salute the Honourable Attorney General because she has a difficult task. She needs all the support in these times, Sir, because it is being tested, it is not a matter of just coming in here and criticising, it is matter of coming in here and offering solutions. We have to recognise that Barbados is for all of us, and if we pretend that we are going to be just criticising and so on, without offering solutions, people are going to look at us as jokers. The truth

is the day that I cannot offer a solution in this Parliament, it is time for me to leave the Parliament. Unlike the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, who will never be able to offer a solution, but will create confusion at all times on the roads.

Mr. Chairman, I will say, Sir, if we are really serious about this, we have to recognise that we have to empower the police force. We have to give them what they are requesting, and we have to appreciate that no police force will be unreasonable in their demands. They are trained to keep law and order and you cannot create stress for a force that you have to depend on, because many nights when we are sleeping, it is the police force that is out there looking after our interests. Yet, we tend to believe that we are somebody and that they are nobody.

I am saying that the day we learn in Barbados to appreciate people for whom they are, that is when this country will be better off but the truth is, we feel that once we are happy, nobody else should be happy. I have said many times in this parliament that the biggest problem facing Barbados is selfishness, because we feel that we should get but nobody else.

I am hoping that the day we get back to being our brother's keeper, Sir, this country Barbados, will be much better off. People who feel that they have a right to misuse and abuse people, would understand that the days for that are over. If we allow some people to do it, and feel that we cannot criticise them, we will find ourselves in a situation where that is shown as an example.

I want to leave this one with you and I have repeated this on many occasions. An eight-year-old child on the west coast of Barbados was once asked the three things in life that he would want to be.

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Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I will repeat it because I must show the impact the foreign influence is having on our people. He said that he would like to be a rich man living on the west coast driving around in a limousine and not having to work.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I do not drive around in a limousine. I will never own a limousine. I still have a 'packa-packa' like the police.

I am saying that the lifestyles that we have allowed people to bring to Barbados is what is corrupting Barbadians. That lifestyle cannot fit into a society where 95

per cent of the people are poor and the other 5 per cent are rich because if we continue to allow that attitude we are going to create frustrations and drop-outs in this society. These people are allowed to bring their riches to this country, buy all the land, bulldoze properties that have value and then build the biggest house. In other words, what this means is that money is no problem but how can you say that when 95 per cent of the people in the country are poor and we are allowing the rich 5 per cent to flash their riches and their lifestyles in front of them forgetting that we have always said to our children that they have to look at those who have done well and see how to do it.

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

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am saying that anybody who is serious about tackling crime in Barbados needs to go and look at the lifestyle of the 5 per cent and then try to understand the lifestyle of the 95 per cent before trying to tackle the crime problem.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise at this time to make a few comments on subprogramme 256 General Police Services. First of all I want to compliment the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) for the efforts and the results which they have been able to achieve.

Unfortunately, we live in a society where it is much easier to criticize, and there are many more voices joining the chorus when it is time to criticize, than it is to give praise. Of course, there is always room for improvement and continuous improvement is what this society needs even within the police force.

I want to indicate that there are areas where-in the ordinary citizen needs to change his behaviour so as to take the pressure off the police force. There are many areas in which the ordinary citizen does not believe that he has committed a crime but his conduct results nevertheless in a drain on the resources of the Government and in inconvenience, pain, injury and economic loss to his fellow citizens.

The Government is doing its part. It has addressed the issue of additional manpower during the last financial year and additional sums were allocated for the provision of equipment particularly new vehicles for them. An additional \$1.8 million, even in these difficult economic times, is being provided in these Estimates in support of the work of the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF).

In terms of results, I would want to indicate that there has been tremendous success over the last several years in relation to crime against visitors but we do not hear anyone talking about that. Sir, crime against visitors is at the lowest it has been for the last 20 years. Of course, a

crime against a visitor to our country or against a citizen of this country is a cause for concern.

