
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2003.

PRESENT

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

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

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

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Prime
Minister, Minister of Finance and the Civil Service)

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Leader of
the Opposition)

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN, K.A., Q.C., LL.B.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc.
(Econ.)

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

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

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

Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister
of Housing and Lands)

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL (Minister of Public Works
and Transport)

Hon. H. F. LASHLEY (Minister of Social
Transformation)

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Minister of
Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

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

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B. Sc. (Minister of Economic
Development, Industry and International Business)

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

Prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday,
February 25, 2003.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes
have been circulated, and except for there being any
amendments or alterations, I beg to move that these Minutes
be accepted as being accurate.

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

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

PAPERS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, on the behalf of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Peter, I am commanded to lay the following five documents before this Honourable House:

1. Annual Report of the National Cultural Foundation for the year 2000;
2. Report of the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the quarter ended December 31, 2002;
3. Report of the Social Investment Fund for the quarter ended December 31, 2002;
4. Barbados Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2003-2004; and
5. Schedules of Personal Emoluments 2003-2004.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the National Conservation Commission for the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I am commanded to give notice of the following Bills:

1. Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
2. Appropriation Bill, 2003.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, the following Bills were read a first time:

1. Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003; and
2. Appropriation Bill, 2003.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the rest of this day's Sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO.7 – RESOLUTION THAT THE HOUSE
RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT
OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE
SERVICE OF THIS
ISLAND

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, before I ask Your Honour to leave the Chair, the Chairman of Committees is not present, so I believe I have to bring a motion to appoint someone to act as Chairman of Committees. Therefore, I am proposing that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees for today's Sitting.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

- (a) Resolution to grant the sum of \$887 671 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement Estimates 2002 – 2003 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 13, 2002 – 2003 which form the Schedule to the Resolution and that the Explanatory Notes to Head 44 be amended as set out in the Schedule II to this Resolution.

HEAD 14 – MINISTRY OF
FINANCE – \$187 671

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: The supplementary expenditure requested in the sum of \$187 671 under Head 14, Ministry of Finance is for two purposes.

Under subprogramme 131, the Treasury Department, the sum of \$1 371 is required to supplement the expenditure incurred by the officers of the Internal Audit Section whose job function required that they travel to various ministries and departments in order to undertake internal audit procedures to ensure the efficient functioning of the Treasury Department.

The sum of \$6 786 which was approved for the year for the reimbursement of travel cost which is incurred by these officers has proven to be deficient. It is now projected that the total cost of reimbursable travel for the year for these officers who are paid at the agreed rate per kilometre would be in the order of \$8 157.

Under programme 113, the Revenue Collection Section of the Inland Revenue Department, the sum of \$186 300 is required to supplement the approved Estimates for the financial year 2002-2003 in order to meet the payment of salaries and allowances for the period January to March 2003.

You would recall, Mr. Chairman, that \$523 643 was approved by this Honourable House for the financial year. It is now expected that the actual figure would be \$761 830. Therefore, the sum of \$186 300 is required to supplement this vote. This relates to the need, as a result of officers being occasionally ill and otherwise indisposed, to hire substitutes and things of that nature to ensure the continued operation of the department. These are unanticipated and inescapable expenditures and therefore they could not have been properly provided for.

Therefore, I am asking this Honourable House, through its Committee of Supply, to approve the supplementary to Head 14, Ministry of Finance in the sum of \$187 671.

I beg to move that Head 14 stand part.

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

The question that Head 14 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
11.30 a.m.

HEAD 28 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200 000

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, this amount of \$200 000 is needed to effect payment of professional fees for services in relation to the Tamarind Hall Project at Blackmans, St. Joseph.

Mr. Chairman, you may recall that Government has stated very clearly the policy of accommodating greater access to services provided through many of its agencies and at as many communities as possible. I speak with reference to the facility at the Valley, St. George, which houses: a police substation, a community and cultural centre, a modern post office facility and banking facilities. Similar facilities are contemplated for the Six Roads area.

Tamarind Hall is one such project. In the original concept of the project, the Tamarind Hall facility was to have included: a branch library for the St. Joseph area; a day care facility for adults; a day care nursery for children; a magistrates' court; an out-patients clinic; a police station; a post office and a welfare office facility. It will also include external and drainage works.

That original concept was reviewed and the Planning and Priorities Committee, a subsidiary committee of Cabinet, had called for a review and a scaling back of the project. The Cabinet of Barbados had decided that since these facilities had cut across so many ministries, in effect, the project could have been scaled back and that the end result would reflect facilities which fall under the portfolio of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In the redesign of the project, it was intended that Tamarind Hall facility would now include: a police station; a post office; a library and a magistrates' court, with a revised cost of approximately \$6 million. The money being asked for goes towards supplementing an amount to make payment to those who have rendered their professional services towards the redesign.

It must be understood that the present police station, District "F", Horse Hill, is in a very dilapidated condition. I think this has also been indicated as being the case with a number of other police stations, for instance, the St. Peter police station. Government has been pursuing a policy of incremental refurbishment of many of the police stations and quarters across the island. In some instances, as has already been indicated, Government has been erecting new facilities such as that at the Valley.

We, therefore, have to address the situation at District "F", Horse Hill, and that is why the police station and barrack are included in the Tamarind Hall Project.

The current Magistrates' Court has no waiting room, neither is there a washroom facility for members of the public. In fact, magistrates and other court staff share the only washroom facility there. Therefore, the Magistrates' Court facility, insofar as the sanitary condition is evidently deficient, has to be addressed as well.

The current post office is very much adjacent to the highway. It is very much in close proximity to residential dwellings. There is one cashier who renders service which, in fact, serves the common area with those involved in the actual postal work. This does not lend itself to amenable accommodation, neither to proper security in terms of the use of the safe by the Postmaster-General. These certainly are situations which must of necessity be addressed.

The concept, therefore, has been redesigned in that context to house these facilities. That redesign has necessitated the expense of professional fees. This money goes in supplement to payment of those fees.

Mr. D. H. J. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I support any attempts to improve the physical development of rural areas in Barbados, which I believe is and has always been the policy of the Democratic Labour Party. In any event, I need to ask a number of questions about this project.

I am going to be very specific and would hope that the Acting Minister would get the file and would answer these specific questions.

Sir, I have noticed that in this House there is a very bad precedent being set, which I know the Acting Minister is unlikely to follow, where, when Members on this side ask questions, particularly in relation to matters arising out of Supplementaries, Ministers tend to sit down by simply moving the Head. This is an affront to democracy. It is a development that even in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, would not be tolerated but has now become part of the process of lack of accountability that is so common with this Government.

I, Sir, remember on several occasions, asking questions about the positions that were established by the Government: What were the terms of reference? What were the salaries paid? In addition, I have asked questions relative to public expenditure arising out of Resolutions such as this and this Parliament has not even been treated to the courtesy of a response.

The specific questions I wish to ask the Acting Minister in relation to the Tamarind Hall Project, St. Joseph are: By whom was the feasibility study done? When was the feasibility study presented to Government? Would the

Minister be so kind as to lay that feasibility study in this House or would the Minister make it available to Members?

I would also like to know whether feasibility studies have been done, relative to the proposed project that he spoke of at Six Roads, St. Philip? When was the feasibility study done? By whom was it done? Would the Minister like to make the feasibility study available to this Parliament or to Members of the House?

11.40 a.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to enter this debate by saying that no one would like to deprive the people of St. Joseph of having these facilities but that in St. Lucy we were deprived of our outpatients' clinic, our fire station and the ambulance service.

On many occasions in this House, I heard the previous Attorney General who was also the Minister of Home Affairs say that the site at Nestfield, St. Lucy would be suitable for a fire station. After many calls from me reminding him that St. Lucy was privileged to have a fire station and an ambulance service that did not cause the taxpayers anything, we were deprived of the service when the Naval Base was closed. It is now twenty-five years since the services were taken away and it is time for the problem to be rectified.

Sir, Crab Hill Police Station is very small and has to deal with many problems in the north of Barbados. If we are serious when we deal with the social problems in Barbados we must make sure that police stations throughout Barbados are upgraded so that the persons who work there are comfortable and want to go to work. We cannot expect in 2003 that the police will operate under the present conditions. I support anything that is done to upgrade the services for the public and personnel who have to use these facilities.

I have recommended that since District "E" is no longer in operation and repairs are to be done on Crab Hill Police Station that there is a complex at Nestfield formerly referred to as the Atlantic Manufacturing Plant complex, where there is enough room to house all the facilities removed from St. Lucy and thus allow Government to upgrade the Crab Hill Police Station.

Sir, I honestly believe that Crab Hill Police Station should be closed and resited to Nestfield because the demand on that station is becoming great. This is not because of people living in St. Lucy but because St. Lucy has been blessed with water on three sides, other people will seek to exploit it by committing crimes within the terrain of St. Lucy.

We need to recognise that we are living in a changing society, that there is a need to upgrade the Crab Hill Police Station and that the necessary manpower, equipment and resources must be given to the Crab Hill division so that the police can do their job properly.

Sir, this complex at Nestfield is suitable to accommodate many offices and those facilities should be properly utilised. The police station, the post office, welfare department, outpatients clinic could all be put in that complex and it will not cause the Government a substantial amount of money to make the necessary changes. There is also a parcel of land at Nestfield that is suitable for housing and it needs to be utilised as house lots for people in the north of Barbados.

We have to recognise that development should not be pushed down the throats of the people of Barbados, that it should be discussed and canvassed by the representatives of the people and also acknowledged by the people.

Mr. Chairman, we are living in a changing world and young people will not accept politicians who behave as though they know everything that relate to them. We have to understand that it is not our future, that we are on the way out, that the future of Barbados depends on young people more than on us and that we have to consult them and include them in our planning.

Sir, I have no problem with rural Barbados getting facilities but we are one week away from the Estimates and I want to sound an early warning that social services should not be lumped into one sum. When the Estimates are discussed next week, I want to see services split between constituencies. I will no longer tolerate any Minister who brings a Head to Parliament as a lump sum and I do not know how much is to be spent on the constituency of St. Lucy. The money must be divided among constituencies and the amount shown. The same way that the Minister responsible for Rural Development can adopt this particular procedure, other Ministries should also do the same.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: This supplementary is all part of the Estimates. The same way that people in St. Joseph understand that they are entitled to have these facilities, all the other parishes would also like to know that they are also entitled to facilities as well.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I understand that the people in St. Thomas do not want anything and I am very

grateful to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that they do not want anything.
11.50 a.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we are now at the stage where we have to start laying the wicket because I am not prepared to discuss the Estimates under the same social conditions that I did over the last 10 years. We have to understand that we are living in changing times and all constituencies should know up-front how much money will be spent on each constituency. Sir, I also need to know how much money would be spent on street lights and house lots.

I thank you very much.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to lend my support to the request for funds under this particular Head. The project which is identified for the use of these funds is located in St. Joseph, the Tamarind Hall Project. I welcome the idea emanating from those who run the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of the project planned for Six Cross Roads. Mr. Chairman, if there is an area in Barbados which is well suited for the establishment of a civic centre, it is Six Cross Roads.

Sir, if we were to cast our minds back to 1976, we would remember that the Barbados Labour Party Administration had identified three areas that were ripe for town centres, The Glebe, St. George, Belleplaine, St. Andrew and Six Roads, St. Philip. Over the years we have seen one such centre manifested at The Glebe, St. George. Sir, the two Honourable Members for St. George must take some credit for ensuring that practical effect was given to the policy of establishing a town centre at The Glebe, St. George.

We have seen the Six Roads area developed into a hive of economic activity. This town centre accommodates among other businesses, two shopping complexes, the Emerald City and a smaller shopping complex. Pharmacies, doctors' offices and a number of small shops are also housed in these complexes. The Princess Margaret Secondary School and a polyclinic are located at Six Roads, St. Philip, and most of these projects were completed under a previous Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, two banks at Six Roads, the Barbados National Bank and the Caribbean Commercial Bank, are located at Six Roads. I mentioned all of those institutions and facilities in order to put in proper perspective the need for the establishment of this civic centre. Previously, the post office was located in a

government building at Six Roads. Over the years that building fell into a state of disrepair and a number of public health concerns were raised and as a result, the unsuitability of the building to house the post office. We were very fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to house the post office and staff to new accommodations in the Emerald City Complex.

Mr. Chairman, this move has come at a reasonable cost to the Government. However, the civic centre that is planned for Six Roads will include an area for the Post Office, which has served this area extremely well.

Sir, for many years people who lived on the eastern side of Barbados and who had to attend court hearings at District 'C' Police Station had to travel a long distance in order to reach the court at District 'C' Police Station. However, subsequently all cases were transferred to the court at St. Matthias. Six Roads is strategically located and developing a town here, would alleviate the problems that exist. The transportation network to get to Six Roads is extremely easy. There is a bus service, Oistins/College Savannah, which passes through Six Roads and another bus service which starts from Mangrove Depot and travels to Speightstown.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Sir, I want to speak to an issue which does not bring a lot of comfort to us. We will recall that there was an escalation of crime in Barbados and people were afraid to go to Six Roads to conduct legitimate business there, even school children who had to pass that area to get to school were afraid to do so.

12.00 noon

Honourable Members worked closely with the police to have a certain degree of order that is being brought to activities in Six Cross Roads (Six Roads). I certainly acceded to the request of the police for better lighting in that area. The police asked us to do that as a way of making their work a little easier and the Rural Development Commission was able to respond quite spontaneously.

We also made a request of the police that in the absence of the civic centre which would include a police station that there should be a police outpost in Six Cross Roads and the police responded in the affirmative. We got the police resident beat officer, or the community police officer to do a lot of work in the schools in the area and we also got them to do some work with the young persons in the area.

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that those efforts were quite successful. The presence of the police outpost in

Six Roads, would have contributed in no small measure to the reduction in crime and the acts of deviancy that were pervading the Six Roads area. The police outpost remains in Six Cross Roads and it has been returned now, to an area that is virtually free of crime and we are very thankful for that because this Government is determined to press on with its efforts to bring Six Roads into the centre stage more so.

