
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 1999 – 2003

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, March 14, 2002

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE

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

HEAD 27 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM

AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

\$91 310 634

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

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

rest of the Estimates in terms of moving Barbados from being a developing to a developed country.

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

The Ministry of Tourism does so through and in collaboration with three principal agencies, the Barbados Tourism Authority, the Barbados Conference Services Limited and the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. The Barbados Tourism Authority which is the agency which is always in the public domain and always in the mind, it seems of all Barbadians, is responsible for the marketing of this destination. In addition to that, Sir, Barbados Conference Services Limited which is housed at Sherbourne Conference Centre actually has responsibility for the management of that conference centre and for the promotion of conferences and meetings in Barbados in addition to their overall marketing in conjunction with the Barbados Tourism Authority.

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

Sir, those are the three principal agencies that work to create for Barbados the type of reputation and the product as the basis for tourism development in this country. Let me say, Sir, that national tourism development goes way beyond marketing. People believe that because

the marketing side and the performance of the marketing activity is what is mostly presented to Barbados that tourism in itself is mostly or only about the issues relating to marketing of this destination and marketing of the individual product for the rest of the world and for visitors to come to Barbados. Tourism is much more than just the marketing side.

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

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

Sir, the glamour side of the industry is always presented because of the marketing side, but these people go to work every day to make tourism happen, providing and working on the policies and programmes that set the stage and base for tourism to thrive and survive. That level sets up an industry that the tourism marketing can then provide the level of performance that we believe should be provided for Barbados. Let me quickly add, Sir, if it were not for the sound policy direction, if it were not for the constructed, concentrated and sensible programmes put together every day by Tourism and International Transport, we could not benefit optimally from the marketing end.

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

Barbados vis-a-vis our neighbours in the rest of the Caribbean.

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

2.10 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

Sir, our industry is being challenged from all sectors and I know that some people would say that issues relating to things like the globalisation of trade, may not affect tourism as much as it may have affected some of the other industries. I believe that we were quick to say that the tourism industry has always been a global industry and has always been WTO compliant, when you match it to the other industries with which we do business: manufacturing, agriculture, the OECD threat and what happened to our international business sector.

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

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

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

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

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

In other words, markets that were once our source markets, have turned into markets that are in direct competition with us and that is the first thing. The second thing is that within those same economies, people are now being encouraged to stay at home, take your vacation at home and travel at home and there is enough activity within developed countries, particularly those larger countries which encourage people to stay at home. Sir, all of that had some level of a negative effect upon the Caribbean and particularly, smaller destinations like ours.

Sir, if you look at figures that have been presented for most of these destinations in the Caribbean, the fact is that last year was not a good year for tourism in the Caribbean. I am proud to say that Barbados did not suffer as much as some of the other destinations and during the course of the debate, I think we will speak to issues, initiatives and programmes that allowed Barbados to continue to occupy that level and keep us above water. The

performance, I hurriedly add, was not the level of performance that we would have predicted at the start of the year. It was not the type of performance that we would have been very comfortable with but I must say that when I look across the Caribbean and some other parts of the globe, I can tell you that Barbados did relatively well, considering the circumstances.

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

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

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

Sir, that downturn could have been a lot worse but Barbados was able to hold its head above water and it speaks to the issues related to our marketing policies. It also speaks to our issues related to our marketing competence, the programmes on the ground and at the base, the policy preparation and the programmes and policies of the ministries of Tourism and International Transport, that was able also to support an environment that kept our marketing numbers and figures high.

In addition, the future success of this industry will also depend upon a more serious academic approach to the industry's development. I think, Sir, over the years, we have been scratching the surface and using a lot of gut feeling to really try to understand the tourism industry. If this industry is to survive and develop optimally, we must create a more serious academic approach and an understanding of the industry. We should stop believing that the only thing that matters in the tourism industry is being able to run away from Barbados and go out, speak to

a tour operator or travel agent and get someone to get on a plane and come to Barbados, or that in this industry what is important is whether or not you serve a man from the left or from the right or whether or not the food and beverage operation is good.

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

2.20 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

I also believe we must encourage tourism to be carried on within a formal academic environment. It is a shame, Sir, that we have a University of the West Indies for the longest while but tourism is now beginning to bite as an issue within our tertiary academic system. This industry contributes approximately \$1.4 billion to our livelihood every year more so than any of the other productive sectors.

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

become a much more front burning issue than it has ever been at both the formal and informal level.

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

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

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

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

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Another area that is substantially lacking is the issue of linkages and leveraging to the other productive sectors. Our programme as outlined in this particular Estimates points specifically to the areas we are going to spend the taxpayers' money in terms of moving this industry forward.

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

matured tourism destination, has a multiplicity of good tourism skills and we need to export a lot of that skill.

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

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

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

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

2.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on Head No. 27. I want to start by dismissing some of the myth, which has been created in the public of Barbados by the Minister of Tourism.

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

In 1986, this is before we had anything called all-inclusive tourism, from the United State's market, we were able to get 166,250 tourists; by 1987 it had increased to over 175,000; by 1988 it dropped to 170,000; by 1989 it dropped to 154,000.

Asides.

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

dropped to 110,000; by 1993 it rose to 112,000; by 1994 it dropped to 109,000.

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

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

Asides.

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

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I apologise to you, Sir. I will follow the advice of the Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and will not allow someone who does not know about tourism to interrupt me. Thank you very much, Ma'am

Mr. Chairman, what is observant from these figures is that the English market, as I am told, is not so compelled by the all-inclusive concept of the American market. They tell me the Americans love the all-inclusive market but when one looks at the statistics on page 89, one will

recognise that instead of there being a reduction over the 1986 to 1994 periods, what you would have seen during that period is an increase of tourists coming to Barbados in the English market. Sir, this myth that all-inclusive tourism is good for Barbados has to be stopped. As it now stands, it is a disincentive for the tourism market in Barbados and creates more crime than anything else. Sir, when tourists come on all-inclusive package they are treated like prisoners; they are all in one package deal and this is like moving prisoners from Glendairy Prison to a police station.

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

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

Aside.

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

Mr. Chairman, the hoteliers who are involved in all-inclusive tourism have a foolish myth that if they keep the tourist on their premises, they are protecting them. In fact, when they are reducing their profits and what they need to do is to encourage the tourist to come on the all-inclusive package and then allow them to roam Barbados. That will reduce their cost because the more people that remain on the property, the more the expenses will increase. Sir, because of selfishness, they feel they have a right to transport them in a bus, to keep them away from Barbadians and that they are elites.

2.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

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

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

Asides.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, we have to understand that even though we want to support the Cubans, they must

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

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

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

Asides.

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

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

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

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

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

Asides.

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

I am also aware that the Director of Finance is also concerned about the statistics and the Director of Statistics is concerned about the tabulation.

2.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: I am saying that we must understand that Trinidadians see us as tourists and we have to start seeing the Caribbean market as a tourist market. We must do everything in our power not to frustrate those Caribbean people who do not want to travel to the United States of America but would prefer to come to Barbados. We must also strengthen the hands of the Immigration Officers.

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

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

Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know I would never say a thing like that. All that I am

saying is that we might be ignorant as to what a tourist is. I am saying that we have to differentiate what is a tourist and who would want to come to Barbados and reside. Sir, we must put a policy in place to make sure that when the visitors come here and overstay their time, we should know where they can be located.

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

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, I do not mind him defending his Ministry but he should know when to do so.

I hope we will understand that in a climate where there is war, we should be able to have an aggressive marketing policy within the Caribbean to pick up the slack with those people who do not wish to risk their lives traveling outside of the Caribbean.

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

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

Asides.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asides.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I thank you, Sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are specific studies being done of the economic impact on the places of accommodation and small tourism performance. I know that will hearten the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. Another issue relates to

the acceptable levels of employment within the sector; the type of employment that will be created within the sector; what concepts it has for sustainability and the issue of tourism awareness levels. These are the specific areas that the research division will be looking at this year.

In addition, there is the area of product development. These projects will deal with cultural heritage, cruise tourism and community-based tourism. I do not know where the Honourable Member for St. Lucy gets his off-sided ideas from about how we deal with community tourism. Some people think that there is only one side to the marketing of tourism. There is a lot of work that goes into specific projects, programmes and policies that relate to the development of tourism. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is ignorant to many of the subjects relating to tourism and its development and he intends to share that ignorance with everyone in this Chamber and the wider public.

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

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

Sir, the marketing promotion will be done through the Barbados Tourism Authority. This not only relates to promotional tours but the marketing research of the Barbados Tourism Authority,

3.10 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: There is a lot of marketing research that goes on within the Barbados Tourism Authority. There are issues related to marketing promotion, exploitation of niche markets within tourism. A lot of people believe that somebody just walks off the street and walks into a travel agency and buys a ticket and gets onto a plane; but there are a number of activities within the Barbados Tourism which I will speak to in depth, when given the opportunity later on, that deals with specifically

exploiting niche markets within the tourism sector, within our major source market.

Sir, there are issues of being able as well to continue to open up new markets for Barbados and one of the issues that we have dealt with is the diversification of markets. We cannot continue to depend almost exclusively on the United States and Canada to one extent and England and the wider Europe to be able to be a source of tourism markets for tourists because there must be some level of continued diversification in terms of your market base and your source market to be able to move tourism along.

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

Then there is the issue of tourism investment through the BTI.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You mean the Honourable Member.

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

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

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

There are some general principles to be observed and one is that Barbados is too small to have two tourism products. This Government has been at the centre of being able to narrow that gap between the South Coast and the West Coast. Therefore, if the image of Barbados to be

presented to the exterior is one of a very serious developing country that is maybe the number one developing country in the world, and that our standards have been raised in many regards, we cannot continue to have a very affluent West Coast and a very budget-type South Coast. We need to narrow the gap between the two.

The other general principle, Sir, is that Barbadian people must be at the core always of all the development that we are putting in place. The concept of the physical environment as the real winner in terms of tourism development at the end we must continue to protect and enhance that physical environment if we are to continue to develop tourism. Tourism development is much more than just marketing and goes way beyond that. The economic benefit that we derive from the tourism industry must be spread broader and wider in this country and involve many other people within the sector.

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

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

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

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

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

see that tourism as an industry has played a very important role.

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

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

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

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

3.20 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

via their housekeeping duties, are sufficiently prepared to deal with the tourist in a most friendly manner.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South touched on a point which is very dear to my heart and which I think that not enough attention is paid to as we try to develop our tourism industry, and it has to do with building research capacity. If we are to fine-tune the industry in such a way that we do all that is required to take the industry forward, we need to know, in a very analytical way, what are the major factors that cause the industry to move forward. Proper analytical work must be done on various facets of the industry. I mentioned a few earlier and I will repeat some of them.

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

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

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute.

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

3.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

The Government has established various funds which would allow the smaller hotel to access valuable institutional finance to facilitate refurbishing, to get technical assistance in place and to deal with the marketing.

This augurs well for moving the sector forward in a holistic way.

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

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

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

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

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

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not telling the Honourable Member for St. Michael South that it started with him either. He was to put an end to it but he has not

been able to do that and it does not mean that he cannot come to this Estimates with a very clear position on the role the BTA will play. He is clearly not going to get his policy through of changing up the structure of the BTA so significantly that it does not resemble what was there for the past ten years. So what are the alternatives? What is his fall back position from the very early announcement that he made about the fact that he did not have confidence in the ability of the BTA as currently structured to undertake its role bearing in mind that we have had a restructuring in 1995, we had a restructuring in 1993 and no doubt there must have been previous restructuring.

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

The second point is that we often take for granted that the benefits of tourism are trickling down in Barbados. I was glad to hear the Minister saying that he wants the necessary analysis to be carried out to determine if it is so or not. If the Ministry is able to undertake that analysis, and if it remains the Minister's focus and we do not chop and change again, it will be a very critical component of analysing the perception and contribution of the tourism sector to Barbados and also raising the levels of morale and productivity throughout the entire industry. If the Minister is not willing to address the issue of productivity, if the policy chop and changes, if taxes remain at the level they are at - and the Prime Minister has indicated why he has some constraints in that regard - if the bureaucracy remains exactly the same as it is now, if some of the outside factors like crime and so on are impacting in the way that they are impacting and if the Minister cannot get to the issues of developing the Barbadian experience then we would be wasting more time debating tourism in this Chamber. This is the concern that I have, Sir, about the debates that we have been having down through the years on tourism.

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

He came in here today having lost his way because he is now being befuddled by a brief which is a very dangerous dilemma for a minister to find himself in

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

I disagree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South when he said that too many Barbadians have no in-depth understanding of tourism. I have visited all of the English speaking Caribbean countries and I have been to many resorts in Orlando and hotels throughout the world and I still believe that at the end of the day that the average Caribbean citizen believes that Barbadians know about tourism.

3.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not going to go any further than that. It is the people on the street who know and understand tourism. Perhaps that is where the analysis is going when we speak of community tourism but it starts from the analysis that people do not have an in-depth understanding - keep that in-depth understanding, it is inane. It is part of our experience, not just post-independence but before that. Let us draw on that and build on it as part of what is unique for Barbados. Let us not believe that people do not understand.