Equally, if we are going to be honest and we are going to speak to the fact then we need to say what the figures are. In 1993, which was the last low point, there were 352 reported cases of crime against visitors. In 1990, however, there were 849 reported cases and in the year 2000 there were 323 reported cases. This compares more than favourably with other tourism destinations around the world, some of which have lost business, hotels have had to close and people lost their jobs because of crime against visitors.

Of course, one can easily point to a number of initiatives that were taken. For example, in terms of my own preference for nighttime entertainment I tend to frequent St. Lawrence Gap which is a wonderful place in Christ Church. I frequent Moon Town in St. Lucy and Oistins as well. These are places where small tourism players are able to participate in the tourism business, where visitors and local can meet.

I must applaud the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Police for recognising that wherever there is heavy economic activity and heavy tourism traffic we will always have those unscrupulous crooks amongst us who will make themselves busy. Therefore, the provision of the mobile police facility in St. Lawrence Gap is welcomed. It has made a big difference.

A couple weeks ago I walked out of the After Dark Night Club about 4 o'clock in the morning after leaving the Oistins Fish Festival Ball at the Deighton Griffith School around 3 o'clock where I was on night time Christ Church constituency work, and I was very comfortable in the fact that I was able, like all other persons there, to walk out of the club, walk over to my car and be about my business.

Those of us who frequent Oistins are very comfortable with the police presence there at night. The same thing happens at Moon Town. In my visits there to Moon Town the police were there assisting with parking to ensure that there was a constant flow of traffic. There are other pockets which as yet do not receive that attention.

Silver Sands in the constituency of Christ Church East is not widely recognised because people do not know that it is a major pocket for tourism. In that area, there are two large hotels and approximately ten or so smaller apartments and hotels. In addition to that it is an area in which the ordinary citizen participates in tourism.

Sir, if you speak to the red caps, the taxi drivers and the people the Barbados Hotel Association do not speak to, you will find out where the tourists that they cannot account for are ending up. Sir, they claimed that there is

this big conspiracy, that they do not know where the numbers are and that they cannot find the tourists. Sir, the tourists are in Silver Sands but not in the big hotels or the apartments. When you come down Silver Sands there are two bedrooms and three bedrooms chattel houses which are occupied for three and four months a year by the tourists. Sir, I can take you to an ordinary rum shop that takes 18 to 20 bookings for dinner at night.

If you come down Oistins Hill on your right there is an ordinary wooden house there which is painted blue and is occupied by the tourists. If you go by the building next to Braddie's Bar in St. Lawrence Gap, the upstairs part of that building is occupied by the tourists. That is a form of activity. Silver Sands entertains in a way in which the concept of community tourism is given effect.

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Hon R. R FARLEY: Sir, let us not forget that the tourists who chose to stay in these community facilities are no less deserving of protection than the ones in St. Lawrence gap, the west coast or the other areas of concentration for tourism. This low number can be lower if we employ similar strategies.

Sir, I am making the plea to other agencies of Government to help in this regard. I will use the park in Silver Sands as an example. This park is under maintained by the NCC at this time. I am pleased to say that they have a plan for the upgrading of the park and we will be able to speak about it when the Minister of Physical Development speaks in this debate. There was an earlier period when the area was allowed to run away in bush as we say in Barbados, and this provided a safe haven for crooks to attack visitors in this area. Tourists were not able to walk from Silver Sands Resort over to Silver Rock or to windsurfing and so on because Silver Sands is the tenth most popular windsurfing site in the world.

Asides.

Hon R. R FARLEY: Hoteliers advertise on the internet and in windsurfing magazines and other non traditional places as they cannot afford to advertise on CNN but they know where to go to get their business.

Sir, I just want to point out how we can do better not only with the police but with other Government departments. MTW can keep the roadway clear of bush, keep the street light working and things of that nature. This is my call in this regard.

Sir, my other area of concern is the madness and mayhem on the roads of Barbados. Sir, you cannot have

police for every car or driver in Barbados so the police cannot do a lot but I will make some suggestions.

