
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.20 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2004.

PRESENT

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

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

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

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER, D.A., B.C.H. (Senior
Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)

Mr. L. R. Tull, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)

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

Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister
of Public Works)

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL (Chairman of Committees)

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B (Deputy
Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister of Home
Affairs (Leader of the House)

Hon. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A. (Acting Minister of
Social Transformation)

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

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

Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M.Sc. M.Phil., J.P.
(Minister of Energy and Public Utilities)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of
Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

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

Mr. R. D. JONES, B.A. (Hons.) M.A. Ed., J.P.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A.
(Public Finance) (Leader of the Opposition)

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons), L.E.C.,
(Minister of Industry and International Business)

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.)

Mr. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

*Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan
Harewood.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, April 20,
2004.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that the
Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its
meeting of Tuesday, April 20, 2004, which Minutes have
been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to report to this Honourable
House that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements
for the month of January 2004, from the Accountant General.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 8 – ARTS AND SPORTS PROMOTION FUND BILL, 2004 – RESUMED

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, one of the truly remarkable things about the proposal before this Honourable House is that it recognises the importance of arts and sports not simply from a recreational standpoint but the Bill itself does have the capacity not just to provide funding for sporting and artistic activity but, taken in its totality, it also invites discussion on a number of measures which this Government has undertaken in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, we live in an era where the concept of the amateur in sports has undergone radical change. Up to the 1960s, even at the level of the Olympics, athletes had to follow the amateur protocol but in recent years that has been substantially relaxed so that the number of athletes worldwide who, forty years ago, would have met with the constraint of not being able to earn their way through their talents, can now do so.

I want to make this my point of departure. Athletes and sports people in this country have often, at tremendous personal sacrifice, done themselves and their country proud in situations where not only were they not earning anything from the exhibition of their talents but often met with problems of not getting enough time off work to train or enough funding to undertake trips abroad and, at the level of diet, not being recipients of expert advice on the quality diet that would help them to be able to fully actualise themselves by the best possible performance.
10.20 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, another thing about this Bill, taken in the context of Government's overall policy towards activity and the arts, is that a number of sports which formally had no profile in this island would now be given direct financial assistance. Long ago, football and cricket, in particular, dominated the sporting scene but this enlightened Barbados Labour Party Government proposes in this coming financial year to fund activity revolving around whist, dominoes and a number of other so-called marginal sports. I think that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, the Honourable Minister of Sports, who presented this Bill to this Honourable House has to be commended.

In this era, one of the challenges facing an athlete is the level of choices he or she has. There are those in athletics who are also inclined to the pursuit of alternate careers. However, there are those who would, no doubt, resolve in their minds that notwithstanding any other natural talent, ability or any genius in the realm of academia, that their profession of first choice should be the particular sporting activity that they have followed and wish to follow in the future, and this Government is cognizant of that.

Sir, today's athlete is like a singer, who is involved in opera, and can use his or her talent to earn and to achieve a measure of upward mobility in the type of society which exists. It would be unfair of me to limit my involvement in this debate merely to the narrow range of athletics, cricket, whist and dominoes.

In recent years, this enlightened Administration has taken a very close and critical look at the arts and in my contribution I am going to place credit where credit is due. I am going to commend those persons who have seen the arts and culture as vehicles for expression at a certain level and at the same time the arts and culture as vehicles towards a measure of self-gratification.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East has stressed the importance of culture for a very long time, from the point of view of our people understanding where they came from, whether through a colonial experience or an experience where they were faced by oppression. Our people have been reminded by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East that culture is quintessentially important for all of our people, especially our young people. Those of us who forget the lessons of history, may very well repeat the bad lessons of history.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, while still a youth in the late 1980s and early 1990s, went through this country speaking of a new ethos which had descended upon this country, which invited what she termed, cultural industries to express themselves and to be facilitated by Government.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to mention aspects of culture as urged on by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. We also have another Honourable Member in this Honourable House, Honourable Member for St. Michael South East who has fought in this country to persuade our nation that culture is something worthy of close examination. It is the vehicle of a people's self-expression and beyond that it can create the potential for earnings.

Mr. Speaker, when this Government took office in 1994, it was confronted by a Copyright Act which was

totally outdated and unsuited for an era of economic enfranchisement. We had a Copyright Act that limited copyright to printed material only, usually in the form of books. We had a Copyright Act before 1994 in this Honourable House which, if you produced material by way of a record or a CD you had no copyright protection.

We also had a Copyright Act in this country in the pre-1994 era which did not tell you fully what were the rights of the copyright holder. This Barbados Labour Party Administration, through making substantial changes to copyright, has now introduced a legislative regime that is real and which allows the copyright holder to have his copyright protection for all of his life plus fifty years. Sir, that never prevailed in this country before 1994, and that has to be mentioned.

We also have a Copyright Act which now embodies forms of cultural expression to include music, graphics and such like. We have, therefore, revolutionised the whole approach to the notion of copyright. This debate does not permit me to enter into the realm of trade marks. I would have hoped for that but I would not go down that road. However, where a Government is empowered by its people to govern on their behalf and in their interest, the Government must respond favourably to such persons by introducing measures at the level of ordinary policy and measures at the level of legislation that would fully equip people to be able to actualise themselves.

Sir, under the Copyright Act to which I referred, Section 69, states that forms of expression done in an electronic form are regulated in the interest of the copyright holder. Folklore has also received a measure of protection by copyright law which was passed by this enlightened Barbados Labour Party under Section 22, subsection 5 of the existing legislation. That particular legislation also recognises the concept of traditional knowledge, meaning that if originally, knowledge and know how evolved in this polity and persons responsible for it were seeking protection and rights of ownership they could do so.

Sir, therefore, the Barbados Labour Party Government has to be commended. I would not even mention that it was the Barbados Labour Party that introduced the National Cultural Foundation and revolutionised Crop Over and culture in this country.

I remember the days when Crop Over first emerged in Barbados and it was badly placed under the Ministry of Tourism. There were plantation fairs and the odd concert and activities that – much as there were attempts to signal cultural activity, were clearly not enough. This Barbados Labour Party has been able to approach culture in a totally different form from a previous Administration by introducing the National Cultural Foundation and by a series

of measures which have followed the activities of that Foundation.
10.30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, we are in an era that through copyright people are using information to boost the arts in the areas of music, graphic design and fashion design, and lo and behold that is not the end of the story.

On my way here today, I ventured to check the Registry of Corporate Affairs. I only had three minutes literally, if I was going to be on time in this Honourable House, and officers there told me that in this era of economic empowerment, the fastest growing industries in Barbados are the cultural industries and those industries involved in the arts.

I repeat that. Information out of the Registry of Corporate Affairs procured by me, I would not call the names of the officers, because it is not right to involve public officers in political debate, but today at 9.45 a.m. out of the bosom, the veritable belly of the Registry of Corporate Affairs, indicates clearly and substantially that the industries which are increasing at the fastest rate, and the new entrepreneurs who are emerging are almost always involved in artistic, creative and cultural activity. The Registry of Corporate Affairs describes this area as the fastest growth in entrepreneurship in Barbados.

We are into interesting times, Mr. Speaker. Should I say that there are such persons as a Doctor, Mr. Leonard Ogaro, and Mr. Winston Tinto in this country, and what are they up to? They are up to research at the level of the phyto-sanitary. They are into research in plant varieties and there is now a regime, a veritable protocol in this country by which there is such a thing as the registered plant variety.

A scientist, or a researcher who is able to use his or her skills, go into a lab, subject certain plant varieties to scientific investigation and experimentation, can proceed in the certain knowledge that there is such a thing recognised in this country as the registered plant variety.

It is often galling, Mr. Speaker, when persons involved in the arts and culture, report that their products are being looted, and there is plagiarism, and in the big metropolitan world somebody in this world outside of Barbados is now producing a product called Barbados blue, a strong drink. Somebody else, Mr. Speaker, may want to further plunder our trademark of road tennis. Someone may want to plunder our trade mark of Tiltman Beer and Bim, the soft drink. Therefore, this Government has the responsibility, in circumstances where it is facilitating cultural expression and artistic activity, to do its utmost to prevent the legitimate aspirations of people in the arts from being frustrated through things like plagiarism, and outright and downright piracy.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for having given me the opportunity to put the records straight, as regards the wider involvement of this Barbados Labour Party in the arts, through its modernisation of copyright law and through measures, generally, that are not only facilitative of cultural and artistic expression, but which also recognise that some people may be short on an abundance of talent, and may only have one special talent beyond the ordinary household talents. If a person is an artist, sculptor or somebody involved in the carving, and that person finds that he or she would otherwise have been unemployed or unable to access conventional employment, then through the base, the foundation by which this Government has provided policy, such persons can earn their way in this country.

Before 1994, Mr. Speaker, a number of us on This Side had a number of brain-storming thoughts. One of the things we recognised was that based on the structure of Barbados' economy which has invited so much comment, sometimes unfavorable from uninformed quarters, we will have to look closely at policies by which we could earn foreign exchange, beyond what we now earn.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the present Bill before this House, alongside the earlier legislation to which I referred, are strong fundamental mechanisms by which persons who produce in culture can ultimately, not only produce for the local market, but export, and earn much needed foreign exchange for this country.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, if the argument becomes a structural one, if the argument becomes an argument that traditionally, Barbados used to be a sugar colony, if the argument becomes one where eventually economic diversification saw the coming of industry, and the coming of tourism, then this Barbados Labour Party can look anyone in the face and say that at a level of structure, we have now set up a new niche, for want of a better word, or a new sub-sector which facilitates the cultural and artistic industries.

Mr. Speaker, we are permitting ordinary working class persons to give vent to their creative skills and abilities, in an era when festivals are very important in Barbados, and we just completed one in that lovely place called Oistins. We have also paved the way for particular linkages, beyond the fact that we have created a sub-sector which was not hitherto known, certainly not in the 1980s, 1970s and 1960s. What we are doing now is permitting artistes, and people involved in culture to give vent and expression of their ware at the many festivals, whether it is the Oistins Festival, or Huletown Festival, where tourists – and that is where the linkage is – who flock to Barbados are able to purchase ware at good prices. The purchase by the tourists represents, very much, Mr. Speaker, an export, therefore, consequent upon that argument, the inflow of needed foreign exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by saying that it is always the responsibility of the Government to take stock of where it is now, and to try to work out where it wants to go in the future. In clear circumstances where there is a dire need for additional funding for sports people and artistes, and in an era where the Government ought to be committed to the further expansion of non-traditional sports, this particular legislative measure before this Honourable House is worthy of unanimous support.

10.40 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing I want to say for the benefit of all Honourable Members, especially those who came late, is that we really have to see this Bill, not only in the context of the narrow definition of sports or the fine arts, but that we have to see it more holistically in the context of a measure that adds to the facilitation and the growth of cultural expression that lends support to persons in need. That is definitely a positive and impactful contribution towards the type of economic empowerment that this country has been craving for years. Our artistes did not achieve that empowerment between 1986 and 1994. That is an empowerment which is gaining intensity under an enlightened pro-active administration led ably by forward-thinking people who have a broad interest in this lovely sovereign nation of ours.

I thank you.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I too want to commend this Bill to this Honourable House and support the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for bringing this Bill to this Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for us as parliamentarians to look and to see how we can benefit as a nation from the creation of this Fund. Therefore, I would say that this Bill will benefit to a large extent most, if not all, of the various cultural and sporting organisations that are registered with the various Government entities in Barbados, as it will assist in financing some of their programmes and activities. Mr. Speaker, I said assist because it would not totally underwrite all of the activities that the sporting organisations would have from time to time. This Bill will also assist with the development of the arts in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Member for St. James North spoke he pointed out that when we became the Government in 1994 a number of these things were not happening as people took sports and the arts for granted. Since 1994 this Government has put a programme in place to develop the talents of individuals in a structured way. We have had meetings with the various organisations. In fact, on June 28, 2002 the Minister of Culture held a broad-based meeting with most of the cultural organisations in this country in order to see how we could develop and assist

that industry. Out of that meeting a number of recommendations were made to strengthen the organisations and to see how their weaknesses could be improved on and new opportunities were also sought out. Mr. Speaker, I believe we need to continue to have continuous dialogue with the sporting organisations and the cultural organisations in Barbados to see how we could further develop the sector.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer believe that sports and sporting organisations do not contribute significantly to the economy of this country because they do. In every developed society, the arts play a vital role in not only bringing tourists to the country and keeping communities intact but provides significant sums of money to these economies. Mr. Speaker, as Barbados becomes a developed society, we have to look at ways and means to strengthen the talents within us and this Bill will go a long way towards that. This Bill would provide money to assist the various organisations. We have already seen how the funds from the lottery associations have been helping the National Sports Council so much so that last year they were able to increase their subvention to most of the sporting organisations to help to develop those things.

Mr. Speaker, even though we are providing more assistance today to the sporting organisations than we did before, the organisations themselves must be more organised and be more accountable. Many persons have been calling for more accountability not only in the Barbados Football Association but in the Barbados Cricket Association which to a large extent happens to be the biggest association in Barbados. These organisations must be more accountable to their members in terms of the funds which are collected and how they are disbursed not only to the various clubs across the island but how much of the funds are provided for the development of the sports.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that there are some organisations that provide assistance mainly to the big established clubs in the urban and suburban areas, so I want to know what assistance is given, of a developmental nature, to those small organisations within the rural areas of Barbados where talent exist. I want to find out what developmental strategy has been provided over the last couple of years by the organisations themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Government can assist, and we do assist. We have seen from various reports that a lot of funds were provided to the Barbados Football Association. They get funds not only from Government, but from the Federal International Football Association (FIFA) and various organisations across the world. Mr. Speaker, there are concerns as to what these organisations are doing with the funds they receive. Is it true to say that some of these organisations take large sums of the funds and provide for

so-called coaches and so-called managers? What are these organisations providing for the players in a developmental nature? I have to ask this question because we are at a junction, and we have to debate that junction at this time, where there are many players in our midst who would need help for personal development.

Mr. Speaker, I know a number of young cricketers who need assistance, not only from politicians, community leaders or from the Government. Development programmes need to be put in place to help these individuals. That is why I believe that there are three branches to sports and arts. The community side is one branch, the personal development side of the individual is another and then there is the business side. We need to focus on these three branches. They must go hand in hand. Too many of our young players today are left to the whims and fancies of either themselves or on many of the coaches who are themselves not properly prepared and are not developmental in nature. Many individuals have skills and talents. Kirk Wilkinson who lives in the constituency of St. George North is a young cricketer who needs developing further, but the type of resource that he gets cannot help him to develop. When a person is called up for the West Indies team, he has to run and look for pads, mittens and bats. All of these things are not in keeping with development.

10.50 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, persons with talent need to be assisted. We see them as our heroes as they represent their communities. They have the talent and the skill but from a personal development, we need to spend more time with them. We need to identify who are these persons and to put them into proper programmes.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what programmes exist in the Barbados Football Association in relation to the development of young players. Football is a very popular sport and almost every young boy wants to play the game. I, therefore, would want to know if any developmental programmes have been put in place for these young players, not only with providing them with footballs, nets, bars or lights but what other programmes have been put in place, what coaches have been brought in, other than the ones that the Government brought in from Cuba recently.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to know what has the Barbados Cricket Association done to develop the younger players that are among us. There was a time, as you would know, when we believed that communities were brought together in an integral way through competition. There was a time when communities played among themselves and when they looked forward to that competition. Sir, the age in which I grew up was an age of competition where communities would play among themselves. To me that was

a time when communities were not as they are today, where persons believe in the whole development of the individual; where individuals would look after each other; where there were no fighting or engaging in crimes but where there was good community spirit.

We, therefore, need to see that spirit and competition returning to these communities. I believe that communities must form that integral part of the development of any sporting organisation.

Mr. Speaker, in North America and in most developed societies, the community spirit plays a part, for example, in Canada when the Blue Jays are playing, the entire community supports them. The same thing also happens in Ottawa when the Supersonics are playing. There are communities fighting to make sure that their players and the teams that they are representing could either do well, excel, or win the tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, we had communities in Barbados that rallied among themselves. I recently went to a football match at the Dover Playing Field.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Honourable House by giving the impression that the Barbados Cricket Association collects funds and that they do not provide adequate disclosure to its members. I think that this is a very dishonourable statement and seeing that it is one of the leading organisations in Barbados, I believe that remark should be withdrawn.

Sir, if that is true, it also reflects very badly on the Government of Barbados, at a time when the Government is about to invest \$60 million of the taxpayers' money into the Barbados Cricket Association for it to be spent on a complex at the Kensington Oval.

The Honourable Member is saying that he has not said that but I heard him say it.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I was speaking about the community spirit which exists in some developed societies. Sir, community spirit also exists within our country and we need to continue fostering that relationship between the various sporting organisations and the arts. It can bring a cohesiveness that will unite this country and, therefore, we need to see more organisations not only putting talents and skills behind the communities but helping to develop the infrastructure within these communities.

Sir, we are seeing it across rural Barbados today as we improve the infrastructure for sports in most communities. In fact, in the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto, we said that

we will provide sporting organisations in most developed communities. I believe that we have provided the football fields, the cricket fields and the hard courts in most of the major communities across Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, as one travels across Barbados, especially at night, one can see football and cricket being played on these lighted fields.

Sir, I would wish to say that in relation to the business aspect of sports, most business persons would not invest in sporting activities unless they believe that they could get returns on their investments. Sir, we need to encourage business persons to invest in sports. Sir, many persons believe that when they invest in sports, they would not get a fair rate of return. Therefore, we have to find ways and means of encouraging business persons to invest in sports.

Mr. Speaker, in some developed societies one would find that there are some business persons who usually buy an entire team. There are a number of business persons who would buy a hockey or a football team, who would invest in that team, in the hope of getting a good rate of return. Therefore, these persons would not only have a right of investment but would also have a right to receive profits from such an organisation. These business persons also market the various sporting organisations. Therefore, there needs to be a concept of marketing and many of our people within this country have called for that professional league within the Barbados Cricket Association. Sir, we need to have such a professional league or association, but who would start such a league? What type of structure would be put in place to help develop the various players and associations in this country?

Sir, there need to be more benefits that would be derived from the various organisations but of course, these benefits would only be derived if the communities, the business people, and the players, would all come together. That is why I said that we need to look at the three functions played by the business, the community and the individual, and to understand that there is a nexus between them and that the individual player must be developed.

Mr. Speaker, many of our sports persons need to be able to provide for themselves and for their families and, therefore, would need to be paid properly. These organisations must also be organised in such a way that these players would benefit. The business persons must be prepared to put money behind such organised talents for the interest of this society.

Mr. Speaker, we are becoming a more developed society than in the past and we could only do so if money is put into sports. Therefore, the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill, 2004, which is before this Honourable House

is a step in the right direction but it does not go all the way. Therefore, we have to look at the ways in which businesses and communities would help the various sporting organisations, which would in turn help Government.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have reached a time in our history where there is more leisure time on the part of the individual.

11.00 a.m.

Today, people work forty hours and less in a week. Years ago, some economists felt that as production increased that mankind would have more time on his hands to organise sports and today, we see that people have more money and time to organise sports. Sir, the banking system today has a lot of money in savings and some of this money could be invested in sporting organisations. There is more time for recreation so more sporting organisations and activities could be developed.

Sir, it should not be left solely to parliamentarians to organise sports in the community. We need a community development organisation to do this as well. Mr. Speaker, throughout Barbados we notice a lot of skills when NIFCA and various activities are undertaken and, as I said before, we should not rely on schools and parliamentarians alone but every Barbadian should be involved.

Sir, the business sector, the community and personal development should go hand in hand so that we would have a holistic approach to the development of sports. Government has now provided the fund but years ago, persons like Suki King, the national drafts champion, tried very hard and promoted himself and some of these funds will go to persons of that nature who have this type of skill. Sir, we need the business sector and the community to help the various organisations.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I rise to contribute to this debate and offer critical support to this Bill. Over the last ten years what we have had from the Barbados Labour Party with respect to arts and sports has been a superficial look at the implications of arts and sports with respect to how that development can benefit individuals and by extension the country, economically and otherwise.

Sir, we have had ten years of promises and nothing has happened in the areas of significance. There is no sportsman or artist in Barbados who can say he is better off after the rule of the Barbados Labour Party than he was before. I do not believe this can be said with any certainty in Barbados and I have been involved in sports and arts in many ways in Barbados. Sir, I will not get caught up in the hyperbole expressed by the Honourable Member for St. James North as he expressed his position.

Sir, I strongly believe that the superficial approach used by the Barbados Labour Party is not one that would be used by the Democratic Labour Party because of our understanding that culture, sports and artistic endeavours are indeed the most fundamental expressions of the human psyche, that it represents the means by which an individual can provide himself and his family with a way of supporting themselves.

Sir, any person exposed to the development of civilisation would recognise that as part of the evolution of societies that sports and artistic activities were seen partly as entertainment. They have been used for individual building of the psyche and to satisfy it sometimes in very brutal ways. If Honourable Members would do some reading, they would remember the culture of the Romans and Kelts.

Sir, in Barbados we need to move beyond the realm of seeing sports and artistic endeavours in a very narrow and myopic way as simply a pastime and entertainment and move very quickly to see these activities as a mechanism to providing a livelihood for people involved in them. As a result of this, developing countries like Barbados must employ new strategies to move the arts and sports events into that of a professional set of activities so as to give those individuals who are inclined the opportunity of success in the international arena.

Sir, to accomplish this, it is necessary that Government play a major role in the developing of the educational, social and economic framework for that success because Government has not been providing that kind of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the development of arts and sports in Barbados can be analysed by looking at two aspects. One relates to the responsibilities which participants have in order to develop themselves if they are interested in a particular sport or an artistic endeavour. The other is that Government has a set of responsibilities. These involve providing the types of incentives, facilities, training and economic opportunities and developmental strategies for success.

Mr. Speaker, in any endeavour, individuals must have an attitude that must be cultivated by the mechanisms put in place in order for success and this is where I depart with the Barbados Labour Party and their hyperbole about putting mechanisms and structures in place because I have not seen any of them in place.

Recently I looked at the school system in Barbados with respect to sports and I do not find the specific analysis with respect to the aptitude. I do not see the school system attempting to developing the kinds of knowledge that is required for success in that particular activity nor the development of the dedication and commitment that is

required to apply that knowledge to success. Sir, this is critical in order to move that youngster in arts and sports to the next level of his development.