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

Aside.

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

brand new hotel, maybe their first experience other than the normal Sunday lunch which was common in Barbados in the 1970s and 1980s. Therefore, I do not think that we should proceed on the basis that Barbadians do not understand.

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

Then there is the perception, despite what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South may say and despite his private sector background originally, that Government is the problem. Their perception is not contrary with what successive Governments have tried to tell us; that Government is holding their hands and helping them in this great partnership. At any cocktail party one goes to they can list every problem they have with Government's policies, from taxes right down to land use policies. This is a ritual that we are all familiar with and it does not make sense. I am not trying to be cynical but to me it would not make sense constructing a policy on the basis that you believe that other than the fact that you are giving tax relief and benefits directly to hoteliers in Barbados, they are going to tell you that you are their greatest allies. They perceive Government as the biggest problem and they are going to have difficulties with the Employment Rights Act. When you get the money on the road for the refurbishment and all those other issues you will find that people are going to say that, despite all of that, Government is not doing what it needs to do, to advance the private sector. Sir, that is why I am saying the Honourable Member for St. Michael South needs to get out of that particular mindset. There have been some improvements. The restaurants in Barbados, to my mind, have seen an improvement of service. There may be a few problems but by and large particularly on the West Coast ... I do not get on the South Coast that often but I have seen a dramatic and very significant improvements.

Asides.

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

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Where I meet you. I have seen some improvement there and there has been an

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

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

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

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

promise visitors and what they experience will tend to be synonymous.

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

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

3.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sir, we have honestly come a long way but we still get some comments from some of our black visitors that they do not get the special treatment which they should get when they come to the best run and administered country in the world and we need to look at that. Sir, in respect to our Caribbean visitors we need to hold out an extra hand.

Sir, I want to move quickly to the other aspect of my intervention. Development of our tourism potential depends not only on marketing but when we bring visitors to our shores, where do they stay, what do they do and what do we do to make sure they are satisfied, are willing to go back and tell other people they had fun. Sir, part of what is required for our development in tourism is to concentrate on continuous product development and I must salute the Minister of Tourism for giving leadership and the

Minister of Finance for providing resources for the public sector component of this investment in our future.

We know that work has started on the Hilton Hotel to provide additional rooms.

4.00 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman we know that the investment by way of adding additional rooms to Hilton property has already started and we can go through a long list of our expansions and renovations.

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

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

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

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

Sir, they are persons in Barbados who on the one hand would salute the projects of the Barbados National Trust on developing the great plantation houses and give them all of the history going back deep into the days of slavery, but when you speak about a slave project or talk about any aspect of our history going back to our period of enslavement they go and hide.

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

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

Asides.

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

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

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

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

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

Sir, two weekends ago we saw the Gold Cup, although there were some adverse comments to it as how well the beginning of the race was captured by the

television crew. Apart from that the race itself would have been seen by millions of people in this part of the hemisphere and this is good publicity and relatively cheap marketing for the island.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sir, families spend in excess of a week in Barbados enjoying all that Barbados has to offer. They do not all play hockey alone. They play other sports. It is a cheap form of

marketing and the families come back and encourage their friends to come.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Barbados cannot host an international series at least once a year, whether it is cricket or some other sport.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I much obliged.

4.20 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

make it the big money earner that it really and truly is. We only have to look at the Gold Cup, at cricket when it is being played at Kensington.

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

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

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

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

You have to realise that both of them do their best in this regard where the Gary Sobers Competition is concerned. The Sports Council helps with the trophies, the transportation and helps with the grounds. All we are saying is let us be up front. Let us not wait until late. Let

me admit, Sir, that where we are concerned very often we organise and then we try to pull them in late as well. It is not that I am pointing my finger at one and not at the other.

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

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

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

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

4.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

Aside.

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

Asides.

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

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

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

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

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

We are also hosting the Rifle Championship, which is to be held at Paragon in May 2002. Sir, as I close, I do believe that we should be having another athletic event in Barbados every year, along with 'Run Barbados'. I mean an athletic event which can bring a lot of athletes into Barbados, for example, the Hampton Games which are held

and Trinidad and the Gibson Relays that are held in Jamaica. I think that Barbados can put on a big enough athletic event and I call on the Amateur Athletic Association to rise to the challenge. Let us sit down together and thrash out these things so that we can continue to make tourism work and let others know that sports tourism is really and truly alive and well in Barbados.

I will come back, Sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

Asides.

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

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

process of education that they play a very important role in the development of this industry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Sir, I am concerned that we understand this is an important area for study as well; not just only economically or demographically, it is a question of our value system. What is tourism doing to that? Gambling is a problem to our society to the extent that it is becoming identified as being our culture. In part it is an outflow from our efforts to ensure we have a better product available in our tourist sector but what is gambling doing to our value system? What is it doing within the context of our work culture and our work ethics? We talked a lot about developing a proper work ethics and perhaps we are wrestling with the wrong thing. Maybe our priorities are misplaced. I am talking about our work ethos because if we develop a culture of gambling, if we develop a culture

of the instant 'get rich quick', if we put behind us that culture of effort and discipline and give ourselves to the kind of value system which becomes dependent upon globalisation today, we stand in danger of destroying further the work ethos which we have been known for in times past. Even in here, some of our lips gave voice to that view that we have lost that work ethos, where everybody else everywhere works harder than Barbadian now. I am suggesting that this business of tourism impacts upon our value system and if we are going to be studying what is happening to our demographic, economic or our resources, let us study what is happening to our value system as well.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think you better wind up.

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

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

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

Asides.

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

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

Tourism to tell us how he sees this particular view as it relates to gambling as it affects tourism.

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

Asides.

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

Sir, we must create the excitement and it should not be made in such a way that they are simply driven to the Cave. Sir, there is nowhere in the world when one visits the local point that it is so easily accessible; they make sure that you pass through many other things before reaching the local point but in Barbados we feel that we must always limit ourselves. Sir, any aggressive marketing plan for the tourism industry must look at that approach and enhance it and give people more things to do before they reach the local point.

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

Asides.

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

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

glad that the Honourable Member mentioned Moon Town because this is what you call progressive thinking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not advertising Moon Town?

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

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

5.00 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asides.

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

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

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

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

Asides.

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

Asides.

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

Sir, we were given the impression that we are doing so well within CARICOM. Mr. Chairman, in 2001 we had a 4.11 per cent decline on the U.K. market. We had a 5% decline on the U.S. market. The Canadian market, which we neglected, had 12.4 per cent decline. The CARICOM market was where we had the greatest decrease of 8.4 per cent. Sir, seeing that more CARICOM people should be inclined to travel within the Caribbean, one would have expected an increase rather than a decrease. Yet I am told in this House that we have an aggressive marketing plan for

the CARICOM region because I claimed previously that we have not been aggressive in the way we approach the CARICOM market.

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

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

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

Sir, I thank you.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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

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

5.10 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South and the Honourable Minister with responsibility for Tourism and International Transport indicated in his

opening remarks that the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment would play a critical role in the country's tourism development as a whole and to the overall development of the tourism product.

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

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

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

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

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

generation, for recreational purposes and for residential purposes.

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

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

At Walkers, Long Pond, St. Andrew, there will be dune restoration for coastal protection works. We are going to be working at Judge Gap, as I indicated. That project will cost us \$24 million. Yes, Judge Gap in St. Lucy, a place well known to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

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

We are going to be executing with the Professional Association of Guides and Operators the continuation of the mooring buoys project which, of course, is one of the major ways that we protect our reefs. The Chamber would

be well aware that there have been incidents in the past where ships have anchored causing significant damage to coral reef structures. Our intention is to minimise that as far as we can, and therefore, we are going to be extending the mooring buoys project.

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

Carlisle Bay which is perhaps the most dived site in Barbados is a popular diving site because it is the home,

5.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

In addition to that, we have no control and there is no structured utilisation of this area of the waters. Clearly, because of the small size of the area, it may not be in our interest just to keep throwing large numbers of people into that site continuously. We want to have a structured management and utilisation of the area and towards this end, we are developing the Carlisle Bay Marine Park and the Marine Management Authority which has now been discussed for some time but significant inroads have been

made in bringing these authorities into place. We hope that the overall management of the marine environment will be significantly enhanced by these measures, with which we will be cooperating closely with the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport.

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

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

One of the things that I feel we need to do, apart from the clear projects which we are going to be putting in place, and the kind of money that we going to be spending on these projects, is to educate Barbadians themselves, as part of the marine protection activities, we have to see the South Coast Sewerage Project and the upcoming West Coast Sewerage Project as part of the Government's major thrust at protecting the marine environment.

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

Therefore, most of our effort this year, will concentrate on public education, public sensitisation and working with those communities located near or on the coastline whether they are there carrying out commercial or revenue generating activities, whether they live on the coastline and therefore discharge things into the marine environment, or whether people are just using the beach for

recreational purposes. We really need to educate Barbadians about how the environment should be used, so that it is protected for the use of all of us and of future generations. Certainly, we expect that this marine protection which we are embarking on will significantly enhance our tourism product and ensure that Barbados' marine environment and coastal structures are well protected.

Asides.

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

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

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

The Barbados National Trust has done a fairly good job, Sir, in preserving one aspect of Eurocentric strands in some cases, but there are a number of other houses which they have identified as valuable for preservation. We have not been able to keep up the standard of those symbols with the same degree of pride that I would expect Barbadian people to preserve at this time in our history.

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

Frank Worrell is an outstanding, not only Barbadian but West Indian icon. He has international recognition. 5.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: The home there is made of wood and stone and is sitting on approximately 5 000 square feet of land. Also abutting and bounding that land is an additional 6 000 square feet of land the property of the Worrell's family. I know that one of the Government agencies is trying to promote this House as a living symbol. So I would like the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport to work in collaboration with that department to see if we can acquire this property. I know that the money is not in the capital Estimates on this occasion but I hope it would be some time in the near future. I believe it will be important to our heritage if a number of ministries can work in collaboration with each other to acquire the property.

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

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

Sir Frank Worrell was an icon in the middle of the 20th century but in the 19th century we had an outstanding African king by the name of King Jah Jah but in folklore mockery has been made of his contribution. He played a very meaningful role to the people of Opobo, Africa. King Jah Jah is a symbol of great struggle and a fighter for the preservation of the African lands and of social justice. He fought to preserve the Palm Oil industry in Africa which he represented as King. Sir, I use the word 'king' because in the western world 'king' is more respected than chief. He was perceived as a King and Caribbean people knew from the day he was brought from the coast of Africa across the ocean as a captive under British control and was abandoned in the region, just like how they abandoned Toussaint and overthrew many others in the Haitian revolution.

King Jah Jah was well respected both in Barbados and in St. Vincent where he was abandoned and the influence he had on Caribbean people was so meaningful

that they decided to treat him with dignity although being a captive at the time. They purchased a massive home which once housed the CBU building on Two Mile Hill opposite the residence of the Prime Minister for him and gave him a certain amount of flexibility in the environment. That is probably how he came into contact with Becka because he used to journey to Bridgetown and visit some of the institutions of the State of the day and it was said...

Asides.

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

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

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

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

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Sir, you probably do not understand. I want to be allowed to expound and expatiate in a manner and with such clarity that you would be able to understand the importance of political and cultural history and their value.

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

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

Tourism and International Transport and the Minister of Physical Development and the Environment would take the suggestions I have made into consideration.

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

5.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

Sir, it goes further. The fact that the Harrison's Cave is the most widely visited tourism attraction in Barbados can be largely traced to the fact that tours of the Cave are booked even when the visitors are on the high seas. In fact, Sir, a few years ago when we were having some problems with the trams, before they were upgraded and or replaced, one of two liners complained bitterly and threatened to pull out if we did not have these arrangements in place, given the fact that they had sold these attractions as part of the experience in coming to Barbados. Therefore, if they were

not able to deliver, it put the cruise liners in jeopardy in terms of their promise and performance. So that not only attractions like those have benefitted but the new adventure tours - the off roads, off tracks, going through gullies and other forms of nature - ecotourism - are all primary beneficiaries.

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

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

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

Sir, we can look to the Jamaican experience. Jamaica is as much known for its reggae music as it is known for anything else. It is as much known for its well recognised Jamaican artists who are winning international awards, et cetera, as it is for its beaches, hotels and others. Sir, we in Barbados need, from the perspective of long-term tourism development, to commit resources behind the effort of our musicians. They have the potential by way of achieving recognition. They have the potential by way of becoming household names in diverse parts of the world to so draw attention to Barbados, its existence, its image as a culture of excellence, its people, that we can, in fact, have that same level of recognition. Sir, I think for example of the fact that persons like Arturo Tappin and Nicholas Brancker are popular in Japan. I take the example of how popular Square One is in Surinam and in the Netherlands. Of course, there is the other unfortunate aspect of that, where some of these artistes are so popular they do not always reap the full economic benefits of their work because piracy is very rampant in some of those areas as well.