This is an area in which each and every citizen must exercise greater responsibility. We have 96 000 motor vehicles registered in Barbados and there were 21 269 traffic offences reported during 2001. This is 58 accidents per day, 409 per week or 1772 per month. These are too many traffic offences, Sir, and the rules of the road are easy to follow. This is indicative of the indiscipline in the society and the 'get to the next place quickly' syndrome which has engulfed this society. I want to urge the citizens of Barbados to do their part to reduce this madness and mayhem on the roads.

Sir, that has translated itself into a more serious situation. Seven thousand five and forty accidents were recorded for 2001. This is one every hour and if it were to be expressed in terms of waking hours, it would be more than one in every hour. Sir, these are too many accidents per day and this translates into fatalities. There were 24 fatalities last year and 154 serious accidents. Sir, these statistics do not bring home the grim fact of lost loved ones, lost income, permanent disabilities nor people who were able-bodied who were reduced to less than their full function as a result of this callousness and carelessness on the road.

Sir, the police cannot peep at people every minute of the day. These are areas in which the people can cooperate and allow the police to deal with hardcore issues. I want to urge the Commissioner of Police and the Superintendent responsible for the mobile division to go back to an old formula. In my days growing up one of the most legendary characters in the police force was Ghost Rider. Ghost Rider would ride his 450 Triumph up and down the highways particularly in St. George and report traffic along the way.

I travel every day from Lower Greys in Christ Church, down Mapp Hill, pass Julie'N, Bussa, Ilaro Court and down to Bridgetown and the only time that I have seen a policeman on motorcycle passing on that road is when they are escorting a funeral.

Sir, I can only speak on the basis of this example but I am sure that if the mobile resources of the police force would utilise some highway patrol, it would remind people that they are likely to get caught while performing any illegality.

Sir, I am satisfied that the visible presence of the police will create an element of expectation in the minds of the public that they may get caught and they would be more careful. I simply urge, by way of recommendation, that the mobile resources be employed by way of an enhanced highway patrol along the seven highways as well as the ABC highway.

We should ensure that there is a dynamic situation that is able to respond to the occasion of blockages because part of our traffic problem is that you can also get traffic jams at midnight. If you passed by the Gymnasium and the associated roads before the Kenny Rogers show and afterwards, the issue was not to do with the road or the traffic, but the fact that everybody wanted to hear Kenny Rogers.

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

Hon R. R FARLEY: Sir, at our road junctions where the ABC Highway crosses the seven highways going into Bridgetown are points of interference where there are road accidents sometimes on mornings and again, police patrol would help in this matter.

In closing, I want to make one general observation tangential to the points I raised this morning on the need for reform. In relation to the legal system and the need for reform in the society the local bar is not immune from the need to reform itself.

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Hon. R. R. FARLEY: As a non lawyer, I would have to question in an age when every aspect of the economy is required to liberalise why there are so many constraints relating to the facts of law. Why is it that lawyers cannot advertise? Why can we not as ordinary citizens know who are experts and in what area? What is the scale of fees that is accepted for a profession in the year 2002? Would it be collusion rate setting? Do all insurance companies charge the same rates? Do all masons, carpenters or engineers charge the same rates?

I am saying that there is a need to modernise. There is a need for our prominent successful attorneys to look at new corporate structures. Perhaps, there is a need for examples to be taken from the accounting profession where the general quality of business, especially international business, where international businesses were able to identify names known internationally but there is no equivalent of this for lawyers in Barbados.

Sir, persons can have quiet alliances with the larger international law firms but they are not known. I want to salute the Attorney General for the commitment which has been given to look at the Legal Profession Act. I look forward to having that important aspect of our economic arrangements brought into line with the new liberalised low crime economy which we are striving to create.

I thank you very much.

Hon. R.St.C. TOPPIN: Sir, I want to join this debate to make a concise contribution. I want to compliment the Honourable Attorney General for some well prepared Estimates that relate to a number of things that she has planned.

I want to compliment the Royal Barbados Police Force for a job well done. I want to look at the area of drugs. I think there was a time where the topic of discussion was the easy way in which drugs were arriving in this country without sufficient confiscation by the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I want to say that, even to the naked eye, one can see a serious turn around in the way in which the police force has been handling the interception and confiscation of drugs. I think that they should be specially mentioned and commended for the way in which they are handling that task.