I am going to say without question that the level of fragmentation that exists in the management and financing of sporting activities in Barbados leaves a lot to be desired.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe there is going to be any divide with respect to the notion that the size of Barbados and its economic base does not allow for effective development of professional sporting activities without significant Government subvention. I do not believe that Barbados alone can sustain a professional league in soccer, cricket or volleyball because it would be unrealistic. I can appreciate the development with respect to getting that individual to a level where he can compete on a personal basis on the international arena where there are lucrative returns with respect to their particular field of endeavour.
11.10 a.m.

Sir, as a result of that – that is why I reiterate the position that it is important that the individual be developed with respect to these patents.

If we are going to give our sportsmen the best opportunity to succeed, we need to be able to include arts and sports negotiations into bilateral and multilateral negotiations in a structured way within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the Free Trade Areas of the Americas. We cannot even contemplate trying to look at professional soccer league in Barbados but it becomes reasonably possible if one looks at it within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the Free Trade Areas of the Americas context. It then becomes a possibility even though many structures would have to be put in place.

I want to spend a few minutes to explain the significance of what I am saying with respect to soccer in Barbados. I still believe that a lot needs to be done and that in any endeavour, one must first attempt to assimilate the conditions under which that particular activity is performed at the highest level. It does not make sense to me that in Barbados we are asking our soccer players to embark on training on pitches or fields that are half the size that are required and fields that are full of pot holes and ditches. When they go to perform at international level they cannot do that effectively.

If this country is serious about advancing the development of soccer, we should look at the development of an international size playing field with international size facilities, which would stimulate the playing conditions that the players would be facing.

In addition to that, you must add all the ancillary inputs. It does not make sense with a sporting activity like Soccer, and this applies to any endeavour where there is

specialised training requirements. Soccer requires endurance as well as explosive power capabilities that require special knowledge of nutritional inputs. It requires the use of applied technology that includes kinesiology and exercise physiology. That is the level we have to move to, not the lip service that I am hearing. It is important that we move to that level.

Sir, I will reiterate the point that part of what is necessary at a national level is to establish within the National Sports Council departments that deal specifically with the development and the application to sports in Barbados. It does not make sense that we are going to have an athlete who is running a 400 meters and we do not know if that person has the exercise capacity to endure the 400 meters. We cannot analyse, via computer modeling, whether that individual has the correct technique or is having the correct dietary inputs. We require all these things if we are going to move sports and in particular the physical enduring activities to a level of international performance.

Sir, we believe that we can get a young man or woman and train them from primary school to run up and down but without understanding that every person responds differently physiologically and biochemically to dietary inputs. Therefore, the analysis that occupies that individual style and capacity must be done through a scientific methodology. If Government does not understand that, then it is their responsibility. They must develop the aptitude, provide the opportunities and training capabilities in order to allow that attitude to materialise. Therefore, the Honourable Member does not understand what he is talking about.

Mr. Speaker, when I see some of the playing fields in Barbados where young men and women are expected to hone their skills, I am, indeed, saddened. I have young men and women in St. Patricks who run around on a playing field that has not had the periphery of the boundary cut for approximately five years. They occupy an old wooden pavilion that this Government refused to repair for twelve years, even though requests were made over and over.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Is this an expression of Government's inept approach in dealing with the problem in a collective way? The vision of this Government is to provide mobile lights, not to incorporate all facets of sports in a holistic management division and then market it effectively across Barbados. They do not know what they are doing.

Sir, I started my contribution to this debate by saying that there is a lot of lip service, promises and flexing

muscle and mere talk which means nothing. There is not one sportsman in Barbados who can say today that he is better off now than ten years ago. Any musician who can argue that he is better off today in terms of his financial reward from music than he was ten years ago, show me one or two of them.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I have one major concern that I am going to raise with respect to this Bill which has to do with the so-called Arts and Sports Promotion Fund.

I looked closely at this Bill and it referred to a lot of rhetoric about the activities of the Accountant General and the Auditor General. I have also read the Auditor General's reports from 2000-2003 and it saddens me that every year I see the same problems being repeated. I want to ask this Administration to explain to me how it is that they expect the duties from lotteries to fund the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund, when most of the lotteries are indebted to this Government.

I also want this Administration to explain to me what happened to the \$18.4 million, identified in the Auditor General's report, that was owed by the Barbados Turf Club to Government. I want them to tell me if they are amalgamating the Barbados Olympia Lottery and the Barbados Turf Club under this new entity called Sports Lottery Barbados Inc. I want to know whether that money was written off in total or whether a portion of it has been written off.

Sir, this is important because if the argument is that it is the duties from lotteries that are supposed to finance the Fund, then the lotteries have to make money. Therefore, I want this Administration to explain to the people of this country how that is possible. If that is possible, what are the new management mechanisms that are put in place to ensure that the lotteries would provide the sort of revenues required in order to finance the Fund?

Sir, if I find out that any portion of these funds owed by the Barbados Turf Club has been written off, like the \$5 million which was owed to Government by CIBC and which was written off, I will talk about it from St. Lucy to St. Philip that it is wrong. There are many poor people in Barbados who had their homes and land sold and some were evicted from their homes because they could not pay \$2,000 or \$6,000 which they owed to Government. Are we going to write off millions of dollars owing by the Barbados Turf Club? Sir, over my dead body.

Asides.

11.20 a.m.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: My heart is good.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of what I am saying is that there are no two classes of people in Barbados, and I will not accept one set of rules for one group and another set of rules for another group. It seems to me that there are a set of rules for the rich people and a set of rules for the poor people. As long as you own a big business in Barbados, you can get the Government to write off your debt. Those are the facts.

Let me tell you something else, Sir, I do not make idle talk, if I am challenged in here today, I would make available every single judgment with their numbers, and many people would get embarrassed. Take it from me. I am not here to make sport. I have a responsibility to the people in this country and to the people of St. Philip West.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Challenge me today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I am saying that if the Government intends to use revenues from lotteries to fund the arts, and the Sports Promotion Fund, I want the Government to ensure that the lotteries are managed effectively, and there is proper accountancy and transparency in those systems. I also want Government to ensure that they are profitable and provide the Funds with the funds required. I also realise there is a loophole because in Section 3(b), the Government allows for revenues to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund.

Sir, the lotteries were not making any money in the past. I would want the Honourable Members to tell me what is new, so that they are going to make money now? I would like Honourable Members to answer that question.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have said what I had to say and I believe that the people in this country are not deaf. They were educated with free education and the taxpayers' money was well spent. You can rest assured, Sir, they understand what I am saying and therefore, I can feel comfortable that my colleagues will continue to demonstrate that what has happened in Barbados is that we have had ten years of lip service in the arts, and sports and nothing has happened but a vision of mobile lights in Barbados.

I thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted for the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I would want to concede up-front, Sir, that I never had too much of a sporting career while I was at school, but it was perhaps more than made up for by my passion for music. In fact,

there was a point in time when I thought that had I not gone into the legal profession, I might have liked to follow a career as a musician.

I am therefore delighted at the progress that has been made in Barbados over the last few years, in relation to what we are now calling, quite properly, the cultural industries. I consider Barbados, perhaps able to claim to be the cultural capital of the Caribbean. If Honourable Members would reflect for a brief moment on the nature of what we may glibly call the entertainment environment in Barbados, they would begin to see how this country has evolved over the years that we are now able to have Barbadian composers spread far and wide across the globe.

I had a great honour of listening to Inkle and Yarico and, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that as a person who has followed music, I have to admit that it was a beautiful work of classical music. I believe that at one point in time, it was expected to have been performed on Broadway in New York and also in Toronto, Canada.

Sir, let me digress a little. We have to recognise that Barbados has a population of more than 260 000 people, and it is absolutely amazing that with such a small population, we have been able to provide to this world, the class of sportsmen like Obadelle Thompson and Suki King, artists such as Carl Broodhagen, Carl Broodhagen's son, and Omawale Stuart, and amazing musicians like Alison Hinds and others. It is astounding that we had been able to make these strides.

The Honourable Members on the Other Side would want to believe that this was sheer happenstance and nothing more than a stroke of luck. The fact of the matter is that this country has always paid careful attention to honing the skills of its people. There is a point at which scientific analysis is important, but I want to assure the Honourable Members on the Other Side that with all the kinesiology and the fancy medical terms that they may wish to attribute to sportspersons and sports, and the things that they say are required, certainly, in my constituency, there is a category of young men and women, who delight in the ability to be able to play night cricket. They are not intellectualising anything. They are happy for the opportunity to develop their sportsmanship.

Sir, I will get back to arts. We have been able to develop a solid educational programme for culture. I believe all of our primary schools do some kind of musical appreciation, and all of our secondary schools have music and art on the curriculum. It is clear that we move to carry these things now beyond operating in the sphere of our educational institutions, and that is the great significance of this particular endowment.

The fact of the matter is that sporting and cultural activity across the world will only go so far, when funded purely out of the Government's coffers. This really is an enterprising, almost unique way of trying to enable this Government to bring a greater financial contribution to bear on the development of our country.

We have to remember that when we send a band like Krosfyah across the world that we are sending first class ambassadors, not just to represent to the world that Barbados is about dancing and music, but we are sending cultural ambassadors to the various capitals of the world to demonstrate to all mankind that we have, in our little crucible of a country, been able to refine and to hone our talents to the point where we have these kinds of international performers. Sir, these also bring significant inputs into the economy.

Sir, sometimes we do not understand the importance of these things, but I remember seeing an interview where a little girl in the Cayman Islands was asked whom she wanted to be when she grows up, and she said she wants to be like Alison Hinds.

Asides.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: Can we for one moment comprehend the reach that our Barbadian performers, our Barbadian artistes, our Barbadian writers, our Barbadian journalists have managed to achieve, when people, cultures away and certainly thousands of miles away, recognise our performers as outstanding? For example, Jimmy Cliff, Peter Tosh and Bob Marley out of Jamaica. Bob Marley was invited to perform at the Independence celebrations for Zimbabwe which goes to show that there is tremendous value in our people and our countries' esteem is increased globally when we are able to provide artistes of that kind.
11.30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, we have done well so far. The fact of the matter is that this Government has committed itself to developing a services economy. When our artistes sell art abroad and when our designers are able to design costumes, we have to recognise that these are economic opportunities for us. Peter Mitchell was contracted by the Olympic Association to design for the Barcelona Olympics thereby bringing tremendous wealth and more importantly tremendous regard and reputation to the kinds of Caribbean designers and artistes that there are. That is where I believe all Honourable Members would want to see Barbadian performers elevated to.

Mr. Speaker, we sometimes limit ourselves by thinking that we are too small to produce a Bob Marley or a Peter Mitchell. However, we have not been too small to provide a Sir Gary Sobers, a 'Suki' King or an

Obadele Thompson. Barbadians across the globe are regarded highly for their intellect, how much therefore would it take for us to be regarded highly for the creation of our intellect. Honourable Members in this House would certainly be regarded internationally as being brilliant and modern thinkers, so why is it that we should have any inhibitions at all about our artistes and musicians being regarded as artistes and musicians of the finest kind?

Mr. Speaker, there is tremendous opportunity for Barbados in the development of the services economy. However, we have to recognise that an important part of that is going to be the other aspect of our creativity that we generally like to put on the backburner. We are happy to laud our architects designing buildings across the region. We are happy to laud our accountants using their intellect to advise multinational companies on complex tax planning matters. We are happy to laud all of that kind of intellectual exercise but when it comes to recognising the other part of our intellect, our creativity, we seem to think that it is forever mired in the area of 'wucking' up and so on.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that this country has to offer notwithstanding its small size. Therefore, I am proud to be a part of a Government that is focussing in a strategic way at ensuring that we develop this capacity. The private sector has always played a role. This really is a mechanism through which private sector monies by way of a tax is going to be put into this fund for the development of our arts and sports.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members on the Other Side may want to intellectualise sporting activities. Coming from a rural constituency, we want to see the provision of the basics. This Government in the last five weeks started the construction of a pavilion at the playing field of the St. Bernard's Primary School. The people in that particular district, the Lammings/Sugar Hill area – do not bother to come to them about kinesiology and all of these things – are interested in having an opportunity to explore that outlet and to recreate. I have had the pleasure of sponsoring a tape ball competition and we have been playing some night games. I am so proud when I see the large number of people, young and old, coming out at night to be spectators of this most wholesome form of entertainment, so we are happy for the lights.

Mr. Speaker, we can spend a lot of time trying to look at all the other things and neglect to deal with the basics. Many of our world class sportsmen did not have the benefit of that kind of training, perhaps if they had, they would have been better. Instead they had the benefit of playing cricket on the beach and on various rocky pastures and of playing football on various rocky pastures. That is what they took and moulded into world class talent and first class careers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the National Sports Council endeavour to get portable lights for use at our playing fields is a significant and impacting initiative. It is financially sensible. In rural Barbados every community cannot get a playing field equipped with night lights, but this initiative would allow for the sharing of these night lights, and I look forward to being able to use them. We have had to rely on contributors, benevolence and sometimes financial resources so as to be able to get night lights for the various games that we have played in St. Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency, the field at St. Elizabeth has night lights, but every community wants night lights as well. Therefore, it is important that the National Sports Council find a solution that will benefit all of rural Barbados in a sensible way. The fact of the matter is that in a rural community you will not have night events happening every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, so you will have made a financial investment in hardware and equipment which may be used once a month or perhaps more frequently in short windows of time. This therefore would allow for the better use of Government resources to have portable lights and I want to commend the National Sports Council for that initiative.

Mr. Speaker, we have to recognise that every community will not be able to get a pavilion, lights, netball facilities and so on. The communities in the country are spread out and they are sometimes...

Asides.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: Well if it is four houses, you may find a grass-piece or a playing field in a community of 20 or 30 houses but it is a challenge for the Government to provide proper recreational facilities for such a small community. Therefore, it is important that we try strategically to use our resources so as to be able to satisfy the greater interest for the greater percentage of our population.

Mr. Speaker, cultural industries have tremendous potential for bringing financial benefits to Barbados, but I want to speak of it in the context of tourism. I recognise the importance of events like the Holder's Festival to our tourism calendar. Tourists have always come to Barbados, but we are now getting a breed of tourists that does not just want sun, sea and sand, but want to have a cultural experience. That cultural experience may often find its expression in terms of culinary delights which is an important part of our cultural offering and would also find its expression in terms of going to our Jazz shows, being able to go to the Holder's Festival and listen to Pavarotti and all of these kinds of things.

Mr. Speaker, it may be argued that those are essentially events where foreign artistes come in and

perform but the reality is that kind of exposure has a great benefit for our own local artistes. Mr. Speaker we are going into an environment where our offerings are going to be sought after by other people in the Caribbean. Sir, certainly the fact that you see our musicians and others employed at Carnivals, *et cetera*, we have to recognise that these are significant opportunities but we also have to plan for future development.

11.40 a.m.

We have to make sure that we put systems and mechanisms in place so that in 10, 20 or 30 years' time, we have another wave of artistes or musicians. I am not at all daunted by the fact that our critical mass may be seen to be small. I think that Barbados has done exceptionally well over the last decade in terms of our creativity. Therefore, this Government is committed to seeing to it that this creativity is given true expression and that one of the significant consequences of that creativity, being the generation of income, is one that is realisable.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill, 2004. We are already seeing the benefits of the kinds of policies in which this Government has engaged, and I am certain that as time goes on, and as the Fund becomes fully capitalised, we will find that Government will be able to play a more significant role in the continued development of our sports and arts.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I do not often like it when Honourable Members get up to speak and say that they had not intended to do so. I, therefore, suspect that this might be the first time in all the years in which I would now find myself in such a position.

Mr. Speaker, I took the attitude that I would let newer and younger people carry this. There is a future, there is a vision, there is no horizon upon the kind of creativity that we have to offer to the world by way of the influence that we can bring to bear in the creative arts and sports that Barbadians can offer to the world, and happily as other Honourable Members have made the point, that we can now sell to the world. Mr. Speaker, one finds difficulty dignifying it with the descriptive intervention but the Honourable Member for St. Philip West has spoken and has displayed such a lack of understanding and appreciation, that I felt I had to rise.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a Barbados where in the house I lived; in the community I lived; in the schools, both primary and secondary levels

where I went, my exposure to the arts in the context in which we are now discussing them and to sports were overwhelming.

Mr. Speaker, I heard reference to the Barbados Labour Party and to its lack of record. This can only come from someone who is naive in the understanding of these matters.

Sir, I grew up in a Barbados where the Barbados Arts Council, which to this day exists, has become a reality. I grew up in a Barbados with a civic theatre. We now have the Daphne Joseph-Hackett Theatre. I grew up in a Barbados with social centres, starting with the first one ever at Ellerton, St. George.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: It is more than a rich legacy that we have inherited and have enjoyed and that happily the majority of us are not taking for granted.

My late father was a Minister of Social Services. I remember the first social centre at Ellerton, St. George, which afforded us the opportunity. They then spread all over Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, never let us forget that the Barbados Labour Party is the Party of decentralisation in Barbados. It is the Democratic Labour Party that is the Party that would centralise everything. It is we who took the social centres and have started them at Ellerton, St. George and in St. Andrew. It is we who took the health centres. We took the services, the arts and sports into the communities in which people live, and we continue to do it to this day. We are now doing it with resource centres and with playing fields.

Mr. Speaker, a visitor to Barbados recently said to me that while driving around Barbados, the thing that struck him most was the number of playing fields, social centres and pavilions, to be found in communities across rural, suburban, and I am very happy to say, soon urban Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, these social centres allow for the promotion of the arts. Sir, Andrea Gollop-Greenidge, Edward Pilgrim, a number of others and I, used to belong to a small drama group under Daphne Joseph-Hackett. We would have performed anywhere where we could have, for instance, at church halls, on a pasture or on the back of a truck near to where the Treasury Building is now.

Sir, I grew up in a Barbados where there were agricultural exhibitions, where excellence was the order of

the day. These exhibitions displayed what women sewed, what they knitted, or the best furniture one could have seen in Barbados, *et cetera*. Sir, these persons who now are involved in *Habitat Caribbean* and the *Home Show* in Barbados, which I find to be excellent productions but they belong to a generation who seem to think that it all begins now. At those exhibitions in the past, one could not have beaten Griffith's Furniture, who used to win first prize every year. At these exhibitions, there were also sheep, pigs, goats, pigeons, the merry-go-rounds, *et cetera*. These were things in which the ordinary Barbadians would have participated. Once a year the rank-and-file or the poorest Barbadian would have gotten a new dress to wear to these exhibitions, which would incidentally be the same clothes that they would have worn to church on Christmas morning.

Sir, I grew up in that kind of Barbados. I grew up in a Barbados where I saw *Sing Out Barbados* grow. These are no elitist theatre groups, these are ordinary Barbadians who got to understand that with the encouragement of a Barbados Labour Party Government in the 1950s, that contrary to opinions held elsewhere in the Caribbean, we had a culture and a creativity and that with encouragement, we have seen it blossomed throughout the 1960s and 1970s, so that today in the early 21st Century, Barbados is a centre to which people come for this.

Sir, there was Yoruba House. We were much criticised about the cost of CARIFESTA but it gave an exposure to ordinary everyday Barbadians. I grew up in a Barbados where there were community choirs, where every New Year's Day, 'Freddie' Miller and 'Mitchie' Hewitt used to organise these community choirs that would have come from all over Barbados, including Belleplaine, Halls Road, Eagle Hall, Chapmans Lane and Welchman Hall, at Kensington Oval. Those were the choirs that were winning.

Mr. Speaker, in those days, I well remember the judges of the community choirs on New Year's Day. There were persons such as the captain of the Barbados Police Band as it was then called, Captain Charles E. Raison, ARCM, and a Mr. E. Hackett, a music teacher. These choirs would have been judged on a test piece. Fellows came down in their "Sunday School go to meeting" on a big stage with a tarpaulin over it. A fellow would ding with a tuning fork and you would hear singing like nowhere else on this earth and you sang two pieces, a test piece and a free piece. It was competition at the village level in Barbados and I never missed it.
11.50 a.m.

Sir, this is the genesis of some of these things. My mother came from St. Elizabeth Village in St. Joseph and she taught me the folk songs of Barbados and then the *Merrymen* and *Sing out Barbados* made them famous. Sir, a whole generation who did not know they existed began to understand about them.

We have to give praise and thanks to those community groups who saw a stage for the first time at their community centre and were given encouragement by a Government who understood where it could take Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I remember the pageants in Barbados and that there was a production three years in a row called "The Man Born to Be King" by Dorothy L. Searles produced by the late Clifton Maynard and Freddie Miller which was played in the evenings on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Mel Gibson is now getting all the credit for his production "The Passion of Christ" but he does not have much on "The Man Born to Be King". Sir, a huge Hollywood-type set was built at Kensington Oval. There was music, lighting and the narrator was a former Speaker of this House, the late Mr. Kenmore Husbands.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member but we seem to be operating without a quorum.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, ring the bell.

Mr. SPEAKER: We now have a quorum, Honourable Member, please proceed.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I was making the point that this is the Barbados in which I grew up. I well remember what is now known as BIDC years ago starting with handicraft and other areas such as pottery, plastic arts and graphic arts.

I do not think that Barbadians have a good understanding of the enormity of creativity and talent that exists in Barbados today and if you go down to the restored Pelican Village, you would see that we have a glassblower working there and his work compares to anything you would see in the world. Sir, Barbadians should go to Pelican sometimes in between their trips to Puerto Rico and other places to see what Barbados has on show.

Mr. Speaker, I am flattered because every now and then younger people come to me, say they need to start reading and that they want to get a feel for Caribbean writers. They ask me how to start and I tell them to begin with George Lamming's "Castle of my Skin" and then read Tom Clarke's "Growing Up Stupid Under The Union Jack". I tell them that once they are captivated by those two books, they will never be able to stop reading. I also tell them that it is a matter of personal choice where they start and that every one will have a different starting point but these two books are my start point. Sir, recommending a start point that would excite and hold people's interest never fails because these people then borrow from my personal library.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to the question of the record of the Barbados Labour Party. I remember that

the Combermere School was built by the late Captain Tomlin at Waterford and that the Barbados Labour Party Government of the day insisted that it had to be built not just for morning prayers but with a stage and hall which could double as a performance centre. Sir, it has played that role throughout the years and Combermerians are proud of it.