Sir, from my Ministry's perspective we, through the strengthening of our Intellectual Property Protection Act

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

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

6.00 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

On the other hand in Barbados, our tourism has evolved as part of the wider community. In some areas of Barbados it is more concentrated than others but a hotel, night club or other feature is never far away from the residents of this country. Therefore, we have to show case who we are, how we live, our talents and our ability. Therefore, the development of the music industry in

particular and the wider entertainment is not only part of our cultural expression but it has sound potential for economic earning for this sector.

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

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

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

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

I thank you, Sir.

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

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

Last year we had an economic slowdown across the globe so it is not wise for the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to come here and give the impression that tourism planners did not get it right last year. The fact of the matter is that the economies of our neighbours experienced a downturn as well in the tourism industry and in respect of tourists arrivals.

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

However, Mr. Chairman, in the post April 1, 2000 period, when we moved to a different type of arrangement, the restrictive licence regime was dismantled and when Barbados sought to honour one of its commitments to WTO, it introduced a new element all together.

6.10 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14, 2002

Hon. A.P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, that is a fact of life. The Prime Minister said a few days ago that the temporary return to the restrictive regime as a way of cushioning the effect of September 11th, on domestic industry as soon as practical. Sir, that will be removed and we will continue on our path of trade liberalisation. This action will put pressure on the local agricultural producers to get their act together and they do not have a lot of time to do so because the competition is here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asides.

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

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

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

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

6.20 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

out some level of framework based on an understanding of the programmes of the Ministry and the philosophical basis under which we intend to carry forward programmes this year.

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

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

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

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

and for the numbers we have up to now in February, it looks as if the decline has been in the areas of VFR traffic, visiting family and friends, charity and traffic, people that do not necessarily stay in hotels or registered accommodation in Barbados.

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

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

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

In terms of cruise arrivals, January 2002 has shown us only 0.6 per cent off in terms of what we did in 2001. At the end of the day, some of the other issues that we relate to have continued to be high. The airline load factor coming into Barbados during this period of recession and during this slow period, particularly in the new airlines that we have been able to encourage to come to Barbados,

continues to be high and I think that sends a message of what we are doing within the entire tourism sector to move the numbers ahead.

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

6.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

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

Then, Sir, there is the Heart of Barbados Celebrations Programme, in St. Thomas, which is an integrated nature tourism-based programme in that area. This is a Government facilitated community event and product which is now in its third year of operation. It includes areas around Harrison Cave, Jack In The Box Gully, the Flower Forest, Springvale Plantation and

Welchman Hall Gully. All of these are being offered to both nationals and visitors to come and enjoy what that particular parish, along with all these four or five attractions, have to offer.

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Sir, it is therefore to the credit of the current Minister that we have been able to ensure additional airlift from the United States. Sir, no statistics in relation to the filling of seats can derogate from that success. Having previously been responsible for international transport, I am always the first to say that it is the responsibility of the Minister to ensure that we secure additional airlift. There is another

agency set up for the purpose of ensuring that those seats are filled but the Minister has done his job and he is to be complimented.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

Asides.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I have led a Barbados delegation to various cruise conferences and seminars when I had responsibility for the area. My first trip was to Curacao and I remember being on a bus going from the airport to the hotel and saying to a number of my delegation that when they get to the hotel to call all the Caribbean ministers who will be attending that conference and let them know that I would like to meet with them. Apparently, I said that too loudly because one person on the bus who was from Trinidad and Tobago heard me say that and said 'that is a Bajan I hear saying that we need to get together to plan this'. I did not know what he meant but then he went on to tell me that in 1994 there was an agreement that all of the

territories would charged \$10 each as head tax for visiting cruise passengers and it was Barbados who reneged on the agreement. This is pre September 1994 I am talking about. The previous administration shamed this country by selling out after having reached an agreement that all the countries would have charged a common head tax. Barbados under the Democratic Labour Party reneged on that promise and broke up the whole plan to have a unified approach in relation to dealing with cruise liners.

So, Mr. Chairman, we are now paying the price as individual territories because it is a fact that individual countries can never ever fool themselves that they can maximize returns dealing with the cruise lines alone. I remember in 1997/98 I was on a cruise conference, Barbados was working in cohesion with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) at the time, and I was recalled by the Prime Minister to meet with the OECS countries and try to solve a problem because a cruise line had been threatening to pull out of Grenada because of something in connection with a levy. A position was taken that if they had pulled out of Grenada all of the other OECS countries would have said that they could not come to their country either. That occasion was the closest this region came to having a unified approach and it was the first time that I saw any sign of unity emerging in this matter because the simple truth is that there is simply too much dog eat dog among the territories in the region when it comes to cruise tourism.

Asides.

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

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

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

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

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

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

I would like to know, Sir, if the Honourable Member who is from rural Barbados, does not understand what occurs within the sugar industry. A lot of people in Barbados believe that the all-inclusiveness in tourism started within tourism. The truth is; the all-inclusiveness in tourism started within the sugar industry and after the owners of capital recognised that the sugar industry was not the industry to profit anymore, they moved the concept straight into the tourism industry. That is why we have this policy within the tourism industry of all-inclusiveness. Sir,

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

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

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

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I have always been relevant. What is happening, Sir, is that the people within the tourism sector cannot expect Government go give them everything while, at the same time, they want to be selfish and import everything. They have to understand that the Government has to pull from two main areas and if it has to take from both the agricultural and manufacturing industries, they must help those two sectors and there must be a close linkage between the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Sir, but no. We feel we should be able to tell Government how much money we are bringing in as if the agricultural industry does not bring in money. We also have to remember that before we had tourism, we

had the agricultural industry and there was a time when the manufacturing industry was an industry that was bringing in the revenue for Government. Sir, suddenly those persons within the tourism industry feel as though they are lords upon themselves and nobody should be able to tap into that industry. When they were dependent upon both the agricultural and manufacturing industries, they knew the importance of those industries.

Sir, we have to realise that in order to help they must pull from somewhere else but this selfish attitude that we are allowing to dominate in this country must stop. If it does not stop all we are doing is creating and encouraging crime within the country. Sir, they must understand that places like North Stars Cricket Club in St. Lucy, attracts over 1200 tourist every year and that too, is playing a role in tourism. Therefore, the Barbados Tourism Authority must understand that North Stars Cricket Club is contributing to the tourism project but not at the same level.

Asides.

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

Asides.

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

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

Asides.

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

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

At the same time, Sir, we cannot have a problem at our seaport and be sending our cruise ships and other ships elsewhere; we must have alternatives if we truly want to be a developed country. Sir, when I hear the Minister of Tourism speaking, I expect the Minister of Tourism to come and deal with issues like this.

7.00 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. D. StE. KELLMAN: I also want to deal with something which the Minister of Tourism said, Sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asides.

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

it as a weapon against them. Until that information could be given, we should have taken a tough stance on them.

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

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

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

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

I thank you, Sir.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, you would have heard the Honourable Minister of Tourism indicate that Barbados is mature. I want to begin by commenting on that point. We see here under the particular subprogram to which I refer that the allocation being requested is \$9 450 000 more than was allocated in the past financial year.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South said that Barbados is mature. If I am correct in interpreting mature to mean that Barbados is a mature tourist market, then clearly the time has come for us to consider precisely what strategies we would have to evolve in marketing Barbados, especially when the Minister also said that tourism is the people's business.

7.10 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Sir, when one comes to the mature stage, one has to consider that one must come up to a peak and close to the summit. In the context of a highly

touristic culture worldwide, we in Barbados have to ensure that our marketing strategy, in every sense of the term, has to forge on the proper anthem.

The Honourable Minister said that tourism is the people's business. I take the curious approach of looking to see what we here in Barbados can do to market our tourism. If it is the people's business, it is not just the business of the tourists, it is the business of all of us. A question tonight is, in what way are all of us Barbadians involved in marketing our tourism?

Historically the pull-factors, pulling towards Barbados, have been our sea, sun and sands and particular attractions. How can we as Barbadians living here, especially those who work in the tourism industry, set about to ensure that we play our part in continuing to attract tourists here?

Mr. Chairman, I apprehend that in the context of the management of the industry in the private sector and the interaction of that management with the workers, there is still a considerable amount to be done. I wonder how many workers feel that they own a share or a stake in the tourist business beyond selling their labour and receiving a wage? I repeat that question, Mr. Chairman. I wonder how many persons who work in the tourist industry see themselves as important stakeholders beyond selling their labour and earning a wage? How many people in the tourist business, working the restaurants, hotels, entertainers, taxi drivers and persons who sell craft, recognise that they are in a service business and do their utmost to keep the tourists coming back?

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy knows of a taxi driver called Bruce. When Bruce, humble and working class as he is, gets an opportunity to interact with tourists, there is a guarantee that 80 per cent of them want to come back to Barbados and drive in Bruce's taxi. How many waiters in the hotels interact with the tourists, while not selling or compromising their dignity, while not being subservient or so conscious and attitudinally tuned in to do their utmost to keep those tourists coming back to Barbados? How many of us are saying that Barbados is a desirable tourist destination and we slumber in our complacency and do not get proactive even at the micro level to try to woo the tourists back?

I am not suggesting that we should be subservient, fawning and obsequious, Mr. Chairman, but if our quest for the future is to sell a service and to market it in our own way internally, attracting and pulling the tourists back, then there is much to be done.

How many workers in the area of human resource development and management in the tourist industry are so embraced by the management to feel part of a process

where their role, beyond selling their labour in a narrow way, is to market their establishment, market their locality and market this island of ours?

Has the time not come when there is a need for a greater interaction between the workers in the industry and those who are the directors and managers designed to take the approach beyond the question of a distant impersonal relationship between management and workers?

In today's press there is an interesting story of a significant amount of alleged sick leave among hotel workers. Is it a question of a malaise where there is now neutral suspicion between those who manage and direct and those who work, where people who do not feel to be part of the process strike back by resorting to tactics designed to send a message and a signal? Sir, if that type of thing, where people appear to be malingering and are off duty when they should not be, cause stress in the establishment, then ultimately tourism could suffer.

Sir, I am not sending any alarm. In a situation where we live in a highly competitive global environment, if each of us, from worker up to management, is determined to ensure that we all play our part, then a type of harmony should be put in train where those who employ labour and those who sell labour should set the stage to ensure that any disharmony is averted and that the disharmony is so averted that it does not impact negatively on wooing people to their establishment and to this country.

In certain circumstances where the Honourable Minister of Tourism is asking this Committee to grant in excess of \$9.5 million to market Barbados, we have to bear in mind that if we are at the mature stage of our development as an industry, we also have to involve our youth and school children in a way where we let them maintain their dignity, let them recognise that they and Barbadians have first chance on Barbados. In an era where tourism is the major service and they will be selling services in the future we have to focus the youth and the students to understand how critical it is to be onboard in the process. That is important, in my view.

I am not going to look at external marketing. The Honourable Minister is competent to defend himself here. Even though I am not looking at it, I would want to applaud the Honourable Minister for his personal interest in seeing more airlines and more passengers come to Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy will say that there is no point having more airlines which are coming to Barbados empty. Nobody in his or her right senses would want to woo airlines here in circumstances where the load factors do not work in our interest. If the Honourable Minister of Tourism is keen to have more airlines come to

Barbados, obviously he is going to indicate, by way of his strategy, the locations from which the airline would be coming. He would be looking to diversify the amount of places from which they come and in the process he will be doing his utmost to optimise the numbers that come and the return that we get.

Sir, I now turn to the question of subprogramme 341, where the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is applying to this Honourable Committee for the sum of \$4.75 million under item 626, professional services, in the context of the proposed airport expansion project. The by-line to it is that the programme statement says that the purpose of the subprogramme is to provide for consultancy services necessary to develop the airport strategic development plan and to transfer the airport into a fully autonomous body.

Mr. Chairman, nobody will deny that fundamental to touristic infrastructures would be proper port facilities at the seaport and the airport. There have been instances this year and last year where if you took a close look at the number of aircraft on the ground at Grantley Adams International Airport and the number of passengers and the traffic on the ground at the same time during peak hours, you would be left to conclude, Mr. Chairman, that the time has come for us to accept that our airport and the airport facilities are puny.

Mr. Chairman, the point is, we have come to a situation where there is a clear need to expand everything at the airport, not just to increase the facilities to better facilitate those who arrive but in this era, enhancing security at the airport will have to be of paramount concern. I have every confidence that when my colleague, the distinguished and learned Honourable Member for St. Michael South returns, he will further expatiate in his own inimitable manner.

I thank you.

7.20.p.m

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: In my last intervention, Mr. Chairman, I was trying to deal with the nexus between the role that the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment will play in the development of our tourism products and I want to continue on that particular theme. I spoke then in relation to what we are going to be doing with the marine environment with regard to specific projects and programmes that we will be implementing over the next financial year.

I would wish now to turn my attention to the built and natural environment and to focus on some of the projects which we think will have to complement the Ministry of Tourism's efforts over the course of the coming year. Apart from advertising Barbados' sun, sea and sand which has long been what we have been selling there has been an attempt by Barbados and by the Ministry of Tourism to explore various niche markets and we are going to be making some effort to upgrade some of the existing facilities which are owned by Government and which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment as well as putting in place a number of new initiatives which we think will enhance the tourism product significantly.