However, there is another challenge which the police force faces. As I go around my constituency and the country and engage in discussions with members of the country or my constituency on the issue of crime, there are still concerns with the issue of the shootings that are happening from time to time in various areas. I have pointed out to them that this has to be the success on drugs of the Royal Barbados Police Force and they readily agreed with me.

I think what has emerged by way of consensus is, that the shootings and the violence that have been taking place have been due largely to the success on drugs in the sense that once drugs have been confiscated, the persons who were to have sold the drugs, from whom the drugs have been confiscated, still have to pay the suppliers and the suppliers apparently do not take any excuses for an answer. Therefore, they have to try to get money by any means to pay for the drugs that they have taken. Sometimes if necessary they have to resort to violence in terms of 'taking out' the person whom they think has been responsible for the confiscation of the drugs.

I think that the police force is on top of the drug situation. We can see that there is a backlash coming from that success in the war against drugs. This backlash has to do with violence between members of gangs and persons related to the drug world. I think that it is now incumbent upon the police force to ensure that they can deal with what I refer to as the three-tier level of violence in relation to drugs to ensure that the society is safe.

I hope that the same way that the society can congratulate the Royal Barbados Police Force for the success of the war on drugs, we will soon be in a position to congratulate the police force in terms of the response to

the backlash that is coming from the success on the war on drugs.

The second point relates to challenges that I think will confront officers as well as law makers. You will recall that sometime last year, 2001, I had the honour to bring to this Honourable Chamber an Electronic Transactions Bill which was passed and became the Electronic Transactions Act. Two other pieces of legislation have to accompany that Act to make the position a comprehensive one. There is a Computer Misuse Act for which the draft and instructions have already been sent to the Attorney General's office for drafting. There is also another Act that has to be passed, which is the Protection Act, and this is the next challenge that I think will confront us particularly as lawmakers.

Mr. Chairman, as individuals in a society I believe that we have a right to have our affairs remain private. For example, if I use my credit card to make a purchase or if I make a transaction at the bank, we all consider those transactions to be matters between ourselves and the institutions. That is a position which I think will largely inform the Government as they go about dealing with the issue of data protection to which Barbadians have become accustomed to and are entitled to.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11th when that act of terrorism struck the United States of America and impacted on the international world, it became necessary for persons to rethink the issue of privacy. The challenge now is going to be, to what extent are we going to allow individuals to remain entitled to the privacy to which they have been accustomed on the one hand and on the other hand, to what extent are we going to allow the state and law enforcement offices to whittle away the rights of privacy in ensuring that persons who would want to commit nefarious acts, whether locally, regionally or internationally, are brought under scrutiny and in such a way that their dealings and transactions can be monitored.

Sir, also to what extent are we going to give the State the right to trespass onto private territory for the good of humanity in general. A famous incident that was quoted in a magazine where a terrorist had been video taped in 1999 speaking to some of Osama bin Laden's lieutenants in Kuala Lumpur and the information has been passed on to the FBI's list of suspected terrorists.

However, in August, 2001 when it was learnt that the same person was in the United States of America and the FBI tried to track him down, they were unable to find him. It turned out that he had been one of the persons on one of the hijacked planes that flew into one of the three buildings on September 11th.

Should the FBI not have been entitled to link the information into the airline's ticketing data bases or even to resort to what is called biometric profiling? This is a technical mechanism connected with the airlines so that when he makes his reservation, the information would have been transmitted to the FBI's data bases so that he could have been nabbed before boarding the plane.

The issue of privacy has become paramount since September 11th. We in the Third World will have to decide how we are going to seek to balance these two conflicting interests, the right to privacy on the one hand where,

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Hon. R. St.C. TOPPIN: if I decide to use my credit card in a store to make a purchase, should it be the position that all the stores have feed-ins to the law enforcement agencies, the police department in Barbados, for example, and even beyond into the FBI? Should that transaction remain one between myself and the store with which I transact my business? If I make a deposit at a bank of \$4 000 or \$5 000 should anybody be entitled to call the bank to make a query on the status of my account and get the information readily, whether by oral request or by some data base inter-connection? These are issues that are going to be very seriously challenging to law-makers and are in fact challenging law-makers at this time.