Mention was made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West of the civic centre but there is another project which is on stream and we have got Cabinet's approval for it and we are determined to establish, as part of the Government's thrust in decentralising the marketing and distribution of agriculture and other commodities, as well as a craft market for those persons who are well endowed in such talents, right there in Six Roads.

Sir, our initial thinking is to have the civic centre and the craft market done together. Of course, the Rural Development Commission is responsible for the craft market and the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for the civic centre.

Sir, last but not least, a town centre for all intents and purposes, established in a rural district, should be supported by a reasonable housing stock. I am aware that private sector investors have expressed an interest in developing a housing project in the environs of Six Roads. Once we accept and appreciate that all those activities and projects are necessary for us, giving full and practical effect to Six Roads being established as a town centre, then it is very reasonable to conclude that the Six Roads area should, by order of necessity, have a civic centre established to it.

Mr. Chairman, just as I have started, I give my full support to what is being planned for the constituency of St. Joseph with the Tamarind Hall project. We have seen the success of the project in the Glebe, and I welcome the plans of the Ministry of Home Affairs to do a similar thing in Six Roads. It is extremely long in coming. We lost the opportunity when we did not proceed with the procurement of the Plantation Complex. The Honourable Member for St. George and indeed the Honourable Member for St. John and I will work together because all of us recognise the importance of that civic centre in Six Roads and we need to see it happen in the not too distant future.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution because it implements the concept which was very dear to the Barbados Labour Party for many years. The concept of decentralising services into communities is something that, in my opinion, leads to

the upliftment mentally and the creation of great economic opportunities of the people in those districts and the surrounding districts.

The evidence is overwhelming that it leads to participation by the people in the communities in cultural and social activities. I have witnessed in the areas of Christ Church, Oistins, Gall Hill and other areas, the beneficial effect of the creation of town centres.

Indeed, Sir, I have only one grievance and it arises from a bit of jealousy because I know that Oistins in Christ Church, Six Roads in St. Philip and St. George, were to be developed long before Tamarind Hall, but such is the interplay in politics where sometimes your turn is there and you think that you will be able to get the plans you have for your constituency implemented but circumstances arise that the decision makers have other ideas as to the priorities.

I want to say, Sir, I hope that the constituents in other areas do not lose heart because if the area to be developed is an economic proposition, private enterprise will enter into the area and do more efficiently, many of the things in the economic area than a governmental activity will do.

I only have one problem, Sir, and it is in my opinion, an important problem that has to be dealt with in Barbados and it is the issue of the full utilisation in these centres of the available land. I am convinced in my own mind, that a large part of our problem, in relation to the demand for house spots and the availability of land, will never be settled unless there is a radical change in the view as to how intensive subdivisions can be in Barbados.

If you go into rural areas in many other countries, their Governments have taken decisions that once you conceptualise an area as worthy of development for essential services, so too your land use policy should reflect that there should be more intensive development for housing in that area. That is in countries which have far larger amounts of land available to their population. I feel that our planners have to take a different viewpoint in this area. As politicians we must encourage people to understand that this is an integral part of solving some of their problems. I hope that would take place at Tamarind Hall. We are ready and willing to have the demonstration project because, as I constantly say, in a place like Oistins between the second level, Maxwell Hill, Cane Vale and the sea, there is less than 200 yards. So if you want to live between that level, you have to live up, you cannot live in a single unit house. That is the reality. Geography has forced that upon you.
12.10 p.m.

In any event, the people who live up there are not interested in any land for growing anything. Any money they have, they invest it in a boat. They are interested in building boats, in processing fish, in selling vegetables and

in frying things. They are not farmers. The farmers we have in our area come from St. George, St. Philip, St. John and St. Joseph. They would not keep out of Oistins, that is not from today, they have been doing this from way back. So I support this Resolution.

I only want to say that, tangentially, I heard the Honourable Minister talking about St. Philip. I think it would be a wastage of land to subdivide that land at Six Roads in St. Philip into individual house lots. We must have a mix development because if you are taking out that area and you are envisaging a large development in that area, the concept of a single unit house for the whole of that development is a wastage in my opinion. So I think the time has come for the education of the people into that viewpoint.

Six Roads is very fortunate. It always wanted to be a part of Christ Church. There is a linkage between Six Roads, Lodge Road, the industrial estates and the airport in particular. The people who live up there like the jobs at the airport. They were always in a very fortunate position in that they live near the airport and they could get jobs there because there are some shifts at the airport that have to be looked after by the people who live in reasonable proximity to it.

At one time someone had the concept to bring a person from St. Peter or St. Andrew and put them to work in the road works in Christ Church but they only lasted for a week because they could not get up there before 9 o'clock in the morning and the other workers said that if the person could not get up there for 6 o'clock they would start work at 9 o'clock too and it caused a lot of confusion. The concept of local services and local employment is an integral part of economics. You have to recognise that as a fact.

The new road development that has gone through Six Roads which take you right down to the industrial estate, is an integral part of the linkage between these towns. The concept of dividing Barbados into a number of sub-towns is a very old one. So I am glad to see that the administration that conceived it has had the good fortune to have been given the opportunity by the electorate to implement some of it. We are not finished yet because Tamarind Hall is an area that will take into account these factors. Therefore, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Joseph for being able to get that done. I hope that when that is completed or even before that is completed that the powers that be, would come back to Oistins like they should go back to St. John.

The Honourable Member for St. John and I have the distinction of having in our constituencies two projects that were started by the Democratic Labour Party, but eight to nine years have passed and they are not yet finished. He has the polyclinic and I have the post office.

I went there, I do not know about the Honourable Member for St. John, at least five to six times with various ministers and pointed out that this unused building was there. However, I have not had the good fortune to be able to convince any of them that it should be finished. It seems very odd to me that this building is there and the post office at Oistins is taking up the space that the polyclinic needs because the polyclinic in Oistins is very well used and they want to have the additional space and the building is there.

We are not as fortunate as the Honourable Member for St. John because the people of St. John love the polyclinic in St. George right there in the town centre with a bus service, so we need to have something done to the post office at Oistins. I have been asking and begging for it to be done. Now I am hearing that they want to rent from somebody. When the person called me from the post office and asked me if I knew of any place available there, I had to tell him my mind so straight that we agree to terminate the conversation because I wanted to know how come they had a post office that is unfinished for nine years and they now recognise that they want to have space and they want to rent the space. I asked him what happened with the management of that body for the last nine years and he did not like that.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is what I am saying now. What happened to the management of that body for nine years? The post office is supposed to be one of those departments that provides essential services and is to operate upon a semi-commercial business.

Sir, this Resolution is worthy of support. Although I would like some of the money to be spent in my area, I give it my full support because it fulfills such an essential purpose.
12.20 p.m.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I would have to support this Resolution. I believe that my constituency has been the beneficiary. I would think of the first complete town centre this Administration had planned years ago, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has said, we had the honour of executing.

I believe the money being earmarked in this Resolution is to provide professional fees to help develop the Town Hall at Tamarind Hall. It is important, Mr. Chairman, that these Town Halls be developed throughout Barbados. I can think of a number of areas throughout the country that lend

themselves to this development, including that of Four Roads, St. John. Years ago, it was this Barbados Labour Party that developed the Fire Station at Four Roads.

In the St. Philip area, there is need to develop the Six Roads area and land has been acquired for that purpose.

I am not totally in agreement with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South when he said there is no need for the concept of single units in that part of St. Philip. I believe there would be a mixture of high-rises, as well as single units, within the development at Six Roads.

This would also be the case at Tamarind Hall. Government has acquired more than 20 acres of land at Blackmans, St. Joseph, for housing. In that development, over 130 lots would be provided. Out of this number of lots, 70 would be for persons to develop their own homes and 60 would be constructed through a joint venture programme.

We are also looking at the high-rise system at Tamarind Hall. When Tamarind Hall is completed, we would be bringing those communities together, especially those that are now finding themselves under stress from the slippages of land in the Chimborazo, Mellows Hill and Scotland District areas.

It is important for us to note that this type of development is important throughout the countryside and Government, with the help of the Town Planner, is moving swiftly.

Mr. Chairman, even though parcels of land have been identified, sometimes we do not get them because of the Town Planner's regulations. There are certain areas which have been identified by Members of Parliament but I would urge Members that these things take some time but Government is moving swiftly to develop and to keep the promises that we have made.

I can say that we are very happy in St. George. At the Glebe, we have a police substation, a post office and a Resource Centre, which is doing wonders.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to single out the Minister of Social Transformation. Already there are a number of persons, especially young persons, who are receiving training in computer technology. There are also hundreds of young persons who are lined up, waiting for a place at that centre.

I would, therefore, want to urge the Minister to expand the Glebe Resource Centre because of its demand. Presently, there are many young persons coming from areas such as St. Joseph, St. John, Christ Church and even St. Philip.

Mr. Chairman, not only are we looking at the expansion of that centre, there is a need to bring the District "B" Court to the centre of St. George. Presently, the police centre is only a substation but we can see that it is being well used. We are hoping that, in the near future, the lands that have been acquired could be utilised for the District "B" Court as well.

I also believe that, in the near future, the Automatic Teller Machine facility that is now used by the Barbados National Bank, would be expanded to the old Post Office, to facilitate extended banking services there.

I am convinced the town centres that we have conceptualised are being properly utilised and that, in the near future, we can also build other centres at Oistins, Six Roads, in areas of St. John and St. Thomas.

Mr. Chairman, land is being acquired but we have to be cognizant of the fact that these things take a long time. Town centres have emerged overtime and are providing economic returns, not only to persons in the society but to the society as a whole.

I can think in terms of the market that has recently been opened by the Minister of Agriculture, that is now being utilised. We are now looking at other market facilities at Redman's Village, St. Thomas; Jackson, St. Michael and in the Six Mens area. These town centres play a role in helping to develop the society. There is also need for a recreational facility at these areas. In the Glebe, there a recreational facility that would be developed over the period of months. There is also the need for hard court facilities, along with changing room facilities at St. George Park.

Mr. Chairman, if these things are planned properly with the help of professional services, I believe that society itself would benefit. If one goes to the Glebe on evenings, one would see the amount of activity that goes on, where persons play games or exercise.

This reminds me of Gall Hill when it was in its heyday, much activities used to go on there. I understand the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, would be putting flood lamps at most of these recreational facilities to help those persons who would want to play games at night or late evenings.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to support this Resolution and would hope that all Honourable Members do the same. I thank you.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. John has raised a number of queries regarding whether there was a feasibility study done

at Tamarind Hall; who did the feasibility study; when was it presented to Government, *et cetera*.

I did request a file, hoping that on the file I would have been able to answer the questions posed by the Honourable Member. The file presented – as much as it indicates that normal surveys and engineering studies were done – does not indicate, from what I can see and from the advice given to me, that a feasibility study was done.

However, my experience tells me that for funds in excess of \$100 000, there exists a subcommittee of Cabinet, called the Planning and Priorities Committee, that normally would look very closely at these matters. The purpose of the Planning and Priorities Committee, is to examine Government's projects where such projects cost in excess of \$100 000. The type of personnel who attends those meetings are Government experts from various departments.

I, therefore, feel sure that one department that would have been approached up front, even before this matter goes before the Planning and Priorities Committee, would have been the Ministry of Agriculture for their opinion as to whether the area was stable, bearing in mind that area is in the Scotland District.

In the last 10 to 15 years, it has become customary that whenever projects such as these are floated, an environmental impact assessment study is done as a matter of course. Therefore, using the full weight of my experience would inform me that, in every probability, an environmental impact assessment study would have been done.

Mr. Chairman, I also suspect that the Town Planning Department would have been entertaining this matter for sometime and when it went before the Planning and Priorities Committee, the Town Planning Department would have had a substantial input.
12.30 p.m.

Sir, the notion of a feasibility study looks at the pros and cons of a given proposal and assesses it in the light of possible constraints and trends. I am sorry that I have not been able to locate a feasibility study for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. John but I will give this Committee an undertaking that I will continue to look for a feasibility study.

It has happened more than once in Government that there is such a thing as 'the file' and then there are other files that also bear relevant information. The Honourable Member for St. John has sat in Government and knows that this is true and the Honourable Member has the alternative to put these questions by way of Parliamentary Questions.

I will make further enquiries this afternoon but I have not been able to locate a feasibility study in respect of the Six Roads project but again, I would like to urge this Honourable Committee to be aware of the fact that for the last eight years whenever big projects are conceptualised, they have to go through a filter called the Planning and Priority Committee which is usually discreet enough to ask all the pertinent questions that will press experts for answers to mysterious and baffling questions but, Mr. Chairman, being not the substantive Minister I will see if I can locate any other information on this matter.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to give the Honourable Member for St. James North who is my friend any headaches so he can abandon his search. I asked the question because I know the answer. Sir, I only ask questions when I already know the answers and the only project in Barbados that requires a feasibility study is the St. John's polyclinic.

Sir, I have heard some arrant nonsense in the past few months in Barbados but this is inspired by the silly season. The most recent nonsense is that the polyclinic in St. John never had a feasibility study. This statement was made in the presence of people of that constituency who presently suffer under the disability of operating in a polyclinic that becomes flooded out with the slightest rainfall. The physical implements are not available to carry out the work that needs to be done there. Sir, there has been no dental chair in that polyclinic for a long time and this has compromised the children in the parish. The physical layout is such that people consulting with the medical professionals can be heard in the waiting room because of the conditions of the current dilapidated clinic. If one took a stroll around the clinic, one would recognise that an alternative polyclinic should be constructed somewhere else.

Sir, I ask whether a feasibility study was done to get the exact answer which I received from the Honourable Member for St. James North and I thank him for his honesty and forthrightness because, as I have said, the only project in Barbados that requires a feasibility study is the St. John's polyclinic.

Mr. Chairman, officials from the Ministry of Health in a previous dispensation said to me that they felt that the polyclinic was too large. Then, a project officer approached me and asked me to recommend some additional usage for the building to ensure that it was fully utilised. As it was a three-storey building, I recommended a day care facility and a skills training centre because the current community centre used to be the skills training centre which was damaged as a result of the working going on there, causing the training programme to be closed and currently, tiling and other skills

are done at the old Hothersal Primary School. I also recommended a number of other usages to which that building could be put. Sir, the building stands out as an eye sore and the only way it will achieve completion is if a feasibility study is done. Mr. Chairman, I know for certain that several projects have been undertaken by this Government without a feasibility study.