One of those projects is the Gully Ecosystems Management Project under which we hope to manage sensitively Barbados' gullies. At the moment, they are being under-utilised and are rarely used for recreational purposes and they have become a place for all kinds of nocturnal activity, from romantic to nefarious, and we hope to bring them into productive use and to manage this use in such a way that the gully systems are not compromised or over-utilised but that the public understands that they can enhance our places for recreation, that they will become places which tourists who have an interest in eco-tourism would want to visit.

In addition to that, one of our primary efforts in the developing of gullies and our eco-system management thrust will be to stop the degree of illegal dumping which now takes place in many of the gullies, thereby putting our underwater resources and underwater trawling areas at risk. A lot of the time we have no idea of what the materials which are dumped in gullies are. Some of them are in sensitive areas including zone one areas which form important catchment areas for our water resources.

During the course of this year, \$857 000 will be spent on the development of the gullies project. I am looking at catching them all at the same time because there are in excess of 300 gullies in Barbados and we hope to bring as many as possible into productive use and to sensitise the communities that live around these gullies into using them in a more productive way rather than just using them en route to some place or to dump.

Already, I am particularly pleased to note, the Haynesville community has embarked on a clean-up of the gully which runs between Haynesville on one side, Oxnards Crescent and Durants Village on the other. They have been doing quite a lot of work in using that gully sensitively in making sure that young fellows and girls in the community come out and play their role in getting it cleaned up of all the litter and old metals and other refuse that had been dumped in the gully. I hope that we will be able to expand that project to other communities in

Barbados. We have developed a gully poster out of a poster competition and there is a jingle which I think is very rhythmical that is already playing on the radio stations which we are going to use to promote the gullies.

Apart from the Gully Ecosystem Project there are a number of existing facilities which we are going to be upgrading during the course of this financial year and they include Queen's Park, Barclays Park, Three Houses where we have proven to be a very popular park and at which we are also going to be putting down a jogging track for use by people who live in that particular area. We will also significantly upgrade the Farley Hill National Park where we are going to put in a restaurant facility. That is a very popular picnic site and is a popular liming spot which is used for a number of cultural presentations. There is much work that we are going to execute there over the course of the next year and we figure that it will be enhanced significantly if there were a restaurant somewhere on the compound which would make proper meals readily available. The restaurant will be put out to tender for private sector interests to operate because, as you are well aware, Sir, while the NCC has a number of restaurants on its various properties, it does not itself operate any of them. They are all put out to private sector interests, thereby making business and investment opportunities and jobs available to the wider market.

At Farley Hill, we will also be embarking on a programme to make that particular park more accessible to those who are physically challenged and we will be making similar initiatives at the Three Houses Park, the King George V Memorial Park and the Bath facility, all of which are very popular and very highly used by the public and tourists alike.

We believe that it is important that persons who are physically challenged should be allowed equally to have access to these facilities to be able to enjoy them just like the rest of the public and to come out when there are major cultural activities like the Jazz Festival and be able to mix with the crowd and be part of what is going on simply because we will now make them accessible by putting in the appropriate ramps and turning bays for wheelchairs that will make these particular sites more accessible to persons with physical challenges.

The Harrison Cave Project is another project on which we will be embarking during the course of this financial year. I think it is widely known that Harrison Cave is the most visited site by tourists in Barbados. We have determined that it should enjoy a physical expansion which will include the purchase of new trams for the Cave, the upgrading and expansion of existing facilities and the inclusion of communities which live over and around the Cave in the benefits that are to be had from the improvement of that particular product.

In addition to that, we are contemplating having walk-through tours, not walk-in from the post office as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was suggesting, because we do not want anybody who might not be physically fit to die of exhaustion but, certainly, we are contemplating having walk-through of the Cave tours rather than use of the trams, because there are those persons who would enjoy the experience of walking rather than being taken in the trams, and that is something we are exploring. It is not something that we are going to do on a daily basis, but it may be introduced during the course of this financial year as part of the new kind of tour which we will be seeing at Harrison Cave.

We are going to upgrade the existing facilities at the Cave, including the various shops and make them more accessible to the public. We are going to improve the restaurant facilities and we have already embarked on the use of photovoltaic energy at Harrison Cave and, certainly, we are going to continue with this experimentation because as the Ministry of Environment we want to be in the forefront of using new and environmentally friendly technologies and we believe that there are several opportunities for the use of photovoltaic energy rather than the use of fossil fuel energy, not only at Harrison Cave but throughout Barbados. Clearly, our experimentation with a number of energy uses, using the alternative energy sources, is going to be continued over the course of this coming financial year.

7.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The upgrade of Harrison Cave is going to cost the Government \$7.4 million over the course of the next financial year.

The Beautify Barbados 2000 project which was a project conceptualised in 1997/1998 when I previously held this portfolio and which contemplates the beautification of the island's major highway, the original concept was that we would start at the airport and move north along the ABC Highway and then we would go on to the Highway 1, the coastal highways, again starting at the Airport and going north. When we finished those two main arterial veins, then we would go along the main highways that took you from the ABC Highway, into the east of Barbados. That project has not gone as well as we had anticipated initially, but during the course of the coming year, we are going to tap the private sector. The whole notion behind the Beautify Barbados 2000 project is not just that we beautify the Highway, but that we significantly green Barbados and improve the ecstatic look and the whole natural environment and the green scape of Barbados, making it a much more pleasant place for people to live and work and for tourists to enjoy.

The notion is that once we start the beautification process, we will get business communities, residential communities, NGOs, sporting and cultural groups within close proximity of the areas which are beautified, to be responsible, along with us, for the long term maintenance and upkeep of the areas. We are hoping that with the use of a lot of indigenous plants, as we execute the project, that it will create an industry in greater uses of indigenous plants in Barbados and people would start to beautify the communities in which they live, all as a result of seeing what is taking place on the highway, what can be done with all of the indigenous plants that we regard as grasses or that we do not think of highly, or that we under use in the effort to import very expensive plants.

There is very much a local horticultural industry and it is in our interest, therefore, to promote the use of our horticulturalist and the efforts being made currently, by incorporating them into the Beautify Barbados 2000 project. That will take \$2.4 million of our budget over the course of this year and we are going to increase the number of persons who were previously working on this project, so as to have it executed more quickly.

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

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir.

In the minute remaining to me, Sir, I would move very quickly to make two points. One will be to return briefly to Farley Hill and to indicate that at Farley Hill, we are going to be developing, not what will be novel in Barbados but is popular throughout the north America. We have done a lot of the preparatory work already and that is, a development of a camp site at Farley Hill.

Camping is popular. It is an important part of Wildey and will become an important part of our tourism product. There are those groups of tourists, particularly in the younger age groups, who move, for instance, throughout Europe as back packers, who move from camp site to camp site and so on. We believe that we can make a new thrust in the marketing of Farley Hill as a camp site and that it will not only add to the overall utilisation of Farley Hill, but it will add to the niche product available in tourism in Barbados and that camp site will be developed over the course of this year.

Finally, Sir, I would want to make the Chamber aware, although I have spoken about it here before, of the national botanical garden which will be developed at Waterford, on lands east of the National Stadium and contiguous with the National Conservation Commission Headquarters.

We believe a national botanical garden will enhance the tourism product. I have spoken in the Chamber already, but this will not just be plants and shrubbery but will involve camping, a safety village for children, it is going to have the flowers of the Caribbean, and I will speak to the concept more fully when we come to the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment. I hope in my next intervention, Sir, to speak to what the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment will be doing in relation to sports tourism.

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER, and asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 8.20 p.m.

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

The question that the Sitting be now suspended until 8.20 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

7.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (CONT'D)

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

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister has indicated some of his plans for the airport, and the Honourable Member for St. James North spoke in his usual crystal clear manner about the pressing need for expansion at our lone international airport and I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy when he speaks will speak to his frequent recommendation for a second airport in St. Lucy. However, my issue relates to the manner in which the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport impacts on the residents who live around the airport.

The Grantley Adams International Airport happens to be in the constituency of Christ Church East which I represent. Therefore, I have a responsibility both from my ministerial perspective to work with my colleague in the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport to ensure that the expansion of the airport brings rich dividends to the country as a whole and a responsibility to represent the interest of the people in whose names I stand here tonight. It is in that context that I need to raise on their behalf their concerns and frustrations and make a recommendation they have asked me to make.

Sir, the people who live around the Grantley Adams International Airport are accustomed to the airport being expanded. One lady who is now in this batch to be moved said to me, 'Mr. Farley, I remember when I use to live there'. Where she was pointing to is in the middle of the existing runway because when she was a little girl growing up she helped her father move rocks from the field at Seawell to facilitate the first landing strip. This would be her third move but the residents are thinking in a very philosophical and practical way. However, like everybody else, they want certainty because they want to be able to get on with their lives.

When I went to the constituency in 1998 this process and project was already overdue. There had been talk about moving since the early 1990s. However, in the areas of greatest restriction, the noise affected zone and the areas affected by the radar and with the potential to affect the radar operations, technical work was going on as to precisely what was the zone of interference and inconvenience and what was the exclusion zone that had to be created in the final approach of the aircraft. These are technical issues to be decided but the bottom line is that these issues are not just technical and national issues but are issues that affect people as they live every day.

In 1998/1999 the residents were ready to move. A plan was evolved and dates were set. The dates were not set by the residents but by officials from the Ministry of Housing and Lands who on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport were given the responsibility to do the land acquisition and offer the necessary alternatives.

Sir, I am satisfied that the offer that has been made to the residents is not only a fair one but a very generous one but what a great pity that such a well-conceived project and such generosity of spirit that informed the decision as to how to calculate and pay compensation or make restitution could not also have been accompanied by efficient timely action by the Ministry of Housing and Lands. What a great pity that that could not also have been accompanied by the regular open dialogue and communication which any person could reasonably expect

as one of the parties involved in a relocation effort. That is all they are asking for, Sir.

I have certainly played my part. I have gone on several visits to the area doing house to house work explaining what is happening but at the end of the day I am not one of the legal parties to the agreement so whatever I say in terms of when the move will occur and what will happen still does not substitute for proper correspondence from the Ministry of Housing and Lands that says to John Browne what will happen with his house and what the compensation would be.

The project is an excellent one and Cabinet decided that the relocation had to meet certain standards. We were very clear in our minds that we wanted to maintain communities and keep families intact and would as far as possible accommodate residents in adjacent areas. We were able to identify spots in Fairy Valley a little further away from the fence and we offered them an option of going to Lead Vale as well so persons were able to choose.

We were at a point in the Government where we were introducing the building code and made a decision that we would take the opportunity to ensure that these houses are constructed to conform to the building code. We were also very concerned about disaster mitigation, so the Government would lead by example in ensuring that the houses we construct would be able to withstand hurricane force winds as specified in the building code.

We also took a decision since many of the houses we would be acquiring were wooden houses that we would do two things. Firstly, we would not try to move those wooden houses from where they are to go elsewhere because you would never get them put together properly and therefore, took the decision to construct all wall houses for this project. I am sure that many Honourable Members would have had the experience of assisting in moving somebody's house and know that it never goes back together well. So persons who have wooden houses now would have a wall house at the end of the project. We took the decision that persons would not be disadvantaged and that they would obtain a replacement house of equivalent size to the one which they had previously. As I said, this is a very good project but the execution of it is what caused the project to fall into some disrepute and has caused a delay in the airport expansion efforts.

There is no hostility towards the project or to the move by the good people of Christ Church East particularly those 68 families from Fairy Valley and Thyme Bottom who are involved in this effort because those families for the most part have relatives or friends working at the airport. Some are red caps and traffic controllers.

Mr. Chairman, this project should be an object lesson for public servants to understand that when they are dealing with communities and individual citizens out there they are not dealing with inanimate objects but with individuals who are worthy of getting the normal consideration that one would expect of two parties doing business; regular and frequent communication.

Sir, I am satisfied that my colleagues and I will be able to increase the pace and advancement of this project. Sir, this is imperative because there is a loan from the European Investment Bank to finance part of the airport expansion which is dependent on this. There is also the requirement to realign the road. Many people may not know that the road which currently takes you from the Shell Gas Station on Pilgrim Road down to the bottom of Wilcox Hill puts both aircraft and motorcars in peril by having them pass in very, very close proximity to one another as the road wraps around the airport fence just a few feet under the final approach for the aircraft, so that road is to be closed.

8.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, Barbados is in breach of International Civil Aviation Organisation's Standards for Safety by having that situation. Similarly, many persons may not know but there are houses in Thyme Bottom on the north side of what is called Cow Pasture which, when the British Airways 747 fly through and persons are standing in their veranda, they are looking up under the wing. Sir, nowhere in the civil aviation world is that permitted. There is a grave misunderstanding which is occurring; many Barbadians claim that when they are flying into other countries they can see houses below them.