In the whole area of electronics activity where not only legitimate transactions but also illegal transactions and criminal activity are going to be planned by use of electronic means, the internet, e-mail, et cetera, it is going to mean that the law enforcers, the police force, in the case of Barbados, will of necessity have to become trained in the whole area of cybercrime. It is not going to be a case where someone in Barbados commits a crime by technological means but it could be persons several thousand miles away from Barbados using the modern information technology to communicate and plan their activities. This is going to push the whole area of law enforcement into a totally new sphere of activity.

Therefore, the law enforcement agencies in Barbados must ensure that they are always undergoing training to deal with this particular matter and to ensure that they are constantly in sync and linked to the international community to monitor developments and to ensure that there is two-way cooperation between local law enforcement agencies and overseas and international law enforcement agencies, because we are moving to that technological age where crime is now going to be committed in a totally different way and at a totally different level. It is almost now going to be academically

planned crime using the latest and most available and modern technologies.

These are things that will not only challenge the law-makers but the law enforcement agencies and I am pleased to see that the Attorney-General has plans this year to ensure that the law enforcement agencies in Barbados certainly undergo the training and are exposed to training as much as is the case of necessity to ensure that we can intercept and deal with the whole issue of crime in the economic and electronic age.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, given this new thrust, you are always going to have to ensure that the police force can use its full resources in the fight against crime and I believe that it is not always necessary, although if it happened, I would support it that you have to increase manpower to deal with a problem. I think that sometimes a little planning can ensure that manpower is more effectively deployed and it can be taken out of unnecessary activity and put on to more necessary activity. This is not in any way reflecting on the way in which the police have chosen to deploy their manpower because I do not think the police are even in control of what I am going to say now.

One thing that I think is unnecessary and is really an irritant for the society in general is that the slightest touching of two vehicles on a road necessitates that the driver stop at the same time wherever they are and go and call the police and wait until they come. I fully appreciate that in the most serious accidents that may very well be necessary but not for slight scratches that take place between cars in a place where it is the most congested and used road at four-thirty in the afternoon. You wonder why it is traffic is taking so long to move and when you get there forty-five to fifty minutes later, you realise that it was just two people with two bumpers or fenders touching who could have gotten out, and were quite willing to get out and sort out between themselves and the insurance company, but the requirement is that you must call the police to the scene as if it is a major crime just to take a few measurements in relation to a scratch. That, Mr. Chairman, is a current form of madness, that requirement, and I am sure it could free up considerably the ability of the Barbados Police Force to deploy manpower on more pressing and urgent matters.

I am sure the police force would be glad to be rid of that nuisance. If it is not a nuisance for them, it is a nuisance for me and for everybody who uses the road on any given day.

Mr. Chairman, as well, on the area of training, before I sit, I just want to make one other point. I am pleased to see that we are going to be blessed with a new forensic laboratory and that the issue of videotaping of confessions will in fact be utilised. This is something I am

sure all Honourable Members will remember I argued for in here some time ago. I have practised criminal law for quite a while and I know that it was becoming a bit monotonous to find that in quite a few cases the only evidence against an accused person happened to be a confession. Having spoken to a number of accused persons over the years, it was evident that they were not in agreement that they had confessed and it means that just other than simply asking them what had happened had been used to ensure that they had signed off certain statements. In other words, they were saying they had been beaten to make confessions.

Certainly, it would lend a lot more credibility to the system of law enforcement if we could get as soon as possible this whole issue of videotaping realised so that you can actually see the accused person as he speaks. You will be able to see his condition, whether he is in fact genuinely confessing or whether or not he is being forced to confess. I am very glad to see that. The forensic laboratory I am sure will obviously be using heavy reliance on the whole issue of DNA which is very important. We are tired of hearing of cases, particularly in the United States of America, where people have gone within days of execution only to find that in fact on the use of DNA technology it was proved that they could not have been the persons who had committed the crime and therefore, luckily, an innocent person was spared execution.