The point that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West was making was that having started the project at Tamarind Hall, was that it was then recognised that it would be more feasible to incorporate some other elements into the project, that tells me that from the outset no serious feasibility study was undertaken and that if anything at all was undertaken, it was substantially flawed.

Sir, whether the St. John's polyclinic is used as a town centre or not the current day care centre at Colleton is bursting at its seams. Government was supposed to undertake the refurbishment of the community centre at Gall Hill for the community technology programme. The building was cleared out and then the people were put back into the building because the project was no longer being undertaken.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not care who finished the project as long as the people who pay their taxes and are looking for benefits enjoy them.

It was told to me that the Government was planning to construct sporting facilities and a building similar to a town centre in the Four Roads area, particularly the area which now houses the telephone exchange, but that the Town and Country Planning Department turned down the application for the simple reason that it is good agriculture land which could not be taken out of agricultural production. The Honourable Member for St. George North would know that an application was made, or at least it was told to me by the Government that an application was made to the Town and Country Planning Department for permission to construct sporting facilities or something similar to a town centre or to improve the physical infrastructure in the Four Cross Roads area, particularly the area near the telephone exchange. The Town and Country Planning Department turned down the application stating that the area is good agricultural land which cannot be taken out of agriculture production.
12.40 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South made the point that if you have a fire service, a building that housed a supermarket, discotheque, gas

station and other facilities, then that area is a major artery for buses whether they are coming from the northern or southern side of the constituency and yet the Town Planner still insists that area is agricultural. This area goes up to the junction where the telephone exchange is located. I hope that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South view will be taken into consideration.

Many years ago, prior to this Government being in office, the then Government wanted to move the Mount Tabor School to Four Cross Roads instead of constructing the new school on the hill on limited land space, so that playing facilities could be included, a recommendation was made to move the school to the area opposite the fire station so that the bigger school could be built in that area to accommodate children from Cherry Grove, Todds and the surrounding areas, as well as the current catchment area that Mount Tabor School serves. This recommendation was rejected by the Town and Country Planning because it was said that this area was one of the highest yield areas for sugar production and, therefore, it could not be taken out of use. Sir, these are the challenges that we face.

The second challenge relates to the bus service and this point was made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South. It is okay to put up town centres but if the bus services are not connecting to the town centres, it makes no sense building town centres. It was more difficult for someone who lives in Martins Bay, Coach Hill or Society, St. John, to get to District 'C' Police station than it is for them to get to Bridgetown. In order to get to District 'C' Police Station, you have to go to Bridgetown and then take a bus to St. Philip. This is so because there is no connecting bus service from any of the major parts of St. John to District 'C' Magistrates' Court. It is currently more beneficial for people to catch a bus from St. John and go to Bridgetown, then take a bus to St. Matthias. This is so because there are more buses on the South Coast route to take them to St. Matthias.

Sir, over the past few days I have been inundated with calls from people who could not get to work because they could not get a bus. These people live on the main arteries serviced by the major transport system. Sir, what do you think would happen to those people who have to travel cross-country in order to catch a connecting bus service? Sir, for town centres to be successful, it is not only necessary to have housing developments but it is necessary to have a bus service that effectively connects with these town centres, so that the people who are to be serviced by those town centres can access the facilities.

The third point is, Government still has to be clear about how it wants to develop town centres. Is Tamarind Hall now the town centre of St. Joseph or is Horse Hill the

town centre? Is The Glebe the town centre of St. George or is it going to be some other area? Every time Government constructs a building, the impression is given that the area where the building is constructed is a town centre.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Is Gall Hill going to be the town centre of St. John or is it Four Roads?

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, there is nothing wrong with having more than one town centre but it would be more economically feasible for a Government that has limited resources to spend efficiently, although it has a lot to waste and give away, to use those resources to identify the specific areas where it wished to undertake these developments and make progress with them.

Mr. Chairman, Six Roads is a natural town centre for the whole of St. Philip and even parts of St. John.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, we need to sit down and work out in our minds what are the key areas that are going to be developed in Barbados as potential sub-centres or town centres, rather than develop areas in the haphazard way in which things are being done. For example, somebody may like an area so he may want a town centre to be built in that area or he may be getting a lot of political support in an area and he decides that an elaborate building should be built in that area so as to justify the level of political support which he gets, without reference to an effective plan for town centres with interconnecting bus service.

Sir, I believe this is going to be very important because every time the Government constructs one of these buildings and calls it a town centre, then the kind of physical development that will have to follow that development to make it into a town may be neither feasible nor efficient in terms of the expenditure of Government's resources.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, this is something that I have been calling on this Honourable House to put in place for a long time. If we had a proper land use policy in this country, the Parliamentarians would not now have to argue where the civic centres will be located. It is clear that we do not have a proper land use policy, Sir.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is not only misdirecting himself but he is misdirecting the House when he suggests that Barbados has no land use policy or proper one.

There is, indeed, not only a land use policy; it is documented in the form of a Physical Development Plan which has to be approved by this Honourable House. Therefore, the Honourable Member should be aware of it. The location of civic centres is laid out in the Physical Development Plan.

Sir, because the Honourable Member is unfamiliar with it, there is no reason for him to mislead the House.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, if we had a proper land use policy we will not now be arguing where these civic centres should be. It should be clearly stated where they would be constructed. This goes back to a point which I made earlier. Not only would we be able to know where they should be but we would also be able to tie down the various Ministers to the fair allocation of resources to constituencies to support the implementation of a proper land use policy that would have been in place.

I hope that we would not only get a fair allocation of resources but we will be able to identify where these buildings will be constructed. Sir, I hope that we would not have a situation where one Parliamentarian says one thing and someone else says something different. There should be a document...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, not only the Parliamentarians but the constituents should be able to read this document and have discussion on it.
12.50 p.m.

Sir, people have to understand that we can talk what we like in here but if it is not pleasing to the constituents and you go and place these things wherever you like, you are not going to get the usage of the particular projects, so it is very important that you make sure...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Somebody would look after you for me. He does all the time that is why he would pick up my ideas and implement them in St. Lucy.

Mr. Chairman, I also want you to understand that it is all right for people to talk about having all these projects but these projects must be pleasing to the people and that is why, Sir, when I speak about tourism for St. Lucy, I can speak with passion because everybody in St. Lucy knows that tourism must be at the old Naval Base location in the north of the island.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South is saying that I say it all the time. This is true because I know where it has to be located and where it must be located. I can afford to repeat it because there is no conflict where it has to be located.

Sir, I am saying that development in St. Lucy is not a guessing game. It is something compulsory, dictated by the people and must be implemented for the people. There is no apology for that because they will know exactly where it must come and where it will come and when it will come.

I am saying, Sir, that the Nestfield area must play a significant role in the development of St. Lucy. Not only Nestfield but it is obvious when one looks at the Crab Hill, Moon Town and Checker Hall areas, and Archer's Bay which was compulsorily acquired since 1976...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You know that River Bay is developing but what I will say to the Minister of Public Works, is that he is costing the taxpayers of this country and the constituents of St. Lucy substantial sums of money, by not constructing a bridge from Hope Road to Bishops. He continues to ignore the point and he continues to refuse to go to St. Lucy to make sure, Sir, that there is a connection between the road from Freehill to Lowlands. Again, this would save the Transport Board and the constituents of St. Lucy, a substantial amount of money, if they do not have to travel all those miles.

Sir, all of these things are documented in the Hansard of Barbados. Not only is that occurring, but one has to recognise that the development we had in St. Lucy we had before, we need to get back. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West provided a beautiful opportunity for the Government to continue tourism in the St. Lucy area for the people of Barbados, when he handed the Government of Barbados, a facility with not only the land but it had the buildings for beach facilities. All of those opportunities were exploited by the Government in the wrong way, instead of utilising them for the tourism plant. They used it for the Defence Force, causing the buildings now to become dilapidated.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the Government of the day lost a golden opportunity of having a property that would have been much better than the property in Black Rock, as you would know it, Sir, Paradise. The Naval Base facility had the same type of beach facilities. It was more protected and it was also in the right location for development.

Sir, I am also saying that when people talk about civic centres and development, the owners of Sandy Lane made a terrible mistake when they failed to utilise that property at the naval base, entering into an arrangement with the Government of Barbados. They said that they wanted that facility for Americans. There is no piece of land that is better suited to attract Americans than the old Naval Base because there is a history to it.

I am saying, Sir, that we sometimes have to guide the investors in the right direction. The old Sandy Lane could have remained for the European tourist who had a particular love for the old Sandy Lane.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, we would have had two. We could have had a Sandy Lane in the north and a Sandy Lane on the west coast and we could have been having two slices of the cake.

Sir, we also need to know how much money is being paid for the Post Office at Six Roads because, as you know, the Government was supposed to compulsorily acquire this particular project. They did it but I believe when you reflect, it might have been a good decision that the Government did not go ahead and it missed the boat at the time.

Those of us who believe in expansion at the level which I believe, would have recognised that if the Government had compulsorily acquired, even though they were beaten to the tape, they would have deprived the St. Philip area of real development. That is, if they had compulsorily acquired the shopping complex and put it into what they wanted, we might not now see the expansion in the Six Roads area. Sir, you would appreciate that the Government has the capability to compulsorily acquire any land they want, but the private sector cannot necessarily acquire whatever land they want.

Sir, we also have to take those points into consideration and recognise that sometimes an error can be made but that error can turn out to be a good.

I thank you, Sir.

On the motion of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, the CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

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

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

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

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY – (CONT'D)

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

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a few moments, as we conclude this debate on this Resolution, to comment on one or two things and maybe respond to one or two of the concerns coming from the other side of the aisle.

Let me from the outset say, Mr. Chairman, that I cannot speak with any degree of certainty with respect to the authors of any feasibility studies. As a matter of fact, my concern is not so much about feasibility in this matter today, but about the desirability of the project because we are talking about providing essential services to a rural area, the people of St. Joseph.

When I hear persons raising questions about feasibility and matters such as that, perhaps they do not intend that I infer that they are of the view that some of these services should not be put in place to be of benefit to those who live in the rural areas of Barbados. Certainly, this Government, which I am a part of, and the people's representatives on this Side hold very strongly to the view when it comes to the matter of the provision of essential services and indeed the modernisation of services and service facilities across Barbados to rural constituents whether they be in St. Andrew, St. Peter, St. Joseph or St. John, that they stand in equal position to be considered as worthy beneficiaries of such services. So let me, by saying that, get past the issue of feasibility and deal with desirability as I said.

The Honourable Member for St. John spoke quite eloquently, as is usual, but also with some obvious unfamiliarity with the Tamarind Hall project. The Tamarind Hall project is not intended to relocate any town centre in rural St. Joseph. In fact, the Tamarind Hall project is seeking swiftly to modernise what exists, perhaps in antiquated terms, of a town centre in St. Joseph along the Horse Hill strip because we are talking about the same general area.

One knows full well, if one knows St. Joseph, that along the Horse Hill strip we have a couple of educational facilities; the Parish Church for St. Joseph; a private medical facility which is already in existence; a police post, a magistrate's court, a clinic and a post office, all of which now because of their obvious antiquity suggest the need for remedy. Tamarind Hall is designed to modernise an already existing town centre and not to relocate a town centre in St. Joseph away from the Horse Hill area.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I would want to advise, should not find it necessary to question this Government's commitment to the provision of services for rural Barbados. Already in my earlier contribution I spoke to ongoing incremental efforts to upgrade, refurbish and modernise the departments and ministries that fall under the portfolio of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Attorney General's Office. I spoke with reference to the courts and the police stations in particular. Certainly this would be reflected in the remedial work to the facilities at District 'C' in St. Philip, District 'E' in St. Peter and District 'B' in St. George which was already alluded to by the Honourable Member for St. George North.

The new Glebe Complex is an obvious bit of evidence that we are committed to the provision of centralised services to rural Barbados in a very modern fashion. Of course, if you go to St. Thomas in the heart of the island, the new fire facility at Arch Hall is testament to the fact that the Government is about the business of seriously providing essential services to rural Barbados.

I understand where the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is coming from. In his earlier years in this Honourable Assembly in an attempt to bring some representation to the interest of the people of St. Lucy, he has been calling very often for an additional airport. Having lately come to recent wisdom, he is now at the point where he is calling for more practical services in that he now understands that things like post offices, police stations, pharmacies, fire services, polyclinics, day care centres and libraries are much more of an essential need in rural Barbados than would be a second international airport into which nothing would fly. So we welcome the Honourable Member for St. Lucy into this recently acquired wisdom in coming to grips with the practical needs of the people of St. Lucy. However, he has suggested and I believe he is right on this score that what...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. If we were outside of the House, I would have to say that he is lying, but seeing that we are in the House I cannot say that. However, if the Honourable Member were to take time and go back to Hansard of Barbados when the Bill for setting up the Rural

Development Commission came to this Parliament, he would recognise that all those things that he accused me of not speaking of, I would have spoken of on that particular occasion. But seeing that he holds the profession that he holds, I know that he would apologise to the House for misleading the House because it is not of his profession to do something like that.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member charges me with attempting to mislead the House by suggesting that he has recently come to wisdom. My apologies to the House for so thinking, so I urge him soon to arrive at that point of practical wisdom in seeking to represent the interest of the good people of St. Lucy insofar as he has the opportunity officially and formally to do so. Therefore, he must very speedily arrive at that point.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Attorney General share the view that what we need in St. Lucy is not only a refurbished police outpost but a fully functional and fully equipped police station which will offer the kind of services that are required in the north of the island. That is the direction this Government is embarked upon. So the extension to the existing police station at Crab Hill is expected to be very expansive and extensive and goes beyond simply mere cosmetic refurbishment in terms of how the Ministry conceived the development of the police facility up there at Crab Hill.
2.10 p.m.

There are obvious reasons, Mr. Chairman, why we would want to see this kind of development taking place in northern Barbados. One of those reasons is this, recent trend has suggested that the north is a part of Barbados which is increasingly becoming more vulnerable to criminal activity, especially offshore, in relation to drugs.