Sir, to give the equivalent. The equivalent of the houses they are seeing would be like the ones in Gibbons. They do not have to move but if they look carefully, when they are in that final approach which starts from the road running through Parish Land, past my constituency office going down through Thyme Bottom and into Gibbons Terrace, no where in the developed world that allows for Concorde and other sophisticated aircrafts can one find any structures in that area. Sir, it is for the benefit of Barbados, generally; for the longevity of our tourism industry; for our continued ability to attract the best aircraft in the world. We should not take it for granted that Concorde comes here but, at the end of the day, with the new requirements for safety and security, the new requirements to ensure that we meet all standards of certification, we cannot take this chance.

Sir, the Ministry of International Transport is keen to have the project concluded. The residents of Thyme

Bottom and Fairly Valley are anxious to have this project concluded. It is my most fervent hope and pray that the officials of the Ministry of Housing would be equally anxious to have this project concluded. Sir, I want them to understand that not only are they standing in the way of national progress but also in the way of a normalised lifestyle. Sir, here is where the practical situation ends. If someone knows that they are going to be relocated because of the Airport Expansion Project and his door starts to fall off or his roof starts to leak, would that person still invest in spending between \$300 and \$1000 to do repairs when the possibility exists that they will be moved the next week or next month? What makes it worse, Sir, is that when a person does not know when the move will be, he is in double jeopardy if, at the very least, with basic communication he will be moved in March, December, then he can make that determination as to the choice between expenditure and comfort. Sir, it is those basic things that normal human being have to make every day.

Sir, therefore on their behalf, I want to indicate that they are very supportive of the expansion of the airport, recognizing the critical importance that the airport holds for Barbados and, indeed, for their community. They are very pleased with the concept in terms of the improvement in their standard of life, the improvement of their property values, et cetera, but certainly, predictability and respect are all that are being asked.

Sir, there is another set of persons in another grave zone, because beyond the area of the land which is to be acquired there are persons whose lands are not required at this time but who are not able to obtain permission from the Town Planner to do, not only expansion, but even normal development.

It is my submission, Sir, that where in the public's interest, an area is considered as one in which there should be no development, the owner of that property should not be left in limbo. The Crown should acquire that property which, therefore, frees that individual to go elsewhere and do his development. Sir, the individual understands the public interest but why should an individual pay by way of his inability to develop his property in order to preserve the public's interest.

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

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is a principle not known to our system of governance therefore, Sir, I am pleased that we are getting a step closer. I recently have been advised by the Chief Town Planner that some determinations have been made concerning the noise-affected zone, the ark which is required for restrictions required which will not affect the radar installation which is located on Hopefield Hill on top of Charnocks there is a

need to reduce, for example, the amount of metal. One should not use metallic roofs within a certain area. Sir, we will be holding a meeting very shortly with Sir Harold St. John, yourself Mr. Chairman, and the residents to inform of these new well-defined areas so that together we can do the necessary physical planning, letting people know what areas are required for public purposes and acquire them so that people are free to get on with their lives elsewhere. Sir, for heaven's sake, all they are asking, through me, is that they be not kept in any state of purgatory for any great length of time. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. R. N. GREENED: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a short intervention at this time. Sir, I am forced to join this Debate because no less than three Speakers so far have lamented the fact that enough is not being done in our schools where tourism is concerned and that there is very little education in tourism in Barbadian primary and secondary schools.

Mr. Chairman, before getting into my point, it is within my knowledge that at the Barbados Hospitality Institute, which is an adjunct of the Barbados Community College, that institution has been called upon to train more than 200 hotel workers for the hotel programme in the United States of America, a programme which is being pushed by the Ministry of Labour. Sir, there are many of those persons who have gone abroad and have returned to Barbados and who have actually expressed their gratitude for the life skills they were taught in those particular programmes and that those life skills they were taught have served them well indeed.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is unfortunate that such accusations of not a lot being done would have been hurled at our school children when, in fact, so much is being done at the Hospitality Institute in particular.

Now, I would believe where the primary schools are concerned, and I think the same point was made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, that there is no need for us to choke the primary school children with a tourism programme as such.

8.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. R. N. GREENED: There is no better education for primary school students than to teach courtesy, politeness, cleanliness and helpfulness.

We do not need to teach these things in a tourism setting. If we teach them these things generally speaking, they will come in handy in terms of life. It should become a way of life for them. We are teaching them to be polite to everybody including the tourists. We are teaching them to

keep their surroundings clean and that means to keep Barbados clean. To be helpful to everyone and that means to be helpful to the tourists because these things will come in handy in every aspect of their lives.

We are now introducing Spanish to the primary schools because tourism has opened our eyes to the fact that Spanish is an extremely important subject as we are close to Latin America and there will be occasions when tourists will want to have directions or want to purchase an item as well as the fact that Spanish will come in useful in life generally speaking.

Mr. Chairman, when I was a boy, a Frenchman came to Barbados on a transatlantic voyage and was rescued on the point of death by a fisherman and I understood what he was saying in French. He said he wanted to have some hot tea so I ran home to my mother and gave him the tea. I think I actually saved his life by giving him that tea so I know how useful a foreign language can be.

Mr. Chairman, primary school children are taught about places of interest. They are taught about places of interest, the history of those places and where they can find these places. They know where to find Harrison Cave, Sam Lords Castle and Codrington College so I am not particularly worried if the children in primary school can be an asset to us in terms of tourism because I know they have the necessary information. They know the number of parishes in Barbados, what the capital is, who is the Prime Minister and what is our main crop.

Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that they can answer any question that a tourist will put to them. I do not think we need a particular subject called 'tourism' on our primary school curriculum. We do not need to burden them with arrival statistics, comparative analysis and all kinds of statistical data in primary school at this stage. We can teach a lot of these simple related concepts rather than teaching it as a separate subject itself.

Mr. Chairman, we have a lot of new things on the curriculum already like information technology, Spanish, the whole question of their attitude to HIV/AIDS and we are now asking them to put tourism on the curriculum. Mr. Chairman, my fear is that soon there will be no room for the old things like English, Religious Education and so on, on the curriculum.

Mr. Chairman, a few months ago we opened an annex to the Hospitality Institute at the All Saints Primary School in St. Peter and that location is in heavy demand by a number of young people from St. Peter and St. Lucy who want to be trained in the various skills needed in the tourism industry so I am not too worried about the level of education in tourism related areas. The same Hospitality Institute works very closely with the secondary schools.

Very often the schools have programme which the Hospitality Institute will introduce to teach skills so as to allow children to fit into certain niches within the tourism industry. There is tourism awareness in our schools and I do not have the fears that are expressed by other people.

In closing, I want to say that the Honourable Member for St. James North asked how many of our workers are so adaptational tuned in to keep the tourists coming back. It was a beautifully worded question. He gave the example of a taxi driver called Bruce and I am sure that this taxi driver did not attend classes in tourism for one moment but he was able to keep tourist coming back.

8.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to support this Head. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North has explained that there are a number of programmes being undertaken within the school system. I believe that many students are taught the importance of tourism to the economy.

It is my view that more work should be done to see how best we can develop tourism facilities inland. I think that enough is being done to develop eco tourism. Recently, I discovered that there is a nice area located at Lakes, St. Andrew that has not been developed. I believe that this type of facility could be established if the Ministry of Tourism and the private sector can work together to accomplish this.

The private sector has been allowing Government to set the pace and the private enterprise has not been doing their part by investing enough in tourism. There is a need for more investment by the private sector and those persons who benefit from the tourist dollar. The Government has spent a lot of money over the years to develop and market tourism. I also believe that more money will have to be spent in the future.

We have seen the vulnerability of the tourist sector especially after the event of September 11th. Some time ago we noticed the seasonality of tourism. I understand that more tourists are now coming to Barbados outside of the traditional tourist season and that is good for the industry. Tourism is what pays our bills and we have to be mindful of this fact and more has to be done, not only to market tourism, but to keep tourists coming and spending more money in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware that there are plans for the extension of the Gatley Adams International Airport. The Ministry of Housing and Lands has always been involved

in the relocation process. I want to make this Honourable House aware that from the time I came to the Ministry in 1994, we heard of the relocation of a number of households located within the environs of the airport to facilitate the expansion of the Gatley Adams International Airport.

I want to make the point that the Ministry of Housing and Lands has been involved in a number of relocations. Whenever we are involved in the relocation of households, it is important to note that a social survey has to be carried out. We have been involved in the relocation of households from Emerton to Clapham. It is important to note that the Barbados Labour Party upgraded the facilities at that time. Those households who found new accommodation are very happy because of improved conditions.

We are relocating approximately 70 households from near the Gatley Adams International Airport. There are 33 wooden houses, 34 substantial units and some stone houses. Prior to our taking over the Government, the then Government of the day wanted to relocate the wooden houses at the time. The Barbados Labour Party Government took the initiative, after regaining power, to improve the condition of those householders. The Government is now building all wall houses at Thyme Valley and Fairy Valley for those householders who will be relocated. Sir, this means that all those persons who previously owned wooden houses will now get wall houses.

The Land Acquisition Act, as we know it, does not apply to this particular area. The Government stated in this Parliament when we acquired the land near the airport that there was no market value at the airport. How many of us would want to live near the airport? The Government has taken the decision and used what we called a replacement value and replaced the homes of the thirty-four substantial masonry units.

We brought in an engineer and other consultants to value the houses. The consultants told us that the total value of these substantial masonry units would be approximately \$4.1 million. We told the householders what the valuation of their homes was and some have agreed to take the money and some said they wanted the Government to build their houses. We are currently building 33 houses and there are another 34 houses to be built. We will look at how best we can accommodate everybody.

I told the officers we need to consult with the representatives of the constituency.

9.00 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I believe that the civil servants sometimes are not au fait with what goes on in the community and need to consult more with the politicians. They need to consult with Members of Parliament. I do not know why the civil servants seem scared of consulting with the representatives. I have always impressed on them that it is very important to consult with representatives of the area. I find that when they consult with the representative he or she is able to take back relevant information to the people about any problems that may exist.

I want to make the point that all of the persons who are getting houses at Fairy Valley, housing will be improved and the conditions will be better and all the thirty-three structured homes will be well appointed. It has also been drawn to my attention that this full programme will cost the Government of Barbados in the vicinity of \$10.2 million. The cost of the 33 houses is estimated to be \$2 922 000, the compensation or reinstatement of the 24 another \$4.124 million, land acquisition that came in here last year cost \$2.5 million and construction of the three additional houses is in the vicinity of another \$300 000. The full project when it is completed will cost the Government about \$10.2 million.

So far, we have completed five houses. Twelve houses should be completed by the end of this month. A further eight houses have been tendered for so that by the end of May to June approximately 25 houses should be completed. Now it is important to note that as the Member for the City will tell you people change their minds. You do a survey and a person has a 800 square foot house and by the time you get back the person has a 1000 square foot house. Sometimes one person is the owner but the next time it is the grandmother who is the owner and sometimes you cannot find the owner.

There are a lot of problems and the Ministry of Housing has been doing this for a long time. I have heard other Government agencies want to get involved and have been involved in the project but I understand the problems and the anxieties of Members. I am not one to condemn the behaviour or the tardiness of some of the officers, I believe that they need to understand that we have limited time. I think they need to understand this because the average civil servant feels that time is not of the essence, but it is important for them to understand because, as I said before, when we came to office in 1994 these houses were supposed to be removed. The last Administration was to move them. We have taken the initiative and have started and we will complete the movement of the 70 by the end of the year; but the compensation is important.

If we can get cooperation between both the Ministries, the Member of Parliament and International Transport because a lot has to do with International

Transport. We are building these houses for International Transport. I am not blaming anybody. All I am saying is that both the Ministries of International Transport and Housing are working as a team and they are getting improved conditions and improved surroundings. In fact, I must say that even those persons who were thinking about compensation up front are now saying, having seen what is going on at Fairy Valley, that they want Government to build the houses for them because it is easier and better for Government to build the houses. Some of them say that they do not want to have to go to the market and hire a contractor and have to get materials and pay labour so they want the Government to build the houses for them.

I want to assure the House that by the end of the year all the 70 households will be taken care of and we would hope that they will be happy. I want to speed up the process and give the Members the assurance that we will try our best to speed up the process to ensure that the 70 house owners will be moved by the end of the year.

I also understand that there is a further set of houses to be moved that we are not aware of over to the south so we have to look at that as well.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to welcome the last two speeches, especially the one from the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and the one from the Honourable Member for St. George North. The truth is, Sir, after listening to both, I cannot find out which one to believe because it is clear to me that the one from Christ Church East is representing the interest of his constituents and I support him on that because that is a mass-based constituency and you know, Sir, I would be willing to represent the interest of the mass-based constituency. What bothers me is that the Minister of Housing can come to this Parliament on three occasions and in a fifteen-minute speech seek to blame the Democratic Labour Party for not removing the people from that particular area. He made the point on three different occasions that it was the Democratic Labour Party which started the project and eight years after the Minister cannot even remove one house. Yet he knew of the plight of the people in the area, and now it has taken eight years for the Minister to do something about it.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, when we became the Government, the Democratic Labour Party had caused so much confusion that we had to start afresh. As I said before, the Prime Minister has made the point that we want to build substantial houses there, not wooden houses. We do not believe in putting people back in pit toilets as the DEMS were seeking to do. We want to improve their conditions but you all were speaking about putting back the persons with pit toilets.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, imagine it took the Minister eight years to find out that in order to remove someone from a pit toilet to a water-borne toilet it would take eight years to do it, whereas the private sector has been able to make many more houses without even knowing of the particular problems. That is not all, Sir, I have said on many occasions in this Parliament that the Land Acquisition Act needed to be changed and the Minister has always made the point that there was no need, yet he came to this Parliament today and admitted that he operated outside of the Land Acquisition Act as it related to this particular development.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, The Honourable Member first of all cannot make an assumption that an Honourable Member, particularly a Minister, has acted outside of the four corners of the law. Also, in the particular instance what the Honourable Member said was not that he acted outside of the law but that there are two sections of the Land Valuation Act such as relates to compensation and the one which is most frequently evoked is one that can pay compensation based on the market value. Further on in the same Act, it says where no market exists the compensation shall be paid based on reinstatement value so that they are both within the law and the Minister simply said that in most instances one was used but in this instance the other was used, both within the law so that the Honourable Member would need to withdraw that unintended inaccuracy and press on.