Sir, Combermere has a proud record generally speaking in this area. When I was a child at secondary school, only Combermere had a full-time music teacher on staff and the late Carl Broodhagen as a full-time teacher of sculptor and painting.

Sir, it did not happen by chance because in those days, central Government foot the bill, as it does now, and had much say in the curricula of the school. When I hear the Honourable Member for St. Philip West speak, I wonder where he grew up. I see in Barbados today a growing number of art galleries and more and more potters opening their own galleries. There are full-time designers like Nefeteri Caddle making their mark regionally and internationally. Sir, this does not happen overnight but is something that is nurtured and given an opportunity to blossom.

I made reference earlier to the Barbados Police Band. I am obviously prejudiced, like most Barbadians are, but I have not heard a police band to better it anywhere in the world. The Barbados Police Band went to the Edinburgh Festival. When they compete and are appreciated at the high level, when they play locally I hear the side comments that come from visitors to Barbados that they did not know that such a high quality of music was found at street concerts in Barbados. Sir, more and more they go into the community because they are not saved for special occasions.

I remember as a child going into Queen's Park every first Sunday in the month to hear the police band and then they went around the country. Today, it is a matter of great pride and we are seeing more young women and men in the police band.

The Barbados Tourism Authority boasts about the seven great festivals but this did not happen overnight. Mr. Speaker, some festivals are more recent than others but we make our mark regionally and internationally with our jazz festival. I was gravely disappointed when I heard the Honourable Leader of the Opposition criticise the Jazz Festival. Sir, he had no grounds on which to criticise it because music knows no boundary in the sense that he sought to circumscribe it. We want to continue to lift it up. We want to come to a place in the Caribbean where we imbue Jazz with our own ear to it, to bring our own Caribbean history and interpretation to it.

12.00 noon

The Caribbean is the only place in the world in which a new musical instrument was created in the whole of the 20th Century, the steel pan. Sir, that is no small achievement. We take too much for granted. When we produce what is the best and what is excellent, we take it too much for granted. It is when we go outside of Barbados and recognise the esteem in which people hold The Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, Barbados Rum, and we always go for excellence. That is what has to be our quest with the arts and sports. Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence that it will grow and get better and one day we will be competitive in almost any area of endeavour that we choose.

Sir, a few weeks ago I heard on the call-in programme a young man pleading, that he belonged to, I think, a tennis association in Barbados. He was making a very important point. He was saying that in tennis, in order to win scholarships to universities in the United States of America that we were able to bring our young tennis players up to the required level, which is a high level.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: The point that he was making was that we sought to bring them to the level where they could win a scholarship but never thought that we could take them to the highest level, the level of the Williams sisters. He was almost pleading with Barbadians, parents in particular, to open their thinking and vision to understand that once children could be taken to level 'A' that they could go to level 'B', that is something that we have to remember in everything that we do.

Asides.

Mr. Speaker, last night I heard on the news how well the Caribbean was doing and that drew my attention to the news item. The point has been made, and we have to go on making the point until Barbadians accept and understand it, that it is our creativity now that we have to sell to the world. This does not happen by itself. There are gifted people who, once they have an opportunity, will fly but the majority of us are not gifted in that way but we can learn, aspire and we can excel.

There has to be a nurturing environment and an influence that are brought to bear. There has to be an opportunity in traditional and non-traditional areas that is offered to allow our people to soar where the sky is the limit. This is what we now have to sell to the world. An opportunity which would allow the Barbadian psyche to be understood in the world in a way that it is not today, and I wish that more people would write and keep complaining about this – not only the people at the university who are not writing but generally speaking, where are the

Lammings of today? Where are the Tom Clarkes of the generation coming after us?

Is it not past ordinary understanding that in this little Caribbean, in two generations, that we have produced two Nobel Laureates? That is the ceiling of competence to which any Barbadian artist or sportsman must aspire.

There is a responsibility of governments in a number of ways at the level of the community – the Ministry of Social Transformation, the National Sports Council, National Cultural Foundation, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs are doing everything they can in divers ways. The Government of the day, and in this sense I am not referring only to the Honourable Members on This Side, but all of us – Government and Opposition. There cannot be a political divide on this matter.

We are talking about a Barbadian creativity, a Barbadian psyche, a Barbadian culture which is common to us and which is well and firmly rooted at the level of our communities, from the villages, towns, country and suburbs. Sir, schools and NGOs have a large role to play. The first NGO I belonged to was a social club, a sports club, and it is for us to uplift and make opportunity available.

Sir, it cannot now be at the level of having only games or exercise on the timetable of schools because it is said that these things are good for you. In my time I could not see what good it was doing for me. I played hockey once for my school but I do not know what good it was doing for me.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: As I grew older, I came to understand that there was so much more that it taught you. There was team spirit. The divisiveness that we now see in the community and at the level of the family goes back to generations where people had to entertain themselves by playing card and board games.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Like health it has an ameliorating influence upon us.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, this is the point that I sought to make in this intervention and this is the thought that I want to leave with Honourable Members. We must find a way, whenever possible, to uplift this aspect of the quality of life in Barbados. Without it we are going back to the primaeval time, that is why in the City of Bridgetown I have fought so hard for a few hard courts, never a playing field.

Sir, the young people in the City of Bridgetown cannot go to Kensington Oval. They cannot go to Queen's Park because Spartan Club has that locked off. They cannot go to the Biscuit Company. I have struggled with all of this for a long time, and we have to find a way. Passage Road is, strictly speaking, not within the City, but I helped to put that there because it provided access for the people in the City of Bridgetown.

12.10 p.m.

The Hospital pasture, again, I was the relevant Minister at the time when that was put in place, and I said it had to be shared between the St. Michael School and the organised groups in the City of Bridgetown. They always used to get picked last or sometimes, no pick at all.

Sir, the Westbury School Pavilion was the first ever built looking two ways. They told me it could not happen. I told them, yes, it could happen, and it is going to happen, so that you have hard courts where young people are exercising themselves. The more they do that, the less time they have for nefarious and negative influences which are very strong, not only in the City of Bridgetown but all over Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge upon Honourable Members that they need to support this matter and bring their insights, wisdom and good recommendations to this process which is before us now. This is not something now for partisanship and tearing down. This is for lifting up young people and now that we are an aging population, let us not forget older people in this Barbados.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I listened to the end of the presentation by the Honourable Member for the City and I believe that except for the issue of the allocation of sporting facilities throughout Barbados, which have not been fair or just, that there cannot be a valid reason on the surface for anyone to quarrel with any attempt to allocate resources in Barbados towards sports and culture.

If one wanted to be partisan, there would be adequate justification for many Honourable Members in this Chamber, both on This Side and on the Other Side to speak about the disproportionate way in which funds have been provided for the construction of all of these wonderful facilities which are part of the decentralisation process of the Barbados Labour Party.

Lamentably, Sir, I am not one of those MPs who can speak with great favour in that regard. I will say this though, that the very overstretched facilities at Gall Hill in St. John are used 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year, by a variety of sporting organisations which have to compete and schedule time for the use of those facilities.

Can you image any ground in Barbados, facilitating a BCA Cricket Team? A Primary League and Second Division BFA Football Team? A Third Division Team? Three Junior Football Teams? Night Cricket, Softball Cricket and these are all cricket competitions, Knock Out Football which ended last weekend, St. John League Football, BFA Premier League and Second Division Matches, as well as cultural activities?

Sir, all of that and the pavilion, which is probably about 40 years or even more, is headquarters to St. John Cultural Cricket Club and Family First St. John Sonnets Football Team. There are two toilets, a changing room that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South would not be able to stretch out his hands in, and a bar that I can barely get behind.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It is true we have lights, and that is much appreciated, because it means that we are now able to stagger the activities and the footballers can practice at night, rather than in the day.

Sir, that is on one side, but then on the other side there are hard courts which support two basketball teams, one for men and one for women, netball, road tennis and cultural activities like jams and so on. All of that is taking place in that small area.

Other than that playing facility, there are no other playing facilities maintained by the Government, other than the Lodge School. All of the others are maintained by clubs, College Savannah and Sussex Cricket Club. College Land maintains the grounds at Codrington College. Martins Bay Cricket Team has no home ground in St. John, they are based in Blades Hill at St. Marks, because those facilities were built and there was no established cricket team. It is not as bad as Padmore Village because all the money the previous MP for St. Philip North blew, and wasted on a ground that is now bush and a pavilion that nobody can use, was almost a criminal waste of the Government's funds, right next door to Dodds, where there are more than adequate playing facilities and a pavilion.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: This was disgusting and crude waste of money but I am not dealing with that now. I am pointing out that there are districts, and I have asked the Minister of Sports about this for the longest time, like Four Roads which services teams in St. George, or should service teams in St. George. Can you imagine areas like Henley, Cherry Grove, Pool, Four Roads, Lemon Arbor, Wakefield, Sherbourne and Claybury which produce football teams, and there is no playing facility anywhere in that Four Roads area, despite repeated requests to the Government?

I am saying that there has not been a commensurate provision of sporting facilities in my constituency. The activities at Gall Hill are taking their toll on the facilities there, and something needs to be done to replace or upgrade the pavilion, as well as the other facilities in that area. I make an appeal for additional playing facilities at Massiah Street and Four Roads in St. John.

I know I will get support from the Honourable Member for St. George North in my request for playing facilities at Four Roads in St. John, because he said that if it was left to him, we would already have facilities established there.

Sir, relative to the broader point partly made by the Honourable Member for the City and some others in here, we have an obligation as a society to expose the young people in this country to a wide cross section of sporting and cultural disciplines. Sir, you always encounter Philistines in life, people who do not want to expose young people to European culture, to anything that is white, Chinese or Arabic. I believe those Philistinish approaches to the development of young minds are what eventually retard our young people from making progress in the world.
12.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that as a people we have an ability to incorporate and even conquer cultures that are foreign to us. We have the ability to be good ballet dancers as well as good dancers in Afro/Caribbean dance and in Cuban dance. We have the ability to be good musicians playing a range of styles and incorporating a variety of experiences.

Mr. Speaker, it must never go abroad from this Parliament that we are in anyway restricting or retarding the exposure of our young people in this country particularly to different cultures. We should be encouraging our young people to go all over the world to learn, to taste, to experience and to see what is happening and even to live overseas if they want, bringing to bear the Barbadian experience on what they are doing. We cannot have this close Neanderthal approach where people categorise culture as that is the white people thing, this is for the Indians, this is for the Creoles and this is for the Africans. We have to expose our young people and give them a chance to taste and to conquer. That is my view.

Mr. Speaker, the Japanese have now gobbled up reggae which is now a billion dollar industry and experience for them. If you go to Japan you would see Japanese wearing locks and all kinds of things. I was in Swaziland and playing in the discos was Sean Paul, Vitamin S and Beanie Man. It has come to the Caribbean and it has gone back over. The older ones know Gary Sobers, the younger people know Bob Marley and our

Caribbean entertainers. There is nothing wrong with that, that is desirable, that is how people will make a living and that is how we can promote ourselves to the world as long as it is wholesome.

Sir, I am not going to be part of any policy that seeks to deny our young people those cultural opportunities. I have seen dance in Barbados being curtailed and restricted. The resources that should have been put into modern dance in this country are being denied because people feel that we are investing too much in an art form that has a European influence, so everybody wants to be involved in African dance much to the detriment of that balance that is necessary in terms of technique. They would leave Barbados and our dancers would have been limited in their scope in terms of the kinds of academies that they could get involved in. We must not do that.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that we cannot incorporate everything. This Government or any government in the world cannot afford to provide every experience for our young people, but as much as it is feasible and financially possible we must give them the widest exposure available within our resources, at the individual level, the family level as well as the national level.

Mr. Speaker, it is the returning nationals who went out of Barbados, made their contribution, sent resources back to this country and have returned to Barbados and invested significant amounts of money demonstrating very clearly that Barbadians are able to travel the world and do well in the face of adversity because they left here having had the most basic education that this country could offer, which was better than the education that people had where they were going, and then they built on it. So the most least likely person in a district to ever have a university degree was able to leave Barbados and go to the United Kingdom. They work in the social welfare services, study at night, attain the highest levels of achievement in their field, retired and returned to Barbados much to the annoyance of some people whose circumstances might have permitted them to travel and experience other cultures or even conquer them, but who stayed here and grumbled and complained and failed to use those opportunities which we as Barbadians have always been able to employ to advance our interest. That is at the cultural level. I am only making that broad statement because I do not think it is necessary to go into any further detail on it.

Mr. Speaker, let us go to the legislation itself. We have passed a lot of legislation like this in Barbados before. The worst thing that could happen would be for funds to be provided to national organisations in Barbados and no accountability is forthcoming. I am not talking about financial accountability and I am not talking about money getting carried away. In all of these organisations, you get those allegations. In fact, the biggest annual general meeting

you will ever have in Barbados is when people hear that somebody carried away money and then everybody turns up to hear what has happened. If you are talking about cricket or football development or a new programme nobody comes, but as soon as they hear they got infelicities everybody rushed to the meetings so that they could get involved in some negative carping. That happens in all organisations.

Mr. Speaker, what I am talking about is accountability in terms of the organisations being able to lay before an independent and impartial body a plan for the development of the particular sport that they are involved in. Many of the national organisations to my mind have totally cut loose from the community teams which they are supposed to be building, nurturing and representing. They are only interested in them when it comes to election time to go onto the board of those national organisations but you then seldom see any input or any care or concern about the development of those teams which are required to go to the headquarters and vote for them. It is so in cricket.

I know my friend from the Barbados Football Association is here and he is very much involved but I am not speaking about one man, I am speaking about the entity as a whole. It has been so, but I know it is changing in football because I have heard the president himself speak about it. My team was very privileged to have the president of the Barbados Football Association come and address them at a retreat and speak in a way about how he was able to get his team to achieve its objectives, and I was very happy about that.

12.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, in other words, if the team does not have access to their Members of Parliament to do that, how many of the senior executives of any of the national organisations make it their business to go out into the communities to see what is happening at the community level. Sir, it must not stop there because the Government is not doing it either. They have an obligation because they are to be elected and if they went on their records, many of them would not be elected. What is even worse than that is the large number of persons on the payroll of Government who are in positions relative to community, sporting and cultural developments, who spend every working hour of the day sitting at a desk, who have no knowledge, understanding nor appreciation of the communities of this country.

Therefore, what would one have with a football team in Barbados. Let me give you an example, there is an individual who is captain or is head of a football team. This individual works on a construction site. He has to get tokens for the lights on the playing field. He has to get his members down to the Barbados Football Association. He has to organise water, cooler, transportation, and everything else. He has to call the National Sports Council during working

hours, *et cetera*. Sir, all this pressure would be placed on this individual and, therefore, sometimes when one sees these community teams collapsing, it is because that individual who was carrying that load for 10 or 15 years, would have then decided that he or she would no longer be shouldering such responsibility. There are people working in Government agencies, who, other than at the most basic levels, would have never made contact with that individual for the entire time that he or she would have been involved.

Sir, there are some persons who would rail against the criticisms that I am going to level because they would say that if one is going to go this route, then one is going to kill the spirit of volunteerism. I very much believe in volunteerism. I like working with young people and I like to see young people taking leadership positions but I also believe that where someone is making an extra effort and is showing such leadership skill and ability, that our arrangements must be sufficiently flexible to assist that individual in undertaking those responsibilities. Sir, this does not happen and, therefore, one would find that there is unevenness across such disciplines in the way in which teams perform, which is very much related to the personal problem of that individual. For example, an individual might have gotten married and informs his team that he has to put his sports life on hold for sometime. When the individual does that, the team begins to break up or to collapse.

Sir, there are no community development officers like those of the past era. There were community development officers such as Mr. Clyde Gollop and Mr. Gordon Walters. Thirty years ago when I was a youngster, they were out night after night at places such as the Fitts Village Social and Cultural Club and Trents Northern Youth Group, where Mr. Gollop and Mr. Walters would come to talk about contraceptives to a crowd of persons. There was Mr. Ralph Walker, who was so creative that he would get the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) vehicle with a projector and would have collected people, including the Honourable Member for St. James South, Mr. David Commissiong, the Head of the Clement Payne Movement and myself among others. We would be taken out to activities where we would have built community groups, shared experiences, *et cetera*. In those days, the Barbados Youth Council was active, not only with active people who were radical in their political views, *et cetera*, but people who were genuinely doing community work in Barbados.

Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and I once clashed over something that I had written about. This built character, resilience, leadership skills, *et cetera*, through those things. What we have for national youth organisations in Barbados is a shadow of what once existed in this country, which grieves me. That is why I say that even with this Bill, there are some critical analyses that we have to do of our country, to see who is going to benefit.

I have a foundation in St. John that gave out \$46 000 in sponsorship last year and not because it was an election year because I know the Honourable Members on That Side would say that. We did not add anybody new. We have sponsored a basketball team, Sonics, for 10 years and a cricket team for seven years. This year we started Pool Football Team. There are also netball, road tennis and cycling activities. In addition there is sponsorship for the District Emergency Organisation, for the elderly programme, and for young persons who are going away on sports scholarships. There is a young man from Henley, St. John, who has gone to Australia on a sports scholarship.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We spend about \$40 000 normally and we raise that money. There are persons who give us donations but by and large the money is raised from selling drinks at activities. Sir, from the St. Philip Carnival, we have raised about \$10 000 to \$15 000 out of having a Carnival band. We do not have a formal structure but our object is to have projects and programmes to assist persons as much as we can.

I am not arguing for any of the money but I am saying that sometimes when a person gives to these national organisations, that person needs to ask them what are they are going to do with that money or how is it going to be spent to advance the interest of the people of Barbados. I am not saying that one must *kowtow* to Government's policy but it must have a policy and a programme that will advance the national interest. Therefore, I am not telling the Honourable Member that he has the right to tell the Barbados Football Association what they must do. What I am saying is that the Honourable Member must demand of the Barbados Football Association that they would tell us what they propose to do, and that there must be a concept of the programme.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am only using that as an example because the opposite could happen as has happened with the Barbados Youth Council while under the Barbados Labour Party's Administration, where the subvention was withheld because the then Minister, who was not even the Minister of Youth, had decided that he did not like either the President or the mandate of the Youth Council and the subvention was stopped. It has also happened in other areas and is, therefore, not new. Government has used the awarding of subventions as a way of controlling national organisations.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not asking for them to be controlled, and I would fight against that level of

control but what I would say is that they must have targets and must be able to discuss constantly how they are going to reach those targets. The Government itself has a duty to find out how the programme that they are helping to fund is impacting on the communities in this country.

Sir, many of the organisations that were pioneers in Barbados in the areas of culture and sports, for example, the Rontana Dance Theatre, have survived without any Government assistance by getting involved in sponsored walks or in country theatres. In those days, while working in the hotels, these organisations would have been paid \$300, which was a lot of money in those days, to be divided among 30 people.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Therefore, that was how organisations would have raised money and, therefore, I am not saying that organisations should no longer do that. I am saying that part of the development of character is to be able to go out in that volunteeristic environment and to raise funds for the organisation.
12.40 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Member for the City is right that there are far too many Government facilities in Barbados. She spoke highly of Combermere and I am grateful to her for that because I attended school there.

When I was in fifth form, I remember that Pioneer Sports Club was not allowed to use any of the facilities at Combermere. We had a fight whenever there was a dance and the windows to the back of the school would be broken. We came to a decision that the football clubs would accommodate Pioneer Club, young ladies from the district also started to come to the dance programme which was put on by Tony, there was then more community involvement and the vandalism and clashes at the shows were eased.

Sir, Combermere was in a community, in the middle of a housing area in Barbados and an unnecessary large six-inch sawstone wall graces the back part of the school. Sir, no other part had a wall but the part that faced Waterford Tenantry and this tells why people sometimes rebel and get into vandalism and negative feelings.

Sir, people and children living in Waterford Tenantry could not walk through the school grounds to catch the bus at the front, they had to walk around the school but perhaps our previous representative changed all of that. Sir, there are other schools in Barbados located like that and they have no contact or involvement in the communities around them and no wonder there is vandalism and problems because a message is being sent.

Sir, the wall at Combermere would have sent a message but the headmasters were not the leaders because in those days, secretary/treasurers controlled schools. They never lived in the district but yet they were the paymasters who made the decisions about security, structures and so on. Therefore, they did not internalise the challenges and were not able to respond to them. They responded by putting up barriers and creating differences that created vandalism.

Sir, our stadium facility is a crying shame. I am appealing to the Minister of Sports that every Caribbean island has invested in brand new stadium facilities. Our stadium is the worse looking in the Caribbean and the toilets are the worst to be found in the region. The footballers tell me that the field is a complete mess and is a danger.

Sir, almost everything about the stadium needs to be changed. Other islands in the Caribbean do not have the level of sporting activities that we have here but have the most modern facilities. In this modern age, you have to go through a maze to use a toilet at the stadium. There are still those long old-time urinals that cause everything to splash on you and, Sir, it is a disgrace. Yet we say that we are the infrastructure capital of the region but every country in the Caribbean has invested in new modern facilities. The staff at the stadium are helpful but the facilities are antediluvian and need to be changed.

Sir, my last point relates to investment in helping sports administrators in Barbados. The biggest problem we have with community teams is to find a way not only to solve coaching problems and find resources for teams but to train sports administrators who run the team. This is one of the ways in which many of those teams in Barbados at the community and national level suffer great challenges. We need to have a programme for sports administrators in which they understand how best to go about their duties, in which they can manage effectively, reduce conflict in the organisation, be able to interact with public officials and be able to link into the vision of the Government where it has a sensible sports policy.

Sir, for those reasons and more, I give my support to any initiative that seeks to improve the access of sportsmen, artists, people involved in the cultural industry in this country to give them greater exposure and resources. If this Bill is to achieve that particular goal, it has my fullest support.

I thank you.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.55 p.m.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: I beg to second that.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1.55 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

12.48 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see this debate taking place at such great length. For all the years that I have been in Parliament, I have never witnessed a full debate on culture. Indeed, there were days when I, as Minister of Culture, had very energetic debates in Parliament with myself.

Asides.

1.50 p.m.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I would talk at length and raise the issues and sit down, expectantly, and nobody would get up and engage in debate, and that was a little bit demoralising. Particularly so, Mr. Speaker, because of the importance that I have always contended that culture should be the whole scheme of national and personal life.