Therefore, to the extent that there is an obvious thrust from criminal action and criminal intention taking place in the north, we would want to ensure that the law enforcement agencies are set up there and are sufficient to the needs that could make the type of response to the north as would lend itself to providing better security for the island and especially the northern rural section of the island.

Mr. Chairman, we also share the view that perhaps the north, and more particularly so, St. Lucy and St. Peter, are the next and new frontier for development in this country, as such, it would be expected that sections of St. Lucy and St. Peter, one would see development taking place at perhaps a more rapid rate than in the case of some other traditional areas of Barbados. It is expected that those areas would not only be tourism but other related areas as well.

I mentioned tourism because I anticipate that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who currently, though temporarily, holds a seat for St. Lucy, would be concerned about it. Therefore, we see it as a new frontier for the development in Barbados.

We are seeing, in the future, a new environment being created in the north where the pace of development is perhaps more rapid than currently exists in traditional places of Barbados where development has taken place at a significant extent.

In that new environment, we would want to have new and modernised facilities for the courts, the police, the fire service, libraries, clinics, *et cetera*. This is what the Tamarind Hall Project in St. Joseph is all about.

I might even dare to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that in the new environment, the people of St. Lucy might anticipate that they would want to call on new representation as well and representation which is more in sync and suitable to the modern context which we anticipate, soon to be the case evident in St. Lucy.

With those few remarks, I would want to end this contribution. I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

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

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$500 000

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary under Head 43 is for \$500 000 for the St. Leonard's School Project.

Let me start by saying that the St. Leonard's School Project is not really an EduTech project. It is a Government of Barbados and a Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) project but what we have always insisted is that the standards must conform to the EduTech standards. This, Sir, is an absolutely necessary project.

Mr. Chairman, let me be very upfront with this Honourable Chamber and say it is no secret that, very early in the life of this project, problems existed between the contractor and his employees and, at that time, the media took the opportunity of highlighting some of those difficulties.

The Ministry of Education then took certain steps to speak to the contractor in an effort to correcting the situation there. We are aware that parents are very uneasy about

sending their children to school, unless they feel the children are going to be comfortable. We do not want to have a situation where some parents say that they are not going to send their children at the St. Leonard's School because they are unhappy with the situation.

Mr. Chairman, when this project is completed, I would want to see that St. Leonard's School becomes a school of choice. I would hope that the Government Information Service (GIS), the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and the print media, would all do features about the positives of the St. Leonard's Project.

As I said, the Ministry was forced to speak to the contractor and to suggest that other arrangements be put in place to ensure a smoother facilitation and completion of this project.

We did not approve of some of the practices of which complaints were made and made our feelings known to the contractor. We could not have condoned a situation where delays were being caused because of a poor working relationship between the contractor and the workers. We knew that if it had continued, it would have impacted negatively on the education of the students at St. Leonard's School.

Sir, certain recommendations were made to the contractor, to which he was prepared to conform. He, too, was concerned about not meeting deadlines and about the morale of the workers on the project. I want to make the point that the Ministry did not run the show, the contractor made the concessions himself.

Mr. Chairman, the main focus of the Ministry of Education, is to ensure that education is delivered to those students at St. Leonard's School in the best possible environment and under the best possible conditions. Those new arrangements, I am pleased to say, are bearing fruit. There is a general consensus that with this new arrangement, the quality of work has improved tremendously. We are satisfied that the project is going well.

Mr. Chairman, on numerous occasions while visiting the St. Leonard's School Project during the last summer vacation, I had certain fears. I, at one time, did not think that we would have been able to have the school ready for the next term but I have to say that the work proceeded at such a rapid and very satisfactory rate which resulted in about one or two weeks' delay.

When the Barbados Union of Teachers visited the compound, they too, were satisfied with what was going on and I think it was a real achievement to have been able to get the children back into the school.

Mr. Chairman, teachers, parents and students can now see something happening at the St. Leonard's School. It is no longer a matter of simply hearing that something is about to happen. They definitely can see progress.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that every school should have a dream. Those of us in this Chamber, and I can think of the Honourable Member for St. James North, Mr. Speaker and myself, who would have all dreamt the St. Leonard's dream. We all taught there. Some of us went to school there and are now pleased that, at last, the end is in sight.

Yes, it is going to take longer than we had anticipated but this is not peculiar to the St. Leonard's Project. All of us know that where construction is concerned, delays are very much in order. I was speaking to a good friend of mine who, last week, has just moved into his house. His contractor had promised him that he would have moved into that house since September last year but it has taken him another six months before he could actually move into it. The point I am making is that even in building our own homes, delays are common and are a feature of construction the world over.

One of the other things we have to realise is that much of the work going on at St. Leonard's is happening while the school is in progress and I think it is very commendable that we have been able to achieve so much under such circumstances.
2.20 p.m.

When a school is in progress and there is construction going on, there is the potential for vandalism and we have to think about the safety of the children. We also have to think about management of the dust and about the noise which could interrupt classes. I recall that a sprinkler and a mechanical sweeper were used every evening at St. Leonard's School because the children were still occupying the school. Sir, there was also a lot of dust every time a building was demolished and as the trucks moved from point A to point B. This work at Richmond is not a piece of cake and there are many human problems to be considered on the job.

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Ministry of Education to publicly apologise to the teachers, staff and the community for the inconvenience caused. It is a fact of life that if repairs are taking place at our homes we have to put up with many inconveniences but people want to go through life without any inconveniences and that is virtually impossible.

Mr. Chairman, St. Leonard's is now a combination of St. Leonard's Boys' and St. Leonard's Girls, so we are

speaking about the construction of some new buildings as well as the refurbishing of many of the existing blocks. I also want to make the point that we are not asking for this extra \$500 000 because of cost overruns. Mr. Chairman, every increase in the cost of a project is not to be taken as cost overruns. To my mind, a cost overrun occurs when more is spent for the same amount of work anticipated to be done, negligence with respect to the initial work or if a mistake has to be corrected. Sir, this is a situation where the extra work absolutely must be done or the school would have been halted.

In one instance a new roof was required on one of the blocks which was not in the initial work forecast. The engineers had condemned the roof and it had to be replaced or the school would have been closed.

Mr. Chairman, in a few months St. Leonard's Boys' School will have one of the best campuses in the region and many good plans are earmarked for that site. Continuing education programmes will also be resumed there. Sir, the school used to be a hub at one time and we want to go back to that situation.

Mr. Chairman, I was a teacher at St. Leonard's Boys' and we never had functions because we did not have the facilities that other schools had but the hall at St. Leonard's Boys' is now moving along nicely. There is also a proper canteen that is now being referred to as a cafeteria.

Mr. Chairman, I want to divert to make a point about something the President of the Democratic Labour Party said on the television last night. He said that qualifications were overrated. Sir, he repeated the statement three times and it was a most unfortunate statement. His tone of speech seems to be saying that in Barbados university education or qualifications do not matter and that CXC certificates are not important.

Mr. Chairman, I think that it is the kind of statement which sends the wrong message to our children. I am sure that Sir Lloyd Sandiford would never associate himself with remarks such as those that qualifications do not matter.
2.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I know that Sir Lloyd has always put education first and qualification is something that is dear to his heart. I am grateful that my mother never told me that qualifications do not matter. I think that this is a very dangerous statement for someone who is aspiring to be a leader of this country, to get in a public forum and say that qualifications do not matter.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I think it shows a lack of maturity on the part of the President of the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. Chairman, you have to set certain criteria in order that our society might be ordered, that is why we set qualification standards and that is why we set bars. If there is no criteria in place, there will be rampant unfairness.

Sir, ironically enough, the point that he made is going to backfire because if we do not set criteria and qualifications, then there would be rampant unfairness, rampant hand picking and all that he was suggesting. Mr. Chairman, we have qualifications so that we would not disadvantage people but that we would be fair to people.

I think it is a very irresponsible statement by the President of the Democratic Labour Party. At times I do not know his true position because I get confused with who is the Opposition Leader of the Democratic Labour Party and who is leader of the party. However, I am referring to the Senator.

Sir, the whole process of holding office has to do with your capacity and capability to do so and I think that our best benchmark today has always been qualifications. I do not know how we can say that qualifications are overrated. Mr. Chairman, even when we set out certain criteria for directors of companies, we say that the director cannot be bankrupt, the director cannot be of unsound mind among other things. There is also an eligibility criteria in the Senate. Mr. Chairman, I am very disappointed in the mouthings of the Senator and President of the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, I would like to return to the St. Leonard's project. I am convinced that St. Leonard's still produce students of tremendous ability and students who would some day come to get the qualifications that the Senator said are overrated.

Mr. Chairman, when I taught at St. Leonard's that school had a lot of students with very high potential and I do not think that there is any difference now. I look at the plans for the school and I can safely say that I was slightly disappointed when I realised that no provision was made in the drawings for a language lab at that school. I think that is unfortunate because if there is one school in Barbados which deserves having a language lab, that school is St. Leonard's. I hope that the staff would find it possible to use about two or three of the rooms at St. Leonard's for their language lab.

Currently, the students of St. Leonard's sit CXC Basic Spanish in third form. Sir, let me repeat that. The students at St. Leonard's School sit CXC Basic Spanish in third form. I think that the Head of the language department has to be a very confident person to ask the children at St. Leonard's

School to sit CXC Basic Spanish in third form because CXC Basic Spanish is not an easy subject to pass. At Harrison College the Headmaster is confident enough to let his students sit English and Mathematics in fourth form.

Sir, I must say that the Head of Department at St. Leonard's immerses the students into the language at a very early stage. The teachers made the students think in Spanish. The moment you step through that door into his Spanish room, you are thinking in Spanish. Questions, responses or opinions are structured in Spanish. Mr. Chairman, anything that the children want, they have to express themselves in Spanish. The Head of the language department, Mr. Peter Corbin, uses a technique that is working. It is working like magic.

Sir, I think that he is even over-burdened with the number of students from Queen's College and other schools who come to him for extra lessons. His technique has worked wonders at St. Leonard's.

Asides

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Corbin would take a room and do a simulation where that room would be transformed into a market or the Front Desk of a hotel. Sir, every activity that takes place in the market or the hotel is conducted in Spanish. For example, there would be fruits and vegetables in the market and any conversation which takes place in the market would be done in Spanish. Similarly, in the hotel the guests would arrive with their luggage, they would speak Spanish and the workers of the hotel would also be speaking Spanish. Mr. Chairman, the students' grammar is impeccable when you hear those students speaking in Spanish.

Sir, let me say again that if there is one school that deserves a Spanish lab would be St. Leonard's. St. Leonard's School has a better pass record in CXC Basic Spanish at CXC than some of our leading older secondary schools. Sir, Spanish is one of the hardest subjects to pass at CXC. Do not tell me that the students at St. Leonard's do not have ability because I think differently.

We have been speaking about specialists schools for nearly two years. Whenever the specialists schools are realised, I know that St. Leonard's would be a centre of excellence for languages.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether you played cricket when you attended St. Leonard's but I know that when Mr. Speaker and myself taught at St. Leonard's we played cricket at lunchtime under the windows. Sir, you either played under the windows or go onto the tar road to play cricket. St. Leonard's never had a true playing field.

The students ran their 100 metres on the tar road. I remember the students run the 200 metres where they ran up the road, make a hairpin bend, back down the road and that was their 200 metres. Sir, this was a very unfortunate situation for a school.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry is looking at constructing a playing field in the middle of the 'campus' but in order to have the playing field, a building would have to be demolished and that is a dilemma, Sir.
2.40 p.m.

Sir, I believe that the engineers should look at this building. I think that there is structural integrity about that building. It hurts me, really and truly, to know that a building with still a lot of capability, would have to be demolished for the playing field. This is a dilemma right now because they are specialist rooms and I would not like to see a situation where you destroy the building. The specialist rooms are now being used for classrooms and when you want those specialist rooms, the classes have to float and I would not like that to happen so this is one of the things that we face.

Mr. Chairman, you and I, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, St. James North and the Speaker, reflected on what we were force to make out with at St. Leonard's. I recall, Sir, when only six teachers could be accommodated in the staff room at St. Leonard's. I remember when the improvement went from that little '2x2' room to a prefab building.

The teachers at St. Leonard's today now feel that they have a staff room. I recall the days when in that prefab building, we would play House of Assembly. I would sit down and say, Mr. Speaker, and we would get up and make speeches and so on. We were practising, and if we had a proper staff room then, I do not know what would have happened.

The teachers now are boasting at St. Leonard's about the type of staff room that they have. I make bold to say on the floor of the House that St. Leonard's now has the best staff room in the island. It even outdoes the staff room at the University of the West Indies and at the Barbados Community College. It has an excellent staff room. It has the kitchenette. It has the bathrooms. It has personal cubicles. It has a lounge. It has almost everything that an up-to-date and modern staff room would have.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, as I said there is a problem with vandalism and it has to be addressed,

not only at St. Leonard's but at other schools in Barbados, generally. Sometimes we find that panes of glass out of brand-new windows are broken for no reason at all. I think this is extremely sad.

This school, St. Leonard's, in the very plans, also has the only autotronics lab in Barbados. This is like a clean garage where you have no oil. You have no grease. You have no tools and there are no engine parts and so on. It is computerised. The students are sitting at the computer and there is an engine on the computer. What will happen is that you turn the ignition key and you hear nothing and you want to know from that simulation what is the fault. You diagnose your fault on the computer and when you turn the key again, it starts and so you know exactly what was wrong. This is something which St. Leonard's has on the other schools in Barbados, so the autotronics lab is a show piece virtually.

It saddened me only a couple days ago when I was talking to the project manager that they had not yet handed over the autotronics lab to the school and the reason was that they were so fearful of vandalism. This is a very sad statement to make because the students could be using it and because of the fear of vandalism, they have not handed it over. I think one of the ways to cope with this question of vandalism – and I think we have to use this at St. Leonard's – is to involve the community more into our schools and into the planning of what is going on at the schools. We must involve the communities and when there is a school in the community, the community should feel itself as part of the institution.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, it is going to be a real show piece at St. Leonard's. It is a pity that headmasters who have gone before, such as Mr. Griffith, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Bowen and the hundreds of teachers who would have passed through, would not have been able to work in these now ideal conditions.