9.10 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, I have accepted the criticism and the point made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and I agree with him that the Minister had the right to make that point. However, if he is now making that particular point for the Minister, I accept it. The Minister must understand that the Honourable Member for St. George North should write to the Attorney General's office, like I have done on many occasions, requesting that the Land Acquisition Act be changed because it is outdated.

Sir, I want to ask one question of this House. How come the whole world can criticise what is going on in Zimbabwe where the land is taken from the rich to give to the poor?

Aside.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I have been asking this Parliament not to take land from the poor to give to the poor, but Parliament cannot understand that particular point. It amazes me that nobody seems to understand that there is a relationship between Zimbabwe and Barbados. I

am saying, Sir, that we need to change the Land Acquisition Act as it relates to Barbados in total and not only to a particular area in Christ Church.

I remember that debate well, Sir, when I congratulated the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for his brilliance and asked him, in which capacity he used it, if it was the capacity of parliamentary representative for the area or the other title that he has, to get the Minister of Housing to accept the suggestion that I have been giving the Parliament for a long time.

I honestly feel that all land acquisitions should be done based on this new principle but I also feel that we should make the necessary move in here, Sir, to correct the problem as it relates to the Land Acquisition Act. It is not fair for us to take land from poor people and give them money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Speaker, you have now gone on to another subject altogether.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: No. We are dealing with international transport.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the past three minutes, you were speaking on another subject. Please get back to tourism.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the international transport ministry is requesting the Ministry of Housing.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Many other speakers spoke about the Land Acquisition Act as it relates to the airport and that is exactly what I am speaking on. I am saying, Sir, that the policy used at the airport, under the international transport section of this particular debate, should be the same policy used throughout Barbados. I will not challenge anybody on this but I think, Sir, that I am within my right to make that particular point. If you say that I am in breach, I am willing to abide by your ruling.

I will say, Sir, do not let strangers influence your decision because you are in the Chair. They are strangers as it relates to this point and only the two of us have a say in this matter now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am saying, Sir, that we have spent a lot of money expanding the airport and we need to do a cost-effective analysis on the amount of money spent on expanding the airport. The point is that if

there is a problem and the airport has to be closed, we will not have an alternative airport.

I am saying that the amount of money spent expanding the present airport, could have given us an alternative airport. Then at a later time, we could have done the expansion that was needed at the Gatley Adams International Airport.

Aside.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: It is not important where the alternative airport is, the point is that because this is a tourism structured economy, we have to make sure that we do not put all our eggs in one basket. We have been spending a lot of money and if we check to see the amount of money spent on the airport within the last five years, we will notice that we have spent as much money that could have given us a new airport and we have to think about that.

The truth is, even though all that money was spent expanding the airport, if the rain is falling, passengers will still get wet coming off the plane.

Aside.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: That is the truth and this problem does not exist in Trinidad and we, in Barbados claim to have one of the best airports and if the rain is falling, we will still get wet coming off the plane.

I want to know and I need the Minister to tell me, in what area we have spent this money and why is it that we could not be at the same stage, as many other international airports, where we can come off the plane and go into the terminal, without getting a drop of rain on our backs. If we are going to be spending more than \$100 million, surely we should have accommodation for that type of expansion at this point in time.

Sir, we also have to ask ourselves why is it that we are in a rush to spend so much money on the Deep Water Harbour. As it stands right now...

Aside.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Deep Water Harbour or the Port, whatever you want to call it, when in truth and in fact, there is another alternative where we could have an area solely for the cruise liners coming into Barbados without any interference. Yet, we want to spend millions of dollars when there is an investor or a group of investors who are prepared to pump over \$200 million into a project to do the same thing that we want to take taxpayers' money to do in Bridgetown.

I want to know the reason why, Sir, because if we are going to seriously tackle the cruise tourism industry, there are those types of developments that people want. We cannot continue to see Barbados as just some place where people come and bring cruise ships, dump the tourists and they go for an hour trip, et cetera. We should have a place to accommodate the turnaround ships overnight, where they have their own facilities. We could also have hotels constructed near the Port, like in places such as Miami and Puerto Rico.

We feel that these types of facilities are too good for the north of Barbados and we should expand the normal Port at Bridgetown. I am saying that we must recognise...

Aside.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have to understand that if we are going to seriously tackle the cruise tourism aspect of tourism, we must come with creative projects. If we have investors, especially like the British Port Authority, who are interested in getting involved in projects like the one I spoke of in St. Lucy, nothing should be done to hamper that project. In fact, it should be on the fast track, the same way that Sandy Lane was on the fast track. Sir, the feasibility study for this project has been completed, the tests have been carried out and we should be ready to get started because we need to have a project like that in Barbados.

Sir, I cannot see why we are going to deprive the Barbados Youth Service from that area, which is also part of that international transport project because it would fall under that particular Head when it is completed. It cannot be easily replaced. According to my document, there is a provision to build a new youth service and also to expand and develop the St. Joseph Hospital. I am saying that a project like that should not be put on the back burner but it should be brought up front. I would hate to believe that because this project is for St. Lucy, that is the reason why we are having the problem.

I thank you, Sir.

9.20 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I would take what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said as a compliment because as he said I am all over the place. I have responsibility for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport where I have to take care of all the road works, transportation, water and drainage in Barbados. So, Sir, he

is right, I am all over the place, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr. Chairman, I join this debate on Head 27 Ministry of Tourism and International Transport to give support to the Minister of Tourism and International Transport who, come April, would be in that position for two years and to compliment him on the fine job he is doing. He is a very able Minister with hands-on approach and I am quite sure that he will be in that position for a very long time.

Mr. Chairman, this tourism project will bring tremendous benefits to Barbados. It is the main foreign exchange earner of the country and provides employment for many Barbadians. Mr. Chairman, over the years it has been employing many people from the constituency of St. Michael West Central from such areas as Eagle Hall, Black Rock and Spooners Hill. These people are employed as waiters, cooks, bellboys and busmen. I have been to the Minister's Annual Tourism Award Ceremony and have seen a number of these people being winners in the various categories at this award function.

Most of the hotels are situated on the west and south coast of Barbados. Hotels like Royal Westmoreland, Sugar Hill and Rockley Resort are the newcomers.

Mr. Chairman, over the years and before the advent of the one-man band this industry employed a number of big bands. In those days these bands comprised about eight to ten members. We had bands like the Blue Rhythm Combo, the Troubadours, Telcos, the Merrymen, the Merry Boys, Wendy Alleyne and the Dynamics, Gees Orchestra, the Escorts, the Soul Kings, David Gittens Band; the Chairman of the National Cultural Foundation, Al Gilkes, was a drummer in that band. I am going down memory lane, Sir. We had the Cyclones, the Buccaneers, Ivory, Tropical Islanders, 3 plus 2; there were six members in that band, the Austin Brothers, The Crescendoes, Generation Bridge, Barbara and the Rhythmnaires, the Solid Senders, the Barrons and the Reflections.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: The Checkmates, the Pioneers, Flat Bush Band and the Fantastics.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Then you had the limbo artistes like Guy Tull, Basil, Betty West and Madame Theresa who is now working with the Minister of Social Transformation. We had individual performers like Mickey Dee, Richard Stoute, Norman Stoute, Michael Wilkinson - I see the Honourable Member for the city nodding her head

- Vere Miller, Verne Best, Clarence Thompson and Lord Radio.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: In those days, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West was an Emcee on the hotel circuit as well as Vic Brewster.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: The Honourable Member from the City is telling me not to forget the Mighty Charmer who is famous for the big shot laugh.

We had night spots like the Broken Bell, the Calypso Tavern, Blue Waters, Paradise Beach, Miramar Hotel, Colony Club, Coral Reef. These are places which produced entertainment and entertainers in those days and visitors come to Barbados still asking about these places.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas talking about Cat Whiskers in Black Rock which was run by Ralph Johnson. Mr. Chairman, you have to be about my age to know about these things. These are people who made a contribution to tourism through entertainment.

Sir, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, as the Honourable Member for St. James North said, plays its role in the delivery of this product through the infrastructures it delivers in this country. The ABC Highway can move people from the airport or the seaport quite easily to all the hotels anywhere in Barbados.

9.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, if we now look at the St. Lawrence Gap which was recently renovated, there is a new cobblestone road, new lighting and very soon we will have a police outpost in that area. The Ministry of Public Works, in association with BTII, has provided this kind of infrastructure to the people of the St. Lawrence area.

Sir, this area reminds me of the French Quarters, New Orleans, where in one area there are hotels and nice restaurants. New Orleans is a very nice area for tourist but it also has a very high crime rate.

Sir, as the Ministry of Public Works and Transport continues to build on the infrastructure where the tourist product is concerned, we have been asked by the police to

put new lighting in certain areas where there is high crime in order to help fight the levels of crime. Mr. Chairman, in relation to the South Coast Project, we have a project ongoing where, when finished, will enhance the sewerage system for the hotel because they themselves will be hooked up to the sewerage system. When the West Coast Sewerage Project comes on stream, the hotels on the West Coast will also benefit in that they too will be hooked up to this sewerage system.

Mr. Chairman, I want to mention the fact that the taxi drivers who benefit from the tourist products, will be able to take care of their families. The tour companies too, employ persons in this area. The Barbados Transport Board also plays a role in transporting persons from both Airport and Seaport. The florists who deliver their products to the hotels and restaurants, et cetera, they too will benefit from this tourism product. Sir, this is how the whole product benefits persons directly in Barbados. It brings great numbers of persons to Barbados, be they stay-over tourists or one-day tourist coming on the ships, et cetera.

Sir, I want to support the Minister of Tourism and International Transport on the tourism product and I will continue to support him. I thank you.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAM: Mr. Chairman, I too would like to say my bit on the Debate before this Chamber but being fair, after sitting here and hearing the representative for St. Michael West Central, I am wondering if, after all of these years, he was hiding his age; he went back long before my time nevertheless.

Mr. Chairman, what is important is that we must compliment the Ministry of Tourism for the work it has been doing over the past years and more so when we look at the work that has been done in the area of tourism, even at this time when the entire world is faced with a situation since September 11th. Sir, one must compliment the Minister of Tourism for the drive and effort that has been put into what I will consider to be keeping Barbados afloat in these trying times. It is extremely important to all of us that we recognise the fact that as far as tourism is concerned, we have now reached the stage in the history of Barbados where we must ask ourselves if sugar is still king or if we would have to live and accept the tourist industry as the area where we will have to depend on.

Sir, I said that to say this; there must be an awareness as far as the industry of tourism is concerned for every person in Barbados, not only at this time but in coming times. The reason for this is the fact that if it has to be something that Barbados will have to depend on. It is quite obvious that the smallest child will have to know of the importance and benefits of tourism to the entire island. I think too many people accept tourism as just another happening or something that they may probably make a

dollar from or depend on, either in the ancillary service of the industry or by right, an offspring of some of the finance that will come from the industry. Sir, I think it is more serious than that. When one looks at the life of the taxi driver, his involvement in the industry goes a long way. He has to pay for his car, he has his family to feed and it is obvious that he or she has to carry himself or herself in a groomed manner. This can only show how dependent taxi drivers are on the industry.

Sir, the other aspect of it is to look at the ancillary persons who work and benefit from tourism. When we look at the people who work on the various beaches, those selling beach crafts, braiding, coral, aloes, et cetera, are all dependents on the tourist industry. Sir, somewhere along the line, we must accept the fact that regardless of what, every person has to play a role in tourism.

Sir, in my opinion, there is an aspect of it that seems to look top-heavy in the sense that people seem to believe that the industry only deals with the executive aspect of the industry; that the management level of the industry is what counts and as a result of that belief, then the people who are in the middle and those at the bottom seem not to be able to at least receive the true benefits within the industry. Therefore, as far as tourism is concerned, the time has now come where every person in Barbados, up to community level, must understand the importance of tourism. When we talk about entertainment, craft persons, talented persons, one must understand they also have a role to play within the industry. When we talk about the artistes, the calypsonians, people involved in drama, that is also an aspect that we must look at as far as the industry is concerned. Barbados must be able to package its product, not only to package it to send overseas on a bonanza tour, not only to do promotions as far as we might consider, whether it be England, North America, or Canada, Barbados must be able to package its material and be able to expose that material at all levels of the community, so that by exposing what we have to offer, then everybody will become aware of the importance of the tourist industry. What we must also think of is the importance of community tourism which has a lot of creativity coming out of it; the men involved in craft, the young ladies involved in the various aspects of culture. When this is looked at, I think community tourism has a major role to play in any further development of the tourist industry as far as Barbados is concerned.