Sir, to give a little historical background, it was in 1977 that the first Ministry of Culture was established and I was the first Minister. I remember a comment made by the Honourable Member from the opposite Side. It was as ignorant then as it is now as I reflect on it. The speaker said that Bajans do not need culture, they already know how to eat with a knife and a fork.

Asides.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I am embarrassed to say who said that. The person was the Democratic Labour Party spokesman at the time who said that, and although I have not listened to this debate in full, but hearing some of it as I was driving here, it strikes me that statements of that ilk were also made by at least one person on the Other Side, during the course of this debate.

Sir, in 1977 what the Barbados Labour Party sought to do was to democratise culture, the arts in particular. I will spend a few minutes on the historical position before we get into what has turned out in the end. Drama in those days, consisted mainly of the Green Room Theatre with players of Caucasian background. They were usually two score people who went to see a play. The ordinary people across Barbados, were not exposed to drama of any form.

This was not really true in drama, Sir, but across the spectrum, we all had a part in talking about popular culture, what people do in their daily lives, and how they related one to the other. In the traditional arts and culture, as people saw it in those days, there was no place for ordinary people, and the Barbados Labour Party set about to change all of that, to bring people into the mainstream of cultural activity. We also had some difficulty of defining culture but one understood what we meant from the general purport.

The Barbados Labour Party therefore set about to do a number of things. We had to train people in the arts, music, painting, theatre arts, make up artistes and the whole range of them. We introduced a number of scholarships and attachments for people in those areas. They were national development scholarships, Sir, where people were given scholarships to study the theatre arts in Nigeria and Jamaica. Kofi Kobe studied theatre arts in Nigeria, funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Other people like Cicely Spencer Cross studied at the Jamaica School of Arts, because we wanted to unleash the creative arts in Barbadians and to give people a self-confidence, in what they had as their own.

Sir, one of the relics is that the people felt that everything that sprung out of themselves was second best and anything that was imported was good. We therefore had to work first on dealing with the minds of Barbadians and we did it in the schools first of all. We put teachers in the schools to teach drama, not teach some other subject and by the way, on afternoons organise a little school play. We had people who were put in the schools to teach music and painting, and we saw a massive seed change in the way how young people began to react, as a result of putting these subjects on the curriculum.

I remember, Sir, in 1978 the Director General of UNESCO came to Barbados on our invitation, and we exposed him to some of our native customs. We walked him through the markets of Bridgetown and so on. We said that we had a dream of a new breath of air blowing through this country and making people appreciate their worth, and we had a plan how it should be done.

Sir, I was able to persuade the Director of UNESCO to go back to France and give us money to pay for teachers. I remember Richild Springer was one of them. We got money and paid her to teach drama in primary schools. This is the kind of thing we were able to do in those days.

Sir, we also went a bit further. We started the oral history project, again, with the assistance of UNESCO. Much of the oral history of Barbados is being lost, the

passing on from generation to generation, the language, the customs and the habits of old Barbadians. For instance, we have a rich dialect in Barbados. This is a dialect that is admired by bilinguists who study the subtleties of these things. Our idiom is ours. There is no other country in the world with Barbadian idiom.

Sir, a lot of this dialect and idiom which are common to our ordinary people is dying. We felt that we must drop a lot of what we were accustomed, because of social changes in the society, but we tried, I do not know to what extent it continued, to have students go around the country to old people's homes, people 80 and 90 years old, take a tape recorder and talk and record what they say about old customs of Barbados, and what family life in the villages was like.

Mr. Speaker, we hear a little bit of it nowadays when the Governor-General goes to visit, and a few comments are made, and sometimes we get a little vignettes of just what I am talking about from these centenarians, but we were doing this as a big project. When we had all of this material together, we were going to collate it and put it in a form that will make it a common legacy of Barbados.

Sir, while all this was happening, we went into a further development of our local festivals. In those days when the Barbados Labour Party was new in Government between 1976 and 1981, Crop Over was a festival where you rode around Bridgetown in decorated donkey carts with people dressed up, and it had a worldly complexion to it, but we decided that we were going to change this concept. For instance everybody takes Kadooment, the big calypso shows at the Stadium, the tents and so on for granted. None of these things existed when we came into Government in 1976, so we said that we were going to make Crop Over a people's festival. I remember in those days sitting down with four or five calypsonians in the hut in Jemmotts Lane outside of the minister's office trying to work out how we could get these things going. In those days the first prize for the winner of the calypso show was \$500, and we said that we could do better and we brought on board a number of outstanding Barbadians, those who spent a lot of time working in these areas, the so-called unsung heroes.

2.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, although I do not like to single out people since they were many, there are people whose names bear mention such as Nigel Harper. I mentioned Nigel Harper because he went to school with me, we came from the same village, we grew up together and we share a lot. Nigel Harper had a passion for this thing and I was able to enlist his support. Then there were people like Elton Mottley. There were other people who were trying their best before me like Daphne Joseph Hackett, Cynthia Wilson and John

Wickham. We pulled them together and tried to expand and develop new national festivals. The National Independence Festival of Creative Arts was already on solid ground and was full of energy and life and we did not work hard on that. It was with Crop Over that we did all the new changes. I well remember the great deal of pride seeing the first kadooment coming across the Pine Road going to the National Stadium.

Mr. Speaker, there were people including Members of the Cabinet I was in who felt that Barbadians did not know how to let their hair down and to go out and enjoy themselves and that if we try to do things like Kadooment it would fail, but it did not turn out that way and it became one of the biggest things there is in Barbados on our cultural calendar. All this was done not just for making fun and giving people a good time, it was to deal with the character of the Barbadian people. We wanted to demonstrate that a country like Barbados that was so rich in its academic and intellectual heritage, a country that was so well educated and aspired to things beyond the mundane of life, was hurting itself by not moving vigorously and energetically to develop in the area of culture. So we organised summer workshops in places like Queen's Park where school children were brought into Queen's Park for two and three weeks of the summer and were given the benefit of those who were skilled in the various areas.

Mr. Speaker, we also introduced what was called theatre in education where teachers could teach children outside of the classroom by using drama to drive home important and salient points, whether it be social studies or history. All of these things are happening. During that period we also expanded the two theatres in Queen's Park, the Queen's Park House and the old Steel Shed, the Daphne Joseph Hackett Theatre as it is called now and we also created theatre space at the Combermere School. We did all of this because we felt that there was a need for this enveloping of everybody in the cultural life of the country. Barbados had done well up to that point.

Mr. Speaker, when I was 15 years old I read George Lamming's "In the Castle of my Skin". That was seminal work which dealt with Carrington Village and the other side of Belmont Road, the old Belleville. That book showed the tension between the two sides and captured something that was personal to Barbadians, the way they were living in those days, in a way that nobody has done since. We have people like Eddy Brathwaite and Austin 'Tom' Clarke who have excelled internationally. We had some one-time novelists like Oliver Jackman. Oliver Jackman's work was 'Saw the House in Half' and Carl Jackson's was 'East Wind' or something like that. We also had people like Frank Collymore, the granddaddy of them all. These were powerful people with their pens.

Mr. Speaker, we also had people like Carl Broodhagen who was an outstanding artist by whatever the criteria used. We had people here in Barbados who were doing good work. However, we had to create an appreciative people who could appreciate their work. There is no point having your artistes producing and the people cannot appreciate what they are doing. Therefore, we felt it was our duty to wake them up to get them to understand the dynamics of life in this country and the interrelationships and the forces at work. I believe we largely succeeded because you could have drama in many different places in Barbados going on at the same time for several weeks and have full houses.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of Barbadian art galleries and Bajans are buying Barbadian art. In many Barbadian homes now you would see Barbadian art hanging on the walls. This was not true 30 years ago. Our music is burgeoning and is getting international recognition, something that we did not even conceive of 30 or 40 years ago. We thought that what we had was second best. A lot of this came out of what I see as the progressive thinking of the Government at that time.

Mr. Speaker, there were many great West Indians whose writings had created the first stirring of longing for knowledge itself, people like C. L. R. James, even the historian like Eric Williams sought to do it. People like Frantz Fanon and José Martin and Mittelholzer and V. S. Naipaul did a lot to stir up the beginnings of understanding of Caribbean people of our roots and where we are heading. The Barbados Labour Party, the Government in those days, sought to advance all this a stage further.
2.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I am disappointed when I understand that someone on the Other Side has sought to downplay these important things. Sir, it is not only the efforts of the Barbados Labour Party, because even when the Democratic Labour Party was in Government they worked on what they had found, just like how the Barbados Labour Party worked on what we had found in 1976. It was raw and undeveloped. Sir, now this country is so different in the year 2004 than perhaps how it was in 1974.

We also have, as Professor Rex Nettleford said, a focus on the products of the creative intellect. He said that culture is about the products of the creative intellect. For the first time in this country, we were able to understand about the dialectical link between education and culture and that they were not two things existing on their own but that of necessity, they must be inseparable because they go together to help to develop and to refine the mind, the thoughts and the emotions.

Sir, I would like to deal with some of the bread and butter issues about it. I have heard the Honourable Member for St. John mentioning in some rather fulsome terms about

community development, our views to support the culture, how important it is and that it must be a national life. Sir, I always remember when, as an advisor to CLICO, the Honourable Member did all that he could have, for the young people from Todds, St. George, in getting land up there which CLICO had promised that they would have leased to them at \$100 per year for 100 years.

Sir, under the influence of the Honourable Member for St. John – I am sorry he is not in his seat – he managed to get the man at CLICO to renege on that undertaking. At that time the Honourable Member for St. John was not concerned that Todds was both in St. John and St. George, nor that it would have benefitted areas such as Wakefield, Henley, Cherry Grove or Pool, which are areas that are adjacent to Todds. Sir, for purely political reasons, the Honourable Member for St. John got the people at CLICO to renege.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned Todds in this context for a special reason, not to get at the Honourable Member for St. John but because I believe, and have always said, that the provision of facilities for culture and sports should not be that of the Government alone. Sir, these plantations around Barbados, including Drax Hall, St. George, which is one of the biggest plantation tenancies in Barbados, we had to extort land out of them to provide a playing field and a community centre in the middle of that 580-odd acres of land.

Sir, common decency, if not a respect for national development, should make plantation owners take off between five acres to seven acres of their hundreds of acres of land and make them available for the people and their families in the districts that they serve, those persons who work on these plantations. Government should not have to be scrambling looking for land to buy, to put a playing field here, there and everywhere. Sir, plantations owners should be doing that and should not be allowed to shirk that responsibility. In many parts of the world, progressive companies provide those facilities for their workers and their families and we have to do it here. We have to lean on them, to let them know that it is part of their responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I remember Commander Drax at Drax Hall, who was fighting tooth-and-nail to prevent the development of the playing field that I am talking about. I told him that he would have had to go back to Somerset and that he had no more say in Barbados, even though he had owned the land. As a Government we then compulsorily acquired the land, which has transformed the area, like it has happened in many places all over Barbados. We cannot allow these persons to renege from such responsibility.

I have heard mention of the overburden of some facilities, for instance, at Gall Hill, St. John, where everything is happening. If everything is happening at

Gall Hill, like it is happening at many other areas in Barbados, it is because of the policies of this Government. If there are a number of football teams, a number of drama groups and a number of volleyball teams, it is because of the policies of the Government that have not only excited the interest of these young people but have made them to understand that this is an important part of their personal development.

Sir, we are going to have more of that because many things have changed. When I was going to school, football was almost an elitist sports. People who played football were persons who went to the old secondary schools, for example, Combermere, Harrison's College, and the Lodge School. Very few persons in the working-class districts and villages across Barbados were involved. It is the exact opposite today, all across this country, the people are becoming involved at all levels.

Sir, throughout Barbados the new clubs that are doing well are not springing out of the 'terraces' and 'gardens' with the middle-class people but are coming out from among the people at the lowest socio-economic levels. This Government has tried to involve all of its people in this kind of development. Sir, I say that like Matthew Arnold in his book, "Old Old Classic Culture on Anarchy," has drawn a distinction between the two, that is to have a refined people; to have an introspective people; to have a creative people, this kind of opportunity must be made for themselves.

Sir, as I have said at the beginning, I am glad that we in Barbados are now beginning to understand the importance of sports and culture for our national development. I have not very often spoken about the economic benefits in sports and culture. I am not even interested in it. I belong to the old school, I believe in culture for refining the mind and for developing emotionally healthy individuals, and bringing an aura of class and comfort to communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am in total agreement with the business with regards to the piracy of music because people involved in music at a certain level should be properly remunerated for their efforts, and much talk has been given in that regard by spokespersons on Both Sides of this Honourable House, which is important but we do not always speak to the same things, at the same time, that is why there are tenors, altos, sopranos and base. These different music cannot be sung all at the same time.
12.20 p.m.

Sir, I am interested in the intellectual side of it and I have spoken about it with a great deal of vehemence in the past. I do not believe that bricks and mortar of necessity constitute development but that when people are at the centre that it is true development. Sir, in advancing sports and culture we are making sure this happens.

Mr. Speaker, people talk about sports tourism as if it is something new but when you have been in public life and politics as long as I have been, you get accustomed to people trying to reinvent the wheel. After things have been done, tried and have worked, people come along, package it differently and sell it as something new.

Sir, the Government some years ago gave a contract to the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers to be the first sports tourism officer in Barbados. He was attached to the Ministry of Tourism and did a lot of their offshore promotion in relation to sports. He started his tournament with school boy teams across the Commonwealth, expanded it to adult and county teams from the United Kingdom who came to play in Barbados. Sir, this was an important part of our sports tourism that started a long time ago. I applaud the Government at the moment for energetically pushing sports tourism and making it better and bigger but when other people get on as though nothing has been done during the years in these areas, I wonder where they have been.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that at long last this Parliament has seriously debated the issue of culture. From what I have heard from speakers on Both Sides, it seems that policies of the Barbados Labour Party are now beginning to bear fruit.

Sir, I am grateful to you.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Bill before the House that seeks to establish a fund for arts and sports. I want to say at the outset that I join with Honourable Members and say that the intent of the Bill is worthy of support. Sir, any efforts at increasing the level of resources brought to these particular areas of national endeavour clearly deserve our support.

Sir, for too long the entities that participate within these areas of endeavour have suffered from lack of endowments and all Honourable Members would have been approached at some time by sports teams in the constituency for help in order that they can participate meaningfully in a tournament or event.

However, there a number of concerns and as a responsible Opposition, we have a duty to voice them within the context of this debate because we are here for this reason. We must understand that the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund is not being established in a vacuum and that there is already a significant relationship between the state and its efforts at working with the cultural sector and sports. The National Sports Council enjoyed a budget of about \$9 million a year and the National Cultural Foundation has a budget of a few million dollars as well. We need to be clear on precisely what is the value-added anticipated as a consequence of establishing this Fund.

Sir, it cannot only be about money. If we are serious about cultural and sports development, we have to look at the overall national context. Specifically of concern to us is Government's policy toward sports and culture. In that regard, I sincerely hope that a focus of the Fund would consider those non-traditional areas of culture because too often when we speak of culture and the National Cultural Foundation, we think of calypso.

It was heartening to hear Honourable Members on This Side, the Honourable Member for St. George South and the Honourable Member for the City speaking about other areas like writers, poets, visual artists, sculptors, culinary artists and dance because these are the areas that have been relegated on the back waters of cultural activity for too long. I think it is an opportunity for us while establishing this fund to focus on these areas.

I also want to say that while the National Cultural Foundation has done a tremendous job with the development of the Crop Over Festival, I believe that the time has come for the festival to be moved from the National Cultural Foundation and a separate statutory corporation be given the primary responsibility for organising that festival. Mr. Speaker, this is not an original thought but a view that has been expressed by others.

Sir, it seems to me that the Crop Over Festival has outgrown the National Cultural Foundation and that we need to establish a separate corporation to deal with marketing and property rights of the participants in the festival which would augur to the benefit of Crop Over, the whole country and those persons who practise the non-traditional aspect of the festival. The National Cultural Foundation would then be able to focus its efforts on developing the real potential to be had from other artists like writers, poets *et cetera*.

For example, we hear that there is a lack of writers in Barbados today. There was George Lamming, Austin Clarke, Frank Collymore but as we speak, most of the writers in Barbados today are not full time. Sir, people like Dick Stoute and Carmichael have jobs. They are not full-time writers. Maybe, a National Cultural Foundation that is refocused, revised and given the more developmental function with these non-traditional areas could augur well for developing that element of our cultural life.

2.30 p.m.

In fact, I do not think that the point is at odds with what was expressed by no less a person than the Minister responsible for Culture. When the Prime Minister delivered his Economic and Financial Statement last November, he waxed warm about the created economy which was going to respond in Barbados, grow at a rate of 3 per cent per year and it was identified as a key area to be focused on by way of economic development for our people.

I think that what I am suggesting dovetailed nicely with that. What I would say on this matter, the creative economy, is that the Minister of Culture, in that same presentation, spoke about efforts at developing the creative economy being undermined by the work of pirates. Sir, we will remember the quotation "tiefing is tiefing."

It was interesting to hear the Honourable Member for St. James North speak to the copyright laws that this Government put in place and say that the Government deserves to be commended for those laws. I am only saying that if they deserve to be commended for putting those laws in place, then by the same token they should be condemned for not enforcing them.

Again, the Prime Minister said that the laws were not strong enough and need to be strengthened. He also said that stronger enforcement was on the way. An Anti-piracy Unit was promised to be established by the Royal Barbados Police Force since January 2004. We are now in April and the Anti-piracy Unit is yet to be operational.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a crisis of sort because the music producers and other artistes have made it clear that unless this matter of enforcement is dealt with, that they may withhold the production of music for our premier festival, Crop Over, and what a shame that would be.

Let me make it clear that the blame for this matter has to go squarely on the shoulders of the Government. They promised to have the Anti-piracy Unit operational and functioning by January 2004. The music producers said in February that this needs to happen and they can show the Government where the pirates are operating because it is no secret. Everybody knows where you can go on Saturday and get pirated material. There is a place just within a stone's throw from here where you can buy pirated material on a Saturday but yet nothing has been done about it.

In fact, this week there was a meeting at the Ministry of Culture to deal with this matter and the obstinance of the Government in dealing with this matter does indeed beg a few questions. Are we really serious about this whole concept of cultural development?

It was very reassuring to hear the Honourable Member for St. George North speak about the meeting that took place a few years ago between the Minister of Culture and players in the sector. If I am not mistaken, that is when we heard about the Cultural Task Force that was to be established to prepare a blue print for the way forward. Nothing has been put out by way of blue print for the way forward with respect to culture.

Sir, I thank the Honourable Member for St. George North and according to him recommendations were

made but nothing has been done by way of transposing those recommendations into some sort of policy document. I believe that there is a sports policy but there is none on culture.

I say again that we need to ask ourselves if we are serious. I sincerely hope that we are. There is no questioning the value of culture to the national psyche, individually and collectively, and we want to see serious and sincere development of the cultural sector.

Another area that we need to look at as well is the issue of the development of facilities. Let me laud the Government for the work that is being done at the Daphne-Hackett Theatre which is long overdue. It is limited on several grounds and I think that there is a need for us to develop other play houses throughout Barbados. There is nothing wrong in looking within the communities and doing such things. If we can so anxiously develop playing fields and pavilions, why not develop other facilities where we can also have more of a broad-based use? We need to have a number of such facilities varying in size, use and capacity.

I also want to call for the Empire Theatre, which both Governments promised to press into some sort of use, to be developed. I think that it is time for something to be done to the Empire Theatre and I know that the cultural practitioners in the country would be happy for it.

Sir, I would like to see the completion of the Sherbourne Conference Centre, which was criticized but has now become also an indelible part of the landscape of Barbados, not necessarily from a cultural point of view but as a facility. It has even provided some very comfortable office space for certain Honourable Members of this House and the completion of the Sherbourne Conference Centre would be good from a point of view of our cultural development.

Mr. Speaker, you would note that an indigenous film industry was an area that was identified within the arts that Barbados could do well in. I share that view. I think that the good record that we had in terms of theatre and a natural extension of that, it seems to me, would be in the area of film. Therefore, we should carefully consider our responsibilities in that respect.

I would say on that note that local film producers would naturally be concerned with their domestic market first and then, maybe, move into the regional market or further afield. We have South African shows being shown in Barbados and there is no reason why, if we could get an indigenous film industry off the ground, that, perhaps, other members of the diaspora can look at producing film that can be marketed the world over. I understand that it is in the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto.

I will say that the situation at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, as the only television station in Barbados, would have to be straightened out. I daresay that is to the benefit of all arts. At present, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation seems to be in some confusion. There have been a number of staff changes, some, perhaps, inexplicably so, and we are now seeing where the Chairman of the Board resigned without any explanation. Mr. Speaker, I think that it is in the interest of the arts sector to have some sort of statement with responsibility for broadcasting on this matter. It is only fair to those film producers and other persons who need to have their material broadcast throughout the country that we straighten up this matter. I do not care to test the latitude he offered me and go further on that, only to say that I think we should hear from the Minister responsible on that matter.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the message on sports is quite similar to the one on culture. I would like to suggest that the sports which have traditionally been ignored, in terms of the heavy sponsorships should be looked at as a priority of this Fund.

The private sector of Barbados seems to favour a few categories of sports and we need to develop sports beyond cricket. There are a number of emerging areas that come to mind. I want to speak about one in particular, and that is the sport of boxing, because I see that Barbados is certainly developing a name for itself internationally.

Mr. Speaker, the National Sports Council (NSC) reports that for 2001/2002, the efforts at coaching boxing at the schools has been limited by very poor facilities. Now, that is interesting when you consider that we have had outstanding boxers both at the amateur and professional levels. Two of them happen to be my constituents, Shako Henry and Terry Cox. The third is Junior Greenidge but I do not know him personally.

Sir, boxing is an emerging sport that we should put some emphasis on. I need not tell the Honourable Members of the House that when you are talking professional boxing, all sorts of potential benefits can spin off there, such as tourism. While I understand that boxing is something that has gone on at the community level, years ago, I think that there is a strong case for us to develop it. Let me specifically congratulate Shako Henry on retaining his title Saturday night.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Of course, I was present. The Minister of Sports normally attends. I will give him credit because he does make his rounds. He was not there but I am sure he would have been, had his schedule allowed. I think that we need to embrace his effort, at bringing an international boxing title to Barbados because it would, as I said earlier, work to our benefit.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on the parochial note, let me just speak to issues pertaining to the National Sports Council in St. Michael South Central. There are two pavilions that are managed by the Sports Council, one on Valery Playing Field and one on the Gully Hill. The one at Valery Playing Field, you get wet when the rain falls. It is woefully inadequate for a community of that size and the amount of sports that utilise that facility, or should be utilising it. There are management issues as well, and it might get to that if time allows. It seems as though a pavilion in a community should be a hive of activity. It should not be locked up, and you hear that somebody has the key at home, when legitimate organisations would like to use the pavilion.