Sir, when you look back at what used to be, you will see that the St. Leonard's Boys and Girls used to be more or less in a prefab jungle. The staff room was a prefab building, the boys' bathroom was a prefab building and many of the classrooms were prefab buildings. I believe, Mr. Chairman, it is ironic that you have to be sitting there and you cannot today, speak about St. Leonard's. I think that, in a way, this is catch up time, to bring this whole St. Leonard's School in line with others. I think that the refurbishment at St. Leonard's has to be seen against the contrast of the Deighton Griffith School, the St. George Secondary School, the Lester Vaughan School and those schools that are so very well appointed, and the other newer secondary schools that were built long after St. Leonard's.

Sir, these other schools have excellent facilities but St. Leonard's has lagged behind. I would therefore think that the \$500 000 that we are coming to this House for today, is going to be money very well spent. It is going to be spent on an institution that is badly in need. It is going to be spent on an institution that has been outstripped by others, but one that is still doing excellent work and I commend it to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on Head 43 and to ask the Minister to identify for this House, how much of this money that has been spent on this project was capital expenditure and how much was revenue expenditure. For the simple reason, Sir, the Minister said that this project is over its budget.

I am saying that even though it is not an EduTech project, I am seeing some similarities within this particular project. That is, this project is being treated as if it is total capital expenditure when in truth and in fact, Sir, one can clearly recognise that there is a combination of revenue expenditure and capital expenditure.

These projects, especially the EduTech project, Sir, have been financed by loans on the international market and it is known for years, Sir, that the international market does not necessarily finance revenue expenditure projects. They tend to finance capital expenditure projects and I want to congratulate the Minister of Education for being able to combine capital expenditure and revenue expenditure in seeking finance for this particular project.
2.50 p.m.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: On a point of order. I do not know what revenue expenditure is. I have not tried to combine capital expenditure and revenue expenditure at all. So the Honourable Member must not congratulate me for that. Mr. Chairman, I do not know what it means and in all honesty I do not want to know what it means either.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot accuse the Minister for not knowing what he does not know. The truth is, this particular project has been so skillfully crafted that the Government has been able to take a combination of two expenditures to the international money market and get financing for that expenditure even though the international financing market do not normally lend money for revenue expenditure. I am saying that any Government that is capable of combining revenue expenditure and capital expenditure and can take it to the international market and get financing for it, should be congratulated. The Minister has stated clearly that he does not understand what is revenue expenditure or what is capital expenditure.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Oh, he understands what is capital expenditure. Well, then it is my job to explain to him

what is revenue expenditure. Normally when a school needs repairs, you will repair the school and those repairs are called revenue expenditure.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is a fact. Repairs are normal current expenditure...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No! No! No! The Honourable Member must not tell me what to say. He does not understand the subject matter, so he cannot educate me on the subject matter. I am educating him on the subject matter.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, this is where the boys are separated from the men now.

Mr. Chairman, all I am saying to this House is that under normal financing, money would be set aside on a yearly basis to do normal expenditure that would occur on a yearly basis at the schools. This Government has been able to ignore those expenditures, allow them to mount up and then go for what you would normally call money to finance a new project. But instead of servicing the project, they have been able to go to the capital market as if they are building new schools or expanding the present schools. They have been able to cloud the expenditure all in one and to get financing for it under conditions they would not have normally received financing for. That is all I am saying.

The Honourable Member on the Other Side would want me to speak about current expenditure. I want to tell the Minister of Housing and Lands that there is no difference between current expenditure and revenue expenditure. One is a public sector phraseology and the other is a private sector phraseology. It is simple as that.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: If the Honourable Member is clouded only in the public sector and I am a combination of both, he cannot blame me for that. It tells me that I am a little more expansive than the Honourable Members on the Frontbench on the Other Side and they cannot blame me for that.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: This is the whole problem in this Parliament. Every time I speak, Honourable Members behave as if I do not understand what I speak of when in

truth and in fact they are the ones who are guilty of not understanding what is going on in the real world. I am not blaming anybody. All I am saying is that if the Minister does not understand what I am saying, all he simply has to do is to ask me to explain it for him. It does not mean that I am not right in what I am saying. The Honourable Member for St. James North would not have challenged me on that because he is aware of the two. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North would not challenge me on this anymore either because he too has learnt well because he already challenged me on these things and recognise that he was wrong. The Honourable Member who used to serve in here who represented the constituency of St. Thomas would not have challenged me anymore on these matters either. These Honourable Members have tried to challenge me and they have found out that they were wrong and I was right.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am prepared to take all the challenges, the ones in Flying Fish and Cou Cou and the ones all over the place. I am saying that the Government has been able to cloud...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am glad the Honourable Member made that comment because this is what you would call 'Flying Fish and Cou Cou talk'. The financing of EduTech is like 'Flying Fish and Cou Cou talk' because it has been able to cloud issues which I would have to unravel for the simple reason that we are now having in here financing at the highest level. We are having capital expenditure blending with current expenditure or revenue expenditure whatever you want to call it.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Under normal circumstances, the capital market would not have financed the EduTech Programme as current expenditure. They would have done it as capital expenditure. As I said, this is clever financing for EduTech and the Government must be congratulated for being able to combine revenue expenditure and capital expenditure to get the financing.

If the Government had to look for the money to repair the schools on its own, it would not have been able to get this amount of money to repair the number of schools that have to be repaired. For example, take the Coleridge and Parry School which was long deserving of repairs. I am glad to see finally that those from the north have been able to convince the ones from the south that the Coleridge and Parry School is in need of repairs also. It is regrettable to see

a school that has contributed so much to this country remaining in such a dilapidated state. On a yearly basis, when you turn up at the school for a Speech Day, you had to sit and listen to the headmaster of the school repeating the same point over and over. I am happy to see that the headmaster has succeeded. I am also proud of the speech that was made at St. Lucy's Parish Church when a commitment was given that nobody who attended the Coleridge and Parry School would allow it to fall into the hands of the wrong people.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I am happy to see now that some money has been allocated to carry out the repairs to the Coleridge and Parry School.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, capital expenditure and revenue expenditure would go under there too. What is also very interesting is that Queen's College, a school that was newly built, and many other schools had a substantial amount of money spent on them, but no money was spent on the Coleridge and Parry School.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has been clever in raising money under capital expenditure that could easily be regarded as capital and revenue expenditure.
3.00 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Those persons who understand the point I am making would understand it to be a very substantial point. Those who do not understand, I am very sorry for them because there is going to come a time when this point I am making, would be recognised. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend the Minister of Education for bringing this Supplementary today in order to aid and to clean up the St. Leonard's School.

I have been associated with the St. Leonard's School for a very long time. In fact, I had a great teacher, like some of my colleagues. I have gone there on numerous occasions and could associate myself with the remarks that the Minister has made. I am glad to see that something is being done to enhance the School in a positive way. I believe that St. Leonard's School, which has turned out many boys in terms of Spanish but I believe the school has, and maybe still has, the best Industrial Department.

I remember going there as a young teacher to do the Pre-Erdiston course in Industrial Arts. In those days, there were great teachers such as Mr. Kenneth Hinds, who would have taught Industrial Arts to many young boys in this country, who have all gone on to do well in the business world.

I believe that in terms of certification, it was one of the first schools that turned out youngsters who were well certified in terms of obtaining the City and Guilds Certificate or passes at the General Certificate of Education (GCE) or at the London Chamber of College Examination (LCCE).

I am glad that these certifications would have proven well, especially at a time when young persons would have gone on to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic or to other colleges, not only in Barbados but outside.

Mr. Chairman, it brings me to this point. It seems to me that the Democratic Labour Party, in their recent pronouncements, does not believe too much in terms of youngsters becoming certified. I wonder what was the thinking behind the present Opposition Party when they could make such a pronouncement on radio that certifications were not of any use today and that qualifications did not matter. I wonder why then we would have spent so much money on education. Of course, the Democratic Labour Party has always preached that they are behind education in this country. They believe people could go to school but must not have certificates. They believe that CXC's and GCE's should now be thrown out the window. They believe that after one reaches age 15 and is supposed to take the examinations, one should then stop school.

I wonder what message are we sending to the number of young persons in the system today. Are we saying when youngster get to the 5th Forms they are not supposed to take the examinations?

I am saying it is a sad day when we could send that signal to youngsters who are now preparing for CXC's in June, the CAPE examination and all types of Associates Degrees. When these youngsters have done their certification, are we saying to them that they cannot be qualified and that if they enter the job market, they must not be recognised?

Mr. Chairman, we in this Assembly, have to recognise that qualification does matter. Experience matters. They both go hand in hand. If we are supposed to have a true educational system in this country, we have to recognise persons who have gone on, not only at the level of secondary education but also tertiary.

There were times at St. Leonard's School when there were only a few qualified teachers. Nowadays I believe more

than 99 per cent of the teachers are qualified Erdiston graduates or as university graduate teachers and that most of them have gone on to finish their Masters Degree. Teachers have been going to lengths to make themselves qualified and once they have achieved such qualifications, they are recognised, rewarded and properly paid.

This Government does recognise qualification. We recognise experience but they both go hand in hand and, therefore, we want to encourage more teachers to become qualified. We want them, not only to become qualified and to remain at the bottom but to be qualified and get into new positions. Therefore, the time has come for us to look carefully at the entire system of promotion, not only based on education but also on experience.

I believe the St. Leonard's School would be a model school when completed. I hope that other schools would follow through. That is why I agree with the concept of the EduTech Programme that has taken place across the island.

Yesterday, I passed in St. Andrew and saw the work that is being done at the Alleyne School and at the Primary School in Belleplaine. I have seen the refurbishment work being done at the St. Judes, St. George; the Cuthbert Moore Primary School, St. George, and all the other schools across Barbados.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip North spoke about staff room facilities. There was a time when there were no proper facilities for teachers, some of them had to relax under the trees. I am glad to hear that teachers are now getting modern facilities. I hope that type of thing could be replicated throughout Barbados at all the schools where teachers now teach under those conditions.

I am confident that once this Government remains the Government, we would have improvements in education and in the facilities that are now being offered. Of course, the Other Side has criticised the EducTech Programme. They have criticised the refurbishment of the schools. They have criticised what is happening to the modern educational facilities for teachers in this country. They are now criticising the qualification that teachers get and that students get, to emulate their teachers. I thank you.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to say how pleased I am at the Supplementary for the Phase 2 civil works of the St. Leonard's Secondary School.

Mr. Chairman, as Barbadians, we have all prided ourselves of being well-educated. I remember as a very young person, we used to talk about Barbadians being 99.5 per cent literate. I think that is a goal that we should still try to work towards in this new millennium.

Mr. Chairman, within recent times but, indeed, in the past and for many years, Barbadians, particularly teachers, have been serving countries all over the world.

Last year teams came from New York, Kentucky and other countries sourcing our teachers, nurses and police officers and this shows that we are offering an excellent package in education which the rest of the world wants to recruit so that their population can benefit from this high quality education being offered.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, St. Leonard's Boys School is the only secondary boys school and the additional works are necessary if we are to offer boys that wonderful privilege to continue to take advantage of the services being offered in education.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the principal, Mr. Jackson, the staff, parents and guardians and the students for the tolerance, patience and understanding that they have exhibited in continuing to use the facilities while the construction is taking place. Indeed, when we live in our household and repairs are being done we do not move into a hotel and I know that the Ministry of Education has been identifying alternate location to house students to ensure that the facilities are adequately repaired.

Mr. Chairman, I love boys, they deserve the best and I know that they have special needs. Many female teachers within the system do not quite understand boys and many of them compare boys to girls and we do not want to see their shirt tails hanging out or see them perspire when playing games. Sir, these boys need this additional form of activity to allow them to be boys because we want our boys to grow into men and we can only get that masculinity to come out if we continue to chart our boys in the avenue to perform boyish activities.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North mentioned the music room, cafeteria, state-of-the-art hall, staff rooms better than any other in the country so far, teachers' points where they can correct books and deal with individual students to be able to determine the challenges they are experiencing to counsel these students since every teacher is a counsellor. This facility is being made available for young boys and teachers at the St. Leonard's Boys.

I think the school has the capacity to continue to be an excellent institution. The Honourable Member for St. George North mentioned the technical skills which young men possess and if in the 1960s and 1970s, we were able to produce the best technical and vocational persons in Barbados I think that full day school should allow us to develop even better technicians in those areas.

The boys have also been excelling in sports even though the facilities are not adequate. They have been earning prizes in chess and other areas of sports and I want to publicly commend them for all of the excellent work done.

Sir, in the mid 90s a former student offered the school computers as a donation and it made a great difference in the lives of the students and teachers on the compound. Today, the efforts of this Government to refurbish St. Leonard's Boys will incorporate the use of the technology to a higher level and every child will benefit from EduTech programme when it comes on stream for the area.

I share the sentiments of the Honourable Member for St. George North when he mentioned the unfortunate statement made by the President of the Democratic Labour Party. As a small child I heard a lot about the role that Sir Grantley Adams played in laying the foundation for education and we know of the many secondary schools like St. Leonard's Boys School, West St. Joseph and Princess Margaret School, were established during his time. The Right Excellent Errol Barrow would have added to that foundation to ensure that quality education would continue and it startles my mind to hear the comments made by the President of the Democratic Labour Party when he said that certificates were not important.

Sir, the President of the Democratic Labour Party has insulted the intelligence of the Members of the Democratic Labour Party when he puts qualifications at the lowest level because in Barbados we know that successive Governments have emphasized the importance of a quality education for all people.

Asides.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: I will not refer to 1991 when teachers were not given the opportunity to go back to Erdiston to finish their training or the thirteen-year olds that were put out of school and that this Barbados Labour Party put back into school in 1976 because we recognised that those young people needed that education or there would have been tremendous confusion and a cancerous situation would have emerged.