The water sport aspect of the industry, I believe, is one of the industries that goes unnoticed. I remember being involved in water sports and as one comes up on the beach you find there were several persons who own boats and catamarans and who are benefitting from the industry. Today it is a different picture because of those persons who now dictate the tourism industry. Those persons working

the beaches and are dependent upon the industry, seem to have the belief that their services are not required.

9.40 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Years ago a chap may have had an engine that was not working well but today he has to buy a more powerful engine because the industry is so competitive. Sir, we have to look at the spinoffs of the industry. As far as the industry is concerned, one wonders where are the night clubs that would put on true Bajan shows. I discovered quite recently that most of the hotels have a true Bajan show within their environment so you do not get the opportunity to see it like when you could go to the Caribbean Pepperpot, Asta Hotel or any of those places that used to put on what was called a 'Barbados night' which exposed tourists to fire eating, belly dancing and the like. These activities now happen inside of the hotels. As far as I am concerned, hotels are presenting a North American aspect of the industry more so than the culture of Barbados.

Sir, I am concerned about what is happening within the industry as far as entertainment is concerned. Those people like Dance Afrique and the Pinelands Workshop who are creative enough to work in the hotel are not working because the entertainment budget cannot accommodate. We need to expose our local talent within the hotel. We have to tell the hotels that they need to include the calypso king of Barbados or the band that won Congaline at some time within their entertainment package. We have to try and explain the importance of the tourism industry to the average Barbadian since King Sugar seems to be no more and now we have to realise the importance of the tourist dollar.

Sir, Oistins is not only recognised regionally but it is recognised internationally. The day will come when Baxters Road that pioneered fry fish will be recognised in the same way. I remember when some of the top stars in the world stood on the step of Enids Shop in Baxters Road. Sir, Tom Jones and Paul McCartney stood on the steps of Enid's shop and the day will come when Baxter's Road will be returned to its original status because Baxter's Road is better known internationally than Oistins. Some tourists who knew Barbados many years ago are still likely to ask the taxi driver about Harry's Nightery not realising that it does not exist anymore so we have to identify with the true Bajan aspect of the industry.

Also, people do not understand that there is a lot of activity on a monthly basis at Sherbourne. Usually, there are foreign conferences held there and these bring in foreign exchange and this augurs well for Barbados.

The Barbados Tourism Investment is doing a lot of work in Bridgetown and Bridgetown is becoming one of the most beautiful cities in the Caribbean. Those of us who travel to Aruba and Curacao and then come back to this island are extremely proud of Barbados. I would like to compliment the Barbados Tourism Investment for restoring the Old Bond House along the wharf. When one looks at that building, looks at the boardwalk and then looks across the other side, it is a truly beautiful sight. This investment will make Barbados not only the gem of the Caribbean but the paradise of the world.

Sir, we have to let the average Barbadian know how important it is to be involved in the tourism industry. I believe that television has a role to play in this. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East saying that television must identify with the Bajan face. The material on the Visitors channel should be shown on Channel 8 so that the average Barbadian can see some of the things that happen in Barbados. Sir, since we are selling to the visitor, the average Barbadian should also know about what is happening here. When a visitor ask a local for directions, first of all he gets a smile and then he is told where to go. This is why Barbados is known for being a country where you get a smile and for being a friendly place.

I am asking the Minister responsible for the CBC to give Barbadians a chance to see more of Barbados on television so that they will be able to feel proud of their country and speak to tourists about their country in a knowledgeable way and with pride.

Sir, the taxi drivers of Barbados are true ambassadors of this island. Have you ever heard a taxi driver talking to a tourist? If you eavesdrop on a taxi driver while he is talking to a tourist you will feel extremely proud because there is a lot of confidence about this island when he speaks of a tour around the country. He speaks proudly of what they will see, how they will benefit and what Barbados is all about. I am extremely proud that we have an industry that is moving ahead.

In closing I want to say that we have a long way to go, the benefits are there and every single Barbadian must know the importance of the industry to better Barbados in the years to come.

Sir, I thank you.

9.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. D. T. GILL: Sir, I am going to start with the last first and that is the heavy drain on our water supply. It happens that the tourist season coincides with the sugar crop season in Barbados. Both industries require the use of

a great amount of water and the sad thing about it is, they both occur during the traditional dry season so we have a problem.

The problem is, Barbados is a reef scarce country. The rate at which water is being removed from our underground supply is greater than the rate at which aquifers are being recharged. We want to know what is the policy of the Ministry and the various agencies associated with the Ministry? Sir, the cruise and hotel visitor arrivals tantamount to an increase of our local population. Are we in a position to deal with the increased disposal of plastic? Could we conserve enough water to handle such a five-year plateau?

If you have to take a 7 o'clock flight one morning out of Antigua, you have to wake up about 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the morning in order to get water to secure a bath and that still is not a guarantee that you will get a shower before you leave at 7 o'clock.

Sir, there is an operation on the south coast where hotels have, as part of their operations, a treatment plant for their grey-water. This is water coming from the laundry, sinks, face basins and that type of waste water. I understand that there is an adaptation which is possible, where at a later date there could be a tertiary treatment and that water can be used for lawns and plants. I think that is the way we should go.

I also understand that on the west coast there is a plan to use the grey-water operation from the primary to the tertiary and this water will be used for the watering of lawns and plants. Sir, any excess volume should then be used for recharging the aquifers.

Mr. Chairman, all industries in Barbados consume a large amount of energy and energy is one of the highest cost factors when doing business. The only industry that does not consume a large amount of energy is the sugar industry, once it passes the initial energy requirement process. I would suggest that funds be sought so that the hotels could utilise solar energy to carry some of their base requirements and these could be fed into the power supply, even if it is only to cool the rooms at night. This could be shared with the traditional source of energy supply.

There is another cost which the industry has to carry and that is the marine system. With respect to the cruise ships and other marine activities, the disposal of the non biodegradable substance is a problem. The introductions of foreign materials continue to pose a problem to our marine life, particularly our coral resources. It takes many years for coral to regenerate and we all know the purpose of coral.

Mr. Chairman, there is a concern with respect of the way hotels dispose of their plastics and wrappings. I was in Germany for a short period of time and I was overwhelmed with how this problem was tackled at the source. The Germans say that whatever wrappings and plastics are imported must be returned to the country from which they were imported.

10.00 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. D. T. GILL: In my period of time, Sir, I did not see anything plastic. Whether it was Coke or Fanta, they were back to the old glass bottles. That makes a lot of sense. In a small country like Barbados to be overwhelmed with containers, be they plastic or card, it is my feeling that such containers, card boxes, pallets, which come in should be sent to be incinerated at the Port incinerator for a small fee. It would make sense.

The other thing, Sir, because of the nature of the hotel business, there is the problem of disposing of fats and grease which originate from things like deep frying and cooking with oil. Sir, there is nothing more offensive than excess storage of oils and fats used in cooking and stored for a long period of time. Sir, there is a practice which should be followed and it is in place for these fats and oils to be taken to a specific location in the north of the island to be mixed with the blood, the offal goes elsewhere and this should be taken to St. Peter where it is buried and where it will go through a process of degradation. Sometimes we get the persons who pump them off disposing of them on their way to the North and this practice should be discontinued and it should be followed up. They should be very vigilant as to how they are disposed of in the gullies and other open areas. As I said, Sir, not only is this waste offensive, but if it is allowed to be disposed of in the wrong way it could lead to health hazards, getting back into the food cycle and causing greater problems. These are the problems which concern me with respect to the carrying capacity of the industry in Barbados, namely how we dispose of the waste, how the marine eco-system is concerned, the problem of energy and last, but by no means least, the problem of our health standards and how we as locals would be affected by bad practices as opposed to good practices.

Mr. Chairman, I told you I would be brief, and I am much obliged to you.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be remiss of me if I allow the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to reflect negatively upon our immigration services and those who give themselves to this type of service to this country in the remarks he made earlier in one of his contributions with reference to immigration

performance as it affects the tourism sector in terms of visitors on arrival.

I think we do ourselves a disservice when we compare ourselves to other jurisdictions which are far more sophisticated and far better resourced if we do not realise that in terms of performance at our ports of entry we do just as well or better than some of them. Take a port of entry like Miami Airport with volumes of people, it takes one awhile to exit from the Immigration area. You come into Barbados at high periods, perhaps on a Monday afternoon, large aircraft on the ground all coming at the same time and we have officers who because of their training and skills developed over time are able to process these volumes of passengers in the kind of time frame which I think would be acceptable given the circumstances.

I think that we must bear in mind that immigration officers must not concern themselves only with hospitality, being friendly being welcoming, being warm, being hospitable. Immigration officers in the current world climate must concern themselves also with matters of security. They must be concerned with the issue of legitimacy of documents.

More and more we are finding people turning up at our ports of entry with fraudulent documents. So it is not simply a question of being friendly and exuding a smiling warmth but being very careful in what you do that you do not compromise the security of the country and that you do not allow people to take advantage of the fact that you are a tourist market and that your arms are wide open to welcome visitors who want to have a Barbadian experience and whom we are pleased to welcome if their business is legitimate.

I do not think it is just that we should reflect negatively on them in that regard, and further to that, to be a bit callous in terms of reflecting negatively on the well known warmth of the Barbadian spirit in terms of being generous in our welcome to visitors. I just wanted to state that because I believe that we should not make remarks like that and make them lightly.

In the earlier submission I made, I made reference to the need for a further development of tourism at the community level and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Honourable Minister of Tourism, spoke with reference to the community tourism projects planned for Poole Woods in St. John and for Bathsheba in St. Joseph and for St. Thomas, all with a very strong rural focus and it seems to me that we are still fixing on eco-tourism and recreational tourism but I believe that there is scope for other aspects of developing our tourism service and product with a greater focus on urban centres.

Although I am happy to see that there is some push in the direction of community tourism I must continue to make the plug for the urban areas as being worthy for consideration of the type of tourism project that would bring greater benefits to those who live in urban centres. Earlier, Mr. Chairman, before you dictated that I take my seat, I was about to make reference to the expenditure with respect to the HIV/AIDS prevention programme because there is provision. It is a very small line in this expenditure but it is a very important line. If we are dealing with a sector such as this people come from far and wide and they bear not only their monies to be expended in our jurisdiction but they bear perhaps other things that they bring with them of which we would want to be aware and be careful if possible. So I commend the Ministry for taking thought of the need for this type of inclusion in this plan and expenditure. I think it is about \$141 000 going towards this programme. A very important part of it I see is to be dispensed to fund a study to determine the correlation if any between the transmission of HIV/AIDS and visitors to Barbados. That is exceedingly important. That needs to be studied.

A study to determine the impact of HIV/AIDS on the image of Barbados and as a tourism destination is also of tremendous importance. A study to determine the indirect cost of the loss of productivity in the tourism sector taking into account the cost factor of training and retraining, the investment to the sector and the quality and quantity of the service provided. I think that these are important areas of study. Studies are also intended to determine the psychological and physical demands on persons in the workplace with reference to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS as perhaps spread by those who visit our shores. This is an important issue.

10.10 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Sir, the importance of this issue cannot be over emphasized. We are talking about threats to our human capital and our national development which are introduced into our jurisdictions through visitors to our shores, whom we hope will come bearing benefits to our society. We do not want to know that we are in anyway jeopardised by their presence because we have failed to take stock of the magnitude of the problem which we are faced with, in those circumstances.

Let me end by making reference to something that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North said on the very first day, of these debates. He said that it is really a matter of whose judgment you can trust. When it comes to matters of economics in this country, there is much about Barbadian political life and culture that revolves around that basic issue, whose judgement can you trust?

What I have heard coming from the Ministry of Tourism in recent times, is that the business of capacity building is important. The business of institutional reform is important to that sector. I think that these are issues which are being given some prominence of attention right now. I think that it is very necessary, if the institutional units within the tourism sector are to function to optimum effectiveness, then perhaps, because of the changing context, we need to look seriously at the business of institutional reform in the sector and I think that this is what I have been hearing.

The business of building capacity within the sector has been seriously criticised by the voices on the opposing side. Monies have been spent investing in the wrong areas in the unproductive sectors of the economy. The truth of the matter is, a lot of the expenditure which this Government has incurred over the past few years has gone towards ensuring that there is a greater measure of capacity within the tourism sector.

When it comes down to the issue of whose judgment we can trust, I would like to think that we can trust the judgment which on this side, both with reference to tourism and the management of this economy, the judgement which has shown itself able and accurate in most circumstances and especially in recent times.