Sir, when the Honourable Member for St. James Central spoke last week, he said that the reason why they are having mismanagement issues with the pavilions has to do with a new culture that has emerged in the communities, but I hold a different view. I think it is mismanagement plain and simple by the National Sports Council, and it needs to be rectified. The loose maintenance arrangements that exist, and the difficulty that members of the pavilion have at accessing these pavilions, need to be brought to a screeching halt. It seems as though there is a problem with the National Sports Council or perhaps with the Government, generally, because they tell me that half of the floor at the Gymnasium is rotted. I do not know how that could happen.

The National Sports Council is sending people to Hungary, Mexico and all over the world to learn about sports administration and coaching. Yet, we cannot even manage basic facilities like a local pavilion. I do not accept, in any form or fashion, this notion that there is some cultural reason why this is happening. As I said before, I say it is mismanagement plain and simple and it needs to be rectified.

Let me speak again on another matter as well, that is, the Weymouth Playing Field. A series of poles were erected, going into the last general election. Lights were promised but, when the result did not go according to plan, the poles are still there breeding wood ants. This politics of victimisation has no place with young people trying to practice their sport. I would like to see those wood poles brought down, and the same tractors that went to Deacons Farm and knocked down the Kiosks, should knock down those poles and build some nice shiny steel pylons with lights on them. We deserve that.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph spoke about the lights that he got in his constituency. I am not in the choir but I dear say that the members of the Weymouth Wales Football Club, the people in the Carrington Village and Halls Road areas would like to see lights. Do not bring any movable things down by me. Build some lights. There are

not movable lights in St. Peter and St. Thomas. Frankly, if you see how the National Sports Council maintains equipment, I do not know what those lights would look like after a year. Sir, I would want to say clearly that is something which concerns me.

Mr. Speaker, on this matter of politics of spite or victimisation, let me point out something that concerns me about the legislation before the House. The Fund will be administered and managed by the Accountant General, but will be under the general control and direction of the Minister. A Minister having a Fund which could consist of millions of dollars, because we are talking about the duties and charges on lotteries, and other contributions...

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I have listened to this politics of victimisation and politics of spite. I believe what the Honourable Member said is not parliamentary. It imputes false and bad motives to the Government and, I think the Honourable Member should withdraw that remark.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, we have seen a situation in this country where the Pinelands Creative Workshop for reasons that appear to be political in nature – I am saying that categorically – could receive \$1 million, but other sporting organisations and other cultural groups do not receive ‘one red cent’. We have seen another situation where the Israel Lovell Foundation could receive \$270 000 from the Government of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing against the work of the Pinelands Creative Workshop or the Israel Lovell Foundation, in fact, I once made a very small contribution to the Israel Lovell Foundation. In those days the man responsible and I were from Galilee together but of course the principal person has changed since then. Mr. Speaker, I am not against the work being done by any of these groups but you cannot have one set of rules for the goose and another set for the gander. When I see a situation like that where the funds would be controlled by the direction of the minister, I sincerely hope that some sort of transparency would attain and that these funds can be disbursed in a manner that the real beneficiaries can feel the impact of them. That is a concern that I have and one I believe I need to leave here even though I support the intent this piece of legislation is driving at.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the areas of sports and the arts represent an opportunity that we as policymakers must do all in our power to see that as wide as possible persons are given an opportunity to practice them to their fullest ability.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a brief contribution to the discussion on this Sports and Arts Promotion Fund Bill which is before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, we have long passed the time when sporting activities and some aspects of cultural activities constitute principally or basically a social pastime for the country where sports was seen as perhaps a therapeutic dynamic in terms of national activities in helping with the relief of stress and strain on a national basis. Certainly, we have long passed the time when sporting and cultural activities would have been seen as just activities for the idle and persons who had the time to engage themselves. We have come to a point in this country where there is a significant level of realisation obtaining as to the importance of sporting and cultural activities beyond the importance to which I just referred.

Mr. Speaker, I want to support the Bill from a perspective that it serves significant advantages to the citizenry of this country and serves significant advantages in terms of our ongoing efforts to ensure the proper development of our social and human capital in this country. I do not support the evident view of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West that the State ought to be performing the seeming intrusive role that he outlined in relation to developing sports and culture whether at the programme level or at the infrastructural level in Barbados. I believe that culture by nature – the whole ethos is drawn from what is obtained at the level of the community – and sports find their impulse in the bosom of the people and as such is to be fostered and facilitated. It is the business of Government to facilitate that leaving largely community organisations properly structured to regulate and to get on with the business of programming using what funding is available from Government and outside of Government. To suggest that Government needs to engage itself to the extent where it is intrusive to the level advocated by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, would have implications for Government's budget and for the wider context for the obligations that you lay on the doorsteps of the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move away from that though to just suggest two or three important reasons which I consider to be important as to why we should wholeheartedly support this Bill to provide for sports, arts and culture promotion in this country. By supporting this measure I think we are understanding that sports facilitates new income generation potential and possibilities for a large body of our people. There are significant earnings to be derived by individuals from sporting activities. This is obtained in reality at the global level, to a lesser extent to some pockets at a regional level and perhaps even to a far lesser extent domestically but the possibilities are there, and in my view the sky is the limit. Sports is a significant global dynamic enterprise in which

people of all classes, colour and creed engage themselves. It is left to be found by a national entity ways and means to ensure that this type of activity becomes such that our people as widely as possible can develop significant earnings through that means.

Mr. Speaker, we could call the names of persons in the international arena who make multiplied millions annually as a result of professional engagement in sporting activities whether you are talking about golf, soccer, lawn tennis, basketball or even cricket. There is also the potential for significant employment as well not only income generation by sportspersons but the potential for employment generation of other persons who perhaps themselves might not be directly engaged in the sporting discipline or the sporting activity as such. We are talking about employment at home and abroad for Barbadians. Anything that enhances or increases the possibility of lowering our unemployment levels or raising the employment expectations on the part of the people would find my support in terms of that which is legitimate activity. Of course there are other areas of endeavour which are not quite so legitimate which are promoted by some as being suggested as means of generating employment and income, but I do not subscribe to those illegitimate means. Anything which is legitimate would find my support and certainly this does.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the generation of employment and the generation of individual income for sportspersons there is also the potential for empowerment of the Barbadian people, especially working-class and sporting-class Barbadians, is one of the ideals which drives the policies and programmes of the Government of this day.
3.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I see the potential through a properly structured and thriving, vibrant and well-organised programme of sports and culture in Barbados as having that potential to provide for the empowerment of our people. We can easily cite the examples of a number of our cricketers who have played internationally, who have been empowered as a result of that. Some of these cricketers, both regionally and internationally, are fairly well-to-do as a result of their involvement in cricket. Of course, there are a number of individuals in a number of other sporting disciplines of whom we can make mention, who have been empowered.

Mr. Speaker, recently I had one individual with whom I had consulted as to how he should properly invest earnings that have recently been derived from his participation in a particular sporting discipline at the highest level in Barbados. Therefore, there is that potential for employment and in the wider context, the potential for income generation and for empowerment of those who are able to make their marks in the various sporting disciplines.

Mr. Speaker, beyond that, I think that it is important that we seek to further develop the entrepreneurial skills in sports. Sports is a business and there is a business that attaches itself to sports. Therefore, significant skill is needed if one is to make maximum use of the opportunities given around sporting activities, for the development of business and business skills.

Sir, beyond the simple development of a skill, I believe that the objective ought to be that we seek to develop an entrepreneurial class. In speaking about skills, not simply as bottom level skills but as we do in the case of, for instance, tourism being one of our key sectors. We need to develop a class of new emergent people in sports and an entrepreneurial class of business persons operating around the business of sports and culture, as is done with tourism.

Additionally, beyond simple skills and beyond the development of that business class around the dynamics of sports and culture, I believe that we need to seek to ensure that we admit more broad-based management skills which are specific to sports. I am not talking about general management skills but management skills which are specific to sports. I believe there are some specific dynamics coming out of sporting and cultural discipline activities, which require specific management capacities, which one necessarily would not derive from either the qualification or from the capacity to manage in a general sense. Therefore, I am talking about management skills with specific relationship to the matter of sports.

Sir, this would be important to the proper development of sporting facilities, of the sort that would not only serve us in the present but for which we can project a useful and viable purpose in 20 years' time. It would become important in the context of where we are going as a region; important in the context of what is happening worldwide with international sports; important in the context of the issues that are now raised with reference to some of the international arenas which are traditionally used for some of the major international activities.

Sir, we in the Caribbean are preparing to host a Cricket World Cup, 2007, and many of the Caribbean countries find it necessary to build new cricket facilities. Here in Barbados we find it necessary to further develop the Kensington Oval. I am sure that a lot of the expertise that will go into the construction of these modern or ultra modern facilities would be borrowed skills, that is skills which we have to import because we do not now have such expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I would, therefore, suggest that we look down the road to see where international, as well as regional sports would be going 15 or 20 years from now, and that we would look to the kind of infrastructural facilities that we

would need to develop and to manage. I would also suggest that we would need people who have management skills that are specific to sporting disciplines.

Sir, another area would be that of human resource management emanating out of the business of sports and culture which raises itself to engage our concern. Sir, one of the problems which we seem to think we have is with the management of persons who are part and parcel of the West Indies Cricket Team, either at the level of the players, the coaches, selected individuals who fulfil management roles, *et cetera*. We seem to think that part of the problem we have is how to properly manage our people who are key to the activity.

I am, therefore, saying that there is a certain aspect of human resource management which one would need to bring to managing sporting people in an international climate, where popularity is fairly easily gained and hard to bear or to wear. We, therefore, need to have persons who can manage people in such a fashion so that these persons could make best use of their opportunities and are able to develop their sporting skills to the maximum benefit, and that our country by extension would derive maximum benefit as well.

Mr. Speaker, another area of equal importance would be that of marketing management of our sportspersons. A lot of that is voluntary and haphazard and an individual might have a skill in a sporting discipline but then that individual has to have recourse to persons who can market that individual in a proper fashion, so that individual does not become lost amidst all the fame, the glitz and the glamour of the international spotlight. How does one market these persons in such a way that they are able to realise their dreams and embody the national dream in them? Therefore, I am talking about managing them, as well as marketing them, in order for them to get maximum exposure and for them to be given the advantages which they can make use of in the kind of sporting environment which are commensurate with the kinds of skills which they bring to the field. Therefore, for that reason, I believe for the possibility to be a significant incomes generator, we need to support this Bill which is before us.

Mr. Speaker, the development of a creative economy in the cultural industry which springs out of that, is part and parcel of the thrust of Government at this time. The Honourable Minister of Finance would have highlighted this sometime ago in his Financial Statement and would have provided for it. He would have also cited this as a primary focus of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I need to say that we must always remind ourselves that our creative capacities are, indeed, a national resource. So often we say that Barbados is

not blessed with any abundance of natural or mineral resources, a truth which is only so in part because the creative capacity of our national collectiveness is, indeed, significant natural resources and should be regarded as such.

Mr. Speaker, although over the years we have invested so many millions in education, only now we are coming to the point where we recognise that creative pool or resource which is there, is one which needs to be properly exploited, so that the country could realise greater returns on the investments in education or could maximise the benefits to be had from its investments in education made over long years.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, as I understand it, Government is committed to the creation of a culture of industries coming out of acts and expressions of culture, and what we would call a new creative economy.
3.10 p.m.

It is of course an alternative economic enterprise as we seek to move away from that position where we were narrow in our view because we looked at the traditional avenues of endeavour which generated income for our working-class people. We have been brought, because of the changing global circumstance, to a place where we need to find alternate avenues of endeavour that would create and provide employment for our people. I believe the avenue of cultural expression and a creative economy is a major alternative.

As I understand it, we are seeking to commercialise a significant resource which, largely, was seen traditionally as existing purely for entertainment purposes so persons blessed with beautiful voices were entertainers and would provide entertainment from time to time in a local context. I believe that experience over the last twenty years have taught us that there are talents not so latent which are not fully exploited and exposed. This represents part of the thrust towards ensuring that those talents are exposed and exploited, that those persons blessed with those talents are not simply there to entertain us but involved in a significant economic enterprise that benefits their families and national community. We need to support this type of endeavour and promote the fund because we have a responsibility as a nation to ensure that we counter the penetration and dominance of the copy culture. We have been good at borrowing from aspects of people's culture, largely from North America, and there is nothing wrong with that but it should be such that it enhances and embellishes our own culture and it does not devalue or deny our culture.

Mr. Speaker, if we are honest, we would have to admit that sometimes our borrowing has been such to suggest denial of the existence of our own indigenous or Barbadian culture, however it is defined. I believe the development of a cultural and sporting industry will go a long way to

countering that penetration. Therefore, it is important that we support the creative economy and the expansion and development of cultural industry as a means of preserving traditional Barbadian values in the face of new emerging challenges coming out of the global world phenomenon obtained at this time.

Mr. Speaker, if we were honest, we would recognise that the major role models and persons that have the greatest influence on young and impressionable minds today are not to be found in the political arena and we should question why this is the case.

Asides.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, priests are not providing role models for young people today nor the professional class as used to be the case. Sir, it is a fact that those who are figures of enormous influence upon our young impressionable minds today are from the world of sports and entertainment and we must watch this.

In this country if we are to have more role models and adult figures of significant influence, we need to understand that we have to look to those persons operating in the sporting arena, the world of culture, entertainment and recognise that they have enormous potential influence to our young people. I say that to suggest that we must seek to make use of our sporting men and women and of our growing cultural icons from whatever aspect of culture we draw them. We need to make more positive use of them in terms of sending the messages which we want our young people to receive and transmitting the signals that we want them to pick up by passing on the values that we want our young people to uphold, cherish, preserve and perpetuate.

Therefore, those who engage at that level and have that type of influence whether from sports or culture need to be properly coached and instructed as to the role which they can play in the society so that it is not a matter of happenstance but by deliberate action, that we help to prepare our entertainers, cultural and sporting heroes for a role of influencing, in a positive way, our young people in these times. Sir, I believe this is very important.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that this fund to support the development of sports and culture is associated with gambling in the Barbadian society because the monies in support of this fund will come from monies derived through the operation of lotteries in Barbados. Therefore, the question must raise its head as to the extent to which we now have a culture of gambling institutionalised in Barbados. Sir, it has always been there at the informal level and one might suggest at that level that it was an institution, that we have elevated the status and that it has now become institutionalised and part of the culture in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I am on record as having said in this Chamber before that if we must have gambling that we must ensure that significant developmental use is made of the revenue which is derived from that gambling. This measure is intended to make sure that the revenue derived from gambling is put to proper developmental purposes. I support the use of it for the developmental purposes even though I express some concerns about the culture of gambling which has become institutionalised in Barbados and which, perhaps were it not for the efforts of the Government of the day, would have been institutionalised to a higher level and a more sinister degree.

3.20 p.m.

I think that within the immediate precinct of this hallowed Chamber, there are about ten entertainment gambling joints operating. That is indicative of what obtains in the country.

There are some issues which one would be concerned about gambling. We have to be concerned beyond those who engage in gambling. We have to be concerned about the dependence of such people who may be deprived by the gambling habits of those who are providers of the homes and families. We have to be concerned about the addictive dynamic which is associated with gambling and I think that we are aware of the fact that gambling can become quite addictive and that people are given to gambling as they are to other activities over which they seem to lose control as they participate more and more.

Sir, we have to be concerned as to whether or not we foster a culture of irresponsibility which is premised on a reliance on chance rather than a reliance on industry, thrift and investment which we have tried to foster, especially industry and thrift and of late reliance on investment. If people are encouraged to rely on luck and chance through gambling activity, then the question is, are we encouraging a culture of irresponsibility?

We have to ensure that we do not destroy the work ethos that we are trying to foster. We have to make in the context where we are concerned about absenteeism at the workplace, if we do not get on top of that we will have a situation where people who are present in the workplace can be present and not as productive as they can be, because whatever they are able to generate is lost by means of gambling.

We have to ask ourselves, to what degree is gambling systematic of a desperate need or perhaps, an economic need which exists in society?

Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting that maybe somebody should look at the culture of gambling in Barbados and, perhaps, carry out a study to determine the level to which

people are driven to gamble and the reasons for doing it. I understand leisure gambling. I understand sporting gambling. I understand gambling in relation to tourism but I am trying to say that, perhaps, we look to see what is being indicated as a level of desperation with reference to need, whether what is happening is a dynamic of addiction in operation to the extent that people could lose control and deprive their families. Also, to what extent does that social fallout become a problem for Government in terms of providing the welfare nets that would be needed in that eventuality.

Sir, these are some of the concerns that I have on the issue of gambling. I support the Bill and I believe that it is a positive move. I support that the enhancement of the framework within sporting activity and disciplines in Barbados can be better organised, structured and developed. I do not support gambling.

Mr. Speaker, I support the development of the cultural industries for the reasons I cited. Therefore, I have no problems with the Bill which is before us.

I thank you.

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, the Arts and Sports Promotion Bill represents a timely intervention in the financing of sports in Barbados. We can go into a lengthy and convoluted debate as to the source of the revenue which will fund the various sporting and cultural institutions in Barbados and we might, for argument sake, suggest that we would not want to be associated with funds garnered from such sources. At the end of the day we are dealing in an environment where money for sports and culture is quite scarce and we have to find avenues which are legitimate within the country to provide these revenues.

We have established lotteries in Barbados, over time, which in their early stages supported horse racing. Subsequently, a lottery was established by the Barbados Olympic Association, with private backing and support, essentially to support the Olympic sports, and thirdly, a lottery which supported cricket under the aegis of the Barbados Cricket Association.

Therefore, I am not going to scream loudly that the merged lottery of the Lotto and the Olympia Lotteries which have now been merged and proportioned, 36/36 per cent to the founding lottery agencies, 18 per cent to the National Sports Council and 10 per cent to culture, out of which the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund will come, is for me problematic. I recognise the reality of our condition.

I want to emphasise that this Bill represents a piece of plaster on a very wide open wound, a wound which for a long time has been spuming for remedy and screaming

for correction. The money which would be generated from this lottery is fickle money. That is, it is dependent on how Barbadians and other people who are attracted to games of chance would purchase from week to week, month to month or year to year in the marketplace where the various kiosks are located.

Therefore, in one year we can have a reasonable amount of money and in another year there can be a substantial downturn in the amount of money which will be made available to the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund. That is why I termed it as a fickle source of funding because it is highly dependent on the proclivities of the public of Barbados.

I know that there are many persons in the wider Barbados community who believe that the purchase of a ticket would give them an opportunity to be a millionaire or half of a millionaire. Therefore, we might be of the opinion that a constant flow of reasonable funds from that source would guarantee us success in the initial efforts of the Minister of Sports and the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund.

It is recognised within the Bill that other revenues from governmental authority will be placed in that Fund. I believe that comes from the vantage point that funds coming from gambling could diminish from time to time. Sir, in keeping with the statements coming from this Side of the House, I would want to support the Bill before us because, as I said, it represents a particular piece of plaster being placed on the use of sporting and cultural bodies in Barbados.
3.30 p.m.

Some years ago, after the success of Obadele Thompson, we rushed and created the National Sports Policy for Barbados. It was debated in this House but I would urge the Minister of Sports, even at this stage, to revisit the Sports Policy of Barbados. Nothing stays fixed at time and place. Everything moves. Everything evolves. I believe it is some three or four years since that sports policy was hastily brought to the House and we have moved forward since then. There might be new thinking. There might be new thoughts and conceptions which occur, either within this House or in the minds of other persons which should cause us again, to sit and look at a serious national sports policy for Barbados. I do not believe that the sports policy at the time establishes the kind of vision for a country which really wants to elevate its people through sports and cultural products and industries, but in this instance sports, would want to continue to track.

I beg to submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is essentially a weak policy and, therefore, we need to revisit the whole notion of a national sports policy for Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, it has been stated, and if I restate it, Honourable Members may recognise some of their own words, that is we need to see both sports and cultural products as an avenue of growth, development and social and economic activity that hitherto, this country has not fully exploited.

Mr. Speaker, I will speak first to the area of sports. Let me say that there is an abundance of ignorance in Barbados relative to sports. It is appalling the level of ignorance which many Barbadians have relative to some odd sports which are played either on an individual basis or at a mass base, sports like cricket, basketball, volleyball, netball, football, *et cetera*. Persons are not supporters by and large of sports. Persons have essentially become riders on the bandwagon as it starts to move. We saw many persons riding on the Obadele Thompson bandwagon, but after the glory of the moment, they settled down into a sedentary mode of life, without recognising the continuous support for the sport. The sport must continue at ever increasing levels of finance in the first instance and then, at every increasing level of human endeavour in the second instance.

It is not satisfactory to the minds of all of those who give selflessly to the management and leadership of sports in Barbados for persons to keep away from support of the sports, either by their small donations, or by contribution through the paying of entrance fees to the various activities in the sports arena.

There are persons who believe that sports just exists or that the Government spends hundreds of millions of dollars on sports. This is not true. Yes, the Government over time has made its contribution to the development of sports, particularly in the area of the establishment of our facilities. It makes no sense to establish facilities across Barbados, and you do not have trained personnel at those facilities to ensure that sports is properly coached and managed even at that level.

Sir, you would find that during the course of the day, many of these facilities are underutilised or not utilised at all. Then, they might come to life for four to five hours in the evening or in the night, more so now that some of them have permanent lighting fixtures, which is an important gesture to the sporting people of Barbados.

We have seen a burgeoning of persons playing sports now, wherever these fields with lights are located. This brings me, Mr. Speaker, to say, yes, we can generally support the question of these lights that can be moved from ground to ground, but they can only be at one ground at one time, on any given period, on any given day.

Therefore, the Government must not abandon the process of placing lights strategically across those other

areas which have not yet had the benefits of the permanent structures and lights. The National Sports Council would have had a list which would recognise those areas where those lights would have been placed.