Mr. Chairman, I have difficulty in understanding why an individual trying to win a seat, which he won for a few months and then lost again, would make such an unprofessional statement to create confusion among Barbadians who know that qualifications are important. The Barbados Labour Party ensured when they came into office in 1994/95 that the Polytechnic numbers were expanded because too many young people were on the

streets who needed to be certified with a skill. The Barbados Community College was not functioning at its maximum capacity and, therefore, the numbers were doubled. We still cannot facilitate all the individuals who apply on an annual basis to the University of the West Indies and hence the University of College will be involved in that exercise.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that St. Leonard's Boys School will be the gem of Richmond Gap. People speak about Richmond Gap in pejorative terms but this school will help transform the entire community. I know that the Urban Development Commission has great plans for upgrading the facilities and housing in that general area because every Barbadian matters and we in the Barbados Labour Party perceive that it is important that if buildings are upgraded, community and resource centres are opened and roads are being built, then measures must be put in place to allow people to advance as well. Therefore, as is the policy of the Ministry of Education, that facility will be made available to the local residents so that they can hold their meetings and various activities. I would love to see St. Leonard's School again turned into a continuing education centre.
3.20 p.m.

I had the benefit in the 1970s of improving my education at St. Leonard's School where I wanted to reach that level of being a qualified person and, therefore, I attended classes there.

I know that when the Democratic Labour Party was in office, many teachers were under-qualified and many of them had to be put out of the teaching service because they were not able to earn those four certificates that were necessary. Now that we have young people with 7 or 10 certificates seeking employment and being invited to go overseas to work, the President of the Democratic Labour Party tears down what has taken us more than 60 years to build up when it comes to quality education and the preparation of oneself for life, so that whatever jobs are made available, not only in Barbados but in the rest of the world, can fit into them comfortably because we are the envy of the world when it comes to the quality education that is being offered.

Mr. Chairman, the President of the Democratic Labour Party has done a terrible disservice to the Democratic Labour Party and the legacy that they always espouse by making such an unfortunate, naive and a childish statement.

Therefore, I wish to laud the efforts of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports for the vision of working on the St. Leonard's School and lifting the entire

community up so that they too can reap the benefits that all other Barbadians have had the wonderful privilege to be able to achieve and to upgrade their education.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that I could let the opportunity pass without making a contribution to the Resolution that would advance the St. Leonard's School.

I attended that school from 1959 to 1965. I can say that school sits on a compound that has done a lot for education in Barbados. The compound comprised the St. Leonard's Boys, the St. Leonard's Girls, the Evening Technical Institute and the Barbados Hotel School. St. Leonard's School turned out many scholars in Barbados. For example, Dr. Nagdee, P.S. Jones, former magistrate Carlyle Greaves, former Minister Clyde Griffith and Dean Dixon were students of St. Leonard's. St. Leonard's in its limited way was able to turn out outstanding people in this society.

I remember the basketball court was a dirt area in one corner of the compound and on the other side, near the St. Leonard's Girls School, there was a tennis court and a netball court for the girls.

Sir, I support anything that would advance this institution.

I thank you.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Sir, I want to support this Resolution. St. Leonards School sits in the heart of St. Michael West constituency. Therefore, we would want to positively give support to this Resolution.

Sir, there is more than refurbishment at St. Leonard's School. We are looking at the creation of a modern environment. I remember when I initially came to be representing St. Michael West, having attended meetings at the Ministry of Education and the St. Leonard's School, there were instances of cynicism among parents and teachers of the school because St. Leonard's lagged behind in terms of the facilities being refurbished, upgraded and modernised.

I am glad that after three years, we are seeing evidence that Government always intended to make sure that modernisation came to this facility. I join with the Minister in lauding those who are working on the project. I think that the work is progressing quite satisfactorily. In difficult circumstances, there have been very few injuries in spite of the inconvenience, dislocation and the volume of dust.

I want to join the Minister of Education in expressing my appreciation to parents, staff, students and residents of the area for being so kind as to put up with the inconvenience in the circumstances.

Sir, not only is the school being improved but the environment around the school is being substantially enhanced. A number of new roads where roads did not exist before, concrete and asphalt roads have been constructed in the Richmond area and on the eastern and southern sides of the compound.

In addition, some remedial work was done on houses. Some new houses have been provided for some of our senior citizens which have served to enhance the profile of the community. This was done through the agency of the Urban Development Commission. Also, through the Government's commitment of empowering people through landownership, people are now in a position to improve their homes. Therefore, the entire environment around the school will be rejuvenated and rehabilitated. I think this is keeping with what is happening within the school's compound.

Sir, we will soon see the commencement of work on a resource centre, community and cultural facility in the Richmond area to serve residents in the surrounding areas.

It is more than strange when you go to St. Leonard's School that you see all types of vehicles reflecting the evidence of, perhaps, the social economic status of our society, transporting children to the school to benefit from the expertise and the teaching skills of staff of St. Leonard's. We have attached a certain level of prestige to certain schools in Barbados and I wonder why we arrive at that conclusion, when, in fact, you see people who come from certain social strata in Barbados being brought to St. Leonard's, on weekday evenings and on weekends to benefit from tuition.

Sir, we are building a new facility and they are those who would suggest that it should not be built in a depressed area. I do not concur with that and I stress that. We are building a modern facility and it has to be preserved and protected. We are well aware that sometimes young people are given to vandalism and I speak now with reference to children who will attend St. Leonard's in this modern facility. I believe that the Government needs to be more forceful in terms of applying whatever authority it has to ensure that when government facilities are in anyway vandalised or maliciously damaged by students, parents should be brought to account and made to pay.

I thank you.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I thank all of those who supported this Resolution and in the

circumstances all that is left for me to do is to beg that Head 43 stand part.

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

On the motion of Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE seconded by Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, Mr. Deputy CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one money Resolution in Committee of Supply. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
3.30 p.m.

On the separate motion of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the House's permission, we will recommit to Notices by the Leader of the House.

RECOMMITTAL NOTICES

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

1. Resolution to grant the sum of \$1 698 113 from the Consolidated Fund to place at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates No. 14, 2002 to 2003.
2. Notice of the Bill entitled the Caribbean Community Bill, 2003.

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

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg that the following Bill be read a first time.

The Caribbean Community Bill, 2003.

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

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PARCELS OF LAND SITUATE AT FOUR HILL PLANTATION AND FRENCH VILLAGE IN THE PARISH OF SAINT PETER IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution before this House seeks permission to acquire two parcels of land at French Village, St. Peter and one parcel of land

at Four Hill, St. Peter for housing development. These three parcels of land total 3.88 hectares.

The acquisition of these lands, Mr. Speaker, is part of the general housing development thrust for the parish of St. Peter which the Ministry of Housing and Lands is pursuing for the execution of its land banking programme.

It is envisaged that these parcels, Mr. Speaker, will provide the opportunity for more than 50 to 60 house spots, ranging in sizes between 3 000 to 4 000 square feet. We will endeavour to ensure that persons in the geographical areas of French Village and Four Hill who have requested lots will be treated with priority.

I also want to say, Sir, that this area was surveyed more than three years ago. It was identified by the parliamentary representative a long time and has now come to fruition. There are other areas, which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke about, such as Cottage in St. Lucy which will be coming to Parliament very shortly. It is now being finalised.

We are hopeful that the area which was bought with the funds of those persons who went to Panama years ago and sent back their funds to buy part of the Four Hill estate... I understand that it is being developed by tenants who have lived there for a long time.

This acquisition of the parcels of land will help to not only encourage the residents who are now enquiring about house spots, there are many persons who are living at family members and requesting house spots, but I believe this will go a long way in easing the pressure that is being put on the Ministry of Housing and Lands by the people in that area.

Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General has certified that the Resolution is in order and I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, no one can question house lots for the masses of people in Barbados, but what is annoying, Sir, is that every time the Minister comes to this House, he is acquiring land for the land bank. I want to hear, Sir, that the Minister is acquiring land to allocate to the masses of people of Barbados and to stop coming to this House to talk about putting land in a bank.

The poor people of Barbados do not want land in a bank. They want land to site their houses on and this foolishness about land for a land bank must stop, Mr. Speaker, for the simple reason, the rich do not talk about buying land to put in a bank. They talk about buying land to build and to utilise and invest to make money and things like that.

3.40 p.m.

Every time this Minister comes to this Parliament to talk about land, it is land for a land bank. I am sick and tired of hearing that poor people have to wait until land goes into a bank, as if it is going to expand by going into a bank, then to come back to them. I want the Minister to continue to acquire land but he must allocate this land to the people. I have not heard about one piece of land in St. George North going into a land bank because it is being allocated to the people, but every time this Minister comes to this House to acquire land for somewhere else every piece of it goes into a land bank. What we want in this country is fairness. I am saying that the land the Minister has come for at Cottage cannot remain in the land bank like how he has the lots at Harrises and Mount Poyer. It must be allocated to the people of St. Lucy.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No! No! I am serious. It is not a logo. It is the truth. I want the Minister to tell me of one piece of land in St. George North that he acquired, and he came for many pieces, that went into a land bank and I will withdraw everything I am saying. Flat Rock and Cottage have been allocated already.

He comes now to St. Peter, the Prime Minister's constituency, and he is even putting the lots of the people there in a land bank now too. It seems as though the only body who wants house lots in this Parliament is the Minister of Housing and Lands.

I am saying that he has to get the land out of the land bank in the same way that he took it out for himself and allocate it to the masses of people of Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I know I have your support. I know I have the support of the whole Frontbench excluding the Honourable Member for St. Michael South because he wants his land to remain in the land bank, while all the others want their land out of the land bank so that they can allocate it to their constituents. I am saying that the land at Cottage cannot go into the land bank, so let us understand that now.

We want it for the masses of Barbados. The Minister must not play around with the masses, they want their land to build on. There are too many chattel houses in Barbados that people are willing to give to people at reasonable prices that are finding themselves at Mangrove Landfill or somewhere breeding termites. We want that to stop. We are not a rich country that we can waste resources, so the Minister must get the housing policy in place. If he does not know how to implement it, he should move aside and let somebody else do it.

I want the Minister of Housing and Lands and the Government to understand that the same way they can take money and put roads where people live already, they have to take some money and put it into new lands and sell it to the poor people at the cost of the land because if you build a road and put in amenities where people live, you do not send them a bill, so new residents cannot be charged for the amenities either. That must be the housing policy for Barbados. Barbadians, especially the masses, must be able to access land at a reasonable price. I am saying that this land at Cottage cannot be sold at a high price either.

I also want to know from the Minister if this is the only piece of land in St. Lucy that he has brought before his technocrats within his Ministry. I toured many locations within St. Lucy with this Minister and showed him many parcels of land that are suitable for housing that would not interfere with the agricultural production of St. Lucy. We must not wait until all of this land is taken up by other people then to say that we should have acquired it.

I will forgive the Minister for not coming to this House for the land at Colleton which is now going to the rich and famous. I have no excuse and no apologies. I forgive him for that piece but I am not going to forgive him if he allows other people to come and acquire any more of the land, throughout the constituency that I have toured with him, before the masses of people can get the land in St. Lucy. The people of St. Lucy deserve house lots also and they deserve to have them right now, Sir. I cannot understand how we can have between 24 to 35 house lots at Mount Poyer that were there since 1994 and nothing is being done about them. I want to know what crime the people in Harrises and the surrounding districts have committed that they are not allowed to enjoy the house lots that are promised to the people of Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am not under pressure. I am only repeating what I have said in this House before.

I also want to know, Mr. Speaker, when the Minister is going to recognise that the people of Barbados want to have house lots and not houses. I want the Minister to understand that when a property is sold, profit is made on the house and on the land. I do not think it is fair for the masses of people in Barbados to have to pay out two sets of profits in order to acquire a property.

I am saying that community building must come back to Barbados. If we are going to keep the crime level and everything down, we must continue to expand the districts and allow our neighbours to help each other. If we do not project that, and only want to project that everything must be done by a contractor, we will be dividing our people against themselves. We cannot develop a country when we are divided. We must allow the community to continue to help each other. It has worked in St. Lucy. It has worked not only in terms of building houses but it has worked in terms of building pavilions and many other things. That concept is practised in St. Lucy and we are prepared to teach others how to do it.

I am hoping that the Minister would not see this as a criticism but that he would recognise the point I am making. If he implements what I am telling him, he would become a very popular Minister but if he continues to practise the housing policy that he is practising right now, he would not be seen as a popular Minister either on this Side or on that Side, he would be seen as a very selfish Minister. I would not want that for the Minister. So I hope that after I have spoken this evening he would go back to his officials and tell them that the Member of Parliament for St. Lucy has requested him to remove the land from the land bank and allocate it to the masses of people of Barbados.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker,

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make the point that before land is developed it has to be acquired, that is why we are here. We are here to acquire land. You do not develop land before you acquire it. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy does not understand that you have to acquire the land first.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that you could put land in a land bank before you acquire it. You cannot put land into a land bank, if you do not acquire it.
3.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, as a Government, we have been trying to acquire lands in order to provide house spots and housing solutions for Barbadians and we will continue to do that. When land is acquired, before it could be developed, it has to get Town and Country Planning's approval, which takes time. The Honourable Minister has to understand that we have now created a situation in this country where we have land to provide opportunities for Barbadians.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that the Town and Country Planning is holding up the lands at Deane Town; Baywood; Lancaster and Mount Poyer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, the Honourable Member did not say anything like that. That is no point of order.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the process takes time and must be followed. That is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, we have housing solutions. In time a number of Barbadians will get house spots. So far, over the last four years – which I would speak about in time – over 1 200 persons have received house spots within the last three years, as compared to what they were given.

The other point is, we have agreed the self-help situation was used in Barbados during the 1950s but how many persons today would develop land for their neighbours? Government has to develop the land and this takes time and money.

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 9 – TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE
RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT
OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE
SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$1 698 113
FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE
IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT
TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2002-2003
AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES NO. 14, 2002-2003 WHICH
FORMS THE SCHEDULE TO THIS
RESOLUTION HEAD NO. 22
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN
THE AMOUNT
OF \$16 000

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, the request of \$16 000 for the Ministry of Economic Development is a very simple one. It is to supplement the approved Estimates for this year to cover payments for certain utilities such as telephone, electricity and internet expenses, at the Hincks Street Office.