The final point that I want to make in relation to the issue of law enforcement is that I find it to be unfair that the names of accused persons are being published in newspapers and their pictures on television before they are convicted. If a man is convicted, I feel the society has a right to know of it. But until a man is convicted, he must be allowed to enjoy that concept that says a man is innocent until proven guilty. Too often now we find the newspapers are sensationalising the whole issue of accused persons going into the court and what happens in the court.

Take for example a rape case. Quite rightly, the name of the victim in a rape case is never published and that is how it should be, but the name of the accused person is. You and I know, Mr. Chairman, that we are living in a very strange society where even if an accused man is acquitted, he is still stained because of the false belief in the society that where there is smoke there is fire. Mr. Chairman, where there is smoke there is smoke and that is all. It is as simple as that.

I believe that it is very unfair to continue with a system where an accused man's name is allowed to be highly and widely publicised throughout the society before he is convicted and the names of victims in some cases are even withheld. I would like to see that imbalance addressed. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make an additional contribution to this debate under this Head and I would like to start by saying that I do not think any of us here should in any way devalue or diminish the contributions of an entity such as the National Council on Substance Abuse. I reflected on the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and I do not think that this was his intention but I want to say this agency, now an entity under the Ministry of Home Affairs rather than the Attorney General's Ministry, is doing an important work on the issue of countering the demand for drugs in this country.

Gladiator status might not be associated with the programme of the National Council on Substance Abuse to the extent that it might be associated with the law enforcement agencies which operate more so on the supply side and which protect our borders, our coastlines, interdicting the supply of drugs as part of the illicit trade.

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Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Equally important, is the work of education within the context of the school, within the context of the general communities across Barbados, and work with reference to training and the linkages which this agency would have with entities on the supply side, such as the police force, Sir, also, linkages which they would have in terms of the fight against the spread of drug use, even at an institution such as Glendairy.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy did touch on the work of the National Council of 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 of 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 for St. John's. 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.

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Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: 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.

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Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: 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 1980s'. At one point, around 1991, I myself, could not find a Barbados Law Report that was published after 1986. There are important judgements 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, address 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 occurs. 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 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 4 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.

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Hon. H. E. THOMPSON: 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 drug. 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, custom 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. 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 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. H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, I am asking that we pursue these matters and stop behaving as if they are socially acceptable norms.

4.15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: 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.

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 as 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

4.25 p.m.

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Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: 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.

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 2002-03 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 overcrowding.

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.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: 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 Corrections. In fact, a paper will be going to Cabinet shortly to solicit Cabinet's approval for the establishment of a Department of Corrections 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 person 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 organisations, 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 art work 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 signal 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 Prison 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 the party, whether this person is a person who should benefit from the prison transfer agreement.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the security problems of 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.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: 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 Prison 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 Prison. 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 HIVAIDS Project there is a sum of money to erect a building at Glendairy Prison to provide for counselling and support services for those persons who have been affected or infected by the HIVAIDS 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.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: 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 wondering and on our statute books, we still have the offence of wondering. 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 wondering 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 Union (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 an 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 pm.

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

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

5.07 p.m.

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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 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.

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Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: We use that same excuse to buy there. We have to understand that in order for our prison farms to operate there must be a market. Marketing is more dynamic than putting vegetables in a location and hoping that someone will come and buy them.

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 airconditioners 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.

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Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: 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.

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Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: 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 Somerville, 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 Prison. 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. We put them down for every little thing that they do.

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Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: 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 they 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.

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Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: 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 basket ball. 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 pm 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 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 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 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 condition 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.

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Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: 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.

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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 School.

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 School.

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 Prison. 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, through 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 of 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 have 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 reenter 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.

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Hon. G.A. CLARKE: 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.

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.

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Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: 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.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: 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 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 Barbadians 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 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.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: 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 of 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.

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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 2.00 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.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

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THOMPSON, Hon. H. E.
THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H.
TOPPIN, Hon. R. St.C.
WILLIAMS, Mr. M. Z.
WOOD, Hon. A. P.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.