It cannot be without reference to the success of the tourism industry that we have been able, in difficult times, to ensure high levels of consumption patterns while at the same time, high levels of savings and a build up of the reserves. In a small economy such as ours, that is not easy to achieve: high levels of consumption patterns, at the same time high levels of savings, at the same time a build up of reserves. This is in no small measure due to the performance of this sector.

I am simply seeking to suggest that we cannot play around, for political purposes or otherwise, with the tourist sector in Barbados. We recognise that it is a front burner sector and I think we have to do our very best to safeguard it, both with respect to the institutions within the sector and the capacity and the resources which are given to the sector and how they are expended in an effort to bring the best gains to this country.

Thank you, Sir, for that brief contribution.

Hon. R. N. GREENED: Mr. Chairman, I just want take two minutes to follow up on a point made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. First of all, I think that the Ministry of Tourism has to be in the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS. I think if there is one ministry that has to be involved in this fight against HIV/AIDS, it has to be the Ministry of Tourism.

HIV/AIDS is something that knows no nationality or bounds and as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has said, the tourists bring to Barbados, not only their money, but we know that some of them also bring sexually transmitted diseases. The \$141 000 which I am hearing the Honourable Member for St. Lucy saying is too little, is merely for a study and that study has to do with the correlation of sexually transmitted disease and the tourist and tourism. It is not so much that this is what is in there for the full programme, that is just for the study.

Sir, I would hope that Barbados never gets the reputation for being a country well known for sex tourism: eco tourism, yes; heritage tourism, yes; sports tourism, yes; sex tourism, no. Mr. Chairman, this I know is big in places like Amsterdam, Holland, Bangkok and Thailand with boys and girls, I am told. You can call me old-fashioned but I do not want to see the day when that type of tourism catches roots in Barbados. In those countries, it is very institutionalised. It is actually regulated and they have it as part of their tourism landscape. People leave one country and they go there just for that activity. A package deal to those countries very often includes having a partner. I do not think we have reached the stage where we can entertain that kind of activity in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, that activity leads to another and in those countries where there are all types of immoral things happening, it leads to full fledged prostitution. It leads to child prostitution, it encourages male prostitution but yet you can find persons flocking to Bangkok, Amsterdam and all such places. I just wanted to make that point and follow up on what the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said that perhaps it needs sex tourism. It can bring in big money to the country but it also has the potential of transforming your country into something akin to a Sodom and Gomorrah.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, the particular matter I want to speak to, is the need for institutional reform in the sector. We have heard a lot today about our plans for the physical expansion at the airport and the sea port. We have heard a lot also about the constraining factors to this expansion. Minister Farley spoke at length about the need to relocate some of his workers and how that is constraining the expanded programme at the Gatley Adams International Airport.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want us to lose sight of a very important element in the comprehensive plan as we prepare for the way forward.

10.20 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that can act as a real constraining factor to the development of the airport and the seaport is the slow pace in altering the governance structure at these two facilities. There have been discussions on the corporatisation of the airport and the seaport.

Mr. Chairman, we all recognise the need for a new governance structure at these two facilities. We recognise that a lot of planning has gone into these discussions so far but the process has not been moving forward at a fast enough pace so as to keep in line with what is happening at the physical end.

Mr. Chairman, I have a real concern which is brought to this Honourable Chamber against the background of what has happened in Trinidad and Tobago and what is happening elsewhere and the implications in a negative way for business in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, part of the expansion planned for the Gatley Adams International Airport includes making the cargo handlers a little more comfortable. Mr. Chairman, if we do not forge ahead and get it right in that particular area, then Trinidad and Tobago might take the advantage and become the cargo hub for the Caribbean. These are things that we have to be extremely careful about.

We need to protect the gains we have been able to achieve so far in the area of international transport and tourism and build on those gains but the only way we are going to do that is if we look at what our competitors are doing and remain one step ahead of them which would require us to commit ourselves and be resolved to put things in place to get it done as quickly as possible. We should not fool ourselves into thinking that if we spend large sums of money on modernising the facilities but do not change the culture and the attitude of those who work there and if we do not modernise the governance structures that we would maximise the benefits to be derived from the physical expansion. All I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we need to pay close attention to these areas. The discussions have been initiated and we need to take them to a point of reasonable or definite conclusion because it is only when we reach that point that all the funds we are spending to enhance the facility will be put to the best possible use.

I do not know why the Minister of Tourism and International Transport has not taken the House through a discussion on this particular aspect but I think we need to be focussed in this area in the same way that we are focussing on the physical side of the plant.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Michael South you have got five minutes.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I move to wrap up this debate and to thank all Honourable Members for their participation in what has been a very enlightening and satisfying debate on the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport Head which we all understand is of fundamental importance to the development of Barbados.

I noted the points that have been made particularly the latter comments that were made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and some of the issues relating to the institutions that are being put in place to support the efforts we are bringing to bear upon the tourism industry in Barbados. The issue relating to the management and the accelerated work in those particular organisations or institutions under this ministry is going to be critical in the future to the success of our tourism industry. These are the long term issues that must be sought after and I give the House the assurance that this is the direction the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport is taking.

Sir, all Honourable Members who made contributions not only show their understanding of what was being presented by the ministry but show an overall understanding of how the tourism industry functions and the importance of tourism and international transport to our well being and to our future.

Sir, there are some issues that were talked about particularly those that were mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in his own style that again pointed to not much of an understanding of some of the issues relating to the development of the industry. I will take one aspect of his speech, the area of all-inclusive tourism, and deal with it very quickly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have got three minutes.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Okay, I will wrap up in the three minutes, Sir.

Sir, all-inclusive tourism is a fundamental part of our tourism development and even though we may not want that particular area to dominate or be the only area, it contributes substantially to the development of the industry.

Sir, the fastest growing business in tourism is package business. A lot of our product has been built on package business even before the concept of the all-inclusive and it is important to recognise that it contributes in ways that we do not even imagine such as the whole issue of safety, value, pricing and the whole concept of the physical and financial safety of our visitors. People are buying package business for that particular reason and because they are buying everything up front they get volume discounting. Therefore, both the purchasers of

vacations and the operators flock after and buy at volume discounts because of the pricing system and the need for operators to run high occupancies. So there are a number of issues that come out of all-inclusive tourism which are important to our development.

10.35 p.m.

10.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

N. A. LYNCH: Sir, why would we want to exclude a fundamental part of the industry when we know people are buying it and it is contributing to our development?

Sir, by way of closing, let me say there are some sound principles to be observed and we will continue to observe them as we seek to expand the industry. There must be more education and awareness for our populace about tourism and how tourism functions; there must be a better researched and academic base; a better economic capacity for the industry that we need to improve; that Barbadians must be at the core of every thing we do within this industry; that the physical environment must be taken care of and must be protected if tourism is to continue to thrive and survive; that tourism is much more than just marketing; that the economic benefit must be spread a lot wider than it is presently now spread.

Sir, to culminate it all, that Barbadiana and Barbadian culture must be spread throughout the industry if this industry is to be sustained. Sir, those are the guiding principles that will continue to move this industry along through the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport.

Sir, with those words, I ask that Head No. 27 stands part.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 15th March, 2002.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 15th March, 2002, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

CONTENTS

RESUMPTION

COMMITTEE

HEAD 27 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM

AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

Hon. N. A. LYNCH.....	1
Mr. D. St.E. Kellman, 5, 6, 7, 8, 23, 24, 25; Hon. R. R. Farley, 7, 15, 16, 17; Rev. J. J. S. Atherley, 7, 21, 22, 23; Hon. A. P. Wood, 11, 13; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 13, 14, 15; Mr. D. T. Gill, 17; Hon. R. N. Greenidge, 19, 20, 24.	

RESUMPTION

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON.....	25
Mr. T. A. Prescod; Hon. R. R. Farley; Hon. A. P. Wood; Hon. N. A. Lynch; Hon. R. St.C Toppin; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman; Hon. R.C. Eastmond.	

RESUMPTION

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (CONT'D)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY.....	42
Hon. R. N. Greened; Hon. G. A. Clarke; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman; Hon. R. D. Marshall; Mr. M. Z. William; Mr. M. Z. Williams; Mr. D. T. Gill; Rev. J. J. S. Atherley; Hon. A. P. Wood; Hon. N. A. Lynch.	

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ATHERLEY, Rev. J. J. S.
CLARKE, Hon. G. A.
EASTMOND, Hon. R.C.
FARLEY, Hon. R. R.
GILL, Mr. D. T.
GREENED, Hon. R. N.
GREENIDGE, Hon. R. N.
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St.E.
LYNCH, Hon. N. A.
MARSHALL, Hon. R. D.
MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A.
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A.
PRESCOD, Mr. T. A.
THOMPSON, Hon. Miss H. E.
THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H.
TOPPIN, Hon. R. St.C
WILLIAM, Mr. M. Z.
WILLIAMS, Mr. M. Z.
WOOD, Hon. A. P.

DISCLAIMER. This transcript was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools and is provided for reference only. It has not been reviewed, verified or approved by the Hansard Department of the Parliament of Barbados and does not constitute an official parliamentary record. It may contain errors or omissions, including inaccuracies in wording or speaker identification. For authoritative quotations or confirmation of proceedings, consult the official Hansard record when available.

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. Take-slip about 6.10 p.m.. The second line of this take-slip reads 'Tuesday, March 14, 2002'; every other take-slip in the sitting reads 'Thursday, March 14, 2002'. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Committee of Supply, after 8.20 p.m. resumption. Two speeches are headed 'Hon. R. N. GREENED'; the Member is elsewhere 'Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Committee of Supply, Rev. Atherley. Three speech labels read 'Rev. J. S. S. ATHERLEY'; elsewhere the Member is 'Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY'. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Committee of Supply, Mr. Williams. The first of Mr. Williams' two speeches is headed 'Mr. M. Z. WILLIAM', the second 'Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS'. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Take-slip 10.30 p.m.. After this take-slip the Minister's closing speech continues under the label 'N. A. LYNCH', without 'Hon.'. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Mr. Kellman's first speech; motion to suspend. The source types the letter 'l' for the figure 1 in many numbers (e.g. '1986', 'l66,250', 'l11,000', '10:00 a.m.'). Printed as in the source.

Q9. Take-slips about 5.40 p.m. and 7.20 p.m.. Two take-slips carry only the date line, 'Thursday, March 14, 2002', with no time. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly resumed its sitting on Thursday, 14th March, 2002, after a suspension in Committee of Supply on the Estimates for 2002-03. The

whole day was given to Head 27, Ministry of Tourism and International Transport, for which \$91 310 634 was sought.

The Minister, Hon. N. A. Lynch, opened by describing the Ministry's mission and its three principal agencies, the Barbados Tourism Authority, the Barbados Conference Services Limited and the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. He argued that tourism went 'way beyond marketing' and regretted the lack of research capacity. Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, the Member for St. Lucy, replied that the US market had fallen from about 175,000 visitors in 1987 to about 104,000 in 1999 as all-inclusive tourism grew. Hon. R. R. Farley, on a point of order, denied that transit passengers were counted as arrivals, and Rev. J. J. S. Atherley objected to any suggestion of unfriendliness to Caribbean visitors.

Hon. A. P. Wood placed tourism in the history of the Barbadian economy, noting its \$1.5 billion contribution to output and about 75 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. Hon. R. R. Farley said an additional \$7.5 million had been allocated, the Barbados Tourism Authority's allocation rising from \$45 million to \$52 million, and \$7 million committed to joint marketing with US Airways. Mr. D. T. Gill welcomed the loan scheme for small hotels with its five-year grace period, Hon. R. N. Greenidge spoke on sports tourism and Rev. Atherley on tourism in education. Late in the afternoon Mr. Kellman was ruled by the Chairman to withdraw an accusation concerning footballers overseas, and did so.

After a suspension to 5.20 p.m., Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson described the coastal and environmental work of the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment, including a US\$24 million Inter-American Development Bank loan and an upgrade of Harrison Cave costing \$7.4 million. Mr. T. A. Prescod spoke on heritage sites. Hon. R. R. Farley spoke on cruise tourism and the entertainment industry, Hon. A. P. Wood made a second intervention, and Hon. N. A. Lynch reviewed 2001, when arrivals were just over a million, and reported a fall of about 12 per cent in long-stay arrivals in January 2002. Hon. R. St. C. Toppin argued that the Port Authority should keep the whole \$6 levied on each cruise passenger, not lose \$2 of it to the Barbados Cruise Terminal. Mr. Kellman, Hon. R. C. Eastmond and Miss Thompson also spoke.

After a further suspension to 8.20 p.m., Hon. R. R. Farley spoke on the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport in his constituency of Christ Church East. Hon. R. N. Greenidge and Hon. G. A. Clarke described tourism teaching in schools, Mr. Kellman, Hon. R. D. Marshall, Mr. M. Z. Williams, Mr. D. T. Gill and

Rev. Atherley also spoke. Mr. Wood called for reform of the governance of the airport and seaport.

Hon. N. A. Lynch wound up, defending all-inclusive and package business as a fundamental part of the industry,

and asked that Head No. 27 stand part. The question was resolved in the affirmative, progress was reported, and on the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, the Sitting was suspended until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 15th March, 2002.