Mr. Chairman, I beg that this Head 22 stands part.

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

HEAD NO. 25 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1 682 113

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, the request for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to carry its programmes to the end of the financial year is for \$1 682 113. It covers a number of programmes and subprogrammes.

Mr. Chairman, I will use this opportunity to focus on the more important programmes. Of this \$1.68 million, we are requesting the sum of \$1.457 million for special development projects.

In this regard, the major item is to complete the work on the Cheapside Rehabilitation Project. We are requesting the sum of \$1.09 million to facilitate that work.

Mr. Chairman, you will recall that this Government has placed on record a policy objective – to upgrade, to improve and to expand the market infrastructure in Barbados, to provide a better physical environment for vendors, fisherfolk and the consuming public, and to satisfy the increasing demands for vending spaces both in rural and in urban Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, it would be remiss of me if I did not take this opportunity to bring this House up-to-date to where we are with the market infrastructural project and indeed, the wider Barbadian public.

Mr. Chairman, since 1996, apart from the Cheapside Rehabilitation Project, which is near completion, we have been able to undertake the following projects: Within the last four years, we have seen the completion of the Consett Bay and Skeetes Bay Projects. Those two markets are fully functional. We have also been able to complete, notwithstanding the need for some design deficiencies which this Government is determined to get rectified, the Eagle Hall Public Market. That market is fully functional. We have also seen the construction of the Aberdeen Jones Centre and Market at Gall Hill. Quite recently we were treated to an official opening of the Glebe Public Market, St. George. Prior to that, the kiosks at Deacons with which you would be very familiar, Mr. Chairman, that market was officially opened and is fully functional.

We have completed a very small project at Paynes Bay not too long ago. There has been the rehabilitation at Tent Bay as well, shortly that should be fully occupied. As we speak, we have a number of community facilities that are under construction, namely the project at Oistins and Speightstown. These facilities are being handled by the Rural Development Commission.

We do not intend to stop there, Mr. Chairman. As I said, it is Government's policy to continually improve, to upgrade and to expand the infrastructure so as to accommodate more and more vendors, while at the same time, to make conditions better for those persons who ply their trades from these various locations.

Government has a number of facilities planned. We have chosen strategic points where large numbers of person congregate or are very easy to reach. For example, at Redmans Village, St. Thomas; Jackson and Bush Hall. As I said, a craft market is also planned for the Six Roads, St. Philip area. During the next financial year, we would be seeking to establish a facility for the clothes and other vendors at Bathsheba, St. Joseph.

Mr. Chairman, the market programme continues to be a fairly expansive one. It is this Government's intention to take better care of the vendors who ply their trade throughout the length and breadth of this country.

Mr. Chairman, we would go even further. I have spent some time during the last number of years as the proud Member of Parliament for St. Philip South, acting on behalf of a group of farmer, who are part of the South East Corporation.
4.00 p.m.

The Ministry of Housing has agreed to lease a small parcel of land at Six Roads to those farmers to establish an outlet. Some further work is being done on the building and

in the not too distant future there will be a farmers' market in St. Philip in the same way as there are two in St. George because it is extremely important that the farming community get an opportunity to display their agricultural commodities at a central location. Sir, there is no doubt as to the importance of Six Roads as a hive of economic activity and as a mechanism through which the quality of life of large numbers of persons in St. Philip and St. John can be improved.

As an extension to the market at the Glebe we are also committed to leasing a small parcel of land to facilitate the relocation of the farmers' cooperative outlet from by the church so that the compound on which the Glebe market is located can become a place where more vending activity can take place. We will choose the activity carefully so that those who are inside the market will look after commodities that will not conflict too much with what farmers in the St. George's area are doing on the outside.

Sir, the programme does not stop there because this Government is committed to uplifting and redeveloping lower Bridgetown and we will seek to do a similar thing in the upper Bridgetown area. The Honourable Member for the City has detailed on numerous occasions the plans for the general upgrade and improvement of the Bridgetown area. We cannot have a situation where physical and social improvements are to be brought to Bridgetown and the market at Fairchild Street, a pillar and landmark in the Bridgetown area, is left in a state of disrepair.

We will be moving with dispatch to start the reconstruction of the Fairchild Street Market. We have seen initial plans for the new market and those of us intimately involved in the work have looked at the plans but there are some revisions to be done to them.

Recently we settled on a relocation plan for the vendors in the market and very shortly we will be making an official start to the reconstruction of the Fairchild Street Market.

Mr. Speaker, this Government is conscious of the fact that major refurbishment work is required at two of the more important fishing facilities in Barbados. The Bridgetown Fishing Complex is in need of a major redevelopment and we are aiming to do the same with the Fairchild Street Market just as we have done with Cheapside Market and other markets in Barbados. Sir, the Barbados Fishing Complex will be dealt with in due course. As a matter of fact, we have a team of professionals busy at this point in time working on a redevelopment plan for the Bridgetown Fishing Complex. My officers have furnished me with an outline of the plans, we have discussed them internally and we will be moving to the next stage because we want to make it a reality.

Mr. Chairman, the Oistins Fishing Complex cannot be left in its current state. The importance of this complex to the tourism product and the improvement of the quality of life of ordinary Barbadians is astonishing. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is better placed to speak to this than I but everyone appreciates the contribution that the Oistins Fishing Complex makes to national output and that mandates us as a Government to improve its physical condition. This Government as part of the redevelopment efforts of Oistins will pay close attention to the facility itself.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy likes to come to this Chamber and elsewhere and give people the impression that he is the champion of the small man but we on this Side know better than that. If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is truthful, he will tell all Barbadians that the Barbados Labour Party is the real champion of the cause for small business people and the poor black people of Barbados and the work we do in respect of the market infrastructure is a clear demonstration of our interest in moving forward with the small business sector.

We recognise that the small business sector in Barbados has shown tremendous growth over the years and that strategically, from a social, economic and political view point, that the small business sector has to be properly looked after and since 1994, this Government has been proactive in creating and enabling environment to facilitate growth and expansion in this sector. Sir, our policy towards small business development is manifested in many different ways; not only in the improvement and upgrading of markets infrastructure but through the establishment of the various institutions offering technical and financial assistance to that sector.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there are countless institutions and funds which have been established to ensure that, in terms of the transformation process, we are able to move funds into the real sector of the economy and that those funds reach the hands of the small business sector for the generation of economic activity at that level and to promote activity in the real sector.

Sir, funds such as the Enterprise Growth Fund Limited, the Small Hotels Investment Fund, Fund Access, Small Business Venture Capital Inc., Agriculture Development Fund, Industrial Development and Employment Fund, Innovation Fund, Rural Enterprise Fund, Urban Enterprise Loan Fund and the Youth Entrepreneurialship Scheme have been created by the Government of Barbados.

Asides

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, for example, in the case of Fund Access, 377 loans valuing approximately \$5 million were disbursed. In the case of the Urban Enterprise Loan Fund, 350 loans valuing \$4.2 million were disbursed and through the Rural Enterprise Fund, 492 loans valuing \$4.1 million were disbursed. The number of jobs which was created through the financing provided by these three institutions totaled 1 110. Sir, Government's interest in promoting the development of the small business sector is also manifested by way of legislation.

Mr. Chairman, the small Business Development Act, which is recently enacted, is geared towards the incorporation of units in that sector as well as to reduce the encumbrance and the cost of doing business through corporate tax concessions and other considerations.

Sir, another area of importance is the level of trade which this Government is bringing for the small business sector. It is not only a particular sub sector of the small business sector that is benefitting from the training which this government is providing. We, at the Rural Development Commission, have taken a deliberate decision that, in the case of agriculture, to encourage all persons seeking to access funds from the Rural Development Commission to get involved in special programmes that are being offered by the Rural Development Commission for farmers. Sir, it is not a prerequisite for accessing the funds but the right type of encouragement and moral suasion are being used in order to get those farmers who are looking to access those funds into some sort of training programme.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy will appreciate that small, medium and large business persons, if they are to remain in existence and they are to compete effectively, must reach a higher level of sophistication. One of the things that would allow them to do that is to become better trained.

Mr. Chairman, this Government has launched, in collaboration with the Small Business Association, a major training programme for small entrepreneurs.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Sir, this programme covers several parishes in rural Barbados. All of us in this Honourable House, notwithstanding the fact that some of us may be representing urban constituencies, will have constituents who would have benefitted from such an important programme.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, we recognise that the Ministry's programmes will have to continue and a substantial portion of these funds is for the completion of the Cheapside rehabilitation project. Work on this project would include the fitting of counter tops, outfitting some stalls with shutters and the installation of fixtures and fittings in stalls where food will be sold.

Sir, this project is reaching the stage of completion and we will press on with our efforts to upgrade and expand the market infrastructure, because at the end of the day the consuming public, the vendors and fisherfolk must be allowed to ply their trade in more salubrious surroundings.

Mr. Chairman, once again, I thank the Honourable House for entertaining this Supplementary for my Ministry.

I thank you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on Head 25 and to make the point from the outset that the policy of the Barbados Labour Party, I am not guided by that policy. If they believe that building markets is their policy, I have no right to criticise them.

I believe that we are living in a changing world and we must make the changes to suit the changes that are applicable to the conditions under which we operate.

Mr. Chairman, almost every house in Barbados can source items by going on the internet. However, we are prepared to keep our people operating with an archaic system. The same way that people can come to Barbados from all parts of the world and traverse across Barbados going from house to house marketing goods that are not produced in Barbados, I do not see why an enlightened Government cannot provide the resources for the masses of Barbados to allow a new group of people to enter the world of work. These people, if given the opportunity to market goods produced in Barbados, would be the ones doing the marketing for the farmers in Barbados.

4.30 p.m.

I believe, Sir, if we want to set aside certain markets in strategic areas there is nothing wrong with that. I also believe that the infrastructure and resources must be put in place to encourage Barbadians to be able to get duty-free vehicles, so that they can use those vehicles to go to the farmers, get the produce from them on a daily basis and take them straight to the householders of Barbados.

Sir, if there is a crime in that, I would like it to be explained to me. For the simple reason, if you can only get this programme in place, Sir, it means that the farmers will

be able to spend more time in their fields and Barbadians will also be given an opportunity of getting a first hand approach where the people who purchased the vegetables from the farmers will be able to take them house to house. When the consumers go to the supermarket, they will not have to worry about buying the imported stuff which is normally sourced by the supermarket from overseas and will be able to help their brothers and sisters in the farming communities.

I am saying, Sir, not only will they be able to do that as it relates to vegetables. They will also be able to do that when the fishermen come in on evenings with their catches.

Sir, we have to understand that vending is going to play a pivotal role in the development of Barbados, not only from the point of view of saving foreign exchange but also from the point of view of creating employment for the masses of people in Barbados.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that we cannot put any hindrances in the way of the people of Barbados by trying to stop them from being self-employed. It is a golden opportunity, Sir, for Barbadians to be self-employed, provided that the Government put the right resources and the right type of training and the right type of education in the hands of the masses of people in Barbados.

We must continue to be our brothers' keepers and the best way to do that is to discourage the farmers moving from their fields into the marketplace, trying to sell their goods and by encouraging more Barbadians to get the produce from the farmers and to sell them on behalf of the farmers to the consumers of Barbados. This will create a direct linkage between the marketing, the consumers and the farmers – not necessarily in that particular order.

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that we also have to stop seeing vendors as if they are petty criminals. We have to understand that these are people looking to provide work for themselves. They are not impacting on the cost of the Government. We must also recognise, Sir, that vending is important to the development of the country, especially those vendors who make it their business to sell local produce. I am saying that we must give them certain credit so that they can continue to develop the country. They have been doing it now for many years.

Some of the most important people in Barbados are the hucksters. They have been able to do their trade and use that money they got from their trade to send their children to school, to build homes for them. They also develop themselves at home, by keeping the stocks in the backyard. I am saying we cannot afford to lose this type of

development. It is very important to the development of Barbados. No matter how many markets you build, you are not going to get the same impact as the type of marketing I speak of.

We have to understand, Sir, that these markets cannot be built for imported stuff. If you are going to go that way, these markets must be built to encourage farmers to expand their production and to help increase the GDP of this country.

What do we see, Sir? We are going to see a large vending community and when we watch, we would have spent a lot of the taxpayers' money to develop other countries. Do you know what is interesting? The agricultural industry is now the industry, and if we are not careful, instead of being a net foreign exchange earner, if we continue to put pressure on the agricultural industry, it will be reversed.

Sir, previously, we had an agricultural industry, especially the sugar industry, where the majority of the inputs were local. Now, when you look at the sugar industry, it is diesel for the toff, spare parts for the toff...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: For the harvesters then. You are now feeding the imported machinery. Previously, you were feeding the people of Barbados and all the costs were local.

We are now feeding the importers and we do not understand what we have done, Sir, when we removed the locals from cutting the canes and now harvesting the canes with the Toffs and the other harvesters.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is not true. There are people complaining in the newspapers that they cannot even get a field of canes to cut. I am saying, Sir, we need to look at the opportunity costs of using the harvesters, versus imported labour. I am telling you that it is more beneficial to use imported labour in a country like Barbados, than to spend so much money on a piece of machinery, only to work for three months.

Sir, you cannot do anything else with it and this is a very serious point. We are now utilising our resources the wrong way. I am saying and I have said this openly and I will continue to make this point. If Barbadians want to reap the canes, we should allow them to reap the canes. If Barbadians want to pick cotton, we should allow them to reap cotton but if they do not want to reap the canes and

cotton, you must allow people from within the Caribbean to come and do that because, at least when they are here, they have to pay rent, they have to eat and all that cost is remaining in the country.

When you buy machinery, to service that machinery, the inputs are purchased from outside and you are taking all of your foreign exchange and sending it outside of the region. We in Barbados must learn to help build the region, in order to build ourselves. If Barbados is successful, and we can help our neighbours, when we build up our neighbours, we can then gain from them. Do you understand what I am saying?

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that we have to understand that when we look at things, we have to look at the total opportunity cost of what we are doing. The short-term gains are not what we count on. The long-term gains are what we must consider.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that when the Minister of Agriculture spends all the money belonging to the taxpayers to have these lovely buildings, at the end of the day, the Minister of Agriculture must be able to show this House how the agricultural industry has expanded to substantiate the amount of money that has been spent to create this pretty sight.