Q1. Masthead. The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

Q2. Opening. The source opens without the convening sentence (Pursuant to the adjournment ... met at ...). The date is taken from the heading of the source.

Q3. Head 29, Ministry of Home Affairs. The heading reads 'HEAD 29 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS', but at the close of the debate the Attorney General moves 'that Head No. 28 stand part' and the procedural line records 'The question that Head No. 28 stand part was put and agreed to.' Printed as in the source.

Q4. Take-slip about 7.25 p.m.. The date line under the 7.25 p.m. take-slip reads 'Tuesday, March 13, 2002'; every other take-slip and the heading give Wednesday, March 13, 2002. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Speech labels, Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson. The same Member is labelled both 'Hon. H. E. THOMPSON' and 'Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON' in the source. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Close of the record. The House is suspended, not adjourned, 'until March 14, 2002 at 2.00 p.m.', with the Committee of Supply to resume. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly resumed on Wednesday, 13th March, 2002, after the suspension of the previous day, with Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair, and immediately went back into Committee of Supply on the Estimates for 2002-03, with Mr. D. Carter as Chairman. The whole day was given to two Heads under the Attorney General, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, Member for St. Michael North East: Head 30, the Attorney General's Office, and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

On Head 30, Hon. R. R. Farley supported the Attorney General's legal reforms from the point of view of business, and later spoke on sub-programme 256, General Police Services, and the protection of tourists in small community hotels. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, Member for St. John, said he had no

sympathy for those railing against the Privy Council, whose judges were accountable to Britain, and argued that zero tolerance could not be expected of the police on marijuana when society itself did not practise it; he called for a holistic approach to the causes of crime. The Attorney General undertook to consult on delinking Barbados from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council irrespective of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Hon. Sir Henry Forde said that in 95 per cent of appeals to the Privy Council Caribbean judgements had been upheld, and that Barbados was forty years late in completing its independence.

Further contributions came from Hon. H. F. Lashley on police outposts such as Gall Hill; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman, who noted the \$1.4 million for the National Council on Substance Abuse but questioned its approach; Hon. R. C. Eastmond on the Privy Council, the \$200 000 for the Law Reform Committee and the Barbados Law Report, and court procedure; Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson on the credibility of the police; Mr. T. A. Prescod on crime in working-class neighbourhoods; Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde; Mr. M. Z. Williams, who held that a person charged before the court should lose access to a licensed gun; Hon. R. St.C. Toppin on drug interdiction and the privacy of banking and credit card transactions; and Rev. J. J. S. Atherley on illegal guns. Replying, the Attorney General listed the new forensic centre, the anti-robbery and anti-burglary campaigns, a criminal justice information system and the mobile police unit at St. Lawrence Gap, and promised a survey of attitudes to drugs during the year. Head 30 was agreed to without division.

The Attorney General opened the Home Affairs debate on the penal institutions, parole, the Department of Correctional Services, the phased rebuilding of the prison wall, the Government Industrial Schools, the Fire Service, Immigration and the Central Emergency Relief Organisation. After a suspension until 5.25 p.m., Mr. Kellman criticised the results at Summervale and Dodds and urged prison farming; Rev. Atherley, on a point of order exchange with him, defended the Fire Service vote of about \$3 million and spoke on Glendairy Prison. Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde spoke on young offenders; Mr. Thompson welcomed the frankness of Government Members about the two institutions and the concept of a department of correction; Hon. G. A. Clarke spoke on the funds spent on reform centres; and Hon. R. N. Greenidge raised illegal immigrants and their access to social services.

In reply the Attorney General spoke of training for prison officers through the Barbados Community College, said she did not support a restrictive immigration policy and announced a feasibility study of a smart card for travel, and moved that 'Head No. 28' stand part, which was

agreed to. Progress was reported, and on the motion of
Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, seconded by Hon. R. D.

Marshall, the Sitting was suspended at about 7.26 p.m.
until 2.00 p.m. on 14th March, 2002.

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