Sir, the cost of moving those lights and erecting them at a particular site is going to be quite substantial. Over time, we are going to see the burden of owning those movable lights, and it is going to be greater on those teams that have to use the lights.

Let us look at it, Sir, again I say some Honourable Members do not understand sometimes what they are talking about. It takes a token of \$10 to run the portable lights for one hour. We can put on two football games at Bayland for \$40, at 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. They conclude 9.45 p.m. and people go home.

Sir, the portable lights are not small implements. They have mass generators attached, and wrenches to raise the heights. To ask the National Sports Council, where they are located, to transport them to another facility is going to cost way beyond \$40.

The Sports Council may want to rent them to cultural activities, such as the Congoline at Dover where the festival is held. I am told that some tourism-related entity, established lights at Dover Playing Field, so we do not need them there. They give excellent light at that facility and we have been able to use them over the last few weeks because we are trying to ensure that the National Stadium is brought back up to scratch by playing football at Dover. I want Honourable Members to understand that because of the cost alone, not many sporting organisations in Barbados are going to be able to use them.

The Barbados Football Association currently uses lights from the private sector from time to time because you cannot do any better. The cost alone is phenomenal. I believe that if the Government of Barbados is going to bring in those lights, they are going to have to provide heavy subsidisation for community groups and clubs. Therefore, I am urging that they continue still the programme of the permanent lights. 3.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, some years ago when the Barbados Netball Association was in the last few days scrambling to get a few cents to go off to Australia to be involved in the World Netball Championships, I heard persons calling in to the radio programme advising them to go and do car washes and sell cakes. Mr. Speaker, I had to say to myself that these people do not understand that car washes and cake sales are being done, but that the kind of money you would need for a netball team of 20 people going off to Australia on the

other side of the world to represent a country cannot be raised, generated or achieved by what they were calling into the radio programme talking about. I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South could speak with firm conviction of a similar thing because he was involved in athletics.

Mr. Speaker, to put together a team to travel to any part of the world even on the outside of the Caribbean, the amount of money that it calls for especially for a team that is going to spend at least two to ten days could run into the tune of \$250 000, but Barbadians do not understand that. Barbadians do not understand that if you are carrying a team to the Olympic Games and you have track and field persons, persons who are doing target shooting, swimmers and cyclists that each and every one of them in their particular designation must have a manager and a coach which add to the cost. Barbadians do not understand that kind of reasoning within the sports context.

Mr. Speaker, I heard people in Barbados talking about football and my mind is boggled as to the ignorance which persuades them to speak relative to these sports. Maybe it is the fault of the associations that do not speak enough to these issues. Let me give Honourable Members an example because we hear a lot of foolishness. St. Vincent is just 90 miles to the west of us and if you want to take a football team to St. Vincent and you are carrying the cost alone, you go in the night before, that is one night hotel fare, you play the next day which is another night hotel fare and then you have to hustle back out the next morning because you cannot afford for reasonably comfortable conditions to stay longer than that. That does not include plane fare. When you put 25 persons, 18 players and seven management officials, start and add up, \$18 000 – \$20 000, that is a mere minimum for one single game. As you go further north to Jamaica, the air fare goes up three times and if you want to improve the quality of the sport you have to play succeeding stronger teams than yourself, so you have to drift from within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to Jamaica then down into Latin America, into South America and into Europe. We cannot even begin to talk about going to those parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is even worse sometimes when you want to bring teams here. Today in the sports arena if you want to bring a football team to Barbados, you have to carry every single cost. Nobody today comes without saying they want US\$50 000 or US\$75 000 as appearance fee, so we cannot bring them here. When the Jamaicans go to Japan, their appearance fees is US\$150 000 or US\$175 000. We in this part of the world do not understand that. The Jamaicans can charge that kind of money because they went to World Cup. They went to the World Cup not because they became more skilful and more knowledgeable about the game than Barbadians but because the Government

of Jamaica and then the private sector planted their feet solidly behind a programme and an initiative where the Government was giving the Jamaican Football Federation US\$50 000 a month and brought in a coach for US\$30 000 a month. That was Rene Simoes fees and then you had two other young assistant coaches carrying the programme.

Mr. Speaker, some people do not understand the kind of hypocrisy and the kind of nonsense you get going on. The Government of Barbados, the Barbados Labour Party Government, made a commitment to the provision of a technical director for football. We prepared the documentation and took it before senior administrators in Barbados and when they looked at what we told them would have been the person's salary, at that time it was US\$10 000, the person remarked, 'you expect to pay somebody like this more than me'. That is the nonsense you hear.

Mr. Speaker, there are many technical coaches and directors emerging across the world, and where you are having an abundance of anything it tends to push the price down, so you are able now to collect a fellow for US\$5 000 as they are so many of them filtering across the world. You could collect a fellow now for US\$5 000, give him some housing and some transport and work him for four years and let him build your capacity within your country. This is what I am talking about. I am not talking about little mealy mouth people who are running about Barbados trying to scandalise and destroy people, or persons who have no interest in the development of Barbados or in the development of young people who are only looking for animal fodder or persons whose minds are dirty and corrupt, but that is another time and another place.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, a colleague of mine, under whose aegis sports falls recognises his responsibility to the sporting public of Barbados and never got caught up in the rubbish that some persons would want to spout relative to sports. I am proud to note that, because as President of the Barbados Football Association it would have been easy for the political neophytes, not this Honourable Member, but those who do not understand their wider responsibility to the Barbadian public to not provide the Barbados Football Association with one cent coming out of this Sports Promotion Fund because they see it in my image.

Mr. Speaker, I like to speak honestly and truthfully and in my esteem he has gone up. Of course, I will deal with him in four or five years time, but right now I recognise that he did not corrupt himself with nonsense. When he spoke to me before, he said that football will get resources for the technical director and he kept his word. I have to applaud that kind of thing because there were many others who were saying 'juck' them, not necessarily Honourable Members

because they operate with a higher level of intellect and intelligence, but a whole lot of other people who do not understand the reality of national development nor the reality of supporting human capital formation at the level of sports and culture. All they do is talk foolishness and try to poison what is happening across Barbados for the development of our people. We have all kinds of young people in the world and we have to continue to speak to them and we have to continue to educate them, if it is possible, that this is not the way to go.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see the Minister establish a task force on sports development in Barbados. The National Sports Council at this stage does not have the capacity to deal with the myriad sports within this country. They do a reasonably good job, the coaches go across the length and breadth of Barbados. I believe they could be better deployed because I am not comfortable that on Saturdays we do not have their full utilisation.

3.50 p.m.

Therefore, I believe that they can look at their timetable so that on Saturdays they can impact more where more sports are developed rather than the Mondays to Fridays syndrome, for which we like to relate to very comfortably in this country. I believe more time in their timetable can give them the opportunities to impact on Barbadians on Saturdays.

Mr. Speaker, we have developed reasonably strong athletes in all disciplines, not because of what we have been doing in any large and complex way but because of the innate abilities of those persons who were able to have utilised whatever existed in the environment, to help develop themselves. Sir, I do not want any historical or contemporary Government to wrap a garland around their necks because they have never understood, unlike Jamaica, the benefits of sports and cultural products in this country.

Sir, there is nothing wrong, nevertheless, in coming to the light after being shrouded by darkness. If now that there is an emergence from the darkness into the light, it must, therefore, be applauded but we must seek even nouveau facilities in an expression of sports, culture and arts. Therefore, I would want to see that task force on sports being established.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to see a voice and a contribution, so that at the end of the day, we can move away and can say that we have a vision of sports for the next 10 years. Instead of looking beyond that vision, let us set targets and challenges. Let us look at, for instance, in five years' time, we must be able to gain five or six gold medals at the Olympics. Therefore, we would know what we have to do at the base to achieve this target.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, the young men from the Lester Vaughan School, the Lodge School, or the young ladies from the Springer Memorial School, would not fall by the wayside. Sir, from the time these young persons leave school, they fall by the wayside and we sometimes lose a massive amount of brilliant talents as students exit schools, because after running for their schools they eventually go nowhere because at age 17 or 18, they are scrambling within the job environment to get a job.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that rather than leaving it only to coaches of track and field in Barbados to find scholarships, which must be applauded because those persons must be recognised for doing that but this is where I want to see direct and focussed Government intervention on the behalf of the people of Barbados, so that young Dario Alleyne who, at this stage, is running brilliantly, must not be left to wallow in the pit of destruction and in the abyss of ignorance. Instead, he must be taken and nourished. Sir, we must use the resources of this country through national development scholarships, not only for the academic pursuits but also for the physical development pursuits through sports and games for persons like him.

Mr. Speaker, let us unite those resources. Yes, we can have our scientists, doctors, lawyers and engineers but my heart is more blessed by a young man running a 100 or 200 metres in Athens, Greece, even if he does not come first, though I would have preferred that he would. Sir, all of Barbados watches and are glued to their televisions and their souls are magnified when in the presence of the brilliance of a young Barbadian who has not been brought to destruction by drugs and other poisons is running for his glory and his God. Sir, that is what we need to have, not a superficial farcical foolishness that sometime pervades the airwaves of Barbados. It does not make any sense.

Mr. Speaker, the financing of sports is only a beginning. I would, therefore, want to see more. I have brought with me the Annual Reports of the Barbados Football Association, 2002 and 2003. Therefore, when the Honourable Member...

Asides.

Mr. R. D. JONES: This is a quality document produced by a national association, which contains everything that has been done over a year, for example, finances, training, administration, leadership, coaching, refereeing, sports medicine, either locally or at the centre of excellence in Trinidad and Tobago. I am sure that others in their various organisations do it as well. Sir, as an institution that gets its resources from the purse of the public finances and also from FIFA financial agency, we have to make sure that every cent is being accounted for, otherwise, we would not get any subventions.

I have always said when a person is starved, and is then given one scoop of cou cou, that person would feel as though he has gotten everything, without recognising that if he is given more nutrition, he would grow better and stronger gradually. Therefore, when the Barbados Football Association, like 204 associations, got US\$250 000 in 1999, suddenly that was supposed to have been the money that would have solved all football woes. No, it does not. What it does is that it helps build capacity. It helps to expose the young people to more competition, to more training, to more development, while recognising that all of us are voluntary within that construct.

Sir, in 2000 when the Barbados National Football team had achieved both its highest ranking and placement in the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) zone for the World Cup, we were saying that a number of persons had done a number of things, which had nothing to do with it. I venture to say that we had better players then than what we now have and what was then missing was the resources to push and to propel them to greater heights.

Barbados had beaten Haiti when they passed through. Barbados was ranked higher than Jamaica up to a few years ago. Jamaica was beaten by Barbados but now they have gone ahead of us. Our victory against Costa Rica and against Cuba, ranked higher. It did not happen because of mere happenstance, it was because at that time we had more money to make the investment in human capital and we were able to expose those players to higher levels of training and competition, so that when the time came, those players could have stood the test because they had it in their heads and in their bodies.

Mr. Speaker, in 2003 the Barbados Football Association had a budget of \$1.5 million. It did not drop out of the trees. They had \$500 000 from FIFA and we still had to raise another \$1 million, which came from the conscious corporate sponsors of Barbados. It came from the Barbados Olympic Association. Yes, football tends to get a little more because it is a mass based sport catering to over 14 000 young men and now emerging young women in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I think too that as a female-centred game, netball deserves that level of support. I believe that volleyball deserves that level of support as a game that has brought glory to Barbados within this region. Bodybuilding is a sport like cricket that has brought us international glory and I want to see that level of support for them too.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intension of going through the sports piece by piece, I am just making a holistic comment to the needs of sports, rather than just talking about it. That is why I want to re-emphasise the point I made that this

Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill, 2004, and the money which will come from it is only a small piece of plaster on an open wound. Sir, more has to be done and we have enough money in Barbados that we can support our sports personnel. 4.00 p.m.

Adelbert Browne, a beautiful marathon runner, pulls a roller up and down a cricket field. Sir, in order to respect sports, there must be respect for those individuals who participate in those sports. I believe it was a level of gross disrespect for Mr. Browne when this country did not recognise his ability and foster it towards his ability. I say the same thing for Suki King, a man involved in a game of the mind, an individual who did not have the schooling that we had but none of us can sit at his feet and defeat him in any of those mind games. One must recognise the superior intellect relative to the manipulation of a draft board but this country does not recognise these things and only pay lip service to it.

Sir, we need to prioritise our sports in Barbados because we do not have enough money to support all of them. However, we need to give those who play the various sports an opportunity to do so.

We need to have sports ethics firmly implanted not only at the level of the players but at the level of management and leadership of the sports. I want to see a full sports Bill brought before this House with the adjustments to our cultural sphere to show the direction in which we should go because this is being done across the world.

We need to have physical education fully integrated in the minds of the school, some of it is already done but I think it is still a prejudice in much of the school system. Sir, students do not recognise that when the body is fit that the mind is also fit and active. We need to have these kinds of things fully implanted into the society. The efforts of persons over the years who have brought their time selflessly to the management of sports is not at an end. It can only come to an end because of the destructive tongues of persons.

We need to professionalise many aspects of the sports as you cannot reach many sporting organisations because they do not have telephones and you have to call the private homes of people. I have seen the attempts of the Government to establish facilities and secretariats. These are welcomed because they will improve the overall administration of the sport. We need to make Barbados into a country where sport is widely available for all, where sporting talent is recognised and fostered and where achieving and sustaining performance can be maintained.

Mr. Speaker, the aspect of the promotion of arts is very important. I want to see a situation where young men and women across Barbados like "Easy B" or Marlon Brathwaite

who possibly has one of the best young voices for the particular genre of music that he sings not to have to 'scrunt' to raise funds to get his CD published. I hope the fund could create an agency where he could go and where people can analyse the content and production and make an investment because the young man has a product from which he could make a living. Sir, I am told that it cost \$10 000 to \$20 000 to produce his musical CD.

Mr. Speaker, I see people walking around Barbados with 50 CDs in a bag asking people to buy one for \$25. Sir, we are still at that ridiculous and ludicrous stage where the performer is also the marketer. Sir, some agency should now oversee this process because it is currently not being done by the National Cultural Foundation and some other entity or institution should be given the responsibility to ensure it is properly done.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my contribution to this debate. As I listened to my colleague he spoke in relation to entertainers and mentioned the name of "Easy B" or Marlon Brathwaite. On Saturday, I was at a function in the constituency and a person by the name of Gay Harewood performed and it was indeed outstanding. He came through the Richard Stoute Talent show and I wondered how we could create an environment to develop his talent.

Mr. Speaker, if we examine the allocation of sporting facilities in Barbados and take a closer look at St. Philip, I realise there are only two hard courts notwithstanding the fact that quite recently there was a Minister of Sports in the area of St. Philip North.

We speak about fairness in the allocation of sporting facilities and community centres but, Mr. Speaker, I would say respectfully that St. Philip has been neglected in relation to the allocation of sporting facilities. Sir, this is apparent in the areas of Long Bay, Bayleys, Merritts, Bayfield, East Point and Marley Vale. The fact that Clarke's Hill football team, a Division One team from the belly of Marley Vale was doing well, the Minister of Sports at the time should have had intimate contact with that team, yet today it still begs and pleads for a facility.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to ask respectfully for a facility for Clarke's Hill football team so that they can carry on the good work they are doing in the Barbados Football Association. We heard talk about the decentralisation of culture. When we look at the parish of St. Philip, we have produced talented and some of the most respected entertainers in this country, namely Red Plastic Bag, Adonijah and John King. 4.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, when we built the Hilda Skeene School I was wondering whether we should not have looked at developing an auditorium so that cultural activities, either sponsored by the National Cultural Foundation or community groups, could reach the community.

We heard about the development of Queen's Park but we do not have any central place in St. Philip for cultural activities that can strengthen the arts in that parish. The development of an auditorium or mini gymnasium at King's Park would be ideal because it would serve St. John, St. Philip South, North and West. I know that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South is in total agreement with me.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: The National Cultural Foundation is the institution that is charged with the responsibility and has the mandate of promoting all aspects of our culture and to ensure that high standards are met by entertainers and that the players in our cultural industry receive full promotion.

Recently, the calypsonians were asked to submit lyrics by May 15, 2004 for a festival sometime in June or August, 2004. It is my submission that in a society that promotes freedom of expression, in a society that is seeking to promote creativity, it is my humble submission that it is foolishness and it stifles creativity and it is a threat to freedom.

Mr. Speaker, we are saying that if there is an issue that impacts negatively or positively on the Government, that the Calypsonian should not have that attitude to express themselves in a calypso as part of a competition. We are limiting the creativity of our entertainers and artistes.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have some contact with the music industry. I must say that my brother is a product of the Richard Stoute Teen Talent Competition and he is now a member of an international band.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: When I examine the quality of the production of some of the material by some of our artistes, I would respectfully request that the National Cultural Foundation provide that some training be provided for those engineers and other persons who are involved in the production of music because we have to compete with material from other territories that have superior recording studios. If we are speaking about marketing our music of a high quality and maximising profits, we need support in this endeavour.

Mr. Speaker, there is a mind-set in this country that if you are an entertainer and not a member of the traditional professions you are a nobody. There is a further perception that if you are working in a particular sector the Government comes to you and says "tell me what you want". So, entertainers and other players in the industry should be respected too. The artistes have made requests to the National Cultural Foundation, in particular the Calypsonians, they have asked about the status of the anti-piracy Committee, they have made several demands and they are being treated like nobodies but other persons are asked by Government "tell me what you want, bring your cap in hand". Sir, scant disrespect is being shown towards the entertainers.

In fact, I recall the question, why are we filling prime time with old calypsos being asked in this Honourable House. It was also said that filling prime time with old calypsos was not developmental to our culture. This question came from the Other Side. It goes with the lack of respect for entertainers.

Sir, there is a lot of talk about promoting our entertainers, keep them together and there is potential for earning foreign exchange. This is a lot of long talk but no action. Mr. Speaker, this is the manifestation of nothing. Nothing can be expected under this regime.

Mr. Speaker, many youngsters have the ambition to represent their country, reach the highest level in sports, bring glory to their country and to be good ambassadors through good performances. Mr. Speaker, some of them are in jobs and certainly they will need sometime to practice their art and go to meetings. There are some occasions when these employees tell their employers that they have to represent their country, when they are in the private sector, their job becomes threatened.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that we look at legislation to protect those employees, who have the desire to go out to represent their country, so that they complete their duties and come back to secured jobs. I see this as akin to jury duty and so, we must protect those employees who have the talent and could bring glory to this country.

Mr. Speaker, that is the environment that we must create and it is wrong for any employer to draw the line where an employee requests leave to represent his country. In fact, we have a policy in our Manifesto to the effect that jobs will be secured, in relation to persons who are selected to represent their country.

Mr. Speaker, we must create an environment in the area of sports where we can attract specialists. In the

area of cricket, we have people like Athelston Payne, Milton Small, Wayne Daniel and other persons, who have made a contribution to our cricket development.

I know of a gentleman by the name of Dexter Toppin who is extremely talented. He is a qualified coach with international exposure and has assisted many of the young cricketers in Barbados. He is working as a security guard and I wonder why we cannot draft him into the National Sports Council to train. I am sure that requests were made by the former Minister of Sports – who instead of doing his job made sport – to bring in this gentleman to help develop our cricket, because he has exceptional ability. I am now asking that we look at bringing in Mr. Toppin to assist our young cricketers, for we need those types of trained persons.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to state that the principal national media vehicle charged with the responsibility of promoting our artistes, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), should ensure that their products are marketed properly and they are given exposure.

In fact, it was said on April 9, 2003, while debating a Resolution to approve land at Collymore Rock, by someone in here, to tell CBC to stop the foolishness. Right now, what is the state of the principal national media vehicle which is charged with the responsibility of exposing our artistes' talent? They are experiencing resignation after resignation and low staff morale.

I want to say that we on this Side would offer critical support to any Bill that certainly is in the interest of promoting arts and sports in this country. The vision must not be only the lights. What about the issue of our sports-persons after their retirement? Do we have anything in place, even before they reach...or when they finish their sport to guide them, so that after retirement, they would not be in a position of having to depend on other agencies? We must create investment opportunities for those persons and train them to invest their resources, because we must respect them. They obviously would have brought some glory, or international acclaim to this country, and indirectly impacted on our foreign exchange.

I repeat. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that after their retirement systems must be in place to protect them, and to ensure that they have a reasonably good livelihood, because of the duty that they performed and sacrifice that they made for this country.

Mr. Speaker, finally there has been a lot of talk about World Cup 2007. We are concentrating on Kensington Oval, but I certainly would ask what about North Stars which has an excellent cricket ground. We must look at alternative

cricket grounds and develop them to international standards. Jamaica has started it. They have two venues in their bid, and I would not rule out St. Catherine's Club either.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: Certainly, we should look at alternative cricket grounds, in order to promote that aggressive bid for World Cup 2007. This is an excellent idea and a good chance for us to enhance our bid for the World Cup.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as the representative of St. Philip North, I am asking for sporting facilities there. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the politics of spite is not being played on the people of St. Philip North because we need sports facilities. We need a hard court in Bayleys and we need proper football and cricket grounds. St. Catherine Cricket Club needs some assistance. So I am asking the Minister of Sports not to emulate the other person who sat in that ministry but to come and let us have some good sporting facilities in St. Philip so that persons would not have to go and rent portable lights. Mr. Speaker, I had to rent portable lights at a very high cost. So I hope that the presence of the Minister of Sports would be seen in the entire parish of St. Philip in the form of lights on some grounds.

4.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, respect must be shown to our artistes particularly our calypsonians who year in and year out are making requests for assistance but are being neglected. They are like the fishermen who made some requests to the authorities but who were neglected. Our calypsonians must be placed on a level that they are respected. That is my submission, Sir, and I thank you.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a very short intervention in this pretty important debate on the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Sitting last Tuesday when the Minister responsible for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports introduced the Bill but from listening to the reports of the House, I realise that he would have given a fairly detailed exposition of the Bill, on what the National Sports Council has been doing and what it intends to do in order to advance and to develop persons who are well-endowed in the area of sports and culture.

Mr. Speaker, the current debate takes me back to a debate we had some time ago during the last term on the importance of sports. Many a speaker would have spoken quite eloquently on that occasion to the importance of sports as a tool for social development. The sentiments expressed then are pretty much as strong as the sentiments

expressed now about the importance of sports and culture in the economic development process.