Sir, the development of Barbados cannot be a market. The development of Barbados has to be in production and what we are seeing today, are lovely buildings with declining outputs. I am saying that we are not going anywhere. We are only fooling ourselves and on top of it, the people who we need to walk with hand in hand, we are not walking with them. We need to understand the importance of the vendors of Barbados. They have a significant role to play and people must understand that they are the ones who move the local produce, some of them or most of them.
4.30 p.m.

There are the ones who move the local produces. We tend to concentrate on those people who have an outside interest, but it is the inside interest that is important.

This is the last point, Sir. We feel that Caribbean people are nobody.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Yes! Mr. Chairman, I want a little peace, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, please! Honourable Member, your time is up.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am coming in, in a minute, Sir. You have to allow for the interruptions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are in already.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: We feel that it is wrong to have Guyanese labour but we welcome the Chinese labour to finish Bajan work.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention. I am certainly not an authority on the subject of agriculture but I want to speak on the behalf of the constituents of St. Michael East. I have an exclusive interest in this debate because the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has responded in a very positive way to the good people of my community.

The constituency of St. Michael East might be situated in an urban and suburban community but we have an area of land in the Pine Basin which is good agricultural soil. We have made representation to the Ministry of Agriculture and, as I said before, they have responded positively. As a consequence, there are three young men from within the constituency of St. Michael East and another group of young men from the constituency of St. Michael South East who are now engaged in productive legitimate practice in the Pine Basin in producing good agricultural produces. I want to compliment the Minister for such.

This is a minuscule piece of land so to speak in relation to the amount of land that is available in Barbados. The reality though is that it is an initial step into the genuine independence of the people of the community. We speak of independence in cosmetic terms as a result of changes in legislation and so on but the reality is that no people are genuinely independent until the majority of the people of that nation can claim some right to ownership or the right to the privilege to utilise the lands.

I do not believe in any country talking about independence when the minority of the population have absolute control over the agricultural lands of that country. This innovative approach by the Government in taking plantation lands and using it to assist small black farmers, who were once hopeless, and giving them an opportunity to be productive not only as farmers but as managers is a form of empowerment for black people and empowerment for black persons who were once seen as a subordinate class on the plantation itself. These were people who were always

interested in agriculture but they were landless and they never had the opportunity to work their own land.

The atmosphere in those areas is not antagonistic like in the days of yore where on the plantations there was an antagonistic relationship between the white plantation manager and the black labourer. We are transforming that type of model and introducing something which is innovative and more humane to give people a sense of national pride where a man now can work for himself on the land and produce food. He does not have to go in as a subordinate entity knowing that he can never experience or enjoy the benefits of any form of social mobility on the plantation itself. This opportunity now is to make men who were once hopeless or who were once labourers to become managers of their own production. I think that this is a fundamental change never mind how simple people might attempt to interpret these things. The reality is that you have to make a profound sociological analysis of what is happening in order for you to grasp the kind of transformation that is occurring in the area of agriculture.

I am not an agricultural scientist. I have very little knowledge but by observing what is happening on the plantation I am seeing fundamental changes. I do not want Honourable Members on the Other Side to live through these changes without recognising how important they are. When the opportunities occur to work on the plantation, other elements that are of great importance to modernisation and social and economic change will evolve as a consequence of working those lands.

Most of those young men who are working on the land are now asking for an opportunity to be less dependent on even the supermarkets. You, by implication or by inference, made that important point and I have to give credit to you for making such a wise suggestion that there is a necessity for our people to be less dependent on certain traditional practices. This is a new era and we must be able to come up with new mechanisms in order to give people a sense of pride and an opportunity to work for themselves.

The impact of globalisation has displaced many ordinary working-class people some of whom were not specialised in any area of academia or any scientific area or anything like that and we have to provide avenues for them for employment. We must also respect the natural ability and the capability of these people not only to be farmers but to be entrepreneurs in the system. These new paradigms are giving life to the myth that once existed in the society that you had to be a born entrepreneur or that you had to be born with the specific qualities in order to be an entrepreneur and that there were three factors of production. The entrepreneur looked as though he was a man who had some special divine gift and special qualities, that was attached to people of a certain pigmentation. We have witnessed small black businessmen emerging in the system over the years even if it was not the original

concept of the administrators but as a consequence of the external pressures on the society. The reality is that these people are now emerging in the system and we have to put mechanisms in place to give them the required training in order that they can operate within the competitive marketplace.

I am suggesting that the programmes which we have for the strategic kiosks across the country, such as those at Deacons, St. George and other parts of the island, be expanded, that we also put in place an educational programme with the basic principles of business in order to imbue special qualities in these entrepreneurs, apart from their natural ability, so that they will then develop the knowledge so that they can work, understand what they are doing, make the required projections and put the required factors of production in place in order to be successful in the marketplace.

I want to suggest to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Minister of Social Transformation that we have people in my constituency who are extremely brilliant and willing. I need more land. I have a limited number of acres. 'Ras Iley' has a large portion, about 10 acres, in the Pine Basin. The Israel Lovell Foundation has about 7.5 acres. I am not too sure how much the Pinelands Creative Workshop has but the lands are being utilised and they are being productive.
4.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, what we now need is strategic micro-enterprises, probably to the northern side to the Pine Basin, opposite Princess Royal Avenue, so that we could capture the traffic that passes on that highway and that while we produce the vegetables, there is an outlet in which to sell them directly to the consumer so that we could gain maximum profit of those resources.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has three minutes.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Minister to take us into consideration and that within the months ahead, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Development Commission and the Ministry of Social Transformation, would let us become involved in the planning, which would give us an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the innovative programmes.

I want to give you the assurance that you have the full support of the farmers in the Pine Basin. As long as the Ministries continue to function within that vein, I am sure we would see some radical changes and that would redound to the benefit of the broad masses of Barbados.

I want to thank you very much for the contributions which you have made and I give my full support for the request for the Supplementary of \$1.6 million.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank all those persons who have made contributions to this particular discussion. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East has made some very interesting points.

In my wrapping up, I want to treat this House to the development of the markets in Barbados in a way that we would see improvements and expansions to the infrastructure and in a very important programme which we launched at the Ministry within the last number of years, the Land for the Landless Project. This is to show the decentralisation of these two things.

Mr. Chairman, you would be aware that one of the flagship projects at the Ministry of Agriculture is the Land for the Landless Project.

As the Honourable Member for St. Michael East has said, there are a large number of aspiring and practicing farmers, who, if given land, would be able to help with the further development of this country via the agricultural sector. This programme is designed to do a number of things.

To increase the level of agricultural output and productivity so that we would be in a better position to deal with the issue of food security. As it is, we can be deemed as a very food-insecured country, if we have to depend more on our own efforts internally to generate more and more of the foods for us to consume.

Of course, we are able to access food from external sources. Therefore, the availability of foreign exchange which would allow us to do that is helping us to maintain a reasonable level of food security. I think we need to do more of it from within. We saw what could happen during the events of September 11, 2000, when all Barbadians turned their attention again to the land. There was an indecent haste for persons to want to pay more attention to production from within.

Mr. Chairman, the Land for the Landless Project recognises this and it is our intention to push this project as far out as possible because this programme is to be conducted in a localised fashion.

As a matter of fact, the last check I made, the Project Manager based at the Barbados Agriculture and Marketing Corporation told us that in order to ease the pressure off those persons who are in the programme, we would need

no less than five or six acres of land. That is the extent of the interest in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, the Land for the Landless Programme has another objective, the empowerment of communities. The market project also has as an objective, the empowerment of communities. If we seek to increase agriculture output through the Land for the Landless Project and seek to use a decentralised approach to our market effort, if we also revert to a situation where communities were built from within and persons living in the communities would support each other – that is how a lot of us were able to become educated – if we increase the agricultural output in St. George and give them an opportunity to display and to sell their produce at a facility that is very pleasing to the eye, what we would be promoting, based on yesteryear when communities were built from within ...

I told my folks at the Ministry that one of the things that globalisation is going to force us to do is to think in a more nationalistic fashion and to get back to first principles where we would all have to support each other more.

As the Honourable Member for St. Michael East has said this is a way of the Government giving tangible practical effect to the promotion of self-reliance. One of the things, Mr. Chairman, I spoke about night after night in the last General Election campaign, is the interest on the part of this Barbados Labour Party in allowing persons within communities to become more and more self-reliant. This administration must be given extremely high marks for that. We have put mechanisms, facilities and projects in place to make sure that we are able to unearth whatever talent that resides in the communities in both urban and rural Barbados. Having done that, we have mechanisms in place to allow those ideas and talents to be turned into something tangible and meaningful that could be used to improve the quality of life of persons who are directly involved in the activities and those who are living in those communities. Mr. Chairman, what we are also looking to, by the decentralising of these activities, is a better organisation among small producers and vendors.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things that we have been able to do via a decentralised model of marketing, is to empower communities by involving them more in the management of facilities.

Mr. Chairman, in the case of Deacons, we have built a number of kiosks in an area that needs them. We established a market in Speightstown with individual kiosks and this is the kind of relationship that the Ministry has been promoting with the vending class as it is our intention on this Side to empower communities and to get them more involved in the management of certain types of markets. Sir, we will set the standards by which we want them to operate and the vendors

will do the rest as has been happening at the Glebe. 4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I have the duty to report to this House the strides that the Ministry of Agriculture Market Division has been making with the vending class. With respect to the issue of organisation of the vending class, another organisation has been established.

Sir, we have to be extremely careful when dealing with the group of vendors who ply their trade behind the Cheapside market and the car park because they play an important role in providing fresh produce for the consuming public. These vendors have their own clientele and on Saturday mornings it is a hive of activity. Sir, this is the kind of thing we want to take Barbados back to and we want to see it being replicated at all the facilities that will be established at strategic locations in this country.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South can tell you about the number of people who descend on Oistins day in and day out and of the role the vendors play in complementing and supplementing the activity in Oistins. Sir, there is a need for continuation of the vending of fresh agricultural produce in Oistins.

Mr. Chairman, the vendors who ply their trade in the environs of Cheapside market have formed an association and we had two constructive meetings with the association. As a way of giving these vendors further empowerment, when the BTII gets its hands on the car park, we will have a site for vendors on a permanent basis which we have called, "The Miller Site".

The Ministry of Agriculture will work closely with groups like NGOs and churches in the various areas of rural Barbados to get closer to the origins of the ideas of businesses.

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

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Sir, we will be having a number of town hall meetings throughout the length and breadth of Barbados to hear from these various groups. We will sit and discuss rural development in a constructive way and see what can originate in those communities that can propel them to advance the cause and improve the quality of life of persons living in these pockets.

The idea of using a decentralised approach to marketing is one that is extremely well thought out. The idea of promoting a Land for the Landless project alongside the establishment of market at strategic points

has also been well thought out. At the end of the day, once these projects are properly executed, it will allow us to deal with the issue of food insecurity and to press on with our efforts to empower the communities in a more meaningful way to promote a greater level of self-reliance and bring about a higher level of organisation amongst small business persons.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

I beg to move that Head 25 stand part.

Hon. H. E. THOMPSON: I beg to second that.

On the motion of Hon. R.C. EASTMOND seconded by Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE the Bill was read a first, second and third time and agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Monday, March 17, 2003, at 11.00 a.m. On that occasion it is proposed that the debate on the annual Estimates of Expenditure will commence as they were laid in this Honourable House this morning. I urge all Honourable Members to be in their seats promptly at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2003.

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

The question that the House be adjourned until March 17, 2003 at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.
5.00 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND 1

Confirmation of Minutes of Tuesday, 25th February, 2003.

PAPERS

Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 2; Hon. R. N. Greenidge, 2; Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson, 2.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND 2

1. Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
2. Appropriation Bill, 2003.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND 2

- a. Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
- (b) Appropriation Bill, 2003.

SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE 2

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN
OF COMMITTEES**Hon. R. C. EASTMOND** 2

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY 2

Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 2.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION THAT THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-ONE DOLLARS BE GRANTED FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND 2

Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 2; Hon. R. R. Farley, 3; Rev. J. J. S. Atherley 3, 13; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 4, 10; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 4, 12, 13; Hon. A. P. Wood, 5; Hon. Sir Harold St. John, 6; Hon. G. A. Clarke, 8.

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION YOUTH
AFFAIRS AND SPORTS 15

Hon. R. N. Greenidge, 15, 24; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 19; Hon. G. A. Clarke, 20; Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde, 21; Hon. R. D. Marshall, 23; Rev. J. J. S. Atherley, 23.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon R. C. EASTMOND 24

1. Resolution to grant \$1,698,113 from Consolidated Fund.
2. Caribbean Community Bill, 2003.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND 24

Caribbean Community Bill, 2003

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (resumed)

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF LAND SITUATED AT FOUR HILL PLANTATION AND FRENCH VILLAGE IN SAINT PETER 24

Hon G. A. Clarke, 24; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 25;

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION THAT THE SUM OF ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY EIGHT THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN DOLLARS BE GRANTED FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND 27

Hon. A. P. Wood, 27.,

HEAD 22 – MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT 27

Hon. A. P. Wood, 27.

HEAD 25 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT 27

Hon. A. P. Wood, 27; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 30; Mr. T. A. Prescod, 32.

SUSPENSION 13

ADJOURNMENT 35

Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 35.

SPEAKERS

ATHERLEY, Rev. J. J. S. (St. Michael West)
CLARKE, Hon. G. A. (St. George North)
EASTMOND, Hon. R. C. (St. James North)
FARLEY, Hon. R. R. (Christ Church East)
FORDE, Hon. Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
GREENIDGE, Hon. R. N. (St. Philip North)
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy)
MARSHALL, Hon. R. D. (St. Michael West Central)
PRESCOD, Mr. T. A. (St. Michael East)
St. JOHN, Hon. Sir Harold (Christ Church South)
THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St. John)
THOMPSON, Miss H. E. (St. James South)
WOOD, Hon. A. P. (St. Philip South)