Mr. Speaker, in this Honourable Chamber, the Prime Minister, not very long ago, in speaking to the way forward for our development when he was focussing on the creation of the new economy said that this Government through structured programmes should seek to release the creative talents that reside in Barbadians recognising that the key national resource of small developing economies is the quality of their human capital.

Mr. Speaker, any initiative which is brought to this Honourable Chamber which would give us an opportunity consistent with our outlook for the development of a programme for this country, which would allow us to create this new economy and therein to allow the creative energies and the creative talents of Barbadians to be identified and to flourish, should not be met with any opposition in this Honourable Chamber. So I am glad that the Honourable Members on the Other Side are according it critical support and that some of them have said that they would give it their fullest support if certain things can be guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that there is no political divide on this issue because at the end of the day whether you are aware of it or not – and I think all Honourable Members in here are aware of it – the two areas that are potentially lucrative for any economy are sports and culture. This Government certainly recognises that and within the limits would want, as part of the creation of this new economy, for culture and sports to take their rightful places.

Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when this issue of sports as a tool of social development was discussed, I made, what was considered then, some very important points. Among them, I said that the engagement in sports apart from it being lucrative to some persons who have the special talents is that it is a social healthy activity. The benefits to be derived from having a healthy body would certainly include having a healthy mind. If a society is made up of persons who in the main are very healthy, we know the ripple effect which is felt throughout the system especially at the level of work, at the level of performance in school and at many other levels. So we want to encourage persons to be active by engaging in sports because we want to have a healthy society.

Mr. Speaker, I said also that the engagement in sports give persons an opportunity to utilise some time that might otherwise be used by them to be involved, in the words of the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, in nefarious activities, and we want to discourage that. We want persons to use their time constructively. So the engagement in sporting activities whether indoor or outdoor is one such

avenue in which energies can be released through the engagement of activities that are certainly wholesome, very constructive and potentially very productive.

Mr. Speaker, I have a passion for the next area I am going to make contact with which is the role and the importance of sports and culture in building communities and in forging, enhancing and certainly in encouraging bonding within the communities. Mr. Speaker, I see this day in and day out in my constituency. When I got involved in elective politics for the first time in January of 1999 one of the things that was sadly lacking was social cohesion in the constituency. What I am saying I would imagine is not specific to my constituency alone because we have a lot of so-called political representatives about the place who were being carried along on the bandwagon that some constituencies were the preserves of the Barbados Labour Party and some were the preserves of the Democratic Labour Party. There are some constituencies that seem to be the preserves of the Barbados Labour Party and some that seem to be the preserves of the Democratic Labour Party and when one checks to see how communities and constituencies as a whole were advancing along the social, cultural and educational lines, based on activities that were rooted in the communities, these communities had nothing to show. Therefore, recognising that social cohesion was important, some of us said that in order to be true to ourselves in providing representation to the people, we were going to go into the communities and would have facilitated bonding by raising the level of social cohesion.
4.40 p.m.

We said that we were going to identify programmes with a community focus, with the major objective of providing the bonding within each community, then as soon as we have achieved that level of bonding across the constituencies and as long as we had achieved the raising of the bar as it relates to social cohesion, we would have allowed for continuous interaction across the communities in those constituencies so that, at the end of the day, we would be going forward together, based on these activities that are rooted within the communities. Mr. Speaker, one way of getting great success in that area is through the promotion of sporting competitions and of encouraging persons to become involved in sports and culture.

Mr. Speaker, we said that by putting emphasis on sports and culture we would have provided opportunities for young persons to express themselves, and would have allowed for the relief of creative energies that lie within persons, who otherwise might not get the opportunities to do such.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North made mention of specific persons within that parish. Therefore, whenever I have to speak about sports, I have to go back

to what happened at the Princess Margaret's Secondary School, which is centrally located in the heart of the parish and was attended by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, as it relates to the types of cricket development programmes that school had.

Mr. Speaker, we had a string of successes coming out of the Princess Margaret's Secondary School. There were persons whose talents could have been spotted at a very young age. Therefore, when I was a youngster, I would have gone down to Princess Margaret's Secondary, and would have watched 12 or 13-year-old Wayne Daniel bowling and driving fear into the hearts of big men. When we saw Athelston Payne and Milton Small, we said that they would have played cricket for the West Indies.

Mr. Speaker, there was a sense of great anxiety that had existed and, therefore, whole communities within St. Philip would have converged on the school and would have followed the progress of those cricketers. Sir, in those days we would have made sure that those guys were kept on a fairly straight and narrow path and that they would have been given all the facilitation to allow the talent that existed within them, to be fully realised. That is another benefit from the St. Philip experience by putting emphasis into community sports.

Mr. Speaker, what is also important, and this is summing it up, is that the profile and the status of a community can be lifted simply because there is an individual who is excelling either in an area of sports, culture or education. I am saying that if the country is broken into small cells, which we call communities, and we can help that community along the way to get this individual to step forward, so that others who are living within close proximity to this individual, would get somebody to look up to and would want to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, that was the impact of Wayne Daniel and Athelston Payne in those days. That is the impact that we are now having in an area in St. Philip West called Harlington. We have Derek Bishop, at a young age being the captain of the St. Catherine's Cricket Division One Team. We have Kenroy Williams, the last highly successful captain of the under-nineteen cricket team, and they come from the same area. There is keen rivalry among them but what is important is that there is a youth movement in Harlington which is focussing on cricket, precisely because of the influence of these two youngsters.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that is the case because in the recently concluded cricket competition which I hosted, whereas years ago Harlington would have had a cricket team that would have been made up of seniors, the community of Harlington said to let them concentrate on developing the youth. Therefore, for the last two or three years, they have

entered a Harlington youth team, which plays games on Sunday afternoons.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if it is very opportune that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East would have just returned to his seat but what I am going to say here, I know that he would take it in the manner in which it would be said because he is not a thin-skinned person. Sir, the Honourable Member St. Philip North was lamenting the fact that there is a scarcity of proper sporting recreational facilities in the parish. That is undeniable but it is even more undeniable in the constituency of St. Philip South, as it is now configured. The severity of the problem as it exists in St. Philip South way exceeds what obtains anywhere else in St. Philip and, therefore, I thank the Honourable Member for St. Philip North for putting a case for me first and foremost.

Sir, I am going to say that what obtains up to today will change and that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East will see that it changes because I take no comfort in being perhaps the Honourable Member of Parliament whose office, through the establishment with community practitioners, is responsible for organising the most sporting competitions, with a primary focus of raising the level of social cohesion in the constituency, enhancing the bonding within communities, and forging that interaction across communities within the constituencies which, before I took over, was sadly lacking.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, community practitioners and I organise netball and basketball competitions for Independence but my constituents are unable to play any of those matches in the constituency because there are no playing fields. Sir, I take no comfort in this but I will remain steadfast and continue to organise those competitions because I know that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East will see to it that some of these matches could be played in my constituency. Sir, we have to go to Church Village, King George V Park in St. Philip North and Lowthers in St. Philip West to play netball and basketball.

Mr. Speaker, the teams are growing, they have been patient, notwithstanding the distance they have to travel, and this gives an indication of the importance that young people attach to sports. Sir, there is a saying that the Lord helps those who help themselves. I am not saying that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is the Lord but he would do well to hold onto that part of the scriptures and help those who are helping themselves.

Sir, I shall, however, continue to unearth and develop sporting and cultural talent in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I want to drive home the point that tonight, after leaving this Honourable Chamber I will go

to my constituency because we are going to have a night cricket match at Rices which will bring a cumulation to the softball cricket competition which began in January. I do not take any comfort that I have had to appeal to individuals to help with the provision of portable lights in the constituency. Sir, the schools do not have hard courts so matches cannot be played there either and we have to rent the portable lights at an excessive amount of money as we do not have our own portable lights. Sir, the people of my constituency have decided to have a cricket match and as tomorrow is a public holiday they will come out and have a good time. We usually rent the lights but in this case, they will be donated for the night.

Sir, I do not intend to stop organising these competitions. We also play dominoes at shops as we do not have a community centre but this must stop, Sir. We cannot go into a pavilion because there are none at which to play matches. One is being built at Princess Margaret and the other one was abandoned because an injunction was brought against the Sports Council when it started. We do not have any auditoriums or resource centres either.

Sir, I want to remind the House that I have the biggest constituency in terms of eligible voters and that we will press on because we know the importance of it.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North seems to be suggesting that unless an auditorium comes with adequate seating capacity that there cannot be a release of the creative talent that resides in persons. An auditorium is welcomed because culture should figure prominently in this new economy which we are seeking to create but years ago in St. Philip there was no auditorium and public institutions were fully utilised. I remember that a number of youth groups were involved in various aspects of cultural development many years ago even though we did not have an auditorium.

There is no auditorium in the Pine and I am aware that the Pinelands Creative Workshop goes over to the Parkinson Community Centre or whatever facility they can get their hands on, practise and try new things. I am submitting that we can draw on the success and experience of the Pinelands Creative Workshop. Sir, all that is needed is adequate space, determination, guidance, properly formulated programmes and this would allow the creative talents to come out and flourish.

Sir, I went to the Israel Lovell Foundation recently and I saw there is no auditorium. There is only a hall and people committed to giving expression to their cultural talents. Sir, auditoriums are important because when we become successful, we will need to showcase our talents before large numbers in salubrious surroundings but the message should not go out that an auditorium is a precondition for success in the area of arts and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I have never heard the Honourable Member for St. John make a speech like the one he made today. It was the most balanced speech I ever heard from the Honourable Member and I want to show my approval of the contribution which he has made to the debate. There was one aspect of his presentation that is worth repeating and elaborating on. He mentioned that community groups more often than not need assistance in building organisational and management capacity.
5.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am heavily involved in the administration of a sporting discipline in Barbados. I was the President of The National Association of Pool for five years and one of the things that I continue to impress on the Executive is that the organisation is as strong as its weakest club. The National Association is as strong as the clubs are. I am sure that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central is experiencing that also.

Mr. Speaker, I remind them at every twist and turn that while they are planning their tournaments they need to let members become engaged in competition. Resources need to be spent on providing technical assistance to each club that is affiliated to the organisation. We need to help clubs put proper organisational structures in place.

Sir, now that the Government has launched the project Oasis, I find myself going into the communities with this in mind. Admittedly, previously the focus was on Pool and the cricket club that I am the President of, which is based at Rices, St. Philip. With the help of the officers who are driving the project Oasis, I have gone into the constituency...

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: We have been encouraging them. The project has a lot to offer but the resources and the benefits to be derived can be better felt if there is an organised structure in place.

Sir, we have been spending time going from Ruby, St. Martins and Gemswick encouraging them to build the communities from the bottom up by putting formal structures in place because at the end of the day a successful club could serve as the anchor to the building of a community. I see the results when we have various sporting competitions which are rooted in the communities. Mr. Speaker, you would marvel when you see the young, old and not so old come together as a family when they are playing cricket in the constituency. The grounds may not be very good but they want to be part of moving the community forward, so they come out and support all the sporting activities which could, at the end of the day, bring honour and glory to the communities and young persons who participate.

I want to use this opportunity to encourage the Honourable Member for Christ Church East to give fullest expression to the Government's project Oasis.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time has expired. Would you conclude, please?

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Project Oasis is aiming to put proper organisational structures in place for groups that are rooted in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate. There was a time where I would have spoken very early in this debate and there was a time when I might as well have been the only person speaking in this type of debate in the last decade in this Honourable House.

I am heartened by the fact that this Bill which has been brought to this Chamber has engaged complete bipartisan support and has been the subject of healthy criticism but strong support for the programme that would see arts and sports being at the centre of national economic and social development.

I start from this perspective because less than ten years ago no one even recognised the economic potential of these two sectors. Sir, less than fifteen years ago when I would have contributed and fortunately a Democratic Labour Party Manifesto would have spoken to the decentralisation of sports, the construction of stadia across the island to lay the structural network to allow a transition of sports from amateur to professional sports, it was seen as a way-out idea and that Barbados could never have the economies of scale to support such a transition.

Mr. Speaker, in that fifteen years we have seen the Caribbean Single Market and Economy start to come alive and we have recognised that our domestic market, as it relates to all products but especially sports and culture, is the entire Caribbean region. If there is one set of disciplines that allows and admits Barbadians to become global citizens, it is in the practise of sports and arts.

Mr. Speaker, expertise and excellence attained in these disciplines are automatic openers to all societies across the globe irrespective of language. Sir, football is football and cricket is cricket wherever on the globe they are played. Music is music and if it sounds good and the audience likes it, they would respond even if the language is different, as we showed when we brought Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masakela here to perform.

Therefore, I say that if we recognise that we live in a world that now values knowledge and services, and Barbados' stated intention is to develop an economy that is premised on the sale of services, then sports and cultural services with which our people have a natural affinity must be at the centre of the planning of this economy and a central force for the cohesion of this society.

The stories are limitless of those, who by their expertise of sports and arts in this region have risen from poverty, have been able to influence millions of people across the globe. The story of Bob Marley, Sparrow, The Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, Austin Clarke, George Lamming, Derrick Walcott and in recent times men like Brian Lara continue to inspire. Anyone who has seen what football has done for Brazil and what other sports have done for other countries on the globe, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best example of a Government holding sports and culture at the centre of development in our region, is the one that most people would least expect, that of Cuba. The results have been nothing short of phenomenal.

5.10 p.m.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that it has been my dream from the time that I entered public life to be able to be part of a process that validated the creativity and the ability of Barbadian people, in circumstances where they could excel, and they would never feel like second-class citizens. There are some serious questions that we must ask ourselves, as we seek to put the framework in place, to allow our citizens to better benefit from that which was just seen as a talent in previous generations.

Sir, had Sir Garfield Sobers not been born today and achieve what he achieved, in the next ten or twenty years from now, what he achieved 50 years ago, he would be a billionaire and he would be exercising tremendous influence across the globe, not just in Barbados and the Caribbean, or cricketing countries.

Mr. Speaker, we have tried, over successive Governments. I am glad that the Honourable Member for St. George spoke today, because he would have rooted it in the first decision to establish a Ministry of Culture in 1977. This resulted in the staging of CARIFESTA which had a tremendous effect on this community in 1981, and the extent to which young persons like myself, as teenagers, had the opportunity to see and hear some of the best practitioners of the arts in this hemisphere for next kin to nothing. We were all inspired into believing that we wanted to be part of this industry at some level.

Mr. Speaker, from that day on, like the Honourable Member for St. John whom I believe also received his first pay cheque in CARIFESTA, there are a number of us who continue to work, either at the centre of the arts or the

fringes of the arts. Just as others in here, like the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, have worked in sports, a number of us who worked in the arts, working through the horn pipe so to speak, with elements of Crop Over as stage managers of bands.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North is reminding me of my days when I managed Signature, and other musicians.

Mr. Speaker, that is because there were a few of us who believed that it was possible for persons to earn a living legitimately in this country, but we recognised that we would have to expand the market beyond that of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) therefore is a welcome opportunity because immediately, it changes the dynamics for the viability of persons wanting to earn a living from sports and culture.

I go further, Mr. Speaker, because I want to quickly trace the framework that we have tried to establish at a macro-level. We understood that we had to address matters of education and training, in relation to sports and the arts. I am going to come back and deal with each of them. We understood that we had to treat to the issue of institutional strengthening. We understood that we had to provide a legislative framework. We understood, Mr. Speaker, that the issue of distribution and marketing very often became the most perilous challenges for those in the arts to overcome.

Mr. Speaker, there is the question of fiscal incentives, funding and media opportunities to enhance distribution, particularly where it is related to services. I speak of course of television, radio and the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, when we came into Government in 1994, we used the Ministry of Culture, working in association with the Ministry of Youth Affairs, to be able to create the structure for training and education. I would liken it to that of a pyramid, where at the bottom of the pyramid, we understood that you could only have a successful industry in sports and the arts if you had an audience that appreciated what is good, and what is to be respected in the practice of sports and arts.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the bottom level of training is your community-based training across the entire community. We reintroduced, towards the end of 1995 sports and culture-based training, through the Division of Youth Affairs working with the National Cultural Foundation, all across Barbados.

I can think of people today who returned to Barbados last year with degrees, who are teaching in our secondary schools now, having gone to University in the United States of America, on the basis of Volleyball Scholarships and Athletic Scholarships, having never played volleyball before the youth-based training that took place in 1995. Therefore, you begin to see the fruits of the labour of those two divisions where they went up and down the length and breadth of this country training people and on average, some 2 500 people a year, 1 500 in sports and on or about 1 000 in the arts. You always have a larger number in sports, because it is more of a mass-based mobilisation, because of the team effort.

Mr. Speaker, between 1995 and 2004, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East now, can attest to the numbers who have been given basic level training and exposure, ranging from football, cricket, volleyball, netball, and in relation to the cultural training, jewelry making, music and all kinds of crafts and artistic expression.

We then, Mr. Speaker, decided that we also had to address the issue of the curriculum. It was no use having that basic level training, without other opportunities being created. The best in the basic level training, would be allowed to go into an advance training programme at the community but also, would be encouraged within the school system, to the extent that they were still students in the school system.

Mr. Speaker, a systematic effort was made to begin to revise the curriculum in relation to the practice of arts in the sports. I well remember having to approve, because as Minister of Education in those days, requests would come from persons who were studying overseas, sometimes *ad hoc* awards if they ran into financial trouble.

One of the first set of recommendations I received was not to support two of Barbados' foremost artistes who at times were studying in Cuba, within the first six months that we were in the Government. I rejected that advice and said, no, that if they were studying, they were entitled to receive an *ad hoc* award, in the same way that anybody who was studying medicine, veterinary science or engineering would receive. We gave them a commitment for two years each. Those people brought honour to this country when they went on in Santo Domingo and won a gold medal in Santo Domingo, with countries like Cuba and Haiti and other countries throughout the region, which are well known for their reputation in visual arts, and fine arts in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to think that process has continued. I look forward to the day when formal scholarships can be awarded in the arts and in sports. There is a framework that the educational system needs to work out. I tried to fight it when I was there, but it is not yet at

a stage where you can properly access the equivalences, and what are the standards that have to be reached. Until you can put a transparent system in there, it then is the subject of attacks, as to who is benefiting when they should not benefit, and who should or should not get. There must be a transparent system for choice of scholarships in sports and the arts. Education that is academic lends itself to scholarships because there is a transparent measurement. That is the challenge and I look forward to the Honourable Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, bringing closure to this issue because I believe that it is one gap that remains in our educational system in relation to it.
5.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we did not stop there. We introduced a Bachelor of Fine Arts programme at the Barbados Community College in 1996. Mr. Speaker, when others were telling us that it could not be done, we said that it was critical. Mr. Speaker, we did not sit down on our laurels, we introduced the programme, and are happy with the standards. I remember asking them to bring in persons like Pat Bishop from Trinidad and Tobago and others, to help with the structure of the degree and the assessment as to whether the Bachelor of Fine Arts was one that could withstand scrutiny in comparison with programmes that are offered elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, at the Barbados Community College not only did we start with the Bachelor of Fine Arts programme dealing with visual arts, we also dealt with graphic arts. One of the last things I did, and the Honourable Member for St. Philip North has raised the issue, was to have raised the skills of engineers. In 2001 under cultural projects we transferred the sum of \$150 000 to the Barbados Community College for it to be able to undertake training in the area of sound engineering, lighting and camera work because there were deficiencies in the system and the lack of opportunities for people to receive training in these particular areas.

Mr. Speaker, there is one last outstanding issue which I hope to see the Honourable Member for Christ Church East bring to a closure. Sir, Barbados needs a school of excellence in arts and sports at the secondary level. We have done the work. There was a committee co-chaired by Thom Cross, on which the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central sat. A lot of the preliminary work has been done but work has to be done to bring it to the point of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, let me share the rationale for it. If at third form you can choose 200 or 250 children across a number of disciplines who display a more than average propensity and capacity to excel in a particular discipline, then they can be submitted not only to any less academic routine but to a more

intensive programme that would raise their standards both academically and to the particular sport or cultural discipline.

Mr. Speaker, I have a slightly different perspective. I do not believe it should be a school operated by the public alone. I feel that it should be a joint public/private sector project because there is the need for flexibility and employment practices to be able to bring in the best football coaches and cricket coaches which might change overtime. Therefore, in order to have that flexibility, there would be the need to have a head teacher, a director of arts and a director of sports. There would also be the need for technology. One cannot participate in sports today unless one masters the technology which would allow the individual to master his or her opponent.

In addition, the idea was that instead of students just having two more years in school, they would be kept for three or four years depending on the particular discipline. They can then either move on to the Barbados Community College where there is the Bachelor of Fine Arts programme or be placed in the various universities or professional teams depending on the particular sporting discipline.

Mr. Speaker, if 250 Barbadians can be trained every year, over a ten-year period there would be 2 500 Barbadians trained at the very highest level in the area of arts and sports, who are capable of being global citizens and who are capable of earning foreign exchange to support their families and this economy.

Mr. Speaker, not only do they have the advantage of being global citizens but in the area of arts, they will have the ability to derive revenue from copyright, which is one of the few known sources of revenue that provides food for persons 50 years after one is dead. This means that is an investment over that where you can cause people to get a return from that area, and is a better investment where people's earnings stop upon death.

Mr. Speaker, it is not that we do not have the talent. There is a Bajan invasion in Trinidad and Tobago with regards to music. There is also the capacity for people across the world to look at players such as Arturo Tappin and Nicholas Brancker and recognise that they are world-class. Part of the difficulty is that we have to learn to control our own environment as there are missing links in the chain.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore welcome the initiatives by the Honourable Prime Minister as Minister of Culture and the cultural industry report chaired by Mr. Cummins, which has done a wonderful job in setting out a framework because the missing gaps relate to funding.

Sir, I am happy that the Ministry of Culture has been able to access funding from the Barbados National Oil

Company (BNOC) in the last two years. I am happy that the Ministry of Culture has now agreed that there should be five or six more posts in the Ministry of Culture to help support the policy framework because people look to the National Cultural Foundation for everything and do not realise that it treats to the arts *per se*.

Mr. Speaker, culture which is about a way of life, is a tool of development and is a completely different thing from cultural industries in the arts. The Ministry of Culture must play a pivotal role in the development of policies in the execution of programming from every ministry in this country because invariably when policies were developed unless one roots it in who one is and understands the variables of who one is and what one expects from the people, one would be lacking in success in the implementation of that policy in the development of the nation and in the improvement of the quality of life for our people.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore welcome the fact that the Ministry of Culture is treating to culture as a policy and as a developmental tool. Sir, I promised to write on it one of these days because it is an area that I feel strongly about. It has now become fashionable in the last two to three years for people to talk internationally about culture as a developmental tool or that culture matters or about the culture of peace.

Mr. Speaker, when we were arguing that the way in which Barbadians develop their culture as to how they build their houses which is critical to the sustainable development of a housing policy in this country, people thought that we were talking nonsense. The whole question of persons relying on their savings, buying the blocks and building from the back and coming forward are all part of the Barbadian culture in the development of a housing policy. Are we now to throw all of that out of the window and encourage people only to get mortgages? There is a need for mortgages but there must also be the encouragement that people must live within their means, which is part of our cultural ethos.

Mr. Speaker, you would note that the first chapter in the draft report on a National Plan for Justice, Peace and Security from the National Task Force on Law and Order deals with crime and culture. Mr. Speaker, you cannot have a sustainable solution in fighting crime and in the preservation in law and order without understanding the cultural aspects of our people.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that we have been able to treat to developing a policy framework in the cultural industries report. I am happy that positions are coming to strengthen the Ministry of Culture's role in the development of cultural policy as opposed to policy for the arts. I am happy that the

policy paper is now being developed for instructions for us to draft a cultural industries bill that would set out many of the initiatives that the Prime Minister spoke about in his budget speech late last year.

I am happy that we would also shortly be looking at bringing the Preservation of Antiquities Bill which has provided us with the most complex legal challenges because it gives powers of acquisition to the State in relation to the things that are movable such as jewellery, relics, *et cetera*. Therefore, one has to be certain that one gets the constitutional issue correct before any Parliament would pass such legislation. I am also happy that the National Art Gallery Committee is pressing ahead with its work and has systematically developed the groundwork for the launching of a national art gallery.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that we have committed to the establishment of a joint private/public sector company, for marketing and for the distribution of cultural products because whether it is in music, books, fine arts or film, we have a serious problem in relation to many of the practitioners having a sufficiently large capital base, to be able to market or to distribute their products. Therefore, unless those persons have an agency that plays a role to the cultural industries, similar to that played by the Barbados Tourism Authority to tourism, or the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation plays to industry, we would not be able to fully benefit from maximum output of persons in these sectors.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this will further help to put Barbados on the map. I believe that these initiatives will help to pay our bills. I believe that it is the fairest form of economic empowerment because it is based only on talent, discipline and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in recognising that there is worth and value in a person having talent in these areas. We have seen the tangible results that accrue to those persons who have been given the opportunities to practice those skills beyond this region. I believe that this Government will provide an invaluable service to the people of this country by so continuing the design of the architecture that is necessary for the sustainable development of these industries.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a number of things before I sit. I worked on a joint anti-burglary project between my Ministry and the community of Bush Hall and were able, through all of the labour being provided by the residents of Bush Hall, to put up bleachers for the beginning of what I hope to be one of the homes for road tennis in Barbados. The first phase is completed and can accommodate just under 250 persons. It is known as the

Deighton 'Pa' Roach Road Tennis Courts. I believe, Sir, that you would be well familiar with the gentleman after whom it is named, as well as the facilities. We have also installed the lights on the courts. Phase two is expanding the bleaches and putting up a roof so that even if it rains, they could continue to play. They could even make money from an admission fee.

Mr. Speaker, once the digital convergence process is finished at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), we have committed to go into tender for persons who have an interest in running a dedicated cable channel on sports that is committed to local and regional sports, a dedicated cable channel for local and regional culture.

Mr. Speaker, these are the things that I am anxious to see happening at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and not the irrelevant considerations that are being thrown into the public's domain but in getting on with the work of the policy of this Government.

Sir, if one has the support of television, one's market access changes overnight and, therefore, if we have that support, we have the ability to change how much revenue we can earn because as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central would tell you, that if the Barbados Football Association had access to pay-per-view for half of its finals or matches, its revenue stream would change overnight. Sir, it would also have the ability to sell its programme to St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, Grenada or Dominica. That is what we are working towards by the end of next year. I want to see it and have indicated that as a matter of policy, these things must happen in order to create the economic opportunities because there are only so many persons who can enter by gate, for example, like Crop Over. Crop Over has already, for the most part, maximised its revenue from the gate. How then does one create additional revenue earning opportunities for both the artiste and producers? There has to be the use of television, sponsorship and allied joint venture approaches for marketing.

Mr. Speaker, these are the issues that we need to move to at the next stage but respectability is the first battle that we have won. Sir, I am a happy person today because it is now acceptable and respectable to treat to the cultural industries and sports as economic disciplines in this country that are worthy of participation of our children.

Mr. Speaker, too many people with whom I went to school were told by their parents to go and find a job or to go to university, when they were capable of rising to brilliance and excellence. Fortunately, some of them did not listen to their parents and, instead, followed their dreams. I am now seeing them earning a better living than those who had chosen to go the traditional way of finding a job or going to the university.

Mr. Speaker, some of these persons are familiar to you and I say that the first hurdle in building this industry is to ensure that the whole society buys into the dream. I believe that this debate today is tangible evidence that Barbados and Barbadians as a whole have at last bought into the dream of the potential that these industries have, not only for our economy but in forging a national identity which can withstand any form of insurgence of foreign programming or any larger numbers of visitors visiting our shores and that by living here annually, such that we will start beaming and sharing those experiences outside of the Caribbean in a way where we will not only be the recipients of that foreign penetration but we too will understand the power of being able to export the best of who we are, to people across the globe, that there is a benefit in it to us, and that it becomes easier for us to do it, when it is done as sportsmen or artistes, than when we seek to do it as academics or other workers across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I am indebted to you and I look forward to the specific legislative initiatives that have been spoken to generally, continuing to come beyond this Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill, 2004, which is to allow for overall funding to be made available to arts and sports organisations across Barbados. Sir, I look forward to the other initiatives that will see the continued institutional strengthening, the continued upgrading of our infrastructural network, in particular the National Stadium.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both the Honourable Member for St. John, who I thought spoke well today, as well as the Honourable Member for St. George South, who both shared their perspectives as former Ministers of Culture and the challenges that we face.

Sir, if there is one common ground on which I would like to end, it would be in agreement with that of the Honourable Member for St. John as to the dangers that we face in this country in believing that the only thing we must listen to, must see, or must eat, is that which is Barbadian because then we risk implosion, xenophobia, and as he describes it, a form of neanderthal behaviour that is unworthy of our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, many people ask why we insisted on carrying on the Congaline Festival all through the years. As you would note, the Honourable Member for St. John has started it and I have continued. I have continued because I understand that we have to expose our population to different music, different foods, different cultures, if we are going to build a culture of tolerance and peace in a society, and that when people understand about other cultures, foods or music, that they are less likely to be antagonistic towards such. Again, whilst in the world rich children could go and see Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, or Jimmy Cliff because they could afford it but when poor children could

go and see them for US\$5.00 or free, tell me which other country in the world allows itself to bring artistes of such international repute to people and would give these persons the opportunity to see these artistes at minimal costs?
5.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, these things are as important as Crop Over and NIFCA. Crop Over and NIFCA will only get stronger if we continue to expose our people to as many different disciplines and cultures as possible. I welcome the decision by the National Cultural Foundation to continue the support of festivals that exposes Barbadians to world music and other types of music beyond that which we practise normally and nationally.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you. I say that I truly believe that this is a time that is going to be remembered because it signals the difference in approach between a Government accepting as a normal part of its economic and social planning that there are now two industries that have not been hitherto part of that economic and social planning.

I hope that in so signaling the respectability and acceptability of this decision today that we will continue to capture the imagination of Barbadians in believing that which they have hitherto referred to and thought of as a hobby or pastime can truly be one of the building blocks to sustain economic growth and social cohesion in this country.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to conclude the debate in the second reading of this Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill. I want to thank Honourable Members on Both Sides because we have had a full and interesting debate which struck at the heart of some fundamental aspects of our society.

Sir, it is significant that we should conclude this debate one day before our National Heroes Day celebration because it is in the nature of the wider philosophical understanding of culture that things such as the celebration of our heroes rest. This is as much of our culture as the arts and visible expression of aspects of our lives interpreted in artistic form.

If we have any doubt about the critical importance of arts and sports in terms of how we see ourselves, we could think in terms of the book published recently by Professor Hilary Beckles of the university "A Nation Imagine". He gave a historical account as well as an analysis of the 1928 tour of the West Indies, its first test tour to England. He analysed that event in terms of the existence of a West Indies test cricket team being the first outward signs as well as building inward confidence in the West Indian people

that they could first of all forge a clear West Indian identity and that they could have the sterns of a political movement that could be used to defeat the colonisers at their own game in the first instance cricket and then at politics.

Sir, sport has always been a major part of our national psyche. I want to make the point that while we have had full speeches, we have also had some excesses. Honourable Members on the Other Side in attempting to do some political fast bowling have overstepped the crease to get the extra yard of pace which is called a no-ball.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party says that the Barbados Labour Party has done nothing over the past ten years in arts and culture but most young people were born after 1966 and they did not share the moment when the Union Jack was lowered and the broken trident raised. Community Independence gives us a sense of what our Independence truly means. I cannot remember the last time that November was a festive month in Barbados before Community Independence. In fact, before that, it was as if people wanted to brush Independence out of the way so that they could get on to Christmas but, Sir, that no longer happens.

This is a Government which recognises that culture and its contribution towards cultural development goes beyond the arts. This Government also took the step to create a number of monuments to our National Heroes. There are statues for the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott and the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams. Also, to come is a statue of the Right Excellent Errol Barrow. These are important statements about our pride and confidence in our self and this is at the root of our culture.

Sir, this says to us, amongst other things that nothing is beyond us as a nation whether it be a Barbadian swimming the English Channel as was done by Chris Gibbs, whether it be rowing the Atlantic Ocean as was done by Philip Als and Randal Valdez or whether it be the group of Barbadians who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.

Sir, there is nothing too great for us to do, whether it be Arturo Tappin having thousands of Japanese in an audience celebrating his music, Nicholas Brancker, Red Plastic Bag having his song "Ragga Ragga" played at basketball games in the United States of America, Rupee who has signed with an international company or Stephanie Chase, a lovely young lady from Parish Land in my constituency, who has signed with Sony and won the Miss World best talent in South Africa in 2002. Miss Chase was also the director, producer and writer of the most wonderful dramatic production which was held at the Frank Collymore Hall. This production was aimed at showing our young people that there would have challenges but that there could be a positive result. Sir, Miss Chase is also a student in the arts programme at the Barbados Community College.

5.50 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I am hearing comments coming from the Other Side but their efforts at bowling political fast balls have resulted in some no-balls.

Sir, nothing is beyond us in the area of arts, culture and sports. We agree that we have a broad view of the arts and sports but we need as a country to throw all our resources behind its full development.

I must answer the Opposition Members who claimed that we have done nothing in terms of being active in the development of arts, culture and sports in this country. I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. George South for reminding us of the work which was done by a previous Barbados Labour Party administration when he was Minister of Culture, in particular Crop Over Festival. It was this current Barbados Labour Party administration that would have added the Party Monarch Competition and taken Crop Over to the East Coast Road. Sir, our record proves that there has been a great movement forward in all aspects of arts and sports but the Opposition has been bowling political no-balls in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, the concern has been raised by several Honourable Members that whilst within our schools we have programmes to support, we offer programme opportunities for development through physical education and we heard comments about how they can be improved. We also heard from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East about the cultural and historical exposure for kids in schools, the PEACE programme and other means by which we infuse the cultural arts within the Ministry of Education.

Sir, a concern was expressed regarding what happens to the talents of our children after they leave school. I want to assure this Honourable House that it is no accident that there is a combination of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports. This administration recognises the synergies that can be developed by combining our efforts in those three closely aligned areas.

Mr. Speaker, at the level of the Youth Affairs Department, which has a mandate to deal with our under-thirty-year old population and particularly those who have left school, there are several programmes, sports and cultural, youth projects and national camps. There are also training programmes for staff and group leaders in the community. I want to say that the results have been encouraging in the aspects of culture and sports.

For example, in terms of our camps, we were able to use the summer period to train an average of 3,000 youngsters a year. We have exposed them to a range of disciplines including sports. In fact, there is a dedicated

sports camp organised by the National Sports Council where 1,000 youngsters are trained in a wide range of sports for the entire summer period. In addition, there are 32 Youth Commissioners in districts across the island who maintain contact with youth groups so as to build the capacity at the community level, which the Honourable Member spoke of.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. John spoke about the intensive use of the Gall Hill facilities. However, the Honourable Member did not mention that the young people in his constituency were building 'bleachers' in a few areas in Gall Hill and that it was the Youth Commissioners for that parish that assisted them in coordinating the project by making application for some financial assistance to purchase all the material to build the facility. Therefore, we are empowering the young people and not handing out gifts. We are helping them to work by way of project proposals. We are going with a project that they consider to be desirable and we are empowering them by way of ownership and control.

Therefore, I am heartened by the kind of work that is done by our Youth Commissioners and other practitioners in the community. Sir, they have established and strengthened groups. Government has a key role to play but Government cannot, with all the best will in the world, do it alone.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Where communities are successful where there is a lot of activity that is usually where you will find community practitioners, Members of Parliament, Youth Commissioners, Presidents and leaders of youth groups and churches. Sir, where those leaders do not exist, even if the Government puts facilities in place, you will find that those facilities remain idle. Therefore, our strategy is to not only build facilities but develop people to strengthen the leadership in the communities by providing the training and exposure. Sir, we do that, not only through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Culture but through the Department of Youth Affairs in terms of the 32 Youth Commissioners.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of sports, every year approximately 800 young people are trained in the communities in football, cricket, basketball, volleyball, road tennis, table tennis and a range of sports. By doing this, we are strengthening the sporting base of our country and we use that intervention in sports as a point of contact between the Youth Commissioner, coaches and other personnel as agents of the Government to make and maintain contact with young people.

Similarly, in the area of culture, an average 600 young persons are trained per year in dance, drumming, drama,

leather craft, folk singing and drawing and we have to expand that number. Again, these are not in our schools but in the wider community, in dance and drama, leather craft, drumming, folk singing, drawing and painting. Separate from that, Sir, there is also a programme to develop musical talent. This is a programme which we have called Youth Achieving Results.

6.00 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, that Youth Achieving Results in the Ministry of Youth Affairs owns musical equipment. We have a band, with drums, guitars, key boards and the usual instruments and training is provided by experienced practitioners. For example, Charles Woodruff, one of the original Opels trains our young people in guitar.

Sir, not only Youth Achieving Results but in the Youth Service, we have training done by Danny Hinds, an experienced drummer and dancer, where about 90 persons a year are trained. A number of musical bands have been formed, such as the band, Electric. The young lady Star Perez Tudor has come out of that Youth Achieving Results, so that voice training and key boarding talents are also being developed.

Sir, the focus of the Government is not only what is happening in our schools, but there is a programme in place which deals with persons in the wider community. This is to ensure that they are able to hone their skills and that they can use their talents, not only to their benefit, Sir, but to the honour and glory of our country. I want to assure Honourable Members that our young people are not being left to drift.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip South was able to bear testimony to how, even at this early stage, Project OASIS, which was only launched this year, has been able to impact on young people in his constituency. The coordinators, Shawn, Marcus and others, have been able to go out and to talk to the people on the block.

In fact, Sir, over the last six weeks and two months, they have gone around to at least 40 blocks around Barbados, to talk to young people and to let them know what opportunities there are to involve them in sports training, computer repairs, horticulture project, and all the other aspects of Project OASIS, so that no one is left to go adrift, even after they have passed school age.

Sir, I want to also support the cause which has been made for us to have a more focussed national programme which seeks to fully develop, not only the sporting talent of

our young people with that ability but also their academic ability. In fact, as you know, over the years, many of our athletes have been able to obtain scholarships mainly by the efforts of their coaches. I laud and support that effort, and long may it continue.

I have already given instructions to the staff at the Ministry of Education that our Higher Education Unit which has many years experience in administering Barbados Scholarships, such as National Development Scholarships, Commonwealth Scholarships, and a range of other scholarships, to use their expertise into the service of sports. They need to identify opportunities for sporting scholarships across all disciplines and supply that information to our young people.

Sir, in addition to the avenues which already exist through the personal contact of individual coaches, the Government will be developing an additional range of contacts to be able to roll out, by the course of the next academic year, a number of scholarships which will be available, in a range of sporting disciplines.

Certainly, Sir, in that regard, I want to send out the message. I must tell you that at a meeting I had with secondary schools principals, I made this point to them that we need to identify at an early stage in the secondary schools – until we reach to the point where we have our National School for Excellence in Arts and Sports – sports-persons and persons in the arts who have clearly exceptional talent.

Sir, we need to develop individual education plans to help those young people, not only excel in their sports and arts, but also to have the academic tools necessary to succeed in life. When those persons reach maturity and become professionals in either sports or the arts, they find themselves in the situation where they can be exploited, and they are less than capable of being able to benefit from what is there.

For example, we had the situation in the past where talented track and field athletes have not been able to take advantage of potential scholarship opportunities available in the United States, because they have not met the academic requirements. In some cases, Sir, that is not a reflection on their overall ability. It sometimes is a matter of the absence of focus.

What do I mean, Sir? There can be a situation where, in order to enter a US college, you do not only need the requisite number of CXC's, but they have to be spread across English, Maths, Sciences, Social Sciences and the Arts. If in structuring the choices at our schools, that particular factor was not taken into account, there could be a situation where a youngster leaving school, even with a good number of CXC's, would have to take an additional

year to do one or two of the missing courses, in order to be able to fit into the scholarship programme.

Sir, until we reach the point where we have this School of Excellence for Arts and Sports, we need to individually design programmes to ensure that they are able to carry both loads of the arts or sports and academics, and to do both successfully.

I want to say, Sir, that when they leave school, again in the case of sports even more so than the arts, is where another problem arises. As a country, we cannot accept that several of our sportspersons who represent this country at the national level in major sports, cricket, football, and some other major sports, are in some cases unemployed or in other places, underemployed. Sir, over the last ten years the Government put in place an affirmative action programme where, by way of deliberate administrative policy, we sought to place national representatives into positions where such positions become available in our statutory boards and other agencies of Government.

6.10 p.m.

However, Mr. Speaker, the reality is that Government cannot absorb all of these persons, therefore, we need to have a conscious commitment from the private sector of Barbados that they too would adopt such an affirmative action approach, so that a young man who is chosen after trials to represent Barbados in cricket would not find himself in a position where at the end of the season he is out of work. Further, we must also ensure that where people require time off from work to represent their country that they are able to do so without fear for their job security. The Government gives its people time to represent the country and I want to urge the private sector to do that as well because we cannot move forward as a nation if we remain stuck in those very dark days.

Sir, before I wind up the debate, I want to touch quickly on a few other points that were raised. Sir, some concerns were raised about the Cricket World Cup. Sir, there is a tendering process and we obviously cannot tip our hands until our bid is in. The bids have to formally go in by May 6 at 4.00 p.m. and therefore there is still time, if we discuss all of the aspects of our proposals, for other persons who are bidding to get into the act and back-raise us. We on This Side know well about being back-raised in some other matters.

Sir, I heard Honourable Members on the Other Side speaking about developing this ground and the next ground. The requirements for the cricket grounds that will actually be used for the matches in the 2007 World Cup are specific and stringent. You can rest assured, Sir, that there is no country in this region that would be able to develop more than one full-fledged facility to meet 2007. There are several countries

that use a specific ground now that are planning to build a new ground at another location, so they would be able to put in what their alternatives would be at this stage. There are also others that are keeping their options open as to whether they should redevelop the existing location or build a new one.

Mr. Speaker, what would be important not only for Barbados but elsewhere is the availability of other facilities for the teams to practice on. The fact that Barbados has other first-class grounds, the 3Ws Oval, the Windward Cricket Ground and North Stars is a very important asset because while the matches would be played at Kensington Oval, these facilities would be required.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to assure Honourable Members, without going into details on the eve of the submission or our bid, that all matters are well under control.

Mr. Speaker, even before the venues have been allocated, countries across the region started their process of cooperation in relation to the cricket world cup. Recently, at a CARICOM Prime Ministerial Subcommittee Meeting on cricket in Grenada we committed ourselves to major goals in the immediate future, that is, to ensuring that the Cricket World Cup 2007 is a success across the region wherever those eight locations may be. We committed as well to working with the past players, the current players and the West Indian Cricket Board to develop a cricket redevelopment programme to ensure that we are able to return to supremacy in the cricketing world. Mr. Speaker, that is enough of what I would say on cricket for now.

Sir, during the course of the year the National Sports Council will be focussing on a number of major things. We will continue our process of a focus on road tennis as a major indigenous sports. We are working with the National Road Tennis Federation to ensure that the intellectual property of the sport is protected and we will continue funding the popularisation of this sport internationally. We funded participation on exhibition matches in the United Kingdom, throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere. We have now in every new facility added a dedicated road tennis court in addition to the basketball, netball and other courts, so that our culture is properly packaged, branded and exploited to the benefit of Barbados and Barbadians. We would ensure that a range of sports, whether they be sports of the mind or body or both, whether they be draughts, dominoes, chess, pool or whatever, that these funds go forward for the fullest support of sports and the arts in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make those brief responses to some of the concerns that were raised.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Honourable Members for their contribution to this debate. They can rest assured that we

in the Ministry have taken careful note of the suggestions, recommendations and concerns and that the programme of action which this Government has for the development of arts and sports in Barbados which would benefit tremendously by the use of these funds will reflect the concerns raised by Honourable Members.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

On the motion of Hon. R. R. FARLEY, seconded by Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. R. D. MARSHALL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Clauses 1 – 4, inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move an amendment with respect to Clause 5. Honourable Members would have noted that there are two Clauses 5(2). This is just a typographical error and I beg to move the deletion of the first Clause 5(2) as represented on page four of the draft Bill.

The question that Clause 5 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
6.20 p.m.

Clauses 6 – 10 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. FARLEY seconded by Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of the Hon. R. R. FARLEY, seconded by Hon. R. C. EASTMOND the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill, 2004.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of today's Sitting. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 4, 2004, at 10.00 a.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
6.23 p.m.

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